



michigan community college association LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

2026-2027 MCCA Leadership Academy Nominations

The Michigan Community College Association is launching the new cohort of the MCCA Leadership Academy. We are seeking nominations from presidents and chancellors before the **priority deadline of Wednesday, April 29, 2026.**

NOMINATIONS

Colleges can [nominate two individuals](#) for the Leadership Academy cohort. The screening and determination of who is nominated is exclusively the responsibility of the community college. The target audience for the Leadership Academy is mid-level faculty or staff with clear leadership potential and interest in advancing within the college. Colleges are strongly encouraged to consider nominees who have a strong commitment to student success, improvement at the college and the potential to lead student success work and systemic change. The Leadership Academy is best suited to fellows who are eager to engage with peers from across the state. Fellows from business services, foundation, marketing, facilities, and other non-traditional student success roles have brought valuable perspectives that benefit both the individual and the college. College staff who report directly to the president are likely better suited to national leadership development programs (MCCA maintains a [list of popular leadership development programs on our website](#)). Finally, as part of our commitment to DEIB, the MCCA encourages fellows from diverse backgrounds (i.e., race, gender, professional experience) be considered to participate in the fellowship.

Expectations of Colleges

Each college is expected to support their fellows in the following ways:

- Contribute a \$2,300 tuition fee for each fellow.
- Support fellow(s) travel costs (including hotel, mileage, and meals) and workload to participate in the Leadership Academy.
- Include fellows in leadership activities of the college such as sharing experience at cabinet meetings, presentations to board of trustees, engagement in student success projects.

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY EXPERIENCE

The Leadership Academy is a 12-month experience. Fellows will participate in the following Leadership Academy experiences:

- Six two-day convenings are held throughout the year (not recorded).
- Virtual orientation and preview webinars before each convening (recording available).
- Development of a group student success project.
- Mentoring and peer networking.
- Graduation ceremony at the annual Student Success Summit.



Fellow Expectations

Leadership Academy Fellows are expected to:

- Attend and actively participate in all Leadership Academy sessions and activities.
- Complete all pre-work and reading before convenings.
- Present their student success project at the annual Student Success Summit.
- Apply lessons learned through the formal Leadership Academy Student Success Project and informally through day-to-day actions at their home college.

Tentative Convening Dates and Locations

MCCA is working with community colleges to schedule the convening dates and host locations for this year. The convening dates are confirmed, and the final locations will be shared with the fellows in summer 2026.

Date	Tentative Host Location
Thursday-Friday Sept. 17 - 18, 2026	Oakland Community College
Thursday-Friday Nov. 5 - 6, 2026	Lake Michigan College
Tuesday-Thursday Jan. 26 - 28, 2027	Virtual in the Afternoons
Thursday-Friday March 25 - 26, 2027	Kellogg Community College
Monday-Tuesday June 21 - 22, 2027	Bay Mills Community College
Wednesday July 21, 2027	Virtual in the Morning
Wednesday-Thursday September 29 – 30, 2027	In conjunction with the Student Success Summit; location is TBD

Curriculum

The Leadership Academy curriculum has been developed in partnership with the National Center for Inquiry & Improvement, the Aspen Institute, the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, and the MCCA. The curriculum is aligned with the strategic priorities of the MCCA and builds on the continued efforts to implement guided pathways and other student success reforms. Six modules cover topics necessary to be an effective community college leader. Selected modules include:

- Defining Student Success and Data-Driven Approaches to Student Success
- Improving Labor Market Outcomes, Transfer, and Teaching & Learning Practices
- Redesigning the Student Experience
- Strategic Finance, Policy, and Advocacy
- Leadership Qualities for Senior Staff
- Leading Internal Transformational Change and Effective External Strategic Partnerships

QUESTIONS?

Contact Precious Miller (pmiller@mcca.org) for additional information about the Academy.