Delta College
Board of Trustees Dinner Meeting
Delta College Downtown Bay City Center
Tuesday, October 13, 2026
5:30 pm

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

Board Absent: M. Nash

Others Present: M. Allmendinger, R. Battinkoff, T. Brown, A. Brune, W. Burns, P. Clark, R. Curry, C. DeEulis, J. Dorcey, L. Dull, J. Foco, L. Govitz, S. Hill, D. Hopkins, T. Johnroe, B. Johnson, K. Kiste-Toner, G. Luczak, J. Mulders, J. Perry, S. Raube, K. Schuler, A. Ursuy, S. VanderLaan, J. Yezak

Press Present: None

Board Chair, S. Gannon, called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. She turned the meeting over to Brandy Johnson, President of the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA).

B. Johnson began the presentation noting she is on her second Trustee Tour; her commitment to attend a Board of Trustees meeting at all 31 community colleges this year. MCCA's membership consists of 28 community colleges and 3 tribal colleges. She shared MCCA's mission and vision:

> Mission: The Michigan Community College Association is the unified voice for Michigan's community colleges, empowering members as essential drivers of economic mobility, talent development and community vitality.
>
> Vision: Fueling Michigan's Talent – Changing Lives for a Michigan that Thrives.

B. Johnson shared MCCA's 2027-2031 Strategic Plan. The priorities focus on public policy and advocacy; student success and leadership; and college engagement and services. The foundations include amplification, collaboration, insight, and stewardship.

The Board of Directors consists of 62 members – college presidents and trustees. Of those, ten serve on the Executive Committee. There are numerous other committees such as the Student Success Committee which Dr. Allmendinger serves on and the Legislative Committee which Trustee Mike Rowley is a part of. The Legislative Committee is the most active group meeting monthly. They have six legislative priorities: increasing community college operations grants; codifying the Michigan Achievement scholarship; expanding Michigan Reconnect eligibility to age 21; modernizing dual enrollment and Early Middle College; reducing the capital outlay institutional match; and investing $33.3 million in Infrastructure, Technology, Equipment, Maintenance, Safety, and Housing (ITEMS).

There has been progress on four of the five major priorities with significant policy wins on Reconnect and dual enrollment. Work now shifts from securing initial victories to building on that momentum with the next administration and legislature.

B. Johnson spotlighted MCCA Capital Day which took place in April with the highlight being the mascots from the various community colleges participating. The number one priority was increasing appropriations requesting a 4% increase while only getting 1%.

The FY 2027 State Budget Update includes the following:

- Operations: $362.2 million (ongoing)
- Performance Funding: Adds $14.6 million one-time
- Tuition Restraint: FY 2027 and FY 2028 – 4% or $199
- ITEMS: Not included
- Indian Tuition Waiver: $1.4 million
- MPSERS: $105.6 million
- Ren Zone Reimbursement: $2.2 million
- Dual Enrollment (NEW): $40 million opportunity index
- MI Achievement: $532 million
- MI Reconnect (expanded to 21+): $67 million
- Tuition Incentive Program: $165.8 million
- Sec. 217f: Retained

B. Johnson shared the numerous items that were addressed in Lansing this past year. She also noted items that we are continuing to watch such as: SB 1136 (employer health care contribution); property tax reform; codifying Michigan Reconnect for ages 21+; codifying Michigan Achievement Scholarship; and Dual Enrollment Task Force recommendations.

B. Johnson spoke briefly about 2026 being an election year with numerous positions up for grabs including Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General, as well as Proposal 1. MCCA was involved in the National Legislative Summit (NLS) with group meetings with Senator Gary Peters and Senator Elissa Slotkin, networking reception, and a tour of the Library of Congress.

Workforce Pell expands federal financial aid to cover short-term workforce training programs that prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand jobs. Applications were accepted starting on July 1, 2026. Of the 44 programs submitted only 3 are going forward. B. Johnson also shared the numerous Student Success Resources such as data dashboards, college spotlights, student spotlights, grant planning, publications, and other tools.

Delta College is very active in many of the MCCA's initiatives including Finish Forward Reverse Transfer; Local Heroes, Healthcare Pathways; and the MI College Credit for Apprenticeships Program. B. Johnson noted Delta's consistent involvement with the Leadership Academy with Karry Kiste-Toner, Dean of Student Success being in the 2025-2026 cohort and Jill Mulders, Controller in the 2026-2027 cohort. She also noted that Delta College is considering partnering in the MI-CCAP: Michigan College Credit for Apprenticeship Pathways.

B. Johnson highlighted the various affinity groups that have been created. She shared how to stay connected through Inside Story which publishes MCCA news and events monthly and Trustee Talks for the trustees published quarterly. She also noted the remaining events for this year: the ACCT Leadership Congress (Chicago, IL) from October 21-24 and the Trustee Institute (Lansing) December 3-4. Finally, she announced Save the Dates for Capitol Day – Thursday, April 22, 2027, and Summer Conference – July 28-30, 2027, in Kalamazoo.

Trustee M. Rowley took some time to highlight the accomplishments of B. Johnson and shared her 2026 Changemaker Award video.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

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Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary