JULY 11, 2023

MCCA UPDATES

**Student Financial Wellness Survey:** Explore the connection between student finances and academic success with the FREE Student Financial Wellness Survey with Trellis Research. To learn more about the survey [view the slide deck](#) from the May 24, 2023 webinar. You can also explore the most recent survey data in visiting the [Trellis Research website](#). Contact Precious Miller with questions.

**Navigating Digital Inclusivity:** On Tues. July 11th, 1-2pm we will be hosting a digital accessibility workshop to take a closer look at the various aspects involved in assessing and improving the accessibility of our college's digital resources. We will also be joined by our Bay College colleagues to learn of the ways their institution conducts digital accessibility audits for their websites and other digital resources. [Registration](#) for this event is now open. Contact Precious Miller with questions.

**Future Proud Michigan Educator LAUNCH:** The Future Proud Michigan Educator Launch is looking to connect with community colleges and educator providers who are interested in offering students the Michigan Youth Development (MI-YDA) Credential, offering college credits for the MI-YDA, creating 2x2 agreements to strengthen the educator pipeline and creating secondary-postsecondary partnerships with CTE education programs. For more information please contact Candance Vinson at vinsonc@michigan.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, July 11: [Navigating Digital Inclusivity](#) (1 PM to 2 PM)

Thursday, July 20: [2023 Michigan Transfer Expansion Retreat](#) (10 AM to 3 PM)

Tuesday, July 25: [Communications and Marketing Affinity Group Meeting](#) (1 PM to 2:30 PM)

July 26-28: [2023 MCCA Summer Conference](#)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
HB 4124: Gov. Whitmer recently signed into law HB 4124, now PA 50 of 2023. Sponsored by Rep. Glanville (D-Grand Rapids) the new law, which goes into effect on September 26, 2023, would prohibit a person from intentionally using his or her professional position of authority over another person to prevent or attempt to prevent that person from reporting a violation of Section 136b, Sections 520b to 520e, or Section 520g (those sections prescribe the offenses of child abuse, criminal sexual conduct (CSC) in the first-, second-, third-, and fourth-degree, and assault with intent to commit second-degree CSC or CSC involving sexual penetration, respectively) to a Title IX coordinator at a postsecondary educational institution. Those who violate this would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to one year or a maximum fine of $1,000, or both.

ACCT on SCOTUS Decisions: In a recent news bulletin, ACCT announced the Supreme Court ruled on both affirmative action in college admissions and on the executive branch’s ability to unilaterally forgive federal student loan debt. Both decisions will have an impact on our sector for years to come.

Affirmative Action - The Supreme Court severely limited, if not effectively ended, the use of affirmative action in college admissions. By a vote of 6-3, the justices ruled that the admissions programs used by the University of North Carolina and Harvard College violate the Constitution’s equal protection clause, which bars racial discrimination by government entities.

In response to this decision, ACCT Board of Directors along with ACCT President and CEO Jee Hang Lee issued the following statement:

Following the Supreme Court decision on affirmative action, the ACCT Board of Directors and staff stand in support of students of color and their right to access postsecondary education at all levels. Community colleges are open-access institutions that guarantee educational opportunities to all students equally, and we continue to believe that all students deserve an inclusive and diverse environment to learn.

Student Debt Relief - The Supreme Court ruled that President Biden and U.S. Secretary of Education Cardona’s plan to forgive $10,000 in student loan debt for earners who qualify by income, and up to $20,000 for those who received a Pell Grant, is not permitted under the law.

In response to this news, ACCT President and CEO Jee Hang Lee said the following:

“ACCT supports a comprehensive approach to addressing college affordability: creating a federal, first-dollar community college promise program; increasing investment in institutions; increasing the Pell Grant for coverage of non-tuition costs with elimination of the taxation on Pell dollars used for those costs; and forgiving $10,000 in student loan debt. Only through an approach that addresses the three primary barriers of upfront costs, debt following enrollment, and institutional support, will this country improve college affordability. Given the Supreme Court’s decision on student loan forgiveness, community colleges must now renew their call on Congress to stem the growing college affordability and student-debt crises.”

Second Chance Pell & The Launch of Prison Education Programs: Last week, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) launched a new process through which institutions of higher education can apply to offer postsecondary programs to incarcerated individuals. For the first time in nearly 30 years, individuals enrolled in approved prison education programs (PEPs) will be eligible for Federal Pell Grants outside a limited pilot program known as the Second Chance Pell Experiment. The Department began accepting applications on July 3, 2023, and will approve applications on a rolling basis. ED’s office of Federal Student Aid published a form, guidelines, and instructions on its knowledge center site, along with additional resources for institutions interested in applying. You can find the information here.
MITechNews: Michigan Community Colleges Offering Course Credit For Industry-Recognized Credentials Towards Degrees (June 25, 2023)

The Gander: 8 Michigan Community Colleges Where You Can Kick-Start the Next Phase of Your Life (June 26, 2023)

Click on Detroit: Schoolcraft College students collect 1K+ books to replace books stolen from Hey Y’All Detroit (July 2, 2023)

Henry Ford College: Reconnect success! 35 years old with 3 children, a 4.0 GPA, a nearly-free college degree, and a dream job waiting (July 5, 2023)

WNEM: MCC offers course credits for industry-recognized credentials (July 5, 2023)

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