Regional Round Table Summaries

Region 2 (East/Thumb Area)
Facilitator – Tracey Taylor, State of Michigan, Department of Education

Discussion/Sharing Resources:

Central Michigan University working with the Flint Schools – had a successful summer program.
- Six week program in partnership with Kettering, Science, Math, Literacy, and Reading.
- A week on college campus
- A week of cultural college fun – Charles Mott Foundation assists with college campus and cultural tour (Fisk, Xavier, Tennessee State, Vanderbilt).
- Students became engaged in the visits and asking questions about college selection, options, and fit.
- Visited large and small universities
- Hired CMU students as mentors to work with the summer program
- Had a week at CMU

WSU EOC provided college tour for adult clients
- Took 25 – 30 students to Columbia, New York, and NYU and a community college.
- NYU encouraged students to come and would work with students to not have to take loans
- Wanted to expose participants to other environments than Detroit – 95% of the participants had never been outside of Detroit
- Visited Harlem and the Apollo Theater.
- Students were asked to write a reflective essay regarding their experience
- Young men (age 19 – 23) who were not successful academically were brought into a learning community program (6 – 8 weeks) and given instruction on effective communication with professors – and found the program useful in communicating with others
- Works with alternative school programs
- Collaborates with WSU Gear Up to provide connections to campus programs during campus visits.
- Academic Pathways to Excellence (APEX) promotes African American commencement celebration
- Black alumni association
Mind Trekkers - Michigan Tech and ATT
- Group of college students taking part in WOW activities (science experiments, hands activities) partnering with PSI in upper Michigan, mobile labs, partnerships with businesses in the science and engineering industries
- Upper elementary (3rd and up), middle, and high school students are all invited to participate
- Will have Mind Trekkers demos at the Equity Conference

Michigan College Advising Corps
- National Corp works with 16 universities
- 8 Advisors working throughout the state
- Assist where schools are lacking in counselors or with overwhelmed counselors
- Mon – Friday at Saginaw High School - provides college planning activities, college workshops, Facebook (The High) and Twitter pages
- Passport program – each student interested in college receives a passport to college. Stamps are giving in the passport for attending college activities
- College application drives – each student who applies for four institutions participates in celebration
- ACT registration drives
- College campus tours – All seniors must apply to the college to qualify for the trip
- Great assistance with community support
- Newsletter – distributed to participants
- Chris Rutherford, program coordinator

Michigan College Access Portals (Michigan CAP)
- Went live in September – this is the pilot year
- Guidance counselors
- One stop shop program for advising students
- Enter classes students have taken in school, grades, build a resume
- Make connections with their teachers, guidance counselors
- Counselors can use to enter EDP
- Conduct college search (for Michigan only)
- Admission applications can be completed and sent from the site – not all Michigan schools are participating yet
- Connect to Paypal to pay for admissions fees
- Can send school transcripts electronically
- Link to FAFSA
- Students must be 13 years old and email addresses must be connected to school
- On-line quizzes for career interests
- Linkages to colleges based on GPA, career interests
- Tutorials will be available in the future online. Currently tutorials are available by email at michigancap@michigan.gov
- Will there be training for counselors?
The Possible Dream Program (Delta College)
- Economically disadvantaged students 7th grade cohort to be enrolled through graduation
- Initially a cultural function – adding a college access component
- Local school counselors and teachers nominate students (approximately 100 each year)
- College visits, study skills, career exploration
- Assisting seniors with the application process
- Establish on-going relationship and resource base for participants

Credit Recovery Program (Grand Blanc Schools)
- Offers 6 programs
- Using Free and Reduced Lunch program,
- Incentive program
- Genesee Skill Center
- College visits
- Weekly newsletter which is disseminated electronically

Talent Search

Michigan Campus Compact

What initiatives are needed to help students overcome obstacles to college enrollment?
- Advising/information to the parents
- Increasing parental knowledge through workshops
- One-on-one mentoring
- On-campus programming and campus tours including visiting a real classroom, classroom experiences
- College students addressing how they pay for college
- Present college costs comparisons (in state v. out of state, etc.)
- Making it real – real classrooms and talking to real students
- More supplemental college to school programs like Math Corps
- Supplemental instruction (study skills, test-taking, critical thinking)
- Identify students early that need supplemental assistance

What specific next steps does your region need to take regarding/promoting college access?
- More connections and access to our resources
- Website linkages to resources throughout the state
What kind of state-wide initiatives can your region recommend to improve college attendance rates in the state of Michigan?

- Real world connections to learning in and out of the classroom
- Helping students to understand how the college process works backwards in relation to career choices
- Scholarships (based on information from Rep. Durhal)
Region 3 (Mid/Western Michigan Area)
Moderator: Christopher Rutherford, University of Michigan

Discussion/Sharing Resources:

- Project 350-opportunity for post-secondary education
- Project Graduation: engaging parents;
- Partnership with local college and tech center; adjunct staff in local schools; increasing AP courses offered; dual enrollment at WMU
- GVSU admissions office
- Michigan Tech: Center for pre-college outreach: no TRiO programs but have Gear Up
  - One week intensive programs of hands on work (STEM, business, arts, humanities), take classes, scholarship programs
  - Programs brought to the students; tents with 10-15 engaging hands on activities
  - School outreach
  - Data assessment: evaluating programs, compiling and publishing reports-how well does pipeline work?, student tracking, etc.
  - Fundraising
- Curriculum design to address math, reading, and language skills that are below state levels
- After school academic enrichment programs
- Hope College TRIO Upward Bound/Gear Up- work with 80 students; 6 week summer program; tutoring, Friday session focused on awareness; parent component-parent sessions
- KCP: 6 programs; college day program- partnered with 15 publics; MICUP-designed to increase transfer rate from 2yr to 4yr;
- Michigan College Advising Corps/National College Advising Corps: modeled after Teach for America; in 16 states; recent college graduates commit 1-2 years to work in underserved schools as college advisers;

What initiatives are needed to help students overcome obstacles to college enrollment?

- Money to high school students, but what about younger students?
- Philosophy that school is secondary to other issues affecting home environment
- Setting higher expectations at earlier age\
- One on one support/parent involvement
• Establishing a relationship with parents

What specific next step does your region need to take to move forward in regard to promoting pathways and access to higher education?

• Create urgency within the state legislature to look at education differently

What kind of state-wide initiatives can your region recommend to improve college attendance rates in the state of Michigan?

• Philosophical restructuring:
  • Learning as a continuum- birth through career
  • Continuum of care
  • Post-secondary institutions collaborating and spearheading initiatives/creating systematic approach-establishing a “united front”- many solutions, not a lot of action
  • Cultural changes
Region 4 (Southwest Michigan Area)
Facilitators: Erika Carr and Diana Hernandez, Western Michigan University

Discussion/Sharing Resources:

- Six grade support through eleventh grade (Legacy). MME instituted and some students were not ready for the rigor. Has potential to affect graduation rates.
- Community colleges should be publicized more at the high school level, especially for those who would need alternative admissions type programs. Ultimately would meet needs for students with economic needs and academic development. Smaller class sizes to benefit them.
- Success rate differs between community college (CC) and university level. Retention rate at university level is higher.
- Colleges and universities should report remediation requirements by school district to state. Many high school graduates need remediation because they were pushed through HS.
- Allocate funds to bolster programming between community colleges and universities.
- Students can attend UM from a community college. CC learning valued and some credits are accepted.
- Sometimes students just are not mature enough for university.
- First to second year retention 90% at university vs. 60-65% rate at CC. Statistics show that if students are going to drop out, they will do it their first year.
- (35%) of MI adults have a college degree. Need a 6 point increase to remain competitive.
- Who is attending the four year institution vs. who is attending the CC.
- Funding is an issue for college success, not just academic achievement.
- Other factors: residence halls; adult-ed programs at CC, not at university; first generation status; culture of the community
- Create a college one culture over many years (sixth grade and up). Include corporations as well as community.
- Resources (programs and scholarships) are being realigned in Legacy program. Attempt to redirect students to match the resources that are available. New curriculum, emphasis on completing FAFSA process.
- Promise Zone in Battle Creek facilitates the programming.
- Unemployment rate in county correlates with the college success when reviewing the statistics.
- Many poor families do not know about the financial resources available to them (TIP).
- Work with Dept of Social Services to ID TIP eligible students and notify them.
• Expand work with tax firms like HR Block to complete taxes and FAFSA.
• UM gives 10K per year to all TRIO, Upward Bound, Gear UP… students admitted. Students must clearly state it on their application to get awarded.
• UM fee waiver option.
• Legacy program will expand one more next year to complete first full cohort. Looking at means to document college involvement/success.
• Examine students who use financial aid to buy clothes, cars or other material items. Earlier intervention to educate them on appropriate use of funds.
• Struggling students often do not have anyone at home to coach or advise them through the college process.
• In Albion community, they are looking for ways to help students at younger age with coaching.
• MASFA coordinates financial aid nights at HS to inform students.
• Counselor student ratio is a big issue for a lot of schools. Reduces ability to discuss college options with students.
• Put recent college graduates in place as the HS mentors to discuss college options.
• MI College Advising Core. Work FT in schools to create a college-going culture in the schools. 90% of job is to meet with students. Target middle 80% of students; most attn goes to top 10% or bottom 10%.
• Help students understand college readiness. Ex. students who think they will become pediatricians by going to CC for two years.
• “Post secondary educational attainment” is important term because not all are going to “college”, but will go on to technical/trade school and be successful.
• CC offer a lot of post secondary educational attainment programs (technical/trade), help students to understand that option.
• Overall, exposure to post secondary educational options is important for students who want or need alternatives.
• Help students, especially those living in poverty, get access to make a quality decision.
• Rural communities must be included in planning.
• Encourage the family unit, not just the student.
• Overcome the practice of only inviting 3.0 or higher students to the practice ACT. There are many other college bound students not given the same opportunity.
• Expand intervention: trades, emotional/social needs. Also do a better job at getting the word out. Think: All the students.
What initiatives are needed to help students overcome obstacles to college enrollment?

- Unrestricted/broader time frame to use scholarships (Kalamazoo Promise is excellent).
- Better academic preparation, especially math.
- Better technology available to students in poorer districts.
- MME taken first time in 11th grade. Algebra III is on the test and many 11th graders have only had Algebra II. Math Corps type of programming would be helpful.
- Parent practice of switching schools/districts when students don’t pass.
- Paper applications and stamps are necessary for those without access to technology at home, otherwise unlikely to apply. Fee waivers become an issue only after an application is completed.
- Adjusted counselor hours or partnership with community organizations to help students in the evening. Libraries not necessarily even available to students.
- Prioritize: 33K spent on inmates vs. 4K spent on students.
- Social work type support to deal with some of the other issues in students’ lives.
- Social work interns are available at community based organizations – connect them to schools.

What specific steps does your region need to take in regards to promoting pathways and access to higher education?

- More region wide college access programming collaboration.
- Listen more to people in the trenches – work together. Communicate.
- Policy changes. Not just talk.
- Door to door (grassroots effort). Result of collaborative effort.
- Listen to what the kids are telling us.
Region 5a (Southeast Michigan Area)
Facilitator – Michael Turner, University of Michigan

Discussion/Sharing Resources:

Gear Up

- Always give students things that they can keep – don’t leave empty handed
- Never have meetings, host “workshops”
- Provide students with calendars/planners that include information they can use
- Collect email addresses from students and parents – keep updated contact information
- Use undergraduate student leaders and train them well

U-M Center for Educational Outreach

- Provides a variety of resources including parent education/outreach programs

Michigan Department of Education

- Start programs earlier – pre-school and elementary school
- Encouraging college going atmosphere at home
- Ensure that dropping out is not even an option
- Be wise when planning parent meetings, chose the right times, meet where they’re at

U-M Flint

- Nothing beats face-to-face interaction with parents
- Don’t just recruit kids, recruit parents
- Require parents to attend meetings

Farmington Schools

- Theme-based informational events for parents (bullying, preparing for college, etc)

Michigan Tech

- Mobile science fairs that they take on the road to high schools
- Awarding “certificates of outreach” to undergrad students who are helping

Western Michigan
• Offer workshops in urban communities to promote scholarships
• Inform parents of additional resources and scholarships offered by other orgs

What initiatives are needed to help students overcome obstacles to college enrollment?

• Literacy issues – resources are pointless if a student can't read
• Teaching kids to overcome obstacles, give examples of work-life obstacles
• Starting diversity programs earlier, to prepare kids for college
• Providing basic study skills – how to read a textbook, review, study
• ACT prep that goes beyond state requirements
• Promoting self-confidence among students
• Programs outside of school hours and school properties
• Challenge non-school structures that affect students (parent workplace, church, etc)
• Providing various options for students to apply for college (in-school, fairs, etc)
• Deal with non-cognitive variables in kids lives, not just academic
• Need better assessment tools before designing outreach programs
• Create a safe space for parents to be honest about home life, risk-factors
• Initiatives to recruit the teachers that actually care about kids
• Teach teachers to provide holistic learning environments, not just subject-based
• Stop recruiting teachers who “just need a job”
• Require every teacher to acquire Youth Development Training

What next step does your region need to take in promoting pathways to access higher education?

• Everyone needs to be at the same table to coordinate student dev and education
• Programs that help parents go back to school
• Host parent and student events on college campuses to provide exposure
• Coordinating and combining resources and making them accessible to parents
• Begin to talk about college at the kindergarten level, even specific curriculum
• Encourage parents and schools to take vacations/day trips to college campuses
• Colleges partnering with public schools to teach students how to apply for college

What kind of state-wide initiatives can your region recommend to improve college attendance rates in the state of Michigan?
• Identify social, safety, familial issues that are keeping kids from daily successes
• Encouraging longitudinal summer programs that will increase instance of application
• State of Michigan needs scholarship/grant programs (Promise) based on private money
• Go where the votes are and get Republicans to propose school funding bills
• Acknowledge brain-drain in Michigan, and quit encouraging kids to leave the city/state
• Corporate mindset needs to support employee’s participation in their kid’s school life
Region 5b (Southeast Michigan Area)
Facilitator: William Tandy, Wayne State University

What initiatives are needed to help students overcome obstacles to college enrollment?

- Parent/Adult involvement at a very early age
- Counselor/Teacher involvement
- Need to overcome lack of community
- The education system itself is an obstacle: No Child Left Behind
- Jurisdiction
- Collaboration: Do not need to reinvent the wheel
- Consistency
- Caring person in student’s life
- Develop a student forum
- Start the exposure as soon as they start the school system
- Overcome limitations through proper collaboration

What specific next step does your region need to take to move forward in regard to promoting pathways and access to higher education?

- Make college experience tangible
- Set tangible goals
- Helping students understand how to get to college
- Show students the steps to take to get to college
- Expose students to college at an early age (College Night)
- Put the responsibility on the students and motivate them
- Show students young, positive individuals
- Motivate by showing positive examples
- Start with basic, informal conversations within own network
- Every elementary and middle school must expose students to college
- Make the light switch click on
- How do you reach the other students that are not on the “boat”?
- X- make sure each students in elementary is exposed to a college or university, mandated
- Who is helping kids? Who is doing what? Better communication as a state
- Make contact with all universities and find out what programs are available
- Follow the breadcrumbs
- Legislative changes
- Go to the state and explain what curriculum is needed
- Make the universities accessible to the citizens who live there
- Mentoring Community: eduguide.org
- Committee
- What are some of the best ways?
• Write to the state to make curriculum changes
• Show students the value of going to college
• Show what’s in it for students
• Hold the students to a higher standard in the classroom
• Teachers should have more responsibility
• Teachers share their educational stories with students
• Talk with student organizations

**What kind of state wide initiatives can your region recommend to improve college attendance rates in the state of Michigan?**

• Scholarship dollars converted for other use, not just academic
• Credited class in high school for college prep
• Curriculum alignment with ACT
• Parent/Guardian positive involvement that is mandated or exchanged for a benefit
• Promise Scholarships
Region 6 (Mid/Lower Michigan Area)
Facilitator: Judy Ratkos, Michigan State University

Discussion/Sharing Resources:

- Utilize free resources through EduGuide
- Selena Melvin from EduGuide has a great parent program for resources.
- Online program for students called, HanAcademy.org helps students solve math problems.
- MCAN college portal, Brandy Faith Johnson is the contact, gives financial aid access, registration, college-based resources
- Regional-based College Bowl Sundays, FAFSA information for parents and students, statewide, once per year
- Jennifer Wallace of Dept of Treasury, Tuition Incentive Program, Health Insurance, 2 yr associate degree programs in Michigan, Financial Literacy Programs, must apply before graduation year, 1000 per year for juniors and seniors, students who meet criteria get Medicaid for two years
- Discounted ACT Prep for $162 Offered in Jackson with programs soon to start in Lansing, Grand Rapids,. Next session starts in January. Program is called GAS: Grace Academic Services [www.graceacademics.org](http://www.graceacademics.org)
- Aggressively seek educational resources from colleges
- Colleges have great web resources, visit the Admissions sites for pertinent information ahead of time.
- Spartan Youth Website spartanyouth.michigan.edu
- A+ Summer Youth Program
- KnowHow2Go.org
- LCC Program for juniors and seniors, campus visits, next date is December 10, LCC.edu
- ACT.org for prep information
- Scholarships= [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

What Initiatives are needed to help students overcome obstacles to college enrollment?

- More examples and motivation from adults who engage the students in discussions about the reality of possibilities in higher education. Help the students see themselves in a future college setting
- Mentors/Mentorship programs that start in the middle school years
- High school students trained in GEAR UP to mentor students in middle schools
- Facilitate programs in churches, community centers, etc. In the community
- Involve teachers, counselors, etc in the process
- Holding politicians accountable for student educational programming and getting the students involved in going to Lansing for representation.
- Mentor programs using college credits as initiatives to become mentors
• An obstacle is students who don’t want to leave friends behind who are not college-minded or college-ready
• Encourage students to start in a community college in order to prepare for university settings if need monetarily or educationally, as well as to create support systems
• Take resources to students to help them navigate the college entry process to make the idea of college less intimidating.
• Start talking about the college entry process freshman as opposed to senior year and do hands-on practices such as filling out college applications as early and often as possible
• Middle school and older students can audit college classes in order to become more comfortable in the college environment

What specific next steps does your region need to take to move forward in regard to promoting pathways and access to higher education?

• How do we better reach all students who may not have funding for school
• Scholarships for students who are middle-class but still have financial need
• Assist students in learning to write scholarship essays; afterschool programs to achieve such as well as other resources for college-readiness such as test-taking skills
• More parent involvement in the process and encouragement; encouraging parents to become more active in student’s education
• Parent Mentoring group for other parents to help them through the process of helping get their kids through the college-entry process
• Go to community based activities where parents are to motivate them and assist them in helping their students through the college-entry process; helping parents see the value of their children going to college

What kind of statewide initiatives can your region recommend to improve college attendance rates in Michigan?

• Monitoring of Special Education programs and programs for students with learning disabilities
• Education from top down should be valued across the board; policy makers, schools, families, students, and communities
• Be part of Gov’s Ed Summit April 25 at MSU Kellogg Center