



**Mason County Promise Zone**

**Student Success Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, November 25 2024: 10 AM**

**Location: Lakeshore Resource Network**

**Present:** Monica Jewell, Amy Pepper, Annette Quillan, Chad Riffle (arrived at 10:08), Kathy Surd, Joan Vidak

**Member Absent:** Michael Masters

**Staff Present:** Jody Maloney

- 1) **Call to order:** Vidak called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.
- 2) **Public Comment:** None
- 3) **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Pepper to approve the agenda, supported by Surd; Motion carried 5-0-2.
- 4) **Approval of Minutes:** Pepper noted an amendment needed to include a third advisor, Cheyenne Schulte, in item 5a. Motion by Jewell to approve the minutes with amendment, supported by Pepper; motion carried 5-0-2.
- 5) **Business:**
  - a) Growth Discussion Follow-Up: Exploring options for scholarship expansion to other institutions both for after high school and transfer, per Promise Board.
    - i) Reviewing data: Maloney provide an overview of the following existing information:
      - (1) Trajectories
      - (2) Transfer: All Institutions Transfer Costs Estimates: Costs range from \$180,000 per cohort, to \$480,000/cohort, based on a \$1500/semester award for up to 4 semesters (or 2 years) depending on how “transfer” is defined; graduation from WSCC as a transfer requirement is the least expensive option. This award is generally based on the amount that a full-time 12-credit load at WSCC would cost. The Promise must provide at least the amount of funding required to complete an associate degree, so that is based on a 2 year (4 semester) award of \$1500 (minimum amount for full-time at WSCC).
      - (3) Out-of-High School: Community College Expansion Considerations: Students who take full-time classes and graduated in 2023 and after qualify for the Michigan Community College Guarantee, which covers in-district tuition. Maloney shared that MiLEAP would approve a Promise offering to cover the cost of out-of-district tuition for scholars at CCs across the state. Benefits to offering a Community College-based award are that it may allow students to access programs that aren’t offered locally.
      - (4) Out of High School: All Institution Cost Estimates
        - (a) Universities with a Tuition Guarantee for Pell-Eligible
    - ii) Questions for further consideration: Did not Cover all questions.
    - iii) Additional Questions or Information Needed: Requests included:
      - whether some private institutions are willing to make “deals” with Promise Zones;
      - how Zones are getting information about total financial aid awards back from institutions;
      - examining additional data related to awarding a flat \$3000 as a flexible award for up to 2 years for any Michigan institution;
      - to awarding a flat \$3000 scholarship for up to 4 years for any Michigan institution;
      - to maintaining the scholarship as-is at WSCC and adding a 2 year flat, flexible award that could be used as a transfer scholarship after WSCC or as an initial scholarship for students who begin their college career elsewhere;
      - understanding graduation rates and costs/debt for students at other institutions in Michigan;
      - how a full-time or part-time requirement might impact students;



- more information about persistence and time to degree at state-based institutions.
- b) Feedback from outgoing WSCC Completion Coach: Maloney shared about b.i, and b.ii, but item b.iii was not discussed due to running out of time.
- i) Students, especially those right out of high school, are in survival mode, even those whose financial needs are met; cohort-based success coaching would be invaluable
  - ii) Students who “know their why” are more focused
  - iii) Opportunities exist to partner with higher ed. institutions like UofM to provide funding for CC students to visit transfer college campuses
- 6) **Next Meeting:** 1-27-2024 at 10AM; Members discussed adding a special Student Success Committee meeting in December to continue this discussion. Maloney will send out a request for availability and schedule and post a special meeting if there is available time to meet.
- 7) **Adjourn:** *Vidak moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 AM.*