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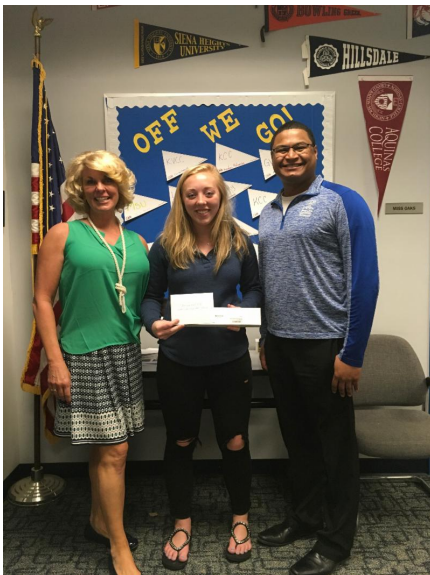
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May - June 2019 Newsletter Summer Edition

This edition announces the Annual SFT Event Raffle Winner, promotes BC CAN Test Prep successes, highlights BC CAN's Advocacy Day adventures, provides an update for the BCCF Scholarship process, and features some Summer Melt strategies for local students.

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8th Annual Sophomore Future Track Event Raffle Winner is Harper Creek Sophomore, Hannah Robinson!

For eight years, the Battle Creek College Access Network has coordinated the Sophomore Future Track (SFT) Event. This one-day, hands-on experience gives sophomore students in the greater Battle Creek area the opportunity to explore career fields of their interest. The 2019 SFT event took place on Wednesday, March 20th and included representation from all Battle Creek area high schools including Athens, Union City and Tekonsha. **Approximately 700 students participated along with 53 local businesses and organizations.**

Despite a challenging weather forecast, BC CAN staff executed a smoothly coordinated event. **70% of registered participants completed the event survey and the results are consistent!** Participating students indicated, overwhelmingly, they were interested in learning more about the career they were exposed to, they got a good idea for what a day in that career field would be like, and they enjoyed participating in the event overall. A snapshot view of student survey results

can be accessed by [using this link!](#)

BC CAN extends a hearty congratulations to the raffle winner, Hannah Robinson from Harper Creek High School. All participating students who completed a survey were entered into a raffle for a Series 3 Apple Watch!! Enjoy your new tech gear, Hannah!

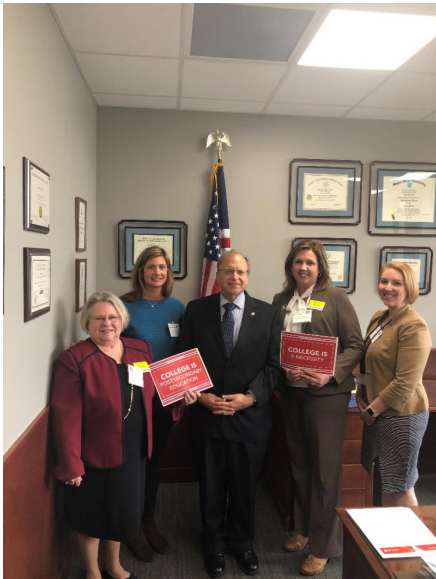
SAT Prep Students Raise Scores During Free Course

BC CAN understands the importance of standardized test scores in the college admissions and scholarship processes. This spring, the organization offered its sixth free SAT Prep course on Saturday mornings from February 9th to March 23rd, 2019. These workshops took place at the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center.



For this free prep course opportunity, students began with a mandatory pre-test and all student responses were compiled to aid teachers in leading tailored instruction. Local teachers provide instructional content and test-taking strategies for the course. **Of the 32 students who took both the pre- and post-test during the spring course offering, 23 of them increased their SAT composite score, 6 decreased their score, and 3 saw no change in their score. There were also percentage increases seen in the subject areas - English and Math.** BC CAN looks forward to supporting future students as they make plans for education after high school.

For questions regarding upcoming SAT Prep opportunities, please contact Terry Burleson, BC CAN Program Manager, at (p) 269-719-8228 or (e) terry@battlecreekcan.org.



BC CAN Travels to Lansing for the MCAN Advocacy Day Event

On Wednesday, April 17, Michigan College Access Network and college access and success organizations from across the state met with state legislators, advocated for postsecondary education, and highlighted the work being done to increase Michigan's degree-attainment rate. While at the State Capitol, participants also had the opportunity to network with partners working in the college access and success field.

BC CAN staff met with both Senator Bizon and Representative Haadsma's Policy Advisor during Advocacy Day. **During the meetings, discussions centered around the need for college access and success programming and supports in our local community, specifically advocating for Governor Whitmer's new**

state scholarship proposals: the MI Opportunity and Reconnect Scholarships. Additionally, staff made sure each elected official was aware of the work BC CAN does in the community and how they as representatives can continue to support our work and students as we encourage them to attend any form of postsecondary education that will lead them to a sustainable career.

Want to learn more about the Michigan College Access Network and the way this organization serves Michigan communities? [Visit their website](#) today!

**Battle Creek Community
Foundation Scholarship**

Award Season is Nearing Completion!

This year, the Battle Creek Community Foundation moved to a new scholarship system! The system now provides easy access to scholarship applications, making the process more fluid for students and staff. **The scholarship department has reported over 1,000 scholarship applicants, applying for over 8,000 individual scholarships.** Applications submitted by the deadline (March 1, 2019) allow students to be considered for scholarship awards for use during the 2019-2020 academic year. BCCF staff would like students to know their hard work is not quite over yet. **A few steps need to be completed for students to be considered by the appropriate scholarship committees. Those include:**



1) If not attached at the time of submission, all students must submit by email a copy of their 2019-2020 Financial Aid Award Letter. If a student is unsure whether or not this required document was submitted at the time of the application, they should contact staff immediately.

2) Once all scholarship committees have met and finalized decisions for awards, **all students will be notified of their awards or denials by email.** If you have received an award, please be sure to confirm with the scholarship department the college you will be attending for fall semester 2019.

If you have questions about your scholarship award(s), please contact the BCCF Scholarship Department, by phone (269) 962-2181 or by email at celia@bccfoundation.org.

May - June Newsletter Feature Story



Summer Melt Setbacks Still Persist Today Despite Efforts

The term "summer melt" is associated with two different, but similar, phenomena. One interpretation of summer melt refers to the loss of learning that students may experience over the period of a summer vacation. The other interpretation involves a common problem, especially among low-income students, where high school graduates who have been accepted to college plan to enroll but cannot due to insufficient financial aid, missed deadlines or lack of support from family or friends.

As BC CAN staff work to support local students and school staff throughout the school year, part of our focus is dedicated to how students can maintain and succeed during the summer months. Below are some helpful tips for underclassmen as well as graduating seniors hoping to pursue education after high school:

Returning Students:

- **Read!** - Whether fiction or non-fiction books, newspapers, magazines or online articles, sharpening ones reading skills can be helpful in completing homework assignments or taking timed reading assessments during the school year. Find something you enjoy and read about it!
- **Set Goals** - There is plenty of time during the summer to relax and reflect on successes or shortcomings of previous years. Students should take time to think about their interests and goals. In sports, they say you miss 100% of the shots you don't take. Make a plan, set goals and work to execute them.
- **Stay Active** - Studies show that ones physical and mental health are directly linked. Whether you enjoy bike rides or lifting weights, maintaining a good fitness regimen can prepare your body and mind for the school year ahead. It has been proven that exercise improves the effectiveness of studying. Start today!

Graduating Seniors:

- **Stay Connected** - Making the transition from high school to college can be an intimidating process. Keeping a small support system of fellow high school graduates, mentors or teachers/counselors can go a long way. Try to stay in contact with them in case you have questions you need answered about what's to come. They may not have the answers, but could point you in the right direction.
- **Explore Online** - Whether you plan to engage in module-based or hands-on learning, community college or a 4-year program, take time to familiarize yourself with the campus and certificate/degree requirements so that you can be prepared during your first meeting with an academic advisor. If you don't know your area of study, research programs of interest. Time is money, so don't waste any!
- **Get Involved** - If possible, plan to get involved in at least one student activity during your first year of study. Finding fellow students with whom you share academic or career interests can boost morale and increase your likelihood of success in a program. Maintaining a support system in this way can lead to solidifying ones personal interests, program or career plans.
- **Ask Questions!** - The only poor questions are those that go unasked. When in doubt, be sure to ask questions about the college-going process. Friends, mentors and program advisors are a great place to start. You never know what resources or helpful information you may encounter along the way.

At the very core of the success strategies listed above is **networking** (or the exchange of information and ideas among people with a common profession or special interest, usually in an informal social setting). Although communicating with others can be difficult for some students, the benefits far outweigh the perceived conflicts. Challenge yourself to reach out to others, ask questions, and be open to learning new ideas, concepts and strategies. You never know - a casual conversation could turn into new motivation, need guidance, or even a job offer. The first step is to try.

OUR STAFF CHEERS ON ALL OF OUR LOCAL STUDENTS AS THEY WORK TO COMPLETE THE SCHOOL YEAR SUCCESSFULLY!

Our Mission

We are committed to providing relentless community leadership to connect students to college and career opportunities for a brighter future

Our Vision

The Battle Creek CAN establishes a college-going culture by nurturing and guiding students of all ages with support and resources to make education after high school a reality.

Battle Creek College Access Network | 269-719-8228 | www.battlecreekcan.org

Annette Chapman - Executive Director
Laura Zalle - Program Officer
Terry Burleson - Program Manager
Celia Compton - BCCF/BC CAN Scholarship Associate

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STAY CONNECTED:

