



Muskegon

Community College

Comprehensive Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan

FY 2013

Submitted November 2, 2011

Plan Overview

The FY2013 comprehensive five-year plan reflects adjustments to estimated project costs and program priorities outlined in the FY 2012 plan. Among the modifications, Muskegon Community College is requesting consideration of \$4,646,835 as part of the \$9,293,670 designated to meet its most pressing capital construction need – the construction of a Science Laboratory Center on campus.

In 2009-10 Muskegon Community College completed a Facilities Master Plan. (See <http://www.muskegoncc.edu/masterplan.>)

Since 1929, Muskegon Community College has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLD/NCA). Muskegon Community College completed a two-year comprehensive self-study process in 2010, when the college submitted a report to HLD/NCA and peer reviewers conducted a site visit on October 25-27. The self-study process culminated in 2010 with Muskegon Community College receiving a 10-year reaccreditation.

Muskegon Community College looks forward to its continued and successful partnership with the State of Michigan and to meeting the needs of its students, the community and the state.

I. Mission Statement

Muskegon Community College, an associate degree-granting institution of higher education, is a center for lifelong learning which provides persons the opportunity to attain their educational goals by offering programs that respond to individual, community and global needs. To fulfill its mission, MCC is committed to:

1. Prepare students for successful transfer to four-year colleges and universities, and enable students to pursue higher-level degree opportunities through our local partnerships with university programs.
2. Prepare students in critical thinking, communication and long-term learning skills for the changing challenges of the future.
3. Develop technical and vocational skills necessary to enter and/or advance in the technologically sophisticated workplace of the 21st century.
4. Provide for the assessment and/or improvement of learning skills and attitudes necessary for a successful educational experience.
5. Meet the unique educational, cultural, and societal needs in the community through special courses, seminars, and exhibits.
6. Respond in a rapid fashion to the ever-changing educational and training needs of local and regional business and industry.
7. Stimulate intellectual curiosity, promote humanitarian values and enhance the general educational experiences necessary for persons to function as effective citizens.
8. Create an atmosphere where diversity is acknowledged and encouraged.
9. Provide comprehensive student services that are conducive to student learning and satisfaction in all facets of the college experience and appropriate to an open door community college.

II. Instructional Programming

- a. **Muskegon Community College** offers a wide array of programs to students for a well-rounded education. The academic departments are dedicated to providing students with the tools, incentives, and knowledge required to get a great start on their career path and to build critical job skills.

1. Associate in Science and Arts Degree

Students wishing to major in a program that requires you to transfer to a four-year college, such as Social Work or Computer Science, should complete this degree enabling them to transfer to bachelor degree-granting colleges and universities with advanced standing. Students graduating from Muskegon Community College with an Associate in Science and Arts Degree are generally admitted to the bachelor degree-granting institutions with junior year standing.

2. Associates in Applied Science Degree

The Associate in Applied Science Programs (Business, Allied Health, Technology) were designed in conjunction with active advisory committees so that a student may reasonably expect employment upon successful completion of his/her degree work. The Associate in Applied Science Degree may also be used as a transfer degree to a limited number of baccalaureate programs, but A.A.S. degree programs are not specifically designed to transfer to four-year colleges or universities.

3. Diplomas, Certificates and Professional Development Credits

Certificates are offered in many of the same occupationally-oriented programs as the Associate in Applied Science Degrees but are not as comprehensive in nature. These certificate programs were developed with the assistance of an advisory committee, and students may reasonably expect employment upon completion of these programs. New certificate and professional development programs are continually being developed at Muskegon Community College.

- b. Unique characteristics of MCC's academic mission include:

1. Program Outreach

MCC currently has six extension centers throughout Muskegon, Newaygo, and Ottawa counties. We are offering a total of 23 classes off campus this fall 2011. The extension centers are Muskegon Area Career Technical Center, Fruitport High School, Fremont Quest High School, Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency (NC RESA), The Stream in the City of Newaygo and Grand Haven High School. Grant High School will be our newest extension center for winter 2011. We also look forward to securing a permanent presence in Grand Haven, Michigan.

2. Continuing Education

Continuing Education (CE) provides lifelong learning opportunities to enrich and extend the student's knowledge and experiences. The CE programs may be available on our campus or completely online. Continuing Education Unit credits (CEUs) may be offered for professions that require regular upgrading for certification. Special seminars to meet the training needs of specific organizations can be arranged. Information about courses, workshops, seminars, and special events is published twice each year in the OPTIONS Continuing Education/Community Services Schedule of Classes. Copies are distributed to the public and are available at the College, and online.

3. Lakeshore Business and Industrial Service Center

The Center provides customized instruction in virtually every area for local business and industry through workshops, seminars, college classes and consulting services. Training may be held on campus or at the workplace, depending on the particular needs of the company. Instructors and trainers are selected from the College faculty, area working professionals and specialty consultants. Training may be for either college credit or non-credit. Staff members from the Business and Industrial Service Center are available to help design specialized courses and provide resources and materials for your business needs.

4. Articulated Agreements

The purpose of articulated credit is to provide a mechanism which will enable advanced technology credit to transfer to Muskegon Community College, thereby granting equivalent college credits to students for identified task competencies achieved in secondary programs. "Articulation" means the process by which Advanced Technical Credit will be approved and accepted from one educational institution to another. Muskegon Community College has signed Articulated Agreements with the following higher education partners: Western Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Ferris State University and recently North Western Michigan College. These agreements continue to give our students the ability to seamlessly transfer to a four-year degree program.

5. Workforce Development

MCC is involved in collaborative efforts with community colleges, colleges/universities and MI Works agencies. We have several initiatives that expand into several counties; impacting local workforce development.

6. Community Activities

The College facilities are also widely used by community members, business and industry groups, and the local pre-K through 12th grade schools for special programs or events. These events are tracked by the campus Conference and Catering Services staff. Over 30,000 people visit the College annually.

a. The new **Hendrik Meijer Library/Information Technology Center**, according to its mission statement, “extends its services to the community and serves as a catalyst in the lifelong learning goals of the citizens of Muskegon County and the greater West Michigan area.” Since its opening in January 2006, the library has issued nearly 1,000 guest library cards to area patrons, public school students, as well as students of the university extension centers at the College.

b. The **Kasey Hartz Natural Area** not only provides a nature trail for simple enjoyment, but people can learn firsthand the interrelationships between the physical and biological aspects of the environment in which they live. It is visited yearly by numerous community groups for scheduled guided tours, as well as families and individuals for an enjoyable nature walk. Part of the area is wheelchair accessible, and handicapped parking is available. Over the past few years the nature trail has hosted visits from nearly 120 different groups.

c. The **University Park Golf Course** is a public golf course owned by Muskegon Community College and used by Physical Education classes and the MCC golf team. It has its own driving range, putting green, golf pro, and golf shop. The public course is used by the community for golf leagues and tournaments, as well as for scheduled fundraising events.

d. The **Carr-Fles Planetarium** features free public showings two evenings each week and also offers eleven different special showings for organized groups and schools. The showings average twenty-six persons with a total count of over 4,000 attendees for each of the past three years.

e. The **Muskegon Community College Observatory** is located off campus and, while it was created mainly to complement the College’s astronomy program, it also serves as a resource for area recreational stargazers.

c. New programming identified by the College and community as desired, and currently being implemented includes:

1. Renewable Energy

MCC has been on the forefront of the employment market in offering coursework in job market fields of the future, including alternative energy.

This fall semester (2010) we offered "**Wind and Solar Energy**" and "**Biofuels**" certificates geared toward preparing students for emerging environmental careers. The new certificates represent areas of study needed for the environmental careers of the future. Students working on the Wind and Solar Energy certificate will be trained in the installation, maintenance, and repair of residential and light commercial wind and solar systems. Actual installation of MCC's SWIFT wind turbine and a solar array ensure students are ready for the job market.

The Biofuels certificate also prepares students for employment by involving them in the actual production of ethanol, biodiesel, and methane, which are commonly used as alternative sources of fuel. Students will also be trained in the technical monitoring and management of systems that create these fuels.

2. Interactive Media and Gaming

The Interactive Media and Gaming Program is a two year curriculum focusing on **Game Design**. This program is designed to develop the knowledge, attitudes and experience that will start participants in the exciting world of Interactive Media.

3. Instructional Assistant, Autism Certificate

The certification will prepare students to work with autistic persons of all levels and age groups. Currently, many persons working as one-on-one aides in schools often have little or no formal training in this area.

4. Maritime Program

According to the 2008-2009 Occupational Outlook Handbook, water transportation occupations will increase 16 percent from 2006-2016. To accommodate this demand, a Maritime program at Muskegon Community College (MCC) was begun in early 2011. Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) has been helpful in making a Maritime program a reality. The Maritime Academy at NMC is one of six in the nation, approved by an act of Congress, that offers this curriculum. A bachelor's degree is considered essential; therefore NMC has a partnership with Ferris State University. The two career paths that will be offered at MCC are Deck Hand Officer and Engineering Officer.

5. Extended Programs

MCC's **Fire Science** program provides classes for students who want to obtain state required training for firefighter and officer training. This program will train and prepare more firefighters to fill the gap of an occupation with increasing demand.

6. Projected Programs

(a) Agribusiness

One of the most important industries to West Michigan is agriculture. Michigan has some of the largest vegetable, fruit, dairy and poultry farms in the United States. These large operations are an important part of the economy in our service area. Because farming today requires a higher level of skill, training is becoming more important. Muskegon Community College has been working closely with Michigan State Universities' School of Agriculture Technology to develop new dual enrollment opportunities for high school students and displaced workers. Students finishing this new program would receive a certificate in Agricultural Technology from Michigan State University and an Associate's Degree from Muskegon Community college.

7. Music Department

The Music Department has added three new instrumental music ensembles.

- (a) The '**Jayhawk Sound**' is our athletic activities band and performs at home sports events, away tournaments as well as other community events.
- (b) The **Jazz Ensemble** is a select big band Jazz Ensemble and is directed by Tim Froncek. The Jazz Ensemble provides the opportunity to rehearse and perform outstanding literature in contemporary and traditional big band jazz. The ensemble is dedicated to increasing the knowledge of jazz literature and improving skills in improvisation and ensemble playing. Special consideration is given to the rehearsal and performance of student compositions and arrangements. The Jazz Ensemble performs publicly and may include regional tours.
- (c) The **Wind Ensemble** is a select ensemble dedicated to preparing and performing the finest traditional, contemporary and transcribed literature for Wind Ensemble. An emphasis is placed on understanding the pieces from an aesthetic and stylistic basis. The Wind Ensemble performs publicly and may include regional tours. Daniel M. Meyers is directing and conducting the 'Jayhawk Sound' and Wind Ensemble.

8. Programs in Progress

(a) Certified Nurse Assistants

Muskegon Community College (MCC) is a leader in the field of Nursing. Year after year we educate and prepare men and women to be successful registered and Licensed Practical Nurses. Certified Nurse Assistants (CNA) are in demand due to the nursing shortage. The CNA program usually takes approximately 6-8 weeks. The class can also be done within a semester. The average salary of a CNA is \$24,440. Many nursing students find this program beneficial while completing required nursing classes.

(b) Medical Lab Technician

A Medical Laboratory Technician program would add greatly to the health careers offered at Muskegon Community College. An Associate in Applied Science degree would prepare students for entry-level medical laboratory positions.

(c) Entrepreneur Certificate and AAS

Muskegon Community College is developing a certificate/degree program for entrepreneurs. The certificate should cover from 27-30 credit hours of course work. When combined with the Entrepreneur AAS degree's General Education (20-22 credit hours) and Core (13 credit hours) course requirements, students need to complete at least 62 credit hours of course work to fulfill graduation requirements.

(d) Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Muskegon Community College is preparing to offer the first step of the EMT program. This program is in high demand in Michigan. The training is limited in duration and the starting wage is above average. In the future, the college plans to offer the other portions of this training so that a student could complete the entire training program on our campus.

(e) Polysomnography Technician

Polysomnography is the study of sleep disorders and is part of the Allied Health occupations. Muskegon Community College is planning to offer a Certificate Program in this new and emerging field. Demand is high for workers trained in polysomnography as there has been an increase in the number of people suffering from sleep-related disorders.

- d. West Michigan is home to a growing **Life Sciences Industry** that is part of the region's economic development strategy. This industry is in need of the skilled workers that a Science Laboratory Center would provide. This Life Sciences program feeds students directly into our nursing program. Nursing jobs are expected to be in demand for the foreseeable future. Investing in the Life Sciences Center would help put more people in Michigan back to work by giving them the opportunity to receive training in a health occupation. In addition, the construction of any new facilities will create immediate economic development benefits through the hiring of development professionals and construction workers.

III. Staffing and Enrollment

- a. Approximately 36% of Muskegon Community College students enrolled during the fall 2011 term attended full-time (12 or more credits).

Of the approximately 1,010 sections offered during fall 2011, almost 5% were offered as hybrid (combination of online and classroom) and 9% were entirely online.

Full- and Part-time Enrollment by program, Fall 2011:

Academic Program	Full-time	Part-time
Accounting/Office Management	32	65
Associate in Arts And Science - Liberal Arts/General	625	699
Broadcasting & Multimedia	33	35
Computer Programming/Applications	28	36
Computer Aided Draft-Design	31	59
Computer Networking Technology	31	69
Criminal Justice/Fire Science	108	144
Early Childhood Education	97	146
Electronics Technology	29	61
Graphic Design	52	33
Industrial/Manufacturing Technology	75	209
Management/Marketing	73	120
Medical Office Programs	32	59
Nursing	162	576
Business/Office Systems Education	15	39
Respiratory Therapy	47	62
Other: Undeclared and Guest students		1294

Source: Muskegon Community College Office of Institutional Research

- b. Enrollment is projected to reach 5432 by 2016 based on increases due to enrollment growth at our satellite centers and/or increased online activity.

Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016
5220	5272	5325	5378	5432

- c. Enrollment patterns of the last five years have seen moderate increases of almost 10%.

Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Fall 2010	Fall 2011
4711	4786	5144	5311	5168

Gender as Percentage of Enrollment

Gender	Fall 2007		Fall 2008		Fall 2009		Fall 2010		Fall 2011	
Total Men	2119	45%	2120	44%	2358	46%	2418	46%	2308	45%
Total Women	2592	55%	2666	56%	2786	54%	2893	54%	2860	55%
<i>Total Enrollment</i>	<i>4711</i>		<i>4786</i>		<i>5144</i>		<i>5311</i>		<i>5168</i>	

Source: Muskegon Community College Office of Institutional Research

Race/Ethnicity as Percentage of Enrollment

	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Fall 2010	Fall 2011
Nonresident alien	0.02%	0.31%	0.23%	0.17%	0.08%
Black non-Hispanic	8.68%	9.88%	9.27%	9.32%	9.42%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.38%	1.57%	1.26%	1.30%	1.39%
Asian American/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.74%	0.73%	0.62%	0.83%	0.93%
Hispanic	3.21%	3.76%	3.73%	4.27%	4.58%
White non-Hispanic	80.22%	78.74%	68.48%	66.43%	69.28%
Race/ethnicity unknown	5.75%	5.01%	16.41%*	15.97%	12.44%
Two or more races				1.71%	1.88%

Source: Muskegon Community College Office of Institutional Research

*Beginning in 2009, federal regulations required a change in race/ethnicity collection. The new, two-part application question, as well as the conversion of previous students to new racial/ethnic categories, has resulted in more students of unknown race/ethnicity

- d. Instructional staff/student ratios for major academic programs or colleges include:

Program Title	# of Students 2009-10	Full-time Instructional Staff
Accounting/Office Management	148	1
Associate in Science and Arts/Liberal Arts	1730	61
Automotive Technology	129	1
Computer Aided Drafting-Design	84	2
Computer Applications	63	1
Computer Networking Technology	152	3
Criminal Justice	329	1
Early Childhood Education	138	1
Electronics Technology	130	2
Graphic Design	70	1
Industrial Technology	95	1
Machining Technology	64	1
Management	157	2
Marketing	65	1
Nursing (RN and ADN)	329	11
Office Systems Education - Medical	105	1
Respiratory Therapy	95	3
Welding Technology	75	1

Source: Muskegon Community College Office of Institutional Research

As of October 2011 there were 115 full time, and 8 part time administrative staff.

- e. Enrollment is expected to reach 5432 in five years. Based on this increase we project a slight increase in teaching and administrative staff from current levels.
- f. The average class size for the 2010-2011 academic year was 30 students per class.

IV. Facility Assessment

A professionally developed comprehensive facilities assessment was performed by Tower Pinkster and completed in August of 2010 as part of the 2010 Facilities Master Plan. The entire 2010 Facilities Master plan is appended to this Comprehensive 5-Year Capital Outlay Plan.

- a. A summary description of each facility (administrative, classroom, biology, hospital, etc.) can be found in Section 5 of the 2010 Facilities Master Plan.
- b. Building and classroom utilization rates can be found in 4.C. of the 2010 Facilities Master Plan.
- c. Mandated facility requirements for programs that require them would be met, in particular for the Science Laboratory Center.
- d. Section 5 of the 2010 Facilities Master Plan describes the functionality of existing structures and space allocation to program areas served.
- e. The Replacement value of existing facilities based on the insured value of structure

Building/Structure	Year Occupied	Gross Square Feet	Replacement Value
Main Building	1967	231,055	\$40,059,817
Technical Building	2005	41,957	396,211
Gymnasium	1968	19,782	2,902,029
Center for Higher Education	1995	112,000	17,694,732
Fine Arts	1975	6,954	1,459,997
Maintenance	1972	13,116	1,278,466
Golf Course Pro Shop	1972	719	264,226
Golf Course Maintenance	1972	2,400	105,071
Golf Course Pump House	1998	1,250	53,768
Grounds Equipment Garage	1975	484	7,785
Library	2006	40,688	7,042,019
		470,405	\$71,264,121

- f. Utility system condition (i.e., heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), water and sewage, electrical, etc.) of existing facilities can be found in Section 5 of the 2010 Facilities Master Plan.
- g. Facility infrastructure condition (i.e. roads, bridges, parking structures, lots, etc.) can be found in Section 5 of the 2010 Facilities Master Plan.

- h. The adequacy of existing utilities and infrastructure systems to current and 5-year projected programmatic needs is described in Section 5 of the 2010 Facilities Master Plan.
- i. The institution has an enterprise-wide energy plan that was developed by Siemens in 2009 and is currently being implemented. Included in this plan were audits on all existing facilities. The goals of the plan include a cost savings to the institution of \$1,460,415 through 2025.
- j. The 2010 Facility Master Plan Section 6 describes land owned by Muskegon Community College and determinations on which capital projects could be carried out on land currently owned by the institution.
- k. On December 1, 2009 MCC entered a lease with the State of Michigan and the State Building Authority for Phase II of the Student One Stop Center. This lease continues for a period not to exceed 35 years from the date of the agreement.

Muskegon Community College Facilities Master Plan
(<http://www.muskegoncc.edu/masterplan>)

V. Implementation Plan

- a. **1. Science Laboratory Center** - Constructed in 1965, the life and physical sciences laboratories at Muskegon Community College (MCC) are too small and inadequate to meet current and anticipated needs. Moreover, the labs are able to accommodate only a few students with disabilities at a time. Constructing a 25,000 sq. ft. Science Laboratory Center will allow our students to obtain the 21st century skill sets necessary to compete. This two-level addition to the current science wing located on the northwest side of the main campus will better serve students as they study the disciplines of astronomy, biology, chemistry, physics, physical science, and geology.

Estimated project cost – \$9,293,670

2. Arts Additions - The proposed project would relocate the art department to a new addition, approximately 26,000 sq. ft. on the south side of the Frauenthal Fine Arts Center. The new addition would include five art studios, three instructional classrooms, offices for faculty, an exhibition gallery for display of artwork, as well as support spaces such as kiln room, glaze room, and storage for bulk materials. This addition would also include an expanded scene shop and dressing rooms at the Overbrook Theater. The existing Overbrook Theater would be renovated, as would the band and music area of the building as part of this overall project.

Estimated project cost – \$7,682,816

3. MCC Downtown Center - This project includes a new building of about 35,000 sq. ft. to be built on a site within the downtown core or within walking distance of the downtown core. The project would include the same spaces proposed with the art department expansion on the main campus, plus four additional instructional classrooms, offices, and a computer lab. The budget proposed in this master plan assumes new construction on a site already owned by MCC. However, the spaces could be developed within an existing building, assuming it met the criteria of size, location and access to public transportation.

Estimated project cost – \$8,241,066

4. Health and Physical Education Center - As the single most heavily used facility on campus, the Bartels-Rode Gymnasium is a major resource for students, faculty and the community. Existing facilities are already too small to handle existing staff needs, instructional needs, and appropriate student/athlete needs. The growing MCC enrollment only exacerbates this problem, as more students require Physical Education credits and desire choices for recreational, intramural, and wellness programming. The

proposed expansion includes approximately 27,000 sq. ft. of new space, as well as renovation of the existing 17,500 sq. ft. facility. The expanded area would include a new gym floor area, locker rooms, a training room, offices, three classrooms for instruction, a new fitness center, a climbing wall, a lobby space, a laundry facility, storage for indoor and outdoor equipment, toilet rooms, and appropriate mechanical, electrical, and custodial space.

Estimated project cost – \$8,503,507

- b. The institution's current deferred maintenance backlog is estimated to consist of 62 projects totaling over \$4,940,000. This backlog is not expected to have an immediate programmatic impact and is expected to be dealt with over the next five years.
- c. There are no on-going projects financed with State Building Authority resources at Muskegon Community College.
- d. The Siemens plan, currently being implemented identifies an operational "savings" of \$1,460,415 that would be realized through completion of deferred maintenance items identified in their plan.
- e. MCC is actively pursuing an increase in the extension centers administered by the institution. In these centers, leases are being implemented as an alternative to new infrastructure.
- f. There are no items for major maintenance in excess of \$1,000,000 scheduled for fiscal year 2013 through fiscal year 2017 at this time.
- g. There is over \$700,000 of non-routine maintenance the institution has budgeted for in its current fiscal year which will be financed almost entirely by MCC's Plant Fund.

Muskegon Community College
FY 2013 CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT REQUEST
Science Laboratory Center
Total Project Cost \$9,293,670

Is the Project a Renovation or New Construction?	Ren ___	New ___	Both <u>X</u>
Is the Project for a Single Stand-Alone Facility?		Yes ___	No <u>X</u>
Is there a 5-year Capital Outlay plan available?		Yes <u>X</u>	No ___
Are Professionally Developed Program Statement and/or Schematic Plans Currently Available?		Yes ___	No <u>X</u>
Are Match Resources Currently Available?		Yes <u>X</u>	No ___
Has the University identified Available operating Funds?		Yes <u>X</u>	No ___

A. Project Description

Constructed in 1965, the life and physical sciences laboratories at Muskegon Community College (MCC) are inadequate to meet current and anticipated needs. Moreover, the labs are able to accommodate only a few students with disabilities at a time. Constructing a 25,000 sq. ft. **Science Laboratory Center** will allow our students to obtain the 21st century skill sets necessary to compete. This two-level addition to the current science wing located on the northwest side of the main campus will better serve students as they study the disciplines of astronomy, biology, chemistry, physics, physical science, and geology.

In addition to updating our life and physical sciences facilities, additional space is needed to meet the needs of growing enrollment in our Allied Health program, which accounts for 20% of current students. Students in this program can be accommodated with larger lecture classes, but are ultimately limited due to the inability to provide more seats in co-requisite lab courses.

The additional space is also needed due to a renewed national focus on STEM-related fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in order to remain competitive with other countries. A new green energy program that provides opportunity to study alternative/renewable energy production (wind, solar, biofuels) is currently limited in growth due to the lack of preparation rooms, equipment, facilities, and specialized labs. Regardless of the specific area of scientific study, there is an increased need for an advanced instrumentation room centralized to all labs, with necessary ventilation and preparation space, for experimentation and study in the area of gel electrophoresis, polymerase chain reaction, infrared spectrometry, gas chromatography, atomic absorption analysis, incubators, PH, BOD, and COD analysis. This Science Laboratory Center addition/renovation will meet the needs of these growing academic programs and better position students to succeed and compete internationally.

B. Other Alternatives Considered

Muskegon Community College has experienced 19% growth over the past five years and all space on our campus is fully utilized with labs and classrooms operating at capacity. While renovating our current space would be of some benefit, it would decrease the number of labs available during construction and would not provide the space needed to meet growing student demand and allow for the instrumentation and preparation space crucial to the support of STEM activities now expected at undergraduate institutions.

Additionally, the College recently completed a comprehensive facilities master planning process as a component of an institutional strategic planning process. The master planning process yielded three major facilities upgrades (Art/New Media, Sciences, and Physical Education), along with a number of other important infrastructure upgrades across campus and in the community. The MCC Board of Trustees has endorsed the plan. During a Board retreat in January 2011 to review and discuss the various projects in the plan, the Science Laboratory Center was their number one priority.

C. Programmatic Benefit to State Taxpayers and Specific Clientele or Constituencies

Muskegon and surrounding areas suffer from one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. This new building will allow more students hard hit by this economic crisis to get their first two years of STEM education at a significantly lower cost. MCC is actively engaged in building a regional STEM group with the local intermediate school districts, business, and industry. To support these activities and the type of learning experiences that we are envisioning, a new facility is essential.

Moreover, degree and certificate attainment in Muskegon and surrounding areas is an issue that may be addressed by then enhancement of our science facilities. Only nine percent of Muskegon City residents and 16 percent of Muskegon County residents above age 25 hold a bachelor degree or above. Degree attainment in our greater service areas (Newaygo and Oceana counties) are not much higher and do not equal the statewide degree attainment level of 25 percent. Ottawa County, also in our greater service area, only equals statewide attainment levels. Enhanced science facilities will host the equipment and programming needed to support improvement in degree attainment in our entire service area.

D. Funding Resources

Working with the College's Office of Institutional Research and Grants and the Foundation for Muskegon Community College, we expect to acquire the additional funds needed to complete the project through grants, public support and tuition and fee revenue.. MCC will use monies from our Plant Fund if necessary for the completion of the project, but we are confident we will be able to secure the necessary match through grants and donations.