Using the collective impact framework to increase educational attainment in our community

2018/2019 Annual Report

alignedimpactmuscatine.org
Our Purpose:
- Build a college-going culture within Muscatine.
- Improve post-secondary education attainment and completion.
- Deliver a coordinated set of services to students to master key fundamentals necessary for academic success.
- Enable a workforce capable to sustain and grow Muscatine’s economy.
- Improve training and retraining opportunities for adults already in the workforce.

Our Goals:
- Increase the percentage of MCSD students who graduate from High School.
- Increase the percentage of post-secondary completion.
- Increase training opportunities for adults to address unemployment and underemployment.

Strategy Networks:
- Early Education
- Academic Success
- Post-Secondary Completion
- Adult Education & Training
The Muscatine County Family Effectiveness Coalition is acting as AIM's Early Education Strategy Network. The Early Education Strategy Network’s goal is to increase the percentage of children who enter Kindergarten ready. In the fall of 2018 the group reviewed MCSD data and saw that the percentage of students who met benchmark on the Kindergarten FAST assessment decreased from the previous year. The group took this opportunity to re-evaluate the areas that they are working on.

When the group looked at the segmented FAST data from the Muscatine School District they noticed that 78% of the students who went to 3 year old met benchmark on the FAST assessment. This data supports the importance of activities to increase preschool enrollment.

The group also worked with Iowa State University to learn about the latest in early literacy and education. After much research and consideration the group decided to focus on the following 3 priorities:

- Educate the community on the importance of early talk, and promote early literacy activities
- Increase access to and promotion of 3 & 4-year-old preschool
- Help parents identify what quality child care looks like and evaluate the state of child care in Muscatine County
Thanks to funding from Muscatine Charities and a new partnership with Non-Emergency Transport, transportation scholarships were available to qualifying preschool students. The program served 27 children at some point during the year. The number changed as parents’ work schedules changed to allow them to transport their children, and a few families moved out of the district. Of those children, 26 received scholarships and 1 was private pay. The year started in September with 13 children and grew to 23 by May.

Impact Spotlight

In the summer of 2018, Dana and Ken LaRue, owners of Non-Emergency Transport, came to a meeting with AIM, Muscatine Community School District, A Child’s Place Preschool, and Early Childhood Iowa Muscatine County to discuss preschool transportation. The community had been talking about the challenges of preschool transportation for years and this group wanted to find a solution. The group came up with a plan and received a grant from Muscatine Charities to offer transportation scholarships to qualifying families who attend community partner preschools.

Dana LaRue, owner of Non-Emergency Transport wasn’t sure at first about providing transportation to preschoolers. “We were hesitant about doing this transportation because we felt the children were so young and might be afraid to ride with us. What if they cried? What if they got sick? After the first meeting, Ken and I discussed it again and decided it was the right thing to do. We feel strongly that preschool is important to a child’s development and future. We had the means to help make it happen.”

Non-Emergency Transport staff quickly built relationships with the preschool teachers, daycare providers and families of the students that they transported. They played children’s music in the bus and made the ride fun for the students. “My favorite part is when I ride along and see the smiles on the children’s faces. They are always happy,” said Dana. “They may be shy the first day or two, but then they fit right in. I like that they share pictures that they make with the drivers. I like how they talk to each other and call each other by name. If a child is ill, the other kids sometimes will ask about them. I like how they get excited about when it is their snack day. One of my favorites is when I saw the number in writing of how many children we transported over the past school year and think about the foundation to their education and I feel we were a part of it.”

Dana has seen firsthand how access to preschool has positively impacted many of the children. Dana explained, “One 4 year old girl just blossomed. She started off shy, hardly said a word, after a few months, she was talking to the other kids. A little 3 year old boy after a few weeks, he was singing his ABC’s.” Ken has seen an improvement in the children’s social skills. “I’ve noticed a big difference in their interaction with each other.”
ISU Extension & Outreach Muscatine County provided two training opportunities to increase the community's understanding of the importance of early talk and literacy. The first training Talk to Me Baby provided nurses and caregivers the educational tools to help families provide "language nutrition" to their infants so they can engage babies in direct conversation. The second, Adventure Comes to You: Latest In Literacy Iowa State, hosted University School of Education faculty for a one-day workshop highlighting the latest research and practices in literacy.

Communities across the state have indicated that they are struggling with child care and its impact on attendance and employee retention. That is why AIM partnered with Early Childhood Iowa Muscatine County and the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine to assess the child care needs in our community. A survey was created in English, Spanish, and French. It was distributed to employees of 16 large employers in Muscatine County. Paper packets were also distributed to an additional 20 medium to small businesses throughout the county. An infographic of the survey results can be found on the next page. The full report is available at alignedimpactmuscatin.org.

After the survey results were presented, the group expanded to include the Muscatine YMCA, HNI, Kent, and the Iowa Women's Foundation. A child care provider appreciation event was held the evening of June 25th. Child care providers from across the county, child care centers, and in-home centers were represented at the event. The Iowa Women's Foundation presented information on child care trends across the state. Child Care providers shared many of the challenges they face. There will be a community meeting on August 29th to continue the conversation.

Active Family Effectiveness Coalition Members:

Muscatine Community YMCA
Muscatine Community School District
Early Childhood Iowa Muscatine County
UnityPoint Trinity Muscatine Public Health
UnityPoint New Horizons
Muscatine County Community Services
Lutheran Services in Iowa
Iowa State University Ext. & Outreach – Muscatine County
Mississippi Bend AEA
Muscatine County Conservation
United Way of Muscatine
A Child's Place Preschool School
Musser Public Library
Parents as Teachers
MUSCATINE COUNTY HAS LOST 49% OF CHILDCARE PROVIDERS IN THE PAST 5 years
Source: Iowa Childcare Resource & Referral

72% OF PARENTS WITH CHILDREN 0-3 yrs RELY ON CHILDCARE PROVIDERS AND SCHOOLS TO CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN WHILE THEY ARE AT WORK

FAMILIES PAY AN AVERAGE OF $628 A MONTH FOR CHILDCARE FOR CHILDREN 0-SCHOOL AGE

PARENTS FACE CHALLENGES FINDING DAYCARE PROVIDERS
28% CHILD CARE COSTS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE
24% TROUBLE FINDING CHILD CARE THEY CAN TRUST
18% NO OPENINGS

IN THE PAST 6 MONTHS EMPLOYEES MISSED 2.6 DAYS OF WORK, WERE LATE TO WORK 2.5 TIMES, LEFT EARLY 2.9 TIMES, WERE DISTRACTED AT WORK 6 DAYS DUE TO CHILDCARE ISSUES

61% OF PARENTS MISS WORK WHEN THEIR CHILD IS SICK

11% OF PEOPLE REFUSED A PROMOTION 21% OF PEOPLE QUIT, CHANGED, OR DIDN'T TAKE A JOB DUE TO CHILDCARE CHALLENGES

12% OF COMMUTERS WOULD MOVE TO THE COMMUNITY THEY WORK IN, IF THEIR PREFERRED TYPE OF CHILDCARE WAS AVAILABLE FOR THEIR CHILDREN

Muscatine County data is from the Child Care Impacts on Employment Survey Results March 2019. Full results can be found at http://alignedimpactmuscatine.org/community-resource/child-care-survey-results/
Academic Success Strategy Network

The Academic Success Strategy Network is focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more of the school year. The MCSD has made this a major focus of their internal operations. Many community organizations have come together to support the school district in their efforts after realizing the importance of school attendance to our community.

Percent of Student Chronically Absent (10%+)

During the 18/19 school year, ISU Extension & Outreach Muscatine County expanded the Ricochet program to be available to a targeted group of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders at both middle schools. While these students aren’t the typical students who are chosen for leadership opportunities, the school staff sees great potential in these students. The goal is to teach students leadership skills in a group setting with adult volunteers so that they are able to apply those skills to improve their school attendance and engagement. Each Ricochet group also plans and executes a community project.
This network is also looking at how all the needs of students and families can be met in a more coordinated way to help students be successful in school. During the 2018/19 school year, a group of middle school staff and community program staff met to look at and address systemic barriers and root causes of struggles students are facing. They focused on transportation, access to food, and student attendance. The group organized an attendance incentive program for the last quarter. Students earned being entered into a drawing for prizes based on good attendance during the 4th quarter.

Another cross-collaborative group of school district administrators and community organizations looked at how to change the culture of Muscatine's community to value the importance of school attendance. They partnered with MediaTree to produce a series of videos about the importance of attendance for school and work. The full-length video can be found at: https://youtu.be/5P9opixnr04

**Impact Spotlight**

“The coordinated services meetings are a great way for me to build relationships with local service providers and learn about resources in our community,” says Deya Leza, School Resource Navigator. “I had a family that was in need of items for their home. I was able to easily connect them with JoJo at MCSA to get them a table. It's really important for a student's basic needs to be met at home for them to be successful in school.”

**Academic Achievement Strategy Network Members:**

Muscatine Community School District
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach – Muscatine County
Trinity Muscatine Public Health
Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry
United Way of Muscatine

**Middle School Coordinated Services:**

Muscatine Community School District
UnityPoint Public Health
Muscatine Center for Social Action
New Horizons
Muscatine Community YMCA
Juvenile Court Services
Post-Secondary Completion Strategy Network

The post-secondary completion strategy network is focusing on increasing enrollment into post-secondary education. Currently, about 60% of seniors enroll in post-secondary education. However, by 2025 70% of jobs in Iowa will require a post-secondary degree or certification. The main focus of the network this school year was trying to continue Iowa College Aid Course to College activities in the absence of AmeriCorps members. Muscatine and West Liberty high schools held FAFSA and College Decision Day events.

Post-secondary Enrollment

Fall after graduation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>60%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class of</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All data is Muscatine Community School District students

Indicators

High School Graduation Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>80.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>84.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participation in College Decision Day by Graduating Seniors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAFSA Completion as of July

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Post-secondary Intentions of Graduating Seniors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As reported by Iowa Dept of Ed, 2019
Impact Spotlight

Franklin Amaya decided to attend the University of Iowa to pursue a degree in Nursing because he wants to "Be able to pursue a career that will allow me to interact and help people who need help." Franklin, who is a first generation college student, met with his college and career counselor at Muscatine High School at the beginning of fall 2018 to talk about applying for college and completing his FAFSA application. By the end of the first semester, Franklin had completed both his FAFSA and college application. At the spring College Decision Day event, he was joined by his family and friends to recognize his hard work and celebrate his postsecondary plans. During the ceremony, Franklin was presented with a certificate of commitment to continue with education beyond high school sign by the University of Iowa representative.

Post-Secondary Strategy Network Members:

Muscatine Community College  
Muscatine Community School District  
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach – Muscatine County  
  Juntos Program (Together for a Better Education)  
Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency  
West Liberty Community School District
Adult Education & Training Strategy Network

The adult education and training strategy network works collaboratively to create opportunities for adults to be able to get the education and/or training they need to obtain financially stable employment. The network worked on redefining their priority areas. They are currently focusing on:

- Creating a universal referral system to MCC.
- Planning It’s Possible @ MCC events.
- Strengthening relationships between MCC, businesses, and service agencies to know about employment and education/training needs.

The group held the first It’s Possible @ MCC event in November 2018. The event was tailored to people who are working with a case manager. Attendees were able to learn about education and training programs, ask questions in a small group, apply for financial aid, and enroll in classes. Seven people registered for the event and five attended. All five took steps to enroll in classes.

The network created a universal referral form that anyone can access to refer someone to the community college for additional education and/or training. The form launched in June and can be found at https://eicc.edu/referral. Once the form is completed, an email will be generated to multiple people at MCC. An MCC employee will attempt to get the person on campus and assist with filling out an application, financial aid, addressing barriers, etc. At the bottom of the form, there is a section for business or agency Information. This gives caseworkers and/or HR staff the opportunity to add their contact information so that they can be active partners with MCC in the person's success.
Impact Spotlight

A client of MCSA’s Homeless Prevention Program attended the It's Possible @ MCC event. The small group environment allowed him to feel comfortable enough to ask questions and talk about the barriers he was facing to pursuing education and training. "He has previous student loans that were in default so he thought going back to school wasn't an option for him", explained Jojo Green from MCSA. "He learned that there are other funding sources out there to pay for education and training and that there is a process to address his loans. He walked away having more hope for his future."

Adult Education Strategy Network:

Muscatine Community College
Iowa Works
Muscatine County Community Services
Goodwill of the Heartland
City of Muscatine
Muscatine Center for Social Action
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach – Muscatine County
Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine
The Salvation Army
Temp Associates
New Horizons
Community Projects

Future Ready Iowa Summit

Members of AIM’s Leadership Council and the United Way of Muscatine Board partnered to plan the Future Ready Iowa Muscatine Summit in September of 2018. Muscatine was the first community to hold a regional summit after the state summit in April of 2018. The summit brought together over 130 key stakeholders in education, business, economic development, and community, to discuss local strategies that ensure all Iowans are future ready.

Asset Map Update

During August-October of 2018, 98 programs of 46 organizations completed the Aligned Impact Muscatine County and United Way of Muscatine asset map survey. This survey was done as a follow up to the first asset map survey done by the University of Iowa Social Work Department in 2016. New survey questions were added in 2018 to gain a better picture of the types of services being offered in the community and barriers that programs’ clients are facing. It is also important to note that the original survey in 2016 was done via phone interviews. The 2018 survey was only done via an online survey. Results from this survey will be used for United Way of Muscatine’s strategic plan and by AIM’s Leadership Council and Strategy Networks. The full report can be found at http://alignedimpactmuscatine.org/asset-map/
Social Innovation Learning Labs

AIM, United Way of Muscatine, Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, and ISU Ext and Outreach Muscatine County are partnering to offer a series of quarterly Social Innovation Learning Labs for nonprofits. AIM spearheaded planning the first training in February. The session was presented by David Ford of Mississippi Bend AEA on Putting Youth on the Path to College. The session focuses on what works to help students enroll in post-secondary education and how organizations can incorporate those activities into their youth-serving programs.

The session took place at the Video Studio at Muscatine Community College and 20 people attended. A recording of the session can be viewed at https://youtu.be/UkHm-kmmYW8. For more information about the Social Innovation Learning Labs series visit http://alignedimpactmuscatine.org/social-innovation-learning-labs/
2018/2019 AIM Leadership Council

Kathie Anderson-Noel, Muscatine County
Gary Carlson, HNI
Pam Collins, Musser Public Library
Jaimie Cruse, Trinity Muscatine New Horizons
Dr. Naomi DeWinter, Muscatine Community College
Pete Duytschaever, Juvenile Courts
Rich Dwyer, Kent Corporation
Greg Jenkins, GMCCI
Bret Olson, Muscatine Community YMCA
Shane Orr, United Way of Muscatine
Dr. Joe Potts, West Liberty Community School District
Krista Regennitter, ISU Extension and Outreach
Dr. Jerry Riibe, Muscatine Community School District
Christy Roby Williams, Trinity Muscatine Public Health
Charla Schafer, Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine

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Looking Forward

United Way of Muscatine's Board has undergone a strategic planning process. One of United Way's focus areas in the future will be education. They will be adopting AIM's education goals and metrics.

AIM is developing a partnership with StriveTogether to make a bigger impact in our community. StriveTogether supports a national, nonprofit network of nearly 70 community partnerships. They work to ensure that every child succeeds from cradle to career, regardless of race, income or zip code. StriveTogether helps communities identify and scale what works. They provide coaching, connections and resources to help partnerships share data, align resources and shape policy.