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For immediate release:

ALPENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO HOST SKILLED TRADES FILM SHOWING AND FORUM

ALPENA, MICH. — Alpena Community College is hosting a free showing of the short film ‘The Skilled Trades-Crisis & Opportunity’ by Jeff Vande Zande, Professor of English at Delta College. Following the film there will be a roundtable forum where professionals from the skilled trades will share their thoughts and experiences. This showing will take place in Granum Theatre at Alpena Community College from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, November 21. As the number of people retiring from the skilled trades continues to increase, it is not being adequately replenished with young people pursuing or being educated for these jobs in our economy.

This idea came about after ACC Political Science and History Instructor Tim Kuehnlein witnessed the film this past summer. Kuehnlein felt that the topics presented in the film were relevant to ACC and invited the producer to come to Alpena to speak about his views on the skilled trades’ shortage. In addition, Kuehnlein reached out to other ACC Faculty members to compose a roundtable that represents the skilled trades. Some of the areas represented by ACC include auto service, manufacturing, electrical trades, concrete technology, English and workforce development, as well as Vice-President of Instruction Deb Bayer and College President Dr. Don MacMaster. Other speakers include APS Superintendent John Van Wagoner and APS Director of Career & Technical Education Joyce McCoy.

The goal of the forum is to get students thinking about a variety of careers. “We are mainly interested in getting young people and their parents involved so they think seriously about career options in light of opportunities that are more lucrative than meets the eye, and in light of the impending shortage of people who have the skills/experience to fill the voids in the skilled trades,” said Kuehnlein. “These jobs are more lucrative than most people realize. It’s also important for the general public to realize that the shortage of plumbers, carpenters, electricians, etc. is impacting us all and the statistics show a major crisis on the horizon.”

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