

Community Colleges Local Strategic Value – Montcalm Community College

October 14, 2025

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) The community college has active partnerships with local employers including hospitals and health care providers.	MCC partners with more than 20 entities and 50 different units to provide clinical experiences for health career students. This includes the Corewell Health System- Grand Rapids and Greenville, My-Michigan Health System – Alma, University of Michigan Sparrow System - Carson, Ionia, and Lansing, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, Forest View Hospital, Cedar Creek Hospital, Mary Free Bed, Trinity Health, Sheridan Hospital, Ciena Health System - Laurel's of Kent and Carson, SKLD, University of Michigan West, and the Department of Corrections. MCC also works with other health care organizations, like the Mid-Michigan District Health Department, Montcalm Area ISD and Greenville Public schools to provide educational clinical experience. In 2021, the Nursing program implemented the use of a new mobile health trailer for blood pressure screenings and health education in the community. In 2024 & 2025, the mobile health trailer visited the "Touch a Truck" event held at Belding Public Schools. We provided health education for elementary students: nutrition, human anatomy, and exercise. In Fall 2025, MCC launched its Exercise Science program. The Exercise Science AAS program is designed to prepare students with industry-recognized certifications and degrees that directly meet regional workforce needs. By partnering with hospitals, fitness centers, wellness organizations, and sports programs, MCC will provide students with impactful internships and tailored practicum opportunities. The development of the CHAMPS Laboratory (Centurion Health, Activity, Movement, and Performance in Sport) will offer clinical lab

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	education, athletic testing, performance analysis, and applied experiences for students while supporting MCC athletics and regional sports teams. In addition, a mobile wellness trailer will bring health services to area schools and events, further strengthening MCC's role as a trusted partner in advancing workforce development and community wellness. MCC has an active apprenticeship program with over 20 local manufacturers. Currently, MCC has over 100 apprentices employed by over 20 local manufacturers and offers certificate programs to train the future workforce. MCC partners with West Michigan Works! to provide Registered Apprenticeship opportunities, but many students choose to take classes paid for by their employer. MCC supports local employers in partnership with The Right Place, Inc., Montcalm Economic Alliance, and Ionia County Economic Alliance by conducting workforce development training, such as Master Supervisory training, using the federal One Workforce (H1-B) or the Michigan New Jobs Training grants
(ii) The community college provides customized on-site training for area companies, employees, or both.	MCC regularly offers PLC (Allen Bradley and Siemens) training; FANUC and Kuka robotics training; Tig and food grade welding training, basic computer training, basic blueprint reading and measurement training, GD&T training, Excel/Access training, sales training, MIOSHA, Lean, Quality management, internal audit, plant design, coaching, and CNC training to many local businesses including local manufacturers and local health care facilities. MCC also partners with the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (MMTC) to provide other training as needed. MCC provides directed study/internship opportunities and programs to business and industry representatives.
(iii) The community college supports entrepreneurship through a small business assistance center or other training, or consulting activities targeted toward small businesses.	MCC has a credit program in entrepreneurship and offers non-credit classes in numerous areas to support small business owners and entrepreneurs. MCC hosts SBDC counseling at the Greenville campus and offers free classes with the SBDC and SBA for starting a business and developing a business plan. The College hosts a Small Business Forum, in partnership with West Michigan Works, to provide lending information and business development support to local businesses. The college also provides

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	free computer use, free use of business plan software, and many other free business resources to the community.
(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.	MCC's Greenville campus includes an open lab for technological training. This location includes FANUC robotics training, ABB robotics training, Kuka Robotics training, and CISCO network training. Other training provided includes hydraulics, pneumatics, PLCs, CNC, CMM, and computer support. MCC's Greenville campus offers advanced training in electronics, robotics, machine tool, welding (including virtual welding trainers), robotic welding, and motors and controls. MCC also has a mid-size FANUC tear-down robot for lock-out/tag-out and repair and rebuild. To increase access to skilled trades opportunities, MCC is expanding offerings at the Sidney campus, including HVAC/R in the Fall of 2024. Other programs and courses are being reviewed with faculty and local CTE (Career and Technical Education) and industry partners. MCC partners with local employers and workforce development agencies to host industry events to highlight technology, trends, and industry-specific topics.
(v) The community college has active partnerships with local or regional workforce and economic development agencies.	MCC partners with Montcalm Economic Alliance, Ionia County Economic Alliance, and The Right Place, Inc. workforce development agencies, as well as West Michigan Works, to provide various programs, trainings services, and collaborative endeavors. Corrections Officer training is one example. MCC is currently working with Carson City Correctional Facility to offer 15 credit hours of classes, in one semester, to corrections officers who need it to remain employed at the facility. MCC hosts monthly meetings where our economic development partners and workforce development professionals meet to coordinate services to area employers.
Category B: Educational Partnerships (must meet 4 of 5)	
(i) The community college has active partnerships with regional high schools, intermediate school	MCC provides dual enrollment opportunities (both MTA focused and career/occupational opportunities)

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
districts, and career-tech centers to provide instruction through dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, direct credit, middle college, or academy programs.	to all seven Montcalm County high schools, and four high schools in Ionia County, two high schools in both Gratiot and Berrien counties, three Christian schools, one high school in both Kent and Berrien counties, one virtual academy, and one aviation academy. In total, MCC currently services 819 Dual Enrolled and 47 Early College students during the Fall 2025 semester from 32 high schools. The 2024-2025 Academic Year had an unduplicated headcount for dual-enrolled students of 789. MCC partners with the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District to operate an Early College on MCC's campus that serves students from most local high schools. MCC has articulation agreements with the Montcalm Area Career Center, Gratiot – Isabella Technical Center, Ionia County Career Center, Saranac High School, Greenville High School, Newaygo Schools, Mecosta – Osceola Career Center, and Lakeview High School. MCC partners with Michigan State University to offer associate degrees in Agribusiness and Agricultural Operations, which have articulations back into the career centers. MCC is committed to seamless educational pathways that increase student opportunity and success. Through dual enrollment with local high schools, students can earn college credit and transition smoothly into higher education. These partnerships also serve as recruitment pipelines, encouraging students to continue their studies at MCC. Strong articulation agreements, including 2+2 transfer programs, ensure that students pursuing advanced degrees in health and human performance can do so without barriers. The program's focus on certifications provides flexible entry and exit points, ensuring that students at all stages, whether continuing, transferring, or pausing their education, gain marketable skills.
(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.	MCC runs numerous summer camps aimed at the K-12 population. MCC has a mobile education trailer that takes manufacturing and robotics, PLC's, virtual welders, and health simulation to all area K-12 schools. MCC hosts senior visits to campus to tour, learn about our programs, meet faculty, and do career exploration. MCC also hosts 10th-grade campus visits focused on career path exploration, partners

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	with local agencies to offer a countywide job fair, co-sponsors high school “decision day” celebrations, and manages a traveling K-5 Career Development kit that provides elementary schools with the lessons, lesson plans and materials to meet the Michigan Career Development Model requirements. In addition, MCC faculty visit area high schools to talk about specific careers and opportunities. MCC participates in MI CareerQuest events. These events allow 6-12 graders to participate in hands-on activities in high-demand areas in healthcare, manufacturing, and IT. The college also participates in school career days, activity nights and college/career fairs, including the Montcalm County Job Fair, which is open to all high schools and the community. MCC annually provides area high schools with mini-grants to help schools meet College Bound MI and 60x30 goals for their students. MCC provides a Student Reader Day at every elementary school in the county, using MCC students who want to become teachers or strengthen their public speaking skills. MCC supports area school counselors’ and educators’ professional development needs by providing continuing education, which in turn helps them provide enhanced programming for their students. In addition, the college provides training, support, and community connections for area college advisors to better support students throughout the county. With the addition of athletics at MCC, a Student-Athlete Pen Pal Program connects MCC athletes with elementary students for mentorship and encouragement. Our latest partnership is with Central Montcalm Public Schools through the K-12 Connect the Work Project, which links classroom learning with self and career exploration. This is a 3-year partnership. Finally, MCC covers the cost of transportation for area K-12 schools to enjoy our facilities including the pool, gym, hiking trails and virtual cadaver lab.

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
(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.	MCC regularly brings in representatives from 4-year colleges and universities to talk to students and work with them on transfer. MCC offers free ACCUPLACER testing to local high schools to help determine their college readiness during their high school careers. MCC employs a Career Counselor to work in local middle and high schools to help those students find careers and the training path they require. In partnership with the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, MCC offers an Early College to serve Montcalm and Ionia counties. Students enter Early College in the 11th grade and can graduate with their high school diploma and associate degree in three years, at no cost to the students or their families.
(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.	MCC offers GED testing for the community. Additionally, MCC offers CLEP testing. MCC collaborates with the Montcalm and Ionia Literacy Councils to help prepare low-skilled students for entry into MCC and successful completion of their educational goals. MCC's advisors are skilled at working with the returning adult population. Most industrial programs are aligned to industry credentials. Students can use their previously obtained credentials to prove course competency and receive credit. Meanwhile, students are also allowed to take the industry credential exams to prove their skills and bypass courses. In 2024–2025, MCC provided administrative assistance to 83 students who participated in the Michigan Reconnect program, which offers free or significantly reduced tuition for eligible adults aged 25 and older to earn an associate degree or skills certificate at in-district community colleges.
(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.	MCC has more than 110 articulation agreements, spanning most area colleges and universities. These agreements include 3+1, 2+2, and transfer guides. MCC has signed reverse transfer agreements with Davenport University, Grand Valley State University, Ferris State University, Oakland University, and Western Michigan University. MCC has partnered

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	with MSU to provide associate degrees in agriculture on MCC's main campus in Sidney. MCC and MSU jointly employ a recruiter/program director for the agricultural program housed on MCC's campus. MCC, along with the Michigan Community College Association, and other community colleges and universities, is participating in statewide articulation agreements in Psychology, Criminal Justice, Exercise Science, Social Work, and Business. MCC has partnerships with multiple universities that allows MCC nursing students to take additional courses, concurrently or sequenced to complete their BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) degree. MCC is actively participating in the ADN=BSN program for degree completion and increasing participation and completion in health care career fields.
Category C: Community Services (must meet 4 of 5)	
(i) The community college provides continuing education programming for leisure, wellness, personal enrichment, or professional development.	MCC annually offers more than 100 continuing education courses for the community. These courses include computer training, art, local history, business skills, yoga and wellness, teacher CEUs, languages, music, and a global awareness series presented by the World Affairs Council of West Michigan. The Exercise Science program positions MCC as a hub for community health and wellness. Students and staff will benefit from on-campus opportunities such as group fitness classes, health screenings, and personal training, while campus-wide wellness initiatives (e.g., step challenges, fitness programs) promote lifelong healthy habits. The program also extends into the broader community through outreach events and services delivered by the mobile trailer, offering wellness education, fitness programming, and screenings at schools and community events. By advocating for the inclusion of a health and wellness requirement in MCC's general education curriculum, the program reinforces the college's commitment to improving mental and physical health, academic success, and holistic wellbeing across the entire student body.
(ii) The community college operates or sponsors opportunities for community members to engage in	MCC's Recreation and Fitness Center features a pool, gym, and fitness center, including activities such as

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
activities that promote leisure, wellness, cultural or personal enrichment such as community sports teams, theater or musical ensembles, or artist guilds.	cornhole, badminton, pickleball, indoor walking, tennis, disc golf and several water exercise classes. MCC also offers cultural trips open to students and the public through our student-led clubs. MCC is working through a partnership agreement with another central Michigan community college that has brought study abroad opportunities to the faculty and students of both institutions. MCC offers adult and youth enrichment opportunities through its noncredit offerings each semester. These offerings range from Gardening 101 to MIG Welding at Home. In addition, MCC offers cultural and educational presentations for adults through its Lifelong Learners programs and coordinates the One Book One County Montcalm program annually in partnership with all of the public libraries in Montcalm County, to bring together our community of readers. During the summer, MCC offers a variety of summer camps for youths covering topics such as fine arts, skilled trades, computers, drones and more. MCC and the MCC Foundation promotes musical interests through its Alumni & Friends Choir, a community-based choir that performs fall and spring concerts for the community. We also host local musical performers on our Sidney campus for all to enjoy. MCC also partners with local community groups to sponsor Music in the Park performances in several communities. To promote personal wellness, the Recreation Department also offers nutritional evaluations, personal training, personal workout programs, private swimming lessons, aerobics classes, and strength training classes, as well as offering senior workout classes and participating in Senior Citizens Day activities in partnership with organizations in our community. The college also offers K-12 field trip opportunities to allow area children to engage with campus facilities including the nature trails,

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
(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.	recreation facilities, library, Montcalm Heritage Village and other areas of the college. MCC operates a campus library that is open to the public and collaborates with all the local district libraries. The library offers a variety of educational and cultural presentations each semester to engage students and our community. MCC computer labs in Greenville and Sidney are open to the public and offer free Internet access. Students from local schools regularly come to MCC's main campus in Sidney to see the Mastodon bones that are on display, and tour Heritage Village to learn about the history of Montcalm County One Book One County Montcalm and MCC Reads engage the entire community in reading and discussing books. MCC partners with Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative to offer weekly "Playgroups" on our Greenville campus. This will bring in families with pre-K children to participate in learning and play activities led by Great Start staff.
(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.	MCC operates a gymnasium, pool, and a fitness center available to the public for a small charge. MCC has pickleball courts and a disc golf course available to the public at no charge, and five miles of nature trails on the main campus in Sidney. MCC also holds the Bramble Ramble, an annual 5K run, 10K run, and one-mile walk on the nature trails. Montcalm Community College's Recreation & Fitness Center is a Silver Sneakers site. That means community members who are 65 or older may use the facilities at no cost through select Medicare plans.
(v) The community college promotes, sponsors, or hosts community service activities for students, staff, or community members.	MCC student organizations are encouraged to consider avenues for community service as part of their planned activities. MCC's marketing classes create marketing plans for local businesses, and MCC's Tax Accounting students work with the United Way to complete yearly taxes for low-income families. MCC provides space on the Sidney and

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	Greenville campuses for community activities, which may include legislative luncheons, community meetings, workshops, and information sessions that promote the local community. MCC hosts and promotes presentations on artificial intelligence for community groups and organizations. MCC's nursing program has the opportunity to volunteer their time at flu clinics, blood drives, blood pressure screenings and first aid stations utilizing the health trailer. Through service-learning projects, MCC students, instructors and staff support community activities such as local food pantries, clothing collections, health clinics and efforts to combat homelessness. Montcalm Community College, Montcalm Care Network, and Corewell Health are partnering to bring Send Silence Packing, a national exhibit by Active Minds, to our community on October 1, 2025. We were selected as one of two colleges in Michigan to host the event. This powerful exhibit travels the country to break the silence surrounding mental health and suicide while connecting visitors with resources for support and action. Corewell Health, Montcalm Care Network, Mid-Michigan District Health Department and Montcalm Community College partnered to host a Stigma Reduction Art Show. This display of over 30 art pieces worked to reduce stigma and spread awareness by showcasing works of art that express what it's like to experience or witness stigma, mental health conditions, and/or substance use disorders.

Meeting Minutes

Montcalm Community College Board of Trustees

October 14, 2025, Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Montcalm Community College Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairperson Kurt Peterson in the Trebian Conference Room in MCC's Donald C. Burns Administration/Library Building in Sidney.

Trustees present: Dr. Esther Combs, Trustee
Joyce Kitchenmaster, Secretary
Kurt Peterson, Chairperson
Robert Marston, Trustee
Joshua Stump, Treasurer

Trustees absent: Robert Byram, Trustee
Carol Deuling-Ravell, Vice Chairperson

Others present: Dr. Bradley J. Barrick, MCC President
Lisa Lund, Executive Director of the MCC Foundation
Alex Montoye, Exercise Science Instructor
Francisco Ramirez, MCC Dean of Student & Enrollment Services
Theresa Rowland, Vice President of Finance and Administration
Cory Smith, Daily News Senior Staff Writer
Shelly Springborn, Assistant Board Secretary
Connie Stewart, Senior Vice President and COO
Kevin Wagenmaker, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Tracy Zamarron, Dean of Health and Human Services
Trevor Zamarron, MCC Exercise Science student

The Trustees reviewed minutes from their Sept. 9, 2025, regular meeting. Mr. Peterson said the minutes stand approved as read.

(Cory Smith entered the meeting at 5:34 p.m.)

The Trustees reviewed financial reports. Mr. Peterson said the financial report stands approved as presented.

Dr. Barrick shared his president's report, including:

- Mr. Ramirez introduced student Trevor Zamarron who shared about his experiences at MCC as a student in our Exercise Science program. (Trevor departed the meeting at 5:42 p.m.)
- Mr. Wagenmaker introduced Tracy Zamarron and Mr. Montoye. Mrs. Zamarron provided a report on the recent Send Silence Packing event held on MCC's Sidney campus. Mr. Montoye gave a presentation on MCC's new Exercise Science program including a program overview, program goals and initiatives, job opportunities/outlook, and future program goals.
- Dr. Barrick introduced Vice President of Finance and Administration Theresa Rowland. Ms. Rowland gave a brief introduction of her background and experiences.
- MCC Foundation Executive Director Lisa Lund provided an update regarding the Oct. 8 Scholarship Gala.

- Dr. Barrick announced that a lobbyist team has been hired to work on legislative issues on the college's behalf.
- Dr. Barrick provided a state budget update.
- Dr. Barrick shared that interviews for the Director of Student Housing should be wrapped up by the end of the week.

Upon motion made by Mr. Marston and supported by Mrs. Kitchenmaster, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Montcalm Community College Board of Trustees approves Montcalm Community College's 2025 Community College Local Strategic Value as per Section 230(2) of the State School Aid Act (MCL.338.1830).

The Board heard an athletics update from Athletic Director Hunter Redman and Assistant Athletic Director Amanda Glaza. (Mr. Redman and Ms. Glaza departed the meeting at 6:55 p.m.)

The Board heard from Dr. Combs and Dr. Barrick information about items to be voted on at the ACCT Leadership Congress.

The Trustees reviewed the agenda for their November 11, 2025, meeting/retreat. They added one item – Discussion of Board roles and tenure. They also asked to explore the possibility of rescheduling the meeting for start time of 3 p.m., instead of 3:30 p.m. In addition, Mr. Peterson asked Dr. Barrick to discuss with Trustee Carol Deuling-Ravell the addition to the retreat agenda on the topic of where the Board wants to be in the next 5 to 10 years.

The Trustees received a brief Michigan Community College Association Board of Directors fall meeting report from Dr. Barrick.

The Board reviewed upcoming dates.

At 7:15 p.m. Mrs. Kitchenmaster moved that the meeting adjourn. Mr. Marston supported the motion, which carried unanimously.