

**Community College Local Strategic Value Resolution**



Local Strategic Value Report  
2022

Reviewed by the LMC President's Cabinet  
For Board Approval by the LMC Board of Trustees 10/25/2022

Category A: Economic Development and Business or Industry Partnerships (must meet 4 of 5)

1	<p>The community college has active partnerships with local employers including hospitals and health care providers.</p>	<p>The College has clinical agreements with multiple hospitals, outpatient clinics, long-term care facilities, and medical practices for students to perform their clinical education.</p> <p>Human Resources representatives from area medical centers, including Spectrum Health Lakeland, Bronson, and surrounding healthcare facilities, participate in short-term training programs offered by the College to speak with students about multiple career opportunities.</p> <p>The Dental Assisting program offers a competency-based program for dental workers in pursuit of professional licensure.</p> <p>Lake Michigan College and Kinexus meet monthly for the purpose of partnership development and information sharing. Topics of discussion include updates regarding shared business outreach, student training and employment opportunities, educational programing, resource opportunities (grants, federal programs), and shared referrals.</p> <p>The College has apprenticeship agreements with more than 40 different companies and works closely with local manufacturers to ensure programs meet industry standards. For the sixth consecutive year, the College supported manufacturing with the 2021 Pre-Apprentice Academy. Fourteen students participated in the 5-week accelerated training, completing six courses and earning fourteen credits that will be applied towards the students' apprentice training pathway.</p> <p>The Welch Center for Wine and Viticulture opened on August 27, 2019, on LMC's Benton Harbor Campus. This \$7 million, 14,000-square-foot teaching winery is designed to provide students with a state-of-the-art environment to gain hands-on education in art, science, and the business of winemaking. The program has an annual enrollment of more than 20 students. Twenty area vineyards and wineries collaborated on building the program, aimed at educating and training the next generation of wine professionals to support the expanding</p>
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		<p>wine industry in Southwest Michigan.</p> <p>The faculty from the College’s Hospitality Management program work with Four Winds Casino in New Buffalo, Hartford, and Dowagiac for delivery of Hospitality and Casino Management classes for Casino employees.</p> <p>All Career Technical Education (CTE) and Health Sciences programs at the College have an advisory committee that includes representation from business and industry. Every CTE and Health Sciences program is required to have two advisory committee meetings per year.</p> <p>The College’s Career &amp; Workforce Education Division collaborates with area employers to build co-op, internship, job shadowing, and other work-based learning opportunities for students while serving the workforce needs of employers.</p> <p>The Visual and Performing Arts Department is entering into an internship program with TPC Technologies to offer apprenticeships for technical entertainment careers at the Mendel Center.</p> <p>The College has an established on-site partnership on its Benton Harbor and South Haven campuses with a local childcare provider who provides clinical rotations for students.</p> <p>Spectrum Health Lakeland offers flu vaccines for health science students on campus or while attending their clinical education during the fall semester as a service for all students.</p> <p>Berrien County Health Department provided free TB skin tests for health science students.</p> <p>The Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College regularly hosts business meetings and events for the local business community, typically renting our facility to more than 30 local businesses and organizations each year.</p> <p>The Mendel Center hosted an extensive teacher appreciation event for Berrien RESA.</p>
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		<p>The Mendel Center hosted a Berrien RESA Safe Schools professional development day for area educators.</p> <p>The Mendel Center is used for annual Horticulture Days events, Whirlpool corporate meetings, Police training opportunities, etc.</p> <p>The College provided the use of The Mendel Center and Niles Campus facilities to Spectrum Health Lakeland and the Berrien County Health department for COVID 19 vaccinations. In all, 26,020 doses were administered during the months of January – May. The LMC Alumni Association awarded an Alumni Service Award to the LMC Nursing Program graduate who oversaw many of the clinics in her role as the county Health Department’s Clinical and Community Health Nurse Manager. Her team was also recognized by the Governor of Michigan.</p> <p>Beckwith Hall, the College’s student residence hall has collaborated with Harbor Shores, the Senior PGA, Kinexus, Berrien County Prosecutors office, Skidmore, and Whirlpool to host interns for the summer and hosted the Benton Harbor First Tee.</p> <p>Student Support Services partners with PNC Bank to offer financial literacy workshops to enrich student understanding of financial basics.</p>
2	The community college provides customized onsite training for area companies, employees, or both.	The College’s Career & Workforce Education (CWE) division provides customized onsite training to area companies and their employees, conducting trainings for companies such as Palisades Nuclear Power Plant, Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, and Berrien County Road Department. Training included Robot Operation, Machine Tool Technology, PLC (Programming Logic Control), Welding, as well as Mill Refresher Training.
3	The community college supports entrepreneurship through a small business assistance center or other	The Fab Lab at Lake Michigan College is open to entrepreneurs for prototyping activities such as the open access digital fabrication studio. The lab provides access to information, tools, software, and space for anyone who has an interest to learn and create. The Fab Lab provides open access to design software, laser cutters, 3D printers, vinyl cutters, woodshop,

	<p>training, or consulting activities targeted toward small businesses.</p>	<p>CNC (computer numerically controlled) router, CNC (computer numerically controlled) sewing machines and hand tools.</p> <p>The South Haven campus works with the Chamber of Commerce to host regional economic development summits. Well-known speakers and statewide business groups come together for the day to discuss the economy and to hear perspectives on the business climate and development.</p> <p>The South Haven Chamber of Commerce holds Entrepreneur Club meetings on the South Haven campus for local businesses.</p>
4	<p>The community college supports technological advancement through industry partnerships, incubation activities, or operation of a Michigan technical education center or other advanced technology center.</p>	<p>The College's Health Sciences Division delivers Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), Phlebotomy, Pharmacy Technician, and Medical Assistant, programs in collaboration with area healthcare employers, including Spectrum Health Lakeland, InterCare Community Health, and other medical facilities with developed programs and curriculum that meet the needs of area employers and provides expanded opportunities for students.</p> <p>The College's Hanson Technology Center (HTC) works with area businesses, Cornerstone Alliance, and Kinexus (including Michigan Works!) to help align business needs and employment opportunities with training offerings.</p> <p>At the Hanson Technology Center, the CWE provides credit and short-term training to both businesses and regional groups such as the National Tooling &amp; Machining Association and the American Welding Society. CWE works in partnership with academic divisions to create customized business solutions for clients. CWE also acts as a connector between regional businesses and organizations and the College.</p> <p>HTC offers expanded manufacturing programming including Engineering Technology and a SIM classroom with a large touch screen available for simulation training use.</p> <p>Visual &amp; Performing Arts offering program of study in Music Technology as a part of the</p>

		Associate of Arts degree. Students work in the new state-of-the-art recording studio as well as in the Hanson Theatre/Mainstage.
5	The community college has active partnerships with local or regional workforce and economic development agencies.	<p>The College has representatives on boards and committees of many local organizations, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allegan County College Access Network</li> <li>• Benton Harbor Promise Board</li> <li>• Berrien-Cass-Van Buren Educational Advisory Group</li> <li>• Berrien College Access Network</li> <li>• Berrien County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority</li> <li>• Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Buchanan Promise</li> <li>• Cornerstone Alliance</li> <li>• Cornerstone Chamber Services</li> <li>• Greater Niles Area Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Niles Chamber Economic Club</li> <li>• Kinexus</li> <li>• Mi Works!</li> <li>• South Haven Brownfield Authority</li> <li>• South Haven Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• South Haven Local Development Fund Authority</li> <li>• Southwestern Michigan Planning Commission</li> <li>• Strategic Leadership Council</li> <li>• SWM SHRM</li> <li>• United Way of Southwest Michigan</li> <li>• Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council</li> <li>• Michigan Presenters Network</li> </ul> <p>CWE works closely with Allegan Mi Works! Kinexus and WorkOne in South Bend, Indiana.</p> <p>The College works collaboratively with Kinexus to offer business and industry forums for the</p>

		<p>manufacturing, hospitality, and healthcare industries to continue to develop programs that meet employee education and training needs. The College also operates the Wagner-Pyser contract for Kinexus.</p> <p>The College assumed the responsibility of the Leadership Accelerator program that was previously overseen by the Kinexus group. The Leadership Accelerator was formed in 2015 by leaders from dozens of local, private, public, and nonprofit organizations at Michigan's Great Southwest Strategic Leadership Council. The purpose of the program is to develop leaders who will effectively grow, sustain, and lead local organizations and our community into the future through a holistic approach. Twenty-four local leaders successfully completed the 12-session program in 2022.</p>
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Category B: Educational Partnerships (must meet 4 of 5)		
1	<p>The community college has active partnerships with regional high schools, intermediate school districts, and career-tech centers to provide instruction through dual enrollment, direct credit, middle college, or academy programs.</p>	<p>College staff serve on the Berrien County School Superintendents' Advisory Committee, and attend Counselor, Principal, and Career Technical Education Director meetings.</p> <p>The College has an active Early College/Middle College program with dual credit, dual enrollment, and academy classes for over 1,000 high school students per year. In addition, the College operates an Early College Academy with the Niles, Brandywine, Buchanan, Covert and South Haven school districts, and a Middle College with the Berrien RESA (Regional Education Services Agency), Van Buren Intermediate School District, and the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency.</p> <p>The College supports the Professional Health Careers Academy (PHCA) operated by local school districts and Spectrum Health Lakeland, which provides students with exposure to several professional health care fields. PHCA students take college level classes for academic credit. Staff serve on selection panels and provide support services throughout the school year.</p>

		<p>Berrien Regional Educational Services Administration holds Career Pathways (Exploration) Day each year at the College for all Berrien County 9th grade students. Due to Covid-19, the Program was not held 2020 or 2021. 2022's is scheduled for October 28th.</p> <p>The South Haven campus serves as an onsite location for South Haven Public School's WAY Program (Widening Advancements for Youth); currently 65 students are enrolled in the program. The campus is also partnering with the Van Buren Intermediate School District's Middle College Program.</p> <p>118 students are part of the Early College Allegan County, a middle college partnership with seven school districts in Allegan County operated at the Allegan Tech Center. The fifth cohort of 35 graduated in 2022. Current cohorts - class of 2022 = 37; class of 2023= 47; class of 2024= 44); class of 2025=48</p> <p>189 students participate in the Berrien RESA Early Middle College program, which consists of twelve school districts. The fourth cohort of 49 graduated in 2022. Current cohorts- class of 2022 = 53; class of 2023 = 59; class of 2024 = 64; class of 2025 = 66</p>
2	<p>The community college hosts, sponsors, or participates in enrichment programs for area K-12 students, such as college days, summer or after school programming, or Science Olympiad.</p>	<p>The College offers summer sports camps for basketball, softball, and volleyball. Discounted rates are available for students in need and for staff members.</p> <p>The College has worked closely with the Benton Harbor Boys &amp; Girls Club to support academic interventions including offering AccuPlacer tests for junior and seniors.</p> <p>The College is co-sponsor and site for the Science Olympiad for Southwest Michigan.</p> <p>The College sponsors several robotics teams for local school districts and serves as the venue for the First Robotics kickoff each year. The teams representing counties across southwest Michigan: Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, Ottawa, Indiana, and Grand Rapids gather in the Grand Upton Hall of the Mendel Center.</p>



		<p>Each year the College holds College Days, open houses, and Career Days for middle and high school students and sponsors visits by high school juniors and seniors to each of the three campuses.</p> <p>Fab Lab is available for activities for those in local Home-Schooling programs. Summer camps are also available for anyone 8 years old and up. Summer camps vary each year, but they include Fab Lab Bootcamp, Ukulele Building, Arcade Machine Building, Build Your Own 3D Printer, as well as various coding and video game camps.</p> <p>English as a Second Language are offered in a variety of formats.</p> <p>The College hosts the MSBOA annual band competition for schools in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties and is the host of the annual Cloverleaf Spelling Bee.</p> <p>Visual and Performing Arts offers summer camps including two collaborative programs with Childrens Music Workshop, and collaborative programs with the FabLab. CirqueEsteem from Chicago- partnered with Ghostlight Theatre, and also offered multiple camps such as Recording Arts, Vocal Arts, Brass, Woodwind, Theatre &amp; Dance, Visual Art, etc. Students receive scholarships through partnership with the Monday Music Club, Children’s Music Workshop.</p> <p>The new WAVE awards event celebrates K12 performing arts programs. The Visual and Performing Arts department also hosts the Piano Guild of SW Michigan Competition</p> <p>There are a number of community music ensembles, community ed music lessons, community ed theatrical productions</p> <p>The Mendel Center hosts and provides sponsored support to community-based education and arts organizations including Children’s Music Workshop’s summer program and fall production, The Citadel Dance and Music Center, Dance Fusion, The Southshore Concert Band, Berrien RESA Spelling Bee and ESports Championships.</p>
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		<p>Q&amp;A sessions with internationally renowned guest speakers are available to students and instructors through The Mendel Center’s Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan Speaker Series.</p> <p>The Mendel Center is also the exclusive regional presenter of the National Geographic Live series which brings notable photographers, writers and adventurers to the Mainstage and a pre-event Q&amp;A session for area students and instructors.</p> <p>There is a mainstage volunteer program with BHAS middle school students and opportunities for student groups to volunteer for funding by providing Mendel Center event support.</p> <p>Nursing students operate a health fair for pre-school children; topics include heart health, hospital care, asthma, and germs.</p> <p>Dental Assisting students present dental health education programs to pre-school children each term.</p> <p>The college hosts E-sporting events for local high schools and E-sports clubs.</p>
3	<p>The community college provides, supports, or participates in programming to promote successful transitions to college for traditional age students, including grant programs such as talent search, upward bound, or other activities to promote</p>	<p>The Lake Michigan College Free Tuition program awarded \$1,507,833 to 1,474 students in fall 2021.</p> <p>The College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosts an Upward Bound program on campus, serving first-generation and economically disadvantaged students in grades 9- 12 at Benton Harbor High School. The program provides college prep services designed to prepare students for post-secondary education and increase the rate in which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of post-secondary education.</li> <li>• Actively works with the home school population in the area, offering recruitment and</li> </ul>

<p>college readiness in area high schools and community centers.</p>	<p>transition services as well as special events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosts the College Fair, which links over 60 colleges and universities with high school students and parents to provide information on financial aid, transfers, and college applications.</li> <li>• Sponsors financial aid workshops, Admissions Decision Week, and other Local College Access Network activities.</li> </ul> <p>Staff serve as permanent members of the Local (Berrien) College Access Network activities, Michigan’s Great Southwest Strategic Leadership Council, and the post-secondary advisory council for the Michigan College Access Network.</p> <p>The Career and Workforce Education and Health Sciences Education Divisions, in collaboration with Berrien RESA, hosts high school counselor breakfast meetings several times per year. College faculty and staff provide counselors with up-to-date information on programs and services available to students.</p> <p>The College also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has co-sponsored a Career and Technical Education (CTE) banquet for high school students and awards scholarships to high performing CTE students.</li> <li>• Arranges meetings with college academic leadership and each superintendent, high school principal, and counselors for the 16 high schools in the district where data is provided on academic progress of the graduates from each high school and comparative data on the county.</li> <li>• Has a summer for-credit college level course for all Benton Harbor Promise Zone students to increase college readiness through college success programming. Students are provided content related to college expectations and are given opportunities to practice skills necessary to be a successful student.</li> <li>• Partners with the Benton Harbor Boys &amp; Girls Club to co-teach a Degrees to Diploma college readiness curriculum at the Teen Center, which includes financial aid literacy, career exploration and planning, and college placement testing.</li> <li>• Operates a Start to Finish Program providing concentrated support for students</li> </ul>
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		<p>challenged by college academic programming; there are currently over 200 students enrolled.</p> <p>The College's Student Wellbeing and Accessibility team presents to area High Schools, Counselors, and Special Education professionals on going to college with an IEP (Individualized Education Program) or 504 plan.</p>
4	<p>The community college provides, supports, or participates in programming to promote successful transitions to college for new or reentering adult students, such as adult basic education, GED preparation, GED testing, or recruiting, advising, or orientation activities specific to adults.</p>	<p>The College hosts a federal TRiO Educational Opportunity Center program designed to create Individualized Educational Development Plans for returning students; offers Pre-GED or college admissions/placement test tutoring; provides career information, assessment, and advising; and assistance with the admissions process for post-secondary enrollment. The TRiO EOC program also targets displaced homemakers for academic support services.</p> <p>The College has an office with staff dedicated to serving returning veterans, including appropriating funds from the College's Foundation for emergent needs of veterans. In addition, the College has created a dedicated Veterans Center on the Benton Harbor campus where a lounge area with computers and other career-oriented information exists to assist veterans. The College receives yearly recognition by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency for being a veteran-friendly school.</p> <p>The College's Assessment Center offers GED testing 2-3 times per month, as well as KeyTrain up-skilling, WorkKeys assessments, National Career Readiness Certification, Bennett Mechanical Comprehension Test, Certiport and many PearsonVue IT (Information Technology) certification exams.</p> <p>CTE faculty and dedicated CTE Advisors regularly provide program-level advising to adult students.</p> <p>Orientation prepares incoming students for success in college. It is offered in person and online to best accommodate students' schedules.</p> <p>Lake Michigan College works with the State of Michigan to facilitate the Michigan Reconnect</p>

		<p>program, a state program that pays for students 25 and over to earn their associate degree. Lake Michigan College has applied for and received additional funding to assist these students with educational expenses such as books, housing, childcare, etc.</p>
5	<p>The community college has active partnerships with regional 4-year colleges and universities to promote successful transfer, such as articulation, 2+2, or reverse transfer agreements or operation of a university center.</p>	<p>The College has active partnerships with several regional 4-year colleges and universities, in various capacities including reverse transfer agreements, articulation agreements, consortium agreements, and on-campus extensions, which allow for collaborative, smooth pathways for students to transfer from LMC to a baccalaureate program. Current agreements include:</p> <p>Reverse Transfer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Michigan University</li> <li>• Eastern Michigan University</li> <li>• Ferris State University</li> <li>• Grand Valley State University</li> <li>• Michigan State University</li> <li>• Northern Michigan University</li> <li>• University of Michigan</li> <li>• Siena Heights University</li> <li>• Western Michigan University</li> </ul> <p>Transfer Articulation Agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Davenport University</li> <li>• Ferris State University</li> <li>• Siena Heights University</li> <li>• Western Michigan University (WMU)</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the above, the College is a participating member of the Michigan Transfer Agreement, which is a statewide transfer agreement.</p>

	<p>The College participates in MiTransfer Pathways, which are statewide articulation agreements that allow for seamless transfer from a 2-year program to the same 4-year program. Agreements include Art, Biology, Business, Communication, Criminal Justice, Exercise Science, Mechanical Engineering, Psychology, Public Health, and Social Work.</p> <p>Housed in the colleges University Center, Siena Heights University (SHU) offers bachelors and masters programs on the Benton Harbor campus; SHU accepts up to 90 credit hours from LMC towards a bachelor’s degree, which offers an immense value to students. Andrews University and Ferris State University also frequent the center to help students interested in transferring.</p> <p>The College has a Financial Aid Consortium Agreement with GVSU (Grand Valley State University) whereby students can take classes at the same time at either institution and receive financial aid.</p> <p>LMC participates with the Michigan Transfer Network (MTN), which provides students with transfer and course equivalency information for schools across the state.</p> <p>The Jack and Barbara Nicklaus KitchenAid Sr. PGA Champions for Change Scholarship (Nicklaus Scholarship) is a \$25,000 scholarship that is awarded to a Start to Finish student who graduates from LMC. The Nicklaus scholarship was created in 2018 to assist Start to Finish students with completing their bachelor’s degree. The students complete an application and participate in an interview with a community panel including representatives from Whirlpool, the Sr. PGA, the Berrien Community Foundation, the Benton Harbor Promise, and Start to Finish. The panel votes on the winner/recipient of the scholarship.</p> <p>The student works with the Benton Harbor Promise and the Berrien Community Foundation for disbursement of the funds. They are intentional in making sure that the student has enough funds to assist with each remaining semester at their 4-year school.</p>
<p><u>Category C: Community Services (must meet 4 of 5)</u></p>	

1	<p>The community college provides continuing education programming for leisure, wellness, personal enrichment, or professional development.</p>	<p>Fab Lab at Lake Michigan College is available to hobbyists and crafters to promote advanced manufacturing concepts and ideas. Maker Mondays started in 2021 as a time for community members to visit the lab and ask questions, tour the lab, and work on individual projects.</p> <p>The College was selected to take over the Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan Speaker Series in 2017 and now presents an outstanding lineup of leaders, experts, and well-known personalities to share their insights and experiences. Programming sometimes includes panel discussions with local experts focusing on issues relevant to the local community. Three such virtual panels were presented for the 2020-2021 season: Creative Expression: Why the Arts Matter in Times of Crisis; Mental Health “Pandemic” – The Crisis within the Crisis; Social Justice Advocacy – Moving from Words to Results.</p> <p>The College collaborated with the South Haven Speaker Series to provide a virtual panel discussion on local economic conditions due to the global pandemic.</p> <p>Artistic virtual programming from The Mendel Center included an opportunity for community members to interact virtually in small groups with the creatives (writers, directors, choreographers, etc.) of seven shows including Les Misérables, Kinky Boots, and Peter Pan to discuss their artistic process.</p> <p>The College offers occasional community education programs at all three campuses.</p> <p>The South Haven campus partners with Michigan State University to host an Introduction to Farm Management taught in Spanish.</p>
2	<p>The community college operates or sponsors opportunities for community members to engage in activities that</p>	<p>The Culinary, Hospitality, and Wine and Viticulture Technology Programs offer various culinary, wine, and food related non-credit classes designed to promote personal enrichment.</p> <p>The College’s Mendel Center provides sponsorship support of up to 100% of the total cost of an event to more than 100 events and organizations each year, such as Southshore Concert</p>

<p>promote leisure, wellness, cultural or personal enrichment such as community sports teams, theater or musical ensembles, or artist guilds.</p>	<p>Band, Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, United Way, Children’s Music Workshop, veteran programs such as Lest We Forget, business trade shows, and special community programs. The Mendel Center regularly hosts not-for-profit organization fundraising events/ceremonies for some of the organizations listed above, as well as Bids for Barks, Forgotten Man Ministries, and several others.</p> <p>Arts Factor subsidizes up to 100% of ticket cost for hundreds of tickets annually to Mainstage series through partnerships with local service organizations such as MI DHHS, Benton Harbor Area Schools, OutCenter, Lory’s Place, All God’s Children Community Choir, The Whitcomb, etc.</p> <p>The Performing Arts Department conducts 10-15 public performances each year in the form of plays, musicals, choral and instrumental concerts, and recitals. Community members can attend these performances at little or no cost. Although live performances were halted during the pandemic, students performed virtually and are beginning to meet again in person.</p> <p>The Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum of South Haven holds their annual retreat with the community to discuss innovative ideas dealing with horticulture at the South Haven Campus.</p> <p>The Speaker Series of South Haven provides a lineup of leaders, experts, and well-known personalities to share their insights and experiences. Programming includes panel discussions with experts focusing on issues relevant to the local community at the South Haven Campus.</p> <p>The South Haven Campus hosts Weight Watchers Club Meetings for the community.</p> <p>The College has nine intercollegiate athletic sports. Community members are welcome to attend events and tournaments at little or no cost. Athletics offers different camps and clinics to youth to learn more about their sports, preparation, and drill work.</p> <p>Volleyball hosts High School, Middle School and Little Red Hawks yearly for area students to learn and improve their volleyball skills.</p>
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		<p>The Lake Michigan College Science Department hosts speakers to learn about different topics in their fields.</p>
3	<p>The community college operates public facilities to promote cultural, educational, or personal enrichment for community members, such as libraries, computer labs, performing arts centers, museums, art galleries, or television or radio stations.</p>	<p>The College's Mendel Center Mainstage performing arts center presents more than 15 national touring productions each year and 20 – 30 academic and community events each year. Professional productions include Broadway shows, well-known musical groups, children's and family programming, dance programs, and more, diverse in subject matter and artistry. Free workshops and masterclasses are often available for students and the public. Many of these productions moved online this past season. In total, The Mendel Center plays host to over 200 events annually, which serve over 50,000 guests.</p> <p>The Mendel Center Mainstage donates thousands of dollars in tickets each year in support of more than 30 not-for-profit community organizations for fundraising events, drawings, auctions, and giveaways. The Mendel Center also provides free access to well-known speakers and performances for college students and area youth that might not otherwise have access to such opportunities. The Music and Theatre Programs present student shows and recitals at the Mendel Center that are open to the public.</p> <p>College faculty regularly make educational presentations at the New Buffalo Library.</p> <p>The William Hessel Library and Learning Resource Center at LMC is open to the community along with free access to its computer lab. The College has a large art collection displayed among its campuses for public viewing and study.</p> <p>Childcare is available to the community at the South Haven and Benton Harbor campuses.</p> <p>Senior citizens may take college courses without paying tuition. In addition, employee professional development offerings are available free of charge to the community.</p> <p>The College hosts multiple community events such as the State of Michigan public hearing for</p>

		<p>the Indiana Michigan Power Integrated Resource Plan to collaborating with The OutCenter of Southwest Michigan for a speaker series to learn more about issues facing the LGBTQ community.</p> <p>The Hawk's Nest is used to provide space for different presentations to support learning like LMC Votes group.</p>
4	<p>The community college operates public facilities to promote leisure or wellness activities for community members, including gymnasiums, athletic fields, tennis courts, fitness centers, hiking or biking trails, or natural areas.</p>	<p>The College operates Fitness Trails at the Benton Harbor and Niles campuses and a Nature Area and Track at its Benton Harbor campus.</p> <p>The Natural Area on the Benton Harbor campus is a 50-acre area that contains more than a mile of trails that wind through five different habitats. These trails are maintained for educational use and the enjoyment of students, staff, and the community. Visitors can follow a boardwalk trail across deciduous woods, pond and marsh, white pine forest, and old-field environments, and a prairie and grassland have been restored with native tall grasses. Together, they provide a home for numerous species of birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals including deer, rabbits, and squirrels.</p> <p>Both the Benton Harbor and the South Haven Campus have a fitness room, which under non-pandemic conditions is open to students, staff, and faculty. The Niles Campus enjoys strong collaborative ties with the Niles Buchanan YMCA.</p> <p>The College offers summer youth programs in basketball, volleyball, soccer, and softball.</p> <p>The College has a disc golf course set up for all to enjoy.</p> <p>There is a beach volleyball court for community members to enjoy over the summer.</p> <p>A community garden was implemented thanks to a Breaking Barriers Grant, to combat student hunger, provide a place for students and staff to learn gardening tips, and assist in</p>

		group projects for the culinary and plant biology classes
5	The community college promotes, sponsors, or hosts community service activities for students, staff, or community members.	<p>The College hosts a week-long Martin Luther King program with panel discussions and other virtual activities that is attended by 800+ community members. The College also co-sponsors a service project in his honor.</p> <p>The College is a partner in the Unified Civic Monuments Project, providing both financial and volunteer support.</p> <p>The College is represented on the Benton Harbor – St. Joseph Arts &amp; Culture Social Justice Group chaired by commissioners from both cities, which hosts public volunteer opportunities.</p> <p>The College is an annual pace-setter organization for the area’s United Way and participates in many activities for the organization. A dozen staff members participate in the annual Rake a Difference Day for seniors.</p> <p>The College also collaborates with the United Way to provide free tax preparation to students and local community members.</p> <p>The College coordinates an annual Holiday Food Basket program that benefits 100+ needy families.</p> <p>Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Day is held in cooperation with the Berrien County Parks Department for hazardous waste collection and disposal each year. The event collects more than 2,300 pounds of hazardous waste.</p> <p>The College regularly partners with area public safety providers to operate drills and safety training using one of the College campuses.</p> <p>The Mendel Center has 100+ community volunteers who provide support during events.</p>

	<p>The South Haven Campus hosts weekly meetings for the local Kiwanis Club.</p> <p>The Fall 2019 College calendar includes 2 team volunteer events, Habitat for Humanity Build and United Way Rake a Difference. Employees are provided 4 hours of paid volunteer time to participate in these events.</p> <p>Nursing faculty volunteer to provide care to indigent populations at the Herbie Clinic in Benton Harbor. In addition, nursing faculty and students volunteer at the local soup kitchen annually and provide basic health screening. The nursing students sponsor “Penny Wars” to raise money to support local community programs, purchase Christmas gifts for foster children that are distributed by the Berrien County Family Court and donate and assemble personal care kits to Berrien County Women’s Center.</p> <p>The College has representatives on boards and committees of many local service organizations, to which students are often invited to participate, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 Women Strong</li> <li>• American Cancer Services - Day of Caring</li> <li>• Berrien County Council for Children</li> <li>• Boys and Girls Club</li> <li>• Children’s Music Workshop</li> <li>• Michiana Public Broadcasting Corporation</li> <li>• Michigan State Vocal Music Association</li> <li>• Rotary Club St. Joseph Benton Harbor</li> <li>• South Haven Kiwanis</li> <li>• South Haven Rotary Club</li> </ul> <p>Visual and Performing Arts raised money or donations in lieu of admission to public music concerts for area charitable causes (Toys for Tots, OutCenter of SW Michigan, Blue Star Mothers, ASPCA, Food Pantries, Fired Up Program, Boys and Girls Club of BH, etc.)</p> <p>Athletics helped the City of Benton Harbor by handing out water to community members.</p>
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		<p>Athletics donated their time to read to elementary aged students.</p> <p>Volleyball hosts a Dig Pink event that raises funds for local Cancer Treatment Centers.</p> <p>Softball volunteers at the Alzheimer's Association Walk to help raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's. They also work with the Boys and Girls Club Haunted House event.</p> <p>Student Life hosts several events to promote diverse, inclusive, personal learning throughout the year, like Hispanic Heritage Month, Indigenous Peoples' Week, LGBTQ+ Celebration, and Leadership series.</p>
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