MARCH 21, 2023

Inside Story aims to keep faculty, staff and other stakeholders informed about what's going on at Michigan's community colleges. You are receiving this newsletter due to your past interaction with MCCA. **To continue receiving this newsletter, click the subscribe button below!**

---

**MCCA UPDATES**

**Spring Application Week:** It's Spring Application Week! It's important that our graduating students know that it's not too late to apply to college, and there is still financial aid available. This includes the new [Michigan Achievement Scholarship](#), which offers up to $27,500 over five years for the class of 2023 and beyond to attend an in-state college or university.

Many institutions in Michigan offer free applications, and several more are waiving their application fees March 20-24. Check out MCAN’s [fee waivers document](#) for details.

---

**Equity-Minded Teaching Practices for Gateway Courses Roundtable:** MCSS, in
partnership with Achieving the Dream, will host the next event in our series of roundtable discussions for faculty teaching gateway courses on Monday, April 3 from 4-5 p.m. This session will be focused on creating authentic assessments. The roundtable discussions are open to all faculty teaching foundational courses for programs of study, including those designing or teaching English or math pathways courses with corequisite support. Registration is open. Please contact Jenny Schanker with any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, March 21: SNAP E and T Introductory Webinar (1 PM to 2 PM)

Tuesday, March 21: Academic Catch-Up Webinar 5 (4 PM to 5 PM)

Monday, March 27: DEIB Alliance Group Meeting- March 2023 (1:30 PM to 3 PM)

Sunday, April 2: AACC MCCA Networking Event (5:30 PM to 6:30 PM)

Monday, April 3: Gateway English and Math Faculty Roundtable 2 (4 PM to 5:30 PM)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MCCA testifies before House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees: Last week President Johnson testified before the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees responsible for recommending state funding for community colleges. Chair Rep. Samantha Steckloff (D-Oakland) went on record opposing tuition restraint and committee members asked thoughtful questions about co-requisite courses, Michigan Reconnect accountability metrics, the capital outlay process and more. In the senate committee, Chair Senator Sean McCann (D-Kellogg) inquired about the process of transferring credits from a community college to a four-year university. Watch the House hearing here and Senate hearing here.

Workforce Pell support surges in Congress: The ACCT Government Affairs Office recently reported three separate bills in support of workforce/short-term Pell have been introduced in the 118th Congress.

Senators Kaine and Braun and Representatives Johnson, Blunt-Rochester, Turner, and Sherrill all introduced the Jumpstarting Our Businesses by Supporting Students (JOBS) Act in late January 2023. The text of the bill can be found here and a summary can be found here.

Chairwoman Foxx and Representative Stefanik introduced their own version called the Promoting Employment and Lifelong Learning (PELL) Act. The text of the bill can be found here and a summary can be found here.
Last week, Ranking Member Bobby Scott introduced the Jobs to Compete Act. The fact sheet can be found [here](#) and the section-by-section can be found [here](#).

ACCT is currently reviewing these bills and we will be posting fact sheets for each bill soon.

**Community College Day & Legislative Summit is April 13th:** Join us in Lansing on Thursday, April 13th for MCCA’s Community College Day & Legislative Summit! [Register to attend](#).

---

### OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

**MCAN is Hiring:** The Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) is hiring a Director of Higher Education Innovation, which is a new position to lead the organization’s strategies focused on systems changes across Michigan’s higher education systems. For more information and to apply, please visit their [website](#).

**Funding Opportunity:** The Lowe’s Foundation is offering grants focused on closing the skilled trades labor gap across the United States. For more information and to apply please click [here](#).

**Leveraging Data to Find Students Who Qualify for Benefits:** Benefits Data Trust recently released a free [benefits access toolkit](#) to help colleges identify students eligible for untapped public benefits that can help them pay for basic needs – and focus on succeeding in their studies. On [March 21 at 3 p.m.](#), attend a webinar to explore the toolkit with higher education leaders experienced in using data to boost student access to benefits. Each year, millions of college students struggle to afford food, childcare, housing, healthcare, and internet service. Among those students are a disproportionate number of first-generation students and students of color. [Registration](#) is open. Please contact [Precious Miller](#) with questions.

**Strong Start to Finish Dev Ed Reform Learning Community Workshop:** [Strong Start to Finish](#) will launch the first session in its 2023 Dev Ed Reform Learning Community workshop series on [April 11, 2023 at 12pm ET/9am PT](#) for an interactive workshop focused on [Designing and Teaching Inclusive Corequisites](#). This workshop will be led by Jennifer Ortiz, English Department faculty member at West LA College and expert practitioner in race conscious, equity minded teaching. This session will address important design considerations for practices inside and outside of the classroom. The workshop is intended for teaching faculty, teaching assistants, counselors, schedulers, budget and curriculum committee members, outreach teams, community partners, and anyone interested in learning more about offering corequisites using an equity lens. [REGISTER HERE](#) by [Friday, March 31](#).

---

### IN THE NEWS

**WWMT:** [Gov. Gretchen Whitmer visits Kellogg Community College, discusses low costs for college](#) (March 7, 2023)

**The Voice:** [Retired NASA astronaut to appear at SC4 STEM Fest in Port Huron](#) (March 8, 2023)

**WZZM:** [GRCC culinary students compete nationally to send a meal into space](#) (March 16, 2023)

Rep. Stevens Press Release: [Schoolcraft College’s Manufacturing & Engineering Center Project Industry 4.0 Training Initiative Receives Federal Funding](#)

Just a few newsworthy stories from Michigan community colleges. Check out more news items at [MCCA News](#) or on Twitter, LinkedIn, or Facebook.