



Michigan | Campus Compact

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Lisa Sommer

517-492-2412

[lsommer@mnaonline.org](mailto:lsommer@mnaonline.org)

## **Alma College and Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force Receive \$10,000 Carter Partnership Award**

**June 20, 2008 - LANSING, MI** – Alma College and Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force received the 2008 Carter Partnership Award. This campus-community partnership was recognized June 19, 2008, at the Fox Theatre in Detroit at the annual Governor's Service Awards.

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership for Campus-Community Collaboration is given annually by MCC to one partnership involving a Michigan college or university and a community group with the \$10,000 prize divided equally between the campus and community partners for working together in exceptional ways to improve people's lives and enhance learning in the process.

Following a history of environmental abuse from a chemical in St. Louis, MI, the Pine River was declared a Superfund site. In 1999, after learning of the Environmental Protection Agencies' (EPA) recommendation to proceed with a clean up of Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane (DDT) contamination in the river, Alma College and the community collaborated to form the Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force. This Task Force is an EPA sanctioned Community Advisory Group (CAG) which serves as a conduit between the community and the EPA to monitor the Superfund clean up and other activities involving the Pine River. The college and the community work together to ensure the exchange of ideas between the EPA, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the local media and members of the greater community regarding information and ideas concerning the Pine River are heard by all parties. The long term goal of the group is to see a complete clean up of contamination from the plant throughout the county and see the Pine River returned to a state that can be enjoyed by young and old alike.

Alma College and Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force was among four finalists vying for this award. A selection panel composed of representatives from community, higher education, business, and government organizations selected the four finalists based on the combined merits of each program, giving careful consideration to how closely the program applicants matched the award guidelines. The committee is independent of Michigan Campus Compact, the award host.

Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) is a coalition of college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education. We promote the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens, through creating and

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expanding academic, co-curricular and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service-learning and civic engagement. MCC was chosen by the award founders to host the award in Michigan. The purpose of the award mirrors the purpose of the Michigan Campus Compact.

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For more information about the award finalists, please contact Lisa Sommer at 517.492.2412 or [lsommer@mnaonline.org](mailto:lsommer@mnaonline.org).

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