Thank you all for everything you do in pursuit of “Keeping Learning at the Center.”

Activities of Note: Faculty, Staff and Students
This section recognizes the good work being done and linkages to the Strategic Agenda, Strategic Directions and Goals are provided where possible.

- Two NMC Water Studies Institute students have received scholarships from The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA)—John Lutchko ($4500) and Alan Holcombe ($3500). This is the first year that two winners have come from the same institution. Alan also won a scholarship to attend the THSOA conference in Maryland this year, providing an all-expense paid opportunity for him to network with future potential employers. John also won the THSOA academic scholarship last year and was the recipient of a conference scholarship in 2013. NMC has had 7 students win the conference scholarship in the last 4 conferences and has had 4 different academic scholarship recipients for the last 3 conferences. In addition to the networking opportunities, the conference features an extensive series of workshops including technical sessions and a poster session on the latest developments and application in hydrographic surveying multibeam and side scan sonar, data management, electronic charting, marine archaeology, and related topics. The mission of THSOA is to promote education in hydrography. (SD1,SD2, SD3)

- NMC student, Kathy Tahtinen, is the top scoring student from Michigan on the All-USA Community College Academic Team competition, for which more than 1,700 applications were received this year. Nominations were evaluated on academic achievement, leadership, service and a response to a significant endeavor. Recipients of this award will be presented with a $2,000 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Foundation and Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, and will be recognized at the Annual Phi Theta Kappa Presidents Breakfast held during the American Association of Community College’s Annual Convention in San Antonio, TX, in April. Kathy will also be recognized in Lansing at the Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention on March 24 and at NMC’s Honors Convocation at the end of the semester. (SD1,SD5)

Activities of Note: Tim

- As I shared with the campus community in a separate email, I was part of an NMC team of eight who attended a strategy forum as required in our Higher Learning Commission AQIP accreditation process in February. It was a very intensive and beneficial workshop with the outcome of a new AQIP action project of Our NMC: Cultivating a Connected Community to improve internal engagement with a focus on communications. I have assigned this action project to our already established Leadership Group who met on Friday, March 6, to begin
developing the charge and structure of the project. See the attached document describing the event’s outcomes.

- Nancy and I, along with trustees Marilyn Dresser and Kennard Weaver, attended the GLMA Alumni Association Dinner the evening of February 21. This is a very nice annual event that provides an opportunity for GLMA alumni to reunite and catch up with each other. It was one of the largest attendances in recent times and represented their 40th anniversary for the alumni group.

- Following the Foundation Board meeting on February 26, I flew to Dallas to attend the Continuous Quality Improvement Network (CQIN) CEO and Reps Meeting, also attended by Darby Hiller. It was a good session preparing for the CQIN 2015 Summer Institute that will feed nicely into our new AQIP action project on cultivating a connected community, mentioned above. We will be selecting an appropriate NMC team to attend that summer session. CQIN is a higher education membership organization for CEOs of both colleges and universities as well as associated corporations to foster continuous improvement and achievement of performance excellence by studying non-higher education partners.

- I returned to Traverse City in time Friday, February 27, to attend the Taster’s Guild Dinner with Nancy that benefits NMC’s Culinary Program. This was the 21st anniversary of the event and, as has been its history, was sold out. Almost $90,000 of scholarships were awarded to culinary students that night! Thanks to all who worked to make this a great event.

- I have recently been appointed to the Networks Northwest Workforce Development Board and Regional Prosperity Index Committee. This Board is the regional board for implementation and oversight of the Governor’s Prosperity Regions. I attended an orientation session for new members of that board the afternoon of March 4.

- Friday morning, I had a good meeting with our SGA leadership team. They asked great questions (attached) and are certainly invested in helping to make NMC a fantastic experience for all of our students.

- Friday afternoon we held a farewell reception for Darby Hiller, our Executive Director of the Office of Research, Planning and Effectiveness, who will be leaving NMC on March 11 to continue her career as Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs and Institutional Research at Wittenberg University in Ohio. We will miss Darby’s leadership, but NMC will continue to benefit from the strong foundation she has developed for the use of data in decision making at NMC.

**Legislative Issues**

- See attached MCCA Update

**Miscellaneous**

- The NMC Student Government Association will have dinner with the Board of Trustees at 5:00 p.m. at the NMC Hagerty Center on Monday, March 23, and will make a presentation to the Board at their regular meeting that same evening at 5:30 p.m., also at the Hagerty Center.

*Attachments:  Strategy Forum Communication  SGA Questions  MCCA Weekly Board Update, March 2, 2015  Dates of Note*
To: Campus Community

From: Tim Nelson

Date: February 23, 2015

RE: AQIP Strategy Forum Outcomes

As a part of our AQIP accreditation process with the Higher Learning Commission, we are required to attend a Strategy Forum every four years. The purpose of the Forum is to identify and skeletally form a next AQIP project that must be submitted to HLC within six weeks of the completion of the Forum. Our most recent Forum was held last week in St. Charles, Illinois, as a three day intensive. Eight NMC members (identified below) attended and I thank them for their hard work and participation.

In required pre-work, we anticipated discussing three potential projects; Internal and External Community Engagement and College Shared Governance. Upon arrival, we were instructed to focus on only one. We selected the area of Internal Engagement with particular focus on communications and have identified a project title of Our NMC: Cultivating a Connected Community.

The project arises because of feedback from multiple sources including the following:

- Board of Trustees strategic goal
- System portfolio feedback
- Employee engagement survey results
- Direct employee feedback

The Strategy Forum group recognizes that our existing communications processes are not working as effectively as we want and are in fact causing individual and collective issues as we continue to work to serve our learners. In simple terms, parts of the system are either overloaded or ineffective. We must work together to improve this important infrastructure.

This particular project will touch every part of the college. As such, I am recommending that the Leadership Group, comprised of approximately 50 of your colleagues, be named the project sponsor. This group will help to identify the work team or teams that will address stage one of the project, which will prepare a report to fully identify the current situation. It is likely this will include focus groups, anonymous feedback mechanisms, surveys, interviews and analysis. This information will serve the second phase that will recommend system changes to lead to more effective communications and connectedness.

Our projects on Shared Governance and External Community Engagement will continue, but will not be filed with HLC as an AQIP project. Both of these are equally important to our future and will no doubt have areas of intersection with Our NMC: Cultivating a Connected Community.
Strategy Forum Team members attending the HLC AQIP Strategy Forum in St. Charles, Illinois, from February 18–20. Team designs are suggested by HLC.

Timothy Nelson, President
Stephen Siciliano, VP Educational Services
Marguerite Cotto, VP Lifelong and Professional Learning
Chris Weber, VP Enrollment and Student Services
Mike Franklin, Chair NMC Policy Council
Rebecca Teahen, Executive Director NMC Foundation
Diana Fairbanks, Executive Director of Public Relations, Marketing and Communications
Darby Hiller, Executive Director ORPE (Office of Research, Planning and Effectiveness)

Higher Learning Commission definition of Project Sponsor

“The person or group with the power, influence, resources, and interest to champion the action project and clear away obstacles that may arise. The project sponsor serves as the steering team for the action project team and holds the action project team accountable for results. The action project team reports on progress through regular updates to the project sponsor.”

Project Co-Leaders (one faculty and one staff) and Project Team

These individuals and team makeup will be determined at the first Project Sponsor meeting which is in the process of being scheduled.
Questions for President Nelson

1) How do you see NMC moving forward with some of its long term goals for things like student housing and parking (parking structure) with limited space and budget constraints? What do you see as the college’s top priorities in these areas?

2) Can you share with us how the shared governance process works at NMC? What are the key points to a shared governance process, and do you feel this is effective in our college setting?

3) Now that NMC is almost through a re-classification and compensation analysis of its salaried employees, do you see student worker or supplemental staff’s pay ever being reevaluated in a similar process?

4) Could you give us an overall picture of the budget situation at NMC, and what challenges and opportunities will we see for 2015-2016? Are our current funding streams stable? How about tuition fees?

5) Could you summarize any opportunities you see occurring in the coming years to provide additional resources to students that can cut costs for students in other areas? (i.e. expanding the childcare on campus, offering open textbooks)

6) What would you challenge SGA to consider for some of its goals in the next 1-2 years? What leadership opportunities do you see for SGA on our campus?
FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT...

Thank you to Presidents Beverly Walker-Griffea of Mott Community College, Robert Ferrentino of Montcalm Community College, and Brent Knight at Lansing Community College for their excellent testimony at the joint House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee meeting at Lansing Community College last week. A special thank you to President Knight for the tour before the hearing, and the rest of the staff at LCC who made the hearing proceed without a flaw. The House may have an additional hearing, but the Senate is likely done with hearings except for one at the end of the month where they will report their recommendations to the full Appropriations Committee. Have a great week -- Mike Hansen

State & Legislative Matters

Michigan New Jobs Training Program: Last week the Michigan Senate overwhelmingly passed Senate Bills 69 - 71, making the following changes to the Michigan New Jobs Training Program: (1) Eliminates the 2018 sunset; (2) adds language to grandfather in existing contracts (stating that the state minimum wage means the minimum hourly wage rate in effect as of the date the employer and the community college ENTER into a MNJTP agreement to establish a project); and (3) eliminates the $50 million cap. Given the recent budget difficulties related to Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) credits, an amendment was adopted on the Senate floor to limit companies signing future contracts from taking advantage of both MEGA and the MNJTP. The Senate defeated an amendment that would have required wages within an existing contract to continue increasing each year as the minimum wage increases.

Next Step...The bills were assigned to the House Appropriations Committee, and
we will greatly appreciate your help in reaching not only the members of that Committee, but all of your Representatives.

**CCSTEP Award Recipients:** The MEDC announced the award recipients for the *Community College Skilled Trades Equipment Program* (CCSTEP). See the press release, which includes details on the awards. Recipient colleges include: Alpena Community College, Bay College, Delta College, Grand Rapids Community College, Henry Ford College, Jackson College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kellogg Community College, Kirtland Community College, Lansing Community College, Macomb Community College, Montcalm Community College, Mott Community College, Muskegon Community College, Northwestern Michigan College, Oakland Community College, Washtenaw Community College and West Shore Community College.

**Budget Hearings Continue:** The House and Senate Appropriations Community Colleges subcommittees met jointly last Thursday at Lansing Community College. Subcommittee members as well as local legislators enjoyed a brief campus tour as well as welcoming remarks by President Brent Knight and a presentation by LCC on their Medic to Paramedic program. In addition, Chris Baldwin testified about ongoing work the Center for Student Success is engaging in to create structured pathways and improve course transfer, and two other presidents testified as well: Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea, president at Mott Community College in Flint, and Mr. Robert Ferrentino, JD, President at Montcalm Community College.

**Supplemental Budget Bill Heads to Governor:** The Senate last week approved a supplemental budget bill, *House Bill 4110* (Pscholka), to address shortfalls in the current fiscal year budget. The supplemental will shift all current year community college funding to the School Aid Fund. HB 4110 now goes to Governor Snyder for his signature.

**Road Coalition Seeks Letters to the Editor:** The coalition supporting the May ballot proposal on transportation, which the MCCA has now joined, is seeking letters to the editor encouraging a yes vote. Several sample letters are available. Please contact Erin Schor at eschor@mcca.org if you would like a sample letter or letters.

**Capital Outlay Considers Recommendations:** This past Wednesday, the Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee met to hear testimony about the scoring process as well as about the three university and two community college projects Governor Snyder recommended funding. Committee members asked several questions regarding the scoring system that the Budget Office used to make its recommendations. The Subcommittee has scheduled another hearing for this coming Wednesday, March 4.

**New CEO of the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan:** After more than a decade, the chief lobbyist for Michigan's 15 public universities is stepping down. Mike Boulus will retire July 1, and his successor will be Dan Hurley, associate vice president for government relations and state policy with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C.

**Business Leaders for Michigan Leadership Summit:** The Summit is scheduled for March 26 from 8am-noon at the Lansing Center. To register for this no-cost event, please
Bills to Watch: A quick reference of all the bills relevant to community colleges introduced in the 2015 Legislative Session is available on the MCCA website.

National & Federal Legislative Matters

Webinars Scheduled on VA Choice Act: Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency and the Michigan State Approving Agency will host a series of webinars on the Veteran Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 ("Choice Act") and its impact on Michigan public colleges and universities. The webinars will offer tips to institutions of higher learning on revising residency requirements to meet minimum Choice Act compliance by July 1, 2015. Please register to the webinar you would like to attend by clicking on any of following dates: March 11 at 2pm, March 18 at 9am, and March 26 at Noon.

Senate Focuses on Regulation of Higher Ed: Last week, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) held a full Committee hearing on Recalibrating Regulation of Colleges and Universities: A Report from the Task Force on Government Regulation of Higher Education. Witnesses included Mr. William E. Kirwan, Chancellor, University System of Maryland and Mr. Nicholas S. Zeppos, Chancellor, Vanderbilt University. Their testimony is available on the committee website.

DOL Issues Guidance on Implementation of WIOA: The U.S. Department of Labor has issued a Training and Employment Guidance Letter entitled "Vision for the Workforce System and Initial Implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014." The letter numerates several steps that states and local areas should be taking now in preparation for WIOA's effective date, July 1, 2015. Five Notices of Proposed Rulemaking addressing the occupational training, adult education, and vocational rehabilitation programs that are authorized by WIOA are expected in the coming weeks and months.

AACC Comments on the Draft College Ratings System: See AACC's comments to the U.S. Department of Education regarding the draft college ratings system.

National News/Reports

Tennessee bill would make public schools pay for students’ remedial college courses: State Senate Bill 526 would require Tennessee public school districts to reimburse the costs of recent high school graduates who have had to take a remedial course.

MCCA Centers for Excellence News

Center for Student Success Update

MCSS Provided Legislative Testimony on Transfer Pathways: Staff from MCSS presented testimony to a joint hearing of the House and Senate Community College
Appropriations Subcommittees on Thursday, February 26th. This testimony, which reinforced the MCCA legislative priority about improving student pathways, was focused on what we know about transfer nationally and in Michigan, what has been accomplished in recent years-namely the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA), and what else we need to do to improve student transitions to universities and mitigate the loss of credits. The committee was provided with copies of a recent brief on transfer from the Community College Research Center as well as an article in Bridge Magazine about the challenges with transfer.

Faculty Encouraged to register for the Reading Apprenticeship Seminar for STEM Disciplines (May 18-20): Please share with faculty on your campus. The MCSS in conjunction with WestEd, will offer a three-day seminar for faculty teaching in STEM disciplines including health care, advanced manufacturing and other technology-related fields as well as mathematics and the natural sciences. Registration will be limited to a maximum of 45 faculty and the cost will be $500 per participant (a savings of over $700 over the usual cost of the seminar). The cost will include all materials as well as breakfast and lunch each of the three days. Participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging. Please see this document for more information about the workshop. We will need a minimum of 25 registered by March 13th to hold the workshop.

Virtual Learning Collaborative Update

FCC Approves New Net Neutrality Rules: This past week, the Federal Communications Commission voted to regulate broadband Internet service as a public utility. The new "Open Internet Order" bans Internet service providers from prioritizing, blocking or providing "fast lanes" for extra fees. This action has been anticipated for some time and is seen as a win for higher education and especially for community college students that take courses online. See full article.

Michigan New Jobs Training Program

New signed agreements...Lansing Community College signed three new agreements with employers creating new jobs in their region: (1) General Motors Sub Systems train 174 new employees; (2) Eartheam Inc. to train 132 new employees; and (3) Niowave to train 107 new employees.

Five community colleges are in the process of developing MNJTP agreements, and eight colleges have been notified of available funding. In total, 18 colleges are participating, and 93 employers have been served in 104 MNJTP contracts to date. The number of projected new jobs supported by existing MNJTP agreements is 12,425.

Center for Global Initiatives

MSU Center for International Business Faculty Development Opportunity: Complimentary registrations have been offered on a first-come-first-serve basis for community college faculty to participate in the MSU-CIBER International Business Institute for Community College Faculty workshop, being held May 31-June 2 in East Lansing. Full program details are available here. If interested, please have your faculty contact Adriana Phelan as soon as possible.

Community Colleges in the News
Alpena Community College highlighted in The Alpena News ("ACC a Jewel for NE Michigan").

Mid Michigan Community College celebrating 50th anniversary. On a related note, nice article in The Morning Sun "MMCC president sees bright future for students."

Governor Snyder announced that $50 million in grants are going to 18 community colleges across the state as part of Michigan's effort to enhance skilled trades. Related coverage about the awards:

- National media coverage: Inside Higher Ed, CCDaily
- Bay College, covered by The Daily News.
- Delta College, and Mott Community College, covered by WNEM TV5.
- Grand Rapids Community College, covered by MLive.
- Jackson College and Lansing Community College, covered by Channel 10 WILX.
- Kalamazoo Valley Community College, covered by MLive.
- Kellogg Community College, covered by the Battle Creek Enquirer.
- Lansing Community College, covered by the Lansing State Journal.
- Macomb Community College, Oakland Community College and Henry Ford College covered in the Macomb Daily, Morning Sun and Click On Detroit WDIV.
- Muskegon Community College, covered by MLive.
- Northwestern Michigan College, covered by 9&10 News and The Record Eagle.
- Washtenaw Community College, covered by CNBC Online and Harold Online.
- West Shore Community College, Alpena Community College, Kirtland Community College, and Northwestern Michigan College, covered by Fox 32 News.

Upcoming Events for 2015 Calendar

- MCCA Spring Board of Directors Meeting, Oakland Community College - March 12& 13, 2015. Reception/Dinner starts at 5:00 PM on Thursday; Board meeting from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM on Friday
- Phi Theta Kappa Awards Luncheon, Radisson Hotel Lansing - Tuesday, March 24, 2015 from 8:30 AM - 1:30PM
**DATES OF NOTE**

[*Please contact the President’s Office if you would like to attend event.]*

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| Thurs, Mar 12  
Fri, Mar 13 |        | *MCCA Spring Board of Directors Meeting                                              |
| Mon, Mar 23  | 4:00 pm | Board Policy Committee Meeting – Great Lakes Campus Rm 251                         |
| Mon, Mar 23  | 5:00 pm | SGA Dinner/Regular Board Meeting – Hagerty Center, Great Lakes Campus               |
|            |        | • 5:00 pm Dinner – Room D                                                           |
|            |        | • 5:30 pm Regular Meeting – Room C                                                  |
| Mon, Mar 30  
Sun, April 5 |        | NMC Spring Break                                                                    |
| Fri, April 3 |        | College Closed                                                                     |
| Tues, April 7 | 12:00pm-1:30pm | *Annual Scholarship Luncheon – Hagerty Center                                        |
| Wed, April 15 | 4:30pm-7:00pm | *Retirement and Recognition Reception, Hagerty Center                               |
| Mon, April 20 | 4:30 pm | Board Policy Committee Meeting – Oleson Center                                       |
| Mon, April 20 | 5:30 pm | Regular Board Meeting – Oleson Center A/B (3rd Monday)                              |
| Fri, May 1   | 4:45pm-7:00pm | *Honors Convocation, Dennos Museum Center                                             |
| Sat, May 2   | 2:00 pm | Commencement – TC Central High School Gymnasium                                     |
| Wed, May 13  | 8:00 am | *TEDx Traverse City – Milliken Auditorium                                            |
| Sun, May 17  | 10:00 am | NMC BBQ                                                                            |
| Mon, May 18  | 5:30 pm | Regular Board Meeting – Oleson Center A/B (3rd Monday due to holiday)               |
| Mon, June 22 | 5:30 pm | Regular Board Meeting – Great Lakes Campus Room 112                                  |
| Thurs, Jul 23  
Fri, Jul 24 |        | *MCCA Summer Conference – Grand Traverse Resort and Spa                             |
| Mon, July 27 | 5:30 pm | Regular Board Meeting – Great Lakes Campus Room 112                                  |
| Thu, Aug 6   | 8:00am-5:00pm | NMC Scholarship Open – Grand Traverse Resort                                        |
| Mon, Aug 24  | 8:00am-11:00am | *NMC Fall Opening Conference – Hagerty Center                                         |
| Mon, Aug 24  | 5:30 pm | Regular Board Meeting – Great Lakes Campus Room 112                                  |
| Mon, Sept 28 | 5:30 pm | Regular Board Meeting – Oleson Center A/B                                             |
| Wed, Oct 14  
Sun, Oct 18 |        | *ACCT Leadership Congress – San Diego, CA                                             |
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<td>Mon, Dec 21</td>
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