

## **MICU encourages the legislature to continue investing in the Michigan Tuition Grant and maintain access to higher education for all of Michigan's students**

### **Independent colleges & universities make higher education more accessible to Michigan students.**

- While Michigan's student population has declined overall, MICU member institutions have grown their enrollment by 30 percent in the last 16 years
  - 15 percent of all students in Michigan attend a MICU institution
  - 86 percent of independent students are from Michigan
  - Nearly a quarter of the bachelor's degrees awarded in Michigan are awarded by independent institutions
- MICU institutions saw a 21 percent growth in veteran undergraduate enrollment from 2014-15 and 33 percent enrollment increase for veterans in graduate programs
  - 39 percent of undergraduate veterans in Michigan choose a MICU institution
  - 22 MICU member institutions participate in the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement program for veterans
- Access to quality higher education is incredibly important for everyone, especially low-income students, women, minorities, and veterans.
  - Half of independent undergraduate students receive need-based Pell grants
  - six in 10 MICU students are women
  - three in 10 MICU students are minorities

### **MICU institutions are committed to ensuring students complete their degrees.**

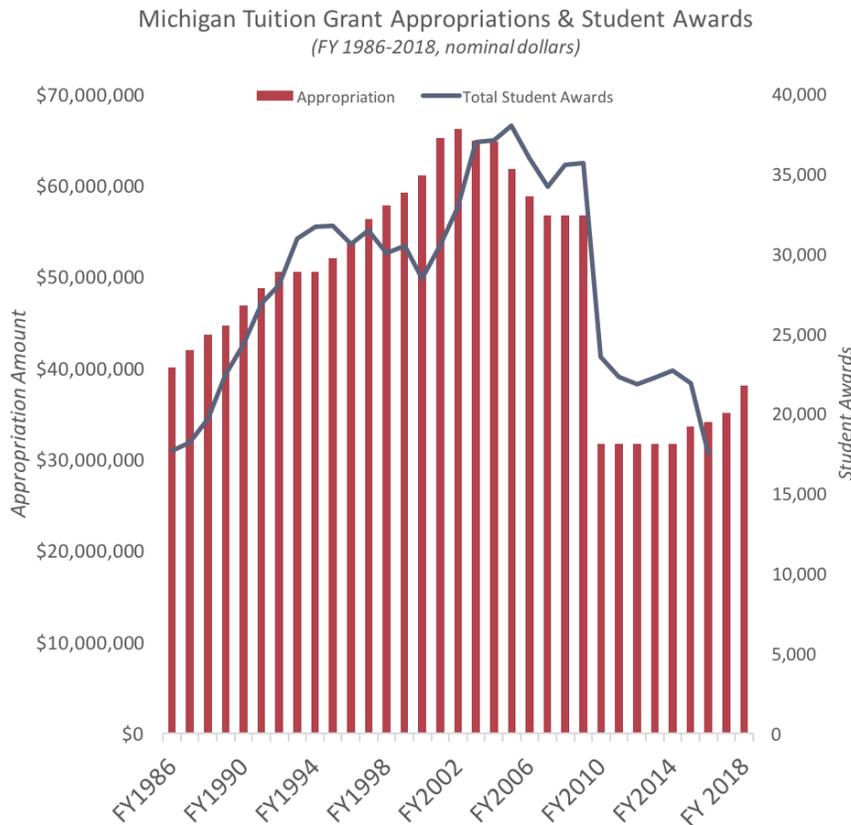
- Access is critical in getting students into college, but continued high-touch student support and financial aid through scholarships and grants paves the way to a diploma. 2015 saw 20,293 diplomas rewarded – and an over 80 percent retention rate of graduates in the state.
- MICU members extensively collaborate with other higher education institutions to better serve students throughout the state. This leads to greater academic and economic impacts.
  - 25.6 percent of degrees awarded in 2015 were through collaboration agreements.
  - 30 percent of MICU undergraduate recent grads do not have student loans.

### **MICU members provide personalized support for students.**

- Smaller colleges and universities – like many of our MICU members– provide individualized support that a large institution cannot, both in the classroom and within the administration.
  - This element is particularly important for students who come from lower income families or who may not have a strong support system at home.
  - The average MICU institution student to faculty ratio is 14:1.
  - Veterans choose independent institutions at a higher rate because of the high-touch, supportive atmosphere.

**Grants & scholarships make higher education possible for all students. The need-based Michigan Tuition Grant and \$984 million in funds directly from the institutions allow all students to obtain a degree regardless of their family income.**

- One of the most influential factors in collegiate student success is affordability. Currently, 81 percent of students receive some form of financial aid via an institutional scholarship or grant.
  - MICU members provided \$984 million in institutionally funded aid in 2015 split evenly between scholarships and tuition discounts.
- From 2005 to 2015, the amount of scholarships and grants provided directly by institutions increased by over \$246 million – a 99 percent increase in 10 years.
- Today, approximately \$38 million is appropriated for the Michigan Tuition Grant with each student allotted \$2,000, a generous increase over FY 2017’s \$35 million and \$1,815 per student.
- Thousands of students qualify for the Michigan Tuition Grant each year who cannot use the award due to the institution cap for larger colleges & universities. By raising the cap, a greater number of students in need will be able to use the need-based benefit and complete their degrees sooner.



**What is the Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG)?**

Established in 1966, the Michigan Tuition Grant was created to provide Michigan residents increased access to attend college in Michigan. The MTG is available to undergraduate students and is based on financial need.

**Greater Impact. Higher Purpose.  
Celebrating Higher Education Access in Michigan**

*Michigan Independent Colleges & Universities (MICU) is comprised of 25 institutions serving 120,000+ students. MICU serves its members through advocacy, public policy development, and specialized services.*