

September 25, 2019

CONTACT: Jay Walterreit  
walterrj@alpenacc.edu  
(989) 358-7215

*For immediate release:*

### **CONSUMERS ENERGY DONATES DIGGER DERRICK TRUCK TO ACC**

Consumers Energy is helping the next generation of electric lineworkers in Michigan by donating a digger derrick truck to Alpena Community College.

Consumers Energy is providing the vehicle, a digger derrick truck that had helped serve customers for years, to the college's lineworker training program. The college provides valuable education to students who go on to work with Consumers Energy and other energy providers, meeting the need for talented individuals to do this work across Michigan.

"We are committed to providing opportunities for Michigan students to learn about our industry and are thrilled we can help put this vehicle to use in a classroom setting for a great program," said Guy Packard, Consumers Energy's vice president for electric operations. "We look forward to seeing ACC's students learn firsthand with the equipment that helped us do our jobs well for many years."

Representatives with Consumers Energy visited ACC students on Wednesday, September 25, to demonstrate the vehicle.

"Consumers Energy has been a great partner to ACC's Utility Tech program over the years," said ACC President Dr. Don MacMaster. "This substantial donation is another sign of their regard for the program, the faculty and its graduates. We thank Consumers Energy for their support and salute the UTT faculty for their sustained commitment to program excellence."

Consumers Energy provides electricity to over 4 million Michigan residents through more than 71,000 miles of electric lines. It is Michigan's largest energy provider, providing natural gas and/or electricity to 6.7 million of the state's 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

Consumers Energy collaborates with Alpena Community College through the college's lineworker training program and has hired 42 ACC graduates this decade. Since 2016, the Consumers Energy Foundation has awarded five \$2,500 scholarships to ACC students in the training program, and in April, the company donated more than \$12,500 worth of tools to the college.

"It is with great appreciation that we accept the donation of this digger truck," said Roy Smith, Utility Technology Instructor. "It will help provide students with real world pole setting and transformer placement experience. Without the generous support of industry partners like Consumers Energy, our Utility Technology Program at ACC would not be as successful as it has been in preparing students for great career opportunities with utilities throughout Michigan and beyond."

The visit to ACC comes as Consumers Energy and others promote opportunities in the energy industry. Careers in Energy Week takes place Oct. 14-18 in Michigan, with events and outreach taking place

statewide. Michigan's energy industry boasts 111,000 jobs, and the demand for new employees should grow by 6 percent through 2026. Learn more at [CareersInEnergyMichigan.com](https://careersinenergymichigan.com), or use the hashtags [CareersInEnergyWeek](#) and [#GetIntoEnergyMichigan](#) on social media.

– END –