



MCCA WEEKLY BOARD UPDATES

[Report #125 May 7, 2012]

State & Legislative Matters

Bill Tracking Matrix: For a quick reference of all the active bills impacting community colleges, please go to <http://www.mcca.org/content.cfm?m=36&id=36&startRow=1&mm=0>

Dual Enrollment Expansion: The Michigan Senate voted on May 2 to concur with the House versions of the bills expanding dual enrollment options for Michigan high school students. The Governor is expected to sign the bills into law. Senate Bills 622, 623, 709, and 710 would remove the 11th grade requirement for dual enrollment, and would also give non-public school and home-schooled students easier access to dual enrollment. The bills also:

- Exempt the 10 course cap for programs where there is a written agreement between a college and school district (to protect early, middle, and similar accelerated college programs);
 - Allow for non-credit classes that lead to an industry recognized certificate or credential of value;
 - Exclude the 10 course cap for students who self-pay; and
 - Restructure the 10 course cap so more courses can be taken in the junior and senior years.
- [Of note, there is NO language in the bills requiring community colleges to charge in-district tuition for all students, regardless of residency status.]

For the full text of the House-passed bills, as well as the House Fiscal Agency analysis, please visit [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(n0usiga5nhbdkxfi5huar5ut\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2011-SB-0622](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(n0usiga5nhbdkxfi5huar5ut))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2011-SB-0622)

NEW: Webinar on Dual Enrollment Bills: MCCA is sponsoring a webinar on “*The Impact of Dual-Enrollment Legislation*” on Friday, May 18 from 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM. Panelists include Patty Cantu, Director of Vocational and Technical Education - State Department of Education, and Wendy Larvick, House Republican Policy Advisor - Michigan House of Representatives. **To register for the webinar**, please go to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/646537986>

Personal Property Tax: The Senate Finance Committee held a final hearing May 1 on Senate Bills 1065 – 1072, which would eliminate personal property taxes for parcels under \$40,000 and for eligible manufacturing property. Mike Hansen testified to the impact the bills would have on community colleges in Michigan, noting that the Senate Fiscal Agency estimates that SB’s 1065 – 1072 would lower personal property tax revenues for community colleges by as much as \$30 million, while the bills only call for replacing about \$4 million of that revenue. The committee reported SB’s 1065 – 1072 out to the full Senate by a vote of 5 to 2 along party lines, and the bills are expected to come before the full Senate quickly.

MCCA Estimate of Impact on Colleges: [Rough Calculation of Revenue Loss / Institutional Impact of SB 1065-1072](#) (available on the MCCA website under *Legislative Advocacy / State Pending Legislation / Personal Property Tax Reform*)

Free Tuition Plan/MI2020: The Senate Finance Committee also met on May 2 to take testimony on the MI2020 plan, Senate Bills 1015 – 1017, which would provide eligible students that graduate from Michigan high schools with an annual education grant equal to the median cost of tuition at a public university. The bills envision offsetting the cost of the grants, approximately \$1.9 billion, by repealing tax credits and exemptions. Lou Glazer from Michigan Future testified to the importance of education as an economic development tool, and several prospective families testified as well. It is unclear whether the committee intends to hold any further hearings as Senate Republicans have expressed concerns about cost. For the full text of the bills and Senate Fiscal Agency analysis, please go to [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(fctrp25555lcti45ol2kfx45\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2012-SB-1015](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(fctrp25555lcti45ol2kfx45))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2012-SB-1015)

Allowable Investments: The Senate Banking Committee took testimony on May 3 on House Bill 5288 (Womack), part of a broader package of bills to allow public entities, including community colleges, to broaden the range of allowable investments. MCCA supports the bill, which the committee reported out unanimously to the full Senate. For the full text of the bills as well as the fiscal agency analyses, please go to [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(b0o301452ml13vavfypfbgri\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2012-HB-5288](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(b0o301452ml13vavfypfbgri))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2012-HB-5288)

MPSERS Reform: The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Retirement met on May 3, but did not consider the proposed MPSERS changes. The subcommittee did take testimony on and report out Senate Bill 797 (Jansen), which would update the Public Employee Retirement System Investment Act and bring the Act more in line with SEC provisions to maintain the system's integrity. The Department of Treasury and Michigan Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems (MAPERS) both support SB 797, while the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) has just a few lingering concerns. For the full text of the bill and Senate Fiscal Agency analysis, please go to [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(fctrp25555lcti45ol2kfx45\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2011-SB-0797](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(fctrp25555lcti45ol2kfx45))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2011-SB-0797)

Appropriations: While no official appropriation meetings are taking place this week, budget talks continue among the House and Senate subcommittee chairs in preparation to formal conference committee negotiations following the May 16 Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC). In addition to Community College funding, we are also watching the University budget bill due to the inclusion of two performance metrics in the House bill that would benefit community colleges, namely, a requirement that universities would have to accept all dual enrollment credit, and also that universities would have to enter into reverse transfer agreements with at least 3 community colleges in order to qualify for additional performance funding. Since these provisions were not included in the Senate version, it would be helpful to let Senate members know of your support of these House provisions.

Open Meetings Act: The full House voted on May 2 in support of HB 5459 (Opsommer), which would require a public body to post notices for any rescheduled regular meeting or special meeting on its website, and clarify that a physical posting in the office should be in a conspicuous place accessible to the public. The bill would also require a public body to notify the local board of county commissioners within 48 hours by email and US mail if the body used the emergency provisions of the Open Meetings Act to hold a meeting without 18 hours' notice. For the full text of the House-passed bill, please go to [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(fctrp25555lcti45ol2kfx45\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2012-HB-5459](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(fctrp25555lcti45ol2kfx45))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2012-HB-5459)

In-District Tuition for Veterans: The House Education Committee will take testimony this week on HJR MM (Rep. Holly Hughes, R- Montague). The House Joint Resolution proposes an amendment to the state Constitution of 1963, and would require community colleges to charge in-district tuition to all veterans regardless of their residency. For HJR MM, please go to <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2011-2012/jointresolutionintroduced/House/pdf/2011-HJR-MM.pdf>

Federal Matters

Student Aid Fraud: The U.S. Department of Education has announced its intent to create a negotiated rule-making panel to address the issue of student aid fraud. The panel will propose regulations to address organized crime rings that use distance learning programs to collect numerous Pell grants, and is expected to propose regulations related to the disbursement of federal student aid funds via debit cards and other banking mechanisms in order to prevent abuse and fraud. The Department is currently accepting comments. For the announcement in the federal register, please go to <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/05/01/2012-10488/negotiated-rulemaking-committee-public-hearings>

National News/Reports

Prior learning assessment: The practice of granting college credit for learning and knowledge gained outside the traditional academic setting goes back decades, but it could be higher education's next big disruptive force. The national college completion push and the expanding adult student market are driving the growth. And ramping up to meet this demand are two of the field's early adopters -- the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) and the American Council of Education (ACE). For the article, please go to <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2012/05/07/prior-learning-assessment-catches-quietly>

Pennsylvania community colleges have become the first statewide system in the country to adopt the Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) created by the American Association of Community Colleges. The framework will allow the state's 14 community colleges to collect and report on a variety of measures of student progress and success, and career and technical-education programs. For the article, please go to <http://chronicle.com/blogs/ticker/pennsylvania-community-colleges-adopt-national-accountability-system/42922>

MCCA Updates

Community Colleges in the News

Kalamazoo Valley Community College part-time and adjunct faculty members have formed a union and are hoping to have it certified by the state by the end of the month. For the article, please go to http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/05/part-time_instructors_forming.html

Lake Michigan College and the Frederick S. Upton Foundation will host an Education Summit. People and organizations will be challenged to think differently about what it takes to advance the education level of a community. The concept of how organizations can work to have a collective impact will be one of the issues discussed at the Summit. For the article, please go to http://www.heraldpalladium.com/articles/2012/04/30/local_news/9748139.txt

Governor Snyder will introduce Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney at a **Lansing Community College** campaign appearance tomorrow. For the article, please go to http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120507/NEWS01/305070044/Gov-Snyder-introduce-Romney-Lansing-Community-College-appearance-Tuesday?nclick_check=1

Governor Snyder also attended an event hosted by the **Mid Michigan Community College** Foundation last week, where he talked about his experience as a community college student and thanked businesses for their contributions/support of the college. For the article, please go to http://www.ourmidland.com/news/article_3df776ae-96c2-11e1-977a-0019bb2963f4.html

Northwestern Michigan College President Tim Nelson is among those who spoke today at a higher education summit hosted by the *Business Leaders for Michigan*. Tim discussed the demand for jobs that require less than a bachelor's degree but beyond a high school diploma, and the role of community colleges in filling that demand. For the article, please go to <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-mct-brief-nmc-president-to-speak-at-summit-20120504,0,1014053.story>

Statewide News/Reports

The Detroit News printed a supportive editorial on behalf of higher education in Michigan. The editorial, ***Michigan Revival Demands Investment in Higher Ed***, highlighted that more than \$1 billion has been cut from higher education in Michigan in the past 10 years. For the editorial, please go to <http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120507/OPINION01/205070305>

Center for Student Success Update

Reminder about the regional faculty conversations on student success: Please encourage your faculty to participate in upcoming regional conversations sponsored by the Center for Student Success. To

register, go to <http://www.mcca.org/events/index.cfm?displayMonth=5/1/2012&id=0>. The dates and locations of these meetings are listed below and can also be found online:

- Monday, May 14 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor
- Tuesday, May 15 12:00-4:00 p.m. at Mott Community College in Flint
- Friday, May 18 10:00-2:00 p.m. at Lake Michigan College in South Haven
- Monday, May 21 10:00-2:00 p.m. at North Central Michigan College in Petoskey

For more information on the initiative, please go to http://www.mcca.org/manage/page_content.cfm

Faculty Retreat - Excellence in the First Year: The Michigan Center for Student Success, in collaboration with the John N. Gardner Institute has developed 2-day retreat for faculty and academic administrators. The focus of the retreat will be on theory and effective practices for supporting new students with a specific emphasis on the role of faculty. The outcome of the retreat will be a set of guiding principles for Michigan colleges looking to implement or enhance practices such as orientation, advising, first-year seminars and academic support systems. Colleges are encouraged to send teams of four including full time and adjunct faculty and an instructional administrator. The Center will provide meals and lodging for all attendees as well as a stipend of \$350 to each participating college to defray the cost of transportation. A full agenda will be available soon, but topics will include:

- From Theory to Practice in the First Year of College: Determining What Works and Why
- Developing and Refining First Year Success Strategies
- The Faculty Role in First Year Student Success

An additional webinar demonstration is scheduled for the Burning Glass labor market data tool:

Following-up on a successful webinar this past week with college representatives, the Center is organizing a second webinar for those that could not attend the first time or would like to hear more about the Burning Glass tool. This second webinar will be Tuesday, May 8th from 10:30 am to noon. Below is the information to participate in this second webinar:

Please join at: <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/join/438230767> Use your microphone and speakers (VoIP) - a headset is recommended. Or, call in using your telephone. Dial +1 (630) 869-1014; access code 438-230-767#; Audio PIN: Shown after joining the meeting; meeting ID is 438-230-767

For more information on this webinar, please go to

<http://www.mcca.org/content.cfm?m=104&id=104&startRow=1&mm=0>

Presentations at Michigan College Access Network Conference: The Michigan Center for Student Success sponsored two presentations at the MCAN conference on April 30th. Kellogg President Dennis Bona and Ron Reed from the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals engaged in a dialogue on the development of recommendations for statewide college readiness benchmarks in "Working Together to Define College Readiness" in the morning. In the afternoon, Rick Smith from Mid-Michigan Community College and Raquel Ramirez from Lake Michigan College presented ideas for "Using Data to Improve Early College."

Virtual Learning Collaborative Update

Distance-Learning Survey Shows Growing Concern for Student Services: The Instructional Technology Council reported the results of this year's survey on distance education at community colleges. One striking issue focused on adequate student services for distance-education students. Administrators ranked this as their greatest challenge raising it to the top position from No. 3 in the previous year's survey. For the survey report, please go to

<http://www.itcnetwork.org/component/content/article/48-library-articles-abstracts-research/87-2011-distance-education-survey-results-.html>

Harvard and MIT Put \$60-Million Into New Platform for Free Online Courses: Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced a new partnership - edX - that will host online courses from both institutions free of charge. President Hockfield, of MIT, explained the new initiative as a major research effort to analyze what does and does not work in online education. The new platform will help them acquire data through the free online courses offered to the world. What makes this effort different from the other initiatives over the past few months? The courses are free and there will be an attempt, once perfected, to make the platform open-source as well. While students can take the classes for free they will not get Harvard or MIT credit for their work - but they will get some sort of acknowledgement. For the article, please go to

http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/harvard-and-mit-put-60-million-into-new-platform-for-free-online-courses/36284?sid=wc&utm_source=wc&utm_medium=en

WEBINAR: Using Free Online Office Productivity Services in eLearning – Thursday, May 10th at noon: Microsoft Office wasn't built to be used on the web. Now they're playing catch-up with robust suites like Zoho and Google Docs. We'll take a look at the current landscape regarding online office products and their uses in education. To register for this free webinar go to: <http://tinyurl.com/6mcqqt>

WEBINAR: An Introduction to CourseSmart – Wednesday, May 16th at noon: CourseSmart is owned by the 5 major publishers in Higher Education (Pearson, Cengage, McGraw-Hill, Macmillan and Wiley). They are the largest provider of eTextbooks and digital courseware to colleges and universities around the country. During this webinar, Owen Burritt from CourseSmart will provide an overview of CourseSmart and the eTextbook landscape, highlight examples of what other institutions are doing, and demonstrate the eReader platform and integration with a Learning Management System. To register for this free webinar go to: <http://tinyurl.com/76v3wl2>

MCCVLC Advisory Council Meeting – Wednesday, May 30th from 10 am – 3pm: The annual face-to-face meeting of the Advisory Council will be held at the MCCA office in Lansing. This meeting will focus on: Report of the current findings from the 2012 Distance Learning Administrators Survey; reveal of new MCCVLC student website; and update on MCCVLC strategic plan projects. To register for this event go to: <http://tinyurl.com/6vco6up>

Upcoming Events for 2011/2012 Calendar

- MCCA Executive Committee, MCCA office – May 18, 2012 from 10am-1pm
- Presidents Committee, MCCA office – June 21, 2012 from 9am-2pm
- Presidents Summer Institute, Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse City - July 24 & 25, 2012
- MCCA Board of Directors / Summer Workshop, Grand Traverse Resort & SPA, Traverse City – July 26 & 27, 2012
- MCCA Executive Committee, MCCA office – August 24, 2012 from 10am-1pm
- Presidents Committee, MCCA office – September 20, 2012 from 9am-2pm
- MCCA Board of Directors, hosted by Delta College – October 4 & 5, starting with reception/dinner on Thursday (4th) at 6pm, with the meeting on Friday (5th) from 8am-3pm
- ACCT Annual Leadership Congress, Boston MA – October 10 – 13, 2012
- Michigan Delegation Breakfast at ACCT Congress: Thursday, October 11, 7am-8:30am (Sheraton Boston Hotel, Berkley Room, 3rd Floor)
- Presidents Committee, MCCA office – November 8 from 9am-2pm
- MCCA Executive Committee, MCCA office – November 16, 2012 from 10am-1pm