

Delta College
Board of Trustees Dinner Meeting
Delta College Downtown Midland Center
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
5:30 pm

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

Board Absent: A. Baldwin, A. Clark, M. Rowley

Others Present: R. Battinkoff, T. Brown, R. Curry, C. DeEulis, J. Foco, B. Fotopoulos, A. Ginter, L. Govitz, C. Hausbeck, S. Hill, D. Hopkins, T. Johnroe, K. Kiste-Toner, P. Larkowski, K. Nelson, J. Perry, S. Raube, E. Robb, K. Schuler, A. Ursuy, S. VanderLaan, J. Yezak, R. Young

Press Present: None

Board Chair, S. Gannon, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. She introduced Karry Kiste-Toner, Dean of Student Success; Erica Robb, Director of Student Support; and Brad Fotopoulos, Student Care Coordinator. They presented on the Hope Impact Partnership, Student Basic Needs Data, MiLEAP Barrier Removal Grant, external partnerships, and next steps.

K. Kiste-Toner began by sharing the Hope Impact Partnership and the student basic needs survey that was administered in the Fall of 2025. The survey was sent to 6,724 students and we received 974 or a 14% response rate. The purpose of the survey was to assess students' access to basic needs and identify any barriers impacting academic success. The results will help to inform institutional strategy and resource allocation at the college.

K. Kiste-Toner shared some of the results of the survey. Of those who responded (974 students) in terms of mental health, 41% indicated having anxiety and/or depression, 32% said their mental health affected their academic performance, and 16% had unmet mental health needs. Food insecurity was also a concern for our students with 51% indicating that they couldn't afford balanced meals, 45% worried food would run out, and 38% saying food did not last.

Housing insecurity was indicated by 50% of the respondents, as well as 30% having unpaid or underpaid utilities, and 24% reporting unaffordable rent/mortgage increase. Homelessness was also an issue with 13% indicating they were staying with friends and/or relatives, 4% being homeless, and 4% living in either a hotel or motel. Students overwhelmingly (83% of those who responded) reported that childcare is unaffordable.

Ten percent (10%) of those who responded reported being late to class or turned in assignments late because of transportation issues; 9% missed assignments because of internet or technology issues; and 8% missed class or work due to transportation challenges.

K. Kiste-Toner then shared with the Board the MiLEAP Barrier Removal Grant. The grant period runs from September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2026, with an award amount of \$269,379. This grant provided funding directly to students to eliminate financial barriers to college completion. This included

but was not limited to emergency housing stipends, childcare, on-campus food pantries, transportation subsidies targeting the students with the greatest needs.

During the pause of SNAP benefits, 491 students requested assistance. Of those requests, 205 received \$500. An analysis of the needs requested from this grant resulted in 61% for basic needs, 14% for utility or other bills, 13% for transportation, 7% for housing, 3% for academic, and 2% for medical.

E. Robb then shared with the Board the various external partnerships that Delta College has in place. The Mental Health Improvement through Community Colleges (MHICC) focus is to improve capacity to support mental health needs. The University of Michigan is providing Delta with \$15,000 upon completion of an initial action plan, mid-project progress report, and the scheduling of a closing meeting and evaluation interview.

Delta College has continued its partnership with UWill under a renegotiated contract. Almost 200 students have utilized the service, and the average student rating is 9.42/10. Kristina Gary from United Way is on our main campus on Mondays. She offers support for community referrals across counties regarding housing, transportation, food insecurities, and financial stability.

Michigan Works! is on campus on Thursdays assisting with resumes, cover letters, and job searches. They also offer workshops such as networking, interviewing, veterans' workshops, financial literacy, and resume-writing. E. Robb also shared that there will be a community advisory board coming soon. The goal will be to improve access for needs-based resources and partnerships. Needs will include housing and transportation. Both the community and student populations will be supported through this collaboration.

B. Fotopoulos talked about next steps, including improved visibility for student services; a Resources Library throughout campus; and a revamped food pantry. They are working on workshops such as Fuel Your Week: Simple Meals, Smart Budget and Fuel Your Future: Money Skills for Real Life.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Talisa Brown, Secretary Pro Tem to the Board