



michigan community college association LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

MCCA Leadership Academy Success Project Topic Areas and Starting Resources

Advising & Student Supports

Broad Topic Area: Coordinating student support services (academic, career, financial, and personal) to create a holistic student experience that promotes persistence and completion.

Resource: CCRC Research on Advising & Student Supports –
<https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/research/advising-student-supports.html>

College to Career

Broad Topic Area: Building pathways that align programs of study with labor market needs, integrating career exploration, work-based learning, and credential attainment.

Resource: Aspen Institute College Excellence Program –
<https://highered.aspeninstitute.org/college-excellence-program/college-to-career/>

Community Engagement

Broad Topic Area: Building and sustaining partnerships between community colleges and their surrounding communities—including local organizations, nonprofits, K-12 schools, government agencies, and civic groups—to expand opportunities, address barriers, and strengthen the role of the college as a community anchor.

Resource: Strada Research Report – <https://stradaeducation.org/report/employer-and-community-college-partnerships-models-and-practices-for-supporting-students-and-strengthening-the-workforce/>



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Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)

Broad Topic Area: Recognizing and applying students' prior learning (work experience, military training, certifications) toward college credit to accelerate credential attainment.

Resource: CAEL Credit for Prior Learning Resource Toolkit – <https://www.cael.org/lp/cpl-pla>

Data and Analytics

Broad Topic Area: Using disaggregated student outcome data and predictive analytics to identify equity gaps, measure effectiveness, and guide institutional improvement.

Resource: CCRC Data and Analytics Research – <https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/research/data-analytics.html>

Developmental Education (Corequisite Remediation, Math Pathways, Multiple Measures Placement)

Broad Topic Area: Redesigning remediation to accelerate student progress into college-level courses through corequisites, math pathways, and placement reforms.

Resource: CCRC Developmental Education Reform – <https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/research/developmental-education.html>

Employer Engagement

Broad Topic Area: Collaborating with employers to design programs, create work-based learning opportunities, and align credentials with workforce demand.

Resource: CCRC Employer Engagement Report – <https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/publications/aligning-college-workforce-programs.html>



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Guided Pathways

Broad Topic Area: Creating structured academic and career pathways with clear course sequences, integrated advising, and student supports to improve completion.

Resource: CCRC Guided Pathways Research –

<https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/research/guided-pathways.html>

High School to College Transition (Dual Enrollment, Transition Curricula, Summer Bridge Programs)

Broad Topic Area: Smoothing the transition from high school to college by providing early college credit, bridge programming, and college readiness supports.

Resource: CCRC Dual Enrollment & Transition Programs –

<https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/research/dual-enrollment.html>

Nonacademic Supports (Financial Aid, Emergency Grants)

Broad Topic Area: Career and financial planning, Financial Aid, nonacademic barriers, developing college know-how, college success courses, and learning communities.

Resource: CCRC Research on Nonacademic Supports –

<https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/publications/what-we-know-student-supports.html>

Student Basic Needs

Broad Topic Area: Ensuring students' essential needs (housing, food security, mental health, childcare) are met to support persistence and learning.

Resource: Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice –

<https://hope4college.com/basic-needs/>



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Technology in Student Success

Broad Topic Area: Leveraging digital tools, learning management systems, predictive analytics, and online advising platforms to improve student learning and engagement.

Resource: EDUCAUSE Student Success Technologies – <https://library.educause.edu/topics/student-success>

Transfer Student Success

Broad Topic Area: Streamlining transfer pathways and articulation agreements to improve credit mobility and bachelor's degree completion for community college students.

Resource: Aspen Institute Transfer Playbook – <https://highered.aspeninstitute.org/transfer-playbook/>