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## **ACC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2011 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE**

Teresa A. Szymanski was awarded the 2011 Distinguished Graduate Award at the 58<sup>th</sup> Alpena Community College commencement ceremonies on May 5. 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.

Szymanski is a 1980 graduate of Alpena High School and earned an Associate in Applied Science degree from Alpena Community College in 1982. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Ferris State University in 1984.

Szymanski's career in law enforcement began in May of 1984 with the Douglas, Wyoming Police Department, where she was the only female patrol officer in the entire county. After three years in Wyoming, Szymanski returned to Michigan to accept a position as a uniform officer with the Lansing Police Department.

As a 23-year veteran of the Lansing Police Department, Szymanski has proven herself to be a hard-working and dedicated professional. She came up through the ranks and has held various positions including Sergeant, Lieutenant, Shift Commander, and Captain. On January 18, 2011, Lansing Mayor Virgil Bernero named Szymanski Chief of Police for the Lansing Police Department, making her the first female police chief in the Capital City's 151-year history.

Penny Boldrey, Executive Director of the Foundation said, "In a profession that involves putting your life on the line everyday, it takes an extraordinary person to answer the call to duty. The ACC Foundation is proud to award the 2011 Distinguished Graduate Award to Teresa in recognition of her significant contributions to the law enforcement field, the community, and society-at-large."

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