



CENTERS FOR EXCELLENCE UPDATE

Michigan Colleges Online

July 2018

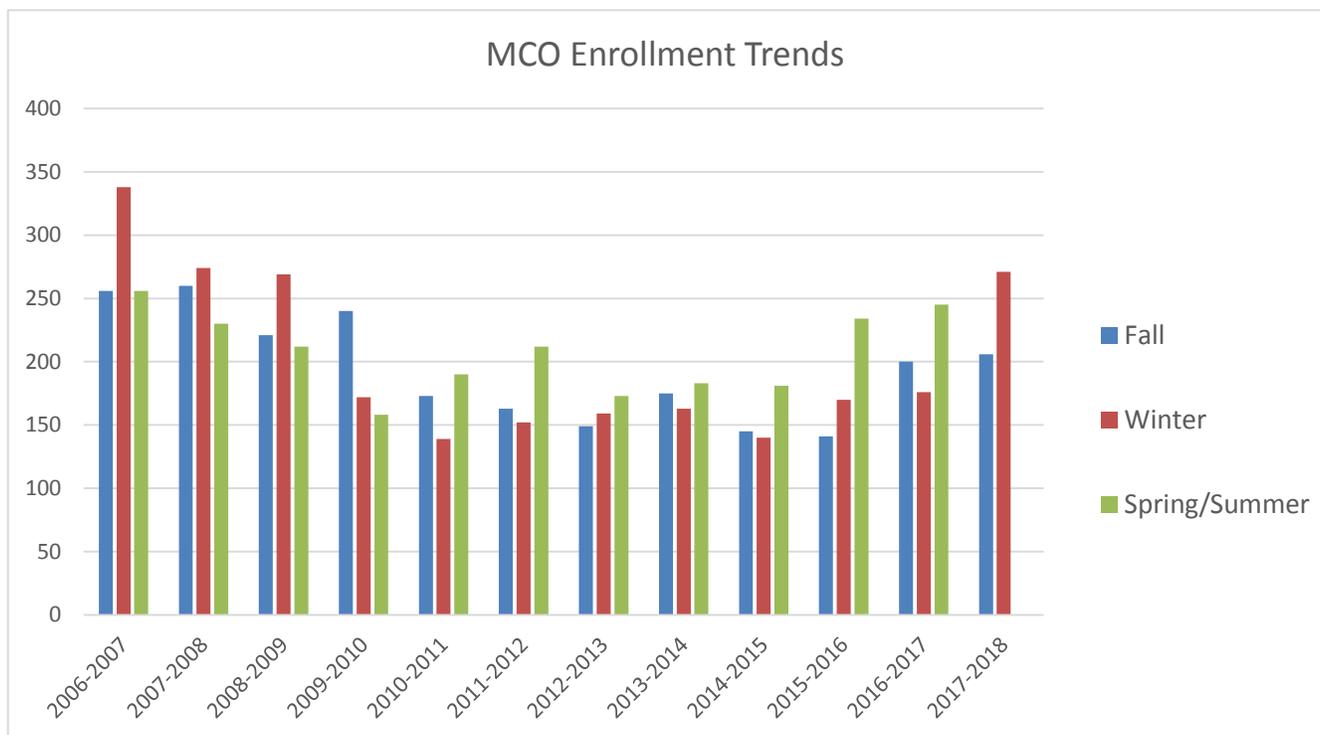
Year in Review – Summer 2018

MCO Goals

1. Provide students access to high-quality distance education courses through an effective interface for sharing courses and students among member institutions.
2. Support colleges' adoption of innovations in online teaching & learning with professional development opportunities, research, and technical services.
3. Provide structure for efficient sharing of high cost and low enrollment programs among colleges.
4. Facilitate the sharing of scarce resources through discounts on collaborative purchases of software/services utilized by member institutions.

The [Michigan Colleges Online \(MCO\)](#) provides course sharing for students in need of specific courses as they progress through their academic paths. The new registration system continues to be refined and updated based on stakeholder/college staff input.

Enrollment through the MCO website has continued to increase since the redesign. Comparing the enrollments for 2016 – 2017 (Fall and Winter semesters) with 2017-2018 (Fall and Winter semesters), enrollments have increased 7.8%. This growth mirrors the national trends of 8% increase in online enrollmentsⁱ and surpasses the statewide increase of 5%.ⁱⁱ



Marketing – Information about MCO services for students is a responsibility of each member institution. The following activities have been completed to assist colleges in their efforts to inform students of the opportunities provided by MCO.

- MCO has developed and shipped rack cards to each college for use in their advising centers.
- MCO presented several webinars designed to help both faculty and advisors learn more about how they can utilize the MCO with their students.
- The MCO Representatives Operations Council (comprised of the distance education administrators at each college) suggested using videos on college video screens across campuses to increase awareness. [MCO has created marketing videos](#) that are now available for use at member institutions.

[MCO Collaborative Programs Initiative](#) – Utilizing the MCO can provide opportunities for colleges to collaborate and offer high-cost, low-enrollment programs in a cost effective manner. One such example of this is the MRI Technologist program that was created by five community colleges (Grand Rapids, Kellogg, Lake Michigan, Lansing and Mid-Michigan) who started the MiRIS Consortium.

In July 2016, the MCCA became the fiscal agent for the MiRIS Consortium. MCO provides administrative and technical support. This past year, the following activities were accomplished:

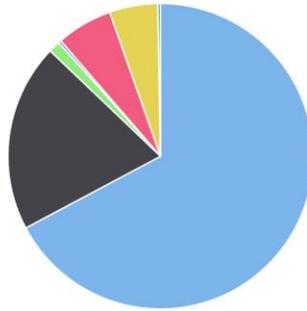
- The MRI program began the 8th Cohort in May 2018 with 30 students. Cohort 7 is scheduled to graduate 29 students this August. Those graduates will then become board eligible.
- The MRI program’s job placement rate is 99%, 87% retention rate, and 83% first attempt board pass rate for the past five years.
- Four new colleges – Bay College, Gogebic Community College, North Central Michigan College and St. Clair County Community College - have been added to the MiRIS Consortium. All of the colleges are completing the paperwork and onboarding students into the program.
- Two new programs have been approved and developed for shared programming offered via Michigan Colleges Online.
 - Computed Tomography (CT) Technician is a certificate program of 30 credits, offered to Radiographers, Nuclear Medical Technicians, and Radiation Therapists. The program began a soft start in Winter/Spring 2018 with Mid-Michigan Community College taking the lead and 4 students admitted.
 - Electroencephalogram Technology (EEG) Technician is a certificate program with the option to complete an Associate degree. Lansing Community College began the program as a soft start in Winter/Spring 2018 with 13 students admitted.
- The Consortium hosted the site team from JRCERT, the program accrediting agency for the MRI program in March. Because of the unique make-up of this program the agency wanted to continue monitoring the progress. The team met with Deans and program directors at currently participating colleges along with some students and local clinical sites.

[MCO Open Education Resources \(OER\) Initiative](#) – The MCO OER Initiative seeks to increase student success, decrease student costs and foster inter-institutional sharing through the usage of open educational resources. The following activities were completed this year with the help of the MCO OER Steering Committee which includes college staff from all 28 community colleges.

- The [MCO OER Repository](#) - a space for faculty to search for, share and create instructional resources. The group has received training and began curating OERs for sharing on the MCO Repository. The chart below shows the repository activity since the launch in November 2016:

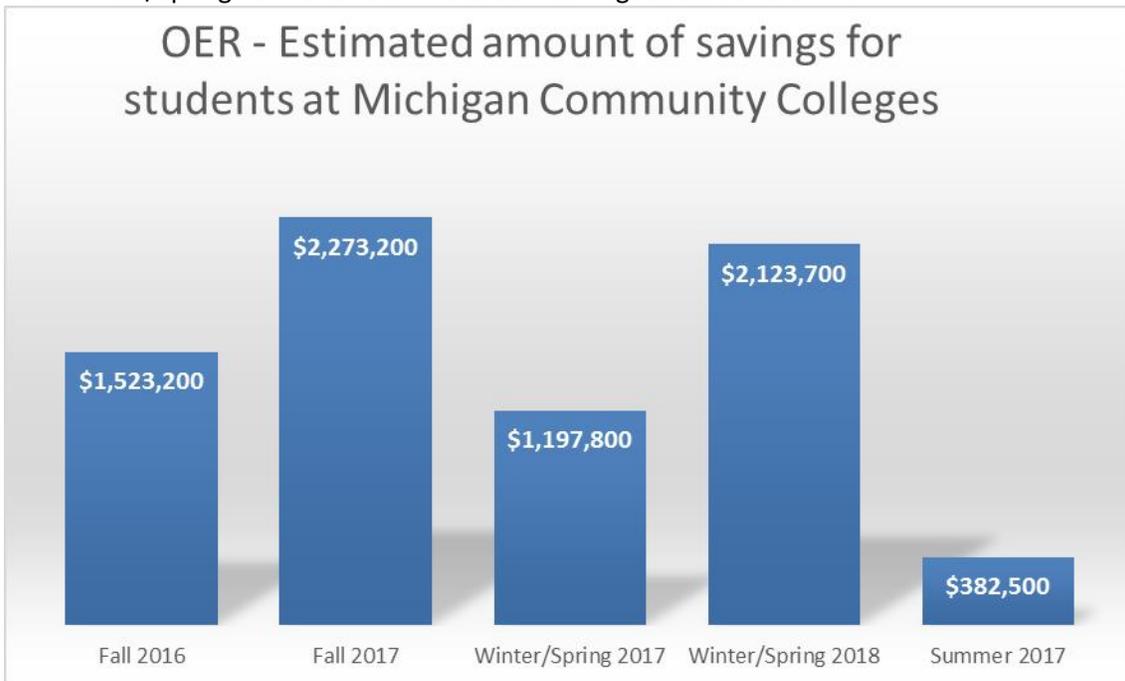
Overview

Shared	Saved	Downloaded	Aligned	Evaluated	Submitted	Authored	Remixed
486	144	9	0	2	43	37	2



■ Shared
 ■ Saved
 ■ Downloaded
 ■ Aligned
 ■ Evaluated
 ■ Submitted
 ■ Authored
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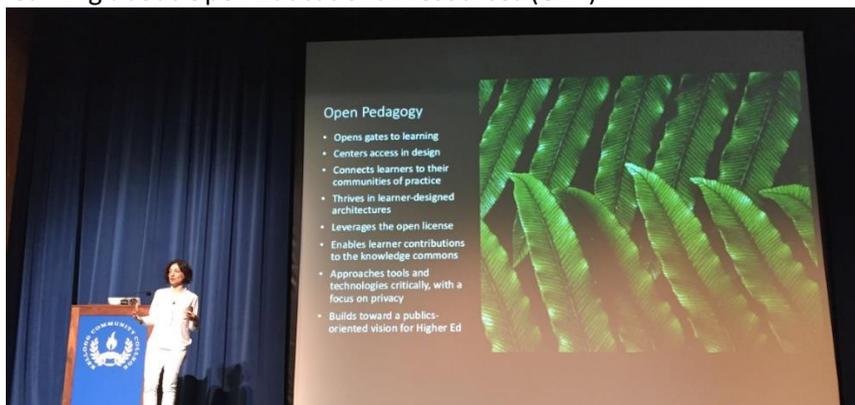
- Thirteen grants were awarded to faculty teams that either adopted, adapted or developed an OER for use starting Fall 2017. Faculty have been using the year to create, use and report on their experiences. [Click here](#) for a listing of the projects.
- Collected OER usage information to gauge adoption and savings for students. For the academic year of 2017-18 (minus the summer session) the total estimated savings to students was \$4,396,900. This is an increase of 38% over the 2016-2017 fall and winter semester totals. Comparing Winter/Spring 2018 with Winter/Spring 2017 shows an increase in savings to students of 44%.



- **Usage/Savings by College** – The chart below shows the number of courses, number of students impacted and the total estimated savings for students by college. The table compares OER activity from Fall 2017 and Winter/Spring 2018. Our newest college to begin tracking OER usage is Gogebic Community College.

College	Fall 2017			Winter/Spring 2018		
	# of Courses	# of Students	Total Cost Savings	# of Courses	# of Students	Total Cost Savings
Alpena						
Bay	24	1333	133300	24	1283	\$ 128,300.00
Delta	2	153	15300			
Glen Oaks	4	77	7700			
Gogebic				15	452	\$ 45,200.00
Grand Rapids	28	5189	518900	31	5011	\$ 501,100.00
Henry Ford						
Jackson	2	59	5900	3	69	\$ 6,900.00
Kalamazoo Valley						
Kellogg	8	433	43300	4	359	\$ 35,900.00
Kirtland	5	314	31400	8	424	\$ 42,400.00
Lake Michigan						
Lansing	26	3724	372400	26	3655	\$ 365,500.00
Macomb						
Mid Michigan	5	763	76300	5	937	\$ 93,700.00
Monroe						
Montcalm						
Mott	10	1088	108800	10	927	\$ 92,700.00
Muskegon						
North Central Michigan						
Northwestern Michigan	20	1257	125700	27	1413	\$ 141,300.00
Oakland						
Schoolcraft	6	623	62300	8	887	\$ 88,700.00
Southwestern Michigan	5	259	25900	5	190	\$ 19,000.00
St. Clair County	21	1337	133700	16	855	\$ 85,500.00
Washtenaw	23	5940	594000	21	4669	\$ 466,900.00
Wayne County						
West Shore	5	183	18300	4	106	\$ 10,600.00
Totals	194	22,732	\$ 2,273,200.00	207	21,237	\$ 2,123,700.00

- Hosted the first MI OER Summit – September 22, 2017. The Summit, sponsored by the MCO and hosted by Kellogg Community College, is a statewide event focused on collaboration, networking, sharing and learning about Open Educational Resources (OER).



- Keynote was provided by Dr. Robin DeRosa and focused on Open Pedagogy

- Over 180 faculty, administrators and staff from MI community colleges and four-year institutions attended
- Thirteen breakout sessions
- Discipline-specific roundtables
- Planning the second MI OER Summit for September 21, 2018 at St. Clair County Community College. Keynoter is Chris Gilliard speaking on OPEN education and social justice.
- Faculty Conversations - This past winter semester, the MCO offered five OER Faculty Conversations focused on specific disciplines and featuring faculty utilizing OER in their classes. The following faculty shared their strategies and answered questions from over 90 participants:
 - Biology - Dr. Janice Fritz (St. Clair County Community College)
 - History - Dr. Tom Gordon (Northwestern Michigan College) & Dr. Aaron Gulyas (Mott Community College)
 - Psychology - Dr. Sharon Hughes and Dr. Marita De Leon (Lansing Community College)
 - Composition - Dr. Sarah Wangler (Northwestern Michigan College)
 - Math - Dr. Wade James (West Shore Community College)

[MCO Accessibility Community of Practice](#) – Since January 18, 2018, public institutions that receive some form of federal funding are required to comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The United States Access Board published a final rule updating accessibility requirements for information and communication technology that is covered in Section 508.

This year the MCO began facilitating conversations focused on accessibility best practices regarding digital materials used at Michigan community colleges. The Community of Practice meets monthly to dive into a specific topic. MCO has acquired the services of Dr. Cyndi Rowland from the National Center on Disability and Access to Education (NCDAAE) and WebAIM to assist with questions and provide insights where needed. Over the past year, the Community has discussed the following:

- [Initial Meeting Overview and discussion on 9 steps to compliance](#)
- [Developing Accessibility Policy and Creating Accessibility Task Force/Committee](#)
- [How to start an Implementation plan](#)
- [Procurement policies and training](#)
- [Accessibility Audits](#)

Additionally, the MCO created an [Accessibility Resource Guide for Faculty](#), that can be used/handed out during Fall conference sessions, which explains why accessibility is important and links to resources that can help faculty when developing digital materials for their classes.

[MCO State of Online Education at Michigan Community Colleges – 2018 Survey Report](#) – The biennial report reviews the structure, policies and procedures and activities of the online programs at member institutions. This year, we had 25 colleges participate in the survey – below are a few key findings:

- Enrollment in online learning is up 5% over last year. Nationally, enrollment growth is reported at 8% over last year.
- The typical online student at Michigan community colleges is female, between the age of 18 – 25 and lives within the college district.
- In 2016, five colleges had completed the application to become a member of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). In 2018, eleven colleges are members of SARA with 5 more colleges in the process of becoming a member.
- Demand for online courses is still high – and 40% of those responding indicated that demand exceeded the current class offerings. This data point hasn't moved much in the 10+ years the survey has been offered.

- Greatest challenge for the administrators of online programs – addressing accessibility and universal design.

MCO Professional Development series – The following webinars were offered during 2017-2018 to faculty and staff. They were recorded and archived [here](#).

- The Landscape of Web Accessibility in Higher Education – What you need to know
- Vendor Demonstration – FitFaculty
- Ready, Set, Go! Develop the Confidence to Start a CBE Program
- MCO/TechSmith Discounted License Program for 2018
- An Advisor’s Guide to the MCO
- Creating the Accessible Syllabus
- MCO OER Repository Group Manager Training
- MCO OER Faculty Conversations
- Creating Accessible Powerpoint Presentations
- Vendor Demonstration – Coursetune
- Vendor Demonstration – Intellus Learning Platform
- A Faculty Guide to the MCO OER Repository
- How to Make Your PDF documents Accessible
- Vendor Demonstration – Kaltura Video Platform
- Vendor Demonstration - NetTutor

[Collaborative purchasing discounts](#) – Michigan community colleges often find that by leveraging their combined purchasing power, it's possible to obtain advanced technologies at reduced cost. Michigan Colleges Online has negotiated preferred pricing on products and services from the following vendors:

- **BlackBeltHelp** – US-based help desk call center for augmenting after-hours, weekend and holiday college help desks. Licenses include a reduced cost close to 45% off standard rates.
- **FitFaculty** - Faculty qualifications management software. MCO has negotiated a collaborative discount of 10% off the annual subscription rate for the first year.
- **NetTutor** – US based online tutoring service for all students. MCO has negotiated a collaborative discount for colleges wishing to join – with about 15% off standard price
- **ReadSpeaker** – A text- to-speech technology that gives a voice to websites, online courses, digital books, etc. Aligns with ADA accessibility guidelines. MCO’s collaborative statewide purchase reduces cost by leveraging a combined FTE. Colleges will get a savings of 25% off standard pricing.
- **TechSmith** – Michigan based company offering digital curriculum development tools. Collaborative discounts are providing all faculty and students with licenses at reduced costs close to 50% off standard pricing. Now includes Relay – for video hosting and close captioning.
- **ZOOM** – US-based web conferencing service. MCO has negotiated a savings of nearly 90% off standard pricing.

MCO Virtual World – The MCO virtual world (Second Life Island) was developed by and for college faculty to use in teaching, such as simulations, demonstrations, office hours, etc.

ⁱ [Trends in eLearning: Tracking the Impact of eLearning at Community College](#), February 2018, Instructional Technology Council

ⁱⁱ [2018 MCO Survey Report](#), June 2018, Michigan Colleges Online