MCCA UPDATES

New Student Success Grants Launched to Help Students: The Michigan College Access Network and Global Detroit have joined forces with the Office of Sixty by 30 to support Michigan community and tribal college efforts, ensure colleges and adult learners have the tools they need to increase completion rates. Eligible institutions can apply for one or both of these Student Success grants online here. Applications are due July 31, 2023. Applicants can receive a pre-review if they submit by July 14, 2023. Download a PDF version of the application. The Sixty by 30 Office will be providing additional support to potential applicants and invite the community colleges to join drop-in office hours for technical support, it will be held weekly on Wednesdays, starting June 21 from 12-1:00 p.m. Office hours will not be held on July 5. Office hours will also include an opportunity to receive support or ask questions regarding the ADN-to-BSN grants. To join the office hours please visit here.

Navigating Digital Inclusivity: On Tuesday July 11th, from 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.

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
Michigan New Jobs Training Program: HB 4573 sponsored by Rep. Carol Glanville (D-Grand Rapids) would extend the sunset for the MNJTP to December 31, 2033 and allow wages for new jobs to reflect regional cost of living differences. The bill was reported by the House Higher Education Committee with a 13-1 vote and awaits further consideration by the full House. Watch the hearing here and read the press release here.

Reconnect: SB 406 and SB 407 sponsored by Sen. Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing) and Sen. Mary Cavanagh (D-Oakland, Schoolcraft, Wayne), respectively would lower the eligibility age for Reconnect from 25 to 21 if the sufficient funding for the expansion is appropriated and modify the accountability metrics adopted in the lame duck session last December. Specifically, SB 407 would eliminate labeling colleges as “low performing” and the reduction of financial aid students are eligible to receive. At the same time, the bill would maintain the possibility for colleges to develop corrective action plans to improve student outcomes. Expanded metrics would help identify specifically where attention and support are needed most. The bills were referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee for further consideration.

Open Meetings Act: Legislation sponsored by Rep. Brenda Carter (D-Oakland) would allow members of a public body to meet remotely if certain circumstances are met. Under HB 4817 public bodies could meet remotely if they provide remote access to the meeting by electronic means, a physical place for the meeting that is open to the public and at which at least one member of the public body attends in person, and the meeting is recorded and accessible by the public for at least one year. Additionally, the bill would require remote members to be considered absent and unable to vote if they are not physically located within the boundaries of the area served by the public body. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Local Government and Municipal Finance for further consideration.

FAFSA Webinar Series: The U.S. ED announced the launch of an 11-part Better FAFSA Better Future Webinar Series throughout June and July. This series of live webinars will cover the most recent guidance from the ED and the office of Federal Student Aid on implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act, the FUTURE Act, and what your school needs to know about upcoming changes for the 2024–25 award year. You do not need to register in advance for these webinars. Video recordings and transcripts of the Q&A portion of the webinars will be available the week following each live session.

IN THE NEWS

Brookings: The case for college: Promising solutions to reverse college enrollment declines (June 5, 2023)

Detroit News: Oakland County wants to set ambitious goal for college degrees (June 6, 2023)

Jackson College: Jackson College Advantage offers opportunity for full tuition for more students (June 12, 2023)

Nautical Charts: NOAA helps develop undergraduate course in lakebed mapping (June 14, 2023)

Daily Kellogg: Inspiring generations: Physical Science professor Ron Smith retires after 50 years of teaching at KCC (June 18, 2023)

ARCC: ARCC network survey explores how colleges spent federal recovery funds (June 20, 2023)

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