



# Michigan Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships

E-Newsletter ▪ November 2018 ▪ [www.nacep.org/micep](http://www.nacep.org/micep)

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## MiCEP Conference Recap

The annual MiCEP conference returned to the H Hotel in Midland on October 1-2. The Business Meeting was held on October 1, and conference sessions were held on October 2. Attendees learned about updates regarding NACEP, Michigan legislation, NACEP's mission, vision, and standards, accreditation standards, and providing discipline specific training for concurrent enrollment instructors.

The conference ended with round table discussions for secondary and post-secondary. A photo gallery and presentations from the conference are available on the [MiCEP Resources webpage](#).



## NACEP Conference Recap

The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships "Spurring Great Ideas" Conference was held on November 5-6 in San Antonio, Texas. The conference had 1,000 attendees from across the United States. The opening plenary featured Deborah Santiago, the CEO of Excelencia in Education. The other plenary sessions featured a panel about the implications of program design, and business partnerships to support college and career readiness. Breakout sessions included information about using data to tell your concurrent enrollment program's story, incorporating open educational resources into concurrent classes, the effects of concurrent enrollment on college readiness, strategic enrollment management, and college and high school connections.



NACEP recognized outgoing Executive Director Adam Lowe for his service to the organization and for the impact he has had on college in the high school programs throughout the United States. Patrick Cannon of Indiana University was introduced as the new Board President.

Prior to the conference, representatives from Michigan attended the NACEP Accreditation Institute and State Policy workshops.

Attendees from Michigan included representatives from community colleges, universities, and secondary institutions.

A complete listing of the 2018 conference sessions, and pre-and post-conference events is available at [www.nacep.org](http://www.nacep.org).

Next year's conference is slated for October 13-15 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

### **Program Spotlight: Van Buren Middle College**

In 2011, the Van Buren Technology Center (VBTC) opened their doors to a new kind of student who would work on completing a college credential while still in high school. While Early Middle Colleges are not new to Michigan, the first was founded in Flint at Mott Community College, it was a bold idea for the schools in Southwest Michigan. The competitive entry program allows a cohort of 22 students to complete up to a full a college degree while still in high school. The program has evolved over the past six years since the inception.



The Tech Center first offered an Early College where students attended their home high schools for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades then attended at least one class at the Tech Center in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade year. For the 12<sup>th</sup> grades students were on the college campuses full time. VBTC covers a large rural area, which feeds into three post-secondary partner options: Lake Michigan College, Southwest Michigan College and Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Students have a wide variety of options to explore in the college environment through traditional enrollment, dual enrollment and concurrent enrollment. The students in the Early College thrived in all enrollment types and in the winter of 18 earned an average GPA of 3.27 on a 4.0 scale! Once students completed their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year they either entered the work force or went on to attend a four-year institution.

This model worked well for four years, then in 2015 VBTC decided to give students yet another option; to complete a fifth year of high school in exchange for an extra year of college classes. VBTC morphed into a Middle College. Now students had more time to complete transfer degrees. The students are still grounded in Career and Technical Education but may branch into a transfer program. Of the 22 students in the inaugural Middle College cohort, nine opted to complete course work as 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and 13 opted for a fifth year option. Those fifth year students just completed in May of 2018. The majority transferred to Western Michigan University, which is the largest four year university in Southwest Michigan. Other locations students transferred to include Grand Valley State University, the work force, and the University of Michigan among others.

The graduating cohort consisted of very strong academically talented students who were also socially conscience. Students are required to complete a capstone experience which gives back to the community.

The projects students have completed are no less than amazing. Students created a prom dress drive to help girls in need defray the cost of going to prom. Others created a youth carnival; a science fair for middle school students; and refurbished a community parks basketball court. All were required to put in three hours of work for their capstone activity but most far exceeded this timeframe to complete work including calling, organizing, managing volunteers and all the details it takes to complete a project from designing,

planning and implementing to fruition; all while attending college AND high school full time. This capstone experience became part of their portfolio which encompassed building a resume, creating a mission statement, writing goals and objectives and designing cover letter to perspective employers.



Much of the success can be attributed to the dedication of the VBTC staff. The College Partnership and Middle College Coordinator from the Van Buren ISD, Larissa Hunt, has been involved with EMCs on both the secondary and post-secondary arenas and with that broad knowledge base is currently leading the program toward continued excellence. The two mentors, Cindy Kent and Gloria Jurado-Long, follow students longitudinally through the program thereby fostering strong relationship with students. The entire team promotes students' success by supporting and advising students and by providing opportunities for students to self-advocate. The groundwork laid by the adults in the program has led to the creation of well-rounded students who are citizens participating in a global community.

### Listserv Available

MiCEP's listserv is now available. General information about the service is posted at <http://listserv.nacep.org/listinfo.cgi/micep-nacep.org>. Individuals can subscribe to the service by clicking on the link. Listserv members can send a message to the email list by sending a message to [micep@listserv.nacep.org](mailto:micep@listserv.nacep.org).

### Visit Our Webpage

Visit the MiCEP webpage located at [www.nacep.org/micep](http://www.nacep.org/micep).

The site includes information about:

- Board of Directors
- Membership
- Events
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### The MiCEP newsletter is produced by the MiCEP Communications Committee:

Leah Melichar, Committee Chair, Ferris State University  
Barry Hall, Committee Co-chair, Ferris State University  
Deb Coates, Committee Member, Kalamazoo Valley Community College

### For More Information about MiCEP, contact:

DeeDee Stakley, MiCEP President

Phone: 231-591-5981

Email: [DeeDeeStakley@ferris.edu](mailto:DeeDeeStakley@ferris.edu)

Web: [www.nacep.org/micep](http://www.nacep.org/micep)

