MCCA UPDATES

Reminder: Academic Catch-Up Funding Extended through October 31, 2024: The state has approved extending funding for Academic Catch-Up programs through October 31, 2024. All 31 MCCA colleges are invited to apply to offer programs for the spring, summer and early fall 2024. Participating students must not have completed a gateway English or mathematics course and must not have completed an Academic Catch-Up program previously. Funding for the extension will include a base allocation of up to (TBA based on available funds) for infrastructure expenses plus $1614.63 per student served. All funds must be expended by October 31, 2024. The application is open now. More information is available on the program web page. Interested colleges should apply by November 03, 2023. Please contact Jenny Schanker (jschanker@mcca.org) with questions.

Creating Accessible Content: On Nov. 7th from 3-4pm will be a webinar you will not want to miss. In partnership with the Digital Accessibility Affinity Group and facilitated by Disability Network of Southwest Michigan, we will embrace best practices to foster inclusivity in all of our communications. Discover how to craft content that caters to everyone, ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities who may encounter challenges in perceiving your content. Click here to register. Contact Precious Miller with questions.

Michigan Center for Student Success Selected as a Strong Start to Finish Site: Strong Start to Finish (SSTF) has selected four state higher education systems and associations — Colorado Department of Higher Education, Louisiana Board of Regents, Michigan Center for Student Success, and Tennessee Board of Regents — to support expanding ongoing developmental education reform initiatives. Funding from SSTF will support evidence-based developmental education reform efforts that aim to remove barriers and create conditions for every student to pass credit-bearing gateway courses in English and math in their first year of college. Specifically, MCSS will use funding from SSTF to develop a community of practice for institutions implementing guided self-placement and create professional learning opportunities focused on improving corequisite math courses and strengthening math pathways. MCSS will work with SSTF through 2026 to amplify these developmental education reform practices with technical assistance support from SSTF’s partners. Please contact Jenny Schanker with questions.

Bay Mills Community College Selected for Partnership: The Biden-Harris Administration has announced an increased investment in tribal colleges and universities head start partnerships. Bay Mills Community College was one of three colleges selected for the 2023 grant. The initiative will result in more than 700 tribal educators graduating with a degree in early childhood by 2028. Congratulations President Bedell and Bay Mills Community College!
**Webinar Recording- Exploring Abelism to Increase Accessibility:** On Oct. 24th from 3-4:30pm The Digital Accessibility Affinity Group hosted an insightful webinar facilitated by Disability Network of Southwest Michigan. This webinar aimed to familiarize participants with fundamental concepts of ableism, aiding them in recognizing subconscious biases related to disabilities. Click [here](#) to review the webinar recording. Contact Precious Miller with questions.

**CUWFA Special Panel Event Invitation:** The College and University Work-Life Association (CUWFA) is hosting a free Zoom webinar to discuss the current state of work-life and wellbeing in higher education on November 15 from 1pm-2pm. Topics include how leading universities utilize work-life wellbeing initiatives to attract and retain top talent; dive into real-world challenges and success stories with a focus on employee satisfaction and diverse needs; and connect with higher education practitioners and tap into the resources of CUWFA. To register please click [HERE](#). Please contact Mary Elle Eady at mary.ellen.eady@emory.edu with any questions.

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**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**House higher education leaders urge institutions to take a proactive approach to hate:** Rep. Samantha Steckloff and Rep. Carol Glanville recently co-signed a letter urging higher education institution presidents, chancellors and board members to adopt a five-step plan to promote inclusivity, support affected communities through counseling services and additional resources, educate and inform about the broader conflict in the Middle East, address and report any instances of hate or harassment and engage with local communities and religious organizations to establish partnerships. Contact Katie to request a copy of the letter.

**Legislation amending the Michigan Promise Zone Act approved by Senate:** On Thursday, the Senate approved the following bills by a 32-6 vote. They now await consideration in the House of Representatives.

- **SB 350** would allow other costs of attendance at educational institutions to be included as a “qualified educational expense” if those expenses were provided for in a promise zone’s development plan. The bill specifies that other costs of attendance include housing, food, transportation, Federal student loan fees, miscellaneous expenses, a personal computer, child care, disability expenses, and reasonable costs for study abroad programs. The bill also would allow the cost of obtaining a license, certification, or a first professional credential to be included as an allowable expense.

- **SB 555** would allow a promise of financial assistance to include expenditures on success programming designed to increase student degree or certificate attainment.

**Certain college employees will have the right to arbitration during labor disputes:** Governor Whitmer signed **HB 4438**; which gives police officers or firefighters employed by community colleges and county corrections officers the right to arbitration during a labor dispute. The new law goes into effect January 22, 2024.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday, November 7:** [Creating Accessible Content](#) (3 PM to 4:30 PM)

**Wednesday, November 8:** [Transfer Liaison Update - Fall 2023](#) (1 PM to 2 PM)

**Tuesday, November 14:** [Digital Accessibility Affinity Group - November 2023](#) (3 PM to 4 PM)

View the full list of upcoming events [here](#).
IN THE NEWS

WZZM: MCC paying $400 to help you prepare for college (October 19, 2023)

Interlochen Public Radio: Students begin years-long look for microplastics in Boardman-Ottaway River (October 19, 2023)

Inside Higher Ed: Michigan Inches Toward College Attainment Goal (October 23, 2023)

Community College Daily: Power under control: Building effective 'circuits' for presidential power (October 23, 2023)

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

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