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ACC FOUNDATION NAMES THE 2007 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE**

Jodi L. Radke of Loveland Colorado was awarded the 2007 Distinguished Graduate Award at the 54th Alpena Community College commencement ceremonies held on May 3. 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.

Radke is a 1991 graduate of Alpena High School and earned her Associate of Arts degree from Alpena Community College in 1993. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics/public health from Central Michigan University in 1996. She received her Master's degree in nonprofit administration, with a grassroots policy concentration at Regis University.

In 2000, Radke discovered her passion working for the underserved and underrepresented when she moved to Colorado and began her career as a community advocate. She has served as a Regional Prevention Specialist providing consultant services to the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Division to 12 counties in the northeast region of Colorado. As an RPS, Radke developed and implemented effective strategies aimed at preventing drug, alcohol, and tobacco use, as well as suicide and obesity.

Radke recently accepted a new position and serves as the Director of the Rocky Mountain/Great Plains Region with the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. She manages the tobacco prevention policy at the state and federal level for 8 states, which include Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Kansas.

Radke is a 2003 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Fellow. As a fellow, her focus was on prevention application within rural communities, and tobacco control policy change. In addition, Radke vied for public office last fall and ran as a candidate for the State House of Representatives in Colorado's District 51. She is a very community minded individual and has served on a wide variety of boards and organizations including the Sierra Club, the Northern Colorado Latino Action Board, Loveland Chamber of Commerce Board, Citizen Finance Advisory Commission, and the Rural Solutions Board, where she serves as the state liaison.

According to Radke, "For me, ACC represented a community and academic setting that cared strongly about their relationships in the community, and the direction of their students. I carry in my head and heart many teachings and stories from my time at ACC which continue to guide and inform my work today."

Penny Boldrey, executive director of the Foundation said, "The ACC Foundation is proud to award the 2007 Distinguished Graduate Award to Jodi and we congratulate her on her many educational and professional accomplishments since her graduation from Alpena Community College."