

# MiCAP

## the Michigan College Access Portal



### April 2010 Newsletter

#### **Introduction**

The Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) would like to introduce the Michigan College Access Portal (MiCAP) newsletter. Each month you will receive an update on the web design and build progress, a sneak peak at the portal tools, and an opportunity to have your questions answered.

#### **Background**

In January, 2009 the Michigan Department of Treasury was tasked with finding a vendor that could build a comprehensive, efficient and user-friendly web-based system to assist students in their search for information and services as they pursue their higher education and career goals in Michigan. After a comprehensive competitive bid process, ConnectEDU was awarded the contract.

#### **Top Five features**

Before Treasury wrote the contract we asked educational groups and professionals what they thought were the most important modules to be included in MiCAP. Below are the top five:

- 1. Financial Aid Module**
- 2. Electronic Transcripts & Applications**
- 3. Career and education planner**
- 4. Test Preparation Module**
- 5. College Comparison Module**

#### **Extra**

“A college degree is not a sign that one is a finished product but an indication a person is prepared for life.”

**Rev. Edward Malloy**

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Read the next MiCAP newsletter  
May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## What you asked for.....

### Financial Aid Module

The portal will include a financial aid module to inform students about the cost of going to college in Michigan and its affordability by providing estimates of financial aid eligibility and links to other helpful sites including federal, state, institutional and private financial aid information, Section 529 plans, community based foundations and other scholarship/grant information. The financial aid module will calculate anticipated cost of postsecondary institution attendance, estimate the Expected Family Contribution using Federal Methodology, and provide financial aid options, including federal and state loans for which the prospective student may be eligible. The module will also be able to calculate estimated repayment requirements related to any loans incurred.

### Electronic Transcripts and Applications

**E-transcripts** - The portal will allow for the secure electronic exchange of student transcript information to and between institutions in Michigan through Docufide.

**E-Applications** - The portal will allow for pre-population of application fields for students to apply to one or more participating Michigan institutions, allow students to pay application fees online, and allow colleges to receive the application information electronically. The portal will provide a secure electronic payment authorization system that is Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliant.

### Career and Education Planner

The portal will include a career and education planner for students to compare and explore career and education alternatives, provide instruction for effective resume writing and interview skills, and evaluate career paths based on skills and preferences using aptitude tests. The module will have a planning timeline that will provide each individual with the specific sequence and deadline dates for taking necessary eligibility tests and for making timely application for various financial aid resources and schools. The planner will meet the Michigan Education Development Planning standards

### Test Prep Module

The portal will include a free college test preparation module for students to utilize practice exams for the Michigan Merit Exam, ACT, PSAT and SAT. The module will contain tutorials that provide instruction, feedback, and analyses to better prepare students for college entrance examinations. The module will also contain information on college-level class preparation, Advance Placement courses, and options for dual enrollment.

### College Search and Comparison Module

The portal will contain a college search and general characteristics comparison tool, including institution profile information and institution-specific costs. The portal will allow for links to virtual college campus tours that will provide in-depth information and descriptions. The portal will allow institutions to enter, edit and customize their information contained in the portal.

## Scholarship Search

The portal will allow students to match scholarship and grants to their profile data, and perform a keyword search to find Michigan specific scholarship and grants. Scholarship searches will return award information, requirements, and contact information. The portal will allow students to save scholarship information to their portfolio.

## Portfolios

**Students** - The portal will allow the creation of student portfolios for school applications and to track and evaluate personal goals. The portfolio will allow users to upload files and store information about themselves as well as their preferences, be able to allow access to others (e.g. parents, high school counselors, and postsecondary institution staff) to view the content of their portfolios. The module will also allow the student to exchange portfolio content with other portal applications.

**Parents** - The portal will allow parents to create a portfolio that will permit them to access the same tools and resources as their students. Students will have the ability to grant parents read-only access to their portfolio, which will be accessible through the parent portfolio.

**Counselors** - The portal will allow high school counselors to create portfolios for communicating electronically with their students, manage their students by grade or other profile elements, and tracking students' progress. Counselors will have the ability to store information for purpose of assisting students and parents with college planning. The portal will provide resources and training materials to high school counselors to allow them to help students access the information and tools available on the portal.

## Adult Learners

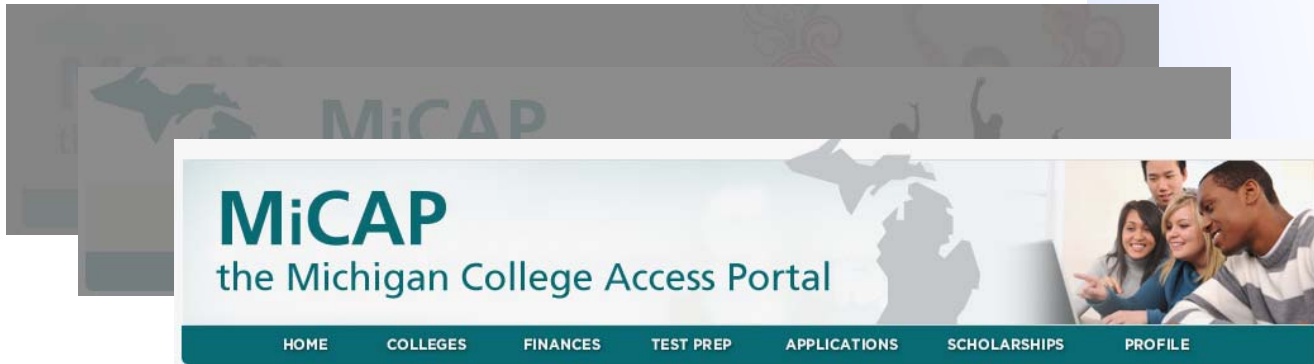
The portal will include a module that will allow adult learners to record their previous careers and use the characteristics of those careers and their transferable skills to see lists of careers that may be good options for a career switch. The portal will include career resources and tools for adults returning to postsecondary institutions.

## GEAR UP

The portal will include a Michigan GEAR UP module that will provide students, families, and education professionals the necessary information, application forms, and links to utilize the GEAR UP grant programs available in Michigan.

## Picking a design and color palette

The MCAN stakeholders group chose the following banner design and color palette to represent the face of the MiCAP web portal.



Explore Careers & Majors

### College Search Interface

COLLEGES (3)  
[Duke University](#)  
[University of Michigan](#)  
[Boston University](#)

FAVORITES ★  
[Accounting](#)  
[Psychology](#)  
[BioChemistry](#)  
[Engineering](#)

APPLICATIONS IN PROGRESS (1)  
[Boston University](#)

PENDING TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS  
[University of Michigan](#)

Test Scores | Grades | Activities | Plans | Saved Searches

Find Students with Test Scores in the Following Ranges:

SAT MATH Between:	<input type="text"/>	and	<input type="text"/>
SAT READING Between:	<input type="text"/>	and	<input type="text"/>
SAT WRITING Between:	<input type="text"/>	and	<input type="text"/>
ACT COMPOSITE Between:	<input type="text"/>	and	<input type="text"/>

Include:

Sample Tests:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Actual Tests:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current Year:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	All Years:	<input type="radio"/>

Compare To:

School Average:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	National Average:	<input type="radio"/>
Do Not Compare:	<input type="radio"/>		

[Lake Michigan College](#) (MI) +  
[Michigan State University](#) (MI) +  
[Michigan Technological University](#) (MI) +

## Other MCAN news - KnowHow2GO

MCAN is excited to announce that Michigan's KnowHow2GO website is officially live. Check it out at <http://knowhow2gomichigan.org/> and start implementing the campaign with your students!

KnowHow2GO, a Lumina-funded national college and public awareness campaign involving the Ad Council, the American Council on Education (ACE) and other allies, is designed to encourage and prepare low-income students in grades eight to ten, and their families, to take the necessary steps toward college. The campaign's multiyear, multimedia public-service advertisements (including television, radio, and outdoor) urge young people to find someone who can help them get to college and direct students and their mentors to a website and other resources. KnowHow2GO also features a grassroots network of educational institutions, youth organizations, and community groups that offer support to students. This "ground campaign" complements the media campaign.

### KnowHow2GO's Four Steps to College:

#### Step 1 - Be a Pain!

Let everyone know that you're going to college and need their help.

#### Step 2 - Push Yourself!

Working a little harder today will make getting into college even easier.

#### Step 3 - Find the Right Fit!




Find out what kind of school is the best match for you and your career goals.

#### Step 4 - Put Your Hands on Some Cash!

If you think you can't afford college, think again. There's lots of aid out there.

For more information on the campaign, contact Brandy at [johnsonfaithb@michigan.gov](mailto:johnsonfaithb@michigan.gov)

You will find us at.....

April-May 2010							
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	
					16	17	
18	19	 <p><b>2010 Summit</b> An annual event co-hosted by the Education Alliance of Michigan and the Michigan Foundation for Education Leadership. <b>The Education Alliance of Michigan</b></p>				23	24
25	26	 <p><b>AMSC</b> Association of Michigan School Counselors <i>Co-sponsors of Spring Conference 2010</i> <b>MICHIGAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION</b></p>				30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11		13		15	
 <p><b>New Directions New Opportunities</b> Michigan Adult Education &amp; Training Conference (MAETC) May 4-7, 2010</p>							

## Contacts/Feedback.....

It is important that we here from you. Please send any questions regarding the portal to:

Philip Trapp – Contract Compliance Inspector  
[TrappP@Michigan.gov](mailto:TrappP@Michigan.gov)

Brandy Johnson-Faith – MCAN Director  
[JohnsonFaithB@Michigan.gov](mailto:JohnsonFaithB@Michigan.gov)

## Things to look forward to in the May issue.....

- In-depth look at college tools and applications.
- Your questions answered.