

Delta College
Board of Trustees Dinner Meeting
Delta College Downtown Midland Center
Tuesday, October 14, 2025
5:30 pm

Board Present: A. Baldwin, A. Clark, S. Gannon, B. Handley-Miller, D. Middleton, M. Nash, M. Rowley, M. Thomas, M. Wood

Board Absent: None

Others Present: R. Battinkoff, J. Berry, L. Bourassa, T. Brown, W. Burns, M. Carter, W. Childs, P. Clark, R. Curry, C. DeEulis, J. Foco, M. Garcia, J. Garn, M. Gavin, L. Govitz, D. Hopkins, K. Kiste-Toner, P. Larkowski, E. Merkle, K. Nelson, J. Perry, K. Schuler, A. Ursuy, R. Young

Press Present: None

Board Chair, S. Gannon, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. She turned the meeting over to Josh Berry, Chief Information Officer of Information Technology.

J. Berry emphasized the growing importance of cybersecurity and reflected on Delta College's progress since its 2023 cybersecurity update. The College continues to modernize and strengthen its cybersecurity through three key areas: maintaining current safeguards, fortifying future protections, and integrating broader technology strategies.

He noted that Delta already has strong tools in place—such as Microsoft's identity monitoring—and the focus is on maximizing existing resources rather than purchasing new ones. Using the Center for Internet Security (CIS) framework, the College conducted a comprehensive, campus-wide assessment of 18 control groups and 153 safeguards, resulting in Delta's first live cybersecurity dashboard.

In partnership with Merit's Chief Information Security Officer, Kevin Hayes, Delta's cybersecurity program was reviewed and praised for its strength and thoroughness—comparable to top-tier organizations. Areas identified for improvement included Service Provider Management and Software Security, both of which are being addressed through ongoing initiatives and contractual updates to ensure third-party and software protections.

For the first time, Delta was able to benchmark its performance against 1,134 other organizations, showing its results were on par with or above peers. The College also plans to enhance email and web security to further guard against phishing and browser-based attacks.

Looking forward, Delta's 2025–2028 Technology Strategic Plan aligns technology development with cybersecurity growth—focusing on staff training, awareness, and continuous improvement. The CIS dashboard allows real-time updates for ongoing monitoring, and the addition of an AI-driven penetration testing tool—developed by a former NSA expert—enables proactive vulnerability testing and mitigation.

Based on the CIS assessment, Delta now has a comprehensive cybersecurity roadmap and playbook with 43 actionable items, 12 already in progress. All future technology investments will be carefully vetted to strengthen multiple cybersecurity controls, ensuring a forward-looking, well-integrated defense strategy.

S. Gannon then introduced Lindsey Bourassa, Director of Admissions, Dual Enrollment and Secondary Articulation to present on Dual Enrollment.

L. Bourassa thanked everyone for their collaboration, emphasizing the collective progress made through strong community partnerships. She expressed pride in the steps achieved over recent years and reaffirmed the College's commitment to expanding equitable access to education for all students. She provided a national and state overview of dual enrollment, explaining that nearly one in five U.S. high school students are dual enrolled. In Michigan, dual enrollment began in 1996 and expanded with the 2000 Career and Technical Preparation Act. She noted that Michigan dual-enrolled students are significantly more likely to pursue college immediately after high school—77% compared to 55% of their peers—demonstrating the program's strong alignment with institutional and state educational goals.

L. Bourassa highlighted that dual enrollment improves both college and high school outcomes, with participants showing greater engagement, clearer academic goals, higher graduation rates, and increased college readiness. Additional benefits include financial savings for families, early exposure to college, and the development of a college-going culture that motivates students to reach their goals sooner.

Delta College has experienced substantial growth in dual enrollment participation, including an 11.5% increase from the prior year and an 83% increase over the past five years. In the past year alone, 1,942 students from 63 partner high schools participated, earning more college credits and achieving higher GPAs—rising from 3.3 to 3.4. Many students were recognized for academic excellence, with hundreds named to the President's, Vice President's and Dean's List. L. Bourassa shared that 31 dual-enrolled students earned associate degrees – a 63% increase from the prior year. She emphasized the importance of clear transfer pathways, advising, and ensuring that earned credits support long-term educational goals.

She spotlighted inspiring student success stories, including Isaiah, a dual-enrolled graduate who earned his associate degree early and continues to excel in higher education and community leadership. His story represents how these programs build confidence, clarify goals, and strengthen community engagement. L. Bourassa noted that dual-enrolled students are reshaping Delta's culture, driving innovation, and reinforcing partnerships with local schools.

To support continued success, Delta is expanding its student support infrastructure. New initiatives include hiring two full-time Dual Enrollment Success Coaches, a Completion Coach, and establishing a peer mentorship program funded by a grant initiative. A notable collaboration with Saginaw United will integrate mentoring into the Saginaw Academic Excellence Program, giving experienced students leadership opportunities while supporting incoming cohorts.

L. Bourassa introduced new resources such as the updated Dual Enrollment Handbook and a digital orientation toolkit available through Delta's website and learning platform—tools designed to help students navigate processes, set expectations, and thrive academically.

She concluded by underscoring the College's continued focus on communication, collaboration, and innovation, celebrating how the partnerships with secondary schools, faculty, and community stakeholders are transforming educational pathways and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed in college and beyond.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary

Andrea Ursuy, Board Secretary