



MHICC Newsletter - September 2025

Mental Health Improvement through Community Colleges

Happy fall semester!

As a valued partner of the Mental Health Improvement through Community Colleges (MHICC) initiative, we want to thank you for your continued partnership with each year that our initiative evolves and expands. This edition of the MHICC newsletter highlights **the launch of our technical assistance platform, MiTRENDS**, as well as several other emerging projects and opportunities to connect and collaborate with our team.

We're extremely grateful for your collaboration and are excited to be working with you to advance community college student mental health across Michigan!

Drs. Shawna Smith and Sara Abelson
MHICC Principal Investigators & Co-Directors

Introducing the MiTRENDS Mental Health Hub!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new online platform, the [MiTRENDS Mental Health Hub](#). This platform was made possible thanks to the invaluable input and support of our [MHICC Advisory Board](#) and community college partners across Michigan, as well as our funders, including the [Michigan Health Endowment Fund](#).



The **MiTRENDS Mental Health Hub** uses data from the Michigan Mental Health Landscape Survey to explore and visualize trends in how Michigan community colleges are supporting student mental health and also offers tailor-built, expert-informed resources to assist colleges in expanding students' access to mental health support.

The site will continue to evolve with new content informed by our partnerships with Michigan community colleges, but we are excited to launch several new resources, including MHICC's [2024 Statewide Michigan Mental Health Landscape Report](#) and **four new toolkits**:

- [Developing Memoranda of Understanding: A "How-To" Guide for Creating Formal Partnerships with Local Mental Health Providers](#)

- [Digital Approaches to Supporting Student Mental Health: Key Considerations for Michigan Community Colleges](#)
- [Expanding Mental Health Services Through Graduate Student Field Interns: Best Practices & Key Considerations for Colleges](#)
- [Mental Health Screening: Strategies and Best Practices for Community Colleges](#)

Be sure to check back and keep in touch in order to stay up to date as we continue publishing new resources. If you have topics you'd like to see us create resources on, or any other feedback on MiTRENDS, [we'd love for you to hear from you!](#)

Coming Soon: The 2025 Michigan Mental Health Landscape Survey

MHICC's 2025 Landscape Survey will be launched in early October. This data is pivotal for updating our annual [statewide](#) and [individual college landscape reports](#), ensuring [MiNav](#) is up to date, and informs the resources we create for the MiTRENDS platform. In 2024, 23 of Michigan's 31 community colleges participated--and we're aiming even higher this year! Keep an eye out for your college's opportunity to complete the survey, or [contact us](#) if you have questions.

Exciting MHICC funding update

We're so excited to share that the MHICC initiative was recently awarded a behavioral health grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to continue enhancing and scaling our capacity building initiatives over the next two years.

We're grateful to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund for seeing the impact that investing in the mental health of Michigan's community colleges can have on our local communities and our state as a whole. This funding will be pivotal in expanding the partnerships and support we provide to Michigan community colleges as we strive to improve the availability, accessibility, and equitable distribution of mental health resources for Michigan's community college students.

We have several new and exciting initiatives planned with this funding, including:

- Further expansion of the MiTRENDS platform
- A second cohort of our capacity-building programming
- Launch of a statewide, peer support-driven learning collaborative to bring together expertise from leading CC mental health decision makers across the state.

We look forward to sharing more information about these initiatives soon.

[Learn more about the other stellar MHEF grant recipients working to improve the behavioral health of our state here.](#)

Find us on the road: upcoming presentations

The MHICC team has two exciting presentations coming up, and we'd love the chance to connect with community college colleagues while we're there. If you'll be attending, please come say hello!

- Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) [Student Success Summit](#) on

September 19th in Lansing

- JED Mental Health Convening for the **Detroit Drives Degrees Community College Collaborative (D3C3)** on October 19th in Detroit

Connect with MHICC on social media!

Interested in staying up to date on our projects and progress, including new MiTRENDS resources? Give us a follow on [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to keep up-to-date on new resources as well as collaboration opportunities with the MHICC team.



The **Mental Health Improvement through Community Colleges (MHICC)** initiative is a collaborative project of researchers at the Hope Center for Student Basic Needs and the University of Michigan School of Public Health.



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