

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE LOCAL STRATEGIC VALUE RESOLUTION

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northwestern Michigan College was held at the Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center of Northwestern Michigan College, on the 22nd of September, 2025, at 5:30 o'clock in the evening.

The meeting was called to order by Laura J. Oblinger, Chair.

Present: Laura J. Oblinger, Mark Keely, Andy Robitsek, Jody Lundquist, Ken Warner,
Absent: Pam Horne
Kernard Weaver

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Jody Lundquist and seconded by Mark Keely:

WHEREAS, Section 230(2) of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1830), as incorporated in the *applicable fiscal year appropriations act for community colleges*, requires each community college to certify by Board resolution that it meets the required number of "best practices" in each of three categories—(A) Economic Development and Business or Industry Partnerships; (B) Educational Partnerships; and (C) Community Services—in order to receive the portion of performance funding designated for Local Strategic Value; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution must include specific details about how each best practice is met, and must be approved by the Board and submitted to the State Budget Office by October 15 of each academic year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Trustees of Northwestern Michigan College certifies that the College not only meets, but also exceeds the best practice standards in each category, as demonstrated in the attached compliance summary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the College to file this Resolution with the State Budget Office no later than October 15, 2025, in compliance with Section 230(2) of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1830) and the *applicable fiscal year appropriations act for community colleges*, and to retain a copy in official College records.


Chair, Board of Trustees
Northwestern Michigan College

Community Colleges Local Strategic Value Template

Please use this table as a method to **briefly** detail what your community college is doing to meet the best practices in each category. Each category is worth one-third of the total amount available for your institution. Your institution must meet 4 out of 5 best practices in a category to receive funding associated with that category.

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
Category A: Economic Development and Business or Industry Partnerships (must meet 4 of 5)	
(i) The community college has active partnerships with local employers including hospitals and health care providers.	NMC partners with Munson Medical Center in nursing degree education (clinical site for ADN and PN student rotations), accredited surgical technology degree education (financial support and clinical site for AAS student labs), biomedical technologist associate's degree, professional development for staff (LEAN medical office), community education specifically related to wellness and nutrition programs (joint listing in Extended Education Catalog), consultation regarding specialized needs for technical training such as CNA's, phlebotomists, and medical coders. Through NMC University Partnerships, NMC GVSU's Masters in Physician Assistant degree program and allied health pathways. NMC, Davenport and Munson, through a state of Michigan grant, are collaborating to create a more streamlined pathway into the field of nursing.
(ii) The community college provides customized on-site training for area companies, employees, or both.	NMC provides various levels of noncredit, workforce, professional development and on-site customized training for area employers. Training is delivered by the professional development arm of NMC's Extended Education and Marine Center, as well as, the Michigan Manufacturing Training Center (MMTC) Northern Michigan Office. Over \$11.8 million dollars of specialized training through the Michigan New Jobs Training Program leading to the development of 1171 projected jobs paying above the region's ALICE wage. Industry certifications and shorter programs are being implemented to better meet industry's needs.

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
(iii) The community college supports entrepreneurship through a small business assistance center or other training or consulting activities targeted toward small businesses.	NMC facilitates meeting and consulting resources targeted at small business support. In September 2017, NMC and Networks Northwest entered into an agreement supporting the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). In 2021, NMC partnered with the Northwest Michigan Small Business Development Center to create the Business Development Certificate, a cost effective and efficient set of classes geared towards startups and entrepreneurs. From 2022 forward, NMC participated and sponsored Northern Michigan Start-up Week activities focused on innovation and entrepreneurship in collaboration with 20Fathoms and Traverse Connect. Beginning in 2023, the college supported the “Office of Possibilities” to assist local entrepreneurs as they look to grow their business. The college also provides SCORE mentors and training to our students looking to grow or start a business.
(iv) The community college supports technological advancement through industry partnerships, incubation activities, or operation of a Michigan technical education center or other advanced technology center.	NMC Aero-Park campus emphasizes automotive technology, engineering technologies, manufacturing, renewable energy, construction technology, PLC certificate training, robotics and unmanned systems, and associate and bachelor’s level marine technology remotely operated vehicles and acoustical sonar training. In 2017, the Great Lakes Water Studies Institute became the only academic institution, world-wide, offering international credentialing from the Association of Diving Contractors International (ADCI). Industry specific advanced professional development leverages NMC’s state-of-the-art technical resources, including advanced simulation training for welding, unmanned aerial systems, IT. In 2021, NMC received a Michigan Economic Development Corporation grant to develop an advanced manufacturing / Industry 4.0 lab in conjunction with industry partners including the Grand Traverse Manufacturing Council and Traverse Connect. The lab went live in May 2022 supporting Industry 4.0 training including collaborative robotics. In 2025, the college acquired one of the state’s first

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	3D concrete printers designed to “print” lower cost housing. Training will begin in the Fall of 2025 for this forward thinking program. This work continues across all key technical areas.
(v) The community college has active partnerships with local or regional workforce and economic development agencies.	NMC has a long-standing collaboration with the NW Michigan Council of Governments, is a member of the MMTC and the Career and Education Advisory Council, and similar agencies. NMC is also a founding member of the Traverse Area Chamber of Commerce, Chamber EDC, and regional, state, and national organizations supporting workforce and economic development in the region. NMC is a regional host for MI Lean Manufacturing Summit. In addition, NMC and MIWork! / Networks Northwest has collaborated on grant opportunities including the successful hiring of a navigator to assist and fund students and job seekers in 2021 under the MiLEAP initiative. Apprenticeship alignment continues between the organizations. In 2025, NMC and MiWorks received a MiLEAP grant dedicated to expanding workforce collaboration and to develop a collaboration focused on increasing the number of individuals with credentials of value in the region.
Category B: Educational Partnerships (must meet 4 of 5)	
(i) The community college has active partnerships with regional high schools, intermediate school districts, and career-tech centers to provide instruction through dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, direct credit, middle college, or academy programs.	NMC actively engages local educational entities to provide early college programming. Additionally, NMC has a strong dual enrollment program for high school students and direct credit opportunities. NMC has expanded articulation agreements for programs such as pilot training (Cheboygan ISD, Crosswinds Academy) and Computer Information Technology (Elk Rapids Schools, Traverse City St. Francis High School).
(ii) 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.	NMC’s Extended Educational Services (EES) provides the <i>College for Kids</i> catalog, featuring week-long courses, filling over 1200 College for Kids seats during the summer. Working with Traverse City Area Public Schools, Northwest Education Services, private and charter schools, NMC supports multiple activities that

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	introduce K-12 students to higher education opportunities such as national robotics and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) competitions. The CIT program hosts the IT Olympics annually for regional career and technical education centers and local high school IT programs.
(iii) The community college provides, supports, or participates in programming to promote successful transitions to college for traditional age students, including grant programs such as talent search, upward bound, or other activities to promote college readiness in area high schools and community centers.	NMC partners with area high schools by discussing alignment of their curriculum with our coursework. Additionally, we have created pathways for placement utilizing a student's high school GPA. Students may take a writing inventory or complete math placement testing to improve their course placement. Our Commitment Scholarship program provides access and support for first generation learners in our five county area for ninth grade students selected by the high schools. NMC also hosts advisor days designed to help high school counselors better advise their high school students into college programs.
(iv) The community college provides, supports, or participates in programming to promote successful transitions to college for new or reentering adult students, such as adult basic education, GED preparation and testing, or recruiting, advising, or orientation activities specific to adults.	Through collaboration with Michigan Works!, NMC offers activities specifically designed for new and returning adult learners. Examples of expanded services are the testing prep and certified testing services through the NMC Student Success center and the Pro-metric testing center located at the college's testing center.
(v) 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.	Through NMC's University Center and partnerships, dating back to 1996, the community has access to education opportunities beyond the Associate level in undergraduate and graduate level degree programs offered by five university partners. Over 40 bachelor's completion, master's, and professional post-associate certificates are available. Through the University partnerships, specific 3+1 and concurrent enrollment programs have been developed by partner institutions in response to regional needs such as in Aviation and Nursing (Davenport University) and Clinical Social Work (Ferris State

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	University)), in addition to extensive articulation agreements across the disciplines. In the Fall of 2025, NMC relocated the partners back to the Front St. campus in order to better advise students and encourage collaboration across academic areas.
Category C: Community Services (must meet 4 of 5)	
(i) The community college provides continuing education programming for leisure, wellness, personal enrichment, or professional development.	Broad range of courses offered through the NMC Extended Education Services (EES) catalog. This is distributed three times per year to about 50,000 households, plus to 30,000 households for summer College for Kids programming. The catalog features special sections on wellness, leisure, personal enrichment, workforce & professional development, and more. Each term/catalog offers 200-300+ individual classes and 8+ certificate opportunities.
(ii) 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 guilds.	Arts and Cultural enrichment programs are a specialty in the NMC Extended Education Services (EES) catalog including but not limited to: community choirs and bands, broad menu of physical fitness and exercise clubs and certificate programs such as Northern Naturalist, Global, and Business Development. The college also hosts the region's International Affairs Forum bringing global speakers to Traverse City focused on today's most pressing topics.
(iii) 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, art galleries, or television or radio stations.	The community has access to WNMC 90.7 FM, NMC's public radio station; monthly community observation nights for the Rogers Astronomical Observatory provided in person and virtually; senior discounts at the Denno's Museum Center, Extended Education's virtual Coffee Chats series.
(iv) The community college operates public facilities to promote leisure or wellness activities for community members, including gymnasiums, athletic fields, tennis courts, fitness centers, hiking or biking trails, or natural areas.	Community open times for basketball and other team sports hosted through the Rajkovich Physical Education Building. EES catalog provides a number of short-format courses under the "Naturalist Certificate," with emphasis in outdoor and recreation pursuits. EES registers community members for the

Best Practices by Category	Examples of Adherence
	fitness center in North Hall when it is open to the public (it has been closed to the public since March 2020).
(v) The community college promotes, sponsors, or hosts community service activities for students, staff, or community members.	NMC offers many opportunities for community service through student service learning programs (e.g., Commitment Scholars program, Late Night of Procrastination at the library), community outreach projects (e.g., Big Brothers Big Sisters Big Little Hero Race organized by students in a business course in which \$5,000 in funds are raised annually for “littles” to take College for Kids classes, Food for Thought, a community-wide food drive to support families in need at Thanksgiving) and Student Government Association sponsored activities, to name a few.