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For immediate release:

ACC STAFF VISIT MIDMICHIGAN HEALTH NURSING SIMULATION LAB

ALPENA, MICH. — Three Alpena Community College leaders visited MidMichigan Health’s Midland Campus on August 2 to view the hospital’s nursing Simulation Center training lab. President Don MacMaster, Executive Director of the Alpena Community College Foundation Penny Boldrey, and Facilities Director Nick Brege were given a tour of the Simulation Center by MidMichigan Health staff.

The purpose of the visit was for ACC officials to see firsthand a state-of-the-art healthcare training facility. ACC is in the initial stages of creating its own high-tech healthcare training facility as part of a capital outlay grant from the State of Michigan.

About the visit, President MacMaster said, “ACC enjoys a strong and growing partnership with MidMichigan Health and we were excited to see their marvelous training center. We saw some amazing teaching technology and are eager to replicate that in Alpena for the benefit of our students and the public.”

About MidMichigan Health’s Simulation Center
(<https://www.midmichigan.org/locations/profile/?id=3076>):

The Simulation Center at MidMichigan Health is an education facility that provides structured, risk-free, hands-on educational experiences for medical professionals. Using state-of-the-art equipment, healthcare workers are able to learn proper techniques and improve their decision-making skills through an interactive environment. It’s like a virtual hospital.

Located in the lower level of the Gerstacker Building on the campus of MidMichigan Medical Center - Midland, the 3,000-square-foot center includes;

- Four simulation rooms
- Task training room
- Control room

Simulation rooms are equipped with hospital beds, a crash cart, forced air and other features necessary for treatment. The simulation rooms use special “manikins”, the manikins are programmed to respond with realistic responses based on the care they receive, such as movement, changes in breathing and heart rate. As the users provide care, an instructor communicates with them about their progress from a separate control room, accessible from multiple camera views and microphones in the simulation rooms.

Some of the tasks available for practice are drawing blood, starting IV lines, CPR, and even delivering a baby!

The main purpose of the Simulation Center is for medical education and training for the staff of MidMichigan Health; however, the facility also has something to offer the communities served by the health system. It's available for training to various community groups such as;

- Fire department employees and volunteers
- Law enforcement
- College students/training courses

About ACC's Center for Health Sciences and Student Success project:

Constructed in 1952, Van Lare Hall is the oldest building on the main campus of Alpena Community College and a central piece of ACC's legacy. Occupying 40,000 square feet on ACC's most picturesque property, Van Lare Hall houses key administrative and academic support functions along with a dozen general purpose classrooms. It is a solid, functional building that has served as the focal point of higher education in Northeast Michigan for more than 60 years.

On July 14, 2017, Governor Snyder signed Public Act 107 of 2017, an appropriations act that authorized planning for 10 university and community college capital outlay projects. Alpena Community College's Center for Health Sciences and Student Success project was approved at that time. ACC can now move ahead with planning for the project, including facility design/redesign and securing funding for ACC's funding match.

The Center for Health Science and Student Success proposes to repurpose Van Lare Hall to provide space and updated technology to house an enhanced Nursing program, centralize critical student support services, and offer a Foundation-Alumni community gathering space overlooking the Thunder Bay River. The proposal will accomplish three strategic goals at Alpena Community College:

Nursing program expansion. Increasing the physical space and enhance technology of the nursing labs and classrooms will support a growing nursing program and a rapidly changing healthcare marketplace. Pertinent project details include:

- Triple the current lab space from 1,460 square feet to 7,500 square feet.
- Double current classroom space with enhanced computer and Wi-Fi access.
- Create a smart room to support virtual lab experiences and advanced simulations.
- Upgrade technology in basic and advanced lab courses.
- Create a modern lecture hall with high-speed connectivity.
- Create office centralized office space for director and six fulltime faculty.
- Create a conference room for staff and student collaboration.

Center for Student Success. The purpose of this renovation is to create an efficient, effective, and attractive Student Services Center known to students as a "one-stop shop" for a range of support services known to correlate to completion and student success.

Centralize student services next to administrative services and academic leadership offices. Create dedicated meeting spaces with enhanced mobile technology for student projects, collaboration, and leadership.

Coordinate new student orientation, placement testing, developmental education, career exploration, job placement, internships, web-based interactive kiosks, technology support, and faculty front door offering guided pathways for students entering Van Lare Hall.

Alumni Center and Foundation. The purpose of this renovation is to create a meeting space for stakeholders such as donors, lifelong learners, alumni, and employers to connect or reconnect to the College.

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From left: Joyce Cook, Senior Simulation Specialist MidMichigan Health, Karen France, Simulation Specialist MidMichigan Health, Jason Sheffer, Corporate Director MidMichigan Health, Dr. Don MacMaster, President ACC, Nick Brege, Director of Facilities ACC, Penny Boldey, Executive Director ACC Foundation and Director of Development. Middle: "Hal"