

Community College Local Strategic Value

The Board of Trustees of Southwestern Michigan College confirms that the College has met the best practices identified by the State for providing strategic value to the community. Specific examples are as follows:

Category A-Economic development and business or industry partnerships. *The College meets 4 out of 5 best practices in this category.*

1. The community college has active partnerships with local employers including hospitals and health care providers.

Southwestern Michigan College through its nursing and human services division partners with the following health organizations:

Ascension of Michigan (Borgess)
Beacon Health Systems
Bronson Commons
Bronson Health Care Group
Cartel Inn of Lakeland
Cass County Council on Aging
Cass County Medical Care Facility
Edwardsburg Ambulance
Goshen Health Hospital
Heritage Southwest – Lewis Cass ISD
Jim Gilmore Community Healing Center
Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital
Pace of Southwest Michigan
Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center
SMCAS
South Bend Clinic (General)
South Bend Clinic (MRI)
South Bend Medical Foundation
Spectrum Health Lakeland

St. Joseph Regional Medical Center

Three Rivers Health

Timbers of Cass County

Tri-County Head Start

Westwoods of Bridgman

Westwoods of Niles

Southwestern Michigan College has partnerships with the following area companies in support of the College's intern and apprenticeship programs and who have employees enrolled in specific courses at the College:

1st Source Bank

A+ Window & Door

Auto Value

Basney Honda

Beacon Health System

Berrien County

C & S Machine

Cressy Construction

Crowe LLP

CWU Contractors Inc.

Eagle Technologies

ER General Auto Repair

Fearless Kustoms

General Stamping and Metalworks

Great Lakes Repair & Towing

Gurley Leep Motorworks

Holtec Decommissioning Intl.

Honors Credit Union

JX Truck Center

Laidig Systems

Lippert Components

McCormick Motors
New Heights Auto Services
Niles Steel Tank
Oselka Constructors Company
Paramount Tool Company
PEI Genesis
Place Homes Inc.
Rescue Team Remodeling
Signature Dealer Group
Southwestern Michigan College (various departments)
TC Scott Construction
Trinity Health Information Services
Walmart

2. The community college provides customized onsite training for area companies, employees, or both.

Southwestern Michigan College has historically provided customized on-site training for area businesses for over twenty years. Some of its clients have been the following:

AACOA-Machine Guarding and Hazard Identification

Acemco Automotive-Safety and Health Administrator's Course ACT Test Panels, LLC-Lock-Out/Tag Out

Adrian Steel-Machine Guarding Hazard Identification Advance Packaging- Guards for Power Transmission

All American Exteriors-Lead Safety RRP

Ancast-Lean Systems

Aquatic Company-Lock-Out/Tag Out Artisan Restoration-Lead Safety RRP

Ausco Products-Lock Out/Tag Out Autocast-Rapid Changeover

Beaudin Electrical Construction-Safety & Health Administrator's Course

Berry Plastics-Lock Out/Tag Out

Blossomland Container Corp.-Guards for Power Transmissions

Bosch Rexroth Corp.-Personal Protective Equipment

Bronson Products-Machine Guarding Hazard Identification
Burnette Foods-Train the Trainer
Cabo Mechanical-Lead Safety RRP Cascade Die Casting-Rapid Changeover
Crystal Flash Energy-Machine Guarding Hazard Identification CTR Construction- Lead Safety RRP
Dee Fry Construction-Lead Safety RRP
Delta Machining Inc.-Ergonomic Principles
Diversified Machine-Six Sigma Green Belt Certification
FAPCO Inc.-Lean Systems
Genzink Steel-Guards for Transmissions
Graphic Packaging International-Train the Trainer
Great Lakes Die Cast-Rapid Changeover GRP 2 Construction-Lead Safety RRP
H.C. Starck Inc.-Ergonomic Principles Heater Stamping-Lock Out/Tag Out 1/N Tek-Basic Welding Phases 1,11 and III Kamax-Train the Trainer
Knape and Vogt-Guards for Transmissions
Lakeshore Engineering-Safety and Health Administrator's Course
Lounsbury Excavating-Personal Protective Equipment
Lyons Industry-Materion Brush Alloys-Rapid Changeover
Metal Components LLC-Train the Trainer
Michiana Window World-Lead Safety RRP
Mid-States Die Cast-Rapid Changeover
Modineer Company-Personal Protective Equipment NADCA-Rapid Changeover
National Airlines-Lock Out/Tag Out
Niles Steel Tank-Ergonomic Principles
Pfizer-Machine Guarding and Hazard Identification
Pilkington-Lock Out/Tag Out
Port City Group-Rapid Changeover
Pratt Industries-Guards for Power Transmission
Premier Tool and Die-Lock Out/Tag Out

Q3 Technologies LLC-Personal Protective Equipment
Richwood Industries-Machine Guarding and Hazard Identification
Robert Bosch-Ergonomic Principles
Shepherd Casters Corporation-Development for Project Teams
Siemens-Train the Trainer
Steinbauer-Engineering
Strive-OSHA 10 Hour for Construction Trades
Stryker Instruments-Management Conflict Facilitation
TDF Contractors-Lead Safety RRP
Dow Corning Corporation-Guards for Transmission
Universal Forest Products-Ergonomic Principles
Vail Rubber Works Inc.-Lock Out/Tag Out
Vickers Engineering-Ergonomic Principles
Vylonis Contracting-Personal Protective Equipment
Whirlpool-Lock Out/Tag Out
Wii-Kast Inc.-Rapid Changeover

During the “great recession,” there was an out flux of industry from our local taxpaying district. For this reason, the College no longer has a significant emphasis in on-site customized training.

3. The community college supports entrepreneurship through small business assistance center or other training or consulting activities targeted toward small business.

Southwestern Michigan College offers a specialty certificate in Small Business Management as well as a degree in Business and a degree in Entrepreneurship that prepares community members to be successful managing their own businesses.

4. The community college supports technological advancement through industry partnerships, incubation activities, or operation of a Michigan technical education center or other advanced technology center.

Southwestern Michigan College operates a Michigan Technical Education Center (M-Tec) on our Niles Campus. When this facility was originally built, the flagship program was die-casting. None-the-less, the facility was designed to be a very flexible training

facility that could change functions to meet the changing needs of local industry. This facility currently provides state-of-the-art training in welding as well as robotics.

5. The community college has active partnerships with local or regional workforce and economic development agencies.

Southwestern Michigan College partners with the following economic development agencies:

Tri-County Workforce Development Board

Cass County Economic Development Corporation

Berrien County Manufacturers Council

Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce

Cass County Chamber of Commerce

Edwardsburg Chamber of Commerce

Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce

Kinexus

WorkOne Northern Indiana

Buchanan Chamber of Commerce

Category B-Educational Partnerships. *The College meets all 5 (out of 5) best practices in this category.*

1. The community college has active partnerships with region high schools, intermediate school districts, and career-tech centers to provide instruction through dual enrollment.

Dual Enrolled Students – 2021/2022:

Andrews Academy – 1 student

Bangor High School – 1 student

Berrien Springs High School – 26 students

Buchanan High School – 6 students

Centreville High School – 6 students

Constantine High School – 3 students

Decatur High School – 14 students

Dowagiac Union High School – 56 students

Eau Claire High School – 3 students

Edwardsburg High School – 139 students

Hartford High School – 3 students

Home School – 16 students
Lawrence High School – 4 students
Lighthouse Connections Academy – 1 student
Link Learning-Three Rivers – 1 student
Marcellus High School – 13 students
Mendon High School – 2 students
New Buffalo High School – 18 students
Niles Cedar Lane – 1 student
Niles High School – 58 students
Paw Paw High School – 1 student
Ross Beatty High School – 50 students
St. Joseph High School – 1 student
Sturgis High School – 14 students
Three Rivers High School – 3 students
Way Niles – 1 student
White Pigeon High School – 1 student

Southwestern Michigan College has partnered with Tri-County Head Start by providing a classroom for 30 pre-school children. The relationship not only benefits the Head Start students, but Southwestern Michigan College students enrolled in the Early Childhood curriculum.

2. The community college hosts, sponsors, or participates in enrichment programs for area K-12 students such as college days, summer or after school programming or Science Olympiad.

Since July 2015 Southwestern Michigan College has hosted 3,226 K-12 students on its campus for tours, open houses and events. Due to COVID-19 the College did not host any tours, open houses or events on campus during the academic year 2020-2021.

In addition, the College annually hosts the Lewis Cass Intermediate School District's Science Olympiad. During the past few years the College has also held math competitions for area students and has hosted on several occasions the Business Professionals of America's regional competition.

3. The community college provides, supports, or participates in programming to promote successful transitions to college for traditional aged students, including grant programs such as Talent Search, Upward Bound, or activities to promote college readiness in area high schools and community centers.

ETS (Educational Talent Search) is a federally funded TRIO program committed to enhancing and ensuring the academic and personal success of selected eligible student. ETS services students in 6th-12th grade in Brandywine, Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Edwardsburg and Marcellus school districts. ETS advocates for the successful

completion of high school and to advance on to college and/or training after high school. The aim of ETS is to provide opportunities for students to reach their maximum potential.

Monthly meetings for ETS participants at target schools.

An ETS advisor in target schools one day a week the entire academic year.

College, Career and Social Etiquette workshops in middle school and high school ETS participants.

College visits for 9th through 12th graders.

Additional Workshops at target schools (based on need) may include, but are not limited to: test taking, college applications, financial aid, scholarship search, job/life skills and ACT/SAT Prep. Includes junior planning nights and senior financial aid nights.

Senior one on one help with applications, financial aid, scholarships, etc.

Free tutoring for all ETS participants during and after school.

Summer camps centered around career exploration and college prep (i.e. Public Safety, STEM, Entrepreneurship, Community Service/Leadership, Michigan College Tour, Outdoor Education/Agricultural Science).

Work with community partner agencies to better assist students in all areas of life.

Work with alternative programs in target schools to help eligible students receive a diploma/GED and receive help with creating job resumes and college applications.

Take students to MI-CAPP Student Leadership Summit for the state and sometimes region to promote TRIO and college success.

4. The community college provides, supports, or participates in programming to promote successful transitions to college for new or reentering adult students by actively, or recruiting and advising adult learners.

Southwestern Michigan College provides placement testing and provides excellent support services to access the best fit courses for each student. In addition, free tutoring is provided at the Carole A. Tate Teaching and Learning Center. Academic advisors help assess a student's educational and career goals to determine a pathway for completion. Students may choose to complete 2-year occupational program or certificate for direct employment or an associate's degrees to transfer to a 4-year school for a bachelor's degree. Our partnership with Michigan Works on the Niles Campus will help sponsor some of our occupational students.

5. The community college has active partnerships with regional 4-year colleges and universities to promote successful transfer, such as articulation, 2+2, or reverse transfer agreements or operation of a university center.

Students can earn the following B.S. degrees from Ferris State on the campus of Southwestern Michigan College:

Accountancy

Business Administration-Generalist

Business Administration-Professional Track

Computer Information Technology

Criminal Justice

Elementary Education

Human Resource Management

A student can also earn the following certificates:

Human Resource Management

Southwestern Michigan College has an articulation agreement with the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Institute of Agricultural Technology that allows students to earn MSU certificates in Agricultural Operations, Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management and Ag Business on our campus, while earning an AAS in Agricultural Technology from SMC.

In addition, Southwestern Michigan College is a member of MACRAO which provides for transfer of credits within the State's Colleges and Universities and has multiple transfer agreements with Michigan and Indiana colleges and universities. The recently enacted Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) also ensures 30 General Education credits transferring to other Michigan public schools, as well as many private schools. Southwestern Michigan College has reverse transfer agreements with Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, Western Michigan University and Davenport University.

Category C-Community Services. *The College meets all 5 (out of 5) best practices in this category.*

- 1. The community college provides wellness enrichment courses for leisure, wellness, personal enrichment, or professional development.**

Southwestern Michigan College offers the following wellness enrichment courses:

Dance

Kickboxing

Music

Nurse's Assistant

Rock Climbing

Taekwondo

The College offers a changing menu of wellness offerings through the college's wellness center.

- 2. The community college operates or sponsors opportunities for community members to engage in activities that promote leisure, wellness, cultural or personal enrichment such as community sports teams, theater or musical ensembles, or artist's guilds.**

The Department of Visual and Performing Arts at SMC is both dynamic and deeply engaged with community outreach. The College typically presents multiple theatrical performances—dramatic works, one acts, musicals—throughout the academic year. Community members can also audition to be part of the College's various instrumental and vocal ensembles, as well as theatrical productions. Several sections of applied music are offered to those with little to no training who are interested in learning basic techniques, as well as those with extensive backgrounds in vocal and instrumental arts, who may be interested in advanced study. Private study is offered for voice, and a variety of instruments including piano, guitar, wind instruments and many more. We also facilitate a community brass band as part of the instrumental ensembles; this band consists chiefly of members from the community and performs in concert with our other symphonic bands.

The College sponsors Steve's Run (proceeds benefit student scholarships and the Mayo Clinic). The annual race is open to community participation.

The College also sponsors Campus Bash, an annual fall welcome back festival, which assists students in transitioning back to campus life. Campus Bash is now open to local businesses.

Each month several pop-up intramural activities for students to participate. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in two semester long sports in the Fall and in the Spring semesters.

- 3. The community college operates public facilities to promote cultural, educational, or personal enrichment for community members, such as libraries, computer labs, performing arts centers, museums and art galleries.**

Southwestern Michigan College operates the Fred L. Mathews Library and Conference Center that is open to the community. This facility includes a large selection of books, periodicals and media. While media can be used only at the Library, books and periodicals may be checked out by community members. The Library also contains a computer lab and a number of study rooms. In addition, the Library and Conference

Center contains meeting rooms that can hold from 30 to 300 people for community events.

The College has a 350 seat theater on campus where community members can attend performances staged by the College's Performing Arts Department and the annual Southwestern Michigan College Holiday Concert featuring the College's instrumental and vocal ensembles. In addition, both the instrumental and voice ensembles perform a number of times each year in the community and at community events.

The College operates an Art Gallery that is open to the community. We hold public receptions for all of our exhibitions (typically 7-8 events over the course of the academic year). The gallery displays student art work as well as the works of featured regional, national and international artists.

4. The community college operates public facilities to promote leisure or wellness activities for community members, including gymnasiums, athletic fields, racquetball courts, hiking or biking trails, or natural areas.

Southwestern Michigan College operates a fitness center that is available to community members. This facility was expanded and modernized in 2009. Included in this facility are aerobic equipment such as stationary bike, treadmills, and elliptical machines. Also, the fitness center contains Cybex equipment, hammer strength equipment, and free weights. There are also mats and equipment for floor exercising. We offer both personal training and group fitness classes. The Canyon rock climbing room features a 35-foot rock wall and 12-foot bouldering wall.

The College maintains public trails through 50 acres of woods on campus that is used for running, hiking, and biking. In the winter the trails are used for cross country skiing and snowshoes.

In addition, there is a soccer field, a flag football field, and a softball diamond on campus.

5. The community college promotes, sponsors, or hosts community service activities for students, staff or community members.

The following community groups utilized Southwestern Michigan College facilities during the academic year 2021-2022:

ACT National – 2 times

Boy Scouts

Brandywine HS

Buchanan HS

Cass County Courts – 2 times

Cass County Friend of the Court

Cass County Republican Party – 2 times

Decatur HS

Dowagiac Union HS Cross Country

Four Flags Toastmasters – 22 times

Girls on the Run

Great Lakes Learning Academy – 19 times

Greater Niles Chamber

HAP Medicare – 4 times

HSISD – 19 times

Junior Achievement

Lighthouse Connections Academy – 9 times

MARSP

Marcellus HS

MiWorks

PAW Musical Experience – 13 times

Pokagon Band

Rotary

Tri County Head Start – 18 times

Van Buren Cass Health Dept (COVID Clinics) – 3 times

The College's Construction Trades students are building a small house. The project incorporates students from welding and chemistry programs to have a totally independent home. In addition, the College has a student ambassador program where students assist high school student tours of the campus as well as assisting at open houses and college nights.

The College sponsors the following student clubs and organizations, many of which engage in community service projects:

Adventurer's Guild-Purpose: to provide an opportunity for students that love to play board and card games an opportunity to collaborate and play each other.

Agriscience Club-Purpose: to promote and develop interest in the various areas of agriculture-related industries and organizations. The organization provide students with

leadership and professional development opportunities in the agriculture industry and beyond.

Alpha Beta Gamma-Purpose: is the business honor society for accredited junior, community and technical two year colleges. The society exists to recognize and reward academic excellence among business honor students and to recognize the contribution to learning and business of professionals.

Alpha Kappa Omega-Purpose: to provide support and Christian fellowship to the students of SMC through regular Bible study meetings and social activities.

Auto Club-Purpose: to bring students together to complete projects or work on vehicles outside of class.

Black Student Union-Purpose: the mission of the Black Student Union focuses on promoting unity throughout the African American community as well as spreading unity among students of other cultures at SMC.

Business Club-Purpose: to promote and enhance students in Business, Accounting and Office Administration fields. The club will promote tomorrow's workforce through advancement of leadership, citizenship and technical skills.

Creative Writing Club-Purpose: to promote creative writing on the SMC campus.

Criminal Justice Club-Purpose: to provide a space for students majoring in or interested in criminal justice to collaborate, study and train for competitions.

IT Club-Purpose: the purpose of the IT club is to provide opportunities for interested students to engage with technology relevant to their professional and social interests. Club projects are run by students and have included designing a high-powered, water-cooled PC; drone piloting and aerial media production; virtual reality demonstrations; trips to conventions; and more.

LGTBQ and Allies Club-Purpose: to provide a safe space for students to be themselves, make connections, learn, and contribute to fostering a positive environment for diversity on campus.

National Student Nurses Association-Purpose: to generate participation and unity in the School of Nursing and Health Services. The purpose of the association is to form professional development and enhancement of student life through extracurricular social and service activities.

Native American Student Club-Purpose: to bring together Native American students and Allies through social, educational, and professional development extracurricular events at SMC and in the community.

Performing Arts Club-Purpose: to promote the appreciation of the performing arts through immersion in many of its aspects. The club will provide opportunities to learn the arts of playing music, singing, acting and dancing; to attend professional-caliber

performances; to help present SMC performing arts events, including maintaining theater property; to promote the arts in our community and to participate in competitions.

Phi Theta Kappa (Sigman PSI Chapter)-Purpose: Phi Theta Kappa is the national honor society of community colleges and recognizes scholarly achievement. Participation is by invitation only. Eligible students (degree seeking students with at least a 3.5 GPA and 12 or more credits in non-developmental course work) will be invited to join in the Fall and Spring semesters.

Psi Beta Club-Purpose: Psi Beta is the national honor society in psychology for community colleges. Psi Beta's mission is to encourage professional development and psychological literacy of all students at two-year colleges through promotion and recognition of excellence in scholarship, leadership, research, and community service. The society functions as an association of chapters operated by Psi Beta students and faculty advisors, coordinated by a national office. Psi Beta participates with Psi Chi, the Society for the Teaching of Psychology, APA's Committee on Baccalaureate and Associate Education (CABE), and other psychological organizations at APA, APS, and regional psychology conventions.

Psychology Club-Purpose: is devoted to advanced learning, conversation, and training in the field of psychology. Our goals include:

- Providing opportunities to become acquainted with and involved with the larger field of psychology and how it applies to helping professions, such as psychology, social work, early childhood education, and nursing.
 - Providing a forum for developing one's perspective about psychology, as well as for building a sense of community and identity with others in the field, as well as across campus.
 - Hosting guest speakers for student career exploration, organizing events to benefit the campus and community through programs and services that support charitable causes, raising social awareness, and encouraging responsibility of students.
 - Providing opportunities to students to enhance leadership skills and encourage independent research.
 - Providing a greater opportunity for student/faculty interaction outside of the classroom.
- As members share varied backgrounds, students do not need to be psychology majors to join.

Roadrunner Esports-Purpose: to compete against regional teams in online games such as DOTA, Overwatch, and League of Legends.

Sigma Mu Chi-Purpose: to promote relationships among graduates of police schools, research projects in the field, and a better public understanding of police organizations among other goals.

Sociology Club-Purpose: to provide sociology students with social and academic experiences that enhance and deepen their understanding of the field.

SMC Cheer-Purpose: to foster interest in competitive cheerleading.

Weight Lifting Club-Purpose: open to students that have a passion for fitness. Club members train with Joe Coti (PHED Adjunct) and plan excursions to fitness-based organizations and venues.

Welcome Week Leaders-Purpose: to serve as peer mentors for incoming students. They lead groups during Welcome Week each fall and spring semester.