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ACC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2015 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE

Kurt Golder, University of Michigan Men's Gymnastics Head Coach was awarded the 2015 Distinguished Graduate Award at the 62nd Alpena Community College commencement ceremonies on May 7.

Golder is a native of Alpena, and a 1972 graduate of Alpena High School. He earned an Associate in Arts degree from Alpena Community College in 1974 and transferred to the University of Michigan and where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Education in 1977. As a student gymnast, Golder was a three-time letter winner and recognized as an All-State Athlete on the still rings in high school. In 1975, he was a member of Michigan's 1975 Big Ten Championship team and a Big Ten Finalist where he was ranked in the top 10 by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Over the past 39 years, Golder has dedicated his life to mentoring and coaching gymnasts. He began his teaching career in 1976 at Ann Arbor Huron High School and led their gymnastics team to a state championship title in 1979. From 1979-1984, Golder assumed the position as an assistant coach of the men's gymnastics team at Michigan State University. He was the boy's program director and head coach of Genesee Valley Gymnastics in Flint, Michigan from 1984-1991. In 1991, Golder served as an assistant coach at the University of Iowa until his appointment as the Wolverine's head men's gymnastics coach in July of 1996.

During his 19 years as U of M Men's Gymnastics Head Coach, Golder has consistently guided his Wolverine gymnasts to the Big Ten Conference, which has resulted in six Big Ten team titles and 30 individual titles. At the 2014 NCAA men's gymnastics team championship, the Wolverines became the first program to win back-to-back national championships in 32 years. Golder has also received numerous individual accolades including the Big Ten Coach of the Year honors in 1999, 2000, 2013 and 2014, and he was named the NCAA regional and national coach of the year in 1999, 2010, 2013 and 2014. In addition, Golder was head gymnastics coach for the United States team at the World University Games in 1995, 1997, 2003, 2007.

Golder's life-long dream to coach in the Olympics became a reality when he served as the individual coach for U of M gymnast Sam Mikulak, who was a member of U. S. team in 2012. Golder was recently named coach of the 2015 Pan American Games which will be held in Toronto, Canada July 6-16.

The Distinguished Graduate Award was established in 1998 by the ACC Foundation, and the award honors ACC graduates who have gone on to contribute to society through successful careers. Accepting the award for Golder was his daughter, Roberta, who is a senior at the University of Michigan.

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