

NEW BUSINESS

Community College Local Strategic Value Resolution

Section 230 of PA 103 of 2023, the Fiscal Year 2026 community colleges appropriations bill contains the qualifications that must be met to receive the portion of each college's performance funding appropriation earmarked for local strategic value. The statute lists 15 separate best practices for community colleges to achieve. Institutions must satisfy 4 of 5 best practices in each of 3 different categories.

To demonstrate eligibility for this funding, Section 230 requires that each community college certifies compliance to the State Budget Office by means of a board of trustees resolution certifying that the college has met 4 of 5 best practices in each category. Further, each board resolution "shall provide specifics as to how the community college meets each best practice measure within each category."

ACTION:

It is recommended that the Lake Michigan College Board of Trustees approve the following resolution, as presented, which provides specifics as to how Lake Michigan College meets the best practice measures within each category to prove its Local Strategic Value for the region it serves.

Motion by Ms. Blackmon with support by Ms. Tomasini to approve the resolution, as presented, which provides specifics as to how Lake Michigan College meets the best practice measures within each category to prove its Local Strategic Value for the region it serves.

Roll Call Vote - Chair Grover asked the board secretary for a roll call vote.

Yeas: Ms. Johnson, Ms. Blackmon, Ms. Burghdoff, Mr. Grover, Ms. Tomasini

Nays: None

MOTION APPROVED

Community College Local Strategic Value Resolution



Local Strategic Value Report

2026

Reviewed by Lake Michigan College's President's Cabinet

For Board Approval by Lake Michigan College's Board of Trustees: 09/22/2026

Community Colleges Local Strategic Value

Institution: LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE

As per Section 230(2) of the State School Aid Act (MCL.338.1830), a community college must demonstrate that it meets the Local Strategic Value qualifications to receive the portion of each college's performance funding appropriation earmarked for local strategic value. The statute lists 15 separate best practices for community colleges to achieve. Institutions must satisfy 4 of 5 best practices in each of 3 different categories.

A community college must certify by means of a board of trustees resolution that the college has met 4 of 5 best practices in each category. Further, each board resolution "shall provide specifics as to how the community college meets each best practice measure within each category." **This resolution must be properly passed by the board and submitted to the State Budget Office on or before October 15, of each academic year.** However, if a resolution from a prior year is still in effect and factually correct, you may resubmit this resolution.

Please use this table as a method to **briefly** detail what your community college is doing to meet the best practices in each category. Each category is worth one-third of the total amount available for your institution. Your institution must meet 4 out of 5 best practices in a category to receive funding associated with that category.

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
Category A: Economic Development and Business or Industry Partnerships (must meet 4 of 5)	
<i>(i) The community college has active partnerships with local employers including hospitals and health care providers.</i>	<p>The College's Career and Workforce Education and Health Sciences Education Divisions actively seek business and industry partnerships and to understand local employer talent recruitment and training needs. Over 150 company visits were conducted this year to discuss training and talent pipeline issues, offer customized training, internships, job shadowing, and build apprenticeships.</p> <p>The Professionalism in the Workplace Bootcamp and Project Management Accelerator were developed as a direct result of employer feedback.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>Each Career and Workforce Education and Health Science Education program is guided in part by semi-annual advisory board meetings composed of community and industry stakeholders who provide valuable input and reflection on program reviews and outcomes.</p> <p>Human Resources representatives from area medical centers, including Corewell Health, Beacon and surrounding healthcare facilities, participate in credit and extended education programs offered by the College to speak with students about multiple career opportunities.</p> <p>Corewell Health offers annual flu vaccines for employees at both the Benton Harbor and South Haven campuses and health science students on campus or while attending their clinical education during the fall semester as a service for all students.</p> <p>Nursing and Psychology students are partnered with the Logan Center where they participate in learning about autism spectrum disorder and the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy they provide. Students participate in the community OB ultrasound services that are provided by the sonography program. Nursing students can learn by direct observation what is taught in the classroom.</p> <p>Nursing and Early Childhood Education students attend Flowers Early Learning Center to observe students playing and assessing them for their growth and development/developmental milestones.</p> <p>In partnership with Corewell Health, work-based learning in culinary medicine for CTE students launched Fall 2025 with planning/finalization continued through Spring 2026.</p> <p>The Colleges has partnerships/externships with local healthcare organizations and medical clinics.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>Beckwith Hall hosted summer interns from Whirlpool Corporation, Keurig, Dr Pepper, House of David, DeGroot, and Corewell Health.</p> <p>The College has a partnership with Corewell Health, who comes into RA (Resident Assistant) Training to conduct Mental Health/Title Crisis response training.</p> <p>Career Services has active partnerships with several local employers including Corewell Health, St. Joseph Health Systems, Whirlpool Corporation and others.</p> <p>As a steering committee member of the Community Leadership Academy, the Provost corresponds with many agencies including Corewell Health and United Way. The Health Sciences division also has multiple programs and educational affiliation agreements for student clinical requirements.</p> <p>The College has established apprenticeship agreements with nearly 30 companies, collaborating closely with local manufacturers to ensure that our programs align with industry standards and workforce needs. Currently, the Hanson Technology Center supports more than 135 apprentices. Our partner companies include: AccuDie, Ausco Products, Beaudoin Electric, Convergix, Custom Tool & Die, D & F Mold, Dura Mold, Edgewater Automation, Force Tech, General Stamping (Indiana), Grotnes, French Paper, Gast, Griffin Tool, Hanson International, Leco, Liberty Steel, Max 2, Max 3, Maximum Mold, Midwest Die Corp, Modineer, Niles Precision, Niles Steel Tank, Nova Stevensville LLC, St Joe Tool Company, Value Tool & Engineering (Indiana), and Whirlpool.</p> <p>The College works with and has onsite training for Whirlpool Corporation, various law enforcement agencies, Corewell Health, AEP (Indiana Michigan</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>Power), DC Cook Nuclear Power Plant, Eagle Technologies, Hanson International, and others.</p> <p>The College has an established on-site partnership on its South Haven campus with a local childcare provider, Scribbles, who is in the process of providing childcare services in both locations.</p> <p>The Political Science program has active relationships with volunteer organizations including the League of Women Voters.</p> <p>The College's Criminal Justice program has active internship partnerships with the Berrien County Sheriff's Office, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, City of St. Joseph Department of Public Safety, City of Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety, Lincoln Township Police Department, Chikaming Township Police Department, Berrien County Juvenile Center, Berrien County Prosecutor's Office Victim Advocates, and Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program (KPEP).</p> <p>The Criminal Justice program hosted multiple onsite trainings for Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety. It has also hosted several trainings for the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), the Berrien County Sheriff's Office, and Baroda-Lake Township Police Department.</p> <p>The College received state approval for a new Police Academy and successfully launched its first cohort in Summer 2024, with 16 individuals beginning the Academy, sponsored by several local law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>Advising & Career Services actively collaborates with local employers, including hospitals and health care providers, to bring career and transfer opportunities directly to students. The team hosts weekly on-campus events featuring local businesses and four-</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>year university partners, creating regular touchpoints for students to explore career paths and educational options. Career Services also leads the Take Flight: Transfer Expo, showcasing regional employers who are actively hiring, including those in health care and representatives from four-year institutions. The event features panels with young local professionals, giving students real-world insights into career journeys and opportunities within their community. Additionally, the Earn & Learn Internship Program strengthens partnerships between the college and area employers by placing students in paid internships, helping them develop job-ready skills while building a local talent pipeline that supports workforce needs—particularly in high-demand sectors like health care.</p> <p>The Welch Center for Wine and Viticulture, located on the College’s Benton Harbor campus, is a state-of-the-art teaching winery that offers students a hands-on education in the art, science, and business of winemaking. This 14,000-square-foot facility, developed with the collaboration of area vineyards and wineries, is dedicated to training the next generation of wine professionals to support the growing wine industry in Southwest Michigan. The program, which consistently attracts students each year, has been transformative, encouraging students to explore agriculture in new ways, with a focus on the potential for small vineyards and breweries in the region. A wine apprenticeship program has been established to help wineries to develop their talent base.</p> <p>The College has curriculum that works to equip IT professionals in the local health care market and other markets to ensure that stable IT systems exist, thus advancing their missions. Numerous degree or certificate seeking students currently work in IT at</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>financial institutions, manufacturing facilities, and in local health care facilities.</p> <p>The College’s Mendel Center and Jenkins Theatre serve as important regional hubs for business, education, arts, and community engagement. Through strategic partnerships with Whitespace Event Management Corporation and Force Tech, (a professional audio, video, lighting, and broadcast solutions provider), each year, the facilities host a diverse range of programs and events, as well as activities presented by local businesses, schools, nonprofit organizations, civic groups, and community partners. The facility is also home to the Creative Arts and Humanities academic department which collaborates regularly with industry professionals as guest artists-in-residence, collaborative performers and teaching artists. This includes the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, Southshore Concert Band, Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association, Michigan State Vocal Music Association, Twin City Players, GhostLight Theatre, South Bend Civic Theatre, Children’s Music Workshop, the Citadel Dance & Music Center, the Piano Guild, Wharton Center for the Arts at MSU, and Monday Music Club.</p> <p>The Creative Arts and Humanities Department also has an internship program with Force Tech to offer apprenticeships for technical entertainment careers at the College’s Mendel Center.</p> <p>The College’s Mendel Center hosted an extensive teacher appreciation event for Berrien RESA as well as Safe Schools professional development day for area educators.</p> <p>Beckwith Hall, the College’s student residence hall, has collaborated with Harbor Shores, the Senior PGA, Kinexus, Berrien County Prosecutor’s office, Skidmore, and Whirlpool Corporation to host interns</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>for the summer and hosted the Benton Harbor First Tee.</p> <p>The College maintains active communication with several Exercise Science programs, including those at Western Michigan University (WMU), Grand Valley State University (GVSU), and Central Michigan University (CMU). Additionally, we collaborate with WMU on science-related transfer programs, ensuring seamless academic pathways for our students.</p> <p>Education students collaborate with area elementary and secondary schools to obtain observation hours and early field experiences through their coursework. Many of these same schools have agreements with the College for Early College programs.</p> <p>Many collaborations exist with local industry and business partners, as well as professional organizations, to benefit the general education and transfer-bound curriculum, including local farmers and agro-tourism small business owners on an invited panel, WNIT-PBS and Midwest Family Broadcasting professionals presenting at the WAVE Awards, the Modern Language Association, the Association of College Honors Societies, and the American Association of Community Theatres.</p> <p>The College's Student Well-Being & Accessibility department has an active MOU with Berrien Mental Health Authority d/b/a Riverwood Center. BMHA is the local community mental health center that serves residents of Berrien County. The MOU ensures continuity in cross referrals between our institutions.</p> <p>The Student Well-Being & Accessibility department also partners annually with COPE Network, who is an institutional provider of Naloxone/Narcan. COPE Network also provides training on Naloxone/Narcan to pertinent college staff.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The Berrien County Health Department and CARES Sexual Wellness Services partner with the College to provide safe sex resources to students in our community.</p> <p>On-campus sexual health services were delivered in partnership with Berrien County Health Department and CARES Sexual Wellness Services.</p> <p>The Student Well-Being & Accessibility department provided training to the staff social workers and guidance counselors at St. Joseph High School and Lakeshore Schools on students with disabilities transitioning from high school to the college setting.</p> <p>In partnership with Michigan State University, a new 32x72 foot hoop house has been completed at the South Haven campus with a ribbon cutting planned. The hoop house will support future agricultural certificates and provide hands-on training in controlled environment farming to strengthen regional agricultural opportunities.</p>
<p><i>(ii) The community college provides customized on-site training for area companies, employees, or both.</i></p>	<p>The College provides onsite training for companies and organizations in apprenticeships and short-term training activities. By delivering customized training directly at the workplace, the College ensures that businesses can develop their talent pool without disrupting daily operations.</p> <p>This past year the College has provided customized training for area employers, such as Marson International (welding), Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant (machine tool technology), Hanson International (AI foundations), Modineer (machine tool technology), Liberty 3D Technologies (welding), Holtec (machine tool technology and welding), Berrien County Road Commission (welding), and Corewell Health (culinary).</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The College has become a standards holder and intermediary for US Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeships, serving in the Michigan Educators of Apprenticeship Training Association and on the Michigan Apprenticeship Advisory Board. This more comprehensive service approach to the apprenticeship process provides support for smaller companies who don't have the resources to build a strong talent growth program, allowing them to access training dollars.</p> <p>The College is working with over a dozen companies to participate in the Michigan New Jobs Training program that allows companies' state payroll taxes to be used directly in training its new employees. The MCCA administered program has not been used in this corner of the state before.</p> <p>The Creative Arts & Humanities Department at the College conducted a fight choreography workshop, offering customized training for theatre majors in collaboration with Brevard College faculty, supporting industry-specific skill development.</p> <p>Extended Education English as a Second Language courses were offered online, on-campus and off-site through a partnership with the Laundry Hub in Benton Harbor. The Michigan State University Extension now feeds GED graduates needing ESL courses to prepare them for the world of work to our online ESL program.</p> <p>Professional & Soft Skills Bootcamp delivered with the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber to local industry employees with strong participant feedback.</p> <p>Police Academy cohorts trained recruits from multiple regional law-enforcement agencies that included hands-on skill development aligned to employer needs. A total of 27 officers have been</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	trained and hired by local enforcement agencies in the last two years.
<p><i>(iii) The community college supports entrepreneurship through a small business assistance center or other training or consulting activities targeted toward small businesses.</i></p>	<p>The South Haven Campus hosted a Business Hub Growth Series, focusing on fostering entrepreneurial skills and business development within the community.</p> <p>The Fab Lab at the College is open to entrepreneurs and other makers for prototyping activities. The Fab Lab is an open access digital studio that provides access to information, tools, software, and space for anyone who has an interest in learning and creating. The Fab Lab provides design software, laser cutters, 3D printers, vinyl cutters, woodshop, CNC (computer numerically controlled) router, CNC (computer numerically controlled) sewing machines and hand tools.</p> <p>The Business Department launched a new Gig Economy Certificate as part of the Business Administration degree, recognizing the increasing “side hustle” economy and growing entrepreneurialism in students.</p> <p>Small business assistance in MLK Underrepresented Business Directory and MLK Expo, sponsorship through the College’s Mendel Center, 100 Women Strong, Leadership Accelerator Program, 40 Under 40, and more.</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 Literacy and Numeracy Across the Curriculum Working Group hosted a roundtable discussion that examined Agro-Tourism and Agriculture in the local</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>economy, engaging community members in panel discussions and educational events, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset. This was presented in a series including Wine Chemistry in partnership with LECO, Small agriculture panel with local small business owners and farmers, The history of Blossomtime in Berrien County, as well as faculty organized events around Sustainability Week and IdeaCon, the annual student symposium, including local small business owners as guest speakers.</p> <p>The South Haven Chamber of Commerce holds Entrepreneur Club meetings on the South Haven campus for local businesses.</p> <p>The South Haven Business Hub hosted the annual Pitch event and Board meeting to support new ventures and local entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Advanced Manufacturing Startup Showcase at Hanson Technology Center connected startups with regional partners.</p>
<p><i>(iv) The community college supports technological advancement through industry partnerships, incubation activities, or operation of a Michigan technical education center or other advanced technology center.</i></p>	<p>At the Hanson Technology Center, CWE provides credit and extended education to both businesses and regional groups such as the National Tooling & Machining Association and the American Welding Society. Extended Education works in partnership with academic divisions to create customized business solutions for clients. Extended Education also acts as a connector between regional businesses and organizations and the College.</p> <p>Tech advancement in current and emergent programs like Manufacturing Trades, Robotics, eSports, Virtual Reality (VR) Labs, Marine Maintenance, Agricultural testing, and more.</p> <p>The College participated in the Boys & Girls Club STEAM event, where participants were exposed to</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>healthcare technology and hands-on experiences, promoting technological literacy from a young age.</p> <p>The College continues to run the Marine Maintenance Technician Program in partnership with Macomb Community College.</p> <p>The College offers a wide range of advanced technology and collaborates with local companies to provide curriculum that supports the education of the local workforce, building on the College's various healthcare programs, maintenance and electrical technology, marine maintenance technology, and more.</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 Corewell, Beacon, Bronson and other medical facilities with developed programs and curriculum that meet the needs of area employers and provide expanded opportunities for students.</p> <p>CAH offers a program of study in Music Technology as a part of the Associate of Arts degree. Students work in the new state-of-the-art recording studio and music production lab as well as in the Hanson Theatre/Jenkins Theatre.</p> <p>VCCI (Vietnam Chamber of Commerce & Industry) delegation explored replicating LMC's Fab Lab to expand engineering/entrepreneurship access.</p> <p>"Best of Japan" Midwest Roadshow hosted at the Hanson Technology Center showcased advanced manufacturing and regional support ecosystems.</p> <p>The Human Resources department hosts monthly supervisor training, annual open enrollment benefit meetings, and new software training for employees.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
<p><i>(v) The community college has active partnerships with local or regional workforce and economic development agencies.</i></p>	<p>The College's involvement in the MCCA Capitol Day in Lansing, advocating for educational and workforce initiatives, reflects its active role along with MCAN's College Access Advocacy Day, in regional workforce development.</p> <p>A \$500,000 state investment led to the creation of the Berrien Talent Collaborative. Cross-sector partners include LMC, Berrien RESA, and regional chambers. Initiatives include pre-apprenticeship planning, apprenticeships, school/employer outreach, MIWorks juvenile-justice discussions, and employer visits in key sectors.</p> <p>The Business and Industry and Berrien Talent Collaborative team serve on several regional employer collaboratives hosted by Cornerstone Alliance and the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, including The Manufacturers Roundtable, Human Resources Roundtable, and Business Resources Team. The team also serves on the South Bend Elkhart Regional Higher Education Resource Council and participates at events at the Harbor Country Chamber, Coloma/Watervliet Chamber, Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, Greater Niles chambers, as well as the Homebuilders Association, SHRM of SWMI, and Campus for Creative Aging at the Area Agency on Aging.</p> <p>Human Resources has an active partnership with the Southwest Chamber of Commerce. They are our partners with the Leadership Accelerator program, provide resources for individuals looking to relocate to the area, and free advertising to recruit for our openings.</p> <p>The College and Kinexus staff meet monthly to foster partnership development and share information. Discussions include updates on joint business outreach, student training and employment opportunities, educational programming, resource</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>opportunities (such as grants and federal programs), and shared referrals.</p> <p>These business intelligence meetings with local industry often include colleagues from K12, MEDC, MDARD, Cornerstone Alliance, Chambers, and Chamber Growth Alliances.</p> <p>The South Haven Speaker Series hosted discussions on topics crucial to economic development, such as the impact of Lake Michigan's warming on local ecosystems and communities.</p> <p>The College has representatives on boards and committees or participates on many local organizations, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allegan County College Access Network • Benton Harbor Promise Board • Berrien-Cass-Van Buren Educational Advisory Group • Berrien County Human Services Collaborative • Berrien County Board of Health • Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce • Buchanan Promise • Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber of Commerce • Greater Niles Area Chamber of Commerce • Kinexus Group • Mental Health in Community Colleges (MHICC) Advisory Board • MichCDA • West Michigan Works and previously Michigan Works! • Michigan Presenters Network • St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Foundation • South Bend Elkhart Regional Higher Education Advisory Committee • South Haven Brownfield Authority • South Haven Chamber of Commerce

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Haven Local Development Fund Authority • Southwestern Michigan Planning Commission • Southwest Michigan Materials Management Committee • Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber • SWM SHRM • Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council • Tri-County Childcare Coalition • United Way of Southwest Michigan • Western Michigan University Southwest Community Advisory Board <p>CWE staff work closely with Allegan Michigan Works! Kinexus and WorkOne in South Bend, Indiana. Career Services staff and the CWE Dean serve as the College representatives on the Career Education Advisory Committee for Michigan Works, sharing information about labor market and employment trends.</p> <p>Each summer, the College hosts summer interns from multiple companies in the area. This includes Whirlpool, DeGroot, House of David, Keurig Dr. Pepper, and Gast.</p> <p>LMC is a partner with Michigan Works! connecting adults transitioning between careers and displaced workers for new skills development, certificates, and retraining.</p> <p>The Berrien Talent Collaborative works closely with Michigan Works concerning apprentices.</p> <p>Additional partnerships include Michigan State University (Welch Center), Berrien RESA, Berrien County Sheriff's office, and Cornerstone Alliance.</p> <p>Career Services works with the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber (with a member of the LMC staff serving as an ambassador for the Chamber) as well as the Berrien Talent Collaborative.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>In 2022, the College assumed responsibility for the Leadership Accelerator Program, which was previously overseen by the Kinexus Group.</p> <p>The Leadership Accelerator, established in 2015 by leaders from local private, public, and nonprofit organizations at Michigan's Great Southwest Strategic Leadership Council, aims to develop leaders who will effectively grow, sustain, and lead local organizations and our community into the future through a holistic approach. In 2023, the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber became a major partner in this program, further enhancing its impact.</p> <p>Since 2022, the College has invested in professional development for supervisors and HR staff by maintaining memberships in key organizations like SW SHRM, KHRMA, and MCCHRA. We also hold institutional memberships in HERC, MCCBOA, Miller Johnson, and CUPA-HR (both Michigan and national chapters), ensuring access to valuable resources and up-to-date HR practices.</p> <p>Student Well-Being & Accessibility has an active partnership with Michigan Rehabilitation Services (Berrien County) that ensures proper cross-referral of clientele and includes cross-training on core initiatives for each business.</p> <p>Beyond FAFSA workshops, LMC offers prior learning assessment for working adults, in-depth personal trades/skills/academic advising, and flexible scheduling options. The office specializes in connecting regional employment opportunities with appropriate educational credentials. This involves explaining how a two-year manufacturing technology degree opens doors at Whirlpool, or how LMC's healthcare certifications align with career ladders at local medical facilities. For first-generation students, this translation work proves essential—they often</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	lack family networks that can explain how specific credentials translate into stable employment and wage progression.
Category B: Educational Partnerships (must meet 4 of 5)	
<p><i>(i) The community college has active partnerships with regional high schools, intermediate school districts, and career-tech centers to provide instruction through dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, direct credit, middle college, or academy programs.</i></p>	<p>The College offers active Early College/Middle College programs, as well as dual credit, dual enrollment, and academy classes covering 35 regional high schools. Additionally, the College operates an Early College Academy in collaboration with the Niles, Brandywine, Buchanan, Covert, and South Haven school districts, and Middle College programs with the Berrien RESA (Regional Education Services Agency), Van Buren Intermediate School District, and the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency.</p> <p>The College partners with Allegan RESA for Early Childhood Development and Berrien RESA for general education credit.</p> <p>Statewide educator professional development hosted on the LMC campus (MAAE; Michigan Hospitality Foundation) to strengthen K-12 CTE pipelines.</p> <p>The College offers history, manufacturing, and other classes through direct credit at St. Joseph High School, and through the early middle college or dual enrollment at the BIC, the main campus and the Allegan Tech Center.</p> <p>The College participated in multiple high school career fairs, including those at Niles High School, St. Joseph High School, and South Haven High School, providing students with information about college programs and career pathways.</p> <p>LMC Admissions Counselors hold on-site high school visits or local information sessions across SW Michigan each school year. Staff went on 196 on-site visits to 59 high schools and four tech centers. Admissions held 11 open Saturday visit/campus tour</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>days at Benton Harbor, hosted 5 high school visits to the South Haven campus, 13 high school visits to Benton Harbor, and two visits to both campuses in the same day. These efforts generated 1,001 verified first-time applications (directly from high school or home school grads), and 507 enrolled first-time, first-year students registered in just under 10,000 credit hours at LMC.</p> <p>The Admissions Department also has multiple active partnerships and strong relationships with regional high schools, all 22 in-district high schools, every regional school district, and three career-tech centers to provide services supporting dual enrollment, direct credit, and middle college enrollments (Recruiting students from 402 high schools in total, with Early College enrollment from 29 high schools.)</p> <p>South Haven’s Admissions Specialist meets with multiple high schools including Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, and South Haven to assist incoming freshmen with fall class registration.</p> <p>The College supports the Professional Health Careers Academy (PHCA) operated by local school districts, which provides students with exposure to several professional health care fields. PHCA students take college level classes for academic credit.</p> <p>The College partners with Van Buren Tech Center through its Cisco Networking Academy, providing students with a pathway to earn a 2-year degree and then transfer to a 4-year partner, Davenport University, for a career in either Network Security or Cyber Defense.</p> <p>Berrien Regional Educational Services Administration (RESA) holds Career Pathways (Exploration) Day each year at the College for all Berrien County 9th grade students.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The College continues its partnership with Berrien RESA in the Berrien Talent Collaborative, which drives and promotes apprenticeship training in Southwest Michigan. Other important partners include the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce and the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Bertrand Innovation Center continues to offer general education courses offered by the college and serve as a hub for new educational and career-focused activities and programming.</p> <p>Each year the Creative Arts & Humanities adjudicates and hosts the WAVE Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theatre, modeled after the Tony Awards. In 2025-2026 they evaluated nearly 900 high school students from 13 high schools in southwest Michigan and northern Indiana, providing educational feedback, scholarships to nominated students, recognizing school arts programs, and providing an opportunity to perform at the Mendel Center with local and national celebrity presenters.</p>
<p><i>(ii) 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.</i></p>	<p>The Fab Lab is available for activities for those in local homeschooling 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. For the second year, the Fab Lab has hosted a day for 4th and 5th graders to complete a Fab Lab experience. Participants wood turn a pen, complete a laser project as well as a sewing project, to introduce them to digital fabrication.</p> <p>“Buggin’ in the Fab Lab” summer camp (ages 7–11) used Fab Lab and the LMC nature trail for hands-on STEM.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>“Touch a Truck” career exploration event featured LMC’s Trucking program alongside community first-responders.</p> <p>The College hosted dual enrollment and student orientations for high school students, with significant participation from area schools.</p> <p>Every fall, the College hosts the Berrien RESA Pathways Day event. Ninth graders from all high schools in the county (and surrounding areas) embark on the College’s Mendel Center to get hands-on experience within various industries, such as agriculture, health sciences, and manufacturing.</p> <p>The College eSports program, in partnership with Berrien RESA, has hosted several eSports events and competitions, attracting participation from surrounding high schools and colleges. This collaboration has helped to expand the reach and impact of the program, fostering a sense of community and healthy competition among students across the region.</p> <p>Other participation or partnership activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAH Enrichment camps • Regional Cloverleaf Spelling Bee • CAH combined performances with area schools • MSBOA (Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association) annual band competition for schools in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties • MSVMA (Michigan School Vocal Music Association) • Fall play/spring musical • Community choir and jazz band • The Citadel Dance and Music Center • Dance Fusion

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Southshore Concert Band • WAVE Awards for Excellence in Musical Theatre • Education/Early Childhood field experiences • eSports tournaments • Sponsorship of sports and music programs • Workshops at the College's Mendel Center • Homeschool cooperative experiences • Professors as guests in K-12 classrooms • STEAM events with the Berrien County Boys & Girls Club • Hosting the Mr. & Miss Blossomtime pageants in the Jenkins Theatre • Hosting the Berrien Community Foundation Scholarship Celebration for high school students • Hosting the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra annual educational concert for 3rd and 4th grade students <p>The College provides classrooms and facility space to host a variety of enrichment programs, including the Science Olympiad. These programs offer students the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning experiences that enhance their academic knowledge and skills.</p> <p>The College offers English as a Second Language (ESL) courses in a variety of formats to meet the diverse needs of our students.</p> <p>The WAVE Awards event celebrates K-12 performing arts programs for nearly 900 students from a 5-county region. The CAH department also hosts the Piano Guild of SW Michigan Competition.</p> <p>The College has worked closely with the Benton Harbor Boys & Girls Club to support academic</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>interventions including offering AccuPlacer tests for juniors and seniors.</p> <p>The College 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 College's Mendel Center.</p>
<p><i>(iii) 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 college readiness in area high schools and community centers.</i></p>	<p>The College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 at which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of post-secondary education. The Upward Bound Summer Academy had 23 completers seeing major academic growth (Composition +84%, Literature +112%, Math +212%); multiple university visits and a short residential experience in Beckwith Hall. • Hosts four LMC Academic Program Nights each year, providing adult, traditional, and transfer students and their families with specific trade, professional, and academic program information, faculty presentations, and campus tours. • Actively works with the home school population in the area, offering recruitment and transition services as well as special events. • Hosts the SW Michigan Regional College Fair, which links over 60 colleges and

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>universities with high school students and parents to provide information on financial aid, transfers, and college applications across the state and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsors financial aid workshops, Early College Admissions on-site information visits, LMC Visit Days, and other College Access Network activities. • Hosted college-wide New Student Orientation offering eight sessions across June–August, including advising, registration, tech support, and resource fair at both campuses. <p>The College’s Red Hawks Rise Summer Bridge Program is a free, immersive initiative designed to help incoming students transition smoothly into college life. Over five weeks, participants receive college readiness instruction, explore career options, and build essential academic skills, all while becoming familiar with the campus and connecting with faculty, staff, and fellow students.</p> <p>The College also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has co-sponsored a Career and Technical Education (CTE) banquet for high school students and awards scholarships to high performing CTE students. • 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.

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 with content related to college expectations and are given opportunities to practice skills necessary to be a successful student. • Partners with the Benton Harbor Boys & 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. • Operates a Start to Finish Program providing concentrated support for students challenged by college academic programming; there are currently over 200 students enrolled. <p>Berrien Talent Collaborative presentations educate high school students and staff, parents, employers and community members on the benefits of apprenticeships, providing an alternative to the traditional four-year college path that is more attractive to some students. All students who participate in CTE classes in high school earn some kind of professional credential, and in many cases LMC credit. Adding a school to work experience rounds out the experience to cover the basic elements of apprenticeships, so that students may participate in wage-earning employment before they graduate from high school. The BTC can provide those students with either an early start to their apprenticeship or completion of a MARC (Michigan Apprenticeship Ready Certificate, affording them the guarantee of an interview with the employer.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The College’s Student Well-Being & 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> <p>Current programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Hawks Rise summer bridge program • Upward Bound • Start to Finish • English as a Second Language and English for Academic Purposes offerings • Embedded tutoring • General tutoring • Study tables • NetTutor • Testing Services • International Student Services • Campus Life/Residence Life programming • Early College interviews • Mandatory orientations <p>Literacy and Numeracy Across the Curriculum (LNAC) working group holds an annual Student Symposium that includes presentations on college-readiness and academic excellence.</p> <p>Student Well-Being & Accessibility partners with Watervliet High School, Berrien Springs High School, Lakeshore Schools, and St. Joseph Public Schools to provide annual workshops for students with disabilities on making the transition from high school to college. These trainings are provided directly to students and their families onsite at the local high schools.</p> <p>Student Well-Being & Accessibility also serves on the Berrien Interagency Transition Team (BITT), which is a team made up of local service providers (Berrien</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>RESA, Logan Center, Riverwood Center, The Center for Growth and Independence, Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, MRS, Disability Network of Southwest Michigan) who are assisting students with disabilities in making a successful transition from high school to college.</p> <p>Student Well-Being & Accessibility provides an annual Mental Health Academy to Upward Bound students.</p> <p>Planning a networking event for students in collaboration with the SWMI Regional Chamber's Career Services recently conducted a workshop for Upward Bound and will be offering a four-part series for Red Hawks Rise this year.</p>
<p><i>(iv) 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 and testing, or recruiting, advising, or orientation activities specific to adults.</i></p>	<p>The College hosted six FAFSA workshops and 62 on campus tours to support traditional, transfer, and adult learners in navigating the college admissions process.</p> <p>LMC hosts open sessions for new student, adult learner, and transfer education advice and live student support options with personal advising year-round, Monday-Thursday at both South Haven and Benton Harbor campuses. Beyond traditional recruitment, LMC's admissions operation removes structural barriers to post-secondary participation. This includes demystifying financial aid processes, explaining transfer pathways, and providing clear timelines for program completion. For populations historically underserved by higher education, these services function as essential infrastructure for economic mobility.</p> <p>Educational Opportunities Center (EOC), Reconnect Grant, Testing Services (including Accuplacer, Pearson VUE, and internal testing), tutoring services, NetTutor, dedicated orientation, Veteran Services, and more. The EOC exceeded its annual participant goal, serving 1,283 individuals; also supported</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>homeless students and expanded community partnerships.</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 the 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>Career and Workforce Education faculty and dedicated CWE 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>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The College collaborates with the State of Michigan to facilitate the Michigan Reconnect program, which covers tuition for students aged 21 and over to earn their associate degree. The College has also applied for and received additional funding to assist these students with educational expenses such as books, housing, childcare, and more.</p> <p>Basic-needs access and benefits navigation (e.g., SNAP/MI-Bridges assistance) held in Beckwith Hall.</p> <p>The College is an early adopter of the Michigan College Credit for Apprentices Program (MiCCAP), incentivizing career professionals with journey certificates to bring their experience and credentials to LMC, where up to 45 credits will be awarded towards a Skilled Trades Technology Associate in Applied Science. The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO), the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP), the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) partnered with seven Labor Unions to award college credit evaluations for more than 20 trades.</p>
<p><i>(v) 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.</i></p>	<p>The College maintains active partnerships with several regional 4-year colleges and universities through various agreements, including reverse transfer agreements, articulation agreements, consortium agreements, and on-campus extensions. These partnerships ensure smooth and collaborative pathways for students to transfer from the College to a baccalaureate program. Current agreements include Arizona State University, Davenport University (for both Cyber Security and Cisco Network Academy students), Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, Indiana Institute of Technology, Western Michigan University, and University of Michigan – Flint. The College has also facilitated transfer opportunities with Davenport</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>University and Wayne State University through their Transfer Tables events.</p> <p>Program alignment and transfer pathway work with Davenport University (Esports/Sport Mgmt, CS, Trucking/Operations & Supply Chain, Criminal Justice/Legal Studies; PLA options).</p> <p>Expanded partnership discussions with Andrews University, including “Preview Andrews” visits and faculty collaboration.</p> <p>Western Michigan University admissions transfer/application support on campus.</p> <p>Advising & Career Services at LMC actively fosters transfer success through strong partnerships with regional four-year colleges and universities. To support ongoing student engagement in transfer planning, the team has created a dedicated Transfer Corner within the Advising Suite. This space provides students with accessible, up-to-date resources on transfer pathways and encourages them to explore their options early. Additionally, a four-year university partner is on campus every Tuesday, available to meet with students and collaborate with advisors to ensure all materials and information in the Transfer Corner remain current and relevant. LMC also hosts Instant Decision Days with select partner institutions, where students can meet one-on-one with university representatives, receive free official transcripts provided by LMC, have their application fees waived, and receive an admissions decision on the spot. These events also include personalized advising and onboarding support from both LMC and the partners.</p> <p>The College currently has multiple reverse transfer agreements with institutions such as Western Michigan University, University of Michigan, Oakland University, and Michigan State University.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>Additionally, the College is a participating member of the Michigan Transfer Agreement, a statewide transfer initiative.</p> <p>Wine and Viticulture has an articulation agreement with Ferris State University's Hospitality Management program.</p> <p>The Associate in Business Administration (ABA) Advisory Committee is made up of the major 4-year universities that business students choose for transfer.</p> <p>Housed in the College's University Center through December 2025, Siena Heights University (SHU) offered bachelor's and master's programs on the Benton Harbor campus. Andrews University and Ferris State University also regularly visit the center to assist students interested in transferring.</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. LMC faculty and staff are currently engaged in collaborations through the OHE and Sova with all community colleges and nearly all universities in the state to develop additional MiTransfer Pathways in Data Analytics (2), Healthcare, Education (3), Art and Design, Computer Science (3), and revised Business pathways.</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>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The College participates in 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 award given to a Start to Finish student who graduates from the College. Established in 2018, the Nicklaus Scholarship was designed to help Start to Finish students complete their bachelor's degree. Applicants complete an application and participate in an interview with a community panel that includes representatives from Whirlpool Corporation, the Sr. PGA, the Berrien Community Foundation, the Benton Harbor Promise, and Start to Finish. The panel selects the scholarship recipient. The student then works with the Benton Harbor Promise and the Berrien Community Foundation for disbursement of the funds, ensuring they have sufficient support for each remaining semester at their 4-year institution.</p> <p>The College has made significant contributions to Project 1808, a nonprofit focused on sustainable community development in Sierra Leone (West Africa). The College established a Project 1808 club to engage students in global citizenship. Students and faculty from the College traveled to Sierra Leone to lead sessions at the National Science and Leadership Festival, deepening their understanding of global issues and strengthening ties with Koinadugu College. The College's ongoing commitment to Project 1808 continues to empower students to make a global impact.</p> <p>The College established active communication channels with several Exercise Science, Education, and Early Childhood programs, including those at Western Michigan University (WMU), Grand Valley</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>State University (GVSU), and Central Michigan University (CMU). Additionally, we collaborate with WMU on other science-related transfer opportunities, further strengthening our academic partnerships.</p> <p>The College has an active partnership with Model Illinois Government (MIG) which is a four-year university-oriented program with schools in Illinois, Indiana; LMC is the only participating school from Michigan.</p>
Category C: Community Services (must meet 4 of 5)	
<p><i>(i) The community college provides continuing education programming for leisure, wellness, personal enrichment, or professional development.</i></p>	<p>The South Haven Campus hosted extended education courses on dementia care, highlighting the College's commitment to continuing education and community wellness.</p> <p>The College's Fab Lab 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's Culture and Talent Success office sponsored the following wellness activities for employees: Walktober, Holiday Gratitude and Well-Being Bingo, Beginning Yoga, Healthy Habits Bingo, and Spring Step Challenge.</p> <p>Residence Life uses a programming model based on 5 pillars: Community Building, Academic Support, Personal Growth and Wellness, Cultural Awareness and Unity, and Safety and Security. Throughout the academic year, all programming, whether tailored to be more leisure-focused or more learning-focused, aligns with at least one of these pillars. Such programming includes smaller scale RA programming, larger building wide programming, "Movie Mondays"</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>aimed at educating on a specific topic, and informal conversations held between residents and staff.</p> <p>Professional & Soft Skills Bootcamp hosted for community members via the Chamber partnership.</p> <p>On-campus professional development convenings for statewide educator groups (MAAE and Michigan Hospitality Foundation).</p> <p>The College hosted a Future Fair, open to the community, and presented guest speakers and a panel of young professionals to discuss career development.</p> <p>Natural Sciences, Exercise Science and Wellness offer yoga in the fall as an extended education opportunity. This department also hosts a fall and spring science seminar for students and community members.</p> <p>The College is home to the Welch Center for Wine and Viticulture. Consumer-focused courses as well as those for professional development and continuing education in Enology and Viticulture are hosted at this facility.</p> <p>Extended Education (Non-Credit) Programs: American Heart Association CPR Training (BLS Provider and Heartsaver); Certified Nurse Aide (CNA); English as a Second Language; Marine Maintenance Technician; and Truck Driver Training.</p> <p>Other programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAH Camps • Music lessons (for the community) • Community choir • Community jazz band • Southshore Concert Band • Fall play/spring musical • Wines of the World classes

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceramics classes • Athletic camps • Tai Chi • Film Studies • Conversational French <p>The South Haven campus partners with Michigan State University to host an introduction to Farm Management taught in Spanish.</p> <p>College faculty have actively engaged in outreach efforts, including mentorship and preceptorship for student graduates seeking to complete their graduate degree in Nursing, organizing summer camps focused on Biology, and offering community yoga sessions. These initiatives reflect our commitment to enhancing educational opportunities and promoting wellness within the community.</p> <p>Faculty development that strengthens instruction quality (Math and Writing Lab workshops; OLC Innovate viewing) benefiting student learning outcomes.</p> <p>The College continues to support faculty and staff through supervisor trainings: wellness leave and professional development initiatives. Each year, funds are allocated in the HR budget specifically for certifications, ensuring that our team has access to the resources needed for ongoing professional growth.</p>
<p><i>(ii) The community college operates or sponsors opportunities for community members to engage in activities that promote leisure, wellness, cultural or personal enrichment such as community sports teams, theater or musical ensembles, or artist guilds.</i></p>	<p>In April 2026, the William Hessel Library along with other area libraries participated in the SW Michigan Libraries "Library Hop". This program provided an informational booklet about each library allowing community members to visit each library, participate in programming events held at each library, and enter to win a prize for participating.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The Business, Culinary, Hospitality, and Wine and Viticulture Technology programs offer a range of extended education classes, such as a Professionalism Bootcamp and Wines of the World, designed to promote personal enrichment and expand participants' culinary and wine-related knowledge.</p> <p>The College's Residence Life office utilizes "Take-tos" that encourage residents to get out and attend athletic events, concerts or shows, and other major campus events.</p> <p>The College's CAH Department regularly hosts concerts, theater performances, and student recitals, engaging the community in cultural enrichment.</p> <p>Two LMC (Admissions) staff members serve on the board of the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra (SMSO), providing support and guidance for this high quality, high value community organization. The SMSO also supports performances at the College at least twice a year in connection to a year-long symphony performance series. One LMC faculty member sits on the board of the Southshore Concert Band in the same capacity. In addition to performing at the Mendel Center, this group also provided credit opportunities for interested students.</p> <p>The College's Science Department hosts speakers to learn about different topics in their fields.</p> <p>The College supports a wide range of programs and events, including the Citadel Dance & Music Center showcases, Fusion Dance showcases, Blossomtime activities, Children's Music Workshop Programming, eSports tournaments, Robotics competitions, Spelling Bee, Science Olympiad, Culinary Medicine, and more. Faculty and staff have actively contributed to these initiatives, particularly by providing lab equipment for the Science Olympiad and volunteering periodically,</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>reflecting our strong commitment to fostering educational and extracurricular excellence.</p> <p>The College’s Mendel Center offers sponsorship support for over 100 events and organizations annually, covering up to 100% of the total event costs. This support extends to a variety of programs, including the College’s Mendel Center Jenkins Theatre Season, Welch Center Tasting Room, Fab Lab workshops and camps, CAH camps, Extended Education music lessons, community choir, community jazz band, and the Southshore Concert Band.</p> <p>The Mendel Center hosted the WAVE Awards (regional high-school musical theatre celebration open to the community).</p> <p>Extended Education fall play/spring musical; English as a Second Language Extended Education programs; Wines of the World classes; Ceramics classes; Athletic camps; LMC Art Initiative, and more.</p> <p>Annually, the Mendel Center partners with a non-profit organization called VetTix to provide free tickets to military veterans and active-duty members and their families to Mendel Center shows.</p> <p>The College’s Mendel Center also regularly hosts not-for-profit organization fundraising events/ceremonies for local non-profit organizations.</p> <p>The Arts Factor program subsidizes up to 100% of ticket cost for hundreds of tickets annually to Jenkins Theatre events through partnerships with local service organizations to provide access to the arts for underserved populations.</p> <p>The CAH Department conducts 10-15 public performances each year in the form of plays, musicals, choral and instrumental concerts, and</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>recitals. Community members can attend these performances at little or no cost.</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 College has nine intercollegiate athletic sports. Community members are welcome to attend events and tournaments at little or no cost.</p> <p>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 events for area students to learn and improve their volleyball skills.</p> <p>Campus Life and County partners hosted “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” drop-off with over 600 cars.</p> <p>“Slam Dunk Stigma” mental-health awareness game supporting the B#4 Foundation.</p> <p>South Haven Speaker Series and AAUW civic events are hosted on campus.</p>
<p><i>(iii) 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.</i></p>	<p>The Hanson Theatre is used for various events including holiday concerts, drama showcases, and faculty recitals, serving as a public cultural hub for the community.</p> <p>The College offers various facilities and services to the community, including the Fab Lab, Welch Center Tasting Room, Grand Upton Hall, Mendel Center Jenkins Theatre and Hanson Theatre, South Haven Campus Community Room, Testing Services and Pearson VUE testing, Teaching Kitchen, All Star Driving School, and RESA bus pickup/drop-off.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The William Hessel Library and Learning Resource Center at the College 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, now including the newly installed Paxson Gallery. The library serves students, employees, and the public; collections expanded and undergoing diversity audit.</p> <p>Childcare is available to the community at the South Haven campus.</p> <p>The Hawk’s Nest is used to provide space for different presentations to support learning such as the LMC Votes group.</p> <p>The College’s Mendel Center and Jenkins Theatre serve as important regional hubs for business, education, arts, and community engagement. Each year, the facilities host a diverse range of Lake Michigan College programs and events, as well as activities presented by local businesses, schools, nonprofit organizations, civic groups, and community partners. The facilities also support College academic and student activities, commencement and recognition ceremonies, performing and visual arts programming, educational conferences, and community-focused events. Jenkins Theatre further serves the region through professional touring performances, concerts, theatrical productions, school and youth programs, and events presented in partnership with area nonprofit and educational organizations. Collectively, these activities make the Mendel Center much more than a college facility—it is a regional gathering place that connects Lake Michigan College with the communities it serves and provides an accessible venue for education, professional development, arts and culture, civic engagement, and community enrichment.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>The Music and Theatre Programs present student shows and recitals at the Mendel Center that are open to the public.</p> <p>The Hanson Technology Center & Mendel Center routinely provide space for regional convenings (e.g., WAVE Awards; statewide educator workshops).</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><i>(iv) 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.</i></p>	<p>The college's involvement in the SAFE Kids event, which includes physical activities and wellness checks, contributes to community wellness.</p> <p>The College has a disc golf course, track for walking, paved areas/parking lots for biking, walking, and rollerblading.</p> <p>The Welch Center is also home to Lake Michigan Vintners, a commercial winery affiliated with the Wine and Viticulture program. The winery tasting room is open to the public most Fridays and Saturdays during the year.</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 areas 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. LMC's nature trail and outdoor spaces are used in youth learning/enrichment</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>activities, supporting community wellness and recreation.</p> <p>The Benton Harbor campus features a well-equipped fitness room available to students, staff, and faculty. This facility provides a convenient space for the campus community to engage in physical activity, promoting health and wellness.</p> <p>The College's beach volleyball court is available for community members to enjoy over the summer. Additionally, disc golf and pickleball have been recently made available.</p>
<p><i>(v) The community college promotes, sponsors, or hosts community service activities for students, staff, or community members.</i></p>	<p>The Seed of Hope Scholarship Fund Potluck, hosted at the South Haven Campus, raised funds for scholarships, directly benefiting the community and students.</p> <p>The College coordinates an annual Holiday Food Basket program that benefits several families in need. This program has run for over 40 years, providing food baskets to thousands of families in the community.</p> <p>The College participates in a celebration for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.</p> <p>The College hosts an annual Constitution Day celebration in September.</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 is supported by a dedicated team of community volunteers who play an integral role in the success of its events. These volunteers contribute their time and energy to ensure that each event runs smoothly, assisting with a variety of tasks such as ushering, ticketing, and providing guest services.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<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 LMC Alumni Association undertakes several service opportunities each year that include greeting students during the first week back to school, helping with resume writing and interviewing skills.</p> <p>Snack shacks, auction, MLK Celebration; partner service projects through United Way, Corewell Health, Holiday Food Basket, Rake a Difference, and many more.</p> <p>Volleyball hosts a Dig Pink event that raises funds for local cancer treatment centers.</p> <p>Student Life hosts several events to promote diverse, inclusive, personal learning throughout the year, including a Leadership Series.</p> <p>The College hosted a roundtable discussion with a panel of experts on the topic of affordable and sustainable housing in our community. Students, staff, faculty, and community members attended the event which was well received and featured in the news.</p> <p>Phi Theta Kappa participates in a variety of community service activities with community groups such as Meals on Wheels and the Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency (SMCAA).</p> <p>The Culture and Talent Success department sponsored the following service activities: LMC Eyeglasses Drive for the Lions Club, Planting Native Plants and Campus Beautification Project, Berrien County Animal Control Needs Drive, and Food Packing with SWMCAA.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>Blood drive with Versiti organized by student leaders (NSLS/PTK).</p> <p>Mental-health coalition fundraiser during “Slam Dunk Stigma.”</p> <p>An LMC History Faculty Member is the social media coordinator for the Caring Connection Auxiliary, which helps raise funds and provide services for the Cora Lamping Empowerment Center for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence, adult guardianship services, adult day services, and adult intervention services for vulnerable adults in the community.</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 collaborates with the United Way to provide free tax preparation to students and local community members.</p> <p>Nursing faculty volunteer to provide care to children ages 8-17 years old during summer diabetic camp and serve as nursing staff volunteers to community members attending vacation bible school. In addition, nursing faculty volunteer on the Board of Directors at the Readiness Center which actively trains parents to participate in their child’s education.</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"> • 100 Women Strong • American Cancer Services - Day of Caring • Berrien County Council for Children • Berrien County Suicide Prevention Coalition

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys and Girls Club • Corewell Health and Safety Committee • Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail • Michiana Public Broadcasting Corporation • Michigan State Vocal Music Association • Readiness Center • Research and Education Committee of the Michigan Wine Collaborative • Rotary Club of Greater Niles • Rotary Club St. Joseph Benton Harbor • Sarett Nature Center • South Haven Kiwanis • South Haven Rotary Club <p>Athletics helped the City of Benton Harbor by handing out water to community members.</p> <p>Athletics donated their time to read to elementary aged students.</p> <p>The softball team 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>The College's Biology faculty are actively involved in enhancing the Nature Trail, collaborating closely with other programs and Facilities Management. This partnership underscores our commitment to creating and maintaining outdoor learning environments that benefit both our students and the community.</p> <p>Phi Theta Kappa, in collaboration with the College, sponsored a food packing event with the Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency. The event saw participation from 6 employees and 8 students, who collectively packed 385 commodity food boxes. This initiative highlights our commitment to community engagement and service.</p>

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	<p>LMC promotes community engagement and service through career-focused events that benefit students, staff, and the broader community. The College continues to host career fairs, providing valuable opportunities not only for our students but also for local job seekers. These events are designed to connect individuals with potential employers, supporting career development and contributing to regional economic growth. In addition, LMC partners with the local Chamber’s Next Gen group to host a professional clothing sale, offering affordable attire for students and community members preparing for job interviews or professional settings. This partnership also includes community panels, where local professionals share their career journeys, challenges, and advice—helping students and residents build connections, gain insights, and feel supported as they navigate their own career paths. Through these efforts, LMC actively promotes community service, professional development, and inclusive access to resources.</p> <p>The College provided facilities and computer labs to support public safety officers and election officials, demonstrating our commitment to serving the needs of local professionals and ensuring the smooth operation of essential public services.</p>