Welcome to DCAN's December Lunch & Learn

Paying for College: Supporting Students Finding Financially Safe Post Secondary Pathway
DCAN

Our Mission

Increase the number of Detroit high school students who enroll, persist and graduate from high-quality postsecondary institutions.

Our Vision

Make a college degree a reality for all Detroit students.

Our Values

- Equitable
- Youth-centered
- Data-driven
- Collaborative
- Transparent
- Integrity
COLLEGE IS..

a valuable postsecondary credential, including professional and technical certificates 2-yr and 4-yr degrees.
# Todays Agenda

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PAYING FOR COLLEGE PANEL DISCUSSION

Isabella Tillman
Lawrence Tech University

Mershawn Gayden
Wayne State University

Stephen Nabors
University of Michigan

Jeremy Guc
Oakland Community College

Sara Becerril
Michigan State University
Paying for College: Equipping Students to Make Financially Fit Decisions

Winston Coffee, College Liaison
Cayla Valentine, Director of Student Support
Midnight Golf Program At a Glance

- College
  - Serve 250 high school seniors each year
  - Provide support to students throughout their postsecondary journey (e.g. gap funding, access to exclusive scholarships, campus services, etc.)
  - Mentorship + College Success Coaching
- Career
  - Resume help
  - Assist in internship/job placement
  - Offer unique opportunities with sponsors/funders/partners and companies who are looking for talent
- Beyond
  - Alumni give back to program financially, physically (become mentors), etc.
  - Life-long mentorship
Defining a Fit Decision

- **Match:** The degree to which students' *academic credentials* are aligned to the admission qualifications of the postsecondary institution(s) where they apply and/or enroll.
- **Fit:** The degree to which students' *values, interests, wants, and social needs* are aligned with the characteristics of the postsecondary institution(s) where they apply and/or enroll.

**Fit:** Refers to the students' *financial, personal, and social needs* that are necessary for the student to thrive & obtain their degree from a post secondary institution.

- We rely on fit to best coach and advise students in the college going process.
- Financial Fit
  - Typically, a gap of $10,000 per academic year is workable.

*Source: NCAN, Hanauer and Zander, 2020*
Coaching Resources

- **Pre-assessment & Post-assessment**
  - Helps College Success Coach team determine student's Financial Aid eligibility & additional information that may helpful

- **Award Letter Comparison**
  - Increase financial literacy as it pertains to the Financial Aid Processes
  - Familiarize students with calculating the associated costs to attend the institutions they've been accepted into

- **College Application Tracker**
  - Used during initial 1 on 1 meetings to begin the conversation base on items that make up a solid Match and Fit option

- **Mentee Summer Check-In**
  - Used by our mentors throughout the summer during their check-ins with mentees
  - Mentors are our allies in:
    - Decreasing summer melt amongst our students
    - Obtaining useful information that we may not have been able to capture throughout the program year

- **Scholarship Assistance**
  - Scholarship database with exclusive & outside scholarship opportunities
  - Success Saturday- Scholarship Help
  - Writing Help- Retainer agreement with professionals who help students write quality scholarship essays
Examples, in Real Time

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Scenario 1: You're in ‘IT’...Now What?!
Scenario 2: Last Minute Pivot
Scenario 3: Money Doesn't Grow on Trees!
Scenario 4: Control the Controllables/Make it Plain
Scenario 1: You’re in ‘IT’...Now What?!

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Student with an average profile is admitted into semi-selective institution with a sizeable financial gap. Student decides to attend the institution and plans on paying monthly payments towards the gap. After their first year, they decide to transfer to a different university due to the financial & cultural mismatch. She transfers to another institution that is also a financial hurdle and is now in need of support in staying in school.

What are your next steps in advising this student to find a solution?
Scenario 2: Last Minute Pivot

Student begins the program year adamant about attending an HBCU. Towards the end of the program year, an in-state institution admits him & initially awards him more money than anticipated on his financial aid award letter. However, after analyzing the award letter with his parent & college success coach the student decides that the in-state institution is not the best option for him. By this point, it is mid-July.

What are your next steps in advising this student to find a solution?
Scenario 3: Money Doesn't Grow on Trees!

Student with a 2.1 GPA is unsure if she is “college material” or can be admitted into a 4-year institution. She receives her first college acceptance letter in mid-April & decides she may be interested in pursuing higher education.

1. What feasible option(s) would you give this student knowing their profile?
2. How would you advise this student from this point?
Scenario 4: Control the Controllables/Make it Plain

Student with a stellar profile was admitted to many institutions & received 2 full rides (full tuition + full room & board). Even amongst all of the acceptances, she had her heart set on her #1 institution. Although she was accepted into her #1 institution, she received little to no money to attend the institution. May 1st (Decision Day) is quickly approaching and she hasn't made a final decision on where she will attend in the fall.

How do you advise this student in making a final decision?
The MGP Way

Specifically define affordability and financially fit options

Be Informed & Well-Versed about options available

Know Terminology & Financial Aid Processes, both general & institution-specific

The earlier, the better - Familiarize students with terms, processes, documents, etc.

Count the costs beyond the moment - Help students plan for their futures vs. for the moment

There is no substitute for relationship!

Weigh every option, equally, regardless of affiliation - If it doesn't make dollars, it doesn't make sense

Ask the hard questions - HOW are you paying for college? WHO is paying for college? Etc.
Thank You!

Winston Coffee, wcoffee@midnightgolf.org

Cayla Valentine, cvalentine@midnightgolf.org
MI ECHO Scholarship

Ana Manzano
Scholarship Program Director
12/01/22

MICOLLEGEACCESS.ORG
A tuition-free pathway for Michigan’s frontline workers administered by Michigan College Access Network.

The Michigan Equity, Courage, Hope, and Opportunity (MI ECHO) Scholarship allows people living in Michigan to access associate degree and certificate programs at participating 2-year institutions (community colleges). The scholarship covers tuition, contact hours, and other mandatory fees. Through MI ECHO, students can earn a degree or certificate to gain stable employment and boost their standard of living.

This scholarship is only for people who cannot access federal financial aid — e.g. DACA, Temporary Protected Status immigrants, Asylum Pending, Special Immigrant Juveniles — and who worked on the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic. The candidate must be eligible for acceptance into a certificate or associate degree program and cannot have earned an associate or bachelor’s degree in any country.

Learn more and apply at: michiganecho.org
Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be an individual who holds an immigration status that prevents them from accessing federal financial aid [DACA, Temporarily Protected Status (TPS), Asylum Pending, Special Immigrant Juveniles (SIJ)]
  - Students who are undocumented are not eligible.
- Must have worked an essential job during the COVID-19 pandemic (Mid-March 2020-June 30, 2022)
- Must currently live in the state of Michigan
- Must enroll at a public community college or tribal college in Michigan
Eligibility Criteria Cont.:

- Must have a HS diploma/GED or an equivalent
  - Or be near the completion of a HS diploma/GED or equivalent
  - Or can have completed a diploma outside the US and submit a program evaluation report
- Cannot have previously earned an associates or baccalaureate degree
- Must enroll in a certificate program or associate degree within 6 months of being accept or reapply
HOW TO APPLY:

You can apply by one of three ways.

APPLY ONLINE:

Complete the online scholarship application form

APPLY BY EMAIL:

• Complete the scholarship application form
• Include required documents:
  ◦ Immigration status verification (Employment authorization document [EAD], SSN card, US government letter, or any other document that clearly verifies immigration status)
  ◦ Essential worker verification (Pay stubs, reference letter from employer [must be on official letterhead and indicate that you were an essential worker], essential worker letter from employer or government [must clearly have name on it], or any other document that verifies you were/are an essential worker)
  ◦ Signed FERPA consent form
• Email application form and all required documents to info@michiganecho.org

APPLY BY MAIL:

• Print and complete the scholarship application form
• Include required documents:
  ◦ Immigration status verification (Employment authorization document [EAD], SSN card, US government letter, or any other document that clearly verifies immigration status)
  ◦ Essential worker verification (Pay stubs, reference letter from employer [must be on official letterhead and indicate that you were an essential worker], essential worker letter from employer or government [must clearly have name on it], or any other document that verifies you were/are an essential worker)
  ◦ Signed FERPA consent form
• Mail application form and all required documents to this address:
  Michigan College Access Network
c/o Ana Manzano
200 N. Washington Square, Suite 420
Lansing, MI 48933
Immigration Status Verification

- Employment authorization document (EAD)
- SSN-Work authorization only
- US Gov’t Letter
Essential Worker Verification

- Pay stub
- Reference letter-must be on official letterhead
- Essential worker letter from employer or gov’t.
MI ECHO Wraparound Support Grants

- Students can utilize funding for non-tuition expenses: transportation, books, housing, broadband, childcare, and food. The MI ECHO Wraparound Support Grant should not be used for tuition and fee balances unless the student makes that request directly to the institution.

- Students must fill out short application every semester

- Amounts vary on enrollment status:
  - Part time=$200/Semester
  - Full time=$400/Semester
  - Max award for academic year is $1,200
Resources:

- Website
- Promotional Toolkit
- Resource Page
  - Immigrants Rising Scholarship list
- Presentations
Questions???

Contact Information:

- ana@micollegeaccess.org or info@michiganecho.org
- 517-896-0899
The 2023 Coleman A. Young Foundation Scholarship
Coleman A. Young Foundation Scholarships

- Needs-based scholarship
- Valued up to $22,000
- Application available at bit.ly/CAYF2023
CAYF Scholarship Criteria

- Must live in Detroit, attend a high school in Detroit
- Must be a senior
- Minimum 2.5 GPA
- Acceptance to a Michigan 4-year, accredited college or university; or an historically black college or university (HBCU)
- Applications must be delivered or postmarked by Friday, March 3, 2022
Questions?