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Michigan College Access Network Announces $474,000 in Awards for Local College Access Networks

November 1, 2012 – Lansing, MI – The Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) announces 18 communities will collectively receive $474,000 to support college access and success initiatives. The planning, startup and collective impact grants are designed to help Michigan communities establish cross-sector collaborative leadership teams and action plans to dramatically increase their college-going rates.

The Local College Access Networks (LCANS) set goals focused on student success, establish a system of data gathering and analysis, report results, and hold partners accountable for performance. These LCANs coordinate programs, services and resources that lower the barriers preventing students, particularly low-income and first-generation college going students and students of color, from pursuing postsecondary educational opportunities.

Three communities were awarded $8,000 planning grants to convene a leadership team to conduct a strategic planning process. They will determine college access needs of the community and establish metrics and performance targets aligned with the community’s goals, and develop a collaborative action plan for building a college-going culture within the community.

Planning grant recipients:
- Cody Rouge neighborhood of Detroit
- Shiawassee County
- Oceana County

Five communities were awarded startup grants of $50,000 to begin implementation of a college access strategy through the principles of collective impact. These communities will establish a shared agenda, common metrics and report annual progress on a local college access and success dashboard. The communities are committed to developing and executing data-driven collaborative action plans based on community priority areas.

Startup grant recipients:
- Career and College Access Network of Newaygo County
- Gratiot-Isabella College Access Network
- Lenawee College Access Network
- Marquette-Alger College Access Network
- Success Alliance of Washtenaw

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Six communities were awarded collective impact grants of $20,000 to support embedding the principles of collective impact within the LCAN, while four communities were awarded collective impact renewal grants of $20,000 to continue their efforts in strengthening the collective impact framework. Each community will continue to report annual progress on key metrics on their local college access and success dashboard. Each will also continue to develop and execute data-driven collaborative action plans based on community priority areas.

Collective Impact grant recipients:
- Capital Area College Access Network (serving Lansing)
- Destination Education (serving Holland-Zeeland)
- Greater Albion College Access Network
- Ironmen College Access Network (serving Mancelona)
- Kalamazoo Area College Access Network
- Tri-Cities College Access Network (serving Grand Haven, Ferrysburg & Spring Lake)

Collective Impact renewal grant recipients:
- Bay Commitment College Access Network
- Project ACE (serving Inkster, Wayne-Westland, Romulus)
- St. Clair County KnowHow2Go
- Sturgis SUCCESS

“This was our most competitive round of LCAN grants to date. The caliber of the proposals submitted made it extremely difficult to decide which communities to fund,” said Brandy Johnson, executive director of the Michigan College Access Network. “Each local college access network plays a critical role in sparking systematic change necessary to increase college readiness, participation and completion within their community.”

Michigan has recently experienced a modest increase in our college attainment rate -- from 35.6% of 25- to-64-year-olds possessing at least an associate’s degree, to 36.4%. However, Michigan’s rate still lags behind the national average of 37.9 percent. It is MCAN’s goal to increase Michigan’s postsecondary educational attainment rate to 60 percent by the year 2025. With the newest planning grant recipients, MCAN now supports 51 local college access networks across the state. Funding from the State of Michigan made this round of MCAN grants possible.

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About Michigan College Access Network
As the leader in the state’s college access movement, MCAN’s mission is to increase Michigan’s college readiness, participation and completion rates, particularly among low-income students, first-generation college going students, and students of color. For more information, visit www.micollegeaccess.org. You can also find MCAN on Facebook at www.facebook.com/micollegeaccess.