

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. Make Higher Education Universal.** Over the next decade, Michigan must forge an expectation that all students will achieve a postsecondary degree or credential.

**2. Set High Expectations for High School Students through Rigorous Standards and Curriculum.** By the 2006–2007 school year, develop rigorous new high school standards that reflect the competencies necessary for postsecondary success and readiness for work.

**3. Establish a New High School Assessment.** By the 2007–2008 school year, replace the MEAP with an accepted test for college readiness for the purposes of admission that is useful for aligning curriculum, course sequences, and grade-level content against the new standards.

**4. Create a Culture of Entrepreneurship.** The State Board of Education must integrate entrepreneurial skills and education into Michigan’s K–12 standards; Michigan’s higher education institutions must develop and offer entrepreneurial degree/certificate programs and create a Center of Excellence for Entrepreneurship and Innovation; and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG) and Michigan’s K–12 and higher education associations must reinforce efforts to create partnerships among Michigan’s education communities that offer entrepreneurial credentials.

**5. Implement New Strategies for High School Success.** Before the decade is over, Michigan’s government, business, education, and civic leadership must put in place a network of newly fashioned secondary schools and learning environments.

**6. Equip Educators and Administrators to Support the High-Expectations High School Path.** Intermediate school districts (ISDs) and higher education institutions—in partnership with education stakeholders from the business and foundation community—must develop new strategies and resources for educator professional development.

**7. Create Community Compacts for Educational Attainment.** Michigan local government leaders must join with business, labor, and education leaders to organize “community compacts” that increase local postsecondary participation rates by 5 percent each year for the next ten years.

**8. Improve Institutional Completion Measures.** Michigan’s higher education institutions must set their own success goals and benchmarks for student progress and degree completion that emphasize timely progression to the degree.

**9. Expand Access to Baccalaureate Institutions and Degrees.** Michigan’s higher education institutions must ensure that residents in all parts of the state have access to baccalaureate programs; universities that currently grant applied baccalaureate degrees must forge new partnerships with community colleges to expand this credential’s availability, enabled by legislation passed during the 2005–2006 legislative session.

**10. Expand Opportunities for “Early College” Achievement.** During the 2005–2006 session, the legislature must install a dual enrollment funding system that provides incentives for collaboration between secondary and postsecondary institutions; all of Michigan’s school districts must expand

opportunities for dual enrollment so that 50 percent of the state's (and no less than 10 percent of any school's) high school students are earning college credit by 2015.

**11. Improve Transfer Process and Award Dual Degrees.** By 2006, Michigan's higher education institutions must (1) create a statewide "Transfer Wizard" website containing course articulation and transfer information for all Michigan institutions; and (2) establish the Michigan Milestone Compact, granting an associate's degree to a student transferring from a community college to a four-year degree-granting institution following completion of necessary course work.

**12. Increase the Number of Postbaccalaureate Professionals.** Michigan businesses and foundations must create a significant endowment to fund scholarships for Michigan students to pursue postbaccalaureate degrees; Michigan's higher education and business community must partner to greatly expand internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty; and Michigan's universities must expand dual enrollment programs to allow undergraduate students to move efficiently to postbaccalaureate degree achievement.

**13. Target Adults Seeking to Complete Postsecondary Credentials.** Michigan's postsecondary education institutions must lead outreach campaigns that will recruit half of the 1.5 million adults with limited postsecondary education to return and complete their degree.

**14. Conduct an Analysis of Higher Education Capacity Needs.** During the next legislative session, the higher education community must conduct an analysis of the emerging issues related to higher education human resource and physical infrastructure capacity.

**15. Create an Emerging Economy Initiative.** The state and federal governments, universities, and private industry must boldly invest in Michigan's Technology Tri-Corridor to support the research, development, and commercialization of emerging technologies; and Michigan must create a Twenty-first Century Research Fund that will give state, institutional, and private sector researchers improved access to matching funds for major research activities.

**16. Commercialize More Research.** Michigan's higher education institutions must make commercialization of research an institutional priority; Michigan's colleges and universities should establish their own venture capital funds; and Michigan's universities and community colleges must form networks to accelerate applied research and business formation that leverage existing Smart Zones and business accelerators.

**17. Align Postsecondary Education with Economic Needs and Opportunities.** By 2006 the MDLEG must develop and make available a more powerful and user-friendly system for linking job and occupational data with job/career information and guidance at the community level; MDLEG must organize a process for communicating and reporting annually the match between current and emerging job and occupation needs and the efforts/outcomes of postsecondary education institutions to meet those needs.

**18. Expand the Role of Higher Education Institutions in Community Development.** All higher education institutions must aggressively partner with their communities and "cool city" commissions to develop and implement strategies and programs that leverage their unique role.

**19. Develop a Lifelong Education Tracking System.** By 2007 the Michigan Department of Information Technology must develop an interagency data-sharing arrangement, in coordination with Michigan's K-12 and higher education institutions, that creates a functioning lifelong education tracking system with information from multiple data sources.