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BESSER FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT

The Besser Foundation has awarded one of its largest single contributions ever in the form of a \$1.2 million grant to Alpena Community College for a proposed \$4.9 million construction and renovation project.

Foundation and college officials announced the grant on December 21, 1989, which represents 25 percent of the project's total estimated cost.

As the institution looks ahead to the year 2000 and the challenges of the decade leading to it, the Besser Foundation believes it fitting to represent the vision of Jesse Besser in a very tangible, financial manner, the announcement said.

In 1957, Jesse Besser was one of the donors of the first tract of land along Johnson Street and Lake Besser which gave the then five-year-old college a

300-acre campus on which to grow. It's first building, Central Hall (now Van Lare Hall), which opened in 1958 as the first completely new community college building financed jointly by the State of Michigan and a local school district under provisions of a 1956 legislative act.

That 1956 legislative act which first authorized state participation in capital outlay for community colleges, along with subsequent legislation, is being called on again after more than 30 years to help ACC continue to provide for the lifelong learning needs of Northeast Michigan residents.

If approved as a state capital outlay project, the proposed construction of some 41,000 square feet and renovation of an additional 5,000 square feet would receive 50 percent of its

funding from the state, according to ACC President Dr. Don Newport. The facilities involved would provide what is being referred to as a "student/community/business/learning resources center."

"But capital outlay competition is tough," he added, "and funding also stipulates a 50 percent match in local funds." The Besser grant of \$1,225,000 provides, in one whopping bundle, fully half of the required local matching money. It gives the project a significant boost that Newport hopes will be felt as far away as Lansing.

"Naturally, we are thrilled by the extent of support demonstrated by the Besser Foundation and absolutely ecstatic about the prospect of being able to better provide the kinds of important programs and services

needed in our community," he said.

"Our continued growth as a regional center for lifelong learning and an educational resource to support and promote economic growth in Northeast Michigan challenges our ability to respond effectively. Current facilities no longer allow us the kind of space or flexibility we must have to provide the kinds of instructional and support services our community needs," he added.

"In our discussion with state appropriations people, we will be stressing that the success of our capital outlay request is crucial to the vitality of our region. We hope the impressive backing represented by the Besser Foundation funds will have a strong and positive impact on the final decision," Newport concluded.

ACC Board of Trustees Chairperson Roger Bauer noted that, even with state participation, another \$1,225,000 in matching local funds must be found to fully finance what would be the college's first capital project in 17 years.

"We're optimistic that additional local funding can be identified," he said. "ACC has had significant impact on the lives of a great many people in Northeast Michigan and in order for us to continue to make a difference, we must simply have more quality space that is centralized and accessible."

"We are committed to responding to the needs of the community, and yet, 82 percent of all space now utilized was constructed back when ACC was part of a K-14 district.

ACC Homecoming Court



BOARD RECEIVES NEW MEMBERS

Five new trustees of the expanded Alpena Community College Foundation board began terms of office Wednesday, January 24, with an orientation luncheon at The Lodge.

Chuck Ingle, Craig Kus and Chris McCoy will serve two-year terms expiring December 31, 1991 and Jim Masters and Hal Neiman will serve four-year terms which expire December 31, 1993. They were recommended by a nominating and selection committee after the updating of bylaws last year which increased membership on the foundation board to a maximum of 15.

They join continuing foundation board members James Arbuckle, president; Ann Crow, vice-president; Harry Whiteley,

secretary-treasurer; and trustees Roger Bauer, Bob Granum, Avis Hinks, and Don Newport. Executive director is John McCormack.

Trustees oversee fund raising and the use of funds for the ACC Foundation. Contributions to the designated fund are used for purposes designated by the donor, such as student scholarships, instructional equipment or to support programs. Contributions to the endowment fund are invested and will eventually allow an annual contribution above base funding to ACC.

Inside:

- pg.2 Students Speak
- pg.3 Homecoming Highlights
- pg.4 Alpena Winter Carnival
- pg.5 Profiles
- pg.6 Community College Mo.
- pg.7 ACC in Brief
- pg.8 Sports