

KALEB AETHYR

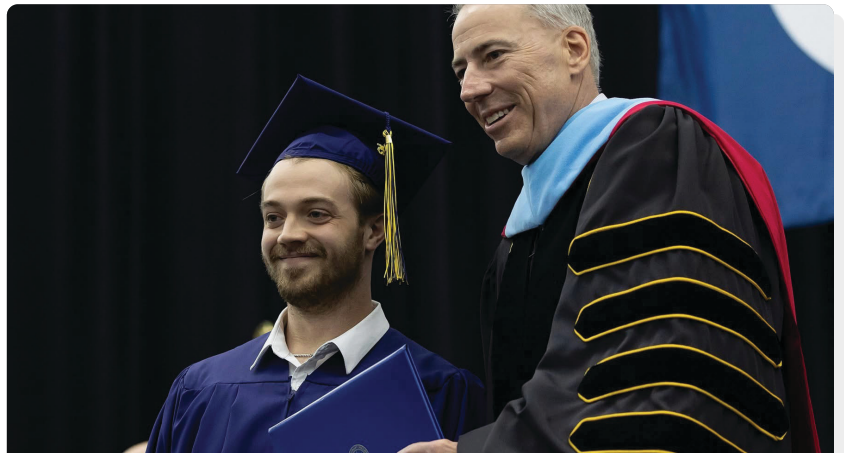
STUDENT VOICES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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I got lucky that [the Reconnect program] went down to 21,” Kaleb says. “I was kind of in a limbo where I didn’t have a plan at all and I was open to going back to school because I wanted to. If I had waited until 25 ... I wouldn’t have been as open to [college], even if it was free because it’s still a big time commitment.

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- Michigan Reconnect 21-24 participant
- Associate of Science, Schoolcraft College, 2025
- Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering, University of Michigan, Expected 2027

MICHIGAN RECONNECT 21-24 PROGRAM

Kaleb dropped out of high school due to personal issues at home which led him to lose interest in his academics. After three years out of school, he felt ready to return. At 20, he earned his GED at Schoolcraft College and, at 21, began college courses with support from the Michigan Reconnect 21-24 program. The program gave Kaleb more than a second chance; it gave him the freedom to return when he was ready and the financial support to focus fully on his goals.

“This past year was super transformative for me, and ultimately, I think it changed the direction of my whole life.” The financial support from Reconnect lifted a major burden. It allowed Kaleb to focus on his classes, build momentum, and start to believe in himself again.

FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

Through Reconnect, Kaleb found his path—and the support systems that came with it. At Schoolcraft College, he joined the Honors program, and a mentor encouraged him to reach higher. In the fall, Kaleb will pursue a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering at the University of Michigan. One day, he hopes to help build rockets and contribute to the space industry.

It all started with a second chance—made possible by Reconnect 21-24.



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