APRIL 30, 2024

MCCA UPDATES

Register for Gongwer Webinar: Interested in a discounted Gongwer subscription or looking to maximize your usage of your current subscription? Please register and join us on Thursday, May 2 from 2 to 3 PM as we welcome Gongwer in this interactive demonstration on services included in your MCCA-discounted subscription.

Register for the Summer Transfer Retreat: Register for the Michigan Transfer Expansion Retreat 2.0, the second statewide convening of community colleges and independent institutions focused on improving access and completion of bachelor’s degrees for transfer students from community colleges on Tuesday, July 23 from 10 AM to 3 PM at University of Detroit Mercy. The retreat agenda includes several working sessions designed to help participants connect with regional partners to better serve transfer students, increase enrollment, and engage with partners.

MCCA is Hiring!

Apply for our new role as Director of Student Success which leads the implementation of our student success efforts and works with a great team at the MCCA. Priority application deadline is Monday, May 13, 2024.

NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

MCCA Capitol Day Recap: Over 120 community and tribal college leaders, students and mascots descended upon our state Capitol last Wednesday for the MCCA Capitol Day! Participants attended nearly 130 meetings with legislators and staff, while energetic mascots were introduced during the Senate and House sessions. Resolutions declaring April 2024 Community College Month sponsored by Rep. Samantha Steckloff (D-Oakland) and Sen. Sam Singh (D-Lansing) were adopted in each chamber.

The networking lunch was well attended by legislators, legislative staff, guests from the governor’s administration, and other invited guests supportive of Michigan’s community and tribal colleges. Delicious desserts prepared by Mott Community College Culinary Arts Institute were a huge hit with everyone! Resch Strategies was on hand to take pictures and prepare a
special video from the day.

Thank you to everyone who made the day a success and celebration!

**FY 2024-25 State Budget Update:** The House of Representative is well on its way to finalizing its FY25 budget recommendations for community colleges, financial aid, and the new Michigan Department for Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP). House subcommittees made the following recommendations:

- 3.3% ongoing increase to operations grants for community colleges distributed through the performance formula.
- Tuition restraint for in-district tuition and fee increases is the greater of 4.5% or $217.
- $100 placeholder for ITEMS, meaning the House wants to keep the conversation going on potential dollars to support infrastructure, technology, equipment, maintenance, and safety.
- Changes to the Michigan Achievement Scholarship that would keep the $1,750 minimum payment but allow the $1,000 last-dollar payment amount to be packaged to cover non-tuition costs of attendance like books, housing, food, transportation, computer, childcare, etc. The House did not include the governor’s Community College Guarantee.
- $61.5 million to support Reconnect, which is slightly lower than the governor’s $62 million.

We anticipate the Senate will begin moving their own budget recommendations pertaining to community colleges, financial aid and MiLEAP this week. The statutory deadline for the Legislature to pass a final budget is July 1 and, so far, leaders are saying they are on track to do so. Please contact Katie Witkowski with questions.

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**GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Native American Heritage Fund:** Grants are available from the Native American Heritage Fund to replace or revise school mascots, government seal or images in public spaces, curricula or program development, resolution of inter-governmental/community conflict involving reservation community or Native American residents, or other education initiative.

**Take Flight: Sixty by 30 Pitch Competition:** MCAN is seeking scalable, high-impact college attainment strategies to expand across the state to move Michigan closer to our Sixty by 30 goal to win cash prizes.

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**MUST READS**

**DEEP Insights: Redesigning Dual Enrollment as a Purposeful Pathway to College and Career Opportunity**
Community College Research Center

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**NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION**
Public Service Loan Forgiveness Resources: PSLF has helped thousands of community college employees and graduates address their student loans. The Kresge Foundation hosted a helpful webinar and shared the following tools. Please review this information if you, your colleagues, or students may be eligible for PSLF.

- PSLF Help Tool
- PSLF Employer Search Tool
- SAVE Plan
- Apply for SAVE using the IDR application
- Loan Simulator

College Access to Medicaid Funds: Consider completing this interesting health services survey if your college offers student health services (including mental health services and counseling) to help our partners at the ECMC and Kresge Foundations understand how colleges can leverage Medicaid to support student health services.

Student Fellowship Opportunity: The Institute for College Access and Success is seeking community college student applicants for its Michigan Student Advocacy Fellowship program. The program begins June/July 2024 and ends June 2025. Apply by Friday, May 17.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, May 2: Gongwer Demonstration (2 to 3 PM)

Tuesday, May 14: Collaborative Partnerships - College Roadmap to Program Success (12 to 1 PM)

Wednesday, May 15: MCC-SSEM Affinity Group Meeting (10 to 11 AM)

Monday, May 20: DEIB Alliance Group Meeting (1:30 to 3 PM)

COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE NEWS

517 Magazine: April is Community College Month

Community College Daily: The apprentice game (April 15, 2024)

WILX: Breaking the stigma of community college (April 16, 2024)

Michigan College Access Network: Community College Month: Strategizing Success for Every Student (April 19, 2024)

Northwestern Michigan College: Success story: Longest-serving faculty member retires, first BSN student graduates (April 24, 2024)

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