

## PRESS RELEASE

August 2-4, 2017: Alpena Community College (ACC) hosted the Michigan Association of Continuing Education and Training (MACET) for their Annual Conference. Fifty workforce development and continuing education professionals representing nearly every community college in Michigan came together to work through challenges and opportunities associated with providing non-credit training, employer-based training, continuing education, workplace training, and more. Break-out sessions and general assemblies focused in on the theme of the conference, S.T.E.A.M., (*science, technology, engineering, arts and math*), the how and why to incorporate arts and humanities in all educational settings. Keynote speaker, Jeff Gray, Superintendent of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, spoke to the economic and educational resources of the Sanctuary, honing in on the importance of protecting and studying our Great Lakes and how that leads to understanding the unsurpassed value of our region. Michael Hansen, President of the Michigan Community College Association led a discussion with three college Presidents, Dr. James Sawyer of Macomb Community College, Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea of Mott Community College, and Dr. Don MacMaster of Alpena Community College, in which the state of workforce development and continuing education was dissected and missions and visions were evaluated.

MACET members and their families were treated to wine tasting from Thunder Bay Winery, dinner at Art in the Loft catered by the Fresh Palate, and a reception at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. “It was great, bringing a large group of professionals from across the state, to share with them not only our college, but our awesome community,” said Dawn Stone, ACC Director of TAACCCT Grant.