

Collaborate. Innovate. **Transform.**
MCCA Student Success Summit
September 27, 2024



The Michigan
Center for
Adult College
Success

We collaborate to drive postsecondary innovation, transforming Michigan into a place where more adult learners enroll, complete and thrive.

Collaborate. Innovate. **Transform.**

An initiative of
 **TALENTFIRST**



Introductions



The Michigan Center for Adult College Success

Jeremy Hedges, Executive Director

Michelle Burke, Director of Postsecondary Programs and Partnerships

Matt DeMonbrun, Research Director



Agenda



Introduction to The Michigan Center for Adult College Success

Landscape Analysis • MI-RAISE Design Lab • Innovation Investment Awards

Innovation Investment Award Panel Discussion

Glen Oaks Community College • Jackson College • Muskegon Community College

Future Opportunities

MI-RAISE Design Lab • Reconnect Research • Reconnect Support Program

Contact The Center



About MCAACS (The Center)



Collaborate. Innovate. **Transform.**

Purpose: The Center will serve as the state's primary resource for research, support, and best practices for increasing adult enrollment and completion of credentials and degrees.

Vision: The Center will be a national role model by making Michigan a leader in adult enrollment and completion.

Focus: Focus on all adults and their attainment of credentials and degrees by any path so they can thrive.





How We Do Our Work



Collaborate. Innovate. **Transform.**



Research: High-quality, data-informed and evidence-based insights

Support: Design and planning support, coaches and subject matter experts.

Invest: Funding for program design and implementation to increase adult enrollment and completion.



Our “why”

48.9%

adults in Michigan lack postsecondary credentials

Lumina Foundation: *A Stronger Nation* report

6 | The Michigan Center for Adult College Success | MCCA Student Success Summit | 9.27.2024



- Bolster enrollment and success of postsecondary institutions
- Reduce the cost of state’s social safety net programs
- Increase tax revenues
- ***Lift Michiganders out of poverty and help them thrive!***



Research

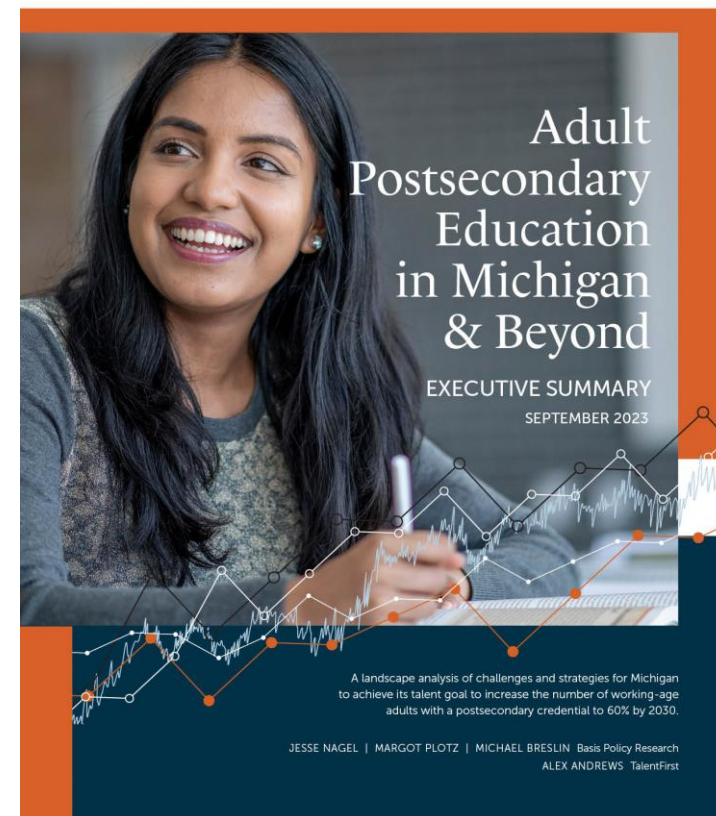
Forming a solid research foundation to drive effective change



Published Landscape Analysis

Landscape contents:

- Untapped potential of adult postsecondary education
- Michigan context
- Barriers faced by adult learners
- Promising strategies for adult enrollment and completion
- Key learnings & next steps





Closing Demographic Gaps

Disparities in postsecondary attainment in Michigan:



White



Hispanic



Black

We can do better. And we have a plan to get there.



Barriers Adult Learners Face

- **Personal Responsibilities**
- **Work Obligations**
- **Belonging & Confidence**
- **Navigating Higher Ed**
- **Access & Awareness of Support**
- **Financial**
- **Academic**
- **Mental Health**





Best Practices

- ❖ **There is no silver bullet to improving adult completion rates.**
- ❖ **It's a combination of effective strategies that begins with a commitment to continually engaging adults to learn how to best meet their needs.**
 - Proactive, holistic advising
 - Flexible scheduling
 - Accelerated programs
 - Credit for prior learning
 - Work based learning opportunities
 - Basic needs support
 - Guided pathways
 - Corequisite learning



MI-RAISE Design Lab

Fostering innovation for adult learner success



Participating Institutions



FERRIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



Kalamazoo**VALLEY**TM
community college





MI-RAISE Key Components

- Adult Readiness Self-Assessment guided by Education Strategy Group (ESG)
- Labor Market data provided by ESG & The Center
- Identify potential adult learners with CollegeAPP
- Coaching to assist in developing system change proposals utilizing a design sprint process provided by Sova Solutions
- Monthly convenings on key adult success topics
- Team time w/ coaches to complete grant applications
- Apply to IIA or Sixty by 30 grants
- Transitional support provided to institutions



MI-RAISE Convening Topics

- Why it's important to serve adult learners
- Understanding the challenges adult learners face in completing postsecondary
- Identifying and reaching out to prospective adult learners
- Momentum-loss framework for adult learners
- Holistic supports for adult learners
- Serving student parents
- Competency-based education and credit for prior learning best practices
- Engaging faculty to participate in driving solutions
- Change management



Innovation Investment Awards

Total Requested: \$9,855,022

Total Awarded: \$6,442,506

9 Projects Funded





Innovation Investment Awards

\$6.4 million

for systemic change and partnerships
serving adult learner completion goals

- Awards up to \$1 million
- Funding programs August 2024 - August 2026.
- Recipients also receive implementation support throughout the process.



IIA Program Goals

- Implement system changes based on best practices
- Pilot innovative ideas to boost completion
- Collect data to evaluate outcomes
- Develop common measures of adult success
- Document implementation process to help scale at other institutions
 - What worked well?
 - Challenges faced & how to overcome



IIA Recipient Supports

- ✓ Co-develop evaluation criteria
- ✓ Logic-model development assistance
- ✓ Center data and research support
- ✓ Access to coaches or subject matter experts from The Center
- ✓ Access to Center's resources to help identify additional partners or supports

The aim is to learn and share what works to get results for adult learner completion.



IIA Recipient Panel

Glen Oaks Community College, Jackson Community College, Muskegon Community College



Introductions



Innovation Investment Awards Panel

Adam Cloutier

Vice President of Academics, Glen Oaks Community College

Jamie Vandenburg

Dean of Workforce, Technical and Professional Education, Jackson College

Patti D'Avignon

Dean of Student Services, Muskegon Community College



Moving Forward

Opportunities for support going forward



MI-LEARN Design Lab

Michigan Learning Evolution and Academic Restructuring Network



MI-LEARN Design Lab Project Overview



Objective: Enhance adult learner success in Michigan postsecondary institutions by providing technical assistance, developing success dashboards, and redesigning curricula.

For the MI-LEARN Design Lab, we will focus on assisting institutions in creating implementation plans, including but not limited to the following promising practices:

- Creating adult student success dashboards to inform curriculum delivery and development,
- Providing student support and wrap-around services for adult learners,
- Major/degree retention and throughput analyses for pathways from enrollment through graduation,
- Flexible scheduling, including 7- and 8-week course schedule formats,
- Project-based and competency-based learning,
- Credit for prior learning, and
- Work-based learning.



Upcoming Research

- ❖ Annual Community College Reconnect Reports
- ❖ Gateway courses impeding adult learner success
- ❖ Reconnect enrollment, persistence and success by demographics
- ❖ Reconnect alignment with labor market needs



Reconnect Responsibilities

Update on progress for launch of services



Reconnect Support Philosophy

The Center will meet institutions where they are by providing a range of services and supports to meet the unique needs of each institution in their journey to boost adult enrollment and completion rates.



Reconnect Support Activities

- **Help institutions understand Reconnect performance data and develop/implement attainment strategy**
- Analyzing 2024 Reconnect Annual Reports to inform direct outreach to institutions
- Provide Subject Matter Experts, Consultants and Coaches
- MI-LEARN Design Lab is planned to specifically serve Reconnect institutions
- Virtual office hours -- Tuesdays 9-10 a.m., Thursdays 3-4 p.m.
- Program evaluation services



Reconnect Best Practices

The Center is focused on providing support for the Reconnect Act best practices listed below:

- Completion rates of students
- Partnerships with 4-year colleges and universities
- On-time completion of credits
- Stackable credentials
- Credit for prior learning
- Work based learning opportunities
- Holistic student support
- Guided pathways
- Corequisite learning
- Reduce equity gaps



Next Steps

- ❖ Engage with The Center on our Reconnect Support Program
 - ❖ Participate in MI-LEARN Design Lab
 - ❖ Visit our virtual office hours
- ❖ Utilize The Center's data and research to inform your work

We look forward to partnering with you to promote adult student success!





The Michigan Center
for Adult College Success

Collaborate. Innovate. Transform.

mcacs.talentfirst.net

Share your institution's good news about how you serve adult learners!

Please email TheCenter@talentfirst.net with a quick description and contact information, and we'll follow up with you promptly.



An initiative of

