



Council Communique



PRESIDENTS COUNCIL, STATE UNIVERSITIES OF MICHIGAN

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Higher Ed's Lobbyist Stays Positive Despite Tough Budget Battles

Presidents Council Executive Director, Michael A. Boulus, was interviewed by Dome Magazine for their July magazine. [Click here to read the article.](#)

An excerpt from the article:

Legislators want to chop state spending on higher education - including politically popular student aid. Michigan's 15 state universities are cutting their own personnel and budgets while hiking tuition. Parents - hard-pressed by layoffs actual and threatened, torpedoed retirement and investment funds, fringe benefit cuts and overall economic uncertainties - struggle to send their children to what historically have been affordable public universities. And some policy analysts have proposed closing one or more campuses and even privatizing prestige-plus University of Michigan.

Upcoming Dates

Career Center Directors Meeting

August 11, 2009

SHEEO Policy Conference

August 11-14, 2009
Denver, Colorado

State Relations Officers Meeting

August 18, 2009

Legal Affairs Officers Meeting

The numbers underscore the grim situation. In 1992-1993, state appropriations provided 59 percent of the universities' general operating revenue, with the balance from tuition and fees. By 2007-2008, the state's share had dropped to one-third and continues to shrink.

In fact, during the last five years, Michigan has dropped to 50th place among the states in higher education appropriations. And using 2000-2001 as a baseline, per-student appropriations dropped from \$6,869 to \$5,705 - and if inflation is factored in, that original \$6,869 would be \$8,557.

But there's still good news for much-beleaguered public higher education, insists Michael Boulus, executive director of

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the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan, which lobbies on behalf of the state's public universities.

Universities Aim to Maintain Excellence

In the July 5, 2009 Detroit Free Press published an editorial by Michael Boulus titled, [Universities Aim to Maintain Excellence](#). The editorial was in response to a June 29 Detroit Free Press editorial, [Universities Blind to Michigan's Misery](#). You can read either editorial through the links above or on the [PCSUM web site](#).

Motivate Michigan

The Michigan economy needs tangible improvement and with backing from the corporate world, [Motivate Michigan](#) is seeking creative ideas to improve the economy. Students attending Michigan postsecondary institutions can compete in 2010 for scholarships and internships provided by the sponsoring companies and organizations by submitting ideas online to improve the Michigan economy. The winning idea will work with sponsors on a feasibility study and a presentation to the sponsors on funding and support for implementing the idea.

To obtain a Motivate Michigan flyer from the PCSUM web site, [click here](#).

College Affordability Reports

On July 30, [The Center for Michigan](#) posted two reports by Judy Putnam who analyzed college affordability and state support in Michigan and other states.

[Special Report on College Affordability: How other states outpace Michigan](#): "Michigan goes through another round of tuition hikes and lawmakers debate whether to ax the state's major scholarship program - making that four-year degree even harder to pay for - ideas are bubbling up in other states to keep a lid on costs, from "no frills" universities to legalizing and taxing video poker.

Michigan is falling behind when it comes to making college affordability - not a good trend for a state needing a highly educated and talented work force to rebuild its economy"

[More Background on College Affordability](#) is a short follow up piece citing below national average affordability based on per pupil state support and tuition revenue from the [Delta Project on Postsecondary Costs](#) and [Measuring Up 2008](#).

Post 9/11 Veterans Benefits

On August 1, the Post 9/11 Veterans Bill took effect and in Michigan there are between 5,000-7,500 eligible veterans who could be enrolling in Michigan institutions of higher learning (IHL). [A Surge From Bunker to Dorm: New GI Bill Takes Battle Out of Higher Education](#), was a feature story in [The Detroit News](#) on July 21.

Also, the American Council on Education (ACE), The Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC), the American Association of State Colleges and

Universities (AASCU), the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA), and the National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA) collaborated on a new report based on data from 723 institutions of higher education. The report, [*From Soldier to Student: Easing the Transition of Service Members on Campus*](#), offers a first-of-its-kind national snapshot of the programs, services and policies in place on campuses to serve veterans and military personnel, as well as areas in which campuses need to improve their offerings.

University Press Releases on 2009-10 Tuition and Financial Aid

PCSUM has compiled a list of links to university press releases and web sites regarding 2009-10 tuition and financial aid. [Click here](#) to access the PCSUM web site for a link to the .pdf document. If you have other links at your institution for information about the budget, financial aid, and tuition, please send to [Patricia Farrell](#).

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Race to the Top and Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems RFPs

The U.S. Department of Education has posted the RFPs for two state grants: Race to the Top and Statewide Longitudinal Data System. The Race to the Top grant program is the largest ever Federal competitive investment in school reform (\$4.35 billion) and part of the grant focuses on "adopting internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace." The state longitudinal data system grant is to provide financial assistance to states in designing, developing, and implementing a statewide P-20 data system. The system has to link preschool, K-12 and postsecondary education, and workforce data.

The Presidents Council will keep you posted on Michigan's efforts to secure these grants. In signing the state fiscal stabilization fund application, Governor Granholm committed Michigan to creating a P-16 student longitudinal data system. To learn more about the grants, visit the [U.S. Department of Education's web site](#).

Michigan College Access Network (MCAN)

The Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) has formed a Steering Committee to work on several key tasks including forming a permanent governance structure, setting the goals of MCAN, and identifying areas of need for the network. Currently, the committee is searching for a fiduciary. PCSUM will keep everyone updated on MCAN's discussions, decisions, and events. In addition, MCAN is moving forward with two RFPs: 1) electronic transcript and 2) college access web portal.

On another note, Michigan has been selected as a [KnowHow2GO state](#). [KnowHow2Go](#), a Lumina-funded public-awareness effort involving the Ad Council, the American Council on Education and other allies, is designed to encourage low-income students in grades eight to 10 and their families to take the necessary steps toward college.

Intern In Michigan

[Intern in Michigan](#) was launched in April of this year through a partnership between Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce and the West Michigan Strategic Alliance to connect college students seeking internships to

Michigan-based employers.

"The launch of this initiative is timely as well as an important step in creating and promoting employment opportunities for our college graduates right here in Michigan," said Richard E. Blouse Jr., president and CEO of Detroit Regional Chamber. "Because of Intern In Michigan the state is in a proactive position to establish long-term success for talent retention."

The traffic on the site continues to increase. As of July 31, 4,160 students and 418 employers have registered, respectively. In July, 192 employers and 606 students have logged onto the site.

What's New with the Council Committees

Academic Affairs Officers retreat -- 6/4-5/2009

Susan Koch, Provost at Northern Michigan University, hosted the AAO retreat which brought together new and old faces to discuss and review academic programs (APR), the APR policy statement procedures, AAOs writing articles on academic issues for policymakers and media, Professor of the Year Award, and turnover and assimilation of new AAOs.

Financial Aid Directors at the Michigan Student Financial Aid Administrators Summer Conference -- 6/21-24/2009

A majority of the directors attended the MSFAA Summer Conference at Shanty Creek to learn and discuss the future of state financial aid programs, No Worker Left Behind, Negotiated Rulemaking, FAFSA New Dependency Questions, Year-Round Pell Basics, and more.

Alumni Directors meeting -- 7/22/2009

The annual meeting for the Alumni Directors was held at the PCSUM offices where the directors shared their best practices and learned from others about young alumni programs, alumni career services, social networking, event venues, maintaining quality with budget cutbacks, and more.

Public Information Officers meeting -- 6/8/2009

John Bellow from [The Center for Michigan](#) joined the committee over lunch to talk about [Michigan's Defining Moment Public Engagement Campaign](#). The PIOs also talked about using social media and the budget impacts and how to present this type of information to the staff, faculty, students, and community.

Board of Directors meeting -- 6/24/2009

The Presidents and Chancellors met for their summer meeting near the end of June, and the agenda focused on their future budgets, including tuition, veterans educational benefits, community college baccalaureate (HB 4837), P-16 longitudinal data system, and PCSUM update.

State Relations Officers meetings -- 6/9, 6/23 & 7/28

The SROs have met consistently while the Legislature has been in session to share and learn from each other about the budget including state financial aid programs, community college baccalaureate (HB 4837), House Speaker Dillon's proposal for public sector healthcare reform, veterans education benefits, and more.

Welcome

CMU Names Interim President

Central Michigan University has named Kathy Wilbur interim president. Wilbur has led CMU's government relations and public affairs division for seven years. Wilbur came to CMU after establishing and serving as director of the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services, a 4,000-employee organization with a nearly \$600 million annual budget, from 1996

to 2002. She was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2007 and she also served as an elected member of the Board of Trustees at MSU for six years.

To view a CMU press release on the appointment [click here](#)

LSSU Names Interim President

Lake Superior State University has named Tony McLain interim president. McLain's career in education has seen him in a variety of positions, from working as an English teacher to two superintendent positions. Since retiring from the Sault Schools, McLain has been working as a part-time financial consultant with Stauder Barch and Associates of Ann Arbor, and has been active in the NorthStar chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

To view an LSSU press release on the appointment, [click here](#)

CMU Names Interim Provost

E. Gary Shapiro, dean of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, has been appointed CMU's interim provost. Shapiro has been a CMU sociology professor since 1978 and an administrator since 1989. He has served as director of institutional research, assistant vice provost of institutional research and planning, and associate dean of arts and sciences. Shapiro also was interim registrar in 1994-95 and was appointed CHSBS dean in July 1997.

EMU Names Provost

Eastern Michigan University has named Jack Kay as its new provost and executive vice president. From September 2005-February 2007, Kay served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Michigan-Flint. He served as interim chancellor at U-M Flint from January 2007 to August 2008, and then returning as provost. Prior to joining UofM-Flint was a professor of communication at Wayne State University from 1990-2005

To view more about Jack Kay, [click here](#)

FSU Names Provost

FSU has named Fritz Erickson provost and vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Erickson brings more than 25 years of administrative experience in higher education to Ferris, having spent the last six years as Dean of the College of Professional and Graduate Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

To view more about Fritz Erickson, [click here](#)

LSSU Names Provost

LSSU has named Anthony Blose interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. Previously Dr. Blose was the Dean for the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

UM-D Names Provost

UM-D welcomes Kate Davy as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Dr. Davy comes to UM-D from Bentley University, outside Boston, where she was the dean of arts and sciences since 2002.

To view a UMD press release, [click here](#)

UM-F Names Interim Provost

Vahid Lotfi has been named as interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Dr. Lotfi served in this same role from 2007 through 2008 during the search for the chancellor at the University of Michigan-Flint campus. Prior to 2007, Dr. Lotfi served as the Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Programs at the University of Michigan-Flint (UM-Flint).

New PCSUM Web Site

Don't forget to check out the new PCSUM web site - www.pcsun.org. The site is updated regularly with news from our 15 public universities and information about the Presidents Councils activities. PCSUM is also on Twitter promoting higher education in Michigan - if you or your university has a Twitter account, please let us know.

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