



# IMPACT

# REPORT

## 2023-2024





*The Midland Area Career & College Access Network is an initiative of the Midland Area Community Foundation.*

## OUR PURPOSE

- Ensure equitable access to comprehensive services aimed at assisting all students in completing postsecondary education, but especially first-generation, low-income, and students of historically marginalized populations.
- Build a culture that encourages completion of career preparation or college education.
- Increase success of both traditional and nontraditional students through lowering barriers.

## OUR VALUES

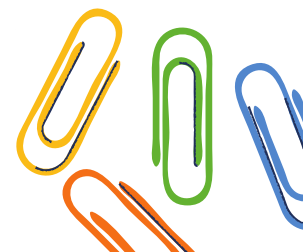
- Postsecondary education is the attainment of education beyond high school, including postsecondary certificates and academic degrees.
- Postsecondary education is a necessity: Postsecondary attainment dramatically increases an individual's economic independence in a knowledge-based economy.
- Postsecondary education is for everyone: We work toward changing the systems that perpetuate inequities in postsecondary attainment.
- Postsecondary education is a public good: Postsecondary attainment is critical to a just and equitable society, strong economy, thriving democracy, and healthy community.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

*Developed through Strategic Planning with AL Peterson Group*

Network participants will collaborate to:

- define, use, and communicate a common language that honors and empowers all postsecondary learners and elevates all postsecondary pathways with our cross-sector partners, learners, and throughout our community to address bias and reduce communication barriers.
- meet learners where they are (literally and figuratively) by reducing barriers that help them explore individualized, comprehensive postsecondary pathways and tangible career opportunities.
- ensure that learners and potential employers are aligned in expectations of needed skills and career-readiness via experiential learning opportunities and other existing resources.
- grow a robust, aligned, energized participant membership with a learner-first mentality.



## In the 2023-2024 Year, Network Participants convened for:

- Strategic Planning Meets
- 6 Adult Learner Team Meets
- 6 Postsecondary Student Success Team Meets
- 3 Leadership Team Meets
- 7 Core Leadership Team Meets
- 6 Adviser Meets
- 12 Coleman Postsecondary Hub Meets
- 8 Summer Melt Prevention Program Meets

## These convenings resulted in:

- Crafting a Strategic Plan
- Understanding community assets
- Connecting learners to community assets
- Responding to learner needs
- Growing a unified, aligned network to support all learners
- Crafting and implementing impact projects



## Grants Secured to Support Impact:

- American Rescue Plan Grant
- Charles. J. Strosacker Foundation Grant
- Michigan College Access Network Summer Melt Prevention Grant
- Michigan College Access Network ReConnect Expansion Outreach Campaign Grant

*“The Career & College Access Network is important to me because it provides an opportunity for stakeholders that value postsecondary access to work collaboratively in a supported space that can influence advocacy for changes that will remove barriers and provide equitable access to education and career pathways.”*

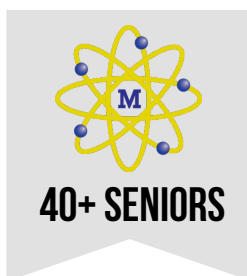
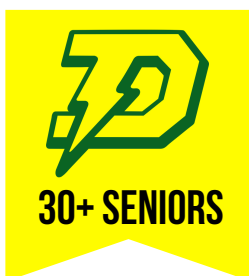
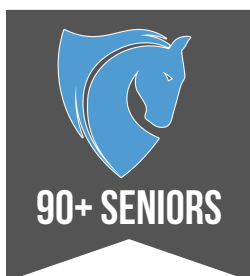
**Kristy Nelson, Delta College  
Director of Learning Centers**



## CAREER & COLLEGE ADVISING PROGRAM

The Midland Career & College Access Network reduces postsecondary barriers through collaboration that brings impact projects to the community.

The Career & College Advising Program facilitates 1:1 advising to students of priority populations and carries caseloads in all seven of Midland County's high schools.



# 745+

MIDLAND COUNTY  
SENIORS DIRECTLY  
SERVED



In addition to the students on caseload, Advisors coordinate career and college going events for all seniors, and, often, students of other grade-levels, serving a total of 745+ seniors directly.

## MIDLAND COUNTY SUMMER SUCCESS PROGRAM

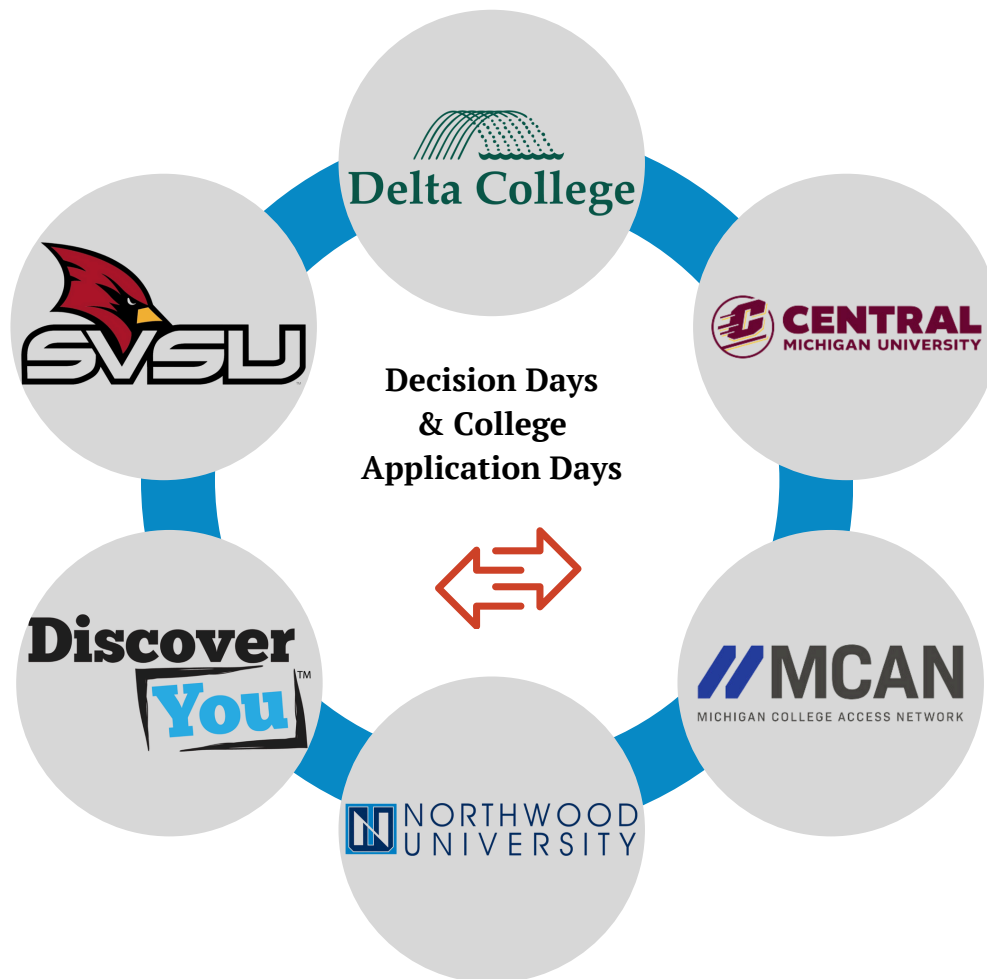
The Midland County Summer Success Program provides 1:1 advising to recent high school graduates and families during the summer months of June, July, and August.

- 40 priority population students have a dedicated Career & College Adviser providing 1:1 summertime support to help them begin their first college semesters strong. Graduates from Bullock Creek High School, Coleman Jr./Sr. High School, & Meridian Early College High School will be served by this program.



## COLLEGE APPLICATION & DECISION DAYS

Special thanks to Career & College Advisers; postsecondary partners, including Saginaw Valley State University, Delta College, Central Michigan University, Northwood University; Michigan College Access Network; Discover You at the ROCK Center for Youth Development; and many other community partners that contribute to these career and college-going events and culture building.



*“Helping students reach their postsecondary goals is the sole overarching purpose of education - it is easy to get lost in the day-to-day of school, but my work with Career and College Access Network helps me stay focused on a much higher purpose.”*

*Tracy Speaker-Gerstheimer, Midland Public Schools  
Secondary Curriculum & Instruction Specialist*



## OTHER ADVISER-SUPPORTED POSTSECONDARY PREPARATION EXPERIENCES

- college campus visits and orientations
- trade school visits
- workplace visits
- career exploration events
- events, including financial aid nights, FAFSA completion workshops, job skill workshops, financial literacy workshops, and employment fairs.



## MIDLAND COUNTY FAFSA OUTREACH EVENTS

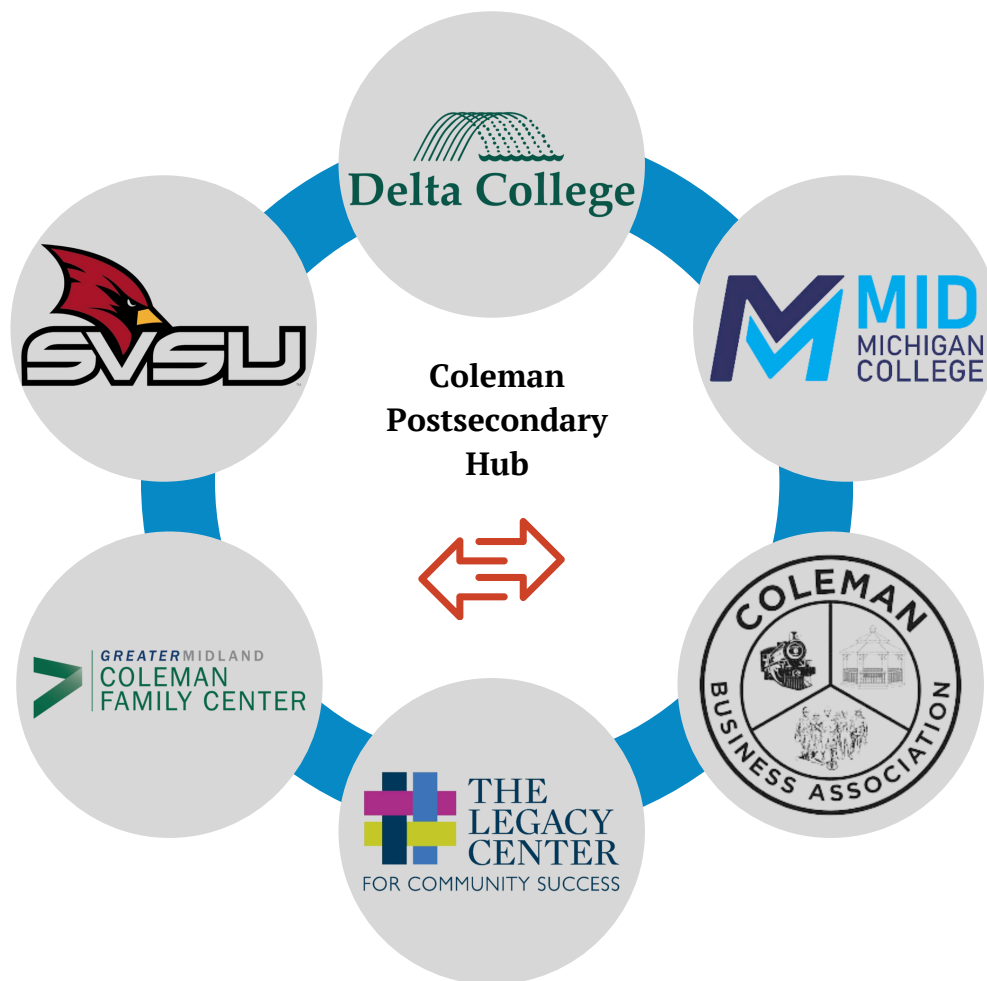
Special thanks to Career & College Advisers; K12 host sites including Midland High School, H. H. Dow High School, Coleman Jr./Sr. High School, Bullock Creek High School, Meridian Early College High School; postsecondary host sites, including Delta College Downtown Midland and Northwood University; and nonprofit host sites, including West Midland Family Center.



## COLEMAN POSTSECONDARY HUB

*The Coleman Postsecondary Hub: reducing education barriers for all and helping to build a career and college-going culture in Coleman.*

- All who frequent the Coleman Family Center have direct access to Career & College Advising, literacy development & tutoring services, GED preparation & testing, postsecondary wraparound support services, and financial aid counseling.
- Special thanks to Greater Midland Coleman Family Center, Delta College, MidMichigan College, Coleman Business Association, Legacy Center for Community Success, Saginaw Valley State University, and ETC.





## MIDLAND COUNTY RECONNECT CAMPAIGN

The Midland County Reconnect Campaign is anchored at the Coleman Postsecondary Hub.

- Over 1200 Coleman community homes will be engaged in ReConnect Scholarship opportunities thanks to Greater Midland Coleman Family Center, Delta College, MidMichigan College, Coleman Business Association, and Michigan College Access Network.

*“Career & College Advisers / Advising matters because it helps learners connect with training, resources, and support they may not know exists.”*

**Scott LaFever, Meridian Early College High School Principal**



*“The Midland Area Career and College Access Network matters for our community because.....a thriving community is made up of the people in it. Supporting learners with career development skills, access to education and opportunities, and guidance along the way is an investment in the future of our community.”*

**Sarah Weisbarth, Discover You at the ROCK Center for Youth Development, Director**

*“MCCAN is one of those organizations that truly makes an impact on everyone, not only for those who are looking at post-secondary and adult learning education options, but for our school districts, local businesses, community partners and workforce development agencies. The commitment and dedication MCCAN puts towards bridging gaps and breaking down barriers in Midland County is really inspiring. It takes a village and I'm proud to be a part of this team.”*

**Jennifer Pahl, Saginaw Valley State University, Executive Director of Admissions**



**LEARN MORE!**

**OUR  
2023-2024  
ADVISERS**



Nancy Barnes  
*Midland High*



Sarah Elgamal  
*ACEA & Windover High*



Rachel Hamina  
*Bullock Creek High*



Lori Pritchard  
*HH Dow High*



Skylyr Zink  
*Coleman High &  
Meridian Early College High*



Thank you for celebrating learner successes and community partnerships that increase postsecondary access and attainment across Midland County!



**midlandccan**



**midlandfdn.org  
/initiative/ccan/**