



MICHIGAN WORKFORCE TRAINING & EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

Transitional Board Members

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President, West Shore Community College

Barbara Wieszcieski, MSN, RN

Dean of Health Sciences and Director of
Nursing, Mid Michigan College

Student Spotlight

When Ella Merrill, Southwest Michigan College (SMC) MRI Program alumni, was 16 years old she was involved in a car accident and sustained a traumatic brain injury. She was predicted to remain in a coma for the rest of her life. Two months later, she beat all odds and woke up. Ella had to relearn everything that she had once taken for granted, like how to talk and walk. She WALKED out of the rehab facility only a month later and soon returned to normal life. This traumatic experience sparked an interest in the healthcare field. Ella had started her college journey thinking that she had to choose to become a nurse or a doctor, and that those were the only routes that she could take. Not much was said about other professions in the medical field. She tried nursing, but soon figured out that it was not for her. Imaging programs were brought to her attention, and she began the MRI Technologist program SMC was offering through the EPiC Consortium. This experience gave her a whole new perspective of the healthcare field. The program was rigorous, and the structure provided by the program helped her excel. She started the program with little knowledge of MRI and walked out passing her certification test and getting a job at a local hospital soon after. Ella is very grateful for the opportunity, and more importantly, the second chance at life.



"Events in life shape you to be the person you are today." -Ella Merrill, 2022 EPiC Consortium MRI Graduate



TRANSITION UPDATES

The Center for Collaborative Programs is on track to transition to the new 501c (3) organization, Michigan Workforce Training and Education Collaborative (MWTEC), July 1, 2023. The Articles of Incorporation have been accepted by the State of Michigan and the 1023 form has been submitted to the IRS for final non-profit status approval.

The transitional board met on February 3, 2023. The MWTEC logo was adopted and the Blackbaud account payable/receivable system was selected for its transparency.

The transitional board will meet May 12, 2023 at 3:00PM to formally review and approve:

- MWTEC budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year
- MWTEC President and employee contracts
- 2024 Board meeting calendar
- MCCA fiscal transitional items

The Collaborative is working closely with the EPiC Consortium partner legal teams to finalize the MWTEC and EPiC Consortium Contract that will include the Memorandum of Understanding language previously under the Michigan College Online to ensure seamless sharing of curriculum, transfer of student records, degree completion, and terminal award by each partner college.

The website is underdevelopment can be found at www.mwtec.org.

GRANT UPDATES

Strengthening Community College

The SCC grant has been used to develop curriculum for five (5) EPiC healthcare programs and cover the wages for the first year for two (2) program directors.

Apprenticeship Building America

AMCAI Hub partners will collaborate with Sponsors to co-design pre-apprenticeship programs that include basic technical and soft skills, and lead to enrollment in a Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP).

Nursing Expansion Grant

The State of Michigan has included \$80,000 for the Collaborative to support entry level nursing education laddering to Registered Nursing programs.

PARTNER NEWS

Part of the mission of the apprenticeship team at West Michigan Works! is growing apprenticeship programs in high-wage high demand occupations, creating career pathways for job seekers, while building and facilitating relationships with key stakeholders. The EPiC Consortium has assisted us in this mission by meeting our apprentices where they are by offering training opportunities in their local communities. A great example of this happened just last week when an apprentice student was able to remove barriers to continue her enrollment in a program by getting registered for classes she needed with a different community college. The colleges could easily collaborate on the student's schedule and make sure she stayed on track to successfully complete the program! -Kelly Tang



Collaborative Efforts for 2023-24

- Enroll students in the four new healthcare collaborative programs beginning in fall 2023
- Partner with USDOL to create a process for identifying and accepting new apprenticeship programs
- Serve on the Michigan Apprenticeship Advisory Board representing the Michigan Workforce Technical Education Collaborative, to leverage efforts to increase credit and credential bearing education for Registered Apprenticeship programs
- Facilitate in the identification of existing workforce training programs and assist with the development of new training programs that support the State of Michigan
- Act on the TalentFirst Center for Adult College Success Governance Board to identify opportunities for EPiC Consortium partners
- Work with Direct Care Worker Advisory Board on career pathways and credentialing for Direct Care Workers

EPiC Advisory Board

We have successfully graduated over 50 students at KCC over the last 11 years through this collaborative. Our graduates have gone on to obtain their credentials and found employment, many before they even graduate the program. - Christine VandenBerg, Allied Health Director, Kellogg Community College

EPiC HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS

Anesthesia Practice Consultants (APC) serve several large hospital partners throughout Michigan. APC has over 200 anesthesiologists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and certified anesthesiologist assistants who perform over 150,000 anesthetics annually. Currently there is supply gap of 142 Anesthesia Technologists in the State of Michigan. To close this gap, APC has partnered with the EPiC Consortium and West Michigan Works! to launch the first Anesthesia Technology Apprenticeship program in the U.S., and only the second accredited program in Michigan.

The partnership with the EPiC Consortium is helping APC fill the supply chain shortage in the field and create a career pathway for individuals who may not of had an opportunity to attend college and pursue this career. The apprenticeship model allows employers to hire and train individuals, pay them a 40 hour per week wage, all while attending classes and practicing their hands-on-training in a hospital partner location.

APC, GRCC, and EPiC will be presenting at the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce on May 9, 2023 to share the partnership with the business community.

ANESTHESIA
PRACTICECONSULTANTS

EV JOBS ACADEMY

The EV Jobs Academy is an employer-led collaborative comprised of over 100 stakeholder partners to identify the electrified vehicle and mobility-related occupational skill needs while developing and scaling postsecondary credentialing programs utilizing a turn-key online shared learning platform for the 32 colleges and universities statewide represented by the Michigan Occupation Deans Administrative Council (MODAC).

The Collaborative met with Community College workforce leaders, employers, and other stakeholders to share the InnoEnergy Battery Technician curriculum that could be housed on the EPiC Consortium learning management system for all partners to use. The Collaborative is currently seeking employer validation for the curriculum for potential funding. Please contact Dr. Dennis Bona dbona@mwtec.org if you have further questions.

MESSAGE FROM THE TRANSITIONAL BOARD VICE-CHAIR

Our community colleges collaborate to offer high cost programs that students can take advantage of anywhere that they live in Michigan; from rural areas to urban areas. When workforce partners in Michigan have a need, the Collaboration can efficiently meet their needs. Students can complete a program and enter good paying jobs in careers that may never have been possible without the Collaboration. I am proud to be an active member of the Collaboration while supporting both student and workforce needs.

- Barb Wieszcieski, Dean of Health Science and Director of Nursing Mid Michigan College