Chariperson’s Note

On behalf of the Michigan College Access Network’s Board of Directors, we are pleased to share our accomplishments and milestones that have made college more accessible for students across Michigan. Celebrating our second year as a stand-alone nonprofit, MCAN leads the charge in changing our culture to create an expectation that every student in Michigan continue learning after high school.

The fiscal year of 2011-12 was one that tested MCAN’s ability to stake its position in leading the college access movement in Michigan. Although the State of Michigan was unable to qualify for the U.S. Department of Education’s College Access Challenge Grant, we were successful in advocating for a new $2 million dollar appropriation to support college access efforts in the State of Michigan FY13 budget. It was thanks to the advocacy and dedication of our Local College Access Networks that we were able to ensure the Governor and legislators heard us loud and clear and understood the value of our college access efforts.

We also continue to grab national attention from other state college access networks and the philanthropic community. A number of state college access networks are turning to Michigan to learn from and adapt our local college access network strategy including Florida and Washington. In March, MCAN was invited to present at the America’s Promise Alliance Building a Grad Nation Summit in Washington, D.C. There, MCAN addressed Michigan’s Local College Access Network framework and strategy.

We saw a modest increase in Michigan’s working-aged adults with at least a two-year degree from 35.7% in 2008 to 36.4% in 2010. Although there is still much work to be done to reach our goal of 60% by the year 2025, this shows why our work is needed now more than ever.

Greg Handel
Chair, Board of Directors,
Michigan College Access Network

Senior Director of Workforce Development,
Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce
OUR MISSION
To increase college readiness, participation and completion in Michigan, particularly among low-income students, first-generation college going students, and students of color.

OUR BIG GOAL
To increase the percentage of Michigan residents with high-quality degrees or credentials to 60% by the year 2025.

OUR VISION AND VALUES

COLLEGE IS POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: MCAN uses the term “college” to refer to the attainment of valuable postsecondary credentials beyond high school, including professional/technical certificates and academic degrees.

COLLEGE IS A NECESSITY: Postsecondary education is a prerequisite to success in a knowledge-based economy. Everyone must pursue and complete a postsecondary credential or degree beyond high school.

COLLEGE IS FOR EVERYONE: The postsecondary education attainment rates among low-income students and students of color are significantly lower than those of other students. MCAN is committed to closing these gaps.

COLLEGE IS A PUBLIC GOOD: Postsecondary educational opportunity and attainment are critical to a just and equitable society, strong economy, and healthy communities.
Since 2010, MCAN has provided 48 communities with more than $1.8 million to implement robust community based college access strategies. This grant funding is designed to help Michigan’s Local College Access Networks (LCANs) establish cross-sector collaborative leadership teams and action plans to dramatically increase their college-going rates. The LCANs set goals focused on student success, establish a system of data gathering and analysis, report results, and hold partners accountable for performance.

During 2011-12, MCAN focused deeply on the Collective Impact framework as articulated by Kania and Kramer (“Collective Impact.” Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter 2011) and helped the LCANs embed this framework into their operations. Thanks to a generous grant from Lumina Foundation, MCAN staff was able to work side by side with Strive, a cradle-to-career education initiative in Cincinnati in which Kania and Kramer partially based their Collective Impact writings. We’re working to ensure each LCAN has the essential elements for Collective Impact through:

- a common agenda,
- shared measurement systems,
- mutually reinforcing activities,
- continuous communication, and
- a backbone support infrastructure.
MCAN CONTINUES TO LEAD LCANs through the planning and startup of their network through grant funding and technical assistance. To see the Local College Access Network directory, visit our website at www.micollegeaccess.org/our-network

HERE ARE JUST A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE OUR LCANS ARE LEADING WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES:

1. **CAREER AND COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK OF WE CAN! NEWAYGO COUNTY (WEST MICHIGAN):** WE CAN! Newaygo County spent a solid two years deeply invested in the planning period by engaging the community, seeking feedback and input, and integrating the Collective Impact framework. The network formed an executive team, hired a coordinator and created action teams. During the planning process, the anchor institution incubating the LCAN transferred from the Fremont Area Community Foundation to the WE CAN! Newaygo County RESA. A couple of their successes during the planning stage include receiving a $25,000 matching grant from the Council of Michigan Foundations to build a college access endowment fund to sustain college access in WE CAN! Newaygo County and securing funding and support to place National College Advising Corps members in all five comprehensive high schools within the county.

2. **DELTA COUNTY COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK (UPPER PENINSULA):** The Upper Peninsula currently has four Local College Access Networks established serving four of the seven ISDs and RESAs across the peninsula. One of the more recently established LCANs is the Delta County College Access Network. Through collaborative efforts, the network has committed to a common agenda including shared metrics and boundaries. The boundaries of the Delta County CAN are expected to expand throughout the next several years. Currently, DCCAN is targeting a cohort group of students from each of the four area schools. These students will progress through a series of activities that align with DCCAN’s service priority areas. Lessons learned will allow the network to expand appropriately.

3. **KALAMAZOO AREA COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK (SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN):** This year the Kalamazoo Area College Access Network (KACAN) worked closely with Kalamazoo Community Foundation to support The Learning Network of Greater Kalamazoo, a cradle-to-career collective impact strategy modeled after the Strive Cincinnati framework. KACAN has been identified as the lead convener of the college readiness action network, and will lead the charge to drive improvement on community-level indicators including college enrollment and drawdown of financial aid. Through its collaborative efforts KACAN also assisted all local schools in obtaining college enrollment data through the National Student Clearinghouse, identified 300+ students’ TIP eligibility, and facilitated the placement of an MSU College Adviser at Comstock High School.

4. **PROJECT ACE SERVING INKSTER, WAYNE-WESTLAND AND ROMULUS (SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN):** Project ACE (Access to College for Everyone) was selected as a Collective Impact grantee in the fall of 2011, and their network spent the year diving into the framework with a special focus on collaborative action planning. Project ACE is an alliance consisting of a broad range of community leaders and organizations, including secondary, postsecondary, business, nonprofit, workforce development/government and foundations. Currently, the network has agreed to prioritize increasing the FAFSA completion rate of Inkster, Romulus, and Wayne-Westland school district students, with a specific focus on students who are first in their family to attend college and/or who are economically disadvantaged. The network believes their targeted energy on FAFSA completion will ultimately impact college enrollment among their graduating students.
LOCAL COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORKS THAT RECEIVED GRANTS FROM OCTOBER 2011–SEPTEMBER 2012

PLANNING
Grants of up to $8,000 are awarded to organize and initiate a community-based local college access alliance. During the planning grant phase, communities establish a strong leadership team committed to increasing educational attainment, determine the college access needs of the community, establish metrics and performance targets aligned to the community’s goals, and develop a collaborative action plan.

- Allegan County CAN!
- Carman-Ainsworth CAN
- Coopersville/Allendale CAN
- Hillsdale County College Access Network
- Huron Valley—serving the townships of Commerce, Highland, Milford, White Lake Townships, and the Village of Milford
- Iosco College Access Network
- Jackson County Cradle to Career
- Lenawee County College Access Network
- Macomb College Access Network—serving Eastpointe and south Warren
- Manistee County College Access Network
- Marquette Alger College Access Network
- Monroe County College Access Network
- Western Wayne LCAN—serving Belleville, Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, and Van Buren Township

STARTUP
Grants of up to $50,000 are awarded to launch and formalize community-based college access alliances. During the startup grant phase, communities execute data-driven collaborative action plans based on priority areas and establish a transparent dashboard with baseline data.

- Athens/Tekonsha/Union City CAN
- Barry County CAN
- Charlevoix-Emmet College Access Alliance
- Delta County CAN
- Eastern UP Can Do It!
- Keweenaw CAN—serving Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw Counties
- Lansing CAN
- Metro Youth CAN—serving downtown Detroit
- Northend/Central Detroit CAN
- Springwells Village CAN

COLLECTIVE IMPACT
Grants of up to $25,000 to institutionalize community-based college access alliances. During the Collective Impact grant phase, communities utilize a continuous improvement methodology to execute data-driven collaborative action plans based on community priorities, report progress on key metrics, engage stakeholders and community members through a communication plan, and formalize the LCAN’s supporting backbone infrastructure.

- Bay Commitment
- Brightmoor Career & College Access Network
- Montcalm-Ionia CAN
- Muskegon Opportunity
- Pontiac CAN
- Project ACE—serving Inkster, Wayne-Westland and Romulus
- St. Clair County KnowHow2Go
- Sturgis SUCCESS
LOCAL COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORKS

Local College Access Networks (LCANs) are community-based college access coordinating bodies supported by a team of community and education leaders representing K-12, higher education, nonprofit sector, government, business, and philanthropy. These intermediary organizations are committed to building a college-going culture and dramatically increasing the college-going/completion rates within their community. LCANs are expected to coordinate and expand programs, services and resources that lower barriers preventing students from pursuing postsecondary educational opportunities. LCANs organize community leaders around a singular vision and goal: Increase the community’s postsecondary educational attainment level to 60% by 2025 in order to lay the foundation for a vibrant economy, healthy community, and strong workforce equipped to compete in a 21st century global economy. The LCAN will set goals focused on student success, establish a system of data gathering and analysis, report results, and hold partners accountable for performance. In 2012, MCAN’s network grew to a total of 48 LCANs.
IMPROVING COLLEGE ACCESS BY IMPLEMENTING STATEWIDE INITIATIVES, SPONSORING EVENTS, AND STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERS

COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN FOUNDATION: The Kresge Foundation invested $1.2 million to encourage Michigan community foundations to expand, enhance, strengthen and sustain their local college access strategies. Administered by the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF), the Community Foundation Challenge Grant initiative builds on the success of MCAN’s granting strategy and mission to increase college readiness, participation, and completion. In addition to grant funding, CMF has provided a Ready for Success Community Foundation Leadership toolkit, community foundation learning community convenings, and technical assistance.

FOSTERING SUCCESS MICHIGAN: Fostering Success Michigan is an initiative of Western Michigan University and is building a Michigan-wide collective impact strategy to prepare youth in foster care for college by increasing awareness of, access to and success with college preparation. The goal is to increase college-going rates and successful career transitions among Michigan’s foster-youth population.

LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIA: Lumina Foundation convened key state legislators from several states with strong statewide college access networks in July 2011. Brandy Johnson, MCAN’s Executive Director, represented Michigan along with Representative Joan Bauer (D-Lansing) and Representative Bob Genetski (R-Saugatuck) as well as Kyle Jen from the House Fiscal Agency. Together the group agreed to work collectively to educate other legislators about Goal 2025 and the importance of dramatically increasing Michigan’s college readiness, participation and completion rates. Genetski, Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Higher Education, and Bauer, the Minority Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Higher Education, co-hosted a series of four legislator symposiums from November 2011 – March 2012 with content expertise provided by MCAN. The topics included Goal 2025, meeting labor market demands, Promise Zones, LCANs, and the National College Advising Corps.
**Michigan College Access Network Conference:** On April 30, 2012, MCAN hosted its second annual network conference at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. The conference sold out with more than 350 attendees not only from our local college access networks, but from organizations representing K-12, higher education, philanthropy, government, and the nonprofit sector. This exciting event, with the theme *Measuring What Matters*, demonstrated the need to bring our communities together to understand promising practices and data-driven decisions that will increase college readiness, participation and completion in Michigan. The conference featured Donald Heller, dean of the College of Education at Michigan State University and a professor of higher, adult, and lifelong education. Dean Heller addressed his experiences with teaching and research in the areas of educational economics, public policy, and finance, with a primary focus on issues of college access and choice for low-income and minority students. We also featured a special screening of the documentary *First Generation*. The award-winning feature-length documentary tells the story of four high school students who, over the course of three years, set out to break the cycle of poverty and bring hope to their families and communities by pursuing a college education. Since the conference, many LCANs have used the film to facilitate a dialogue around college access issues in their backyards.

**Michigan College Access Portal:** As Michigan’s College Access Challenge Grant came to an end, MCAN worked with the Michigan Department of Education to ensure a successful and seamless transition of the Michigan College Access Portal (www.michigancap.org) during the summer of 2012. MichiganCAP provides integrated resources at the intersection of college, career and financial planning, enabling each student to create a viable, multi-year roadmap for life after high school based on their interests, skills, and aspirations. Additionally, parents, counselors and teachers are able to track student progress against critical planning milestones through intuitive dashboards. By providing these resources in a single environment that is available to all stakeholders in the process, MichiganCAP is designed to support a culture of preparedness and success.

**National College Advising Corps:** With significant support from MCAN, the University of Michigan and Michigan State University recruit and train a diverse group of their recent college graduates to work full-time as college advisers in high-need LCAN high schools throughout Michigan for one to two years. The program has existed in Michigan since 2010 and MCAN has been instrumental in expanding the Corps throughout Michigan. This year, MCAN worked with The Skillman Foundation to secure additional sites and funds for college advisers within 6 Detroit high schools. These advisers will serve for the 2012–13 academic year. The Advising Corps now reaches 45 high schools across the state.
THE MICHIGAN COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK continues to expand. In January of 2012, MCAN became a stand-alone 501c(3) nonprofit organization. Despite the unexpected inability for the state of Michigan to qualify for the federal College Access Challenge Grant funds, MCAN continues to serve as a fiscally sound organization, providing vital financial assistance to local communities and college access programs across the state of Michigan.

Fund diversification and financial solvency is essential to the board and staff of MCAN. This year, the organization has enjoyed continued support from The Kresge Foundation and Lumina Foundation for Education and has also garnered support from new partners such as The Skillman Foundation. These funds have been key to providing such services as LCAN grant funding, professional development opportunities and the expansion of programs such as the Michigan State University College Advising Corps program in Detroit.

Detailed financial statements are presented to the MCAN Board of Directors for review and oversight on a quarterly basis. David E. Haddrill, PC, a Michigan-based certified management accounting firm, continues to support MCAN’s fiscal management and bookkeeping duties. In addition, MCAN contracts with Boisvenu & Company, PC, for auditing services.
Revenue and Support—$2,208,364.22

- Federal/State Grant Funding—$1,634,771.40
- Lumina Foundation for Education—$57,792.82
- The Kresge Foundation—$425,000.00
- National College Access Network—$800.00
- The Skillman Foundation—$90,000.00

Expenses

- General Administration—29%
- MSU College Advising Corps—19%
- EduGuide Program—5%
- Achieving the Dream grants—13%
- LCAN Grants and Contracts—34%

NOTE: The first three months of the fiscal year described above reflect revenues and expenses of The Imagine Fund, a Michigan nonprofit organization which served as the fiscal agent for the Michigan College Access Network until January 2012.
MICHIGAN COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK 2011–2012

MCAN STAFF
BRANDY JOHNSON,
Executive Director
SARAH ANTHONY,
Director of Finance and Strategic Partnerships
JAMIE JACOBS,
Director of Professional Development
LISA KING,
Assistant Director
KATIE KLANTE,
Administrative Assistant

DAN DEGROW
Superintendent, St. Clair County RESA
CATHERINE M MCNAMARA, CPA
Assurance Senior Manager, BDO USA, LLP
PATRICK O’CONNOR
Associate Dean for College Counseling, Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School
RUDY REDMOND
KING*CHAVEZ*PARKS Initiative Manager, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
DIANA SIEGER
President, Grand Rapids Community Foundation
CARMEN TURNER
President, Lansing Boys & Girls Club
WILLARD WALKER
Senior Policy Consultant, Public Policy Associates
CHUCK WILBUR
Consultant, The Promise Zone Project

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GREG HANDEL
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Vice Chairperson
Director of Institutional Development, Campus Compact
SHARLOMNA BUCKMAN
Executive Director, Detroit Parent Network
LAURA COLEMAN
President, Bay College
JESSICA CORNWELL
College Adviser, Battle Creek Central High School

CONTACT US:
517-316-1713
info@micollegeaccess.org
www.micollegeaccess.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/micollegeaccess
222 N. Chestnut Street, Suite 200
Lansing, MI 48933