

Increasing Post Secondary Education
in Macomb County:
Evolution of a Regional,
Public Four-Year University

*Final Report of
The Commission on Higher Education
and Economic Growth
in Macomb County*

March 2007

*Prepared for
Governor Jennifer M. Granholm*

***Commission on Higher Education and
Economic Development in Macomb County***

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Executive Summary

The educational needs, demographic changes and economic challenges of Macomb County have become more acute with the rise of globalization and the resulting reduction in automobile production and manufacturing jobs. Because the post secondary educational attainment of Macomb's citizens is below the state and national average and far below that of residents in neighboring counties, many are not prepared for employment in new knowledge based professions. To help remedy the situation, this Commission on Higher Education and Economic Development in Macomb County, created July 2006 by Governor Granholm, investigated means to increase the counties' post secondary education opportunities and to stimulate enrollment and degree completion.

Testimony from eighty-seven citizens given at public hearings across the county was amazingly congruent with the findings of previous study groups and an independent professional study. Lessons learned included:

- Macomb is one of the most populated counties in the country without a public baccalaureate institution located within its borders. Moreover, it is not uncommon for such large counties to be home to several public and/or private four-year institutions.
- There is a strong sentiment shared by business, civic and political leaders that a public baccalaureate institution needs to be developed within Macomb County.
- There is broad community support for making public baccalaureate opportunities more readily available within Macomb County.
- There are many barriers to enrollment in and completion of post secondary degree programs.
- The research conducted by the Institute for Higher Education Policy and reported to the Commission further validated the need for more baccalaureate opportunities within the County.
- There would be less need to rely on voluntary and collaborative efforts (such as the University Center) if one or more institutions offering the baccalaureate degree were to be located in the County.
- Time is of the essence. Macomb cannot wait for long-term solutions. There must be some tangible near-term progress coupled with a longer-range vision.

To make Macomb County as economically vibrant and competitive in the 21st Century as it was in the last century, higher education is needed to transform and upgrade the workforce and needed to position it as a leader in an increasingly global economy. The Commission, therefore, provided recommendations, which when implemented, will significantly enhance *both* the technical and intellectual capacities of the county, and provide a way for Macomb County to become more economically competitive both locally and globally. The proposed solutions for increasing post secondary opportunities are not only able to be implemented, but also within a logical, relatively short timeline. The interim steps are integrated into a solution which fully meets the needs of our residents now and over the next decades. While it is essential that short range and intermediate steps are taken to meet the documented higher education needs of Macomb County, it is also critical that the county have a four-year state university within its boundaries. Each and every step taken must be building toward such a goal.

Central to the action plan is the formation of a Macomb regional, public, four-year University. It is undeniable that in order to meet Governor Granholm's goal of doubling the number of college graduates in Michigan, the capacity of Michigan's higher education system must be expanded. That is why this Commission recommends that the state give top priority to the creation of a four-year university in Macomb County within expansion of its higher education system. To best serve both the residents of Macomb County and citizens across the State of Michigan, this university should be shaped less by the higher educational institutions created in the 20th Century than by the economic and educational challenges of the 21st Century.

This along with cooperative ventures among educational institutions and industries, and active student support, will assure that Macomb County meets its moral obligation to help citizens, industries and agencies survive and thrive in our rapidly changing world.

If we want to help people in Michigan and Macomb County get 21st Century jobs, we need to help more people earn college degrees. No county in Michigan is taking the challenge of increasing opportunities for college more seriously than Macomb County, and the state of Michigan needs to support that effort.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, July 17, 2006

With that declaration, Michigan's Governor Granholm announced two initiatives to help the state meet the higher education needs of Macomb County's citizens: The creation of a 15-member Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth in Macomb County; and, an independent, professional study of the county's higher education needs. Executive Order 2006-11 (*Appendix A*) gave charge to the Commission to assess the need for expanded post secondary education opportunities in Macomb County by engaging the residents in a broad-based community dialogue. In addition, the Commission was to advise the state's efforts to explore policy options regarding post secondary education specifically in Macomb County.

This report summarizes the findings of the Commission and its reflection on the study by the Institute for Higher Education Policy¹; in addition, it provides action ideas for the creation of a regional, public four-year university system within the county.

Macomb

Michigan's educational needs, demographic changes and economic challenges are reflected more overtly in Macomb's diverse population of over 840,000 people than they are in some of its surrounding communities. For example, the educational attainment of Macomb's citizens is below the state average and far below that of residents in the counties of Oakland, Washtenaw and Livingston. For adults aged 25 years and older², Macomb has 20.7% with a bachelors degree while more Michigan (24.7%), Oakland (41.3%), Washtenaw (52.4%) and

¹ The Institute is an independent, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to access and success in post secondary education around the world. Established in 1993, IHEP uses unique research and innovative programs to inform key decision makers who shape public policy and support economic and social development.

² United States Census – 2005 Update

Livingston (32.9%) citizens have completed post secondary degrees. Macomb is also unique in having a greater portion of its population (24%)³ with some college but no degree completion.

As the fastest growing county in the state, Macomb looks quite different than it did during the 1990 Census⁴: it has experienced a significant shift in population, ethnicity, employment, housing, income and family structures. The county's population is aging; Macomb, in fact, is "older" than Michigan. The household growth rate of 17% is greater than the 9.9% population growth rate. Persons living alone grew by 42% and now account for 27% of all households, up from 22% in 1990. There is continued decline in the number of traditional nuclear families and a rise in single-parent households. The dramatic increase of foreign born living in Macomb County is reflected in a 40.5% change over the last ten years.

The major auto manufacturing presence and its supply manufacturing companies in Macomb were not only the stimulus for some of its demographic changes, but also, the reason why so many families could economically survive and even thrive without the wage earner(s) having a post secondary degree. The dramatic manufacturing losses (figure 1) since the year 2000 have greatly decreased the wage earning and employment opportunities for many of Macomb's families (Appendix B). **Macomb's Manufacturing Losses**

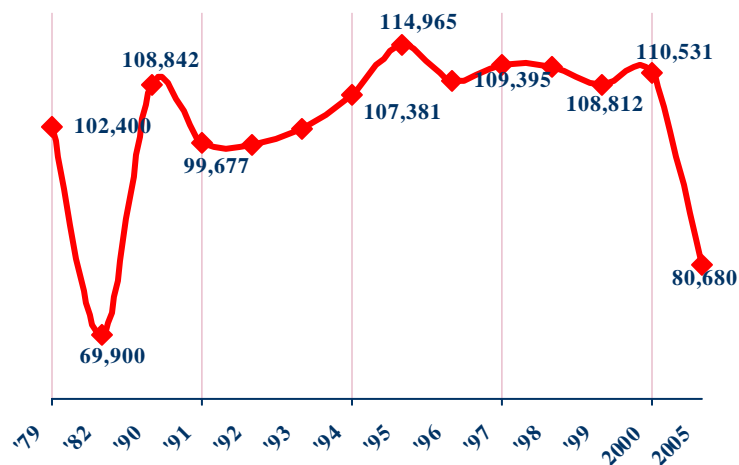


Figure 1 Source: MDCD/Employment Service Agency

³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, <http://factfinder.census.gov>

⁴ Ibid.

Macomb's decades-long assumption of high wages and lifetime employment in the auto sector is no longer sustainable in an increasingly global economy. "The County's primary economic engine is an industry that is being strongly buffeted by the winds of change brought about by globalization. Its workforce is faced with world-wide competition that threatens jobs and livelihoods."⁵ What distinguishes Macomb and Michigan most "from successful state and regional economies is its astonishingly high concentration in one industry: motor vehicles and parts manufacturing. Non-automotive manufacturing in Michigan is basically in line with the nation. So it is the domestic automotive manufacturing industry – an industry that is in deep trouble today – that is the primary reason Michigan's economy lags the nation today."⁶

If upgraded, the skills developed by workers in the auto industry can be vital to the revitalization of Macomb's economy. Such workforce improvement, however, will require completion of additional training and post secondary certification in order to meet the demands of current and future knowledge based enterprises.

There is a clear pattern across the country that the states, and particularly metropolitan areas, with the most successful economies are those that are concentrated in high-pay, knowledge based industries: information, financial services and insurance, professional and technical services, and management of companies. In the past, Michigan was able to flourish with an economic base concentrated in factories, farming and tourism. No more. In a flat world, these functions increasingly are either being done elsewhere or they are lower-wage industries.⁷

This was further affirmed by Rick Waclawek from the Michigan Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives in his presentation to the Commission on September 14, 2006. He stressed that talent development is the key to economic development in a knowledge based economy.

An extensive Macomb emerging sectors study was conducted by Intellitrends LLC in early 2006 for the Macomb County Board of Commissioners and the Macomb County Department of

⁵ IHEP, Improving Access to Bachelor's Degrees in Macomb County, March 16, 2007, pp. 2-3

⁶ Michigan Future, Inc., A New Agenda for a New Michigan, June 2006 Table 2 explanation

⁷ Michigan Future, op.cit., pg. ii

Planning and Economic Development. The Targeted Industries Report was commissioned and developed for the purpose of identifying and focusing effort for successful revitalization of Macomb's economy. "Through education and training initiatives, Macomb's greatest opportunity is to leverage its existing manufacturing base by using and adapting existing skills to new market needs with skill assets in: production, transportation,, design and research, quality controls and logistics."⁸ By attracting knowledge based manufacturing companies, residents would be provided stable, high-wage employment. It concluded that the optimum targets for Macomb should be industries focused on advanced manufacturing, advanced automotive, defense and healthcare; all of which require a workforce with post secondary training. In seeking new locations, however, manufacturing companies globally are now paying increased attention to the proximity to institutions of higher learning.⁹ Bill Gates noted that job creation and success for industries has been overwhelmingly in the locations where there is a great university.

Economic Benefits of Increased Educational Attainment

Few would challenge the premise of "The more you learn the more you can earn" since educational attainment is closely linked to employment opportunities. However, there are additional benefits to individuals who increase their educational stature: "For all workers, on average, additional education produces lower unemployment, higher rates of job growth and increased labor force participation."¹⁰ It is also clear that "the most effective way to provide a real future for people who need jobs is to provide training that is related to the economic future of the region those people live in, for jobs in growth industries."¹¹ Some argue, however, that in spite of the economic advantages, there are barriers that prevent individuals from pursuing post

⁸ Intellitrends, Targeted Industries Report Focusing Macomb County's Economic Development Efforts, July 2006, pg. 7

⁹ Intellitrends, op cit

¹⁰ Rick Waclawek, Commission presentation, September 14, 2006

¹¹ National Center on Education and the Economy, Tough Choices or Tough Times, Fall 2007, pg. 19

secondary opportunities. Lou Glazer, President of Michigan Futures, indicated that Michigan needs to solve this problem because “there are too few Michigan high school graduates who go on to graduate from college, and even among those who do graduate, a good number of them end up moving somewhere else.”¹² In Macomb this could be, in part, because of the county’s historical reliance on manufacturing which may have fostered the idea that it was not necessary to go to college in order to obtain employment for a good middle-class lifestyle. Despite this history, this Commission found that current students have aspirations to attend college and families are very supportive of the need for post secondary opportunities. Also, it should be noted that “high unemployment rates influence student enrollment patterns: students are least likely to enroll in post secondary education in an area where economic prosperity appears low.”¹³ In addition, the previously mentioned 25% of the county’s citizens who have attended, but not completed college, may have family and employment situations which were incompatible with the scheduling of typical college course offerings. Also,

Although we have an elaborate funding mechanism to provide funds to send young people to college and university to launch them in the careers of their choice, we have done a very poor job of making it possible for adults who have full-time jobs and family responsibilities to get the continuing education and training they need to survive in the world that is coming.¹⁴

An educated populace can provide many economic benefits to the community in which it resides. Higher education may increase economic development by increasing labor quality, increasing new business ideas, or making an area a more attractive place to live. People gravitate toward states and metropolitan areas that have already established themselves as talent centers in the world economy. Research shows that increasing the proportion of college graduates will have significant economic benefits:

One point increase in percent of a local economy’s population that is college educated increases growth over 10 years by one-half point. One point increase in percent of a local economy’s population that is college educated increased the

¹² Michigan Future, Inc. op cit pg. 21

¹³ E. A. Baryla, et al, Student Migration: Do Significant Factors Vary by Region?, 2001, pg. 276

¹⁴ National Center on Education and the Economy, op cit. pg. 9

real wages of non-college-educated residents by 1.4%, college residents by 0.3%, and overall average real wages by 1.1%. These effects are in addition to the wage gains of those educated.¹⁵

The fact that post secondary education leads to greater economic growth is undeniable, and the reasons are equally clear:¹⁶ Post secondary education

- Fosters discovery of new ideas that create new goods, services and whole industries;
- Prepares people in the disciplines and with the skills demanded by today's economy;
- Builds dynamic, attractive communities where creativity and culture create the quality of place that is today so critical at attracting economic development and jobs; and
- Creates greater prosperity for the college educated and non-college educated alike by making the state's economy more productive and dynamic.

There needs to be a note of caution, however: Increasing levels of educational attainment can provide economic benefit to both individuals and communities. Simply enhancing the educational attainment of the members of a population may not, however, provide the economic benefits to the communities in which they live or were educated. For Macomb to receive economic benefits, efforts to enhance opportunities must be closely aligned with clearly defined economic and workforce development strategies.

Investigations of Citizens' Need for Additional Post Secondary Educational Opportunities

This Commission is the third formal group within four years to study the merits and needs for increasing post secondary educational attainment. Initially, to meet Michigan's educational needs, demographic changes and economic challenges, the state developed five strategic responses¹⁷: 1. Improve Michigan's business climate & tax structure, 2. Accelerate public infrastructure projects to create jobs, 3. Bond to stimulate strategic long-term economic growth,

¹⁵ Timothy J. Bartik, Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, presentation to the Commission, September 27, 2007

¹⁶ Cherry Commission, Final Report of the Lt. Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth, December 2004, pg. 6

¹⁷ State of Michigan, Office of the Governor, Michigan Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow, www.mi.gov

4. Prepare Michigan's workforce to compete in the knowledge economy the way they did in the industrial economy and 5. Significantly improve formal educational attainment levels.

To help address the strategies on workforce development and improving education, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed Executive Order 2004-32 in June 2004 to form the *Lieutenant Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth* (aka Cherry Commission). Its work was immediately acclaimed as the most comprehensive study of higher education in Michigan in nearly two decades. Over forty top-level leaders from business, labor, government and education produced documentation and findings that yielded nineteen specific recommendations that were announced in December 2004. The action plans addressed ways to improve high school student preparation for post secondary studies, to expand student participation in advanced education, to increase degree completion and to maximize economic benefits. The report made a clear connection between economic enhancement and educational attainment:

Whether at the municipal or county level, there is almost universal recognition that communities must take their economic destinies in their own hands. Yet, few Michigan communities have focused on this critical link between increased educational attainment and economic development goals. To thrive economically, communities across Michigan must see the issue of increasing educational attainment as a responsibility that all stakeholders must share.¹⁸

To rally to this call and to study a more local focus, Congressman Sander Levin established the 12th *Congressional Advisory Committee on Higher Education in Macomb County* on December 2, 2005. The purpose was to gather information, engage stakeholders, increase citizen involvement and heighten community awareness of the importance of increasing post secondary opportunities within the County. More than 200 volunteers from across the County attended town hall meetings, participated in discussions and joined one of four subgroups: Current Post Secondary Services to Macomb County Residents; Enhancing the Higher Education Environment within the County; Perceived Barriers to Enrollment and Completion;

¹⁸ Lt. Governor John D. Cherry, Jr., presentation at the Macomb Commission's first public hearing, Roseville, Michigan, September 21, 2006

and Current and Future Economic Needs and Opportunities. The study findings, which are too extensive to report within this document¹⁹, all concluded that the county is in need of a public, four-year university to enhance the local economy and improve personal wellbeing.

Our *Commission on Higher Education and Economic Development in Macomb County* held briefings by state and local authorities on economic and workforce development, education, legislation, demographics and policy development. In order to engage residents in far-reaching dialogue, five public hearings were held across the County between September 21 and November 9, 2006 (see participation data in Appendix C). Eighty-seven individuals provided testimony; their diversity of educational backgrounds included high school students desiring a four-year college experience, adults with associate degrees seeking further education and training, and individuals with advanced degrees. The Commission heard from educators, business leaders, elected officials, school administrators, parents and community members (Appendix D). The vast majority spoke on behalf of expanding post secondary educational opportunities for a variety of reasons²⁰:

Our Commission heard about what potential impact more schooling would have on:

- The local and state economy
- Families
- Employment
- The social fabric of the community
- Cultural offerings
- K-12 educational programs
- Combating the loss of manufacturing jobs
- Expanding opportunities for all citizens

The Commission learned that the barriers to enrollment and completion of a post secondary degree included:

- Ever increasing costs
- Transportation challenges
- Lack of family experience with university applications, procedures and attendance
- Restrictive scholarship opportunities
- Fear of the unknown

¹⁹ Contact HigherEducationMacomb@comcast.net for a more detailed description of the Advisory Committee's summaries.

²⁰ For a complete summary of testimonies given during public hearings, see Appendix E.

Many of those providing testimony shared their frustrations with and barriers to raising their level of education. Any attempt to increase post secondary completion in Macomb County must address the removal of all these barriers. That will be challenging, however, since many of the detriments are “cultural”. Such detriments are defined by the IHEP as “barriers existing because of the lack of role models, absence of values and attitudes that promote the importance of completing high school and attending college, or a perceived lack of social knowledge and skills required for continuing one’s education.”²¹

Speakers valued Macomb Community College, the University Center and its cooperative agreements with universities²² and expanded degree offerings, but wanted more from the four-year programs including flexible scheduling, more continuity and additional options.

Testimony provided ideas and models that would both extend current opportunities and create new institutions. Presenters warned to avoid some aspects of existing institutions and encouraged adoption of the policies and practices of others.

²¹ IHEP, Mississippi’s Mandate: Why the Investment in Education Pays off in Mississippi, May 2006, pg. 19

²² The following universities are currently affiliated with the Macomb University Center: Central Michigan, Ferris State, Lawrence Technological, Oakland, Rochester College, U of Detroit Mercy, Walsh College and Wayne State

Part II

IHEP Report Review

The Institute for Higher Education Policy undertook an important study to explore access to higher education in Macomb County. Supported by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation,²³ the investigation analyzed demographic and educational data, conducted interviews with community and education leaders, and compared Macomb County to two similar communities in other states. The final report proposed four policy alternatives for addressing the specific challenges of access to baccalaureate degrees and institutions in Macomb.

Commission members reviewed this comprehensive, independent study completed by the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP). Individual Commission members had an opportunity to be interviewed by IHEP researchers conducting this analysis and the Commission met with Jamie Merisotis, President of IHEP, as a group on Sunday, March 18, 2007.

The study affirmed virtually every finding of this Commission and that of the 12th Congressional District Advisory Committee on Higher Education and Economic Development in Macomb. Remarkably, each investigation, though different in scope and methodology, provided compelling evidence of a strong sentiment shared by business, civic, and political leaders that a public baccalaureate institution needs to be developed in Macomb County. Across the entire demographic representation of the county, this Commission and IHEP report found broad community support for making public baccalaureate opportunities more readily available within Macomb County.

²³ The Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930 “to help people help themselves through the practical application of knowledge and resources to improve their quality of life and that of future generations.”

The Commission concurs with IHEP's conclusions that *without substantial increases in postsecondary educational attainment, the people of [Macomb] County will not find a path to economic and civic prosperity in the 21st century.*²⁴

Further, the Commission believes that this is not only of vital importance to the residents of Macomb County, but for the economic transformation necessary in the county, the southeast Michigan region and the state as a whole. At the heart of the automotive sector, *Macomb is, indeed, the crucible of how local communities are impacted by the forces of globalization.* The Commission concurs with the study that *to combat economic decline and increase employment in growth industries, increased participation in higher education will be necessary for Macomb residents, and, ...absent these opportunities [for four-year degrees] the County will face an array of economic and social hurdles as it tries to meet the challenges of a new economy and a rapidly evolving workforce.*

The IHEP report confirms that the County starts behind the state as a whole. *The percentage of County residents age 25 or older...with a bachelor's degree or higher is lower than in the state as a whole (25 percent for the State, 21 percent for the County).*

The IHEP report confirms what Commission members learned through numerous public hearings, that significant barriers exist within the County to four-year degree attainment, including:

- Affordability
- Work and family responsibilities
- Transportation
- Aspirations impacted by historic economic opportunities that did not require postsecondary education resulting in first generation college participants.

The comparison of Macomb with two similar counties provided much insight on the potential impact of different variables on student post secondary enrollment and degree completion. One

²⁴ Italicized statements used in Part II of this document are taken from the IHEP Report.

of the state and local policy issues discussed in the IHEP report that most interested this Commission was the major role a central educational authority plays in most of the nation's university governance. IHEP noted that

Michigan's focus is largely on building a skilled workforce for a declining economy. For historical and other reasons, the state lacks a centralized coordinating or governing office for higher education – one of the only states in the nation where this is the case. Rather, information for the higher education system is primarily affiliated with the Department of Labor and Economic Growth. The state promotes and defines a strong relationship between educational and occupational progress....Governance tends to occur at the system and institutional level.²⁵

The Commission wonders how the Michigan higher education system might be lacking efficiency, not meeting some students' needs and not implementing needed changes because of the lack of a central education authority. Answer to such a question was promulgated by IHEP when it concluded that "differences in statewide governance may have a direct or indirect impact on specific counties as well as on the state as a whole."²⁶ If Michigan did have a central educational authority, we might be better able to develop state decision-making on policies related to higher education and make students better aware of "opportunities that exist within the (*our*) state."²⁷

This lack of a centralized coordinating or governing office for higher education is a significant overall limitation to students, parents, individual institutions, and limits efforts such as those at the Macomb Community College University Center. Also, the lack of state legislation permitting applied baccalaureate degrees is a limitation for some residents in Macomb County; therefore, the Commission agrees that Macomb Community College should be granted authority to provide four-year degree options in applied technology fields.

The Commission believes that each of the significant barriers identified in the IHEP study and the public hearings would be easier to address with the existence of a four-year institution

²⁵ IHEP, op cit. pg. 18

²⁶ Ibid. pg. 19

²⁷ Ibid.

within the County. *The more students are exposed to higher education in their communities and see it as a reasonable option for their life, the more likely they are to actually aspire to, and eventually enroll in, college. ...higher education continues to be an overwhelmingly local phenomenon. Nationally 63 percent of undergraduate students attend college less than 25 miles from home.* The Commission agrees that the very presence of a university within the county would not only improve access, but also raise aspirations.

When evaluating the section “Options for Moving Forward” in the IHEP report, the Commission members believe that it is much more difficult to fully address the barriers which exist in the County and to implement many of the objectives within this section in absence of a four-year public education institution within the County.

With that said, the Commission believes it is essential that each and every step taken be building toward the goal of establishing a new university. It must be ensured that interim steps, which need to be taken, are integrated into a solution which fully meets the needs of our residents now and over the next decades. The Commission is in total agreement with the action plans and recommendations the IHEP report proposes to increase the enrollment in and benefit of a higher education experience: *“Targeted investment in innovative financial aid and other support for the demographic of students who aren’t going to four-year colleges”* is already a state priority. *“Major improvements in the current offerings at the University Center”* was a need expressed in public hearings, but not addressed directly by this Commission which recommends creation of Macomb's own university *“A branch or satellite campus of an existing institution in the state”* is a recommendation of this Commission with the involvement of Oakland and Wayne State Universities. As previously described in much detail, *“A new, public four-year institution located in the County”* which has a focus of instruction and research which addresses *“issues rising out of the new world of economic and demographic order which is emerging around us”* is the most appealing of the IHEP's recommendations.

The Commission enthusiastically concurs with the Report that the State is presented with the opportunity to envision a unique institution that serves as a model to meet the current and future challenges of globalization. To accomplish this, the institution must focus on degree areas vital to Macomb and Michigan's future and envision learning in a different way. This approach can be additive to the fine community college and university system existing in Michigan today.

A fully integrated four-year institution would not only be a beacon for higher education attainment, offer a full array of courses, schedules and professors, it would serve as a magnet for increased financial assistance programs, collaboration with high schools, dual-enrollment programs, transportation shuttle service, and finally, an area not fully explored in the IHEP study, a catalyst for economic development strategies between County government, regional entities (Automation Alley, Detroit Renaissance), local business, Macomb Community College and state/federal R&D.

What is Now Needed?²⁸

Since the Commission heard universal support, enthusiasm and demand for a public, four-year university within the county, what is now needed is a sense of urgency among policy leaders, educators, and business leaders comparable to the policy emphasis that economically leading states are placing on higher education. Solutions may be complex, responsibilities dispersed, and priorities upset, but the central issue can be stated simply: Our current economy and level of performance will fall short in a world being reshaped by the knowledge based global economy. Macomb County and the State of Michigan need to educate more people with college-level knowledge and skills.

The situation is made even more complicated because there are actually two generations of students that concurrently need expanded post secondary opportunities: The first and most commonly considered are the students who have recently graduated from high school or community college and are looking for a degree-granting experience. The second “generation,” which represents many working-aged residents,²⁹ is the more difficult to accommodate, often because of family and work obligations. Its members are over the age of 25 and have completed some college and/or need to acquire new skills for jobs requiring advanced degrees or certification. It is unlikely that a single, simple increase of a post secondary opportunity within Macomb County will meet the needs of all students. In the following section of this report, therefore, this Commission recommends the establishment of a University System within the County.

Recent dramatic job/industry loss, increase in labor skill requirements, deteriorating economy and demographic changes within Macomb County place added urgency for educational reform. Any proposed solutions for increasing post secondary opportunities must not only be able to be implemented, but also within a logical, relatively short timeline. Each and every step taken must be building toward a goal. We must ensure that interim steps which need to be taken are integrated into a solution which fully meets the needs of our residents now and over the next decades.

²⁸ The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, Measuring Up 2006: The National Report Card on Higher Education, www.highereducation.org.

²⁹ More than 150,000 Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne county residents ages 25-34 have some college education, but have yet to earn a degree. Per Detroit News, *Fate of Revival May Rest on School Funding*, 2007.

Part III

Commission Recommendations

This Commission clearly understands that the State of Michigan's current economic crisis precludes the availability of extensive funding for the many initiatives needed to significantly increase post secondary opportunities within Macomb County, but it also knows that the long-term, economic wellbeing of the state is very dependent upon the development of a highly educated workforce that is able to transition to knowledge based employment and able to stimulate worldwide economic investment in Michigan. It is with this reality, tempered with a sense of urgency and profound moral obligation, that the Commission presents the following recommendations and action ideas to devise, develop and implement a University System in Macomb County. The Commission hopes that the recommendations put forth will also reinvent and reinvigorate programs and support for universities across the entire state.

To recreate Macomb County to be as economically vibrant and competitive in the 21st Century as it was in the last century, additional post secondary opportunities and four-year degree completion are necessary for citizens within the county. As noted by Governor Granholm in her presentation creating this Commission she stated "No county in Michigan is taking the challenge of increasing opportunities for college more seriously than Macomb County and the state of Michigan needs to support that effort." To highlight this commitment and to initiate reform, the Commission recommends:

The State of Michigan should give priority to meeting the higher education needs of Macomb County

Higher Education Priority for Macomb County

Needed action: Michigan needs to realize that investing in the education of Macomb County citizens is an opportunity to enhance the economy of the entire state.

Two critical dimensions are necessary, both requiring a higher education component:

- The County's workforce needs to be transformed and upgraded by building directly on its highly regarded technical skills.
- The County needs to be positioned as a leader in an increasingly global age.

Both of these initiatives will require enhanced access to four-year degrees – the first in applied technical fields, and the second in the areas that are evolving as a result of the benefits and perils of globalization. To significantly enhance both the technical and intellectual capacities of the county, and provide a way for Macomb to become more economically competitive both locally and globally, the Commission recommends:

Michigan should provide legislative authority for Macomb Community College and other community colleges to grant baccalaureate degrees in applied technology fields.

Authority to Grant BA Degrees

Needed action: State Legislative and local Board of Trustee approval to allow Macomb Community College and other community colleges to be BA granting institutions in areas of applied technology.

The institutions would remain as “community colleges” in every respect and operate under all aspects of current legislation, except that they would be given authority to grant baccalaureate degrees in specified technical fields. The baccalaureate majors at the college could be restricted to “target industries” or critical worker shortages that have been formally identified by state or local economic and workforce development plans. In Macomb County that would

currently include areas such as advanced manufacturing and materials, advanced automotive, alternative energy, defense and homeland security, as well as some digital technologies.³⁰

This proposed form of college would remain under the control of a locally elected board, thus assuring that the capacities of the institution are targeted directly to the benefit of local workers and the local economy. As such, it could also be identified as a primary vehicle for “technology transfer,” that is, moving the advances developed through research directly into the workplace.

Since Macomb Community College already has an extensive physical plant and technology in place, no capital investment from the state would be required. Maybe the most attractive feature is that Macomb could have some four-year programs up and running within a year of legislative approval, thus making Macomb County home to at least one public baccalaureate degree granting institution almost immediately.

Though we know that a majority of Macomb’s high school graduates go to college,³¹ at least for awhile, their progress, success and challenges in post secondary settings is not well known. To better design our newly proposed Macomb University System and to assure student success, the Commission recommends:

<p>The progress of all Macomb’s recently graduated high school students should be tracked.</p>

Tracking Student Progress

³⁰ See the Intellitrends Targeted Industry Report, the final report of Focus Macomb and the Governor’s 21st Century Jobs Plan www.mi.gov

³¹ Macomb Intermediate School District, Five Year Follow-Up Survey, 2005, pg. 5

Needed action: Institute a process/project to track the progress of all graduating seniors as they enter public and private two- and four-year colleges, universities and technical centers.

Background:

For many years, the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) has been involved in a countywide effort to learn what former students are doing five years after graduating from high school. The data gathered included the educational programs students pursued, degrees earned and employment statistics. Initially, the only students surveyed were those who had completed Career Technical Education courses while in high school; however, in 2005 the MISD expanded the sample to include all graduates and added questions about degrees attained, the students themselves and how well their high school education had prepared them for life.

The Commission would like to add questions to planned and future inquiries, so that a clearer picture of students' needs, challenges, successes and failures can be developed. Such data would be shared with all post secondary educational institutions within the county with the goal of student preparation and program improvement.

Citizen concern about barriers to post secondary course enrollment and completion was the most frequent testimony in each of the Commission's public hearings. These barriers need to be addressed if the county is going to see a dramatic increase in degreed residents. Multiple issues need to be resolved within the County, so it seems most appropriate that Macomb governmental agencies and local groups contribute to problem identification and resolution. The Commission recommends, therefore:

<p>Macomb organizations, agencies and institutions should coordinate efforts to eliminate enrollment and completion barriers.</p>
--

Reduction of Barriers to Enrollment and Degree Completion

Needed action: Initiation of a county-wide cooperative effort dedicated to elimination of barriers which would prevent citizens from exploring, attending and completing post secondary programs, courses and training. The support and involvement of the Macomb Intermediate School District, Macomb Community College, Macomb County Board of Commissioners, local school districts and other agencies would be essential to the success of this effort.

Function:

Within the Macomb cooperative effort, its partners and advisors would be responsible for investigating, proposing and accommodating the following:

- County post secondary institution partnerships
- Educational/Career information dissemination
- Centralized registration access and offered program descriptions
- Student/family financial assistance information and support
- Industry and post secondary institution partnerships
- Elimination of enrollment and completion barriers
- Cooperative cohort programs³²
- Knowledge based job mentoring
- Support systems for students from families with no or little post secondary experience
- Online educational opportunities and support

Though the ultimate goal of this Commission is the creation of a new type of university for the 21st century that would allow Macomb to address the challenges and negative effects of globalization, there is need now for new, four-year degree opportunities within the county. The

³² In a cohort program, students are placed into groups which start at fixed points during the academic year. Students in a cohort program take all of their classes together.

Commission believes that as we start down the path toward a four-year university within the county, we must take immediate steps to enhance four-year degree opportunities based on major partners, building on current infrastructure and focused on acute economic development needs. Wayne State University and Oakland University, the largest partners operating at the University Center and premier southeast Michigan institutions are in an excellent position to transition their efforts to a comprehensive satellite system. By paring these two institutions in a complimentary fashion and by providing necessary capital improvements, we can immediately enhance four-year degree offerings, reduce major restrictions found at the current University Center system, and respond to the aspirations of county's young people that college is within their grasp. To fulfill an immediate need the Commission recommends:

A comprehensive and integrated involvement of Oakland and Wayne State Universities should be developed in Macomb County to provide educational opportunity and economic development.

Involvement of Oakland and Wayne State Universities

Needed action: The Governor should ask Oakland University and Wayne State University to dramatically increase involvement in Macomb County that would immediately build on and expand current post secondary offerings to expand four-year degree opportunities and address acute economic needs.

In meeting the educational and economic needs of the county, these institutional partners must not be allowed to continue the shortcomings of some county programs currently offered by four-year post secondary schools. During Commission public hearing testimony, it was noted that partnering institutions were criticized because

- Many courses that are required to complete a degree are not offered and instead must be taken at the partner university's main campus.

- Many programs offer some required courses, but not consistently. For many degrees, concentrations or minors were either not available or were limited.
- Classes offered are available less frequently during the week than parallel classes offered at a partner institution's main campus.

It is suggested, therefore, that the State of Michigan expect that any university partner involvement in Macomb County:

- Provide continuity of program courses at a site
- Offer flexible scheduling options for students
- Assure admitted students that the full program and associated course offerings will continue during the students' typical time frame for degree completion
- Implement at least one recommendation from the Cherry Commission

The economic revival of Macomb County requires a more educated workforce plus the development of new business and employment opportunities. In order to dramatically increase educational opportunity aligned with economic needs, this Commission recommends:

Macomb's economic development needs should be evaluated by state agencies, local institutions and university partners.

Fostering Economic Development

Needed action 1: The Governor should authorize state government to coordinate with the Macomb County Planning and Economic Development agency, local workforce development officials, Macomb Community College, Oakland University and Wayne State University to evaluate the current, short-term and long-term economic development needs in the county and region.

Needed action 2: There should be identification of the corresponding advanced degrees necessary to meet current shortages and emerging sector areas that would focus the above recommendation regarding involvement of Oakland University and Wayne State University.

While it is essential that short range and intermediate steps are taken to meet the documented higher education needs of Macomb County, it is also clear that it is critical to create a four-year state university within its boundaries. The State of Michigan will also benefit when the county has the kind of access to higher education that fuels economic growth. At the same time, it is undeniable that in order to meet Governor Granholm's goal of doubling the number of college graduates in Michigan, we must expand the capacity of Michigan's higher education system.

The Commission found compelling the conclusion reached by the Institute for Higher Education Policy that a new university in Macomb County should uniquely reflect both the challenges of the new global economy and the changing nature of higher education itself. We believe such an institution would be valued by residents across Michigan while creating easier access to higher education for county residents. Therefore, the Commission recommends:

The creation of a four-year state university in Macomb County must be recognized as a top priority within the expansion of Michigan's higher education system.

As such, any and all state efforts aimed at expanding higher education opportunity in the county should be consistent with that goal and wherever possible must facilitate the ultimate creation of a state university in Macomb County. To best serve both the residents of Macomb County and citizens across the State of Michigan, this university should be shaped less by the higher educational institutions created in the 20th Century than by the economic and educational

challenges of the 21st Century. Recognizing the inevitability of the creation of a four-year state university in Macomb County, the Commission urges that state move with all deliberate speed to achieve this goal.

This Commission was impressed by the overwhelming sense of urgency expressed in our public hearings for the need to expand post secondary opportunities in Macomb County. This was succinctly stated in the IHEP report:

With each day that passes and each educational opportunity forsaken, the County and indeed the state in general pays an increasing price in terms of the economic, social, and human potential lost due to an undereducated population.³³

Creating additional educational opportunities in Macomb is not just a service to the county; it is a moral obligation and necessary to the economic survival of the community.

³³ IHEP, op.cit., pg. 37

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JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE ORDER
2006 - 11**

**COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN MACOMB COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 vests the executive power of the State of Michigan in the Governor;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 authorizes the establishment of temporary commissions or agencies for special purposes;

WHEREAS, both Michigan's core manufacturing industries and the new technology-based enterprises we seek to grow in the 21st century demand the talents of an increasingly educated workforce;

WHEREAS, two-thirds of the jobs that will be created in the next decade will require post-secondary education and training;

WHEREAS, those earning bachelor's degrees can be expected to earn \$1 million more than those with high school diplomas over their lifetimes, while those with associate's degrees can be expected to earn \$400,000 more than high school graduates;

WHEREAS, the businesses we hope to attract to Michigan cite the availability of a skilled workforce as a chief factor in determining where to make job-creating investments;

WHEREAS, Michigan cannot hope to maintain its economic vitality and the quality of life of its residents without making a dramatic increase in the number of our citizens who attain degrees and other credentials that link them to economic opportunity;

WHEREAS, that opportunity must include the ability to earn degrees and other credentials linked to success in our knowledge-based economy;

WHEREAS, the Lieutenant Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth, created by Executive Order 2004-32, recommended that

Michigan attempt to make post-secondary education universal over the next decade and greatly expand access to baccalaureate institutions and degrees;

WHEREAS, Macomb County is third most populous county in Michigan and its population is growing rapidly;

WHEREAS, in the 20th century Macomb County established itself as a world-renowned center for manufacturing and industrial research and development;

WHEREAS, Macomb County will continue to serve as an indispensable engine of economic growth in Michigan as we enter the knowledge economy of the 21st century;

WHEREAS, the residents of Macomb County have articulated a desire to improve post-secondary education opportunities in the county in recognition of the vital link between educational attainment and economic development;

WHEREAS, only 18 percent of Macomb County residents over the age of 25 currently have a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, according to the Congressional Research Service, Macomb County is one of the three most populous counties in the United States without a four-year public higher education institution within its boundaries;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, by virtue of the power and authority vested in the Governor by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and Michigan law, order the following:

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF MACOMB COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

A. The Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth in Macomb County (the "Commission") is created as an advisory body within the Executive Office of the Governor.

B. The Commission shall consist of 15 voting members appointed by the Governor.

C. Members of the Commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

D. A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

II. CHARGE TO THE COMMISSION

A. The Commission is advisory to the Governor. It shall assess the need for expanded post-secondary education opportunities in Macomb County by engaging the residents of Macomb County in a broad-based community dialogue. The Commission may conduct inquiries and investigations and consult with outside experts as appropriate in order to perform its duties.

B. The Commission shall hold hearings and receive public comments regarding Macomb County's post-secondary education needs.

C. The Commission shall advise the state's efforts to explore policy options regarding post-secondary education in Macomb County.

D. The Commission shall provide other information or advice or take other actions as directed by the Governor.

E. The Commission, not later than December 31, 2006, shall complete its work and report its findings to the Governor and the State Board of Education for their consideration.

III. OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

A. The Commission may promulgate bylaws, not inconsistent with Michigan law and this Order, governing its organization, operation, and procedures.

B. The Governor shall designate one of the members of the Commission to serve as its Chairperson. The Commission may select from among its members a Vice-Chairperson.

C. The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair and as may be provided in procedures adopted by the Commission.

D. The Commission shall act by majority vote of its present and voting members. A majority of the voting members of the Commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

E. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

F. The Commission may accept donations of labor, services, or other things of value from any public or private agency or person.

G. Members of the Commission, staff, and contractors shall refer all legal, legislative, and media contacts to the Office of the Governor.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. All departments, committees, commissioners, or officers of this state or of any political subdivision of this state shall give to the Commission, or to any representative of the Commission, any necessary assistance required by the Commission, in the performance of the duties of the Commission so far as is compatible with its, his, or her duties. Free access shall also be given to any books, records, or documents in its, his, or her custody, relating to matters within the scope of inquiry, study, or investigation of the Commission.

B. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to diminish the constitutional authority of the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 3 of Article VIII of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, to provide leadership and general supervision over all public education, including adult education and instructional programs in state institutions, except as to institutions of higher education granting baccalaureate degrees; to serve as the general planning and coordinating body for all public education, including higher education; and to advise the Legislature as to the financial requirements in connection therewith.

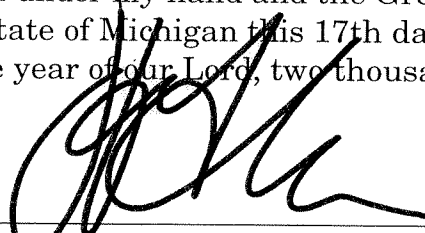
C. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to change the organization of the executive branch of state government or the assignment of functions among its units in a manner requiring the force of law.

D. The invalidity of any portion of this Order shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Order.

This Order is effective upon filing.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Michigan this 17th day of July, in the year of our Lord, two thousand six.


JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:


SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE

ON 7/17/06 AT 1:05 PM



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER
No. 2006 - 22

AMENDMENT OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 2006-11

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 vests the executive power of the State of Michigan in the Governor;

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2006, the Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth in Macomb County was established by Executive Order 2006-11;

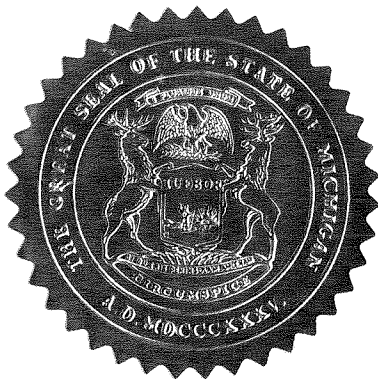
WHEREAS, the Commission continues to engage Macomb County residents in a broad-based community dialogue and assess the need for expanded post-secondary education opportunities in that county;

WHEREAS, the goals of the Commission can best be achieved by extending its reporting deadline;

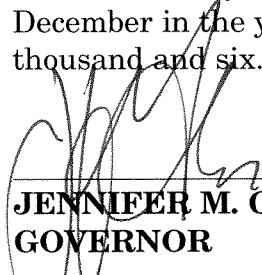
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, by virtue of the power and authority vested in the Governor by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and Michigan law, order that Section II.E of Executive Order 2006-11 be amended to read as follows:

"The Commission, not later than March 31, 2007, shall complete its work and report its findings to the Governor and the State Board of Education for their consideration."

This Order is effective upon filing.



Given under my hand this 28th day of December in the year of our Lord, two thousand and six.


JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:


Secretary of State

FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE

Besides Michigan, the other four states with the largest drops in median income:

North Carolina
-11.3%

Utah
- 10.5%

Oregon
-10.4%

Mississippi
-10.3%

* Changes based on figures adjusted to 2005 dollars.

OTHER KEY FIGURES

Children living in poverty in Michigan:

+30%

**Overall poverty
in Michigan:**

+27%

State incomes sag

The most populous counties in Michigan all dropped in median household income, as did the largest municipalities.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME CHANGE

Michigan had the nation's largest decrease in median household income:

-12%

(1999* - \$52,323,
2005 -\$46,039)

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME CHANGE

For Michigan counties
whose populations
exceed 65,000
(1999* to 2005):

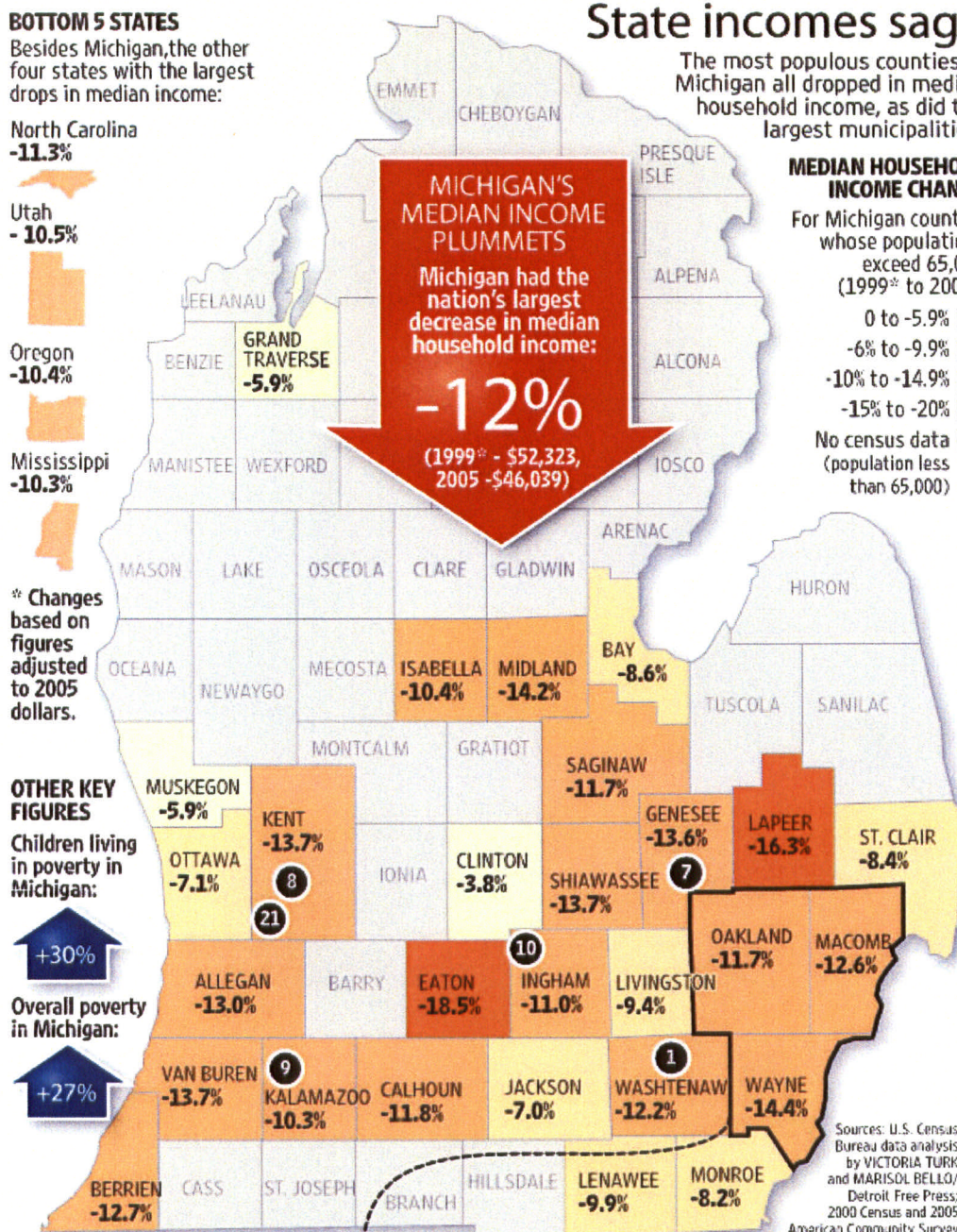
0 to -5.9%

-6.0% to -9.9%

-10% to -14.9%

-15% to -20%

No census data
(population less
than 65,000)



MEDIAN INCOME CHANGES

		1999*	2005	% chg.
1	Ann Arbor	\$54,235	\$45,798	-15.6%
2	Canton	84,921	79,535	-6.3%
3	Clinton Township	58,649	47,993	-18.2%
4	Dearborn	52,198	45,251	-13.3%
5	Detroit	34,587	28,069	-18.8%
6	Farmington Hills	79,062	70,133	-11.3%
7	Flint	32,817	25,972	-20.9%
8	Grand Rapids	43,604	38,229	-12.3%
9	Kalamazoo	36,535	31,152	-14.7%
10	Lansing	40,804	34,367	-15.8%
11	Livonia	73,820	66,512	-9.9%
12	Pontiac	36,556	27,802	-23.9%
13	Rochester Hills	87,752	80,937	-7.8%
14	Shelby Township	76,482	64,940	-15.1%
15	Southfield	60,681	49,427	-18.5%
16	Sterling Heights	70,863	60,010	-15.3%
17	Troy	90,828	81,111	-10.7%
18	Warren	52,275	44,855	-14.2%
19	Waterford	64,437	50,758	-21.2%
20	Westland	54,245	46,004	-15.2%
21	Wyoming	50,563	42,729	-15.5%

JOHN W. FLEMING,
MARTHA THIERRY/Detroit Free Press

Appendix C

Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth in Macomb County

PUBLIC HEARINGS

<u>District Hosting Hearing</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number of Attendees</u>	<u>Number of Attendees Presenting Comments</u>	<u>Presenters in Favor of 4-Year University</u>	<u>Presenters Opposed to 4-Year University</u>
Roseville Community Schools Roseville, MI	September 21, 2006	60±	14	13	1
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Clinton Township, MI	October 5, 2006	50±	20	18	2
Fitzgerald Public Schools Warren, MI	October 12, 2006	40±	21	21	0
Utica Community Schools Sterling Heights, MI	October 19, 2006	50±	18	17	1
Romeo Community Schools Romeo, MI	November 9, 2006	60+	14	12	2
	Total:	260±	87	81	6

/et

Appendix D

Individuals Providing Public Hearing Testimony^{1,2}

September 21, 2006

Fred Miller *State Representative, 31st District*
Gabe Maser *Washington, D.C. (on behalf of Michigan Congressman Sander Levin)*
Bill Sowerby, *Clinton Township Treasurer and resident*
Margaret Armstrong, *resident of St. Clair Shores, student at Wayne State University*
Ed Bruley, *resident of Clinton Township*
Frank Maisano, *resident of Roseville*
David Flynn, *a resident of Sterling Heights*
Cass Franks, *resident of Shelby Township*
Mark Blaszkowski *of Sterling Heights*
Brent White, *resident of Roseville*
Sarah Roberts, *resident of St. Clair Shores*
Denise Mentzer, *resident of Clinton Township*

October 5, 2006

Fred Miller, *State Representative 31st District*
Bridgit DeCarlo, *resident of Harrison Township, high school student from L'Anse Creuse Public Schools*
Alexander DaVia, *high school student from L'Anse Creuse Public Schools*
Michael Harris, Ph.D., *representing Ferris State University as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Political Science*
Tim Sheehy, *resident of Troy, a school social worker at L'Anse Creuse's alternative school, Riverside Academy*
Chris Hopper, *resident of Macomb Township, student at L'Anse Creuse Public Schools*
Billie Henning, *resident of Clinton Township, teacher at Macomb Community College*
Sanjay Rajput, *Technical Engineer of DuPont Automotive Systems and resident of Macomb Township*
Bob Brandenburg, *resident of Macomb Township, an attorney*

October 12, 2006

Lisa Wojno, *State Representative 28th District*

¹ Listed in order of testimony sequence

² Individuals submitting comment cards, notes or written testimony are identified in Appendix E.

Serena Tran, *resident of Warren, high school student at Fitzgerald Public Schools*
Adam Stone, *resident of Warren, high school student at Fitzgerald Public Schools*
Catherine Paklaian, *resident of Rochester Hills, a counselor and Department Chair at Fitzgerald High School*
Jim Bridgewater, *resident of Warren*
Emma Kriss, *Warren, a high student at Fitzgerald Public Schools, Student Council President*
Phil Jankowski, *resident of Warren, Assistant Principal of Curriculum, at Fitzgerald High School*
Sanjay Rajput, *resident of Macomb Township,*
Michelle Chevatewa, *resident of Warren*
Michael Kapolka, *resident of Royal Oak, English Department Chair at Fitzgerald Public Schools*
Diane Stone, *resident of Warren*
Sierra Dem, *resident of Warren*
Fatoumaia Bayo, *resident of Warren*
Kevin Lane, *resident of Commerce, Director of Public Relations and Assistant Principal of Alternative Education at Fitzgerald Public Schools*
Heather Blum, *resident of Warren, counselor for Harper Woods secondary schools*
Jeanette Brill, *resident of Macomb County, Superintendent of Fitzgerald Public Schools*
Sue Lodovisi, *resident of Warren*
Ginny Lach, *resident of Roseville*
Jake Allport, *resident of Warren, high school student at Fitzgerald Public Schools*
Tom Owczarek, *resident of Warren, school board member at Fitzgerald Public Schools*

October 19, 2006

Jon Switalski, *resident of Warren*
Mario Jirjees, *resident of Sterling Heights, high school student*
Ashley Wilk, *resident of Sterling Heights, high school student*
Rose Marie Fessler, *resident of Sterling Heights*
Mike Allore, *resident of Oakland Township*
Ryan Monette, *resident of Sterling Heights a high school student*
David Flynn, *resident of Sterling Heights*
Mike Wrathell, *resident of Sterling Heights*
John Stevens, *resident of Warren, high school student*
Camille Ary, *resident of Sterling Heights, high school student,*
Ankit Desai, *resident of Sterling Heights, high school student in 11th grade*
John Jamison, *resident of Mt. Clemens*
John Bonnell, *resident of Roseville*
Jim Collins, *resident of Sterling Heights, college student*
Carole Bannister, *resident of Clinton Township, Trustee of Fraser Public Schools' Board of Education*
Don Wesner, *resident of Sterling Heights, high school student*

November 9, 2006

Don Brown, *Macomb County Commissioner*

Robert Majac, *resident of Sterling Heights, Macomb County Commissioner District 9*

Joie West, *resident of Clinton Township Clinton Township Trustee*

Charles Roberts, *resident of St. Clair Shores*

Steven Batsikouras, *resident of Romeo, a senior at Romeo High School*

Ed Bagale, *resident of Bloomfield Township, Vice Chancellor of Government
Relations of the University of Michigan-Dearborn*

Dave Downing, *resident of Lake Orion, Oakland University Interim Vice Provost
for Graduate Education and Academic Administration*

Amber Diabik, *resident of Washington, a junior at Romeo High School*

Shannon O'Brien, *resident of Shelby Township, high school student*

Andre Lennox, *resident of Ray, high school student*

Steve Gee, *resident of Macomb*

Tom Poterek, *resident of Clinton Township, teacher in Romeo Community
Schools*

Annette Thompson, *resident of Armada*

Peter Coutsos, *resident of Washington*

Appendix E

Public Hearing Testimony

September 21, 2006

Roseville High School - Roseville Community Schools

GUEST SPEAKER: Lt. GOVERNOR JOHN D. CHERRY

Lt. Governor Cherry said that it's a pleasure to join everyone here today and expressed his appreciation to Judge Steeh, the commission members and citizens. He gave an overview of his experience and goals. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Michigan, and his Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Michigan-Flint. Prior to serving the Governor, he had served for over 20 years in the Michigan Legislature as a State Representative, State Senator and Minority Leader. His two major issues of concern are environmental conservation and higher education. He has led the Lt. Governor's Commission on Higher Education & Economic Growth, making a series of recommendations that have brought higher education into the larger discussion of creating and retaining jobs here in Michigan. He also serves as a gubernatorial appointee to the Midwest Higher Education Compact. He has helped to open the discussion we are seeking to carry on in Macomb County. This study is not only important to Macomb County but also to the State of Michigan. There is no other county in Michigan that has taken the higher education commission more seriously than in Macomb County. This is largely due to Representative Fred Miller's support.

Lt. Cherry said he came from an area in Genesee County that is similar to Macomb County as a manufacturing industry county. When he graduated from high school in 1969, his generation could have successful middle class earnings with just a high school diploma. The graduating students of the generation today need to have a higher education today to be successful. That is why this focus is so important for Michigan and its communities as they are engaged in this economic race. The winners of this race are those communities that have high levels of educational attainment. The higher the educational attainment results in higher levels of personal income and rapid rates of personal income growth. The lower level of educational attainment bring higher level of unemployment. That is why the Cherry Commission developed 19 separate recommendations and focused on the barriers that stood in the way of pursuing and completing their post-secondary experience. Those universities present opportunities for advanced education and technologies which become part of an important infrastructure needed for economic growth. Other important factors for Macomb County are access and proximity. Michigan has approximately 24% of residents with a Bachelor's Degree compared to the national average of 26% to 28%. A 4-year university in Macomb will provide a strong fiber for Macomb's future.

COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

State Representative Fred Miller: Representative Miller stated that he has the honor of serving on Michigan's House of Representatives in the 31st District, which includes Mt. Clemens Community Schools; Clintondale Community Schools, Fraser Public Schools, L'Anse Creuse Public Schools and Chippewa Valley Schools. He expressed his thanks to the Commission and the Lt. Governor for their interest, and for listening to the people's concerns. He appreciates that the Governor is showing her commitment to Macomb County. He affirmed that Lt. Governor Cherry covered a lot of important topics. He had the following comments to share: In the 20th Century, Michigan was the envy of the world. It is his opinion that Michigan needs and deserves Macomb County to have a university. Just because residents have done without a 4-year university for so long does not mean they should continue to do without one. Macomb is the largest county in Michigan without a 4-year college. Only 18% of Macomb County residents aged 25 and older have a Bachelor's Degree or higher. Tuition and proximity are barriers that affect residents from commuting to other counties for higher education. He explained that the 15 universities, as well as all the community colleges in Michigan, are funded by a general fund which is our income tax and sales tax and a host of other things. Therefore, Macomb County residents are paying taxes as other counties, but those counties have the benefit of a university in their county. To establish a 4-year university here in Macomb County, it would not affect our property tax. Representative Miller said he has handouts available regarding his information on Higher Education needs in Macomb County for anyone interested in receiving copies.

Gabe Maser from Washington, D.C. (on behalf of Michigan Congressman Sander Levin).

Mr. Maser presented an overview from the 12th District Congressional Advisory Committee on Higher Education in Macomb County which outlined the current post-secondary programs in Macomb County. This was established by four working sub groups which consisted of interested residents, local leaders and staff. Mr. Maser reviewed the programs offered, which institutions and partnerships are offering them, and if they are meeting the needs of the students. He also depicted all of the post-secondary schools in Macomb and Oakland counties. He reviewed all of the Bachelor and Master Degree programs offered at Macomb's University Center. The summary of the findings were that many courses that are required to complete a degree are not offered at the University Center and instead must be taken at the partner university's main campus. Many programs offer some required courses at the University Center but not consistently. For many degrees, concentrations or minors were either not available at the University Center or were limited. Classes offered at the University Center are offered less frequently during the week than parallel classes offered at a partner institution's main campus. He also illustrated three sample degree case studies offered at the University Center. The results were that students could not complete their degree at Macomb's University Center and would have to travel out of the county to the main campus for degree completion. He outlined a comparison of the successful programs of University Partnership Center at St. Petersburg College, Florida; Auraria Higher Education Center, Colorado; and other Auraria Campus partners.

Bill Sowerby, Clinton Township Treasurer and resident. Mr. Sowerby had the following comments to share: His issue is about taxation. Our residents are also paying income taxes to pay for universities around the state, but Macomb County still does not have a university. Taxpayers are voicing to me that they feel "cheated" for not having a 4-year university in Macomb County. They also feel further taxed by paying for gas and wear and tear on their vehicles to travel out of the county for higher education. Plus they feel even further taxed by the emotions of being away from their families so long because of the time they spend on the road.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Margaret Armstrong, resident of St. Clair Shores, MI. Ms. Armstrong is a current student at Wayne State University (WSU). She was previously enrolled at Western University in Kalamazoo, but left due to the high cost of room and board. However, commuting to WSU is costing her approximately \$80 per month in gas, and she spends about 45 minutes to an hour on the road each way. She is very much in support of a 4-year university in Macomb County.

Ed Bruley, resident of Clinton Township, MI. Mr. Bruley thanked everyone for being here and shared the following comments: We have a great opportunity because the Commission has the support to lead us in the direction which we have never been lead to before. Let the people in the county think in a different way. Macomb Community College (MCC) started out in a high school in Warren. Now we have two campuses. He went to MCC for two years but then he had to go somewhere else to further his education. After 25 years, he obtained a Master's Degree in Canada. Windsor is a smaller community than Macomb County but has programs to achieve Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. The State of Michigan is saying to us that they do not think we are important. Macomb County does not have the same opportunities that other cities have. The State of Michigan needs to rethink what it is doing for their educational framework. We need to demand higher education in Macomb County, and raise the bar of expectations. We in Macomb County are paying for everything as everyone in the state, but we are left behind.

Frank Maisano, resident of Roseville, MI: Mr. Maisano has been a resident of Roseville for 37 years, and is a union member of the UAW. He had the following comments to share: He made his money by doing a five year apprentice program from the finest apprentice school in Warren. We need to work in manufacturing and business through more education. We have a chance to present back to our governor why we need a 4-year university — let's do it, let's make if Macomb County University not just Macomb Community College!

David Flynn, a resident of Sterling Heights, MI. Mr. Flynn stated that he is a candidate for the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, but was here tonight speaking as a junior in college, and share the following comments: A university in Macomb County

will provide an economic boost. Jobs from a university will be created. Nearby restaurants and other businesses will create more jobs if there is a university in Macomb County. Google recently announced they will invest in providing jobs in Michigan and chose Ann Arbor as their location. There is a direct correlation between a 4-year university and economic growth. It's not a question of whether or not Macomb County needs a university but when will we get it! Macomb County's population is larger than some of the other states entire population alone.

Cass Franks, resident of Shelby Township, MI: Mr. Franks has lived in Macomb County for 42 years. He had the following comments to share: He believes we have a superior community college but it is in the state's best interest to have a 4-year university. Things are changing – resources are slipping away. More than 10% of the students in the state live in Macomb County. If Michigan wants a better economy, they have the people in Macomb County that can deliver results through the benefits of a 4-year university, and help Michigan get out of its slump.

Mark Blaszkowski of Sterling Heights. Mr. Blaszkowski is a principal at Eastland Junior High School and had the following comments to share: A lot of families in Macomb County are struggling. What would the effect be on our current community college. He is worried about the cost of the post-secondary education and how it would meet the needs of this community.

Brent White, resident of Roseville, MI. Mr. White had the following comments to share: He has finished his Associate's degree and would like to have the opportunity to finish his Bachelor's Degree in Macomb County. He was involved in robotics in high school but did not continue because Macomb County does not have a university. During the IT industry boom, getting a job without a college degree was not too difficult. Recent changes in our state have changed that drastically. Not only do we need to enhance our counties post-secondary degree options, we also need to enhance these ideas throughout all levels of education. Within Roseville, we have been working on these ideas. We have recently started a robotics club. The club involves 4th, 5th and 6th graders and hopes to expand it through the district. These types of programs will help to prepare students for the requirements needed to succeed in universities and higher.

Sarah Roberts, resident of St. Clair Shores, MI. Ms. Roberts thanked the Commission for taking part in this important issue and taking the time to hear comments. She has worked as a community organizer in Michigan for the past four years and believes that a 4-year university will help build Macomb's community. She asked the Commission to imagine what Detroit would be like without Wayne State University (WSU); and to imagine what Ann Arbor would be like without the University of Michigan; or what East Lansing would be without Michigan State University. Macomb County needs to be provided the chance to build the economy by having a 4-year university. WSU helped beautify Detroit with its cultural center, museums, theatres and restaurants. WSU is a catalyst for social and cultural economic enrichment. WSU and other universities supply jobs for teachers, administrators, custodians, etc. A university in Macomb County will supply these similar jobs, and will allow students to grow intellectually and

culturally. Events like concerts draw people to the community and Macomb County can further build and benefit economically.

Denise Mentzer, resident of Clinton Township, MI. Ms. Mentzer doesn't want the Commission to forget about older students, and had the following comments to share: She had heard a few years ago that Fred Miller had an idea to put a university where the old St. Joseph Hospital is in Mt. Clemens. She was so excited and thought it was an excellent idea and opportunity for Macomb County. She works at a local library, and everyday she helps people to show them how to find michigan.gov online so they can file for unemployment. She hears so many stories of people who have become unemployed in Macomb County. It took her ten years to get an Associate's degree at Macomb Community College, than another ten years to get a Bachelors Degree at Oakland University. She believes it is very important to put a university in Macomb County.

October 5, 2006

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools

COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

State Representative Fred Miller: Representative Miller stated that he has the honor of serving on Michigan's House of Representatives in the 31st District, which includes Mt. Clemens Community Schools; Clintondale Community Schools, Fraser Public Schools, L'Anse Creuse Public Schools and Chippewa Valley Schools. Representative Miller stated that Michigan State University (MSU) has an allopathic medicine program in Grand Rapids. They are now looking to offer an osteopathic program in southeast Michigan. He said Al Lorenzo put together all the assets we have here at Macomb Community College for a potential site for the MSU Osteopathic program. We have met with U of M regarding how we can drive the demand for higher education in Macomb. He would also like to see Wayne State University getting involved. He said that Macomb gets none of the 1.8 billion dollars funded for universities from the 40 to 41 billion dollar budget. Approximately 58 to 61 projects went out to universities. Macomb County is missing out in possible investments. Twenty-seven billion dollars, over and above the 41 billion dollars, is given away each year in tax expenditures. That money might be better invested in higher education, and he does not want to see this Commission being restrained. Many people think we should turn Macomb Community College into a university. Community colleges are allowed to levy property taxes but universities are not; therefore, conversions would result in loss of local funding.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Bridgit DeCarlo, resident of Harrison Township. Bridgit DeCarlo is a high school student from L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. She said she would like to see a state university in Macomb County. It would be "cheaper" to travel to a university if it was in Macomb County. She said by only having a community college in Macomb County, you are "stuck" and transferring credits can be a problem.

Alexander DaVia, resident of Harrison Township. Alexander DaVia is a high school student from L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. He said many students are discouraged from going to college because they have to travel to universities such as Wayne State University and University of Detroit. He asked how the construction of a new university would be funded. Would there be a re-allotment of community college funds or a new tax base? Would we make use of an existing infrastructure or institution already in the county? What do you think would best distinguish the university to benefit the county the most, i.e., liberal arts, engineering, etc.?

Michael Harris, Ph.D., representing Ferris State University. Dr. Michael Harris is Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Political Science at Ferris State University (FSU), and serves on 15 public universities. He shared the following comments: He believes higher education is needed in Macomb County. However, there are several baccalaureate programs which are offered in partnership with Macomb Community College. FSU has 20 locations in the state that offer various programs. He does not believe a university in Macomb is a rationale solution. He recommends that the community expand their partnerships. There are globalization and economic challenges. Solutions needs to be innovative, unique and different, and not necessarily the solutions of the past. Dr. Harris said that FSU can look at how to offer more programs in Macomb County. Another suggestion would be to have joint appointments with Macomb Community College. He does not believe we need further mandates but believes the public universities can find a way to work in collaboration with community colleges.

Tim Sheehy, resident of Troy, MI. Mr. Sheehy is a school social worker at L'Anse Creuse's alternative school, Riverside Academy, and shared the following comments: He deals with students who have difficulties getting through school. He believes that having a 4-year university would be very important for this county. It would become part of the fabric of the county which would be beneficial. He has a student who is an amazing artist, whom he would love to see design cars, but feels there is not much hope for him. However the Commission wants to have a 4-university is fine just as long as it gets done. The hope that it would provide students is so important. His students think that a two year college is enough. We need to raise the standards. Even many of students who are academically sound do not bother to attend college because of transportation issues alone. It would mean less travel time, saving money and more time to spend in college and at home. Students will reinvest the genius they have in the community.

Chris Hopper, resident of Macomb Township, MI. Chris Hopper is a student at L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, and had the following comments to share: He is in favor of a 4-year university in Macomb. Other universities are a long way from Macomb County. Gas is too costly and even if a student wanted to take a bus, they would probably have to take two buses to get to the nearest university.

Billie Henning, resident of Clinton Township. Billie Henning is a teacher at Macomb Community College; president of the Railroad Museum; also taught in L'Anse Creuse

Public Schools; and shared the following comments: Macomb has a sister city in Illinois, founded in 1831. Macomb County, MI was founded in 1818 as the third county in Michigan. It is named after General Alexander Macomb, a highly decorated veteran of the War of 1812. However, Macomb, Illinois has a university, Western Illinois University, which offers 31 different areas of studies. If they can do it, so can we!

Sanjay Rajput, Technical Engineer of DuPont Automotive Systems and resident of Macomb Township.

Mr. Rajput presented an overview of the 12th District Congressional Advisory Committee on Higher Education in Macomb County and the Subgroup on Post Secondary Services Available to Macomb County Residents. He outlined the current post-secondary programs in Macomb County. This was established by four working sub groups which consisted of interested residents, local leaders and staff. Mr. Rajput reviewed the programs offered, which institutions and partnerships are offering them, and if they are meeting the needs of the students. He also depicted all of the post-secondary schools in Macomb and Oakland counties. He reviewed all of the Bachelor and Master Degree programs offered at Macomb's University Center. The summary of the findings were that many courses that are required to complete a degree are not offered at the University Center and instead must be taken at the partner university's main campus. Many programs offer some required courses at the University Center but not consistently. For many degrees, concentrations or minors were either not available at the University Center or were limited. Classes offered at the University Center are offered less frequently during the week than parallel classes offered at a partner institution's main campus. He also illustrated three sample degree case studies offered at the University Center. The results were that students could not complete their degree at Macomb's University Center and would have to travel out of the county to the main campus for degree completion.

Bob Brandenburg, resident of Macomb Township, MI.

Mr. Brandenburg mentioned that he was an attorney, and had the following comments to share: He said there were two ways we can go. One is a new university and another way is offering programs by universities in Macomb. His daughter attended Macomb Community College and Rochester College. The problem is transfer of credits. There should be a lot more transferable credits available. He believes a 4-year university isn't going to happen because of the competition of the other universities in Michigan over funding. He thinks politicians are saying they are in favor of a 4-year university because it's right before an election year. He asked Congressman Sander Levin where is the money is going to come from, and how much is it going to cost?

Congressman Levin asked Judge Steeh if he should respond. Judge Steeh said yes. Congressman Levin responded that first of all, there are 83 counties in Michigan. Macomb is the third largest county in the state, and its population is growing rapidly. There are only two other counties in the United States the size of Macomb without a 4-year public higher education institution within its boundaries. The number of students in Macomb County with post-secondary degrees needs to double in ten years. Is it going to cost, the answer is yes, but we are losing out because of the number of people with a 4-year degree is decreasing.

"I do not know what it will cost Macomb County to have a 4-year university but I know what it will cost us if we don't!"

Mr. Brandenburg said politicians can never answer how much it is going to cost.

Congressman Levin responded that this Commission is not politically driven. There is no easy answer for this Commission. Macomb County has been an economic center for the state. This county needs to be a center again. It's not accident that economic progress revolves around a 4-year institution and economic development.

Judge Steeh responded that what Mr. Brandenburg thinks may be the promotion of this Commission is not. Anyone is invited to attend the hearings. Judge Steeh invited Mr. Brandenburg to supplement additional comments in writing to the Commission, but due to the lengthy time of his comments and questions, we ran out of time this evening.

Judge Steeh read the names and comments for those who were unable to speak due to running over the time limit:

COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS (*not heard*)

Brian Brdak, Macomb County Commissioner. Mr. Brdak is a resident of New Baltimore, MI., and wanted to comment on the need for a 4-year university in Macomb County.

Peggy Kennard, Macomb County Commissioner. Ms. Kennard is a resident of St. Clair Shores and wanted share some comments.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS (*not heard*)

John Jamison, resident of Mt. Clemens, MI. (no comment in writing)

Erik Edoff, resident of Troy, MI. Mr. Edoff is the Associate Principal at L'Anse Creuse Middle School East, and wanted to share the following comments: He is in favor of a 4-year university in Macomb because of the length of the commute for students; and the prestige a university would bring to Macomb County.

John DaVia, resident of Harrison Township, MI. Mr. DaVia wanted to share the following comments: He is concerned about the students' commute and that they have to work on campus for projects and have to travel long distances at late hours occasionally. Why us? We should have opportunities for our kids to get a 4-year degree, live at home and not have to drive for an hour or more.

Keith Wunderlick, resident of Harrison Township, MI. Mr. Wunderlick wanted to comment about the cost of sending children away to college.

Dan Tollis, resident of Clinton Township, MI. Mr. Tollis wanted to share general comments.

Monica Lenhard. Ms. Lenhard is a teacher in Harper Woods and wanted to share the following comments: She wanted to address the need for a concrete and stable institution in the county because of the idea that it can create higher, yet more pragmatic expectations for students.

Ken Hoover, resident of Harrison Township, MI. Mr. Hoover wanted to share why a new company would want to come to Macomb County. Higher Education! Culture! Quality of Life!

Henry Sommerstorfer, resident of Clinton Township, MI. Mr. Sommerstorfer wanted to share the following comments: The University of Phoenix goes to the students versus the students going to a central location. This university could have three or so campuses in the county. Environmental studies, engineering, alternative fuels, agricultural business, and of course, health and liberal arts. So move on and get this university building started and then add satellites if needed. There is tax money available. Let's put it to use. Of course Macomb County should have a sr. university in addition to the university center and Macomb Community College. A Macomb university would assist Macomb and St. Clair County residents to pursue a business degree without having to go out of the county. The new university could be a MSU or U o f M extension to start, but then become independent with a full course availability. By all means, the state should support the university with our diverse population. It should be supported by the media, high school administrations, parents and all others interested in higher education. Businesses locate near universities example: Ann Arbor. We need to have that presence. We need this university to assist Macomb Community College students to go on.

COMMENTS RECEIVED IN WRITING

Stephen Swetech, D.O., resident of Macomb. Dr. Swetech shared the following comments in writing: OPTIMIST - Economy will improve 3rd largest county - should get it - should get done. EDUCATION = INCOME keep the money here in Macomb. A university will stimulate the whole economy. More local individuals will be able to complete their expectations.

Kevin Mitchell, resident of Warren, MI. Mr. Mitchell is a member of *4 Macomb Barriers Team*. He would like the Commission to look at the timing of rolling this concept into production, and shared the following comments. We need a temporary University started while the permanent one is being built. There are plenty of schools/vacant buildings to accomplish this temporary University. We need the process/educational experience started ASAP. Please see my attached perspective on financial aid last year with my son. I also put a program on paper after talking with both my high school kids. Third article I found is a study on a commuter university (retention and attrition). I have a son who is a freshman at U of M and a daughter in her senior year of high school. I have a B.S. Degree from Oakland University. Attended Macomb Community

College for four years. With cost of commuting and time required (traffic) I could not do today what it took to complete my degree in 1985. The drive to achieve is here in Macomb County " Build Here."

Kimberly Lucier, resident of Harrison Township, MI. Ms. Lucier had the following comments to share: I think it is a great idea to bring a 4-year university to Macomb County. It would help more kids go to college by being able to stay at home and cut the cost of room and board. It would give Macomb County residents more opportunity for educational advancement. The costs generated from the University would help the county and it would bring more jobs. This is a great idea.

October 12, 2006

Fitzgerald Public Schools

COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

State Representative Lisa Wojno, resident of Warren, MI. Mrs. Wojno is a representative of the 28th District which serves part of Warren Consolidated Schools, Warren Woods Public Schools, East Detroit Public Schools; and all of Center Line Public Schools, Fitzgerald Public Schools and Van Dyke Public Schools. She had the following comments to share: She is here tonight both as a parent and as an elected official. She has three school-age children. Students of Macomb County deserve to have a higher learning institution that is close and convenient for this generation and future generations. Macomb County is the third most populous county in the state. This growth presents new challenges. A 4-year university will create new jobs. Efficiency of tax dollars needs to be allocated and put in place for Macomb. Macomb residents are already paying taxes to fund these colleges. Macomb has the of people to educate - return tax dollars to our area to work for us.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Serena Tran, resident of Warren, MI. Ms. Tran is a high school student at Fitzgerald Public Schools, and had the following comments to share: She is in support of a public university in Macomb County. She believes it is a good idea to help educate students of Macomb County. It would increase job opportunities, which will help the economy in Macomb County, as well as the property values. She asked the Commission if they had an idea of when the university would be completed, and if it would be while she was a college student.

Adam Stone, resident of Warren, MI. Mr. Stone is a high school student at Fitzgerald Public Schools and takes advanced math and science classes. He said that three-fourths of the graduates will have to move outside of Macomb County for jobs. Reports indicate that you earn \$1 million more if you have a bachelor's degree. Michigan is giving away jobs out to other states. A 4-year university will create jobs and solve many other problems. Michigan can become stable again, with the strongest workforce in America.

Catherine Paklaian, resident of Rochester Hills, MI. Ms. Paklaian is a counselor and Department Chair at Fitzgerald High School, and shared the following comments: She feels it is very important to Macomb County to have a 4-year university. If you build it, the students will come. How many people know where the mall is, where McDonald's is, where Burger King is. If they are familiar with it, they will go there. Forward looking parents can start planning ahead. Barriers of transportation, room and board will be removed. She shared a quote from Robert F. Kennedy: *There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why. I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?* Let's give our students doors to open. A university offers many arts, and will bring jobs and and give the people a sense of community.

Jim Bridgewater, resident of Warren, MI. Mr. Bridgewater had the following comments to share: He thinks Macomb Community College is a fine institution and it has done wonders for Macomb County, and he congratulates Dr. Lorenzo. However Macomb County needs a boost, and needs to move forward with a new vision. Young people are being recruited to other areas. A 4-year university will give Macomb County a competitive edge. He would like to ask the elected officials here if they have the wisdom, know-how and foresight that it takes for a 4-year university if this comes to pass.

Emma Kriss, Warren, MI. Ms. Kriss is a high student at Fitzgerald Public Schools, Student Council President, and had the following comments to share: A 4-year University would help the economy because more people would get a degree and receive higher income. It would create job opportunities for teachers, custodians as well as other jobs, and add a cultural setting. It would also encourage more people because it would be closer to home. The long term effects would improve education, open new businesses and benefit the general economy of Macomb County and Michigan.

Phil Jankowski, resident of Warren, MI. Mr. Jankowski is Assistant Principal of Curriculum, at Fitzgerald High School. He is a life-long resident of Warren, MI. The lack of a 4-year university has impacted him because it limited him due to proximity problems. He had to fend for himself because his family could not afford to pay for college He was not able to attend a 4-year university because of the cost of room and board. He took some classes at Macomb's University Center but had to take most of the classes at the main campus. As a teacher, he has seen that it becomes a "catch 22" for the students. You can start at Macomb Community College, and hope your credits will transfer. Less then 20% of students in Macomb County complete their degree because the process is very difficult. We are loosing young people to other states. As an administrator, we are trying to get people to come back to Detroit. We pay the price when they leave and we pay when they come back. We need to have a 4-year university in Macomb because of proximity. An example is that recently the Google company has opened offices in Ann Arbor.

Sanjay Rajput, resident of Macomb Township, MI. Mr. Rajput stated he was on a team formed by the 12th District Congressional Advisory Committee, led by Congressman Sandy Levin, which studied the barriers of post secondary offerings in Macomb County. He shared the following comments: He said that interviews, research and survey responses indicated

that the barriers to college enrollment or completion of a post-secondary degree can be categorized into three areas: cultural, bureaucratic, and cost. He found it interesting that he was the only "import" on the team. Macomb County consists of people from diverse culture, ethnic and economic backgrounds. Students come from families who did not go to college and get a degree, but were able to achieve a good life. Now students do need to go to college and get a degree. Also the cultural hurdle needs to be overcome. A 4-year university will improve the culture we need to build for the 21st century.

Michelle Chevatewa, resident of Warren, MI. Ms. Chevatewa is in favor of a 4-year university in Macomb. She is a former Fitzgerald High School graduate and had the following comments to share: She graduated Fitzgerald high school with honors, and attended Oakland University where she had a 3.4 GPA. She is one of the over 25% who did not complete a degree. Her family fell into the bracket where she did not qualify for financial aid yet they could not afford to send her to college. She could not continue at Oakland because they did not offer enough class offerings for her program. It was not feasible for her to change her degree. Then she married and had children, and now she still does not have a degree. Then the company she worked for down-sized and she was one of those who lost their job because she did not have a degree. She thinks the 4-year university should be in Warren where the working class live. She does not think it should be on Hall Road, because it's not just North Macomb residents who are interested but South Macomb too.

Michael Kapolka, resident of Royal Oak, MI. Mr. Kapolka is a graduate of Fitzgerald High School, and currently the English Department Chair at Fitzgerald Public Schools, and had the following comments to share: Cost is a factor preventing students of Macomb from earning a degree. The rate of inflation is at 11% and is rising every year. A four year degree is now taking 5 years. Students are faced with paying about \$50,000 to \$60,000. As a recent father, He is now trying to save for my child's education. He is 100% in support of a university. The biggest barrier is cost. It needs to be cost-effective for students who live in Warren or in Macomb County to attend a university.

Diane Stone, resident of Warren. Ms. Stone is in favor of a 4-year university in Macomb and had the following comments to share: She graduated from Fitzgerald High School in 2001, and is a recent college graduate. She wants to come back home to Macomb but there are no jobs. She said she was the only one in my graduating class to attend Central Michigan University. Her first year of tuition was \$10,000, and her last year of tuition was \$14,000. She can understand why most people don't finish their degrees because of cost. If Macomb had a 4-year university it would allow students to take some of their classes at Macomb Community College. A 4-year university would add cultural aspects to Macomb County. She would like to see museums in Macomb so you wouldn't have to travel to Wayne County.

Sierra Dem, resident of Warren, MI. Ms. Dem is in favor of a 4-year and had the following comments to share: She is a concerned parent. Her daughter attends Fitzgerald High School, and wants to be an OB-GYN doctor. She is a single parent, and going to school to

earn a better job. She drives all the way to Westland and is hoping to work in Macomb County because she lives in Warren. Ms. Stone asked the following questions:
What would the university offer students who are looking to go into the medical field?
Are they going to offer jobs at the hospitals?
Are they going to provide the same jobs they are providing for international students?
While they are attending school, are they going to offer a cost-effective education?

Fatoumaia Bayo, resident of Warren, MI. Miss Bayo is in favor of a 4-year university and had the following comments to share: She is a senior at Fitzgerald High School and had the following questions to ask the Commission:
Where are you planning on building the 4-year university?
Is it going to be affordable for students to attend?
How affordable are you planning it for the students?

Kevin Lane, resident of Commerce, MI. Mr. Lane is the Director of Public Relations and Assistant Principal of Alternative Education at Fitzgerald Public Schools. He is in favor of a 4-year university and shared the following comments: A major barrier for students is fear of college. Many of our students' families do not have the college background or even familiarity with college. He was familiar with U of M and WSU because his brothers went to college there. Students also have the fear factor of the dorm. If students can stay at home and go to college, they would be more likely to go to college. Students would feel more comfortable. Many of the students in Warren are supporting themselves, or in some cases helping support their families. Comfort level and convenience are very important!

Heather Blum, resident of Warren, MI. Ms. Blum is in favor of a 4-year university and shared the following comments: She is a counselor for Harper Woods secondary schools. Many of her students will be first time college students within their families. They have family obligations which cost money. Proximity is a problem because of financial situations at home. She completed her degree at Macomb's University Center, but she was not able to take all her classes there. She had to drive four times a week to the main campus. She wishes she could have attended a university in Macomb County.

Jeanette Brill, resident of Macomb County. Ms. Brill is the Superintendent of Fitzgerald Public Schools, is in favor of a 4-year university, and shared the following comments: The requirement today for students is that they have to work full time in order to pay for college. A university will provide a job market of the future. You will draw not only Macomb County students but students from other areas.

Sue Lodovisi, resident of Warren, MI. Ms. Lodovisi shared the following comments. Her son graduated from Central Michigan University. He had a debt of \$30,000 and will owe another \$10,000. She lost her job to Ireland and qualified for NAFDA, a free education program. She is making 60% less, with her degree, than what she made working for the manufacturing job.

Ginny Lach, resident of Warren, MI. Ms. Lach is in support of a 4-year university and shared the following comments. She is a grandparent raising a grandchild. She works at Westview

Elementary School in Fitzgerald Public Schools. She said we need a place in Macomb County for grandparents to send their grandchildren because we can't afford to send them away to college.

Marie Koehler, resident of Roseville, MI. Ms. Koehler graduated from Macomb Community College in 2001. It took her 14 years to get her associate's degree. She would like to finish her education and would like to plan her career in less than 14 years. We heard about the study of the economy and demographics. We are here in Macomb County and "I would like to become somebody."

Jake Allport, resident of Warren, MI. Jake Allport is a high school student at Fitzgerald Public schools, and shared the following comments: He is in favor of a 4-year university in Macomb County. He has big dreams for himself but said he is afraid they won't come true. His parents don't have a high school degree. He said even if he got to go to a university, he would could not afford the room and board. He wants to go to college and raise a family but he's afraid if he doesn't get to go to college, he won't be able to. He said "I want to be somebody."

Tom Owczarek, resident of Warren, MI. Mr. Owczarek is a school board member at Fitzgerald Public Schools, and shared the following comments: He said he did not graduate from Fitzgerald High School. He wishes he had. Macomb County has something going on — auto technology, engineering, pharmacy technology, communication arts. He said we are trying to prepare our students for their future part. One way is the university being in Macomb County. We can adjust and develop our programs for the university. Before Dr. Edoff was superintendent at Fitzgerald Public Schools, he was a science teacher. Fitzgerald won more awards than any other state. We need the university so we can adjust our education programs.

October 19, 2006

Utica Community Schools

COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jon Switalski, resident of Warren, MI. Mr. Switalski thanked the Commission for hearing the concerns of the people, and shared the following comments: He said it is clear that there are barriers which Macomb County students need to overcome such as cost and transportation. He believes the County government can play a role in overcoming these barriers and would like present the Commission with a preliminary idea. Macomb County can help bridge the gap for where we want to be. The idea is a one shop stop similar to what states like North Carolina, Kentucky and Georgia are doing. Students throughout the entire state can go to the website and talk to an employee who streamline the college application process. Students fill out one application and it goes to every university in the state. Information on schools, income requirements and costs, tuition and housing. They provide market research, where the jobs are going and where they are growing. Why are we not providing this information to students of Macomb County or people who have lost their jobs. This process can be very import to help students prepare their future. He wished someone would have told him that that political science was not a booming industry. He wishes the Commission all the best in helping Macomb County's future.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mario Jirjees, resident of Sterling Heights, MI. Mario is a high school student, and shared the following comments. He is interested in having a 4-year university because it would bring good things to Macomb County. At Macomb Community College you can only go for two years. I was thinking about the pros and cons of a 4-year university in Macomb County, but I could not think of one bad thing. The pros are that students would be able to drive there because it would be close. Students would not have to pay for room and board so it would be less expensive.

Ashley Wilk, resident of Sterling Heights, MI. Ms. Wilk is a high school student, and shared the following comments: Change Macomb Community College to a 4-year university. It would offer students a better degree than a 2-year degree. It would give everyone an opportunity to have a better job.

Rose Marie Fessler, resident of Sterling Heights, MI. Mrs. Fessler stated that she is running for state representative of the Sterling Heights Office, and shared the following comments. The 4-year university in Macomb County is one of her passions. It took her ten years to get her degree from Wayne State University. Her husband had no education; he worked at

UAW and was not able to complete a degree. Her daughter went to Kalamazoo College where she had a good university experience. She hopes Macomb County university considers three factors for a 4-year university:

- 1) Global studies. Her daughter studied in Europe and it was a great experience. Our economy depends on other countries. It gives them a great vision.
- 2) Internship Opportunities. Students need to have built-in internship opportunities where they work for three months in the area which they will study. Her daughter worked at Blue Cross/Blue Shield which led her to getting a degree from a pharmacy college. This county can be one of the best in the state and/or country.
- 3) Create jobs. Her daughter continued her education and got a job at Boeing. When she got her master's degree, most of her classmates were from other countries. Those students stay here and take our jobs. Her daughter lives in Colorado because she can't find a job here. Let's get something going! We have been talking about it for years!

Mike Allore, resident of Oakland Township, MI. Mr. Allore thanked the commission for giving people an opportunity to speak, and shared the following comments: We need to start attracting students into higher education because the proper training can affect economic growth. Learning through creative challenges is also very important. It needs to be started in elementary school then go through high school. We need to move education into the conceptual age not just knowledge base. Design challenges is what needs to be taught. Even in businesses, they are looking at MFAs (Master's of Fine Arts) not just MBAs. A lot of them are being hired in the business communities. We need to put an importance on design based learning and creative learning. He said he teaches design programs. It will help people be more successful. In the October 12th issue of the Seattle Post, there was an article about how they are incorporating creative learning into their schools.

Ryan Monette, resident of Sterling Heights, MI. Ryan Monette is a high school student, and shared the following comments: He is in favor of a 4-year university because people would get a better education, and be able to compete for better jobs. It is going to cost less money for students who can't afford to go to Wayne State University or Oakland University. If you can get a better degree, you can get a better job.

David Flynn, resident of Sterling Heights, MI. Mr. Flynn thanked the commission for their dedication for higher education in Macomb, and shared the following comments: He said that he is a candidate for the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, and is a lifelong resident of Warren. He went to Sterling Heights High School, however they share the same values as Stevenson High School. Macomb students are going to other parts of the state or outside the state. Ann Arbor, East Lansing and Kalamazoo are benefiting from this. Other students in Macomb don't finish their education or don't continue their higher education at all. Higher education will give Macomb County and the State of Michigan a robust economy. How do we do it? The answer is a 4-year university. We relied on manufacturing in the past. Some say that the state can't afford to charter another university. I say we can't afford not to. I find it hard to believe that the upper peninsula has three universities with only 2% of the population of Michigan living there. In Macomb County, we have approximately 10% of the population in Michigan. Michigan is at a different place than it was 30 years ago.

Affordability and access for higher education is needed in Macomb. Let it be all of our responsibility to make it happen here!

Mike Wrathell, resident of Sterling Heights, MI. Mr. Wrathell is running for Macomb Community College (MCC) Board of Trustees, and shared the following comments. If he is elected, he will be working with Nancy Falcone-Sullivan and Al Lorenzo. He said that the bad examples of MCC should not be followed, such as the way MCC "shot down" the school newspaper. He doesn't understand why a college would do that. He went to the University of Michigan, and they had a school newspaper since 1890. Michigan State University has had a school newspaper since 1909. He said the Macomb Theater of Performing Arts is a good program. Performing Art studies are important. He said he would like Judge Steeh to read a report from a WSU graduate who visited a MCC class. He said if a 4-year university comes to Macomb County, they will need a school newspaper. He thinks the 4-year university should have strong moral leadership.

John Stevens, resident of Warren, MI. John is a high school student, and shared the following comments: He thinks the university is a good idea, but we need to concentrate on the high schools more. The future is in computers. He knows high school students how don't even know how to type their own name. Without computers, we will be left behind. Seattle has the biggest computer business in the world. He taught himself everything he knows about computers. His high school taught him nothing. The computer lessons in the high schools are outdated.

Camille Ary, resident of Sterling Heights. Camille is a high school student, and shared the following comments: She hopes if a 4-year university comes that it will not replace Macomb Community College (MCC). She knows a lot of people who have lower grade point averages, and can't get into universities but want to go to MCC. She is concerned about the cost of a university versus a community college.

Ankit Desai, resident of Sterling Heights, MI. Ankit is a high school student in 11th grade, and shared the following comments: He believes having a 4-year university would benefit Macomb County and the State of Michigan by developing improved entrepreneurship and attracting business. Low income families would have an opportunity to receive an education. This would give communities a second chance at a good education. It would provide excellent opportunities in Michigan such as in technologies, arts and literature. Arts and Literature carry the culture of any community. Think of what Leonardo DiVinci and Michael Angelo did for the Roman culture. Imagine what Leonardo DiVinci and Michael Angelo could produce if they lived in Macomb County. I think only 27% of Michigan students complete their degrees. Michigan is not going to excel with less then 30% of students completing their degrees. Bill Gates did not completely utilize his schooling. The greatest thing you can do for a student is to give him leadership qualities.

John Jamison, resident of Mt. Clemens, MI. Mr. Jamison was at the L'Anse Creuse hearing and was not able to speak due to lack of time. He is at tonight's hearing and shared the following

comments which he was going to present in L'Anse Creuse: He is the Chief Conductor at the Michigan Transit Museum. He said we need a university in Macomb County. One out of every three jobs in this county is linked to the auto industry. Because of this, a lot of people are affected. Michigan has a skilled labor workers. A university is needed for job training. Macomb County needs an equal distribution of the revenue for college funding. He graduated in 1986 and went to Walsh College then he went to Macomb Community College. It took him 16 years to get a B.A. in general studies. We have to move forward with a university. He thanked the Commission for having the opportunity to speak.

John Bonnell, resident of Roseville, MI. Mr. Bonnell thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak, and shared the following comments: He is concerned about an issue of paramount consideration to the whole Commission. The focus on job training and economic development is not enough. He is concerned about how colleges become a platform of freedom of speech issues. American colleges have become some of the most 'unfree' places. He commented on violations and civil rights matters resulting in freedom of speech. He hopes that if a university comes to Macomb, it will not be a rerun of MCC where censorship is okay.

Jim Collins, resident of Sterling Heights, MI. Mr. Collins is a college student and shared the following comments: He has a lot of college experience. He started out at Michigan Technical University. Then he attended Macomb Community College (MCC) and graduated. MCC does serve a different need. He got a degree from Central University through the University Center. He will be getting his MBA at Oakland when he graduates in December. He would have liked to have attended just one university in Macomb. If the university was research intensive, it could bring companies to our area.

Carole Bannister, resident of Clinton Township. Ms. Bannister is a Trustee of Fraser Public Schools' Board of Education, and shared the following comments: She thanked the Commission for being here and taking this matter of higher education so seriously by hearing all the comments. She is a former MCC student. She said MCC serves an important purpose, but at the same time there is a very strong need for a 4-year university. Macomb is being left behind. Macomb needs to stand up and be counted.

Don Wesner, resident of Sterling Heights, MI. Don is a high school student and shared the following comments: He strongly supports the idea of a 4-year university. He said he asked his friends where they will going to college. They said they were afraid to go away from home. He firmly believes if there was a university in Macomb, not only would local students attend, but it would bring people in from around the state and other states as well. It would stimulate the economy. The more opportunity we have here, the more people it will bring in. It's been said that Michigan has so many colleges and universities that we are overdoing it. How can you overdue education?

COMMENTS RECEIVED IN WRITING FROM CITIZENS

Pam Talcott, resident of Sterling Heights, MI. "I attended the public hearing (my first one) at Stevenson High School on 10/19/06. I have a few comments to make. I think having a 4 year college in Macomb County would be great. I wish that it had been timelier. My daughter is a senior at Stevenson and we toured colleges over the summer. She is now applying to colleges. She doesn't want to go to Macomb because it is only a 2 year college and she doesn't like that it has open admission. She wants to be accepted to a college because of her grades and extra curricular activities. On the one hand, she says she wants to go away to college. On the other hand, many of the schools we visited were "too far away" and many of her friends are staying at home. At this time her major is undecided. She also still only has a driver's permit at this time (a little afraid to drive). This may complicate transportation issues but a nearby school would help. It would also be nice to have a 4 year college close by, in case I decided to go back to school for a Master's degree. I currently have a B.S. in Biology and have taken some courses, post-bachelor's, at Oakland University. (I work closer to Oakland U.)"

Josephine D'Angelo, resident of Sterling Heights, MI. I was unable to attend the meeting discussing the commission on higher education held at Stevenson High School on 10-19-06. However, my 16 year old daughter did attend. I am just writing to let you know that we support a four year university in Macomb county.

November 9, 2006

Romeo Community Schools

COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Don Brown, Macomb County Commissioner. Mr. Brown thanked the Commission for coming to Romeo, which is the district he serves, and shared the following comments: He is very proud of the Romeo Engineering Technology Center. He is looking forward to the Commission's report from the hearings. Funding will be a challenge which will need to be overcome. He would like to see Macomb County on the cutting-edge. He graduated from Oakland University (OU). OU also use to stand for "only university." Now you can go to Macomb Community College (MCC) and get a 4-year degree. It is not a perfect scenario, but better than it was in the past. Costs and location are important. He hopes the Commission is successful.

Robert Majac, resident of Sterling Heights, MI. Mr. Majac is a Macomb County Commissioner representing District 9, and shared the following comments: He said he is a product of many colleges. He obtained his associate's degree from MCC in three years. He also attended Michigan State University and Wayne State University. He is an advocate for Macomb County having a 4-year university. It will improve the unemployment rate, help re-skill and educate the workforce. He believes the number one reason that businesses come to certain areas is proximity to a skilled workforce. Macomb County has the second lowest tax rate. We are lower than the national average. Macomb County is the first county to upfront money to help train people due to unfair trade policies, and assist in unemployment benefits. We are very proud in Macomb County. We can't afford not to have a 4-year

university. It is the state's responsibility to budget and prioritize. Macomb County should be at the top of the list!

Joie West, resident of Clinton Township, MI. Ms. West is a Clinton Township trustee, and shared the following comments: She thanked the Commission for having an opportunity to speak. She works at St. Joseph's Hospital. She is in support of a 4-year university. Macomb County students want to stay close to home. She is here to restate these points. She said one man asked what a 4-yr university would do for Macomb County. She said it would give Macomb County a sense of pride, self esteem, sense of culture, sense of society. It will produce jobs for faculty and students. Having a university in the county where young people live will teach them that post secondary is the next step after they finish middle school and high school. She feels this way because when she grew up in East Lansing, it was expected that you would go to college after high school. When she graduated she felt that the doors of the world were right across the street. She understands why people want to go back home. Building a 4-year university in Macomb County would allow our young people great opportunities. We already have one of the best community colleges in the state with a great university center, but they can't do it alone. It would be great to attract people not only from other counties but from other states. We have a shortage of workers in our hospital, but most of the jobs require a 4 year degree. Hospitals are helping students with tuition. Her mother was a nurse and she remembers asking her mother where nurses work. Her mother would show her a globe and tell her to turn it and point. Wherever she pointed is where nurses work. She thanked the Commission for her their time and dedication to this important cause.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Charles Roberts, resident of St. Clair Shores, MI. Mr. Roberts shared the following comments: He said has the initials "L.M.S.W." after his name; has a master's degree; has various certifications; and works as social worker and case manager. He would not be able to have these initials after his name if he did not have a 4-year degree, and later a master's degree. He was told he was too dumb to have a 4-year degree. He currently owns a business which is a community resource for catastrophic survivors. Interestingly, he had to leave Macomb County to get his degree. Also interesting is that none of his employees, who have multiple degrees, obtained their degrees in Macomb County. He earned his bachelor's degree at Wayne State University, and his master's degree at the University of Iowa. He would not be able to work without this educational experience. He shared a quote from Dr. Melvin Freedman: *Our job is not to create jobs, it's our job to educate people. Jobs will follow.* Macomb County has the largest research development field in the world, but there's no link to prepare its people. He said he is in full support of a 4-year university in Macomb.

Steven Batsikouras, resident of Romeo, MI. Mr. Batsikouras is a senior at Romeo High School, and shared the following comments: He asked the following questions about a possible 4-year university in Macomb County: 1) Where would such a structure be built – northern or southern Macomb? 2) Would MCC be turned into a 4-year university? 3) What programs

and degrees will be offered. 4) What will the admission standards be? 5) Will it be like Oakland with at least a 2.5 GPA or Michigan State, a 3.4 GPA or higher?

Ed Bagale, resident of Bloomfield Township, MI. Mr. Bagale is the ViceChancellor of Government Relations of the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He shared the following comments: "It is my pleasure to appear before you today to add my remarks to the material you are assembling regarding higher education eeds in Macomb County. My name is Ed Bagale, and I have spent my entire career, spanning nearly four decades, working for higher education in southeastern Michigan. From 1968 to 1977, I was an admissions officer at Oakland University, and from 1977 to the present, I have served as director of admissions and the head of local, state and federal government relations at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Throughout this period, I have spent considerable time working with Macomb County schools. Based on my decades of experience in higher education in this area, I can say that Macomb Community College was and remains one of our state's premier institutions of higher learning. As far back as the late1960s, MCC pioneered the process of University/community college transfer articulation. And we are all familiar with MCC's collaborative programming with a number of public and private universities at the Macomb Center. The Macomb Center is an extraordinary resource which is exceptionally suited to addressing the educational challenges facing Macomb County today. But MCC can't do it alone. Michigan still has approximately three-quarters of its adult population without a college degree. We now rank near the bottom of the states in terms of the level of education of our workforce. And as we all know, all too painfully, the American automobile industry is no longer dominant in the world economy. Nowhere are these challenges felt more adversely than in Macomb County. Today we need to educate two generations simultaneously: we have to find a way to re-educate large portions of our current work force, while at the same time we must execute effective strategies to engage a much larger percentage of our young people. To meet this challenge, a modern higher education system must be able to take advantage of technology, provide for student mobility, accommodate a constantly changing workplace, and instill a desire and capacity to engage in life-long learning among its graduates. In addition to traditional students, there are hundreds of thousands of other Michigan citizens between the ages of 18 and 45 today who desperately need higher education. However, those potential students cannot afford the luxury of suspending their lives so they can go away to college. These are working people with responsibilities to family and community. A lot of them live in Macomb County. To serve this population we must transcend the usual approach and act immediately to design new, career-focused, "configurable" curricula that can be delivered on demand, at a time and in a location that meets the needs of working adults with many conflicting priorities. The needs of this population are not likely to be met merely by the creation of a new four-year university with a \$55 million physical plant. Today's successful educational model must find solutions to the pressing needs of the working population. We need to reach a point where our curricula can be blended and

students can move seamlessly back and forth between two- and four-year schools. We need more courses to be offered online, more classes being taught on-site at the work place, and more flexibility when courses are offered. I would argue we already have a good start on that kind of institution and those kinds of programs at the Macomb Center, with several outstanding four-year universities already offering an impressive array of course work. However, I do not believe future progress is dependent on more bricks and mortar nor do I believe we need another separately tenured faculty and academic administration.

Far more importantly: in my view, we need a significant inflow of financial resources to assist students with tuition. This support can come from the Federal or state government, employers and unions. Moreover, unlike capital projects, this kind of support can be implemented quickly. We all know what the Kalamazoo Promise is doing for that city. We can only imagine what a similar program focusing on an entire county of youth and working adults could mean for the region and the State.

There are two main factors that lead me to believe that Macomb County could be the place that develops this new template for the 21st century higher education. First, you have an excellent example of the responsive, community-centered, forward-looking educational institution in Macomb Community College, and its excellent Macomb Center. Second, Macomb County has an enviable history of valuing the kind of hard work that will be required to adopt the newest educational technologies and to adapt those innovations to the needs of our population in the generations ahead. By building on this resource, I believe you will be the center of economic growth and prosperity for Michigan, and you will better serve the needs of the people who make their homes in Macomb County."

Dave Downing, resident of Lake Orion, MI. Mr. Downing is Oakland University's Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Academic Administration. He thanked the Commission for allowing him the opportunity to speak, and shared the following comments: "We are facing a difficult issue. I know that part of your charge is to explore existing opportunities for higher education in Macomb County, and in this context I would like to talk a little bit about Oakland University's programs in Macomb County. OU at Macomb is a general term, encompassing all of Oakland University's initiatives to provide affordable and quality educational opportunities for the citizens of Macomb County. We believe that we are unique in providing such opportunities due to the nature of our relationships: not only were we one of the first partners in the Macomb University Center, but we also have strong and growing ties with Macomb Community College and the Macomb Intermediate School District. Through these relationships, OU is able to provide 9 baccalaureate degrees, 10 master degrees, and educational specialist degree and two doctoral degrees, all of which may be completed without leaving the boundaries of Macomb County. In 2006, these programs have enrolled nearly 4,700 students ... 3,450 students in MUC and 1,240 students in educational programs developed in concert with the Macomb Intermediate School District. Specific information on the nature of these programs can be found in your informational packets.

As noted, our commitment to provide educational opportunities goes beyond these programs. OU and Macomb Community College have recently entered into the state's first, and at this point only, concurrent enrollment program. This program, named M 2 O, is a direct response to the Cherry commission's report urging the state to increase the number of citizens with post-secondary degrees. Intended to provide a truly seamless transition from the community college to the university, this program enables students to apply to both institutions with a single application, garner the benefits of coordinated advising, choose courses at either institution (including the growing number of OU course offerings at the Macomb University Center) and, most notably, combine credits taken at either institution in order to maximize financial aid packages. This coordinated approach will enable students to complete both the associate degree and a baccalaureate degree in a timely cost-effective fashion. The program was initiated this fall on a pilot basis, and 36 students enrolled, 26 of these students are benefiting from the combined financial aid packages. We already have 58 applications for the winter semester.

Another area of deep commitment is to address the professional development needs of the educational community in Macomb County. Developed in consultation with the Macomb Intermediate School District, Degree and Certificate programs focusing on the needs of teachers and administrators are offered at a variety of sites in the county on an "as needed" basis.

We recognize the inherent limitations of any extension program of the nature of OU at Macomb; however we also are ready to assist you in whatever fashion possible. We are committed to working with you to support the citizens of Macomb County to achieve their educational goals."

Amber Diabik, resident of Washington, MI. Ms. Diabik is a junior at Romeo High School and shared the following comments: She is very interested in a 4-year university coming to Macomb County. Other students have shared this same opinion with her. She is taking advanced placement government classes and would like to continue on at a 4-year university. Macomb County will benefit from a 4-year university economically. A university can provide ideal programs for students. It's shocking that this has to be studied. It's obvious by the loss of jobs which has hit Macomb County very hard. A 4-year university will turn Macomb County into a prosperous county. It is our duty to take the necessary steps to see this happen. The job market will improve as it will provide opportunities for teachers, co-op students, maintenance workers and others. The construction will bring in new revenue. Online institutions are now making more money than ever due to the fact that students do not have to move away. It will be more affordable for students in Macomb County to have a university nearby. High schools need to prepare students better. A new university can create programs for people in the middle age to complete their degrees. She said she would like to have a college that Macomb can be proud of. Recreation is important, as well as sports, extra-curricular clubs, debate clubs and more.

Shannon O'Brien, resident of Shelby Township, MI. Ms. O'Brien is a high school student and shared the following comments: She thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak. Oakland University began as a satellite campus of MSU in 1957. Are there

any universities that would be interested in creating a satellite campus here in Macomb? About 25% of Macomb residents have some college experience, but no degree, showing that many residents acknowledge the need of education, but are not able to complete their degree. The distance between them and a university is a problem. For instance, OU or WSU, is too far for them. A 4-year university in Macomb would raise the education level and attract companies to invest job opportunities. Ms. O'Brien asked the people in the audience to raise their hand if they have a 4-year degree. Then she said to keep your hands raised if you obtained your 4-year degree in Macomb County. She said raise your hands if you had to pay for your college education. This is money that could have been spent in Macomb County. She said she has her mind made up – money is one of the biggest issues here tonight. OU received help by donations. More people will come forward to help donate money in Macomb County. In Romeo, a lot of people would help fund a university. Barriers like transportation have been issues for her sister and brother who attended college. They would have preferred to attend a university in Macomb. Many people say we can't afford a university in Macomb, I say we can't afford not to have it. It would raise the higher education completing rate and help raise the living standards. "Even though we are not a lot of people here, Niagara Falls only started with a trickle of water."

Andre Lennox, resident of Ray, MI. Mr. Lennox is a high school student and shared the following comments: He tanked the Commission for letting the students speak. He said next fall he is leaving to go away to college. He said he will probably have to stay away. He doesn't want to stay away, he does not like that! He wants to be a teacher. I want to teach here in Macomb. It's obvious why Google has new offices in Ann Arbor. He likes it here in Macomb, and he would love to stay here. I don't want to go to the west coast to work. My grandparents immigrated here. They did not graduate high school. They had eleven children, and instilled it in their children and grandchildren to go to college. He said he "hates" to leave. He said Macomb County needs the university and will benefit economically and socially. We can't afford not to do it.

Steve Gee, resident of Macomb, MI. Mr. Gee is shared the following comments as a parent. He has lived in Macomb County for 16 years. He grew up in northern Michigan and attended Central University. He has been able to take all his courses at the University Center. However, as a parent he definitely sees the need for a separate university in Macomb because the University Center does not meet the educational needs for everybody. He is not confident that we have all the financial backing.

Tom Poterek, resident of Clinton Township, MI. Mr. Poterek, a teacher in Romeo Community Schools, shared the following comments: He was born and raised in Macomb County and attended Central University. He lived in Roscommon and moved back to Macomb County. Macomb County needs to look at expanding. Everyone is worried about costs. Let's look at the investment – it's an investment to our community, to our children, and grandchildren. A lot of Oakland University's students are from Macomb County. Oakland University is very limited. A 4-year university will

help Macomb County because corporations and businesses will be willing to move in. St. Clair County also does not have a university. It will bring people in from there as well. Oakland University has done a good job and is a beacon in the community. He would like that for Macomb County also. Affordability will be an important factor for students.

Annette Thompson, resident of Armada, MI. Ms. Thompson shared the following comments: She received her B.A. from Central Michigan. It took her six years to receive her MBA at satellite universities in Troy, the University Center and Dearborn. One of the barriers is that you can't take all your classes at one location to finish your MBA. It is quite a strain. A 4-year university would give Macomb County a sense of pride. She has a son who is going to Central University. It would have been nice if he could go to Macomb County. Another concern is that she is paying taxes for all the other universities. We have Baker College and other satellites but not a university. Her dream would be to go for her doctorate degree in Macomb County!

Peter Coutsos, resident of Washington, MI. Mr. Coutsos thanked Dr. Edoff and the other Commission members for allowing the people to speak, and shared the following comments: He is particularly impressed with the students here tonight. He has questions: 1) What is the final process? 2) What can we do as residents to assist the Commission to make this happen? 3) Should we have a petition drive or submit letters to our representatives?

COMMENTS RECEIVED IN WRITING FROM CITIZENS

Dawn M. Radzioch, MA CPC, resident of Macomb Township, MI. I have attended several of the meetings that are looking into the possibility of beginning a four year University in Macomb. I would appreciate the opportunity to express my ideas. Over the years both my husband and I have obtained Master's Degrees. We both have degrees from MCC and were very happy with our education there but needed more education to fulfill our life's ambitions. Please understand that coming from large families post-graduate degree obtainment is not an easy process in Macomb County. We are both the first in our families to receive undergraduate degrees and the only ones to receive post-graduate degrees. The process is long and difficult when people must work full-time and do not have the advantage of a parent to guide them through admissions and the cultural mind-set necessary to navigate the educational system. Macomb families would greatly benefit from the university culture that comes from having the pride associated with their own Macomb University.

Although, we have satellite universities scattered around our county it is not the same as having your own. The satellite universities have blatantly lied at some of these meetings and it upsets me to think that people might be swayed by the untruths. In our experience, obtaining a degree at the University Center we were both told that it could be done fully in Macomb County and in both cases that was NOT true. My husband finished his undergraduate degree through Central Michigan and was forced to take

classes in several other areas (Dearborn & Troy) besides Macomb. I was promised an entire Master's program at the University Center, which influenced my decision to select this particular Master's in Training & Development with a technology emphasis. Then half way through the 22 months, I was informed that I would be expected to take classes at Troy High School and the OU's main campus to finish the program on time with my cohorts. Believe me it is a huge deal in the cost of gas, wear and tear on the vehicle, and time, when someone working full-time and has children in K-12 system to be expected to drive further than they planned.

The dual enrollment is a fine idea but my daughter who is a senior this year went to the Macomb Fair and talked with Wayne State and Oakland University. Both were not helpful at all. They only wanted to talk to people that were about to finish at MCC. They did not know how to direct her since she is only in 12th grade. Obviously, the dual enrollment process is not a well oiled machine and has some major challenges. She would like to get an undergraduate as a science teacher and then go on to become a Pediatric Gastroenterologist. Because my husband and I both work in the human service field, we do not have the money or resources to send her to medical school so she **must** have an undergraduate degree that she can work until she passes the MCATs and is accepted to a medical school and can apply for her own loans.

List of benefits I see as a professional in our county if we pursue opening a four year university.

1. Vision of a future for residents and businesses
2. Cultural shift to value higher education
3. Bring grant opportunities into our county. (Satellite universities do not want to offer their research grants to other counties and if they do they limit them.)
 - a. Grants bring research dollars
 - b. Grants bring collaboration of business and education
 - c. Grants bring in services to fill community gaps
 - d. Research grants bring
 - i. knowledge
 - ii. growth
 - iii. outcomes and
 - iv. evaluation
4. The cost is more efficient for families to have children stay at home and go to school. Therefore, more students will be able to pursue a four year degree.
5. Other people will come to our county and bring
 - a. business
 - b. dollars
 - c. cultural diversity
6. This will give us much needed jobs
 - a. building the structure
 - b. maintaining the structure
 - c. building additional housing for employees
 - d. building housing for college students that come from other areas

e. more professionals will live in our county (professors and business administrators)

f. students can work at the university

7. The world is shifting to a Knowledge based workforce this will help us move with this shift in employment.

8. Students want to go to school during the day. (Satellite universities offer very few if any day programs)

9. Post graduate degrees (medical school, law schools, veterinary school, dental school, etc) could be offered to further enhance our community.

10. This is an investment in the future.

I am concerned that some of the satellite universities want us to move to just on-line courses and classes/course offered at workplaces. I understand they are looking out for their enrollment numbers. We need to look out for our residents. Although these ideas are a partial solution students have stated they want sports and debate clubs and the whole social culture that comes from a full university. We need to listen to the needs of the students we expect to attend. The satellite universities have fine night programs but young college students want to take day classes. They want to be just like all the other kids. We need more day programs here in Macomb to keep our students from leaving.

Do you realize that when our higher achieving students want or need to stay home (medically or financially) they are embarrassed to tell teachers and friends that they will be attending MCC first before they go on to a four year university? For example, my daughter is in three AP classes at Dakota and doing quite well. She feels defensive when teachers and peers question her choice to attend MCC. Another example came from Stevenson high school graduation last year where one of the valedictorians chose to attend MCC and the murmur though the audience was appalling but reflective of the local mind-set. As good a reputation as MCC has, it is still known as "12 mile high." We need to offer students a better choice. We need to keep our bright minds here in our county.

My children are in high school this year and I'm not sure if this will benefit them or not, but I know it will benefit many families in our community if we have a four year university here in Macomb. Thank you for the opportunity to give you my input.