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For immediate release:

ALPENA EARLY COLLEGE STUDENT GRADUATES FROM LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

ALPENA, MICH. — An Alpena Early College program student will be receiving two diplomas this spring- her high school diploma, and her Certificate in Licensed Practical Nursing. Kelsi Shea, an 18 year old from Alpena, was able to complete her LPN Certificate at no cost to her through the Early College program.

Shea is part of the second cohort of the Early College program that is offered through a partnership between Alpena Public Schools and Alpena Community College. She decided that the Early College program was the right fit for her after talking with Alpena Early College coordinator, Lee Fitzpatrick. “The High School did a really good job with telling the students about it, so I went and talked to Mr. Fitzpatrick and he explained what it was all about. I took my dad with me to the meeting and afterwards I knew I wanted to do it.”

While Shea was the youngest in the LPN program, she didn’t let her age deter her. “It was definitely an eye opener to go into my first clinical as an 18 year old, but it felt good to know that I had that kind of responsibility and was able to give care to the patients.” She was nervous about how others would view her because of her age, but said that once everyone got to know each other it was fine.

Transitioning into the nursing program from her high school classes and the nursing program prerequisite courses was a challenge at first, but Shea was able to make the adjustment and plans to continue her education. Her next step is the ACC Registered Nursing Associate Degree program, which she has applied for and is hoping to get into this fall. After that she wants to get her BSN and would like to stay in Alpena and work in the OB Department. “I was doing clinical there and I just fell in love with it.”

Shea has earned the respect of many involved with the Early College program through her dedication to her future. “She is a wonderful person and a great student who has earned her credential due to her own hard work and mental toughness,” said Early College coordinator Lee Fitzpatrick. “I’m incredibly proud of her and thankful that I had the chance to get to know her and help her along the way.”

Overall Shea encourages anyone that is interested in continuing their education to look into the Early College program and ACC. “I think early college is great all around, especially if you know what you want to do, because then you can just go right into that.”

“I definitely want to thank my dad and my grandma and grandpa, they’ve been a lot of support to me throughout the program,” said Shea. “They’ve just been my rock all the way through.”

The early college graduation is Thursday, May 17th at 7 p.m. in Granum Theatre at ACC.

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