

Montcalm Community College Board of Trustees

October 13, 2026, Regular Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Bob Marston and supported by, Josh Stump, the following resolution was unanimously approved during the Montcalm Community College Board of Trustees regular meeting on October 13, 2026:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Montcalm Community College Board of Trustees approves Montcalm Community College's 2026 Community College Local Strategic Value as per Section 230(2) of the State School Aid Act (MCL.338.1830).

Community Colleges Local Strategic Value – Montcalm Community College

October 15, 2026

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.	Montcalm Community College (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, Clay Street Center, McLaren Greater Lansing, My-Michigan Health System – Alma, University of Michigan Sparrow System - Carson, Ionia, and Lansing, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, 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. Since launching in Fall 2025, MCC's Exercise Science program has continued to grow its reach both on campus and throughout the region. During 2026 Fall semester, Exercise Science faculty have visited five local schools and provided hands-on exercise science, health, and wellness lessons to more than 400 middle and high school students, with a goal of reaching more than 1,000 students by the end of the semester. The program has also expanded its community engagement through wellness training

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	with local law enforcement, the on-campus Bramble Ramble trail running race, and other partnerships that demonstrate how exercise science can support health, performance, and quality of life across a variety of populations. Dual enrollment has become an important part of the program's growth, with Exercise Science courses offered at seven area high schools across three counties (Gratiot, Ionia, Montcalm) over the past 1 ½ years. On campus, MCC's first cohort of Exercise Science students is on track to complete the AAS program this spring, and we are excited to connect these students with regional partners for internships and other applied learning experiences. More than 10 adjunct instructors have been hired to contribute their professional expertise to the program, and an engaged advisory group of community, educational, healthcare, fitness, and sport professionals continues to help guide the program's next steps and ensure that its curriculum responds to regional needs. Exercise Science is now part of MCC's Human Performance and Public Service (HPPS) Department alongside Criminal Justice. While these programs may initially appear quite different, they share important common threads. First, students in both areas are drawn to careers centered on helping and serving others; second, both areas supply professions in which physical fitness, health, and wellness play an important role. Bringing these programs together creates new opportunities for collaboration, community engagement, and innovative programming that serves both our students and the communities around us. As the Exercise Science program further develops, priorities include strengthening internship and workforce partnerships, continuing to expand dual enrollment and high school outreach, hiring additional full-time faculty, and developing additional opportunities for students to apply what they learn while improving health, wellness, and human performance throughout the community. MCC has an active apprenticeship program with local manufacturers. Currently, MCC has more than 90

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	apprentices employed by over 15 local manufacturers and offers certificate programs to train the future workforce. MCC partners with West Michigan Works! to provide Registered Apprenticeship opportunities. 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. An expansion of MCC's partnership with West Michigan Works! includes offering classes at their Ionia location, which began 2026 Fall semester.
(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 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	MCC's Greenville campus includes an open lab for technological training. This location includes FANUC robotics training, ABB robotics training, Kuka Robotics

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
technical education center or other advanced technology center.	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 expanded offerings at its Sidney campus, including HVAC/R. 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. We have partnered with West Michigan Works – Ionia to offer classes at their Ionia location. MCC hosts regular 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 districts, and career-tech centers to provide instruction through dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, direct credit, middle college, or academy programs.	MCC provides dual enrollment opportunities (both MTA focused and career/occupational opportunities) 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 664 Dual Enrolled and

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	49 Early College students during the Fall 2026 semester from 33 high schools. The 2025-2026 Academic Year had an unduplicated headcount for dual-enrolled students of 964. 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. In addition, MCC has worked to strengthen its K-12 partnerships by: • Formalizing dual and concurrent enrollment partnerships through updated MOUs, which go beyond simply enrolling students to include intentional expectations and partnership structures • Continuing expansion and strengthening of concurrent enrollment opportunities • Developing clearer pathways for students pursuing an associate degree or the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) 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.

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(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 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 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. On November 10, 2026, MCC will host "IM Exploring AI in Careers," at the college's Sidney campus, designed for every 7th-grade student in Montcalm and Ionia counties. Through keynote presentations, hands-on demonstrations, and career-focused breakout sessions, students will explore how artificial intelligence is influencing industries ranging from healthcare and manufacturing to business, communications, public service, and skilled trades. MCC participates in MI CareerQuest events. These events allow 6th -12th 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 elementary school in the college's service area, 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

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	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.
(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 supports students across the full education-to-career continuum, beginning with early exposure to postsecondary education and continuing through college enrollment, credential attainment, and transfer to four-year institutions. Taken together, MCC's activities tell a much larger story than the individual examples suggest. The College's work includes elementary school engagement, middle school career exploration, high school dual enrollment and Early College opportunities, direct college enrollment, and transfer and articulation relationships with four-year colleges and universities. This continuum helps students understand the connection between education, careers, and opportunity while providing multiple entry points and pathways to postsecondary success. MCC employs a Career Counselor who works directly with local middle and high school students to help them explore careers and identify the education and training pathways needed to achieve their goals. This early engagement gives students opportunities to connect their interests and strengths with potential careers and begin planning for postsecondary education well before they graduate from high school. At the high school level, MCC provides opportunities for students to earn college credit through dual

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	enrollment and Early College. In partnership with the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, MCC offers an Early College program serving students in Montcalm and Ionia counties. Under the existing model, students enter Early College in the 11th grade and can graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate degree in three years, at no cost to the student or family. MCC is currently completing a teach-out of its existing Early College model while working collaboratively with local K–12 partners to develop a redesigned Early College model planned for launch in Fall 2028. The new model will build on MCC’s strong dual enrollment partnerships and expand opportunities for high school students to pursue structured college pathways, earn significant college credit, and complete an associate degree while completing high school. The redesigned approach is being developed in collaboration with local school districts to align programming with student needs, district structures, and regional education and workforce pathways. MCC’s Early College and dual enrollment offerings provide benefits that extend beyond the college credits students earn. These experiences introduce students to college-level expectations, help them navigate college systems and processes, build confidence, and allow them to begin establishing a college transcript while still in high school. For many students, these experiences make the transition from high school to college more familiar and attainable. As students transition into MCC, academic placement is required for new students pursuing a program of study. MCC offers Guided Self-Placement, which allows students to complete a self-evaluation in reading, writing, and mathematics and receive feedback to help them make an informed and responsible choice about course placement. Students are exempt from Guided Self-Placement if they have earned an associate degree or higher, have completed or transferred in both college-level English and mathematics, are age 60 or older, or are auditing courses. Following completion and submission of assessment information, an MCC counselor or advisor

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	can assist students with course selection and development of an appropriate academic pathway. MCC also recognizes that students benefit from early and intentional exposure to transfer opportunities. The College regularly brings representatives from four-year colleges and universities to campus to meet with students, provide information about transfer options, and assist students in understanding the steps needed to continue their education. MCC maintains transfer and articulation relationships with four-year institutions, helping students identify pathways that allow their MCC coursework to apply toward continued degree completion. Together, these efforts create a connected pathway rather than a collection of separate programs. Students can encounter MCC through early elementary engagement, explore careers in middle school, earn college credit through dual enrollment or Early College in high school, enroll at MCC, and pursue transfer opportunities to a four-year institution. By connecting these experiences across the educational continuum, MCC helps students build awareness, confidence, academic momentum, and a clearer pathway toward their educational and career goals.
(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 2025-2026, MCC provided administrative assistance to more than 210 students who participated in the Michigan Reconnect program, which offers free or significantly reduced tuition for

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	eligible adults aged 21 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 100 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 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 with MI Transfer Pathways 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 AND=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 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

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	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 activities that promote leisure, wellness, cultural or personal enrichment such as community sports teams, theater or musical ensembles, or artist guilds.	MCC's Recreation and Fitness Center features a pool, gym, and fitness center, including activities such as 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 offers experiential learning opportunities that extend education beyond the traditional classroom and allow students to apply their learning in new environments and real-world settings. These opportunities include a variety of non-traditional experiences designed to broaden students' perspectives and strengthen connections between academic learning and future educational and career goals. MCC's study away opportunities provide students with learning experiences within Michigan, while study abroad programs offer opportunities to study and engage with communities and cultures outside the United States. Both provide students with opportunities to experience new environments, gain different perspectives, and develop skills such as adaptability, communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and cultural awareness. Together, these experiences enrich the student experience by providing opportunities to learn through direct experience and better understand the world beyond the classroom. 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

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	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. 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, recreation facilities, library, Montcalm Heritage Village and other areas of the college.
(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.	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.

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	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, which connect to the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail. MCC also holds the Bramble Ramble, an annual 5K run, 10K run, and one-mile walk on the nature trails.
(v) The community college promotes, sponsors, or hosts community service activities for students, staff, or community members.	Montcalm Community College (MCC) is deeply connected to the communities it serves and provides students, faculty, and staff with numerous opportunities to contribute through service, academic projects, athletics, and community partnerships. These activities extend learning beyond the classroom while strengthening relationships with local organizations, businesses, schools, and residents. As part of MCC’s athletics program, student-athletes participate in community service activities that include partnering with local elementary schools through a pen pal program, reading with students in classrooms, and volunteering at community festivals and other local events. MCC also encourages student organizations to incorporate community service into their planned activities, providing students with opportunities to contribute to the community while developing leadership, teamwork, and civic engagement skills. MCC integrates community engagement into academic programs as well. Marketing students develop marketing plans for local businesses, providing businesses with practical support while giving students hands-on experience. MCC Tax Accounting students partner with the United Way to assist low-income families with annual tax preparation, providing an important community

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	service while applying their classroom knowledge in a real-world setting. MCC's nursing program also supports community health through volunteer opportunities at flu clinics, blood drives, blood pressure screenings, and first aid stations using the College's health trailer. Through service-learning projects, MCC students, faculty, and staff also support local food pantries, clothing drives, health clinics, and initiatives addressing homelessness. Beyond student service, MCC serves as a community resource by providing space on its Sidney and Greenville campuses for legislative luncheons, community meetings, workshops, information sessions, and other activities that bring people together and promote the region. The College also hosts and promotes presentations on emerging topics such as artificial intelligence for community groups and organizations, helping connect local residents and organizations with information relevant to education, work, and the broader community. Together, these efforts demonstrate MCC's role as more than an educational institution. The College serves as an active community partner, creating opportunities for students to apply their learning, supporting local organizations and residents, and providing spaces and resources that contribute to the vitality of the communities it serves.