



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
**LABOR & ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY**



Sean Henry

Student Navigator, Michigan Reconnect

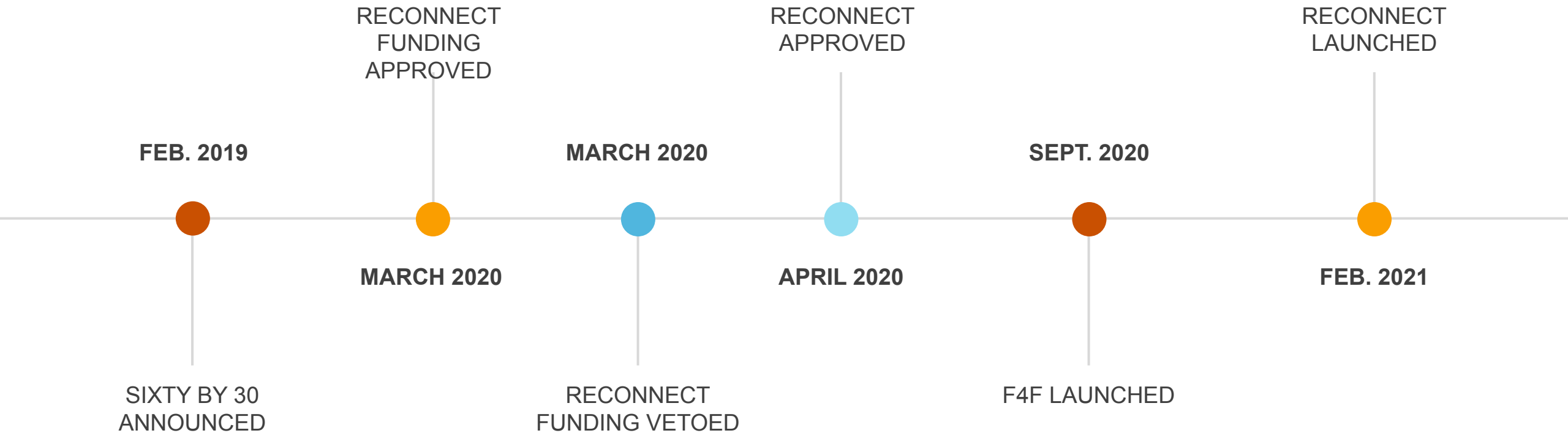
- Detroit-based since 2015
- 5+ years with DPSCD
- Joined Reconnect in April 2021
 - Reconnectors at WCCCD



Let's Connect

- Email:
HenryS11@michigan.gov
- Phone:
(248) 302-2637

Sixty by 30 Timeline





Sixtyby30.org

- ✓ **Close the skills gap** – best jobs require more than high school
- ✓ **Increase opportunity** – better paychecks; a more equitable economy
- ✓ **Make Michigan more competitive** – for inclusive economic growth




FUTURES
FOR FRONTLINERS


MICHIGAN
RECONNECT

SKILLS
TO WORK

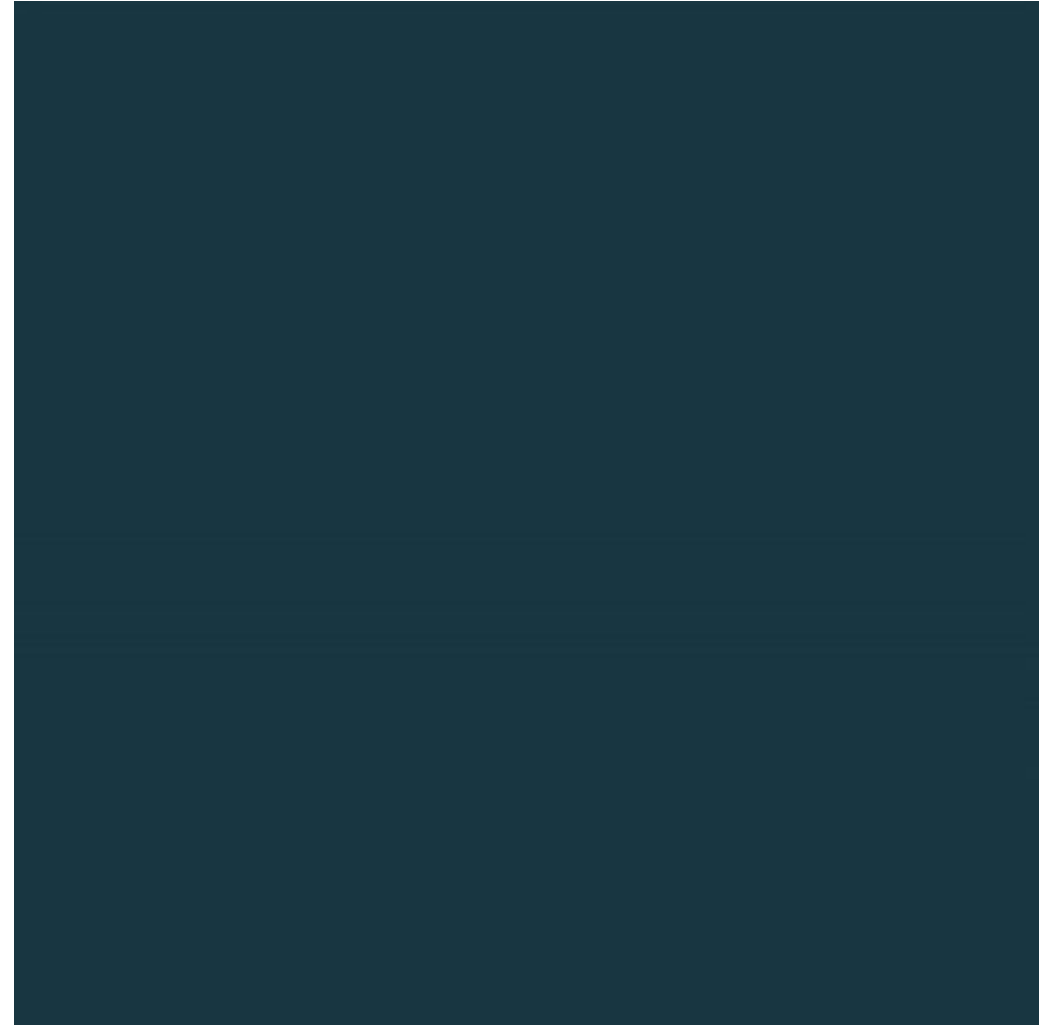


MICHIGAN
RECONNECT



Goals & Purpose

- Part of a vision of post-secondary success for all
- Increase **adult** educational attainment to meet State's 60x30 goal
- Close Michigan's skills gap
- Provide individual opportunities for Michiganders to follow dreams, find better jobs
- Increase community college enrollment, especially in the pandemic





Benefits & Eligibility

- Tuition-free access to local community colleges for adults (in-district tuition rate at all public community colleges and tribal colleges)
- Last-dollar funds—Pell and TIP awarded first
- Must be pursuing *Pell-eligible* associate degree or occupational skills certificate



To be eligible:

- Michigan resident for previous year
- Have a high school diploma, GED or equivalent
- At least 25 years of age
- Have *not* earned a college degree



Reconnect Coverage

After taking account of any federal Pell grants or State tuition-restricted scholarships, Reconnect will ensure that the following items will be free on the semester bill from the community college:

- ✓ Tuition (in-district)
- ✓ Mandatory fees (fees charged to all students)
- ✓ Contact hours (extra charges for certain courses)

Costs Reconnect ***does not*** cover include:

- Non-mandatory fees (course-specific fees, like lab fees, distance learning fees, etc.)
- Athletic fees
- Parking fees
- Indirect costs (books, technology, transportation, etc.)



Applying & Receiving the Award

- **Apply** online: Michigan.gov/Reconnect
 1. **Apply** and be admitted to community college
 2. **Submit** a federal aid application (FAFSA)
 3. **Enroll** in classes at least half-time (6 credits) towards associate degree or certificate program
- **Resources:**
 - ▶ [Check Your Application Status](#)
 - ▶ [College Checklist](#)
 - ▶ [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The screenshot shows the Michigan Reconnect website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Michigan.gov logo and 'Michigan Reconnect' text. Below the navigation bar, there is a search icon and a menu with links for 'About', 'Community College', 'Skills Scholarship', 'Careers', 'Champion Toolkit', and 'Press Releases'. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'Apply Today for Michigan Reconnect' and a background image of a smiling woman with glasses. Below the banner, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'MI Reconnect > Community College > Apply'. The main text on the page reads: 'Congratulations on taking the first step toward earning your certificate or degree! Michigan Reconnect is a scholarship program that pays you to attend your in-district community college tuition free or pays up to the in-district rate if you attend a community college where you're considered out-of-district.' Below this, it lists eligibility requirements: 'To be eligible, you must:' followed by a bulleted list: '• Be at least 25 years old when you apply', '• Have lived in Michigan for a year or more', '• Have a high school diploma or equivalent', and '• Have not yet completed a college degree (associate or bachelor's)'. It then provides a link: 'If you do not have a high school diploma or equivalent, visit [Michigan.gov/LearnMoreEarnMore](#) to get started.' Below that, it states: 'To participate in the Reconnect scholarship, you must complete four steps:' followed by a bulleted list: '• **Apply online for Michigan Reconnect.** The application takes less than five minutes to complete and can be done on a mobile phone. If you are having difficulties on your mobile device, it is recommended to use a different browser or computer.', '• **Apply to a Michigan public community college.** All public community colleges, including tribal colleges, in Michigan qualify. If you're already enrolled at a public community college this step is completed. If you're not, remember your tuition is free at an in-district community college, but that Reconnect only pays part of the tuition if you attend an out-of-district community college. See [What costs does Reconnect cover?](#)', '• **Submit your FAFSA.** This is free financial aid provided by the federal government.', and '• **Enroll in an eligible program and start classes.** You must be in school at least half time and stay enrolled continuously through graduation.' At the bottom of the main content area, there is a green button that says 'Apply Today'. Below the button, there is a footer: 'Have a question? We're here to help. Call the Customer Care Center at 888-447-2687, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.'



Resources on Reconnect Website

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [Veterans and Service Members](#)
- [Already Accepted? Keep Going – College Checklist](#)

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Support from Navigators

- Linked to a Navigator based on school selection.
Help with the following and more:
 - College-going process (admissions documents, financial aid requirements, etc.)
 - Explore degree plans
 - Identify in-demand jobs
 - Connect with community resources and services to support with childcare, transportation, and other financial needs
 - Support community college staff
- Navigators work closely with Navigator liaisons at each community college, Michigan Works!, and other community partners





Allen Chung

Navigator Lead, serving Lansing Community College



Amber Rosenbrock

Navigator, serving St. Clair and Macomb Community College



Kim Barnes

Navigator, serving Oakland, Mid-Michigan and Saginaw Chippewa Community Colleges



Kylie Schultz

Navigator, serving Southwest Michigan



Marsha Tompkins

Navigator, serving Alpena, Bay College, Bay Mills, Gogebic, Keweenaw Bay, Kirtland, North Central MI, Northwestern Community Colleges



Sarah McGann

Navigator, serving Grand Rapids, Montcalm, Muskegon and West Shore Community Colleges



Sean Henry

Navigator, serving Detroit



Taylor Dean

Navigator, serving Henry Ford College, Schoolcraft and Monroe Community Colleges



Tracy Spilker

Navigator, serving Delta and Mott Community Colleges

- Each navigator can schedule meetings throughout the week including evenings and some weekends
- Contact information available on our website
- Currently hosting FAFSA completion session every Wednesday at 5 p.m. bit.ly/ReconnectFAFSAHelp



Reconnect + Futures for Frontliners Applicants in Metro Detroit (as of 4.6.2022)

9583	CARLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
7402	MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE
7403	WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
3881	HENRY FORD COLLEGE
9627	MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
9894	SCHULCHABER COLLEGE

Each Navigator proactively reaches out to Reconnect applicants within two weeks after they apply to the scholarship.

My caseload (WCCCD applicants) as of 3.25.2022:

- 11,164 Reconnectors
- 2,503 have responded
- ~22.4%* response rate

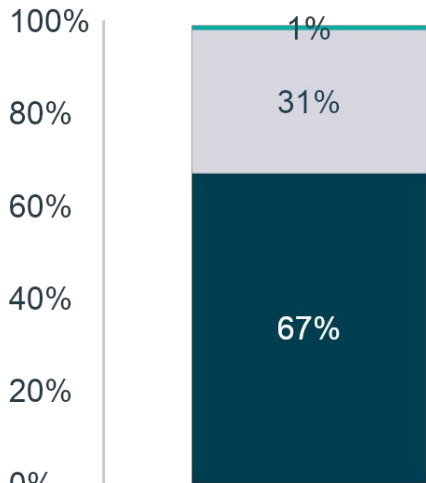
** including applicants who were already enrolled at the time of their application*



Statewide Applicant Data (as of 4.1.2022)

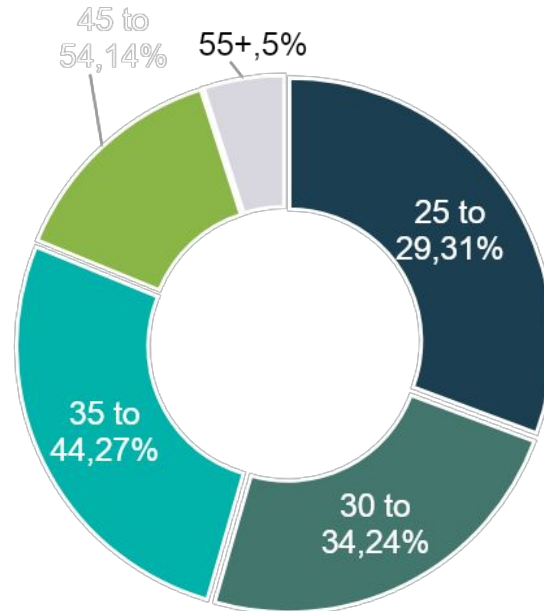
93,689 applications

Gender

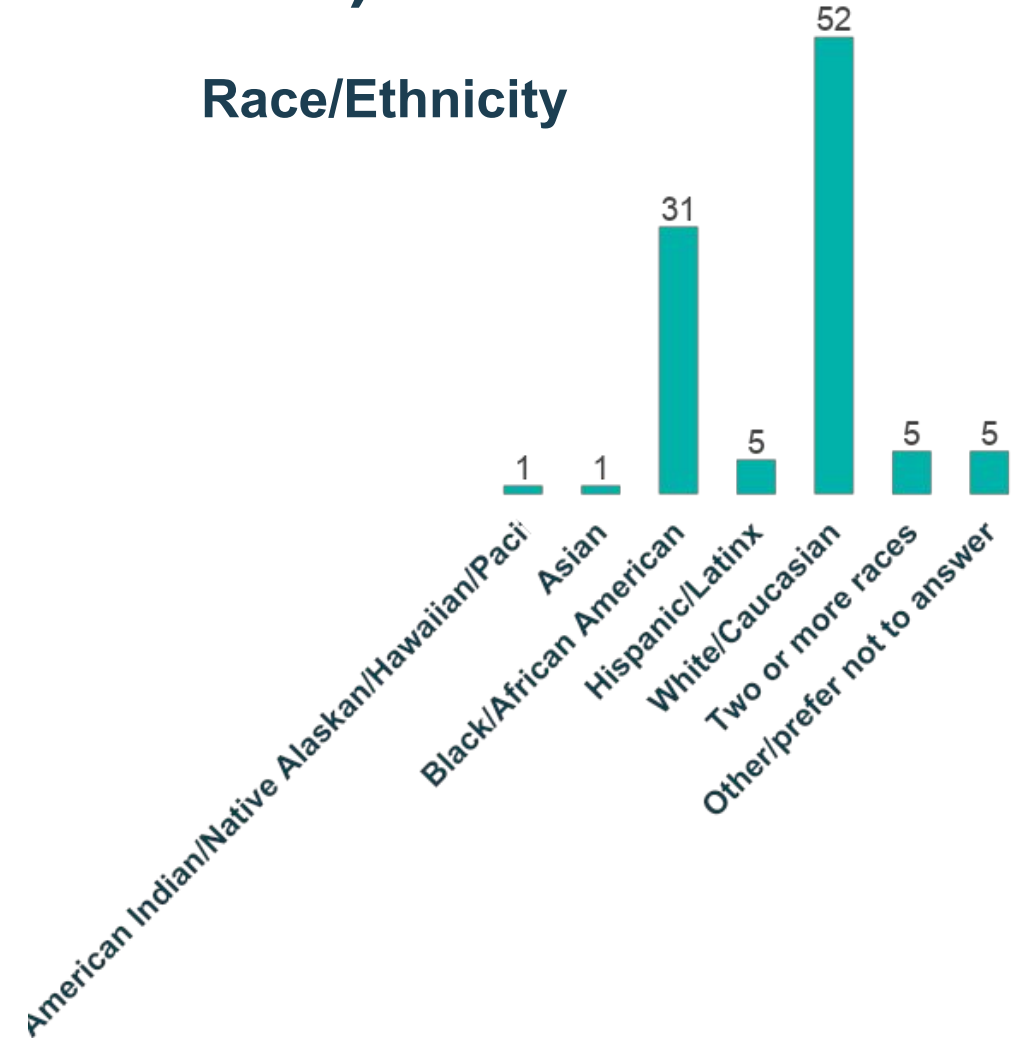


- Female
- Male
- Other or Prefer Not to Answer

Age



Race/Ethnicity





Additional Critical Supports

- Tuition costs are not the only barrier to college access and completion.
- Plans to use money for to supplement wraparound services to address these barriers.
- Constantly working to identify partners in our regions that provide services in these areas to help Reconnectors persist and complete their education.



**Housing
and food**



Childcare



**Books and
supplies**



Transportation

Questions?