

March 2023 Edition

MASON CAN UPDATE

A quarterly newsletter from
Mason County College Access Network



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MICHIGAN ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR CLASS OF 2023!

Class of 2023 graduates can qualify for the new Michigan Achievement Scholarship, which supports students who attend 2-year, 4-year colleges & universities in Michigan, and some trades program. The scholarship will be offered to students whose families have a \$25,000 EFC or less (estimated to be about 80% of households), based on the Student Aid Report provided after completing the FAFSA. Trades, 2-year, and 4-year institutions have differing rates of support, with a maximum of \$5500. Support received depends on whether a college is public or private, the total cost of attendance, and a student's remaining financial need after other grant and scholarship aid is applied. Michigan Student Aid is offering information sessions for students and families, with limited space for attendance. Here are the upcoming dates: Michigan Achievement Scholarship eligibility requirements. To prepare, students should complete their FAFSA as soon as possible, and register for an upcoming session to learn more:

- March 7 at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- March 21 at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- April 4 at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- April 18 at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- May 2 at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Register for any of the dates HERE: <https://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid/programs/michigan-achievement-scholarship/informational-session>

Not able to attend one of the informational sessions? You can find a recording of the presentation by using the above link.

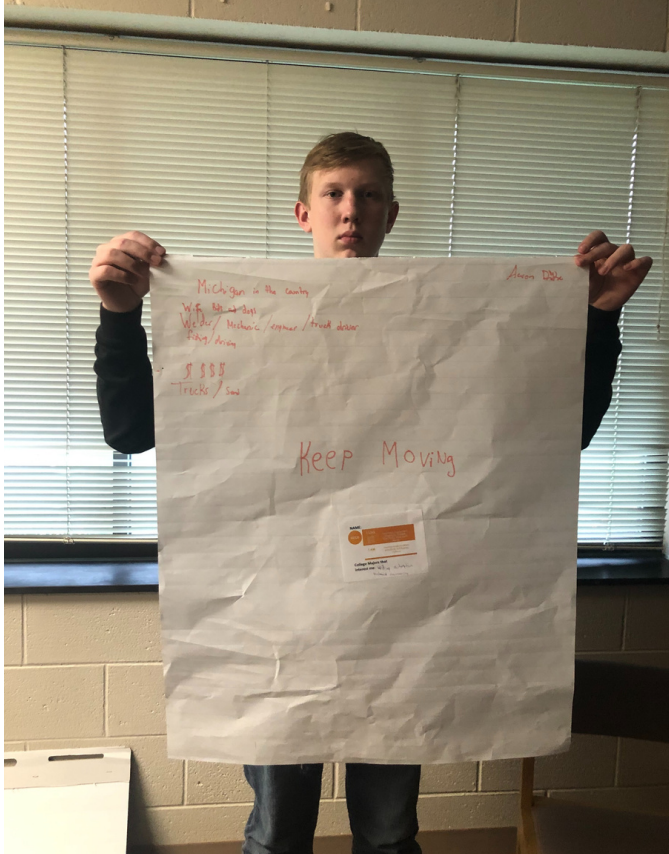
COLLEGE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM AT MCE!

For a second semester, Mason County Eastern's 9th graders are learning about college. This semester, they're acquiring new college knowledge directly from WSCC faculty. In January, 9th graders got a sampling of how business and graphic design come together by testing their entrepreneurial skills at a "Lemonade Stand" game. Professor Katie Stewart and Associate Professor Eden Foley led the sessions, sharing about how each field they teach applies to everyday life, and about careers in the fields offered. Students learned not only about those programs offered at WSCC, but they learned about their own interests and aptitudes. Here are some student takeaways:

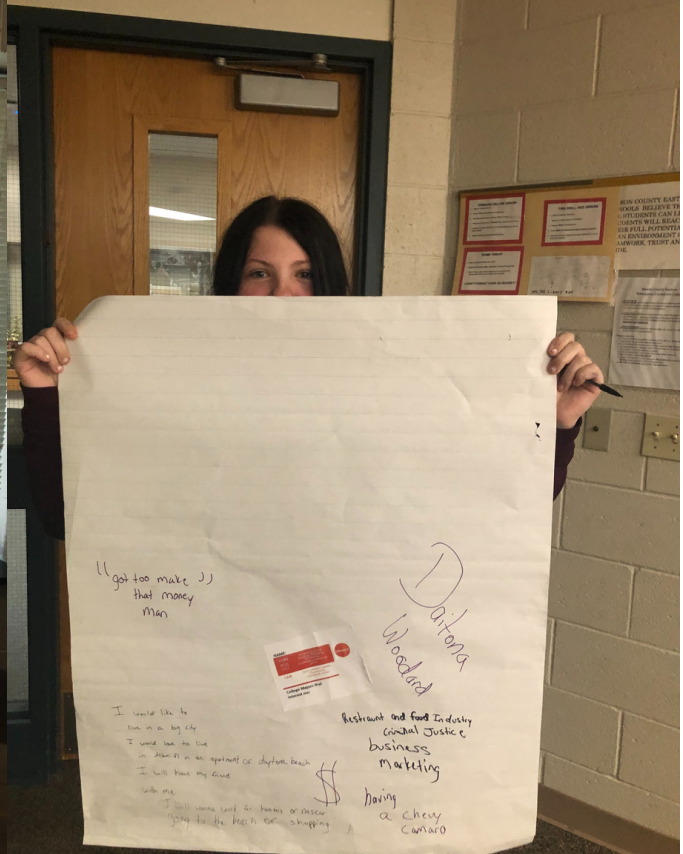
- I should be in business; I like to be focused and to be able to stay focused. -Faith
- [I learned] how to make profit money; spend money, yet make it. -Makkia
- [I should not be a business owner; I like being alone while working. -Miley
- I learned how to do business and how to work with people. -Trent
- There are lots of opportunities in a single field. -Sammi
- [I learned] how professors work. -Haley
- [I learned] how business and game design can go together. -Emily

Each month in winter semester, WSCC will continue to build College Connections at MCE. The purpose of this program is to help more students see themselves as having the potential to succeed at post-secondary education, and to have the college-knowledge to support future aspirations.

Aaron: Aspiration--to be a welder



Daitona: Potential career path: Criminal Justice



THE PROMISE & WSCC INVITE AREA SENIORS TO "SHOW UP" APRIL 12


Mason County Central and Mason County Eastern Seniors will be spending their annual state testing day a bit differently than in previous years. The State of Michigan requires all schools to provide content for their seniors of annual testing day, which falls on April 12th. This year, West Shore Community College and the Promise wanted to provide that content, in order to ensure that students are ready for their next steps after high school.

Over 70% of seniors surveyed indicated that they would like to be more financially aware for life after high school. Filer Credit Union stepped forward to help, and teamed up with the college and the Promise to host a morning "Financial Reality Fair," where students will experience a mock version of a month in the life of being employed in the career field that most interests them. The event will have them sample monthly income and expenses, complete with car payments, rent, utilities, loans and banking, insurance, and so much more.

Following the Fair, students will get to explore campus, tour facilities related to their fields of interest, meet WSCC students, and enjoy lunch courtesy of WSCC.

Volunteers are needed, so email jodym@ludington.org if you have time between 8AM and noon on April 12, and would like to be a part of a fun senior sendoff!

MARCH PROMISE INFO SESSIONS FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES




**MASON COUNTY
P R O M I S E**
A PROMISING FUTURE FOR ALL
SCHOLARSHIP

INFO SESSIONS
2023 H.S. SENIORS & FAMILIES
SESSIONS ON THURSDAYS @ 6:30
MARCH 9TH, 16TH, 23RD, & 30TH

6:30-6:45: Promise Basics
6:45-7:00: Other Requirements:
WSCC & FAFSA
7:00-7:15: Michigan Achievement
Scholarship Info
7:15-7:30: Open Q&A

To join, click this link or scan the code:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84060881352>
pwd=b2E4dnNwc0tERHBhc045MGhuNWt4dz09

Meeting ID: 840 608 8135
Passcode: 7cwwSG



Changes to the Mason County Promise Scholarship

In January 2023, the Mason County Promise has been approved to update its scholarship offerings, which now include:

- **6-Year Availability:** This is effective immediately, changing the Promise from up to four years of availability to up to six. The Promise continues to be available for up to 72 attempted credits. This is the only change retroactive to the 2018 cohort.
- **Eligible Resident Graduates:** The Promise expanded to cover resident homeschooled graduates and resident graduates who attend non-Mason County-based high school for 2023 and beyond. Limitations apply. Visit masoncountypromise.org for more information.
- **Educational Supplies Award:** The Promise added up to 2 years of support for purchasing Educational Supplies for qualifying Scholars in fall 2023 and thereafter. Deadlines and limitations apply.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: MASON COUNTY CENTRAL COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR, MAY 11TH AT MCC HIGH SCHOOL! REGISTER NOW FOR A TABLE!

Mason County Central Middle and High School will be holding an in-person College & Career Fair this year, which will include youth from MCE & G2S. Local businesses are invited to participate in this in-person event, scheduled for May 11, 2023 from 8:30 AM-Noon (early arrival requested).

Mason College Access Network will also be distributing a "Summer Jobs" Flyer to all local high school-aged youth in Mason county.

If you are interested in participating in the Career Fair at MCC and/or have jobs to list on the Summer Jobs flyer, please complete this form NO LATER THAN APRIL 28th 2023 at 5PM.

Link: <https://forms.gle/bUsuskteaqBDqEz86>



MCC
**COLLEGE &
CAREER FAIR
2023**

Employers & Professionals: Sign Up Now!
Meet MCC, MCE & G2S Middle & HS Students

MAY 11
8:30A-NOON
@MCC HS

REGISTER BY APRIL 28
Scan the code or visit the website below. Share with students about careers in your field of employment. Registration is free.
Local employers are also invited to sign up at the same time to list jobs on the Mason County Youth Summer Jobs Flyer!

Registration Here:
<https://forms.gle/kgKMJzKHDHkyUSis8>

"We must encourage students to complete at least one college application, and ensure they have the tools to do so."

RYAN FEWINS-BLISS
Executive Director of MCAN

MCAN
MICHIGAN COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

MASON COUNTY CAN SAVE THE DATE!

- **March 2023, Thursdays at 6:30:** Promise Info Sessions for prospective scholars & families. See page 3 for details
- **March 22, 10AM-Noon:** at Lakeshore Resource Network. The Leadership Team will review local goal data.
- **April 12, 8:30-Noon** at WSCC: "Show Up!" Senior Day at WSCC's campus.
- Volunteers needed (email jodym@ludington.org)
- **May 2023:** Summer Jobs Flyer for Mason County Youth is released. See the article to the left for more info.
- **May 1:** MiStudentAid deadline for state-based aid and scholarships for 2023-24.
 - Also, Decision Day--Local Schools observe seniors aspirations and celebrate their success in May, across Mason County
- **May 8:** LHS Student Job Fair
- **May 11:** MCC hosts the College & Career Fair for 7-12 graders from MCC, MCE & G2S. To sign up and showcase your career or careers in your field or at your local business or organization, please read the article to the left.
- **June 12-16:** Promise Scholarship Notices sent to graduates from class of 2023
- **July 2023:** In-person summer sessions offered at WSCC for incoming students (required for approved Promise Scholars to receive Promise Educational Supplies Award)
- **August 2023:** WSCC offers a new summer bridge program for incoming students. Students must apply and be accepted to attend. More info to come!

2023 JOB FAIR



Registration is Open!

Ludington High School Gymnasium

The Work-based Learning Program

Monday, May 8th, 2023

Session One: *for LASD students only* (12:30 - 2:30 pm)

Session Two: *open to the community* (5 - 7 pm)

The registration deadline for employers to attend is April 14th.

This event provides an opportunity for employers and job seekers to meet in one setting. Each registration includes one 8' table, three chairs, free internet and advertising, along with hundreds of students and adults to help you jumpstart your spring and summer employment needs.

All proceeds go to the LASD Work-based Learning Program. Use the QR code above to begin your registration. You will receive further details once your registration has been completed. Contact Melanie Tomaski, LASD Work-based Learning Coordinator at mtomaski@lasd.net for any questions or special accommodations.

Cost for Businesses: \$33; Cost for Non-Profits

Upcoming MCAN Events & Trainings for Leadership Teams and Educators

Visit MiCollegeAccess.org for more info!

March: As we commemorate Women's History Month, we remember that throughout history, women have had to fight for equity and the right to pursue an education. Fortunately, the number of women who pursue and attain postsecondary education has increased dramatically during the past century. However, roadblocks still exist, particularly for women of color. Across the United States, freshman college enrollment for women last fall fell by more than 3% versus 1.2% for men.

Spring Application Week: March 20-24

It's not too late for students to apply to college! Spring Application Week is at the end of March, and MCAN will be sending out various resources, including information about application fee waivers, to help to promote postsecondary opportunities and encourage college applications.

College Access Advocacy Day: March 21: MCAN invites you to join us for College Access Advocacy Day, which will be held in Lansing. This year's theme is Building on Momentum. Participants will convene, meet with legislators and policymakers, and rally around postsecondary access and attainment. The event is open to anyone who has a passion for college access and postsecondary attainment. The registration deadline is March 13.

Various dates through May: The Michigan Department of Treasury's MI Student Aid team is hosting a series of informational webinars for high school students and their families about the Michigan Achievement Scholarship. Participants will learn about eligibility requirements, award amounts, action items, and additional resources. The webinars are free and open to the public, with the next session scheduled for 6:30 p.m. March 7.

MCAN Annual Conference: Nov. 8-9: MCAN's 12th annual conference will be held at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mount Pleasant. Save the date; we hope you'll join us!

Mason CAN will have some grant funding to support representatives from our Leadership Team to attend this conference.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

WEBINAR: What's the Real Cost of College? How to Plan Now with Sallie Mae

This webinar from Sallie Mae will share strategies that can help students plan and pay for college. Learn about saving for college, how to select a college, FAFSA completion, understanding financial aid offers, how to find and apply for scholarships and grants, and more tools and resources!

Date: March 7, **Time:** 10-11 a.m.

SCECHs: This webinar was submitted for 1 SCECH in College Preparation & Selection.

LEADERSHIP: Michigan Teacher Leadership Collaborative

The Michigan Teacher Leadership Collaborative is accepting applications from outstanding Michigan teachers who want to share their expertise around equity-focused instructional practices, deepen their knowledge of education policy, and use their voice to make decisions that affect underserved students and the teaching profession. The collaborative begins in June 2023 and concludes in June 2024.

Application deadline: April 16 [Learn more and apply →](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Career Speaker Series

The Shoreline Career Collaborative is always looking for working professionals to share about their daily work, talk about careers in their fields, and provide demonstrations or activities with classrooms of all ages in Mason County and beyond. If you know of a great speaker or are a working professional interested in sharing, please help build the educator resource hub and business-connect database of local professionals willing to educate youth. Currently needed: Speakers to meet with MCE's 7th graders in April 2023.

Interested? Email wwells@westshore.edu.

April 12: Financial Reality Fair for Seniors

WSCC, the Promise and Filer Credit Union are working together to hold a financial reality fair and visit at WSCC on the morning of April 12th. The event simulates a mock month of earning and expenses in the real world. We need volunteers to help students learn about the real work by sitting at stations that represent common expenditures for working adults, like auto expenses, housing, recreation, etc.

Interested? Email jodym@ludington.org

Mason County Youth Summer Jobs Flyer

Have summer jobs available to local youth and want to get the word out? Sign up by April 28th. This flyer will be distributed to working-age youth in Mason County. Scan the code on page 4 or visit the link. Sign up: <https://forms.gle/DBWRmg1Z2L6QYWrg6>

May 11: MCC College & Career Fair, 8:30-Noon

This is not a job fair, so much as an educational fair for youth to learn about local careers and connect with professionals in various fields. Sign up by April 28th. Information and scan code on page 4.

Sign up: <https://forms.gle/DBWRmg1Z2L6QYWrg6>

May 23 & 24: WSCC, CTE & ME

This event welcomes hundreds of 3rd graders from the region to WSCC's campus to learn about how CTE opportunities can connect with career aspirations. It's a busy two day event filled with learning. Group leaders and assistants are needed.

Interested or have questions? Email wwells@westshore.edu

July 31-August 4: College for Kids at WSCC

This week-long event is just what it says, a mini college experience! Upper elementary through middle school-aged youth can sign up for two classes connected to college majors, so that they can get hands-on experience. Volunteers are needed as classroom assistants, to help with registration and more.

Interested or have questions? Email wwells@westshore.edu

2023-24 Summer & Academic Year: College Adviser Needed!

While not exactly a volunteer, being a college adviser is a paid service role as an AmeriCorps member.

MCC & MCE will share an adviser for 2023 and need candidates who are recent MSU grads or recent MCE/MCC alumni with a bachelor's degree. Visit for more info: <https://collegeadvisingcorps.msu.edu/>