

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Penny Boldrey, Executive Director
Alpena Community College Foundation
666 Johnson St.
Alpena, MI 49707
(989) 358-7297**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2006 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE

Mark L. Barnard of Alpharetta, Georgia was awarded the 2006 Distinguished Graduate Award at the 53rd Alpena Community College commencement ceremonies May 4. Established in 1998 by the ACC Foundation, this award honors ACC graduates who have gone on to contribute to society through successful careers. Its recipients are examples of how a solid foundation from ACC can launch a lifetime of achievement.

Barnard earned his Associate of Science degree from Alpena Community College in 1977. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in education from Michigan State University in 1979 and taught high school math in Dallas, Texas before starting his career in business.

Barnard is President and CEO of the National Account Service Company (NASCO), one of the largest health care claims processors in the nation, processing over 10,000,000 claims for Blue Cross/Blue Shield members throughout the United States. Prior to joining NASCO, Barnard spent 22 years with Electronic Data Systems (EDS) in various leadership roles.

He is very community minded and believes in giving back to his community. Barnard has volunteered with numerous service organizations including the Boy Scouts of America, Habitat for Humanity and Parent to Parent, an organization that assists parents with disabled children. Barnard has been married for almost 25 years and he and his wife, Edna have two children Jason; age 18 and Elissa; age 15, which they adopted from Korea.

According to Barnard, “Attending a community college before going to a four year institution was extremely beneficial for me. The rigor of the classes at ACC were more than comparable to those in a university program. I feel that some of the greatest teachers in my college career were from ACC. Their knowledge of the material was very apparent, but even more important; they had the ability to convey complicated material in a simple, understandable way.”

Penny Boldrey, executive director of the Foundation said, “The ACC Foundation is proud to award the 2006 Distinguished Graduate Award to Mark and we congratulate him on his many educational and professional accomplishments since his graduation from Alpena Community College.”

###