

The Lumberjack

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Lewiston Couple Delivers Random Act of Kindness to Alpena Children

Holiday Season Ideal Time to Lend Helping Hand to Others

JOHN ROE
Staff Writer

"Random acts of senseless violence" is a phrase that has become all too common in our society. Perhaps less well known is the idea of performing "random acts of senseless kindness." The meaning is evident and may include a huge variety of good deeds.

Many years ago, a friend of mine, Carl Pierce, was approached by a homeless person who asked him for money. Instead of merely giving him money and moving on, he chose to take the man out to breakfast.

He learned that the man

had lost his mother, wife, and kids in a car accident. He eventually succumbed to alcoholism, lost everything he owned, and ended up on the street. Nobody asks to be homeless, but it happens.

Simply handing the man some money would have been an act of kindness. Having the compassion to take the time to listen and learn something from him in the process goes beyond what many consider to be the right thing to do.

In lieu of the upcoming holiday season, you may find it in your heart to do something of this caliber. Something big or something small; whatever you choose to do will help someone have a brighter holiday.

Random acts of kindness do not need to be huge events to make a big difference. It is the little things that often matter the

most

It could be something as simple as helping a sibling with their homework, sharing a lunch, or stopping in to visit someone that's alone in this world. For some, this could potentially mean more than a large donation of money to a charity.

Linda Suneson, an instructor here at ACC, received flowers from an anonymous friend recently. When she announced this in class, her happiness and delight made even my day a little brighter.

Albert Einstein once said, "We cannot solve the problems of the world by using the same level of thinking that created them."

So, keep this idea in the back of your mind, and when the opportunity presents itself, just take some time out of your day to act upon it.



Photo by Jessica Thiem

Random Act of Kindness: William and Kathryn Davis share the many stuffed animals they have collected from claw machines all over the United States. William enjoys playing claw machines and has become extremely good at it over the years. This is their first time donating toys to the Volunteer Center here at ACC.

And the Survey Says . . . ACC Students Give Feedback, Admit Poor Study Habits

MACKENZIE HOULE
Staff Writer

Survey says... ACC students give helpful feedback! During the spring of 2002, a sample of the student body was surveyed on a variety of topics.

The survey given was called the Community College Survey of Student Engagement.

The results from this survey were compared to nearly 50 other community colleges, including 15 small institutions that are comparable in size to ACC.

Among other things, the survey questioned the usage of student services. ACC provides free use of computer labs, library services, tutors, and the opportunity to meet with academic advisors.

Scores were based on a scale from 1-4 (1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often).

Even with everything that is provided on campus, students were still consistently ranked lower than all of the comparison colleges.

For instance, when asked how often students met with advisors, ACC scored 1.69. This failed in comparison to students at other small institutions. Another example of low turnouts for student services is the use of our computer labs.

Other community colleges averaged a score of 2.07 when asked if students used their lab facilities, while ACC students scored a 1.89.

A third instance of poor

student habits is the 1.40 students scored when asked if they apply for free student tutoring.

Some instructors even offer extra credit if you use tutors or spend time in the Learning Center here at ACC. What more of an incentive do ACC students need?

What's worse is the number of students that attend class without having their work complete. With a total of 2.12, ACC students admitted their lack of readiness.

On a more positive note, 97% of the students surveyed said they would recommend ACC to a friend. Most responses reflected a positive attitude toward ACC.

What you put into your education is what you will receive. The more effort given, the more it pays off. Even if results are not immediate, there are definite long-term benefits.

ACC Students Find Different World at Universities

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Students leaving a community college and going to a university often feel excited and afraid. Transferring may also bring many questions to mind. For instance, how will my classes at the university be different from my community college classes? Or, what does the university community offer students outside of classes?

A few advantages of attending a community college, such as ACC, are the small class sizes and the personal attention you get from instructors. The typical class size at ACC ranges from 10 to 30 students, while at a university, lectures may contain more than 300 students. The small class sizes at ACC al-

low for more interaction between instructors and students. This results in more personal attention and the opportunity to get to know your instructors as individuals instead of as just teachers.

Attendance is much more important at ACC than at an university because ACC classes have fewer students. In a small college like ACC, attendance and interaction of students is necessary for participation. At a university, attendance is less important because class sizes are bigger, which means less time for individual students to participate. This means that students have less incentive to show up for class at a university. "Teachers regulate you more at ACC. At SVSU, some teachers take attendance by using

sign-up sheets or in-class writings, but others don't take attendance at all," said Kelley Ellis, ACC graduate and current Saginaw Valley State University student.

Due to the larger class sizes at a university there is also less opportunity for students to ask questions, make comments, or voice opinions. This is usually saved until the end of lecture, if time permits, or is handled during discussion sessions. Discussion sessions are classes of 20 to 30 students from the larger lecture that meet once or twice a week with a graduate student who guides discussions about topics covered in lecture, answers questions, and leads workshops or projects.

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