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Michigan Community Colleges Receive \$750,000 Investment from The Kresge Foundation

Lansing, MI (May 24, 2017) – The Kresge Foundation today announced a \$750,000 grant to the Michigan Community College Association to bolster the work of the Michigan Center for Student Success.

The Center provides state-level support to Michigan’s 28 community colleges by serving as a hub connecting leadership, administrators, faculty, and staff in their emerging and ongoing efforts to improve student outcomes, emphasizing linkages between practice, research, and policy.

This investment will help the Center for Student Success to build on current initiatives to increase student success and completion, including the Michigan Guided Pathways Institute. This tiered technical assistance model for community colleges will help them undertake advising redesign, improved program mapping, and streamlining of the student onboarding experience to ensure that students can more easily stay on a clear path to graduation without wasting time or money.

“The Center is an essential resource for community colleges in Michigan that are committed to improving student success,” said Caroline Altman Smith, deputy director for the Education Program at Kresge. “This is particularly vital in Michigan, a state with no centralized system of higher education. This grant will enable the Center to build on its track record of providing valuable services to the colleges and serving as a key contributor to Michigan’s efforts to improve college attainment.”

The Center was founded in 2011 with support from Kresge and has continued to grow with ongoing investments from Kresge and MCCA member colleges.

“With the support of the Center, student success has permeated the entire culture at our college,” said Cameron Brunet-Koch, President of North Central Michigan College and Chairperson of the Michigan Community College Association. “We rely on the Center for Student Success to help our college, including administrators, faculty, and staff, to serve the needs of students in our community and at colleges across the state.” The focus of the grant will be on identifying and scaling proven strategies that ensure students succeed in college and are prepared to make meaningful contributions to the workforce and their communities.

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According to Mike Hansen, President of the Michigan Community College Association, the Center for Student Success is further evidence that Michigan’s community colleges are committed to completion, performance and student success.

“We are extremely thankful to the Kresge Foundation and look forward to engaging in this important work.” said Hansen.

The Kresge Foundation is a \$3.6 billion private, national foundation that works to expand opportunities in America’s cities through grantmaking and social investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services, and community development in Detroit. In 2015, the Board of Trustees approved 371 grants totaling \$125.2 million, and nine social investment commitments totaling \$20.3 million. For more information, visit kresge.org.

The Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) provides leadership and advocacy on issues affecting the 28 member community colleges. Since 1914, community colleges have striven to provide affordable and quality higher education to Michigan residents. The community college mission is one of access and success to both traditional and nontraditional students. Furthermore, community colleges also play an integral role in the preparation and development of the state’s workforce.

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