

MASON CAN UPDATE

NEWS FROM THE MASON COUNTY
COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

APRIL 2020 UPDATE

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MCAN COVID-19 Response Grants

\$10k Grants for Communities: Michigan College Access Networks invites communities and LCANs to submit for up to \$10,000 for community-based initiatives to support post-secondary support during the pandemic. Mason CAN will submit its first request for funding in late April.

\$2,500 for High Schools:

Michigan High Schools are invited to request up to \$2,500 from MCAN for supporting college readiness or transitions for their students during the pandemic. To submit an application, visit Mlcollegeaccess.org/grants; If you need support with your request, contact jodym@ludington.org

College Fair Opportunities for Juniors

There are some great virtual events that Juniors can take advantage of coming up in the near future.

April 27-30: "Strive Virtual College Exploration"
<https://www.strivescan.com/virtual/>

May 4-6: "Navigate 2020 Virtual Conference & College Fair"
<https://virtual.gotocollegefairs.com/>

May 5-7: "Promoting the Publics: Michigan Spring College Fair"
<https://collegefairsonline.com/mi-student-reg/>

For more opportunities, follow MasonCountyCAN on facebook, or visit us on the web at MasonCountyCAN.org

College & COVID-19 Info for Seniors

Michigan's Decision Day will take place virtually, April 27-May 8. Seniors are

encouraged to post their decision on social media with **#IDECIDED**, Colleges are also supporting seniors with their own individual events that can be found here: shorturl.at/mwCOS or on Mason CAN's facebook page.

College Virtual Q&A for Mason County Seniors: WSCC on April 30@3PM, GVSU on May 4@3PM, & Ferris on May7@3PM. Seniors can sign up at <https://masoncountycan.org/resources-for-students>

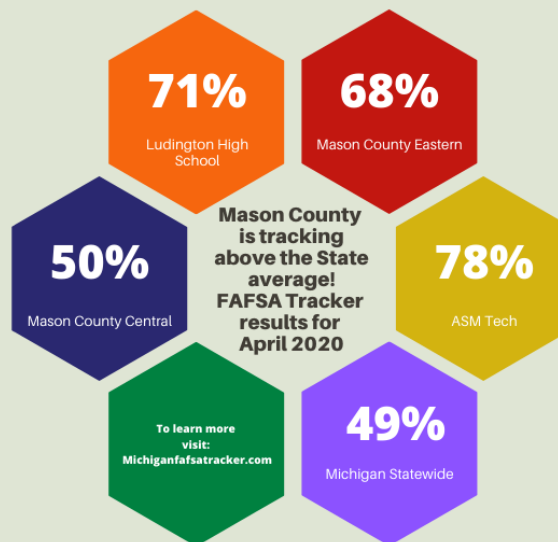
Summer Jobs Fair for High School Students

The Mason CAN's Summer Jobs Fair originally scheduled for April 23rd was cancelled due to the pandemic-related school closure, but our local workforce is committed to working through the ongoing challenges. The Summer Jobs Fair employer contact information was sent to area schools in mid-April and can also be found at MasonCountyCAN.org

Mason County CAN
has added new resources
to MasonCountyCAN.org
Visit us! Like us! Follow us!
We're also on Facebook &
Instagram:
[@MasonCountyCAN](https://www.instagram.com/MasonCountyCAN)

MasonCountyCAN.org Updates!

Keep an eye on MasonCountyCAN.org, the website for Mason County College Access Network. Updates are happening regularly, and our COVID-19 related resources include access to scholarship info, high school counselor resources, student specific resources and resources for current college students. If you have a suggestion for our website, email jodym@ludington.org



FAFSA is ON TRACK! Congratulations!

Mason CAN 2020 Update

Mason County's College Access Network's final report was accepted by MCAN, and a new grant phase will begin soon. MCAN is going to revisit it's Common Agenda between for 2021, and will work on the following:

- **Common Agenda:** Creating a framework for collective advocacy for goals and LCAN grant measures, which includes revisiting Mason CAN's post-secondary goals to decide if they are what is most needed for Mason County, and aligning new and existing Action Teams to do the work needed to move the needle on goal progress for Mason CAN.
- **Shared Measurement:** Developing a system of shared accountability among the leadership team members to track data, plan initiatives and follow up on progress.
- **Mutually Reinforcing Activities:** Aligning the network with our newest partner organization, the Mason County Promise Zone, updating our asset map to include comprehensive community resources for post-secondary access & achievement.
- **Continuous Communication:** Developing a system of regular communication between the Leadership Team, Action Team, Coordinator and Mason CAN constituencies across Mason County.
- **Backbone Infrastructure:** Solidifying existing partnerships and planning for funding and personnel management, with the intent of creating a long-term plan

Mason County Promise Senior Survey

47 Seniors have completed the Promise Zone's senior survey about current concerns and college plans, and existing questions. 2/3rds of Mason County's High School Seniors have applied for the Promise Scholarship. Students can apply at MasonCountyPromise.org

- 68% of seniors indicated that they're currently planning to attend WSCC.
- 26% of seniors plan to attend another Michigan post-secondary institution.
- 4% plan to attend a college, university or trade school outside of Michigan.
- 2% are still figuring out their plans.

Most respondents indicated that their post-high school plans have not changed due to the current pandemic or resulting stay-home orders.

Several students shared that they felt nervous or unsure about finishing up current high school responsibilities and about their next steps toward college.

Seniors indicated that they really want to see their friends and beloved teachers one last time. About half of respondents shared that they would like to have the chance to celebrate their graduation traditionally, even if it is later in the year, while the other half shared ideas that would honor social distancing like a virtual graduation, a car parade, a football field graduation with all graduates six-feet apart, or compiling a video of individual graduates in cap-and-gown into one presentation that can be shared with the entire class and their families.



QUESTIONS? Contact: Jody
Email: Jodym@ludington.org
Phone: 231-239-8224
Web: MasonCountyCAN.org

Virtual College Admission Q&A for High School Seniors

hosted by Mason CAN, Oceana CAN & Launch Manistee

Q&A with West Shore Community College

Thursday, April 30 | 3-3:30 PM

featuring Director of Admissions, Anne Jacobson

Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/Au2XwfuUgCin7LrTA>

(To Join by Phone: 1 316-416-2590 PIN: 268 390 454#)

Q&A with Grand Valley State University

Monday May 4 | 3-3:30 PM

Featuring Asst. Director Michael Eichberger

Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/bMbUQGyvE7MsGUoy7>

(To Join by Phone: 1 415-862-8837 PIN: 664 219 393#)

Q&A with Ferris State University

Thursday, May 7 | 3-3:30 PM

Featuring: Omar Gonzalez, FSU Senior Coordinator of Recruitment

Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/fMtYMkPxxvQruYkZPA>

(you can also Join by Phone: 646 876 9923)

What to expect:

- Learn updates related to orientation & class registration
- Find out about fall semester highlights & opportunities for incoming first-year students
- Ask your questions (Submit in advance using the links above to ensure that you are heard!)



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Network

Questions? Email:
JodyM@ludington.org or
call 231-239-8224




OCEANA COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

WHY TO CONSIDER COLLEGE IN 2020

MORE DISTANCE OPTIONS COULD MEAN GREATER SAVINGS!

Colleges and Universities are still determining whether to offer class virtually or traditionally in the fall, and some are building in flex plans to allow for both options. If you're going to be a first-year student in fall 2020, learning from home could mean huge savings on room and board!

REMOTE RESOURCES FOR RURAL STUDENTS



Transitioning to college is tough, but now there are more options than ever to connect to campus through virtual tours, web-based admissions appointments, and online orientation without the travel requirements.

MORE AID THAN EVER

The U.S. Department of Education has issued unprecedented amounts of money to help students pay for college in 2020. They have also given colleges more flexibility to individualize student financial assistance to keep college possible. This is great for incoming and returning students! Now is the time to ask for the aid award that you need to attend!

TEST OPTIONAL ADMISSIONS ARE INCREASING

Higher education was already considering test optional at many institutions, but our national pandemic has compelled colleges to rethink test score requirements to make college possible for more students. This is great if the SAT was not your best day!

EARLY ENROLLMENT

Colleges and Universities are ramping up post-high school summer enrollment options to help incoming students try out virtual learning and get the college experience started early. Many schools are doing this at reduced tuition rates since financial aid isn't available in the summer after graduation.

SECURITY IN AN UNSTABLE JOB MARKET

During downturns in the job market, college-graduates stay employed at higher rates than those with little or no college education. This appears to be true for 2020 as well. A gap year is a good option in times of high employment, but college is the best security option for income in the long-term.

MORE HELP THAN EVER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

It's normal for students to come to campus with mental health and socio-emotional needs. The good news is that the 2020 pandemic has helped campuses to deliver a greater range of personal support services to help students maintain and improve their mental health so they can focus on learning.

IT'S STILL YOUR DREAM!

Tough times call for tough decisions, and sticking to goals and dreams during a crisis is a tougher decision than backing down. If college always was your plan, don't change it in the face of a new challenge. Students can double down on determination and work with campus admissions professionals to ask for what they need to pursue their dream. Campuses around the country are focused, flexible and motivated to help college access happen!



HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SPRING COLLEGE CHECKLIST

- KEEP UP GRADES** YOUR COLLEGE REQUIRES YOU TO SEND YOUR FINAL HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT TO VERIFY GPA
- SAVE FOR BOOKS** COLLEGES EXPECT YOU TO HAVE THE MONEY TO PAY FOR TEXTBOOKS, WHICH CAN BE \$100-\$500
- APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS** IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LOOK FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS! KEEP TRYING!
- COMMIT TO A COLLEGE** MAY 1ST IS "DECISION DAY"--STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE THEIR COLLEGE CHOICE
- DISCUSS FINANCIAL AID** AWARDS LETTERS ARE SENT SHORTLY AFTER ACCEPTANCE--CHOOSE A PAYMENT PLAN & BUDGET
- SIGN-IN ONLINE** IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION WILL BE SENT THROUGH CAMPUS EMAIL--CHECK OFTEN!
- SIGN UP FOR ORIENTATION** SELECT HOUSING & ORIENTATION USING YOUR CAMPUS ACCOUNT. CHOOSE AN EARLY DATE!
- SIGN LOAN PAPERWORK** NEED A STUDENT LOAN? TO GET IT, COMPLETE A "PROMISSORY NOTE" WITH FINANCIAL AID.

HOW HIGH SCHOOL DURING A PANDEMIC PREPARES YOU FOR COLLEGE

1

Self-Direction!

In college, a class, lab, or lecture's purpose is to explore topics in depth, but the majority of learning happens outside of the classroom on your time. Social distancing helps you practice this.

2

Building Routine!

In high school, your days are structured for you. In quarantine, your time is more like a college day, where you have to build your own routine to stay on task. Create a schedule for when to complete work & study!

3

Reaching Out!

College professors set up office hours, just like many teachers are doing right now. This is a time for you to reach out to get support or clarification for class. Practice recognizing when you need help and ask for it!

4

Using your Strengths!

The transition to college challenges students to understand what they're good at and how they can overcome stress, meet new demands, and build good academic habits. How you approach high school during this pandemic can help you understand what strengths you have for college.

5

Tapping into Resources!

Right now, teachers can't see you daily, so their roles are more like professors--to guide you, and hope you communicate if you're struggling. In college, emailing professors, accessing tutoring, seeking out counseling, and connecting with helpful organizations is student-driven. You can do this!

6

Challenging Yourself!

College is 100% about the effort you put into it, and how you take advantage of your own intellect, and of the tools and resources provided by your Professor and school. Your high school experience right now can prepare you for this, so embrace the challenge! Best of luck!