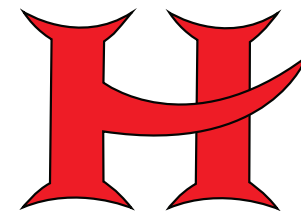


# NETWORK PARTNERS



College is - certificate programs, apprenticeships, skilled trades training, 2-yr. associates & 4-yr. bachelors degrees



[www.oceanacan.org](http://www.oceanacan.org)

## What is it?

Oceana CAN! is a collaborative of k-12 schools, businesses, colleges, and organizations focused on ensuring all students have resources and the mindset to pursue and complete higher education after high school.

## What is the purpose?

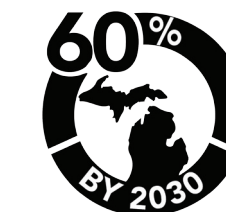
Build a culture within Oceana County focused on post-secondary education awareness, access, and attainment as a means to build and sustain a vibrant local economy and help alleviate poverty.

Provide an educated and trained workforce to meet local employer needs by lowering systemic barriers that prevent students from entering colleges and technical programs.

Coordinate college access and mentoring services to students, particularly those who come from low income and/or first generation college-going families.

## How are we doing it?

- College Application Assistance
- College Cash Campaign
- College Decision Day
- FAFSA Completion Events
- Students in the Workplace
- Campus Visits
- College and Career Fair
- Information Sharing



**Supporting Michigan's Goal:**  
60% of residents will have a postsecondary degree or credential by 2030

Percentage of working aged adults (25-64) with at least an associate's degree or higher

## What challenges does Oceana County face?

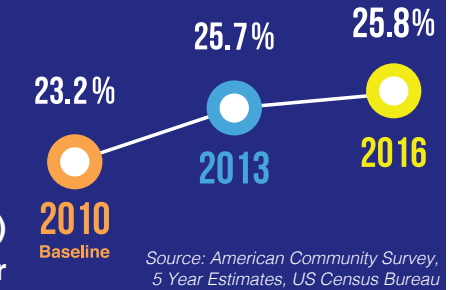
64% of jobs in West Michigan will require education after high school, yet only 26% of our adult population currently has a degree, leaving high-paid, in-county jobs unfilled.

66% of high school graduates enroll in post-secondary education and only 33% actually complete a program or earn a degree.

On average, students from Oceana County are 45 miles from the nearest college; creating unique barriers of exposure, access, transportation, and higher tuition costs.

Oceana County is comprised of many distinct populations who face unique and complex barriers

- 40% of Oceana students would be first generation college students
- Over 72% of student households are economically disadvantaged
- 41% of Oceana's school aged population are Hispanic; 22% come from English Learning families and 9% from migrant families.





# YEAR 4 REPORT 2018-2019



Oceana CAN! received the Flagship Award at the MCAN annual conference, recognized for our role as a quiet leader among other Networks throughout the state, having strong & talented staffing, a robust & engaged leadership team, a specific focus on data disaggregation and the equity imperative for Latin students

## NETWORK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Received financial support to sustain Network operations;** \$12,500 MCAN Continuous Improvement Grant, \$15,000 Women Who Care fund, \$4000 United Way Grant, \$19,000 in donor contributions and sponsorships of events, \$6000 Network Partner contributions

**AmeriCorps VISTA** - 4th year member hired to enhance connections between students and local businesses for career awareness and development opportunities

**Advocacy** - Met with and increased communications to legislators to share local perspective of the importance of state-wide policies that supporting students, families and post-secondary education

**Advise MI** - 4th year member hired at Shelby & Hart High Schools to assist guidance staff to work with students on college & career planning



OCEANA COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

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## COLLEGE-GOING AND CAREER-READY CULTURE ACTION TEAM

*Tasked with increasing opportunities for high school students to explore career pathways and post-secondary education options; enhance current K-12 programming around college and career readiness; engage the larger community, including colleges, businesses, and organizations*

**Campus Visits** - 85 juniors toured one of four campuses to explore and find the right fit; 43 Seniors participated in group orientation visits

**Information Sharing** - Display, handouts, and discussion at local events to engage with students and families

**College & Career Fair** - 200 Juniors interacted with 85 college/training centers/business representatives to learn about potential careers and educational paths

**Students in the Workplace** - 150 students toured one of 11 businesses to learn about potential career options and educational pathways

**MCAN Statewide Initiatives** - All high schools hosted application, financial aid, and decision day events to guide seniors through the processes to apply to and enroll in college programming

**Career Compass Mentor Program** - 35 Shelby Juniors participated in a small group mentoring pilot with 12 Peterson Farms employees; all Shelby sophomores participated in a 3 part soft skills presentation series

**STEM Career Awareness** - Ferris State University piloted 5 sessions of "Avancemos" STEM career exploration program with all Shelby 7th grade students

## FINANCIAL READINESS ACTION TEAM

*Tasked with reducing financial barriers and fostering greater understanding of financial resources for families and students to better navigate post-secondary education options.*

**Paying for College** - 24 families attended information nights covering the ways to pay for college

**Workshops** - All districts held events to help students complete FAFSA and scholarship applications

**Local Scholarship** - Community Foundation for Oceana County scholarship program continues to increase; \$236,000 invested in students, 217 scholarships awarded, 158 students receiving awards

**Early Awareness** - Piloted presentation to incoming Shelby freshman about paying for college

"The College & Career Fair is a great opportunity for Oceana businesses to help Juniors explore future career and education opportunities available."

- Amber Burden, Hallack Contracting



Oceana CAN! increased student engagement with the local community for students to learn about high demand careers, specifically adding more opportunities in construction skilled trades and social sciences.



"I liked seeing where people work and learning what one particular guy at the Bank does was the most interesting and made me tweak my career choices a little bit."

Hart Junior about Students in the Workplace

## HISPANIC OUTREACH ACTION TEAM

*Tasked with providing outreach and support to Hispanic students and families concerning post-secondary options, building aspirations, and reducing barriers.*

**Bilingual Events** - 34 students and 36 parents participated in bilingual college information nights

**Case Worker Training** - 15 area professionals attended training and were provided resources to help students and families aspire towards, enroll in, and complete post-secondary education

**Bilingual Documents** - Translated and printed informational handouts, including student grade level timelines, pre-college credit opportunities

**ALSAME Conference** - 43 students attended statewide leadership conference focused on making college education a reality for Latino students experiences