

### 2023 MACAE Fall Conference: Celebrating 40 Years Sunday, October 15, 2023- Wednesday, October 18, 2023 Lansing Center

#### **Description:**

The Michigan Adult, Community and Alternative Education (MACAE) Association is excited to announce our Fall 2023 in-person experience for adult, alternative, community education and workforce development professionals and vested education and business partners, October 15-18, 2023.We expect over 250 attendees to our conference! This is THE conference to attend regarding adult, alternative, community education and integrated education and training in Michigan. Plenary sessions will include options for professional learning communities, instructional strategies, program design, best practices to meet measurable academic outcomes, transition to employment and postsecondary access, etc. Our membership is strong, active, and engaged in our annual conference and ongoing professional development throughout the year. We will have state leadership, statewide partners, administrators, teachers and instructional staff, support staff, data management personnel all present.

SCECHS: AGENDA:

### Tuesday, October 17, 2023

8:00am-9:00am Breakfast General Session Room

#### 1.25 9:00a.m.-10:15a.m.:Breakout Sessions (Choose one)

# English at Work: The Opportunity of Workplace ESL Room 101

Marcus Little, Customized Workplace English Program, Literacy Center of West Michigan The Literacy Center of West Michigan has been a leader in providing workplace-based ESL classes in partnership with employers since launching its Customized Workplace English program over 20 years ago. In the past few years as the labor market has tightened and the number of refugees, immigrants and New Americans coming to Michigan has grown, employers have sought to capitalize on this emerging labor force. To do so effectively, ESL is an essential "day 1" strategy. This workshop will share the powerful impact that offering these programs can have on learners who might otherwise not be able to access traditional ESL services, as well as on businesses and communities as individuals are able to bring all of their strengths and assets to bear on their work by having the barrier of English language literacy removed. Practical, "how-to" principles will be shared as well as lessons learned that inform best practices.

#### The Journey of a Michigan Works Client

#### Room 102

#### Claudia Stephens, Manager, Detroit at Work Career Center, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation & SWES

This interactive workshop will take you through the process of someone walking into a Michigan Works! Agency to training and employment. Each participant who enters the Center must complete paperwork and determine their goals and how we can serve them. Attendees of the session will be a client and go through the system to become registered at their OneStop!

#### TRELLO- Tool for Real, ExcelLent Organizing Room 103

#### Joy Zug, Continuing Education Coordinator, Royal Oak Adult Education

Bring your device for a hands-on introduction to the powerful (free) tool that has helped keep a team of part-time staff all moving in the same direction. Learn how Royal Oak Schools has used Trello to help with registration, administrative tasks, budgets, student services, and more! In addition to your device, think about a project management or organizational issue you would like to address and be ready to use Trello as a solution.

#### Mi-Internship Prep!

#### Room 104

#### Vincent D'Ettorre, Lead Instructor, Michigan Works! Southeast

A program that has evolved to provide the tools, teachings, and practice for young adults to present themselves professionally. Utilizing a virtual classroom setting encompassing 40 hours of instruction over 4 weeks across 5 counties of SE Michigan. Curriculum is based on Jobs for Michigan's Graduates competencies and partnered with Michigan Works! Southeast for funding and career connections. Mi-Internship Prep! practices the soft skills needed to make a positive impression, confidence building through mock interviews, community engagement with local employers, and builds a professional portfolio participants may utilize immediately to apply to their first career. Designed for young adults aged 16-26 years of age that are WIOA and/or JMG eligible.

This presentation will provide a roadmap for how your organization may create your own professional prep course targeted towards young adults. Highlight the successes and barriers of launching a program. Cover how to capture metrics and pull in partner agencies to create a rounded program that's a win-win for both participants and organizations.

#### GED Testing Centers: Demystifying the Approval Process Room 201

Natalie Cummins, Pearson VUE Client Channel Operations Manager, Pearson VUE Are you interested in establishing a GED testing center? Confused about the process? In this session, we will walk through the steps, the tools, and the common questions around setting up a Pearson Vue Certified Testing Center for the GED exam.

#### Have Fun with BurlingtonEnglish! Room 202

Louie Paras, Customer Manager, BulringtonEnglish Brandi Cardwell, Regional Manager, BurlingtonEnglish

Are you looking for more ways to incorporate fun into your lessons? Join us to learn about the many lessons and activities in BurlingtonEnglish. We'll explore lessons and activities that focus on timely events that occur throughout the program year, ways to promote active learning, and ideas for keeping students engaged and returning to class. Let's make learning English FUN!

#### 10:15a.m.-10:30a.m.: Break: Exhibitor Coffee Break

Visit our Vendors for some coffee and a break

#### 1.25 10:30a.m.-11:45a.m.: Breakout Session (Choose One)

### TABE Workforce Portal and TABE Usage in Michigan

#### Room 101

Jon Weiss, Assessment Solutions Consultant, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) This session will provide a brief overview of TABE and discuss the latest updates regarding TABE 13&14 and CLAS-E. We will then highlight the TABE Workforce Portal and explore how TABE 11&12 are now aligned to over 500 Bright Outlook careers posted in the US Department of Labor's Occupational Network (O\*Net). You will see live how the TABE Interactive Workforce Portal aligns TABE scores to needed skills listed as Career Requirements in O\*Net. Discover best practices in student retention by leveraging student performance data to assist with setting meaningful career goals using O\*Net's vast occupational data. The last part of the session will include a case study from the Asher School in Southgate, MI.

#### Project Based Learning At The Speed of Life for Adult Education Room 102

Maidie Baker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Centric Learning Brett Emil, Director of Development, Centric Learning

Ted Kroll, Director of Adult and Alternative Education, Livingston ESA

Join us as we explore the application of project-based and competency-based learning in adult and alternative education in a practical, 21st-Century, real-world approach. Learn from our 15+ years of experience and how we aligned our successful model to pilot with adult learners at Livingston Education Service Agency.

### Shared Strength: Living, Working and Learning alongside our Newcomer Community Room 103

Mariah Shafer, Refugee Development Center Denise Kane, Refugee Development Center Elise Holcomb, Refugee Development Center

Learn how The Refugee Development Center in mid-Michigan works alongside newcomers and community partners to create an inclusive and equitable community where all newcomers have the opportunity to thrive and belong. ESOL, Housing, Health, Mentoring, and Student Success will be discussed.

GED Math Room 104

#### Ryan Kendzierski, Romuls Adult and Alternative Education

Looking for strategies for math instruction? Let's look at the latest tools and discuss strategies for greater learner outcomes and accelerated learning.

# Character Development and Leadership: The Importance of SEL Programs in Alternative Schools Post-Pandemic

#### Room 201

#### Joe Hoedel, CEO of Character Development and Leadership

Every school district in America is actively searching for a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum. Post-pandemic, we know that students are struggling. Educators understand this and want proven and evidence-based programs that truly help. They want to help students with responsible decision-making, positive communication skills, goal setting and they want students to develop their character and leadership skills. Dr. Joe Hoedel will review the relevant research on the academic and emotional detriments post-pandemic. He will also focus on the importance of teaching Social Emotional Learning (SEL) programs. The second half of the session will focus on the Character Development and Leadership Curriculum that is currently used in 3,500 secondary schools. All participants will receive the updated Role Models textbook (2023) that is the basis of the curriculum.

#### Policy in Action: What New State Policies Mean for You Room 202

Alexandra Stamm, Education and Policy Analyst, Michigan League for Public Policy The legislature has had a busy and fast moving 2023. Aside from signing a historic education budget, the governor also approved 118 other public acts as of the first week of August. Policy changes ranging from education to civil rights to support for basic needs will have important implications for the students, staff, and advocates doing the important work of putting policy into action. During this session, the Michigan League for Public Policy will provide an update on some of the major policy changes of 2023, how these policies may be implemented to best serve the community, and what might be coming up next.

#### 11:45a.m.-12:45p.m.: Lunch

#### 1.25 12:45pm-2:00pm: Breakout Session (Choose One)

#### Adult Education CLEP Testing Program (Invitation Only) Room 101

Patrick Brown, Executive Director, MACAE The Adult Education CLEP Testing Pilot Group will be convening to share out best practices and strategies. This is an invite only group.

#### I Want To Live With Grandma: Supporting Relative Placements for Children in Foster Care Room 102

#### Beth Lindley, Director, MSU Kinship Care Resource Center

There is a difference between multiple generations of a family helping one another, and a child being placed with family because they are removed from their biological parents. These extended family relationships are important to positive outcomes for children, and supporting the family.

#### ProLiteracy Benefits Room 103

Michelle Smith, Senior Vice President for Membership and Program Services, ProLiteracy Do you realize the benefits you have as a MACAE member? One is access to a national collection of best practices and resources around adult education. This is a virtual presentation.

#### How to Create a Budget and Leverage Funds Room 104

*Ibrahem Elabed, Director Federal Projects and Compliance, Southwest Economic Solutions* Are you confused with budgets, the codes and what is direct and indirect? This session will take you step by step with definitions as you build a budget and understand the codes used with 107/WIOA Title II funding. Discussion will also focus on how you can leverage funds through partnerships and how you can count them on grant applications. Participants of this session will leave with a budget template so they can work on building their own budgets for future grant applications.

#### Demystifying the Onestop Partnership Room 201

#### Chad Patton, Director of Development and Innovation, West Michigan Works! Tasha Evans, Director of Talent Solutions, West Michigan Works!

We know that partnering with your local Workforce Development Board is necessary, but sometimes it's hard to figure out the first step or even subsequent steps. In this presentation, West Michigan Works! will discuss the various programs available to adult education learners, and how they have partnered with adult education providers in Region 4b. Topics will include: 1)A baseline discussion around eligibility and how to navigate WIOA Title I 2)Sharing strategies that have led to stronger partnerships and workforce development integration 3)Discussing other resources Workforce Development Boards might have to offer. Come learn how you can partner with your local workforce development board to create a more workforce success for your learners.

# Conquering Leadership Challenges through Knowledge, Empathy, and Understanding Room 202

#### Linda Kell, Wayne RESA

Are your staff and students struggling to find a sense of belonging within your school community? Is student motivation dwindling, leading to irregular attendance and disengagement? In this session, we delve into the pivotal role of school leadership in crafting inclusive and nurturing environments, focused on belonging, connection, and the WSCC Model, that promote a positive atmosphere for both staff and students.

#### Break: 2:00pm-2:15pm

#### 1.25 2:15p.m.-3:30p.m.: Breakout Session (Choose One)

CASAS Update Room 101 Elizabeth Scheib, Program Specialist, CASAS This presentation will introduce the new CASAS test series -- Math GOALS 2, Reading STEPS and Listening STEPS. We will also discuss any new changes to CASAS eTests and TOPSpro Enterprise during this session.

(This session is sponsored by Burlington English).

#### **Corrections Roundtable**

#### Room 102

Whitney Dettmer, Assistant Director of Adult Education, Iosco RESA Nicole Hatch, Teacher and Community Corrections Case Worker, Iosco RESA & NEMCC Be ready to share your curriculum, strategies, best practices and new ideas as we engage the whole room in a conversation around all things corrections! Whether you're working in a county jail, an MDOC prison, a rehab center, or are thinking about starting a jail program, we're excited to hear from you!

#### **Best Practices for Multi-Modality Instruction**

#### Room 103

#### Karyn Ruiz, National Senior Academic Specialist

This session will review teaching strategies from a variety of different instructional settings – distance learning, blended, hybrid, and in-person – and how the tools and features from both digital and print Aztec products can enhance learning experiences and accelerate students' paths towards their academic and career goals. Karyn Ruiz will present the alternative methods she and other instructors currently employ the same Aztec's products to best assess, instruct, and track their students' learning and provide them with academic and contextualized learning experiences in ways that are more accessible, thereby increasing student persistence and their earning of measurable skills gains. This is a hybrid presentation.

### The 2023-24 State Budget: Budgeting for Michigan's People

#### Room 104

### Rachel Richards, Fiscal Policy and Government Relations Director, Michigan League for Public Policy

The Michigan state budget is an important and effective tool to advance racial and economic justice and to improve outcomes for all Michigan residents. The state budget provides vital support for services that all Michigan residents and businesses rely on, such as adequate and equitable education; financial aid for college and other post-secondary education; safe roads; clean water; affordable, high-quality child care; accessible health care; and more. While past funding decisions have maintained and deepened economic and racial disparities, the budget has the power to transform and have long-lasting positive impacts on Michigan communities, businesses and residents. At this session, the Michigan League for Public Policy will provide an update on the state budget, and we'll talk about what we all can do to ensure that the issues we experience in our homes and at our kitchen tables are those that are centered in upcoming discussions.

#### Connecting Registered Apprenticeships & Adult Ed Room 201

Schumé Harrison, Apprenticeship Analyst, State of Michigan Callan Eschenburg, Apprenticeship Specialist, State of Michigan Learn how Registered Apprenticeships provide career pathways where you can get paid work experience, classroom instruction, mentorship, and a portable credential. Presenters will discuss the Michigan Statewide Apprenticeship Inclusion and Readiness Systems (MiSTAIRS) grant and how adult education aligns with this training model.

#### Demystifying Personalized Curriculums and the MMC (Part One) Room 202

Rashell Bowerman, Instructional Consultant, Michigan Department of Education As Michigan strives to ensure that all students are "Career and College Ready", the graduation requirements may need to be modified to align with every student's personal learning path. The focus of this session will be on the 18 required credits of the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) and how they should be flexible enough to allow students on various pathways, including alternative or adult programs, to modify them when needed through a Personal Curriculum (PC). Participants will engage in learning around the current graduation requirements as well as gain an understanding of how the students post-school goals should drive any decisions about their education. There will also be plenty of time for dialogue and Q & A!

Break: 3:30p.m.-3:45p.m.

#### 1.25 3:45p.m.-5:00p.m.: Breakout Session (Choose One)

#### Tutoring Beginner-Level English Language Learners Room 101

Laurie Weeks, Program Director, Oakland Literacy Council Many tutors don't know where to start teaching immigrants who know little English. This presentation will give you practical ideas and suggest curriculum materials for teaching beginners through imagery, physical movement, and games.

### Financial Resources for Youth and Adult Learners in Michigan Room 102

Ana Manzano, Scholarship Program Director, Michigan College Access Network College can be expensive! But the time to pursue a higher education in Michigan is now, with scholarships such as the Michigan Achievement Scholarship (MIAS), Michigan Reconnect, and the Michigan Equity, Courage, Hope, and Opportunity Scholarship (MI ECHO) there has never been a better and more affordable time. We invite you to join this session to learn more about these opportunities and their eligibility to apply. These opportunities can be the difference for those looking to pursue a certificate or associates degree without having to sacrifice their other needs. With these options, students can now earn a degree to gain stable employment and boost their standard of living!

#### **MAERS Drop In**

#### Room 103

Sue Johnson, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Brian Frazier, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Burning data questions keeping you up at night? Does your blood pressure rise when logging into MAERS? Drop in to this informal session and we can help answer your questions! Please note this is not a formal presentation just a drop in session to help answer MAERS questions.

What's Trending with Michigan HSE? Room 104

### *Tricia Kane, Departmental Analyst, Adult Education, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity*

### *Carrie Price, Departmental Analyst, Adult Education, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity*

An analytic approach to trends we see throughout the State of Michigan and how Michigan's HSE to School Voucher Program contributed to these trends? An overview of the HSE to School Voucher Program and GED Analytics comparing Michigan's testing population to earned credentials. Tips to ensure vouchers are sent, how to use GED Manager to look up redeemed codes for returning students, and a look at the overall process one goes through to request an HSE to School voucher for the GED test series are a few of the topics to be covered.

## Free and Appropriate Education: Adult Education and Special Education Room 201

*Elizabeth Cooke, Education Consultant, Michigan Department of Education Sheryl Diamond, Education Consultant, Michigan Department of Education* Are you up to speed with the latest policy from last year that delineates the responsibility of serving special education learners through adult education and special education services. Join the team from the Michigan Department of Education to review this policy and ensure you are equitably and appropriately meeting the needs of learners.

#### Demystifying Personalized Curriculums and the MMC (Part Two) Room 202

#### Rashell Bowerman, Instructional Consultant, Michigan Department of Education As Michigan strives to ensure that all students are "Career and College Ready", the graduation requirements may need to be modified to align with every student's personal learning path. The focus of this session will be on the 18 required credits of the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) and how they should be flexible enough to allow students on various pathways, including alternative or adult programs, to modify them when needed through a Personal Curriculum (PC). Participants will engage in learning around the current graduation requirements as well as gain an understanding of how the students post-school goals should drive any decisions about their education. There will also be plenty of time for dialogue and Q & A!

#### After Hours Lansing River Board Cruise 6pm-9pm (Pre-Registration is required for this event.)

#### End of Day Three (Total SCECHS for Day Two, 6.25 SCECHs)

#### Total Conference SCECHs: 17.75 SCECHS

List of Presenters:

Marcus Little is the Director of the Customized English Workplace Literacy Program at the Literacy Center of West Michigan.

Jennifer Summers is the senior instructional leader for the Customized English Workplace Literacy Program at the Literacy Center of West Michigan.

Tammy Brown is the President of the MACAE Board of Directors. She has served in that capacity for over two years directing the operations and strategic vision of the association. She is also the Director of Troy Continuing Education.

Patrick Brown is the Executive Director of the Michigan Adult, Community and Alternative Education (MACAE) Association. He has presented at the statewide and national levels.

Carrie Machkouri is the IET and ELL Instructor at the Literacy Center of West Michigan. She also serves as Michigan's Coalition on Adult Basic Education State Advocates Fellow.

Natalie Cummins is a national consultant at Pearson. Her expertise is in the area of instructional design and program capacity building with an emphasis in student accommodations.

Manon Steel is the Senior Program Associate for TICAS, The Institute for College Access Success. Her expertise lies in statewide higher education college access strategy and policy development.

Laura Warren Gross is from the Michigan Library System

Christy Nelson is the Director of Adult Learning at the Networks Northwest, a collaboration of services in adult education and workforce development.

Ibrahim Elabed is the Director of Federal Funds for Southwest Solutions in Detroit. He coordinates all reporting and outcomes measurements for programming for youth and adult services.

Elaine Pardieck is a national consultant for education and curriculum for New Readers Press.

Jon Weiss and Michael Johnson are national consultants from Data Recognition Corporation.

Laura Saline is the Career and College Readiness Coordinator for all of Livingston county. She serves as a coordinator or services and programming for youth and adults transitions to postsecondary and employment opportunities.

Angelia Izzo is an instructor with Beecher Adult Education

Todd Wamester is the Senior Consultant with En Gen.

Karyn Goven has served in adult education for a number of years. Her expertise is in program design from early childhood through adult skill building. She currently serves as the Vice President of the MACAE Association.

Teri Banas is the Director of Communications and Programming at Michigan's Children. Her expertise lies in communications strategy, student voice advocacy and program development.

Mellissa Hulstrandt is a Senior National State Consultant with GED Testing Services. Yilin Wendland-Liu is the Director of Adult Literacy at the Literacy Center of West Michigan. She is joined by Megan Bowers and Hamid Ahara, coordinators for the same program. Monica Robbins is a Business Relations Consultant for the Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

Brian Smith works for the Michigan Rehabilitation Services at the Michigan Career Technical Institute.

Callan Eschenburg and Schume Harrison are from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity State Apprenticeship Expansion Office. Their expertise is in grant writing and program design.

Katie Thompson is the Integrated Education and Training Coordinator for Troy Continuing Education. She has vast experience in IET design and implementation. She also coordinates curriculum alignment and resource and career preparation for adult learners.

Karyn Ruiz is the National Senior Academic Specialist for Aztec.

Michelle Smith is the Senior Vice President for ProLiteracy. She oversees much of the programming and educational resource gathering.

Joy Zug is the Coordinator of the Royal Oak Adult Education program.

Alexandra Stamm is the Education Policy person for the Michigan League for Public Policy. Her expertise lies in developing statewide policy recommendations for preK- higher education initiatives.

Anne Kuhnen is the Policy Analyst for the Kids Count Michigan Project at the Michigan League for Public Policy.

Manon Steel is from TICAS, The Institute for College Access and Success. She has expertise in grant writing, legislative writing and facilitation of key statewide stakeholders around postsecondary access.

Ted Kroll is the Director of Adult and Alternative Education at the Livingston ESA. He has held various instructional and administrative positions in K-12. He currently serves on the MACAE Board of Directors.

Brand Cardwell is a regional consultant for Burlington English. She has expertise in instructional delivery and program design for many adult education providers across numerous states.

Louie Paras is a the Michigan representative for Burlington English. He has experience in postsecondary student affairs and leadership across educational access opportunities for students.

Ana Manzano is the ECHO Program Manager for the Michigan College Access Network

Tricia Kane and Carrie Price are department analysts with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

Claudia Stephens is a Career Center Manager in Detroit. Her expertise is coordinating WIOA Title Services for several hundred clients in Southwest Detroit.

Jan Hobbs is the Adult Education Coordinator for Lansing Adult Education. She has expertise in program design and curriculum development as well as high school equivalency test administration.

Whitney Dettmer is the Assistant Director of Adult Education at the Iosco RESA. She also serves as the chairperson of the high school equivalency committee.

Laurie Weeks is the Director of Tutor Programming at the Oakland Literacy Council. She has vast experience is volunteer recruitment, volunteer tutor preparation and curriculum development and design.

Vincent De'Ettorre is the Lead Teacher for Michigan Works! Southeast. He has experience working with youth and adult populations.

Brian Puffer is the Director of Saline Community Education. He has administrative experience in grant writing and programming development. He also has experience with facilities management and maintenance, before and after school programming.

Elizbeth Scheib works for CASAS. Her responsibilities included assessment training and e Tests strategy implementation.

Rich Heide is the Health Care Coordinator at Maccomb Community College. He has expertise in a variety of integrated education and training program implementation models.

Anthony Mangiafico is the Director of Community and Adult Education at Wallingford Adult Education. He also serves as the President of the Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education. He has vast experience in program implementation, grant writing and program design. In 2022 he was voted the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Administrator of the Year.

Hamid Ahari is the Family Literacy Coordinator for the Literacy Center of West Michigan.

Amy Cheadle is the Digital Learning and Program Coordinator at the Office of Global Michigan withing the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Development.

Carmen Bordea is the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Office of Global Michigan with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

Beth Lindley is the Director of the Michigan State University Kinship Resource Center. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the Michigan Kinship Care Coalition.

Erica Luce is the Manager of Adult Education Services at the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

Sara Brooks is the Youth Services Director for SER Metro. She has decades of experience in alternative, adult education and youth opportunities.

Kari Hiner is a Department Analyst for the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. Her expertise is in Integrated Education and Training.

Chad Patton is the Director of Development and Innovation for the West Michigan Works! system. He has vast experience in the integration of education and training into programming. He also has expertise in leveraging braided funding and in engaging multi-sector partners.

Tasha Evans is the Director of Talent Solutions for the West Michigan Works! system. Her expertise is in talent recruitment strategies to meet the needs of employers and businesses. She also has vast expertise in leveraging partnerships across entities and utilizing braided funding.

Sue Johnson is a Department Specialist for the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. She oversees the data management system, Michigan Adult Education Reporting System, MAERS.

David Zin is a Financial Analyst for the Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency. His expertise is in economic projections.

Brian Fraizer is a Department Specialist for the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. He helps with the statewide assessment policy.

Linda Kell, a seasoned educational leader with 32 years of experience, currently serves as the Leadership Development Consultant at Wayne RESA. She holds an undergraduate degree in Education from Alma College and a master's degree from the University of Michigan, along with an Educational Specialist Degree in Administration from Wayne State University.

Maidie Baker is the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Centric Learning. Prior to joining the Centric team, Maidie was the Principal of a Title I Elementary School in Bradenton, Florida. Maidie's career in education has taken several different paths in her 27 years since her first teaching job. She has served at the school, district, and state level of public K-12 education in a variety of roles and also spent several years in the higher ed world as a student services administrator. Her passion has always been supporting at-opportunity students and ensuring educational equity for all.