

## Special Edition: Coronavirus Communication 22

April 8, 2020

Good Evening:

The Workforce and Economic Development (WED) Division has had a very good week. I wanted to share an article about MCC's Gateway to College program that was posted this week in Achieving the Dream and Gateway National Network's News Center. Please share your congratulations with Dr. Sounya Walker, Gateway to College Director.

Student Resiliency: Still Thriving While Social Distancing | Achieving the Dream  
<https://www.achievingthedream.org/news/18047/student-resiliency-still-thriving-while-social-distancing>

Also please congratulate Daphne Epps, Associate Administrator in WED, who received notification that MCC will once again host Summer Youth Initiative students. The program she leads for MCC is funded by the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce and provides needed work experience, invaluable social skills and networking capabilities for youth. We recognize that this will be a different environment to host these teens but believe that with innovative and creative ideas the students will get a well-rounded work experience.

The pandemic has caused the American Association of Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) to cancel all of their planned 2020 events. Unfortunately, this means that the LEADERS Institute in June will not take place as well as the AAWCC National Conference here in Flint this October. I hope they will consider having MCC host the conference next year.

The Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) hosted another weekly Presidents' Meeting. The weekly meetings are scheduled to keep us up to date with the latest information on a state and national level during this crisis. We met this afternoon with David Baine, Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Policy Analysis at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). He gave his perspective about Stimulus Package 3 funding that has been approved but not disbursed to support the needs of higher education and the pending legislation for Stimulus Package 4 that Senator Gary Peters spoke about a few weeks ago. There is still no firm date of when the Stimulus Package 3 funding will be released by the Department of Education. The Department of Education is working diligently on the funding formula for disbursement and then checks will be sent directly to higher education institutions. Half of the funding received by colleges must go to meet COVID-19 related student needs and the other half will help close institutional gaps caused by the pandemic. The funding will need to be spent by September 30, 2021. We concluded our conversation by sharing with Mr. Baine pressure points that have to be addressed at a national level for supporting community college success.

On a state level, the Presidents discussed the latest Executive Orders, a new bipartisan task force that has been created to address a gradual reopening of our communities, and the fiscal effects of the shutdown on our campuses.

Looking forward,

Dr. Beverly

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