

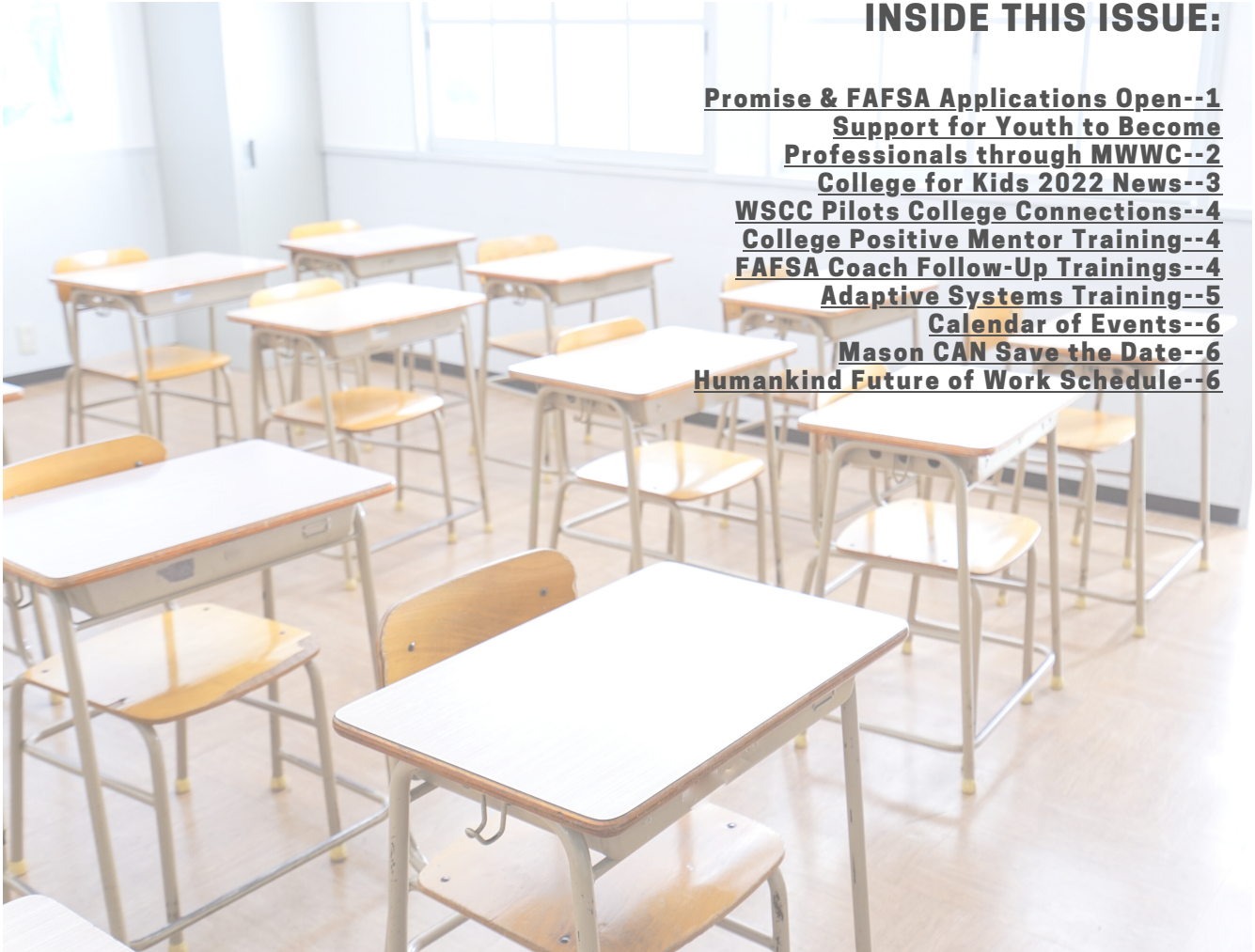
September 2022 Edition

# MASON CAN UPDATE

A quarterly newsletter from  
Mason County College Access Network

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## FAFSA & PROMISE FOR 2023

**Applications open October 1, 2022 for the Class of 2023**

Class of 2023 graduates who are prospective college students can begin their FAFSA application by starting at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) as early as October 1st. There are helpful, reliable step-by-step resources on [YouTube from the Federal Student Aid's channel](#). Local FAFSA coaches are available to support families in Mason County with this process--families can find their information on the last page of this newsletter. FAFSA renewal is also recommended for students returning to college in the 2023-24 year. For students age 23 and under, parent income information is required.

The Mason County Promise new student application also opens for class of 2023 on October 1st, and continues to be open through August 2023 for Fall 2023. Applications take about 2 minutes and are found at [MasonCountyPromise.org](https://MasonCountyPromise.org) under the [Apply/Renew/Appeal tab](#).

# YOUTH CAN ACCESS SUPPORT TO BECOME PROFESSIONALS THROUGH MICHIGAN WORKS!

Many young people have had college and career trajectories that have been thrown off course by the pandemic. Michigan Works West Central offices have programs specifically designed to connect youth to credential and career opportunities that lead to professional success.

Recently, Jonathan Eppley, from MWWC, shared about local programs that young people can access for support at the Mason County office, in the Lakeshore Resource Network on 920 E. Tinkham in Ludington, or get started at [MWWC.org](http://MWWC.org) in making an appointment with a Talent Specialist.

## Helping Young Adults Succeed!



Are you looking to build your skills and gain work experience?

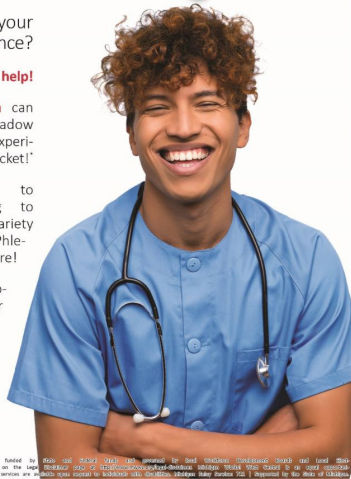
**Michigan Works! West Central can help!**

Our Young Professionals Program can provide you with virtual job shadow opportunities, real-world work experience and cash in your pocket!

We also can provide up to 2 years of training funding to earn a new skill in a wide variety of programs, such as CNA, CDL, Phlebotomy, Welding and many more!

Talk to one of our Talent Specialists today to learn more about building your current skillset and employability!

For more info, text **YOUTH** to (844) 903-1755, or visit [mwwc.org/youth](http://mwwc.org/youth).



**Michigan Works! West Central**  
(Mason County)  
920 E. Tinkham Ave.  
Ludington, MI 49431  
Phone: (231) 843-2563

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There still is time for young adults to become involved, in fact, now is the time!

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### Mason CAN: What are the focused services or supports young people can receive?

**Jonathan:** We hope to connect with youth in the region to bridge the gap between employers and the talent pipeline. By scheduling an appointment with a Talent Specialist, they can learn more about career pathways in areas where there is continued job growth. To help youth explore these pathways, young adults can participate in Talent Tours at local businesses, virtual career exploration, job shadowing and work experiences. In some cases, they may be interested in participating in training to launch them into high-wage, high-demand jobs.

### Mason CAN: Is there still opportunity for more young people to get involved?

**Jonathan:** There still is time for young adults to become involved, in fact, now is the time! We recently launched the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) program in our six-county region. We are actively looking for young adults who are interested in learning more about the labor market right here in Mason County. Through JMG, we can help provide mentors to guide students along their education, training and employment pathways, as well as discover paid work-experience options that prepare them for the future.

### Mason CAN: What other services are available to young people looking to enhance their careers?

**Jonathan:** Our Talent Specialists work with each client to create an individualized pathway to success. We are able to facilitate GED prep and testing; provide supportive services (such as assist with the cost of work materials and transportation assistance); financial literacy education; and more! Visit [MWWC.org/contact-us](http://MWWC.org/contact-us) to contact one of our six service centers today to learn more about how our programs can help you!



\* Eligibility requirements may apply. Must be between ages 18-24, and have qualifying barrier.

Mason County is a proud member of the Michigan Workforce Development Council and is proud to be a part of the Michigan Workforce Development Council. Michigan Works! West Central is a proud member of the Michigan Workforce Development Council. Michigan Works! West Central is a proud member of the Michigan Workforce Development Council.

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# WSSC COLLEGE FOR KIDS 2022



West Shore Community College hosted College for Kids in July 2022, continuing a tradition of over 30 years of welcoming youth, ages 9-15, to campus for a week. College for Kids offers hands-on courses that are linked to college programs. Courses, such as pond ecosystems, theater, and welding, are led by paid faculty from WSSC and around the area. This year, recognizing its commitment to local student success, the Mason County Promise Zone Board offered to fund scholarships for youth from Mason County. Other area foundations, and organizations contributed to help cover costs of lunches and bussing. This meant that 137 Mason County youth participated in College for Kids at no cost!

College for Kids allows students to take a morning and an afternoon class each day, and the courses vary from year to year. This year's most in-demand courses were Crime Scene Investigation and Culinary Calculations. After a week of a classroom full of mixed-age youth, someone might expect that everyone would be tired, but instead, they're inspired! One instructor shared, "this is what teaching should be like!" One participant explained their experiences by saying, "I met new people and got to make skits to my heart's content. This place inspired me. I will consider, most definitely, coming back."

Parents also feel that the week-long trips to campus were positive experiences, and worth coming back for each year. One parent, new to the program, stated, "This was the first year my child attended and we couldn't have been more pleased. Everything was very well put together and managed. The security requirements at pick up were a huge plus as well. So pleased to see that taken seriously. The talent show was such a fun way to end the week! We are again so thankful for the opportunity. Thank you to everyone involved in making this happen. Hats off to you all! Well done!! Looking forward to next year!"

Wendy Wells, Talent Pipeline Coordinator, and Cara Mitchell, from College Relations at WSSC coordinate College for Kids and promote the annual educational event through social media and flyers at local schools. They are always looking for more volunteers and support. For more information on the program, visit: <https://www.westshore.edu/community/college-for-kids/> or email: [collegeforkids@westshore.edu](mailto:collegeforkids@westshore.edu)

## **WSCC PILOTS COLLEGE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM AT MASON COUNTY EASTERN**

After meeting with a group of Mason County Eastern High School seniors in May 2022, Jody Maloney, the Mason CAN specialist and Promise Director, learned from students that they often chose to pursue Career & Technical Education courses rather than dual enrollment because they believed they'd be less successful in college classes and they didn't want to take risks.

Making early college decisions is challenging. Many students don't see college success stories reflected in their own families or communities, which may lead them to choose careers that don't require college, even though they have ample talent. Without reliable information about college and authentic interactions with college faculty and staff, talented students might avoid opportunities to pursue early college attend college at all.

Motivated by the MCAN slogan, "College Is for Everyone" and the Promise goal to get more students through college, Maloney met with West Shore Community College Admissions Director, Annie Jacobson, and Dean of Arts & Sciences, Darby Johnsen, to explore options for educating younger students about college before they must make college-going decisions.

Johnsen and Jacobson felt strongly that connecting students with WSCC staff and faculty would help students see themselves as college material at any institution, and would help dispel myths about college. In partnership with MCE educators Shelly Rife and Dena Thurston, they launched a monthly "College Connections" pilot program.

MCE 9th graders will meet with WSCC Staff to learn about college basics in the the fall. In the winter, students will connect with WSCC faculty, who will share mini-lecture courses to give students an idea of how engaging and accessible college can be.

WSCC hopes to expand the program to other districts as early as 2023.

## **FREE COLLEGE ACCESS TRAININGS FOR MASON COUNTY**

### **College Positive Mentor Training**

In person or virtual, Oceana County location TBD  
**October 25, 2022 (9:00 am- 12:00)**

Receive resources to guide conversations with students and families on how to access college and make connections to local training and funding opportunities.

### **Student Aid Report Review and Verification**

#### **Virtual uAspire training**

**November 17, 2022 (9:00 am - 10:30)**

Navigate students through the many steps and common challenges of FAFSA follow-up, including Student Aid Report (SAR) review and the confusing, often burdensome, verification process.

### **Financial Aid Offer Review**

#### **Virtual uAspire training**

**January 19, 2022 (9:00 am - 10:30)**

Help students accurately compare college costs and make an informed college choice by analyzing their financial aid offers. Practice using uAspire's College Cost Calculator with real aid offers and student case studies.

### **TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FREE TRAININGS:**

Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/wNwafNk9j1Vrx9Db8> or Scan:



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## **ADAPTIVE SYTEMS TRAINING OFFERED FOR STUDENT-SERVING PROFESSIONALS & ORGANIZATIONS**

Thanks to the West Shore ESD, the Mason County Promise Zone is able to offer the Adaptive Schools training, a four-day training, at no cost to local participants. The training has been adapted to serve professionals from educational foundations, community-based foundations that serve youth and students, and other local organizations that address the needs of young people.

The launch of the training will be two full-day sessions in early October, followed by three shorter sessions in late October through early December. An in-depth description is below.

Jenny Orton of Pausing Matters, LLC., and a WSESD Consultant, will facilitate the sessions.

The training is designed with the expectation that participants will attend all sessions, but there can be flexibility. Up to 40 seats are available for local participants. Read below for more information. To RSVP, please email [info@masoncountypromise.org](mailto:info@masoncountypromise.org) by Friday, September 30th.

### **DATES, TIMES & LOCATIONS:**

#### **Kickoff:**

- **October 3 & 4, 8:30 AM-3:30 PM, West Shore ESD (w/Lunch)**

#### **Additional required sessions:**

- **October 26: 2:00-6:00 PM, Lakeshore Resource Network (LRN)**
- **November 18 (w/Lunch): 9:00AM-1:00PM, LRN (w/Lunch)**
- **December 12 (w/Lunch): 8:30AM-2:30PM, LRN (w/Lunch)**

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## ADAPTIVITY

Human organizations and individuals can be adapted to a specific niche or can become adaptive, flexing to meet the challenges of a changing world. To be adaptive means to change form while clarifying identity. Form can be the ways we structure our organizations and the ways in which we do our work. New challenges require new and increasingly flexible forms. Identity is about who we believe we are as an organization and as professionals.

School-wide improvements in student learning accrue in schools whose work cultures are collaborative. The growing body of work on the impact of collaborative adult professional cultures in schools offers a positive and productive means for organizing the work of on-going school improvement. In such cultures, professionals learn to talk about the hard-to-talk-about details of learning, teaching, assessment and the cumulative effects of their work with students. Productive teams are developed, not born.

The Adaptive Schools Foundation and Advanced Seminars present a productive, practical set of ideas and tools for developing collaborative groups in becoming effective and better equipped to resolve complex issues around student learning. The work of the Adaptive Schools Seminars is to develop the resources and capacities of the organization and of individuals to cohesively respond to the changing needs of students and society.

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## FOUNDATION SEMINAR

The training not only explores what makes teams effective, but how to develop skills as facilitators and informed group members in informal and formal settings, in small and large groups. It takes participants beyond the idea of professional learning communities to the actual implementation, describing specific ways to weave the collaborative fabric of a faculty, develop group member skills, and acquire the principles and understandings to engage in a continuous cycle of team and individual improvement. Adaptive Schools is the "how" of professional learning communities: how to behave in groups, how to lead them, and how to facilitate them for improved leading, teaching, and learning.

In the four-day Adaptive Schools Foundation Seminar, participants will develop:

- An increased capacity to initiate, develop and sustain high functioning groups
  - New lenses for diagnosing the stages and phases of group development
  - An expanded repertoire of practical facilitation tools
  - Understandings of when and how to engage groups in dialogue and discussion, the limitations, forms and values of each
  - Skills to move groups beyond consensus to common focus
  - Ways to value and use dissension, argument and conflict
  - Strategies for keeping group members on track, on topic, energized and resourceful
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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FALL COLLEGE ACCESS EVENTS

September 2022: Michigan College Savings Month--learn about State Educational [529 plans \(MiSaves.com\)](#) and Mason County Community Foundation's own [KickStart to Career program](#).

September 27, 10:30-1PM: WSCC College & Career Fair for local high school and college students at West Shore Community College

September 28, 10AM-Noon: Mason CAN Leadership Team Meeting, Lakeshore Resource Network

October 2022: College Month in Michigan! Most public institutions waive application costs this month. Students should reach out to their local high school counselor or College Adviser for more information and support.

October 1, 2022: The 2023-24 FAFSA Application opens for new students and renewing students; The Mason County Promise Scholarship application opens for Class of 2023; Mason County Community Foundation Scholarship applications open.

October 3, 8:30 AM: Adaptive Systems Training Kickoff, WSESD (see newsletter for more info).

October 25: College Positive Mentor Training, Hart (see newsletter for more info).

November 9-10: [Michigan College Access Network Annual Conference, Soaring Eagle Resort.](#)

November 17, 9-10:30 AM: FAFSA Follow-up Training (see newsletter for more info).

For more MCAN related events, trainings and webinars that offer SCHECH's for educators, visit: <https://micollegeaccess.org/events/webinar-series>

## MASON COUNTY CAN LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING: SAVE THE DATE!

September 28, 10AM-Noon at Lakeshore Resource Network

The Leadership Team will be exploring developing a local attainment goal for now through 2030.

Did you know that over 12,000 local residents are projected to retire over the next decade, and only 3,000 young people are projected to join our workforce during that same time in Mason county?

We'll discuss this and other interesting numbers from local community data.

## THE FUTURE OF WORK



### Asking Better Questions About the Future of Work

William M. Anderson Library  
7:00pm

After more than two years in a once-in-a-century pandemic, Covid has changed the way we work. For instance, nearly 50% of Americans still work from home during part of each workweek. So, what exactly is the future of work? Year six of West Shore Community College's humankind series will explore this question from multiple perspectives. Representative topics will include remote work, "the great resignation," shortening the work week, work/life balance, full time vs. part work, and the role of work in the meaning of life.

09.08.2022

### After Work: Recovering Virtue Beyond the Selfish System

Zoom: [bit.ly/humankindfall22](https://bit.ly/humankindfall22)  
7:00pm

West Shore Community College's humankind series is pleased to announce the event, "After Work: Recovering Virtue Beyond the Selfish System," a presentation by University of Iowa Professor, Dr. Benjamin Hunnicutt. Professor Hunnicutt is a historian at the University of Iowa. He has spent most of his career attempting to understand why Americans work so much when the goal of human progress has always been to increase the amount of time devoted to leisure and recreation.

09.14.2022

### The Past, Present, and Future of Work

Zoom: [bit.ly/humankindfall22](https://bit.ly/humankindfall22)  
7:00pm

This event embodies the best of what the humankind series is all about; examining the topic of work from historical, psychological, and technological points of view to deepen our understanding of the possibilities that exist for the future of work. This multi-disciplinary approach will also help us recognize important connections between the ways different academic disciplines approach topics like work. Overall, audience members will leave this panel discussion with an enriched perspective on the world of work yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

10.05.2022

### Who's working remotely? How technology and the pandemic has changed the nature of the workplace.

Zoom: [bit.ly/humankindfall22](https://bit.ly/humankindfall22)  
7:00pm

Engage in a panel discussion regarding the impact of remote work on employers, employees, and entrepreneurs. Scott Smith, president of Smith & Eddy Insurance, Natalie Grochowski, author and teacher, and Ben and Rachel DeBeck, auto insurance and staffing consultant will participate in the panel sharing their opinions on the idea of the future of work. Learn from their experiences, hear multiple perspectives, and discuss several pro's and con's to working remotely.

11.14.2022

### Vogue Film Series

The Vogue Theater  
Manistee, MI

Enjoy a mini film series at the Vogue Theatre in Manistee in connection with its theme of the year, the future of work. Below is the list of films with showing dates:

10/05/2022: Modern Times (1936) @ 10am & 7pm  
10/11/2022: Radium Girls (2018) @ 7pm  
10/21/2022: Snowpiercer (2013) @ 7pm  
10/26/2022: American Psycho (2000) @ 10am & 7pm

various