

Five Year Capital Outlay Master Plan Southwestern Michigan College October 2024

Executive Summary: Southwestern Michigan College (SMC) was founded in 1964, and opened its doors in 1966. Since that time, the College has developed a main campus with a replacement value of approximately \$165 million, and an extension site (including an M-Tec Center) of over \$15 million. Overall, the physical plant of the College has been maintained in good repair. Classrooms, academic support facilities, and infrastructure have been systematically renovated as funds have been budgeted. SMC currently faces the challenge of maintaining its facilities and grounds to the very high level required to meet the demands of its students and to continue to meet its core mission of student success. We have a commitment to improving the appearance and functionality of our buildings in order to positively influence the educational experience of our students. Based on the 10-year facilities master plan conducted in 2013 by Arkos Design, it was to cost approximately \$21.3 million to complete a campus-wide renovation of our buildings, selectively expand them, and upgrade their infrastructure. We have completed most of these renovations, leaving only one major building project yet to accomplish from the original plan.

Included in the projected improvements was the renovation of three major academic buildings which was accomplished with State assistance. These projects enhanced the College's capacity to provide students with quality instruction particularly in the science, nursing, and health education fields. The projects provided infrastructure improvements to these classroom buildings to make them more energy efficient, transforming them from the least energy efficient buildings on campus to the most, and following the LEED guidelines. Nearly every student on campus has classes in at least one of these renovated buildings at some point in their time with us, so it is imperative that the learning environment be optimal.

Another project included in the projections was the self-funded renovations at the College's Niles Area Campus. After reviewing our marketplace and determining the area service needs, it was determined that an investment in these facilities needed to be a priority. The over \$3.5 Million in improvements to-date have included multiple classroom upgrades, including an expansion of some science labs on that campus, as well as improved faculty/student collaboration areas, replacement of the parking lot, and energy efficiency upgrades to the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems. Last year we completed an upgrade and expansion of the final science lab.

With the completion of the above projects, the remaining priority for Southwestern Michigan College for future renovation, per our facilities master plan which was updated in December 2019, is the renovation of the primary learning areas (academic core) in the Dale A. Lyons Building on the College's Dowagiac campus. This building was constructed in 1978 and is now over 45 years old. This is the home to many of the College's Associates in Arts offerings, and it is in need of significant renovation. This building includes our theater, band and choir practice rooms, art labs and gallery, and a significant number of classrooms. The building is the most commonly visited building on our campus. Area school events such as art, band, and music competitions are held in the facility as a community service at no charge. All of the College Visual and Performing Arts productions are held in the theater and are well attended by community members. We generally do not charge for these productions and only accept donations, which are given to the student music and theater clubs. The building houses almost all of our external speaker events, often in partnership with the high schools, law enforcement partners, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, and local Veterans groups. Improvements made to this building will be quickly noticed and

appreciated by our very supportive surrounding communities. Of course, any improvements to a 45-year-old building will provide immediate instructional, as well as operational, efficiencies.

As this project is a priority of the College, more detailed instructional needs and cost estimates have been obtained regarding renovation costs over the years. We now plan to take a phased approach with the renovation of the Lyons Building, similar to what we have done with our Niles Area Campus renovations over the last several years. Phase One of the Lyons renovation project will include a renovation of the choir and band rooms as well as an update to the bathrooms, main hallway and theatre entryway. Future phases will address other classroom needs as well as the HVAC and mechanical systems. We are currently in the process of costing out Phase One of this project.

The other top priority for the College is the addition of Wrestling Room onto the Charles O. Zollar Building which houses our Student Activity Center and our Gymnasium. This project is necessary to meet the needs of our expanding men's wrestling team and the addition of a women's wrestling team next academic year. The project is expected to cost approximately \$4.3 million and will include, a 11,000 square foot addition with a wrestling room, offices, restrooms and athlete changing rooms. The College's current wrestling room is located in the Dale Lyons Building. This project will relocate the wrestling room to the Zollar Building which houses the rest of the athletic facilities on campus and will free up space in the Lyons Building that will be converted into the choir room as part Phase One of the Lyons Building renovation.

We expect to fund both of these projects with a combination of institutional funds and donor funds.

The following information included is in response to the requirements of the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget. Categories of information required are shown in italics, with the College's data following.

Mission Statement

a) Summary description of the overall mission of the institution

The mission of Southwestern Michigan College is to serve our community by providing affordable local access to high quality postsecondary career preparation and college education including the total college life experience. The recent strategic plan identified the following conditions necessary for success of our mission. They are: purposeful academic programs; community engagement; enrollment growth; financial stability; student success; facility utilization; and value human capital. In this plan, every strategic initiative being worked on is aimed toward supporting at least one of the following overall goals of the institution: Organizational Growth; Student Growth; Internal Quality Improvement; and Financial Stability.

Instructional Programming

a) Describe existing academic programs and projected programming changes during the next five years, in so far as academic programs are affected by specific structural considerations (i.e. laboratories, classrooms, current and future distance learning initiatives, etc.)

There are countless programs and services that Southwestern Michigan College might provide to the community that we serve. With finite resources, choices are constantly being made concerning which programs can and should be offered, and which will not. Input from the citizen-owners we serve, occupational advisory committees, local intermediate school

districts, enrollment trends, transfer articulation agreements, employment opportunities, industry needs, program costs, and numerous other factors are used to inform the Board of Trustees in their ultimate decision-making regarding which programs and services will be offered.

During the Summer of 2021, the Higher Learning Commission reaffirmed Southwestern Michigan College's Accreditation for another 10 years, citing especially "excellent physical resources" and "effective and efficient use of financial resources." Overall, HLC's confirmation of our operations, instruction, and planning attests to the quality of educational services we continue to provide to our students.

Our existing academic programs can be described using two major categories:

1. Two-year Baccalaureate-oriented (transfer) programs.

The School of Arts and Sciences at Southwestern Michigan College is responsible for administering the majority of transfer programming and is composed of the following departments: Physical Education, Social Sciences, Humanities and Communications, Visual and Performing Arts, and Mathematics/Science. Together, these departments offer courses that lead to the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees that are designed to enable students to transfer into four-year programs at other colleges and universities.

The College has seen a renewed interest in the sciences, especially with the College's recently renovated science laboratories and classrooms. The science and math instructors have joined together with the students to start a STEM Club on campus that in just a few years has developed numerous activities and presentation opportunities for our math and science students, as well as for students in the secondary schools in our district.

Also, the College has a dynamic Visual and Performing Arts program. These programs not only serve the students who have an interest in visual and performing arts but they also serve as a cultural resource to the community. All of the performances of this department are well attended by community members. The Lyons Building, which houses these programs as well as the College's 350 seat theater, is in desperate need of renovation. The building is over 45 years old and needs both structural and cosmetic updating in order to attract, retain, develop, and graduate more students.

2. One- and two-year occupational programs including workforce retraining.

The School of Business at Southwestern Michigan College provides coursework and degree programs in virtually every area of business, including computer information systems. SMC's business and computer information programs offer semester length specific courses for occupational use, one-year certificates, and Associate degrees. Students desiring a two-year degree that prepares them immediately for employment in business careers will choose the Associate in Applied Science degrees. Students who desire to complete four-year business degrees will choose the Associate in Arts option.

To accommodate these programs the College completely renovated the Wood Building in 2007 and converted it from an advanced technology building to a state-of-the-art Information Technology (IT) Building that now houses our Business and IT programs. We have continued to make classroom upgrades using internal funds to stay current with technology training and interests in these fields. These upgrades include the recent transformation of one room into an Esports facility in which our Esports Club team competes with other colleges in this newly popular sport amongst our incoming students. We have recently partnered with the local utility company, Midwest Energy and Communications (MEC), to sponsor the SMC Fiber Cup competition, a Rocket League tournament in which 16 teams from across the area competed on our campus.

The School of Nursing and Health Services at Southwestern Michigan College provides its graduates with the knowledge and skills required to provide individualized quality health care in their specialty area. The School of Nursing and Health Services offers short-length specialty certificates, one-year certificates, and two-year Associate in Applied Science degrees in Nursing, Medical Assistant, and Health Information Technology. All programs in the school meet the guidelines for national or state licensing or certification.

Our health-related programs attract our greatest amount of student interest. Across the nation, these programs are an integral part of current and future educational offerings. It was imperative for SMC to improve the accommodations and learning labs for these degrees in order to maintain and expand our enrollment for these critical career opportunities. Therefore, renovation of this facility was an appreciated and welcomed accomplishment on our campus.

We have started participating in a collaborative consortium (Michigan Workforce Training and Education Collaborative - MWTEC) with other community colleges across the state to offer additional health field programs more efficiently to our students. We have also entered into a Memo of Understanding with a local university, Andrews University, for offering a BSN degree program to our students graduating from our nursing program. We believe the addition of these opportunities for our students broadens their options for careers in the healthcare fields.

Our Nursing Program received reaccreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) in the Spring 2022. Successfully being granted the accreditation from ACEN was a huge accomplishment and one which our program is very worthy of achieving. The renovations of the program building, along with this national accreditation, has allowed us to continue providing a state-of-the-art, highly desired, quality Nursing Program on our campus and has enhanced our ability to continue attracting students into our program.

High Wage. High Skill, High Demand Technology. Southwestern Michigan College prepares its graduates for high-wage, high-skill, high-demand occupations. One and two-year certificates, and two-year Associate of Applied Science degrees are available in six different fields of technology. Technical Advisory Committees composed of people with extensive background and experience in each technical field keep each occupational curriculum up-to-date with current industry standards. To accommodate some of these programs the College opened an M-TEC in 2001 which currently houses the College's welding and robotics programs. Due to increased enrollment in the programs, we have invested in upgrades and expansion of the welding labs over the past few years, as well as robotics training equipment, to meet this local need.

Also, the College completely remodeled and expanded the Jan and A.C. Kairis Building in 2010 that houses the College's Automotive Program and Construction Trades program. This renovation and expansion of the building allowed for two additional hoists in the automotive lab and new technology in the classroom including a car in the classroom technology.

Our Construction Trades program continues to prepare students for careers in that industry. Over the past few years there have been a few inter-disciplinary projects in which these students work with students from the Welding program, as well as from the School of Arts and Science and the School of Business. Together students in these programs built an environmentally friendly "small house", a greenhouse, and sets for the performing arts department musicals.

In the summer of 2023, we were asked to partner with two local manufacturing companies, Eagle Technologies and Hanson International, for offering a pre-apprenticeship academy to their employees. The program was designed utilizing our existing courses on our Niles Area

Campus and students were offered three pathways – Mechanical Technician/Machine Builder, Fluid Power Technician, and Electrical Technician. Employees/students are paid by the companies as they work towards applicable certificates and degrees in either Welding or Robotics. 16 of their newly-hired employees came on campus during summer semester for these classes, completing over 300 hours of instruction, with all tuition, fees, and textbooks paid by the employers, as well as paying for their time to attend the classes. The students were very successful, and we have another 11 students enrolled in the program this fall. We look to continue the partnerships with these companies.

- b) *Identify the unique characteristics of each institution's academic mission: Two-year degree and certificated technical/vocational training, workforce development activities, adult education focus, continuing of lifelong educational programming, partnerships with intermediate school districts, community activities; geographic service delivery area, articulation agreements or partnerships with four-year institutions, etc.*

Southwestern Michigan College is well aware of the need for trained employees in technical areas. SMC's Michigan Technical Education Center (M-TEC) is designed to address the shortage of skilled labor in Michigan. The M-TEC provides creative and proactive solutions to such shortages through its location and design. The Center, located on SMC's Niles Area Campus, is centrally located to southwestern Michigan manufacturers with a transportation infrastructure that allows for quick and easy access to the Center.

Southwestern Michigan College's M-TEC currently houses the College's welding and robotics programs. Over the last two decades, the facility had been used by area business and local economic and workforce development agencies for pre-employment and occupational skills training.

Beyond recent articulation agreements, Southwestern Michigan College has a long-standing relationship with Ferris State University under which students may take all of the needed courses leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration-Generalist, Business-Professional Track, Accountancy, Computer Information Technology, Human Resource Management, Criminal Justice, and Early Childhood Education. Each of these Ferris B.S. degree programs can be entirely earned on SMC's campus. In total, students can earn seven Bachelor degrees through the partnership. Ferris and SMC developed an additional Agriculture Business program together a few years ago and look to have discussions concerning the feasibility of expanding offerings in several other areas in the future. A partnership was formed with Michigan State University (MSU) during 2015 to offer certificates. There are now students in 2 MSU certificate programs covering the areas of Agricultural Operations and Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management. In fiscal year 2024 we signed new partnership agreements with Grand Valley State University Omni (GVSU) and Andrews University. The new transfer partnership with GVSU makes it easier than ever for SMC students to transfer seamlessly to GVSU after receiving their associate's degree. The partnership's first degree will be a Bachelor of Applied Science in Leadership and Business Fundamentals. This degree will provide further knowledge of accounting, finance, management, marketing, and organizational dynamics while acquiring leadership and team-building skills. The new partnership agreement with Andrews University's allows the College's School of Nursing graduates to continue on to earn their Bachelor of Science in Nursing online through Andrews University.

Again, in recognition of occupational needs, Southwestern Michigan College is a member of the Michigan College of Engineering – Michigan Community College Liaison Committee. This cooperative agreement provides special transfer possibilities with such schools as Michigan

Technological University, Western Michigan University, the University of Michigan and Trine University of Angola, Indiana.

Southwestern Michigan College also works in cooperation with the Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District (HSISD), Berrien RESA, the Van Buren Tech Center and the area K-12 School Systems in multiple agreements. Southwestern Michigan College and HSISD have formal grant agreements related to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) areas for the seamless preparation of students from K-12 through the associate degree level. Southwestern Michigan College offers multiple dual enrollment opportunities for area high school students, including occupational training through structured programs called academies. These occupational academies are offered through a collaborative effort with the Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District and involve vocational opportunities with students taking general high school classes supplemented by college vocational work in nursing, technology, and business. The College has also recently partnered with both HSISD and Berrien County RESA to provide various other early middle college opportunities for local high school students. Southwestern Michigan College is embracing the new reality of the way early middle college is transforming community colleges statewide. We are poised to adapt instruction and scheduling to take advantage of this opportunity while maintaining academic integrity and a commitment to student success.

An additional community partnership commenced in October 2017 when the Tri-County Head Start program brought their local pre-school program to the Dowagiac Campus of Southwestern Michigan College. With financial assistance from both SMC and Tri-County Head Start, unused campus space was transitioned into an attractive, functional classroom that houses a pre-school program that serves about 24 area children. This partnership also provides an "on-site laboratory" for our college students who are studying early childhood education, providing them with a convenient clinical opportunity to observe this program provided by Head Start. We are currently in discussions to expand this partnership at our Niles campus to help address the "childcare desert" that exists in our service area by providing additional services on our campus, again while providing more on-site laboratory space for our students in the Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education programs.

In summary, it is the policy of Southwestern Michigan College to seek partnerships with others to assist all involved in better serving our students.

c) Identify other initiatives which may impact facilities usage.

The largest and most strategic initiative that SMC has undertaken is a complete student life experience which includes residence halls and an expanded Student Activity Center (SAC). The goal of this initiative has been to combine the affordability of a community college education with the other aspects of college life that can positively contribute to student growth and development. The first residence hall and the expanded SAC opened in the fall of 2009 and the second residence hall opened in the fall of 2010. Each year the residence halls were at full capacity with a waiting list. We experienced a growth in full-time traditional aged students as a result of this strategy with both the fall of 2009 and 2010 setting records for the number of June high school graduates coming directly to SMC. The fall of 2012 opened with both residence halls full and a waiting list of 85 applicants. To accommodate this and future demand, the College constructed a third residence hall which opened in the fall of 2013 to full capacity.

Reaching full capacity in Fall 2022 for the first time in a few years, these three residence halls continue to be a significant asset to attracting students to Southwestern Michigan College. This is what has now led to our most recent strategic initiative.

Starting in Fall 2021, we brought athletics back to Southwestern Michigan College starting with men's and women's cross country teams. SMC won numerous NJCAA national championships prior to the cessation of sports on campus back in the 1990's and we are excited about bringing these athletic opportunities back again for our students. The Board of Trustees also approved the return of four additional sports, including women's and men's basketball, men's wrestling, and women's volleyball. During FY '22 we finalized offers to full-time coaches for most of these sports who began planning and recruiting and starting competing in Fall 2022. The reintroduction of these sports to campus has attracted enrollment both of the athletic team participants and other students. The athletes are required to live in our residence halls, thus ensuring the space will be filled to capacity on an annual basis. For Fall 2023, we again had a waiting list of up to 50 students wanting to live in the residence halls. The return of athletics to campus enhances the full college experience for all of our students. The addition of sports to SMC has created interest in pep band and dance team participation for other students. To meet one of our core values of high quality in all that the College does, SMC determined a need to enhance and expand the current Student Activities Center gymnasium in order to better accommodate these returning team sports. The project cost approximately \$3.5 Million, with funding coming from corporate partner donors and from the College's existing Building and Site Fund. Administration was successful in raising some funds for naming rights and private donations to this project. Construction began in early October 2021 and was completed in August 2022 in time for the new teams to begin practice. The response from the community and the students has been all we had hoped for – enrollment is up, our residence halls are full, and attendance at events is very good.

The College is currently in the process of expanding residence hall capacity on campus through an expansion project. This project will add new rooms and a total of 36 beds to the three existing residence halls on the Dowagiac campus. Expanding capacity was necessary to address growing housing demand. Construction began in the summer of 2024 and 24 rooms will be available in January 2025 with the remaining 12 rooms available for the fall of 2025. This project is being self-funded by the College.

d) Demonstration of economic development impact to the State (i.e. Technical training centers, etc.)

SMC's Michigan Technical Education Center (M-Tec) was designed to address the shortage of skilled labor in Michigan. The College continues to assess the continuing needs of such in the area and will provide creative and proactive solutions as needed through its location and design.

The Center, located on SMC's Niles Area Campus, is centrally located to southwestern Michigan manufacturers with a transportation infrastructure that allows for quick and easy access to the Center.

Southwestern Michigan College recently expanded the offerings of its welding and robotics programs through a partnership with the Niles High School Career and Technical Education Center. The partnership with the Center allows us to reach students at multiple high schools throughout the area. This additional, early training of local students will have a positive economic impact on our communities by providing more trained, skilled workers for our local employers.

As stated above, the additional development of the pre-apprenticeship academy with two local employers has the goal of identifying local talent, finding a local partner to assist in training/growing their workers, and then keeping the employees in the local workforce. This

program is a good demonstration of a positive impact of our offerings to the economic development in the State.

Also, being in an area that has been identified as a “childcare desert”, we are looking to partner with the area Head Start program to expand child care offerings in the area through providing space for such programs, as well as convenient and high-quality training to the staff involved in those programs. The increase in these offerings could have a significant impact on employment opportunities in our area, both within the program and by providing more access to child care and early education for employees of our local employers. This increased access would have a very positive impact on economic development in our service area.

Staffing and Enrollment

a.) *Description of Full and Part-Time student body composition by Academic program, including how the program is accessed by the Student (i.e. Main or satellite campus instruction, collaboration efforts with other institutions, Internet or distance learning, etc.)*

Enrollment							
Fall 2024 Majors	Award	Full Time Count	Part Time Count	Total Count	Full Time %	Part Time %	Total %
Athletic Training/Sports Med	AA	20	0	20	100	0	100
Business	AA	63	19	82	77	23	100
Business – Online	AA	16	39	55	29	71	100
Communications	AA	9	4	13	69	31	100
Creative Writing	AA	3	0	3	100	0	100
Elementary Education	AA	26	5	31	84	16	100
English	AA	9	0	9	100	0	100
English Literature	AA	1	0	1	100	0	100
General Studies	AA	80	36	116	69	31	100

Graphic Design	AA	1	2	3	33	67	100
Health Services	AA	152	92	244	62	38	100
Music	AA	19	5	24	79	21	100
Psychology	AA	39	13	52	75	25	100
Psychology - Online	AA	14	14	28	50	50	100
Social Science	AA	3	3	6	50	50	100
Visual Arts	AA	15	4	19	79	21	100
Biology/Medical Pre-professional	AS	37	2	39	95	5	100
Environmental Sciences	AS	10	5	15	67	33	100
General Studies	AS	20	9	29	69	31	100
Science/Engineering/Math	AS	13	4	17	76	24	100
Business	AAS	31	18	49	63	37	100
Business Management	Cert	5	6	11	45	55	100
Accounting	AAS	22	19	41	54	46	100
Agricultural Business	AAS	1	4	5	20	80	100
Agricultural Technology	AAS	0	3	3	0	100	100
Automotive Technology	AAS/Cert	44	14	58	76	24	100
Construction Trades Green Tech	AAS/Cert	36	8	44	82	18	100
Criminal Justice	AAS	43	7	50	86	14	100
Early Childhood Education	AAS	21	13	34	62	38	100
EMT	Credential	0	6	6	0	100	100
Engineering Technology	AAS	8	4	12	67	33	100
Graphic Design Technology	AAS	24	3	27	89	11	100

Health Information Technology	AAS	1	2	3	33	66	100
Information Systems Technology	AAS	25	11	36	69	31	100
IT Cybersecurity & System Admin	Cert	3	2	5	60	40	100
LPN to RN	AAS	0	1	1	0	100	100
Medical Assisting	AAS/Cert	9	16	25	36	64	100
MRI Technology	AAS	10	0	10	100	0	100
Neurodiagnostic Tech (EEG)	AAS	1	0	1	100	0	100
Nursing	AAS	79	22	101	78	22	100
Phlebotomy	Spec Cert	0	3	3	0	100	100
Robotics	AAS/Cert	7	11	18	39	61	100
Social Work	AAS	5	7	12	42	58	100
Social Work – Online	AA	4	22	26	15	85	100
Sports Management	AAS	17	3	20	85	15	100
Welding Technology	AAS/Cert	28	18	46	61	39	100
Guest College Student	None	0	2	2	0	100	100
High School Guest	None	13	498	511	3	97	100
Selected Courses	None	5	49	54	9	91	100
Totals		992	1028	2020	49	51	100

Collaboration Programs							
Medical Assisting	AAS/Cert	9	16	25	36	64	100
MRI Technology	AAS	10	0	10	100	0	100
Neurodiagnostic Tech (EEG)	AAS	1	0	1	100	0	100
Online Programs							
Business – Online	AA	16	39	55	29	71	100
Psychology - Online	AA	14	14	28	50	50	100
Social Work – Online	AA	4	22	26	15	85	100

Southwestern Michigan College operates a main campus located on 240 acres between Dowagiac and Cassopolis, the two largest centers of population in Cass County. Additionally, the College operates a satellite campus entitled The Niles Campus located on 16 acres in Milton Township of Cass County. This satellite location was selected for two reasons: first, the College had been invited by area K-12 superintendents to fill a void and offer classes in the Niles area beginning in 1971, and second, the largest growth both in population and employment in the College district is occurring in that area. The location also offers easy access for our neighboring communities along the Indiana state border which is only a few miles from the Niles campus.

Southwestern Michigan College responds to its citizen-owners and their requests. This means a number of classes have been offered in area schools. When requested, the College offers classes to meet the needs of students, employers, and employees. Cooperative/collaborative efforts are described in detail in II.b) above.

As mentioned above, we recently embarked on offering pre-apprenticeship academy on our campus in partnership with two local manufacturing entities. This was developed in response to a request from these community employers in order for them to train and retain employees in the local workforce.

The College is also a partner in the Michigan Community College Virtual Learning Consortium (now called Michigan Colleges Online) and has been since its founding. The College also offers a wide range of hybrid courses in a number of programs. These courses combine classroom instruction with distance learning. This allows the needed support of classroom instruction with the technology of distance learning. We have also updated a few classrooms on both campuses with virtual classroom technology which now allows us to use a common instructor to teach to students on both campuses at the same time to best accommodate our student population. We also participate in the Michigan Collaborative Initiative for two programs which started in Fall 2021 – MRI Tech and EEG Tech – which helps us expand our health services pathways for our students. Medical Assisting was added in 2023. Participation in this Initiative also offers a combination of online and classroom learning for our students within these programs.

In addition, the COVID national pandemic accelerated SMC’s evolution into fully online versions of distance education. All faculty have been trained or are in the process of being trained to deliver online courses through the best practices of Quality Matters™, which led to our first completely online-only courses in Fall 2020. This training ensures our faculty are developing and delivering courses online to serve our students with the same quality instruction they have come to expect from SMC. The Higher Learning Commission met in

October 2021 and finalized their approval for SMC to offer any program in the online-only format, a recommendation made by the HLC team of reviewers in August 2021. Since then, we have developed three fully online programs.

a) Projected enrollment pattern next five years (includes distance learning components)

Southwestern Michigan College had experienced a continued decline in the non-traditional aged student market. We believe this decline was due to the aging out of the baby boom generation, the number of people over the age of fifty who are dropping out of the job market, the continued minimal creation of manufacturing jobs, and the reduction of government funded programs available to those in our service area. However, we have re-focused our efforts on attracting more adult students with some changes in our program offerings, particularly in our CTE areas such as Nursing/Health Services and Welding. We also have experienced increased enrollment in this student market with the recent establishment of two new programs by the State of Michigan, Future for Frontliners and Michigan Reconnect. We have positioned ourselves with programing and recruiting efforts to attract adult students through these programs. With the approval by the Higher Learning Commission to offer online-only programs, in the Fall 2022 we converted our Business AA program, and in Fall 2023 our Psychology AA, and Social Work AAS programs, into online versions that can attract adult students. Additional programs are being reviewed for consideration of this type of offering in the future.

Based on recent data, high school graduating classes have been shrinking in the College's service area over the past 10 years, hitting an all-time low in June 2014. We foresee another trend of moderately decreasing graduating class sizes through the next few years. The College's strategy of providing a full college student life experience with the building of three residence halls, the expansion of the College's Student Activity Center including intramural and club sports programs, and now the return of varsity athletics, has put the College in a position to increase its market share of traditional aged students and June high school graduates, including those students who have a choice of where they want to go to college. We were approved by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) to add intercollegiate athletics back to our campus. We were also reinstated to the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA), allowing us to renew competitive rivalries with the five other nearby colleges that all currently offer athletics. We have committed scholarship funds to the athletic program and find that it has had a very positive affect on our enrollment already. We are one of only a few community colleges in the state to experience enrollment increases the last three years. In Fall '22, we were up 3.3% in headcount from Fall '21, and in Fall '23, we were up 8.1% over Fall '22. In Fall '24, we were up 1.6% in headcount from Fall '23. We are above our Fall '20 headcount enrollment and are working to surpassing our Fall '19 numbers. A recent review of all our scholarship allocations has resulted in additional dollars being available to a wider number of students which we believe helps us attract additional first year students. In the summer of 2024, the Michigan Legislature passed legislation creating the Michigan Community College Guarantee. This program will pay in-district tuition for all recent Michigan high school graduates. This program helped produce very strong August 2024 enrollment numbers. Next year the College will offer our own Green Light Guarantee. This College scholarship program will pay the difference between the in-district tuition rate and the in-state tuition rate making the College tuition free for all recent graduates in the state.

We continue to work closely with the local school districts for dual enrollment of high school students and we anticipate that our continued participation in the Early Middle College programs of our local school districts will further position the College to attract and retain new students to our programs.

The College has implemented these initiatives along with others to attract, develop, retain and graduate students which we believe will allow the College to maintain and hopefully even experience a moderate increase in enrollment over the next five years. Our revised goal is to have our enrollment back up to at least 2100 students by the year 2025 which is somewhat aggressive, given the trends in the industry and our area, but our multiple initiatives will position us well for achieving this goal.

b) Evaluate enrollment patterns over the last five years

Our enrollment over the past five years has been challenging. Through our three-year participation in the Higher Learning Commission’s Persistence Academy and an aggressive revised Student Orientation program, we were able gain a slight increase in both headcount and contact hour enrollment in Fall 2019, a successful accomplishment given the national economic and sociological environment at the time. Unfortunately, the COVID 19 Pandemic hit us hard, as it did most community colleges across the state and nation, and we experienced a 14% decline in enrollment in Fall 2020, better than the 20% decline we budgeted. Our Fall 2021 enrollment did not rebound from the previous year’s decline as we had anticipated but we held fairly even. Enrollment has been up in Fall 2022, Fall 2023 and Fall 2024. Overall, our enrollment over the last 5 years has declined by 6% (Fall ’24 to Fall ’19) but has increased 14% since Fall ’20. We developed a robust strategic plan for the years 2023 – 2025 which identified key factors to be addressed in order to put us on the path of our goal of modest enrollment growth over the next five years which we are proud to say is being effective. We believe our investment of resources into reestablishing athletics at SMC has helped with this recovery and will continue to help with modest growth in the next few years as well. We experienced our best retention rate in more than a decade from Fall ’22 to Fall ’23 with that number holding steady from Fall ’23 to Fall ’24.

Two measures of our success as an institution are the number of students we serve, and the number of students who graduate from our programs. To be sure, there are other measures of success. But since the number of students we serve directly affects revenues generated through tuition and fees, this measure should be of great interest to everyone in the College family. A number of enrollment reports are generated at Southwestern Michigan College each year to track this data. It is particularly useful to look at a 15-year history of enrollments to understand the state of the College today.

Table 2. IPEDS (Federal) Fall Enrollment Data

Year	% Full-Time	% Part-Time
Fall 2010	53%	47%
Fall 2011	50%	50%
Fall 2012	50%	50%
Fall 2013	50%	50%
Fall 2014	48%	52%
Fall 2015	48%	52%
Fall 2016	47%	53%

Year	% Full-Time	% Part-Time
Fall 2017	44%	56%
Fall 2018	41%	59%
Fall 2019	43%	57%
Fall 2020	43%	57%
Fall 2021	41%	59%
Fall 2022	44%	56%
Fall 2023	49%	51%
Fall 2024 (PRELIM)	49%	51%

As Table 2 above shows, over some of the past fifteen years there was a trend of the mix of full-time students to part-time students from about 50/50 to more heavily weighted to part-time. We believe this was a direct result of the improved economy during that time and the lack of outside funding (and need) for retraining the unemployed. But most recently it has shifted back to the 50/50 mix. Our re-entry into athletics, for which the students need to be full-time, contributed to this shift of a more equal full-time vs. part-time student ratio in '22, '23 and '24.

Table 3 below details Student Credit Hours and Student Contact Hours for Southwestern Michigan College. While this chart shows some ups and downs during the cycle, we believe this was a factor of the previously mentioned downward trend nationally in high school graduates, as well as the positive national economic trend (prior to the current pandemic). Both of these outside factors affect enrollment in Community Colleges. However, as stated above, we continue to fight this trend with new recruiting and retention efforts and fiscal year 2022-2023 showed an increase of hours at SMC and we are experiencing another, bigger increase in fiscal year 2023-2024.

Table 3. ACS/MPDI Enrollment (State) Data

Year	Student Credit Hours	Student Contact Hours
2009-10	63,255	1,256,650
2010-11	70,861	1,405,887
2011-12	62,455	1,247,587
2012-13	55,033	1,099,799
2013-14	57,015	1,137,791
2014-15	51,419	1,029,923
2015-16	47,118	922,063
2016-17	45,429	885,535

2017-18	46,409	867,719
2018-19	42,534	803,369
2019-20	42,740	830,467
2020-21	36,209	757,954
2021-22	34,879	719,555
2022-23	37,489	775,629
2023-2024 (PRELIM)	41,051	842,335

Table 4 below details Southwestern Michigan Colleges unduplicated headcount totals for the past 20 years and full-time Equated Students (defined to be based on 30 credit hours and denoted by FYES).

Table 4. ACS Headcount and FYES Data

Year	Unduplicated Head Count	FYES
2009-10	4055	2040
2010-11	4316	2286
2011-12	3930	2015
2012-13	3387	1775
2013-14	3376	1839
2014-15	2983	1659
2015-16	2784	1520
2016-17	2680	1514
2017-18	2764	1550
2018-19	2519	1420
2019-20	2532	1427
2020-21	2200	1210
2021-22	2135	1165
2022-23	2174	1252
2023-24 (PRELIM)	2344	1372

d) Provide instruction staff/student and administrative staff/student ratios for major academic programs or colleges

We are very proud of our full-time faculty to student ratio of 1:28, a ratio that at least in the recent past is better than more than 64% of the other community colleges in the State of Michigan. Instructional staff/student ratios for major academic programs are as follows: Liberal Arts 1:16, School of Business 1:16, School of Technology 1:12 and School of Nursing 1:12. Southwestern Michigan College has a very lean administration with only 26 full-time employees being classified as executive, administrative or managerial. Any ratio calculation by academic program would be misleading and not of value.

e) Project future staffing needs based on five-year enrollment estimates and future programming changes;

With the fluctuations in enrollment through the last five years, we have been very diligent in right-sizing our staff in both the service and instructional areas. As programs have been added and deleted, we have made corrections in staffing to meet these needs. SMC first tries to assess the needs in the academic programs, making sure we have the right quantity, as well as quality, of instructors supporting the programs we offer. Our full-time faculty was reduced as enrollment slowed through the pandemic years but we continue to value the low full-time faculty to student ratio which we believe contributes to our high student success rates and have added a few full-time faculty positions back as enrollment is trending upward. We will continue to add or minimize as needed as the program offerings change over the next 5 years. On the administrative service side, we pay particular attention to re-thinking our service strategy in every department upon each and every turnover of staff, to be sure we are offering our students quality service effectively and efficiently. Over the past year, SMC has reallocated resources among administrative and academic departments to best meet the needs of our student enrollment changes.

As an educational institution, we are a service industry. Rather than manufacturing a product, we provide our customers with a variety of services. First, we market our services in an increasingly competitive marketplace. Second, we advise students and provide them with financial aid counseling. Third, we bill students and offer payment plans. Fourth, we provide instruction, instructional facilities, use of instructional equipment, and assessment. Fifth, we provide certification of accomplishments in terms of grades and degrees. Sixth, we provide placement services. Each one of these activities is very labor intensive. The following table shows the human resource allocation of Southwestern Michigan College.

Table 1. Fall 2023 Employees (Excluding Student Workers)

Employee Type (IPEDS SOC Code)	Full Time	Part Time
Postsecondary Teacher	45	87
Librarians	1	0
Library Technicians	0	0
Student and Academic Affairs and Other Educational Services	13	32
Management	24	0
Business & Financial Operations	7	0

Computer, Engineering and Science	13	3
Community Service, Legal, Arts & Media	22	0
Service	4	12
Sales and Related	2	0
Office & Administrative Support	8	2
Natural Resources, Construction & Maintenance	7	3
Total	146	139

Clearly, the vast majority of SMC’s part-time employees each semester is the approximately 87 part-time faculty. Adjunct instruction allows us to provide an otherwise unimaginable breadth of offerings with only about 45 full-time faculty (for example it would take approximately seven full-time faculty to teach our English 103/104 sequence alone). Unlike many community colleges nationally who are increasing the number of courses taught by adjuncts in order to reduce cost, SMC still focuses on maintaining a high percentage of courses taught by full-time faculty. Excluding transfers in the operational budget of the College, SMC spends 63% of our operational budget each year on wages, salaries, and fringe benefits for our approximately 285 regular employees.

It is impossible to project our staffing needs in a vacuum. The College continues its initiative to provide instructional and advising support to our students and these needs continue to increase. We have two Teaching and Learning Centers at the College, one on each campus, that provide students with access to personal computers and tutoring staff, both in person and on-line. We have also been increasing academic and career advising to our students through a variety of programs. We have taken over funding from MCAN and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) for a Career Development Manager position on campus to provide a Career Development Office for our students. A Career and Technical Education (CTE) Resource Coordinator has been hired using State of Michigan Perkins funds to assist those students in specific CTE programs by providing resources and support to assist them in persisting and completing their programs. These areas of student support will continue to require adequate staffing going forward in order to attract, retain, develop, and graduate students. The continuation of services being offered remotely and/or online due to the pandemic will also be considered as we make staffing decisions going forward.

f) Existing class size and projected class size needs based on institution’s mission and planned programmatic changes;

The College limits class sizes to a number small enough to allow maximum learning while large enough to meet restricted budgets. Composition classes, and similar cognitive learning experiences are limited to 26 students per section and Advanced Technology classes are often limited to 20 students due to availability of equipment. As a continuation of this adopted recommendation, classrooms are constructed with configurations limiting seating sizes suitable to learning environments. The expansion of the Nursing and Health Education Building allowed for an increase in students enrolled in the programs while

maintaining our desired class sizes. Even classes being offered online are limited to an appropriate size (22 students per section) to ensure quality instruction and access for the students by the instructors.

In addition, the College is always evaluating programs and eliminating those programs with low enrollment if deemed necessary. This allows the College to maximize its limited resources and to apply them to growth programs.

With our goal of increasing enrollment in the next few years, it will be necessary to have the classrooms and other instructional space in the Lyons Building updated and technologically upgraded to attract these students. Our strategic plan identifies Facility Utilization and Purposeful Academic Programs - the renovation of the academic core of this building is critical in pursuing these strategies that we have identified as necessary for student success at SMC.

Facility Assessment

- a) *Professionally developed comprehensive facilities assessment is required. The assessment must identify and evaluate overall condition of capital facilities under college or university control. The description must include facility age, use patterns, and assessment of general physical condition;*

SMC commissioned Arkos Design to conduct a space utilization assessment of its academic and administrative facilities for the Facilities Master Plan project which was completed in July 2013. In December 2019, Abonmarche Consultants updated this Master Plan as we had accomplished all but one major project of the planned campus upgrades included in the original Plan. Our facilities are always identified as one of our greatest strengths by staff and the community both. Over the past 15 years, we have made major improvements to all but one of our major campus buildings. The assessment of existing facilities is as follows:

Exhibit One

SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

Professionally Developed Assessment of Existing Facilities

COMMENT BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	SQ. FT.	REPLACEMENT VALUE-NEW	DEPRECIATED VALUE
Briegel Building	45,882	\$14,368,400	\$10,920,000
O'Leary Building	21,698	8,942,800	8,137,900
Dale A. Lyons Building	76,285	28,849,600	16,155,800
Health Education	26,296	10,833,700	10,183,700
Daugherty Building	21,698	7,648,100	7,036,300

COMMENT BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	SQ. FT.	REPLACEMENT VALUE-NEW	DEPRECIATED VALUE
Charles O. Zollar Building	45,493	20,403,500	16,526,800
Instruction Resource Center Fred L. Mathews Library	33,500	11,661,200	8,046,200
McKenzie Hall	55,736	12,498,000	10,498,200
Barbara Wood Building	26,065	10,368,600	8,709,600
Jerdon Hall	55,736	12,498,000	10,498,200
Maintenance/Storage/Offices	11,820	1,447,900	999,100
Jan and A.C. Kairis Bldg.	26,129	6,237,900	5,364,600
Niles Area Campus	48,000	10,650,300	8,094,200
Bookstore & Gallery	14,612	6,145,100	4,670,300
Greenhouse	1,536	80,600	74,200
Athletic Storage	800	34,200	13,300
New Maintenance Storage	1,200	86,700	72,800
M-TEC	13,700	4,540,500	3,450,800
Niles Campus Storage	6,250	412,100	321,400
White Hall	55,736	12,498,000	10,498,200
Jarvis House	2,640	664,100	458,200
Jarvis Garage #1	1,040	39,500	22,900
Jarvis Garage #2	768	30,200	18,700
TOTALS	592,620	\$180,939,000	\$140,771,400

b) Building and/or classroom utilization rates to industry standards

Southwestern Michigan College maintains classroom utilization data within the Office of Institutional Research. Institutional Research maintains comprehensive space utilization materials such that utilization is configured upon classroom size and seating capability for all College facilities.

Space utilization is only partially a matter of size and seating limits. In the modern high-tech environment, much space must be classified as "dedicated." For example, a welding laboratory/classroom cannot be used for other instructional programs. The same is true with automotive, electronic facilities, and certain computer laboratories such as those used in graphic design and computer aided design. On campus nursing labs are in maximum use and on those days when nursing students are in clinical situations off campus these labs are used for medical assisting, CNA, EMT, and other allied health students. Institutional Research then keeps space utilization records by room size, program usage, and instructional limits.

Space utilization records show that classrooms and learning facilities are in use 90%+ during peak hours. During morning hours, classroom use ranges from 85% to 100% of total capacity. During mid-afternoon usages rates drop in general programs although remain consistently high for specialized use such as science labs. During the height of the pandemic, even conference rooms were used as classrooms in order to more effectively meet social distancing protocols for all classes due to the pandemic.

- c) *Incorporation of specific mandated facility standards for program Implementation where applicable (i.e. federal/industry standards for science research facilities, industrial machinery, agricultural and animal research, etc.)*

Not applicable

- d) *Functionality of existing structures and space allocation to program areas served*

Southwestern Michigan College maintains a philosophy of maximum use of all available space.

When programs, during program viability study or similar review, are demonstrated to have fewer students than space allocated, new modes of instruction are studied in an attempt to reallocate space needed by larger programs.

New construction always includes studies of space allocation based upon program need along with studies of use of space vacated. Additions to the Niles Area Campus included, for example, relocation of two entire technology programs from the Dowagiac campus to the Niles Campus. This decision was made because: (1) students enrolling in the program resided in that section of the college district, (2) employers hiring graduates are located in that section of the college district, (3) these programs had been housed in areas not specifically designed for them when built, and (4) higher quality instruction was made possible by the new facility. Still, part of the decision involved on-campus needs for vacated space. In addition, the M-TEC was reconfigured to accommodate the relocation of these programs from the Dowagiac campus to Niles. This allowed for the renovation of the previous Tech building into an IT center which now houses the College's School of Business, CIS courses, and the College's Office of Information Technology.

In 2011 the College consolidated and expanded the Learning Labs Center (now referred to as the Carol A. Tate Teaching and Learning Center) into the Fred L Mathews Library and relocated the Testing Center to the Briegel College Services Building in the space formerly occupied by the Learning Labs. This not only allowed for a larger Testing Center but also allowed for the creation of an additional classroom in this building.

The College renovated the previous Museum Building into the College Bookstore 10 years ago. This renovated space expanded merchandise offerings as well as provided better

service to our students. Phase two of the renovation transformed the prior bookstore space in the College Services Building into a one-stop student service center for our potential, new, and current students, now referred to as our First Year Experience Center.

In 2010 the College renovated and expanded the building that houses the automotive program. In 2016, we completed the re-purposing of two existing classroom buildings through a 2-stage process in which we renovated an old Academic Classroom building into a new Science and Allied Health Building, providing much needed state-of-the-art science labs, and then renovated the "old" science building into a refurbished Academic Building. These are examples of how SMC has adapted its facilities to the needs of our students. In 2017, we began the planning for the renovation and expansion of our Nursing and Health Education Building, providing improved and expanded labs for our clinical nursing instruction. The project was completed as expected in December 2018 and classes were back in the new space in the Spring 2019 semester. The completion of this project provided us with the much needed additional and upgraded lab space for our students, as the availability of offsite clinical opportunities declines in the region.

e) Estimated replacement value of existing facilities (insured value of structure to the extent available)

Exhibit One on pages 17 and 18, includes the estimated replacement value of existing facilities.

f) Assessment of campus utilities system (i.e. air distribution/heating and cooling system, water and sewage, electrical, etc.)

SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

Assessment of Campus Utility System

HVAC Systems – Systems for the following buildings have been included on the Maintenance and Repair/Deferred Maintenance Schedule and are identified as items needing attention in the next 3 – 5 years:

<u>Library</u> – (one of the three original buildings over 50 years ago)	
Air Handling Unit and Chiller Unit.....	\$ 210,000
 <u>Classroom (Briegel Building)</u> – HVAC Office and Classrooms	 \$ 651,000
 <u>Bookstore</u> – Chiller unit.....	 \$ 140,000
 <u>Niles M-Tec</u> – Welding Labs Rooftop heating/air units	 \$ 325,000
 <u>Niles M-Tec</u> – Office area air conditioner/makeup unit.....	 \$ 150,000
 <u>Dowagiac Campus</u> - Utility Mapping	 \$ 67,000
 <u>Lyons Building</u> - HVAC & Mechanical Systems	 \$3,850,000

Assessment of condition of campus infrastructure (i.e. roads, bridges, parking structures, lots, etc.)

All the parking lots on campus have been re-paved in the last eight years, including the \$550,000 capital investment in our Niles Area Campus parking lot in August of 2015. Included in our annual operating budget is an allowance of \$70,000 for preventative maintenance of our parking lots and sidewalks. Crack sealing and recoating of each parking lot is reviewed each year and maintenance provided on a scheduled rotation. We believe that it is best to invest in the on-going maintenance of these facilities so as to maximize the useful life of the major re-construction we have invested in each parking lot area. However, full parking lot replacement may still be required on a rotating basis throughout campus beginning in the next five years.

g) Adequacy of existing utilities and infrastructure systems to current and five – year projected programmatic needs.

Electrical System – The Dowagiac electrical system is over 50 years old, with a few upgrades made over the last 15 years to only certain areas of the campus. Eight years ago we completed the much needed \$150,000 high voltage back feed loop on campus. Five years ago, the upgrading of the high voltage electrical feeds was completed for the last two buildings on campus. Five years ago, we completed the final phase of upgrading the fire alarm system to the Briegel Building which houses the College Administration offices, as well as additional classrooms. Four years ago, we replaced roofs and upgraded HVAC and ventilation systems in multiple areas throughout campus. Two years ago, we replaced the boilers in two of our main classroom and administration buildings on the Dowagiac campus, along with replacing cooling towers and upgrading the fire system at our Niles Area Campus. As mentioned earlier, we also self-funded a renovation of our gymnasium which included much needed ceiling repairs and installation of a new ADA compliant bleacher system.

h) Does the institution have an enterprise-wide energy plan? What are its goals? Have energy audits been completed on all facilities, if not, what is the plan/timetable for completing such audits.

Southwestern Michigan College had energy audits performed in 2007 and 2009 by the Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Program Assessment Team. In addition, the College had an energy audit performed by Ameresco in 2011. The goal of the College is to not only reduce operating expenses through energy efficiencies but also to use clean energy wherever possible. We have regularly replaced light fixtures throughout campus with new, higher energy efficient lighting, taking advantage of utility rebates offered as much as possible. Our Director of Facilities participated in a program with SEMCO three years ago to assess and address potential additional energy savings across campus.

SMC has invested significantly in new construction and renovation over the past 15 years increasing the value of our facilities by over \$88 Million since 2008. With every project the College has integrated energy efficiencies that have reduced the College's energy and maintenance cost of its facilities. This will continue to be a part of the design of all future renovation or new construction projects.

i) Land owned by the institution, including determination of whether capacity exists for future development, or whether additional acquisitions need to occur to meet future needs.

The Dowagiac campus of Southwestern Michigan College consists of 240 acres, of which approximately 100 acres are wooded. Eighty of these wooded acres were donated in 1975 by E. Claspy and has been maintained as a nature, hiking and cross-country running/skiing

area. The entire 240-acre system is periodically reviewed by a forester to determine an inventory and recommended development. In 2014 the College acquired two pieces of property adjacent to the Dowagiac campus, adding a few more acres surrounding one of our main entrances to campus. In 2024 we acquired another adjacent property. We feel having control of these adjacent properties when possible is important for future planning considerations. One such property now houses our Director of Residence Life, providing essential on-site living accommodations for this position which improves availability of this person to the students.

The current land space of the Dowagiac campus has been assessed for potential future growth for athletic, residential and student services facilities. Existing open land provides us the capacity for the addition of such facilities deemed necessary as we consider adding future sports and experience planned enrollment growth from this strategy.

The Niles Area Campus consists of 16 acres of which five acres remain open for building development.

- j) What portions of existing buildings, if any, are currently obligated to the State Building Authority and when these State Building Authority leases are set to expire.*

The Instructional Resource Center lease expires in 2034 and the Science and Allied Health Labs building lease will expire in August, 2051. Another SBA lease was signed for the renovated and expanded Nursing and Health Education Building and will expire in July, 2054.

Implementation Plan

- a) Prioritize major capital projects requested from the State, including a brief project description and estimated cost, in the format provided. (Adjust previously developed or prior year's figures utilizing industry standard CPI indexes where appropriate.)*

The College currently has two main capital project priorities. Those include the phased renovation of the 45-year-old Dale A. Lyons Building which houses our theater, art labs and gallery, and a significant number of classrooms and the expansion of our Student Activity Center to include a wrestling room for our growing wrestling team. As discussed above phase one of the Lyons Building renovation project will include a renovation of the choir and band rooms as well as an update to the bathrooms, main hallway and theatre entryway. The renovation will enhance the College's capacity and ability to provide students with improved, quality instruction in many of the College's Associates in Arts offerings. An updated estimate of the costs required to make the needed improvements to this building is currently being completed by our architect.

The other top priority for the College is the addition of Wrestling Room onto the Charles O. Zollar Building which houses our Student Activity Center and Gymnasium. This project is necessary to meet the needs of our expanding men's wrestling team and the addition of a women's wrestling team next academic year. The project is expected to cost approximately \$4.3 million and will include, a 11,000 square foot addition with a wrestling room, offices, restrooms and athlete changing rooms. The College's current wrestling room is located in the Dale Lyons Building. This project will relocate the wrestling room to the Zollar Building which houses the rest of the athletic facilities on campus and will free up space in the Lyons Building that will be converted into the choir room as part Phase I of the Lyons Building renovation.

(These projects are explained in more detail in the executive summary.)

- b) If applicable, provide an estimate relative to the institution's current deferred maintained backlog. Define the impact of addressing deferred maintenance and*

structural repairs, including programmatic impact, immediately versus over the next five years.

The College understands that the condition of its facilities from a structural, aesthetic, and technology perspective is vital to maintaining the high level of student success that SMC students have achieved over the past decade. In addition, the campus and facilities of SMC is one of the strongest marketing tools that the College has. Therefore, SMC provides sufficient funds in both the General Fund and a Building and Site Fund to address any maintenance issues and does not have a significant maintenance back log – though there are always needs within a campus that is almost 60 years old.

Since 2008 the College has invested over \$88 million in new construction and renovation to meet changing program needs and to maintain our facilities. The College’s most recent strategic plan identifies Facility Utilization as one of 7 major priorities in the coming year. Through this plan, SMC will be continually assessing its facilities needs into the future in order to provide the best physical environment needed to foster student success.

Other than the HVAC system upgrades mentioned above, the College has the following list of roof replacements that will be needed in the next three to five years.

Zollar Building – Roof replacement \$270,000

Briegel Building – Roof replacement \$350,000

c) Include status of "in-progress" projects financed with State Building Authority resources and incorporate how completion coincides with overall five-year plan.

Not applicable

d) Identify to the extent possible, a rate of return on planned expenditures. This could be expressed as operational "savings" that a planned capital expenditure would yield in future years.

In the past fifteen years SMC has invested over \$88 million in renovations of existing buildings, the new construction of three residence halls, and an expanded and updated Student Activity Center. With each renovation and new construction project, energy and cost saving technologies were included in the project plans as well as green technology where possible. This has substantially reduced SMC’s energy and maintenance costs of its facilities.

In addition, SMC utilized reserves for the construction of the third residence hall which has provided a return on these funds of between 3% and 6% annually based on housing charges. We also believe the completed renovation of our three main classroom buildings in recent years makes our facilities attractive to students and thus helps us attract and retain students. The related tuition revenue provides for a good rate of return on these expenditures.

The College is currently in the process of expanding residence hall capacity on campus through an expansion project. This project will add new rooms and a total of 36 beds to the three existing residence halls on the Dowagiac campus. Expanding capacity was necessary to address growing housing demand. Construction began in the summer of 2024 and 24 rooms will be available in January 2025 with the remaining 12 rooms available for the fall of 2025. This project is being self-funded by the College.

Another recent self-funded renovation of our Student Activity Center Gymnasium has provided us with a quality facility for attracting student athletes to SMC. Building a robust athletics program will help SMC and the College district in so many ways. First and foremost, it will continue to boost enrollment by attracting high school graduates who in the past have looked beyond SMC since we lacked intercollegiate athletics. This move is improving occupancy rates in our modern residence halls, creating more evening and weekend activities for the campus community, and providing opportunities to involve other students beyond the athletes by showcasing activities from other program areas such as a dance team, a pep band, and vocalists singing the National Anthem at home events. Athletics has re-energized our Sports Management major by providing numerous immersive experiences for students right here on campus and we hope it will develop a platform to potentially launch Physical Therapy, Sports Medicine, or other health degrees at SMC. More broadly, we believe athletics is drawing visitors to games, meets, tournaments, and summer camps to patronize local businesses throughout the year and is welcoming back hundreds of alumni who participated in these activities years ago. We believe for all of the above reasons, the rate of return on this initiative is significant to SMC.

e) Where applicable, please consider viable alternatives such as distance learning, to new infrastructure development.

Through SMC's strategic planning process the College is always looking at analyzing new platforms for delivering instruction. At the heart of this analysis is what platform of instruction is required by our students to be successful. This analysis is an on-going process for the College. Hybrid classes, as well as the flipped classroom concept are alternatives continually discussed as options for courses throughout campus. Decisions are made on the appropriate delivery for individual courses and programs based on the needs of the students to be successful. In the spring of 2020, we, along with many other institutions, were forced to offer remote instruction to accommodate our students through the national pandemic. As the pandemic persisted, SMC quickly shifted human and financial resources to train and prepare our faculty and staff for continued remote and on-line learning beyond one semester. We continue to assess each class offering and program to determine the best delivery method that will result in the best outcome for our students. We are looking at this both for the current environment and into the future for our students. This is at the core of our seven strategies for student success identified in our 3-year strategic plan. Distance learning/online programs are being considered in all programs but for our needs related to performing and visual arts, the hands-on piece of the education is not as effective in a distance education environment. We hope these classes employ more hybrid learning activities, but the core of the arts experience needs to be in the space we want to renovate.

While we have certainly made a move to more online class offerings, this is mostly for an expansion of enrollment for a specific population of students. We continue to believe that our strength is in providing students with a total college experience, which focuses on having students on our campus participating in classes and other activities in person. This is why we have decided to bring varsity athletics back to campus, requiring the athletes to live on campus.

f) Identify a maintenance schedule for major items in excess of \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 -fiscal year 2028

The only maintenance item planned in excess of \$1,000,000, is the HVAC and mechanical systems in the Dale A. Lyons Academic Building. This was previously estimated to cost \$3,850,000. We are currently planning a phased approach to renovating this building and will address the HVAC replacement through that process.

g.) Identify the amount of non-routine maintenance the institution has budgeted for in its current fiscal year and relevant sources of financing.

We have budgeted almost \$1,000,000 in FY'25 for non-routine maintenance of our various buildings on campus and this is funded from our Building and Site Fund.