

Partner Profile



The Mission

The Michigan Center for Adult College Success partnered with Mott Community College to implement and evaluate the Mott Adult Student Success System (MASSS). This human-centered design work had the goal of improving adult student persistence and progress toward graduation.



Achievements

From fall 2024 to winter 2025, MASSS saw a 75% semester-to-semester persistence. This reflects an 11-percentage-point increase over comparable non-participants.



Insights

Through direct engagement with adult learners, the project identified key barriers and translated them into a structured intervention model. Three integrated strategies emerged: providing dedicated adult-centered infrastructure, assigning adult advocates to provide individualized support, and the deployment of an enhanced early alert system to provide real-time flags and rapid interventions to prevent stop-outs.

Testimonial

Saylondia Givens is a current student at Mott Community College and active participant in the Adult Student Success Center on campus — a dedicated learning space for adult students ages 25 and older. Back in the 90s, Saylondia first began her postsecondary journey at Mott.



“I went to Mott years ago after I graduated from Flint Northwestern in 1990,” Saylondia shared. “But I had a lot going on. I was hired at Foot Locker, so I decided not to finish.”

During her 30-year career with Foot Locker, Saylondia raised two sons and dedicated much of her time to volunteering with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Last summer, Foot Locker announced a strategic shift that resulted in the closure of her store. Following this transition, Saylondia made the courageous decision to return to Mott and continue her education.

She is now in her third year of study, pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree in Business Management. Saylondia has transformed from a stopped-out student into a valued member of the college, maintaining a 3.14 GPA and a determination to complete her degree.

The Adult Student Success Center has played a vital role in supporting her return to student life by helping her navigate resources and advocating for her to obtain a student worker position within the Admissions Department. Today, Saylondia is not only progressing toward degree completion, but she has also become a valuable asset to the Admissions team, where she supports new and returning students as they begin their academic journeys at Mott.



The Adult Student Success Center has been a valuable source of support for adult students at Mott Community College. Many students begin their college journey with uncertainty and low expectations of success due to fear of the unknown. However, our staff understands the unique challenges adult learners face and provides guidance through empathy, understanding, and a human-centered approach that empowers students to build confidence and achieve their goals.

*Dr. Tya Frelix
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