

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOCAL STRATEGIC VALUE RESOLUTION

Section 230 of PA 103 of 2023, the Fiscal Year 2024 community colleges appropriations bill contains the qualifications that must be met to receive the portion of each college's performance funding appropriation earmarked for local strategic value. The statute lists 15 separate best practices for community colleges to achieve. Institutions must satisfy 4 of 5 best practices in each of 3 different categories.

To demonstrate eligibility for this funding, Section 230 requires that each community college certifies compliance to the State Budget Office by means of a board of trustees resolution certifying that the college has met 4 of 5 best practices in each category. Further, each board resolution "shall provide specifics as to how the community college meets each best practice measure within each category."

ACTION:

It is recommended that the Lake Michigan College Board of Trustees approve the following resolution, as presented, which provides specifics as to how Lake Michigan College meets the best practice measures within each category to prove its Local Strategic Value for the region it serves.

MOTION by Mr. Dissette with support by Ms. Burghdoff to approve the resolution, as presented, which provides specifics as to how Lake Michigan College meets the best practice measures within each category to prove its Local Strategic Value for the region it serves.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Chair Grover asked all those in favor of the motion to indicate by saying aye and any opposed to the motion to indicate so verbally by stating nay.

NO OPPOSITION VOICED

MOTION APPROVED

Community College Local Strategic Value Resolution



Local Strategic Value Report

2024

Reviewed by Lake Michigan College's President's Cabinet

For Board Approval by Lake Michigan College's Board of Trustees: 09/17/2024

Community Colleges Local Strategic Value

Institution: LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE

As per Section 230(2) of the State School Aid Act (MCL.338.1830), a community college must demonstrate that it meets the Local Strategic Value qualifications to receive the portion of each college's performance funding appropriation earmarked for local strategic value. The statute lists 15 separate best practices for community colleges to achieve. Institutions must satisfy 4 of 5 best practices in each of 3 different categories.

A community college must certify by means of a board of trustees resolution that the college has met 4 of 5 best practices in each category. Further, each board resolution "shall provide specifics as to how the community college meets each best practice measure within each category." **This resolution must be properly passed by the board and submitted to the State Budget Office on or before October 15, of each academic year.** However, if a resolution from a prior year is still in effect and factually correct, you may resubmit this resolution.

Please use this table as a method to **briefly** detail what your community college is doing to meet the best practices in each category. Each category is worth one-third of the total amount available for your institution. Your institution must meet 4 out of 5 best practices in a category to receive funding associated with that category.

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
Category A: Economic Development and Business or Industry Partnerships (must meet 4 of 5)	
<p><i>(i) The community college has active partnerships with local employers including hospitals and health care providers.</i></p>	<p>Human Resources representatives from area medical centers, including Corewell Health, Bronson, and surrounding healthcare facilities, participate in short-term training programs offered by the College to speak with students about multiple career opportunities.</p> <p>Corewell Health Lakeland offers flu vaccines for health science students on campus or while attending their clinical education during the fall semester as a service for all students.</p> <p>The College and Kinexus staff meet monthly to foster partnership development and share information.</p>

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	<p>Discussions include updates on joint business outreach, student training and employment opportunities, educational programming, resource opportunities (such as grants and federal programs), and shared referrals.</p> <p>The College’s Career and Workforce Education (CWE) Division collaborates with area employers to build co-op, internship, job shadowing, and other work-based learning opportunities for students while serving the workforce needs of employers.</p> <p>The College has established apprenticeship agreements with nearly 30 companies, collaborating closely with local manufacturers to ensure that our programs align with industry standards and workforce needs. Currently, the Hanson Technology Center supports more than 135 apprentices. Our partner companies include; AccuDie, Ausco Products, Beaudoin Electric, Custom Tool & Die, D & F Mold, Dura Mold, Eagle Technologies, Edgewater Automation, General Stamping (Indiana), Grotnes, French Paper, Gast, Griffin Tool, Hanson Mold, JR Automation, Kelm Accubar, Leco, Liberty Steel, Max 3, Maximum Mold, Midwest Die Corp, Modineer, Niles Precision, Niles Steel Tank, Nova Stevensville LLC, St Joe Tool Company, TPC Technologies, Value Tool & Engineering (Indiana), and Whirlpool.</p> <p>The College works with and has onsite training for Whirlpool Corporation, various law enforcement agencies, Corewell Health, AEP (Indiana Michigan Power), DC Cook Nuclear Power Plant, Eagle Technologies, Hanson International, and others.</p> <p>The College has an established on-site partnership on its Benton Harbor and South Haven campuses with a local childcare provider, Kidzone, who provides clinical rotations for students.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The College’s Criminal Justice program has active internship partnerships with the Berrien County Sheriff’s Office, Van Buren County Sheriff’s Office, City of St. Joseph Department of Public Safety, City of Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety, Lincoln Township Police Department, Chikaming Township Police Department, Berrien County Juvenile Center, Berrien County Prosecutor’s Office Victim Advocates, and Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program (KPEP).</p> <p>The Criminal Justice program has hosted multiple onsite trainings for Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety. It has also hosted several trainings for the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), the Berrien County Sheriff’s Office, and Baroda-Lake Township Police Department.</p> <p>The College received state approval for a new Police Academy and successfully launched its first cohort in Summer 2024, with 16 individuals beginning the Academy, sponsored by several local law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>The College frequently holds job fairs and opportunities for students to engage with local businesses.</p> <p>The Welch Center for Wine and Viticulture, located on the College’s Benton Harbor campus, is a state-of-the-art teaching winery that offers students a hands-on education in the art, science, and business of winemaking. This 14,000-square-foot facility, developed with the collaboration of area vineyards and wineries, is dedicated to training the next generation of wine professionals to support the growing wine industry in Southwest Michigan. The program, which consistently attracts students each year, has been transformative, encouraging students</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>to explore agriculture in new ways, with a focus on the potential for small vineyards and breweries in the region.</p> <p>The College has curriculum that works to equip IT professionals in the local health care market and other markets to ensure that stable IT systems exist, thus advancing their missions. Numerous degree or certificate seeking students currently work in IT at financial institutions, manufacturing facilities, and in local health care facilities.</p> <p>The College’s Mendel Center serves as a hub for the local business community, regularly hosting a wide range of business meetings and events. Each year, the facility is rented by more than thirty local businesses and organizations, providing a venue for events such as annual Horticulture Days, Whirlpool corporate meetings, police training sessions, and more.</p> <p>The Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Department has an internship program with TPC Technologies to offer apprenticeships for technical entertainment careers at the College’s Mendel Center.</p> <p>The College’s Mendel Center hosted an extensive teacher appreciation event for Berrien RESA as well as Safe Schools professional development day for area educators.</p> <p>Beckwith Hall, the College’s student residence hall, has collaborated with Harbor Shores, the Senior PGA, Kinexus, Berrien County Prosecutors office, Skidmore, and Whirlpool Corporation to host interns for the summer and hosted the Benton Harbor First Tee.</p> <p>Student Support Services partners with PNC Bank to offer financial literacy workshops to enrich student understanding of financial basics.</p>

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	<p>The College maintains active communication with several Exercise Science programs, including those at Western Michigan University (WMU), Grand Valley State University (GVSU), and Central Michigan University (CMU). Additionally, we collaborate with WMU on science-related transfer programs, ensuring seamless academic pathways for our students.</p> <p>The College’s Student Well-Being & Accessibility department has an active MOU with Berrien Mental Health Authority d/b/a Riverwood Center. BMHA is the local community mental health center that serves residents of Berrien County. The MOU ensures continuity in cross referrals between our institutions.</p> <p>The Student Well-Being & Accessibility department also partners annually with COPE Network, who is institutional provider of Naloxone/Narcan. Cope Network also provides training on Naloxone/Narcan to pertinent college staff.</p> <p>The Berrien County Health Department and CARES Sexual Wellness Services partners with the College to provide safe sex resources to students in our community.</p> <p>The Student Well-Being & Accessibility department provided training to the staff social workers and guidance counselors at St. Joseph High School and Lakeshore Schools on students with disabilities transitioning from high school to the college setting.</p>
<p><i>(ii) The community college provides customized on-site training for area companies, employees, or both.</i></p>	<p>This past year the College has provided customized training for area employers, such as Marson International (welding), Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant (machine tool technology), Berrien County Road Commission (welding), and Corewell Health (culinary).</p> <p>The College provides onsite training for companies and organizations in apprenticeships and short-term</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>training activities. By delivering customized training directly at the workplace, the College ensures that businesses can develop their talent pool without disrupting daily operations.</p> <p>The VPA Department at the College conducted a fight choreography workshop, offering customized training for theatre majors in collaboration with Brevard College faculty, supporting industry-specific skill development.</p>
<p><i>(iii) The community college supports entrepreneurship through a small business assistance center or other training or consulting activities targeted toward small businesses.</i></p>	<p>The South Haven Campus hosted a Business Hub Growth Series, focusing on fostering entrepreneurial skills and business development within the community.</p> <p>The Fab Lab at the college is open to entrepreneurs and other makers for prototyping activities. The Fab Lab is an open access digital studio that provides access to information, tools, software, and space for anyone who has an interest in learning and creating. The Fab Lab provides design software, laser cutters, 3D printers, vinyl cutters, woodshop, CNC (computer numerically controlled) router, CNC (computer numerically controlled) sewing machines and hand tools.</p> <p>Small business assistance in MLK Underrepresented Business Directory and MLK Expo, sponsorship through the College’s Mendel Center, 100 Women Strong, Leadership Accelerator Program, 40 Under 40, and more.</p> <p>The South Haven campus works with the Chamber of Commerce to host regional economic development summits. Well-known speakers and statewide business groups come together for the day to discuss the economy and to hear perspectives on the business climate and development.</p>

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	<p>The Literacy and Numeracy Across the Curriculum Working Group hosted a roundtable discussion that examined AI's impact on creativity, engaging community members in technological discussions and educational events, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset.</p> <p>The South Haven Chamber of Commerce holds Entrepreneur Club meetings on the South Haven campus for local businesses.</p>
<p><i>(iv) The community college supports technological advancement through industry partnerships, incubation activities, or operation of a Michigan technical education center or other advanced technology center.</i></p>	<p>At the Hanson Technology Center, CWE provides credit and extended education to both businesses and regional groups such as the National Tooling & Machining Association and the American Welding Society. Extended Education works in partnership with academic divisions to create customized business solutions for clients. Extended Education also acts as a connector between regional businesses and organizations and the College.</p> <p>Tech advancement in current and emergent programs like Manufacturing Trades, Robotics, eSports, Virtual Reality (VR) Labs, Marine Maintenance, Agricultural testing, and more.</p> <p>The College hosted the Boys & Girls Club STEAM event, where participants were exposed to healthcare technology and hands-on experiences, promoting technological literacy from a young age.</p> <p>The College kicked off the first session of the Marine Maintenance Technician Program in partnership with Macomb Community College.</p> <p>The College offers a wide range of advanced technology and collaborates with local companies to provide curriculum that supports the education of the local workforce, building on the College's various healthcare programs, maintenance and electrical</p>

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	<p>technology, marine maintenance technology, and more.</p> <p>The College’s Health Sciences Division delivers Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), Phlebotomy, Pharmacy Technician, and Medical Assistant programs in collaboration with area healthcare employers, including Corewell Health Lakeland, InterCare Community Health, and other medical facilities with developed programs and curriculum that meet the needs of area employers and provides expanded opportunities for students.</p> <p>VPA offers a program of study in Music Technology as a part of the Associate of Arts degree. Students work in the new state-of- the-art recording studio as well as in the Hanson Theatre/Jenkins Theatre.</p>
<p><i>(v) The community college has active partnerships with local or regional workforce and economic development agencies.</i></p>	<p>The South Haven Speaker Series hosted discussions on topics crucial to economic development, such as the impact of Lake Michigan's warming on local ecosystems and communities.</p> <p>The College's involvement in the MCCA Capitol Day in Lansing, advocating for educational and workforce initiatives, reflects its active role in regional workforce development.</p> <p>The College has representatives on boards and committees or participates on many local organizations, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allegan County College Access Network • Benton Harbor Promise Board • Berrien-Cass-Van Buren Educational Advisory Group • Berrien College Access Network • Berrien County Human Services Collaborative • Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce • Buchanan Promise • Cornerstone Alliance

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber of Commerce • Greater Niles Area Chamber of Commerce • Greater Niles Area Strategic Planning Steering Committee • Kinexus Group • Mental Health in Community Colleges (MHICC) Advisory Board • Michigan Works! • Michigan Presenters Network • St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Foundation • South Haven Brownfield Authority • South Haven Chamber of Commerce • South Haven Local Development Fund Authority • Southwestern Michigan Planning Commission • Strategic Leadership Council • SWM SHRM • Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council • United Way of Southwest Michigan • Western Michigan University Southwest Community Advisory Board <p>CWE staff works closely with Allegan Michigan Works! Kinexus and WorkOne in South Bend, Indiana. Career Services staff and the CWE Dean serve as the College representatives on the Career Education Advisory Committee for Michigan Works, sharing information about labor market and employment trends.</p> <p>Additional partnerships include Michigan State University (Welch Center), Berrien RESA, Berrien County Sheriff's office.</p> <p>In 2022, the College assumed responsibility for the Leadership Accelerator Program, which was previously overseen by the Kinexus Group.</p> <p>The Leadership Accelerator, established in 2015 by leaders from local private, public, and nonprofit</p>

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	<p>organizations at Michigan's Great Southwest Strategic Leadership Council, aims to develop leaders who will effectively grow, sustain, and lead local organizations and our community into the future through a holistic approach. Twenty-four local leaders successfully completed the 12-session program in 2022, followed by 23 graduates in 2023, and 26 graduates in 2024. In 2023, the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber became a major partner in this program, further enhancing its impact.</p> <p>Since 2022, the College has invested in professional development for supervisors and HR staff by maintaining memberships in key organizations like SW SHRM, KHRMA, and MCCHRA. We also hold institutional memberships in HERC, MCCBOA, Miller Johnson, and CUPA-HR (both Michigan and national chapters), ensuring access to valuable resources and up-to-date HR practices.</p> <p>Student Well-Being & Accessibility has an active partnership with Michigan Rehabilitation Services (Berrien County) that ensures proper cross-referral of clientele and includes cross-training on core initiatives for each business.</p>
Category B: Educational Partnerships (must meet 4 of 5)	
<p><i>(i) The community college has active partnerships with regional high schools, intermediate school districts, and career-tech centers to provide instruction through dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, direct credit, middle college, or academy programs.</i></p>	<p>The College offers active Early College/Middle College programs, as well as dual credit, dual enrollment, and academy classes for over 1,000 high school students annually. Additionally, the College operates an Early College Academy in collaboration with the Niles, Brandywine, Buchanan, Covert, and South Haven school districts, and Middle College programs with the Berrien RESA (Regional Education Services Agency), Van Buren Intermediate School District, and the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency.</p> <p>The College participated in multiple high school career fairs, including those at Niles High School and</p>

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	<p>South Haven High School, providing students with information about college programs and career pathways.</p> <p>South Haven’s Admissions Specialist meets with multiple high schools including Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, and South Haven to assist incoming freshmen with fall class registration.</p> <p>The College supports the Professional Health Careers Academy (PHCA) operated by local school districts and Corewell Health, which provides students with exposure to several professional health care fields. PHCA students take college level classes for academic credit. Staff serve on selection panels and provide support services throughout the school year.</p> <p>The College partners with Van Buren Tech Center through its Cisco Networking Academy, providing students with a pathway to earn a 2-year degree and then transfer to a 4-year partner, Davenport University, for a career in either Network Security or Cyber Defense.</p> <p>Berrien Regional Educational Services Administration (RESA) holds Career Pathways (Exploration) Day each year at the College for all Berrien County 9th grade students.</p> <p>The College is a key partner with Berrien RESA in the Berrien Talent Collaborative, a new initiative aimed at driving pre-apprentice and apprenticeship training in Southwest Michigan. Other important partners include the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce and the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber of Commerce. This collaboration includes the \$1 sale of the College's Niles Campus in Bertrand Township to Berrien RESA. While college classes will continue, the venue, renamed the Bertrand Innovation Center, will</p>

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	<p>serve as a hub for new educational and career-focused activities and programming.</p>
<p><i>(ii) The community college hosts, sponsors, or participates in enrichment programs for area K-12 students, such as college days, summer or after-school programming, or Science Olympiad.</i></p>	<p>The Fab Lab is available for activities for those in local Home-Schooling programs. Summer camps are also available for anyone 8 years old and up. Summer camps vary each year, but they include Fab Lab Bootcamp, Ukulele Building, Arcade Machine Building, Build Your Own 3D Printer, as well as various coding and video game camps. For the second year, the Fab Lab has hosted a day for 4th and 5th graders to complete a Fab Lab experience. Participants wood turn a pen, complete a laser project as well as a sewing project, to introduce them to digital fabrication.</p> <p>The College hosted dual enrollment orientations and student orientations for high school students, with significant participation from area schools.</p> <p>Every fall, the College hosts the Berrien RESA Pathways Day event. Ninth graders from all high schools in the county (and surrounding areas) embark on the College’s Mendel Center to get a hands-on experience within various industries, such as agriculture, health sciences, and manufacturing.</p> <p>The College eSports program, in partnership with Berrien RESA, has hosted several eSports events and competitions, attracting participation from surrounding high schools and colleges. This collaboration has helped to expand the reach and impact of the program, fostering a sense of community and healthy competition among students across the region.</p> <p>Other participation or partnership activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPA Enrichment camps • Children’s Music Workshop programs • Regional Cloverleaf Spelling Bee

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPA combined performances with area schools • MSBOA (Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association) annual band competition for schools in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties • MSVMA (Michigan School Vocal Music Association) • Fall play/spring musical • Community choir and jazz band • The Citadel Dance and Music Center • Dance Fusion • The Southshore Concert Band • WAVE Awards for Excellence in Musical Theatre • Education/Early Childhood field experiences • eSports tournaments • Sponsorship of sports and music programs • Workshops at the College’s Mendel Center • Homeschool cooperative experiences • Professors as guests in K-12 classrooms <p>The College provides classrooms and facility space to host a variety of enrichment programs, including the Science Olympiad. These programs offer students the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning experiences that enhance their academic knowledge and skills.</p> <p>The College offers English as a Second Language (ESL) courses in a variety of formats to meet the diverse needs of our students.</p> <p>The WAVE Awards event celebrates K-12 performing arts programs. The VPA department also hosts the Piano Guild of SW Michigan Competition.</p> <p>The College has worked closely with the Benton Harbor Boys & Girls Club to support academic</p>

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	<p>interventions including offering AccuPlacer tests for juniors and seniors.</p> <p>The College serves as the venue for the First Robotics kickoff each year. The teams representing counties across southwest Michigan: Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, Ottawa, Indiana, and Grand Rapids gather in the Grand Upton Hall of the College’s Mendel Center.</p> <p>There is a mainstage volunteer program with Benton Harbor Area Middle School students and opportunities for student groups to volunteer for funding by providing Mendel Center event support.</p> <p>Nursing students participate in a pediatrics specialty observation at Kidzone Preschool & Childcare on the College's Main Campus.</p>
<p><i>(iii) The community college provides, supports, or participates in programming to promote successful transitions to college for traditional age students, including grant programs such as talent search, upward bound, or other activities to promote college readiness in area high schools and community centers.</i></p>	<p>The College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosts an Upward Bound program on campus, serving first- generation and economically disadvantaged students in grades 9- 12 at Benton Harbor High School. The program provides college prep services designed to prepare students for post-secondary education and increase the rate at which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of post-secondary education. • Actively works with the home school population in the area, offering recruitment and transition services as well as special events. • Hosts the College Fair, which links over 60 colleges and universities with high school students and parents to provide information on financial aid, transfers, and college applications.

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsors financial aid workshops, Admissions Decision Week, and other Local College Access Network activities. <p>The College’s Red Hawks Rise Summer Bridge Program is a free, immersive initiative designed to help incoming students transition smoothly into college life. Over five weeks, participants receive college readiness instruction, explore career options, and build essential academic skills, all while becoming familiar with the campus and connecting with faculty, staff, and fellow students.</p> <p>The College also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has co-sponsored a Career and Technical Education (CTE) banquet for high school students and awards scholarships to high performing CTE students. • Arranges meetings with college academic leadership and each superintendent, high school principal, and counselors for the 16 high schools in the district where data is provided on academic progress of the graduates from each high school and comparative data on the county. • Has a summer for-credit college level course for all Benton Harbor Promise Zone students to increase college readiness through college success programming. Students are provided content related to college expectations and are given opportunities to practice skills necessary to be a successful student. • Partners with the Benton Harbor Boys & Girls Club to co-teach a Degrees to Diploma college readiness curriculum at the Teen Center, which includes financial aid literacy,

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	<p>career exploration and planning, and college placement testing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operates a Start to Finish Program providing concentrated support for students challenged by college academic programming; there are currently over 200 students enrolled. <p>The College’s Student Well-Being & Accessibility team presents to area High Schools, Counselors, and Special Education professionals on going to college with an IEP (Individualized Education Program) or 504 plan.</p> <p>College personnel serve on the Buchanan Promise Board. Other career services trainings include Michigan Career Technical Education workshops.</p> <p>Current programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Hawks Rise summer bridge program • Upward Bound • Start to Finish • Student Support Services • College Life Skills courses • English as a Second Language and English for Academic Purposes offerings • Embedded tutoring • General tutoring • Study tables • NetTutor • Testing Services • International Student Services • DEI Celebrations • Campus Life/Residence Life programming • Early College interviews • Mandatory orientations <p>Literacy and Numeracy Across the Curriculum (LNAC) working group held a Student Symposium that</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>included presentations on college-readiness and academic excellence.</p> <p>Student Well-Being & Accessibility partners with Watervliet High School, Berrien Springs High School, Lakeshore Schools, and St. Joseph Public Schools to provide annual workshops for students with disabilities on making the transition from high school to college. These trainings are provided directly to students and their families onsite at the local high schools.</p> <p>Student Well-Being & Accessibility also serves on the Berrien Interagency Transition Team (BITT), which is a team made up of local service providers (Berrien RESA, Logan Center, Riverwood Center, The Center for Growth and Independence, Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, MRS, Disability Network of Southwest Michigan) who are assisting students with disabilities in making a successful transition from high school to college.</p> <p>Student Well-Being & Accessibility provides an annual Mental Health Academy to Upward Bound students.</p> <p>Planning a networking event for students in collaboration with the SWMI Regional Chamber's Next Gen group, scheduled for January 2025. Career Services recently conducted a workshop for Upward Bound and will be offering a four-part series for Red Hawks Rise this year.</p>
<p><i>(iv) The community college provides, supports, or participates in programming to promote successful transitions to college for new or reentering adult students, such as adult basic education, GED preparation and testing, or recruiting, advising, or orientation activities specific to adults.</i></p>	<p>The College hosted events like the FAFSA workshop and campus tours to support adult learners in navigating the college admissions process.</p> <p>Educational Opportunities Center, Student Support Services, Reconnect Grant, Testing Services (including Accuplacer, Pearson VUE, and internal testing), tutoring services, NetTutor, dedicated orientation, Veteran Services, and more.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The College hosts a federal TRiO Educational Opportunity Center program designed to create Individualized Educational Development Plans for returning students; offers Pre-GED or college admissions/placement test tutoring; provides career information, assessment, and advising; and assistance with the admissions process for post-secondary enrollment. The TRiO EOC program also targets displaced homemakers for academic support services.</p> <p>The College has an office with staff dedicated to serving returning veterans, including appropriating funds from the College’s Foundation for the emergent needs of veterans. In addition, the College has created a dedicated Veterans Center on the Benton Harbor campus where a lounge area with computers and other career-oriented information exists to assist veterans. The College receives yearly recognition by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency for being a veteran-friendly school.</p> <p>The College’s Assessment Center offers GED testing 2-3 times per month, as well as KeyTrain up-skilling, WorkKeys assessments, National Career Readiness Certification, Bennett Mechanical Comprehension Test, Certiport and many PearsonVue IT (Information Technology) certification exams.</p> <p>Career and Workforce Education faculty and dedicated CWE Advisors regularly provide program-level advising to adult students.</p> <p>Orientation prepares incoming students for success in college. It is offered in person and online to best accommodate students’ schedules.</p> <p>The College collaborates with the State of Michigan to facilitate the Michigan Reconnect program, which covers tuition for students aged 25 and over to earn their associate degree. The College has also applied</p>

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	<p>for and received additional funding to assist these students with educational expenses such as books, housing, childcare, and more.</p>
<p><i>(v) The community college has active partnerships with regional 4-year colleges and universities to promote successful transfer, such as articulation, 2+2, or reverse transfer agreements or operation of a university center.</i></p>	<p>The College maintains active partnerships with several regional 4-year colleges and universities through various agreements, including reverse transfer agreements, articulation agreements, consortium agreements, and on-campus extensions. These partnerships ensure smooth and collaborative pathways for students to transfer from the College to a baccalaureate program. Current agreements include Arizona State University, Davenport University (for both Cyber Security and Cisco Network Academy students), Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, Indian Institute of Technology, Siena Heights University, Western Michigan University, and University of Michigan – Flint. The College has also facilitated transfer opportunities with Davenport University and Wayne State University through their Transfer Tables events.</p> <p>The College currently has multiple reverse transfer agreements with institutions such as Western Michigan University, University of Michigan, Oakland University, and Michigan State University. Additionally, the College is a participating member of the Michigan Transfer Agreement, a statewide transfer initiative.</p> <p>Wine and Viticulture has an articulation agreement with Ferris State University's Hospitality Management program, and an articulation agreement for a bachelor's in applied science at Siena Heights University.</p> <p>The Associate in Business Administration (ABA) Advisory Committee is made up of the major 4-year Universities that business students choose for transfer.</p>

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	<p>Housed in the College’s University Center, Siena Heights University (SHU) offers bachelor’s and master’s programs on the Benton Harbor campus. SHU accepts up to 90 credit hours from the College toward a bachelor’s degree, providing significant value to students. Andrews University and Ferris State University also regularly visit the center to assist students interested in transferring.</p> <p>The College participates in MiTransfer Pathways, which are statewide articulation agreements that allow for seamless transfer from a 2-year program to the same 4-year program. Agreements include Art, Biology, Business, Communication, Criminal Justice, Exercise Science, Mechanical Engineering, Psychology, Public Health, and Social Work.</p> <p>The College has a Financial Aid Consortium Agreement with GVSU (Grand Valley State University) whereby students can take classes at the same time at either institution and receive financial aid.</p> <p>The College participates in the Michigan Transfer Network (MTN), which provides students with transfer and course equivalency information for schools across the state.</p> <p>The Jack and Barbara Nicklaus KitchenAid Sr. PGA Champions for Change Scholarship (Nicklaus Scholarship) is a \$25,000 award given to a Start to Finish student who graduates from the College. Established in 2018, the Nicklaus Scholarship was designed to help Start to Finish students complete their bachelor’s degree. Applicants complete an application and participate in an interview with a community panel that includes representatives from Whirlpool Corporation, the Sr. PGA, the Berrien Community Foundation, the Benton Harbor Promise, and Start to Finish. The panel selects the scholarship recipient. The student then works with the Benton</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>Harbor Promise and the Berrien Community Foundation for disbursement of the funds, ensuring they have sufficient support for each remaining semester at their 4-year institution.</p> <p>The College has made significant contributions to Project 1808, a nonprofit focused on sustainable community development in Sierra Leone (West Africa). The College established a Project 1808 club to engage students in global citizenship. Students and faculty from the College traveled to Sierra Leone to lead sessions at the National Science and Leadership Festival, deepening their understanding of global issues and strengthening ties with Koinadugu College. The College’s ongoing commitment to Project 1808 continues to empower students to make a global impact.</p> <p>The College established active communication channels with several Exercise Science programs, including those at Western Michigan University (WMU), Grand Valley State University (GVSU), and Central Michigan University (CMU). Additionally, we collaborate with WMU on other science-related transfer opportunities, further strengthening our academic partnerships.</p>
Category C: Community Services (must meet 4 of 5)	
<p><i>(i) The community college provides continuing education programming for leisure, wellness, personal enrichment, or professional development.</i></p>	<p>The South Haven Campus hosted extended education courses on dementia care, highlighting the College’s commitment to continuing education and community wellness.</p> <p>The College’s Fab Lab is available to hobbyists and crafters to promote advanced manufacturing concepts and ideas. Maker Mondays started in 2021 as a time for community members to visit the lab and ask questions, tour the lab, and work on individual projects.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>Natural Sciences, Exercise Science and Wellness offer yoga in the fall as an extended education opportunity. This department also hosts a fall and spring science seminar for students and community members.</p> <p>The College is home to the Welch Center for Wine and Viticulture. Consumer-focused courses as well as those for professional development and continuing education in Enology and Viticulture are hosted at this facility.</p> <p>Extended Education (Non-Credit) Programs: American Heart Association CPR Training (BLS Provider and Heartsaver); Certified Nurse Aide (CNA); English as a Second Language; Marine Maintenance Technician; and Truck Driver Training.</p> <p>Other programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPA Camps • Music lessons (for the community) • Community choir • Community jazz band • Southshore Concert Band • Fall play/spring musical • Wines of the World classes • Ceramics classes • Athletic camps <p>The South Haven campus partners with Michigan State University to host an introduction to Farm Management taught in Spanish.</p> <p>College faculty have actively engaged in outreach efforts, including organizing summer camps focused on Biology, and offering community yoga sessions led by our Exercise Science faculty. These initiatives reflect our commitment to enhancing educational</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>opportunities and promoting wellness within the community.</p> <p>The College continues to support faculty and staff through wellness leave and professional development initiatives. Each year, funds are allocated in the HR budget specifically for certifications, ensuring that our team has access to the resources needed for ongoing professional growth.</p>
<p><i>(ii) The community college operates or sponsors opportunities for community members to engage in activities that promote leisure, wellness, cultural or personal enrichment such as community sports teams, theater or musical ensembles, or artist guilds.</i></p>	<p>The Business, Culinary, Hospitality, and Wine and Viticulture Technology programs offer a range of extended education classes, such as a Professionalism Bootcamp and Wines of the World, designed to promote personal enrichment and expand participants' culinary and wine-related knowledge.</p> <p>The College's VPA Department regularly hosts concerts, theater performances, and student recitals, engaging the community in cultural enrichment.</p> <p>The College's Science Department hosts speakers to learn about different topics in their fields.</p> <p>The College supports a wide range of programs and events, including the Children's Music Workshop, Citadel Dance & Music Center showcases, Fusion Dance showcases, Blossomtime activities, eSports tournaments, Robotics competitions, Spelling Bee, Science Olympiad, Culinary Medicine, and more. Faculty and staff have actively contributed to these initiatives, particularly by providing lab equipment for the Science Olympiad and volunteering periodically, reflecting our strong commitment to fostering educational and extracurricular excellence.</p> <p>The College's Mendel Center offers sponsorship support for over 100 events and organizations annually, covering up to 100% of the total event costs. This support extends to a variety of programs,</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>including the College’s Mendel Center Jenkins Theatre Season, Speaker Series, Welch Center Tasting Room, Fab Lab workshops and camps, VPA camps, Extended Education music lessons, community choir, community jazz band, and the Southshore Concert Band.</p> <p>Extended Education fall play/spring musical; Teenstock musical; English as a Second Language Extended Education programs; Wines of the World classes; Ceramics classes; Athletic camps; LMC Art Initiative, and more.</p> <p>The College’s Mendel Center also regularly hosts not-for-profit organization fundraising events/ceremonies for some of the organizations listed above, as well as Bids for Barks, Forgotten Man Ministries, and several others.</p> <p>Arts Factor subsidizes up to 100% of ticket cost for hundreds of tickets annually to Jenkins Theatre series through partnerships with local service organizations such as MI DHHS, Benton Harbor Area Schools, OutCenter, Lory’s Place, All God’s Children Community Choir, The Whitcomb, etc.</p> <p>The VPA Department conducts 10-15 public performances each year in the form of plays, musicals, choral and instrumental concerts, and recitals. Community members can attend these performances at little or no cost. Although live performances were halted during the pandemic, students performed virtually and are beginning to meet again in person.</p> <p>The Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum of South Haven holds their annual retreat with the community to discuss innovative ideas dealing with horticulture at the South Haven Campus.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The College has nine intercollegiate athletic sports. Community members are welcome to attend events and tournaments at little or no cost.</p> <p>Athletics offers different camps and clinics to youth to learn more about their sports, preparation, and drill work.</p> <p>Volleyball hosts high school, middle school, and Little Red Hawks yearly events for area students to learn and improve their volleyball skills.</p>
<p><i>(iii) The community college operates public facilities to promote cultural, educational, or personal enrichment for community members, such as libraries, computer labs, performing arts centers, museums, art galleries, or television or radio stations.</i></p>	<p>The Hanson Theatre is used for various events including holiday concerts, drama showcases, and faculty recitals, serving as a public cultural hub for the community.</p> <p>The College offers various facilities and services to the community, including the Fab Lab, Welch Center Tasting Room, Grand Upton Hall, Mendel Center Jenkins Theatre and Hanson Theatre, South Haven Campus Community Room, Testing Services and Pearson VUE testing, Teaching Kitchen, All Star Driving School, and RESA bus pickup/drop-off.</p> <p>The William Hessel Library and Learning Resource Center at the College is open to the community along with free access to its computer lab. The College has a large art collection displayed among its campuses for public viewing and study.</p> <p>Childcare is available to the community at the South Haven and Benton Harbor campuses.</p> <p>The Hawk’s Nest is used to provide space for different presentations to support learning such as the LMC Votes group.</p> <p>The College’s Mendel Center Jenkins Theatre performing arts center hosts a wide range of national touring productions and numerous academic and community events each year. These professional</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>productions include Broadway shows, popular musical acts, children's and family programming, dance performances, and more, showcasing diverse artistry and themes. Additionally, free workshops and masterclasses are often available for students and the public. Many of these productions have transitioned to online formats in recent seasons. Overall, The Mendel Center serves thousands of guests annually, playing a pivotal role in the cultural life of the community.</p> <p>The Mendel Center Jenkins Theatre donates thousands of dollars in tickets each year in support of more than 30 not-for-profit community organizations for fundraising events, drawings, auctions, and giveaways. The Mendel Center also provides free access to well-known speakers and performances for college students and area youth that might not otherwise have access to such opportunities. The Music and Theatre Programs present student shows and recitals at the Mendel Center that are open to the public.</p> <p>Senior citizens may take college courses without paying tuition. In addition, employee professional development offerings are available free of charge to the community.</p>
<p><i>(iv) The community college operates public facilities to promote leisure or wellness activities for community members, including gymnasiums, athletic fields, tennis courts, fitness centers, hiking or biking trails, or natural areas.</i></p>	<p>The college's involvement in the SAFE Kids event, which includes physical activities and wellness checks, contributes to community wellness.</p> <p>A community garden was implemented thanks to a Breaking Barriers Grant, to combat student hunger, provide a place for students and staff to learn gardening tips, and assist in group projects for the culinary and plant biology classes.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The College has a disc golf course, track for walking, paved areas/parking lots for biking, walking, and rollerblading.</p> <p>The Welch Center is also home to Lake Michigan Vintners, a commercial winery affiliated with the Wine and Viticulture program. The winery tasting room is open to the public most Fridays and Saturdays during the year.</p> <p>The Natural Area on the Benton Harbor campus is a 50-acre area that contains more than a mile of trails that wind through five different habitats. These trails are maintained for educational use and the enjoyment of students, staff, and the community. Visitors can follow a boardwalk trail across deciduous woods, pond and marsh, white pine forest, and old-field environments, and a prairie and grassland have been restored with native tall grasses. Together, they provide a home for numerous species of birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals including deer, rabbits, and squirrels.</p> <p>The Benton Harbor campus features a well-equipped fitness room available to students, staff, and faculty. This facility provides a convenient space for the campus community to engage in physical activity, promoting health and wellness.</p> <p>The College’s beach volleyball court is available for community members to enjoy over the summer.</p>
<p><i>(v) The community college promotes, sponsors, or hosts community service activities for students, staff, or community members.</i></p>	<p>The Seed of Hope Scholarship Fund Potluck, hosted at the South Haven Campus, raised funds for scholarships, directly benefiting the community and students.</p> <p>The College coordinates an annual Holiday Food Basket program that benefits several families in need. This program has run over 40 years, providing food baskets to thousands of families in the community.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The College hosts a week-long Martin Luther King program with panel discussions and other virtual activities that is attended by 400+ community members. The College also co-sponsors a service project in his honor.</p> <p>The College served as partner, sponsor, and devote staff time in the grass roots initiative to fundraise and plan the installation of monuments to Dr. King in both Benton Harbor and Saint Joseph</p> <p>The College regularly partners with area public safety providers to operate drills and safety training using one of the College campuses.</p> <p>The Mendel Center is supported by a dedicated team of community volunteers who play an integral role in the success of its events. These volunteers contribute their time and energy to ensure that each event runs smoothly, assisting with a variety of tasks such as ushering, ticketing, and providing guest services.</p> <p>Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Day is held in cooperation with the Berrien County Parks Department for hazardous waste collection and disposal each year. The event collects more than 2,300 pounds of hazardous waste.</p> <p>The LMC Alumni Association undertakes several service opportunities each year that includes greeting students during the first week back to school, helping with resume writing and interviewing skills.</p> <p>Community garden, giving tree, backpack stuffing, snack shacks, auction, MLK Celebration week and Expo; partner service projects through United Way, Corewell Health, Soup Kitchen volunteers and many more.</p> <p>Volleyball hosts a Dig Pink event that raises funds for local Cancer Treatment Centers.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>Student Life hosts several events to promote diverse, inclusive, personal learning throughout the year, like Hispanic Heritage Month, Indigenous Peoples’ Week, LGBTQ+ Celebration, and Leadership series.</p> <p>The College hosted a roundtable discussion with a panel of experts on the topic of affordable and sustainable housing in our community. Students, staff, faculty, and community members attended the event which was well received and featured in the news.</p> <p>Phi Theta Kappa participates in a variety of community service activities with community groups such as Meals on Wheels and the Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency (SMCAA).</p> <p>The College is a partner in the Unified Civic Monuments Project, providing both financial and volunteer support.</p> <p>The College is an annual pace-setter organization for the area’s United Way and participates in many activities for the organization. A dozen staff members participate in the annual Rake a Difference Day for seniors.</p> <p>The College collaborates with the United Way to provide free tax preparation to students and local community members.</p> <p>Nursing faculty volunteer to provide care to children ages 8-17 years old during summer diabetic camp and serve as nursing staff volunteers to community members attending vacation bible school. In addition, nursing faculty volunteer on the Board of Directors at the Readiness Center which actively trains parents to participate in their child’s education.</p> <p>The College has representatives on boards and committees of many local service organizations, to</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>which students are often invited to participate, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 Women Strong • American Cancer Services - Day of Caring • Berrien County Council for Children • Boys and Girls Club • Children’s Music Workshop • Corewell Health and Safety Committee • Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail • Michiana Public Broadcasting Corporation • Michigan State Vocal Music Association • Readiness Center • Research and Education Committee of the Michigan Wine Collaborative • Rotary Club St. Joseph Benton Harbor • Sarett Nature Center • South Haven Kiwanis • South Haven Rotary Club <p>VPA raised money by requesting donations in lieu of paid admission to public music concerts for area charitable causes (Toys for Tots, OutCenter of SW Michigan, Blue Star Mothers, ASPCA, Food Pantries, Fired Up Program, Boys and Girls Club of BH, etc.</p> <p>Athletics helped the City of Benton Harbor by handing out water to community members.</p> <p>Athletics donated their time to read to elementary aged students.</p> <p>Softball volunteers at the Alzheimer’s Association Walk to help raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s. They also work with the Boys and Girls Club Haunted House event.</p> <p>The College’s Biology faculty are actively involved in enhancing the Nature Trail, collaborating closely with other programs and Facilities Management. This</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>partnership underscores our commitment to creating and maintaining outdoor learning environments that benefit both our students and the community.</p> <p>Phi Theta Kappa, in collaboration with the College, sponsored a food packing event with the Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency. The event saw participation from 6 employees and 8 students, who collectively packed 385 commodity food boxes. This initiative highlights our commitment to community engagement and service.</p> <p>The College continues to host career fairs, providing valuable opportunities not only for our students but also for the broader community. These events are designed to connect job seekers with potential employers, supporting career development and fostering local economic growth.</p> <p>The College provided facilities and computer labs to support public safety officers and election officials, demonstrating our commitment to serving the needs of local professionals and ensuring the smooth operation of essential public services.</p>