Gov. Whitmer Signs Legislation to Address Paramedic Shortage: Gov. Whitmer recently signed bipartisan legislation to address Michigan’s paramedic shortage by cutting bureaucratic red tape that could reduce time and financial barriers to becoming a paramedic. The legislation, SB 249 sponsored by Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-Macomb, St. Clair, Wayne), allows paramedics to receive accreditation through a state-administered exam instead of only having a national exam option. By expanding accreditation exam options, the State of Michigan is making the cost of paramedic programs more accessible and affordable.

Mott Community College President to be Director of MiLEAP: On Thursday, Gov. Whitmer announced the appointment of Mott Community College President Beverly Walker-Griffith to be the first director of the new Michigan Department on Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential. Dr. Walker-Griffith will begin her new role June 24. Acting Director Michelle Richard will remain with the department. President Brandy Johnson issued the following statement on behalf of the Michigan Community College Association:

"Dr. Beverly (as we affectionately call her) is one of the most passionate, experienced and inspiring educational leaders we’ve had the great fortune to work alongside," said Brandy Johnson, President of the Michigan Community College Association. "She is universally well-respected by educational leaders across the state, and the momentum she will help build in this position toward Michigan’s educational goals will be tremendous."
New Resource Bolsters Student Success: We are so excited to bring you the Professional Learning Space — an online resource with tailored lessons aimed at addressing the key areas that matter most to community college professionals. Topics range from student basic needs to transfer to career exploration and more. And the best part… It’s completely FREE! Start learning today.

Congratulations to Northwestern Michigan College Dental Assistant Program Director! Beckie Wooters, NMC’s Dental Assistant program director, has been named the 2024 Allied Dental Professional Educator by the Michigan Dental Association. Wooters was selected for NMC’s articulation agreement with Bay Mills Community College, which seeks to enroll students from the tribal college in the U.P. at NMC in order to increase access to dental care. Retired Traverse City area dentist Dr. Jessica Rickert who connected NMC and Bay Mills, accepted the award on Wooters’ behalf at the MDA’s annual session in Lansing in April.

MUST READS

College to Jobs Playbook from the Project on Workforce at Harvard University.

National Student Clearinghouse Current Term Enrollment Estimates for Spring 2024 shows a 4.7% increase in community college enrollment in Michigan matching the growth in enrollment across the country.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Deadline Approaching for Sixty by 30 Grants: June 7, 2024 is the deadline for the Barrier Removal-Growing Institutional Capacity and Barrier Removal- Direct to Students grants. Find these and other grant opportunities on the MCCA website and subscribe for updates.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Thursday, June 20: **MCC-SSEM Affinity Group Meeting** (10 to 11 AM)

Tuesday, June 25: **Student Success Committee** (3:30 to 4:30 PM)

Friday, June 28: **Legislative Committee** (10 to 11:30 AM)

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**COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE NEWS**

9 & 10 News: [Plans for Freshwater Research and Innovation Center in Traverse City continue full steam ahead](May 8, 2024)

Interlochen Public Radio: [Microplastics filter for laundry wins top prize at Great Lakes AquaHacking challenge](May 13, 2024)

Bridge Michigan: [Opinion | Reconnecting adults to college is right move for Michigan’s workforce](May 14, 2024)

Detroit Chamber: [Sandy K. Baruah: Make the ‘K – 12 + 2’ Approach Michigan’s Next Education Step](May 23, 2024)

City Pulse: [Whitmer names Walker-Griffea the new director of MiLEAP](May 23, 2024)

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