



July 24, 2017

Office Of The President

As President of Washtenaw Community College, I'd like to express my strong and ongoing support for the Michigan Career Pathway Alliance.

I had the privilege of attending the recent news conference – held at the corporate headquarters of automotive supplier Brose North America in Auburn Hills – where Gov. Snyder unveiled the efforts of the Alliance, a comprehensive series of actions and recommendations to expand and strengthen career technical education across the state.

There is tremendous value in the way the Alliance is structured, which fosters collaboration between business and industry leaders and educators across the spectrum, starting at the K-12 level and moving into community college and university settings or into the workforce with a highly skilled professional occupation gained through a certificate, associate degree or an apprenticeship program.

This type of collaboration is crucial to support the emerging workforce demands that require new skills, most specifically in the skilled trades which now entail proficiency with highly technical machinery and equipment and aptitude in the academic disciplines of science, technology, engineering and math.

By its very nature, a pathway serves to guide and uncover opportunities. It is incumbent for educators to provide the specialized training and instruction needed for Michigan students to navigate their chosen pathway – with the goal of a successful transition into the workforce.

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Simply put, Michigan's most important resource is talented and skilled workers.

By supporting programs like the Michigan Career Pathway Alliance – whose mission is to educate, empower and employ – we will assure the talent pipeline is filled and growing, bolstering the state's economy and positioning Michigan as a global leader in workforce development.

Dr. Rose B. Bellanca

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