

MASON CAN UPDATE

NEWS FROM THE MASON COUNTY
COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

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Mason CAN Initiatives

College Cash Campaign: The Promise/Mason CAN coordinator plans to attend high school conferences at MCE, MCC and LHS, representing the Promise Scholarship, and sharing about all things related to paying for college. Encourage your students and their families to stop by.

FAFSA Challenge: Completion Goal: 75%

Mason County high schools are trending down on the FAFSA Tracker, but there is much hard work being done by counselors, teachers and students behind the scene. The good news is that we still have time! While FAFSA can be completed anytime before a student starts college,

Michigan recommends by March 1st because that is the deadline for students to be eligible for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship. Receiving TIP funds is also reliant upon FAFSA submission, not necessarily completion: Per MiSSG, students who complete through the residency portion of FAFSA can then access TIP funds if eligible. This is helpful for students who may struggle to get parental information. Did you know: 50% of TIP eligible students never apply--that's 25% of all graduates in Michigan who could have paid tuition! Completing FAFSA early also maximizes availability of other Michigan-based financial aid. Students can call MiSSG to sign up or use the Portal: 1-888-447-2687 or www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid

Post-Secondary Goals: 75% Enrollment in 6 months & 60% Completion by 2030

Mason CAN had the goal of 60% by 2025, but we're adjusting our goal to 60% post-secondary completion by 2030 to align with the new statewide goal. In 2017 & 2018, the 6-month Post-Secondary Enrollment rate declined in Mason County, according to MiSchoolData. This highlights why it is as important as ever to focus on growing Mason County's college-going culture, on supporting cradle-to-career initiatives that encourage career exploration and college achievement, and on embracing that college is possible for all of Mason County.

Highlights from the First 2020 Mason CAN Leadership Team Meeting

The Mason CAN's Leadership Team met on January 6th for its first meeting of 2020. This meeting wrapped up the final work of the MCAN Implementation Grant. Jessica Soja from Michigan College Access Network walked the Leadership Team through MCAN's new initiatives (SEE PAGE 3). Soja also clarified MCAN's principles that College is:

- Any Post-Secondary Education: Trade Credentials, Certifications & Degrees!
- Necessary: A college credential increases lifelong earnings and improves outcomes.
- For Everyone: All students deserve access to a variety of college & career options.
- A Public Good: Michigan benefits when its citizens achieve more!

The Team reviewed the current state of Mason CAN, opportunities for future growth with the Promise and Talent Team, and briefly discussed next steps.

Visit us! Mason County CAN
has a new website:

MasonCountyCAN.org

Like us! Follow us!

We're also on Facebook &

Instagram: [MasonCountyCAN](https://www.instagram.com/MasonCountyCAN)

Michigan Tuition Grant Is Back!!

This grant is worth up to \$2800 for students who have financial need and are attending independent non-profit colleges in Michigan. Go to the Michigan Student Aid website for more information:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid>

Michigan College Access Network Opportunities

MCAN is hiring! Check out the MCAN website for news about their growth!

<http://www.micollegeaccess.org/>

2020 Annual MCAN Conference: This two-day conference at the Kellogg Center in Lansing on March 26-27th is great professional development for counselors, offering 11 SCHECHs if you attend the entire conference!

LCAN2020 will get you a discount, and the early bird rate of \$195 is offered until Feb 15.

Professional Development Webinar:

The next MCAN webinar offering is on "Credentialing Soft Skills." This one-hour webinar will be offered Feb. 4, 2020 at 11 a.m. by presenter Cari Bushinski, Register at the MCAN website.

Grants are ongoing--find them on MCAN's site.

Mason CAN 2020 & Beyond...

Mason County's College Access Network is funded both by grants and generous support from donors. We are in the third phase of our network, which means we need ongoing support from our community to sustain and continually improve the network. As part of the Continuous Improvement (CI) planning process, our Community Reinforcement Action Team has identified opportunities for growth in the following areas:

- **Common Agenda:** Selecting priorities; collective advocacy for goals and LCAN work; using goals and shared data to inform decision making and identify opportunities
- **Mutually Reinforcing Activities:** Aligning the network & increasing collaborative efforts; Scaling successful programs; Forming Action Teams strategically to support goal attainment; Creating an Interactive Asset Map as a Community
- **Continuous Communication:** Sharing systematic updates on LCAN progress & measures; Developing a shared sense of ownership; Focusing on collective effort toward improvement

The CI grant focuses on one main area over one year. Mason CAN welcomes your feedback related to this, and will be happy to buy coffee if you've got 30 minutes to discuss your vision for improving Mason's College Access Network. Contact the coordinator, Jody Maloney using the information at the bottom of this page:

DID YOU KNOW?

MASON COUNTY TEENS SAY THAT

ACADEMIC STRESS

IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE THEY FACE?

Tackle your Stress!



Make To-Do Lists Daily and Assign a Time for Each Item Using your Planner or Phone Calendar

.....
Put Reminders in your Phone for Assignment Due Dates, instead of Keeping Everything in Your Memory

.....
Set Aside Time to Relax. Plan for It. If Your Schedule Is Always Busy, Make an Appointment with Yourself for "Down Time."

.....
Plan to Do Light Exercise Daily. If You Don't Already Have Exercise Built into Your Schedule, Find Time for a Daily Walk or Hike.



Reward Yourself! Celebrate Homework Completion or Chapters Finished with a Short Break for Gaming, Reading for Fun, Social Media or Whatever You Consider a Reward!

.....
Sleep on a Regular Schedule--Even If It Means Getting up Early and Going to Sleep Early on the Weekends. Human Bodies Rely on a Consistent Sleep Schedule for Health and Clear Thinking.

.....
Get Outdoors in the Daytime! Daylight and Nature Are Beneficial for Health and Can Help to Reduce Stress!



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