

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Penny Boldrey, Executive Director
Alpena Community College Foundation
(989) 358-7297**

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Alumna Susan Petrisin Named 2014 Distinguished Graduate

The 2014 Distinguished Graduate Award was presented during the 61st Alpena Community College commencement ceremonies on May 8 to Susan A. Petrisin, the Associate Director of the Michigan State University Alumni Association.

Susan is a native of Alpena, and a 1980 graduate of Alpena High School. She earned an Associate in Science degree from ACC in 1982 and transferred to Michigan State University. She is a three-time graduate of MSU; earning a Bachelor's degree in Food Science in 1985, a Bachelor's degree in Dietetics in 1992, and a Master's degree in Human Resources and Labor Relations in 2009.

Upon her graduation from MSU in 1985, Susan joined the University staff and became a member of the Spartan team. She held various positions within the Division of Residential and Hospitality Services for 28 years. In January 2011, Susan was named the Associate Director of the MSU Alumni Association where she is responsible for programming and alumni travel tours.

Susan is a 32-year member of Kiwanis International and has been passionate about Kiwanis and making a difference in the lives of others. Prior to joining the organization, she served as adviser for MSU's Circle K Club, as women were not eligible to join Kiwanis until 1987. Breaking gender barriers, Susan became the first female to join the Kiwanis Club of East Lansing in 1987 and throughout her membership in the club has held various positions, including president in 1995.

She has also served on the Kiwanis International Board as a trustee for a period of three years and currently is Vice-President. Petrisin will serve as the first woman president of Kiwanis International, which is comprised of approximately 600,000 members, during 2015-2016.

ACC Foundation Executive Director Penny Boldrey said, "The ACC Foundation is proud to award the 2014 Distinguished Graduate Award to Sue for her professional achievements and outstanding accomplishments since her early days at ACC." 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 educational foundation from ACC can launch a lifetime of achievements.