

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## ***New State Programs Offer Tuition Relief for Ottawa County Residents at Muskegon Community College***



October, 2024

This fall, over 700 high school students and adults who reside in Ottawa County took classes at Muskegon Community College (MCC) at the Grand Haven, Coopersville, Holland, or Muskegon campuses. In addition, MCC provided workforce development and customized training to Shape Corporation, Herman Miller, Grand Haven Stamped Products, Grand Haven Public Schools, and the City of Grand Haven.

Because of two new programs offered by the State of Michigan, all MCC students who live in Ottawa County can now receive a \$135 discount per contact hour on out-of-district tuition. These programs are known as the Michigan (MI) Community College Guarantee and the MI Reconnect program and are applied regardless of family income or high school GPA. While this discount will vary based on MCC's annual in- and out-of-district tuition rates, these programs currently cover more than half of the tuition costs to attend MCC.

Why do residents of Muskegon County receive free tuition while residents in Ottawa County do not? Residents of Muskegon County pay a current operating millage and a separate debt millage. These taxes are not collected in Ottawa County. For this reason, Ottawa County residents are not eligible to receive free college tuition for MI Reconnect and MI Guarantee, but they are eligible to get a substantial discount and save \$135 per contact hour.



To qualify for Michigan, Reconnect, adults aged 21 to 24 must complete the application for MI Reconnect by 11:59PM EST on December 31, 2024, apply and enroll in a community college no later than the summer semester of 2025, and complete the FAFSA. Adults over 25 will continue to be eligible for Reconnect after this date.

Also, all Michigan high school graduates who earn a diploma, certificate of completion, or high school equivalency certificate in 2024 and beyond, complete the FAFSA, and meet the requirements earn the Michigan Community College Guarantee. Family income and high school GPA are not selection criteria.

To learn more call 231-777-0366, email admissions@muskegoncc.edu, or explore MCC's 80-plus programs online.