

**MILLION RECORDS**  
  
**PROJECT**  
*Research from Student Veterans of America*

**Million Records Project**  
**A Review of Veteran Achievement in Higher Education**  
**Executive Summary**

Accurate data on the postsecondary academic outcomes of today's generation of student veterans have been difficult to find. Inconsistent methods of collecting such information has led to confusion about the completion rates of student veterans in higher education, and without strong, empirical data, the uncertainty will persist.

The Million Records Project was envisioned, planned, and implemented by Student Veterans of America to address these gaps in knowledge and, with additional research, ultimately determine best practices and policies that promote student veteran success. The result of a public-private partnership among Student Veterans of America, the National Student Clearinghouse, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Million Records Project explores the postsecondary academic outcomes of nearly 1 million student veterans who initially used Montgomery and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits between 2002 and 2010. The outcomes explored in the first phase of the project include student veteran postsecondary completion rates, time-to-completion, level of education, and degree fields.

The Million Records Project's initial results showed strong postsecondary outcomes for the current generation of student veterans. A majority (51.7 percent) of student veterans in this sample earned a postsecondary degree or certificate, despite the challenges they face. Like other nontraditional student populations, they tend to be older, have families to support, and juggle employment and school. Unlike their nontraditional peers, however, student veterans are unique in that they may delay their enrollment or interrupt their progress in higher education due to military obligations, and may have service-connected disabilities.

As Reservists and National Guard units perform a greater function in today's military, the perception that most veterans join the military after high school, serve their country, separate from service, and then enter higher education is changing. Consequently, veterans follow very different paths to graduation compared with their traditional peers. Despite these and other challenges common to nontraditional students, student veterans are persisting towards their educational goals and succeeding. At both the two- and four-year degree level, the majority of veterans who graduate do so within four and five years respectively—a rate similar to the traditional student population.

The vast majority of student veterans are enrolling in public institutions (79.2 percent), with a smaller percentage enrolling fairly evenly in private nonprofit (10.7 percent) and proprietary schools (10.1 percent). Following a similar distribution, the large majority of student veterans who graduate do so from public schools (71.7 percent), with the remaining population graduating in much smaller but fairly even percentages from private nonprofit (15.5 percent) and proprietary (12.9 percent) schools. Based on the sector of initial enrollment, the private nonprofit sector had the highest student veteran graduation rate (63.8 percent), though a significant number of those students (21.6 percent) actually completed their degree at a public or proprietary institution.

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Of those who completed, approximately 9 out of 10 (89.7 percent) initially earned degrees at the associate level or higher. In addition, many student veterans achieve higher levels of education: 31.3 percent of the sample who initially earned a vocational certificate, 35.8 percent of the sample who initially earned an associate, and 20.8 percent of the sample who initially earned a bachelor's degree went on to also earn a degree at a higher level. Results also indicate that a high percentage of student veterans are pursuing degrees in business, public service, health, science, and engineering.

The Million Records Project represents one of the most comprehensive examinations of student veterans' postsecondary academic success in decades. The initial results of the project are critical first steps in filling research gaps regarding student veteran outcomes, but more is still needed. This and future studies have the potential to aid policymakers, institutions of higher education, and other stakeholders as they decide how best to allocate resources to better serve our nation's veterans. In addition, Veterans Service Organizations, such as Student Veterans of America, The American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, can use this new, up-to-date information to advocate more effectively on behalf of their constituents. It is Student Veterans of America's hope that the results of this project will demonstrate that America's investment in its nation's veterans is paying off—confirming that today's veterans are earning college degrees, entering the workforce armed with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed, and continuing to contribute to society in meaningful ways.

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*Student Veterans of America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides military veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education and following graduation.*

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# Michigan

## Compensation

Estimated Veteran Population	680,417
Disability Compensation Recipients	82,867
Estimated Monthly Disability Compensation Costs	\$89,679,502
Estimated Annual Disability Compensation Costs	\$1,076,154,029
Disability Compensation by Age 44 and under	7,820
Disability Compensation by Age 45-54	18,893
Disability Compensation by Age 55-74	43,658
Disability Compensation by Age 75-84	6,520
Disability Compensation by Age 85 and over	5,918

## Pension & Fiduciary

Veterans Pension Recipients	10,145
Estimated Monthly Veterans Pension Costs	\$10,299,960
Estimated Annual Veterans Pension Costs	\$123,599,526
Veterans Pension by Age under 45	237
Veterans Pension by Age 45-54	176
Veterans Pension by Age 55-69	5,174
Veterans Pension by Age 70-84	1,936
Veterans Pension by Age 85 and over	2,618

## Education

MGIB-AD Trainees	1,468
MGIB-SR Trainees	1,192
DEA Trainees	1,682
VEAP Trainees	3
REAP Trainees	210
Post 9/11 Trainees	10,623
VRAP	438

10,000 - 15,000 VETERANS  
COMING HOME PER  
YEAR. YET, ONLY  
10,623 USING THE  
POST 9/11 GI BILL IN 2012

## Insurance

Life Insurance Payments	2009 - 10,000 - 15,000 VETS	\$45,300,234
Total Face Value of Insurance	2010 - 10,000 - 15,000 VETS	\$339,826,452
Total Number of Policies	2011 - 10,000 - 15,000 VETS	29,280

## Loan Guaranty

Number of Loans	+ 2012 - 10,000 - 15,000 VETS	6,627
Total Loan Amount	40,000 - 60,000 VETS	\$1,008,396,364

ELIGIBLE FOR POST 9/11

## Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

Number of Applicants	1,878	
Number of Plans Developed	10,623 USING BENEFIT	962
Number of Entitlement Decisions	1,143	
Number of Program Participants	40,000 ELIGIBLE	3,906
Number of Veterans Rehabilitated Through Independent Living	133	
Number of Veterans Rehabilitated By Obtaining Suitable Employment	= 27%	179



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



U.S. Department  
of Labor

## Veterans Retraining Assistance Program Fact Sheet

Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. Included in this new law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL) are working together to roll out this new program on July 1, 2012.

### ELIGIBILITY

To qualify, a Veteran must:

- Be at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Be unemployed
- Have an other than dishonorable discharge
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance)
- Not be in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability
- Not be enrolled in a Federal or state job training program

### PARTICIPANTS LIMITS AND PAYMENTS

The program is limited to 45,000 participants from July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, and to 54,000 participants from October 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014. Participants may receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the monthly full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program (currently \$1,564 per month). DOL will provide employment assistance to every Veteran who participates upon completion of the program. We are accepting VRAP applications now. Please visit [eBenefits](#) to apply.

### ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS

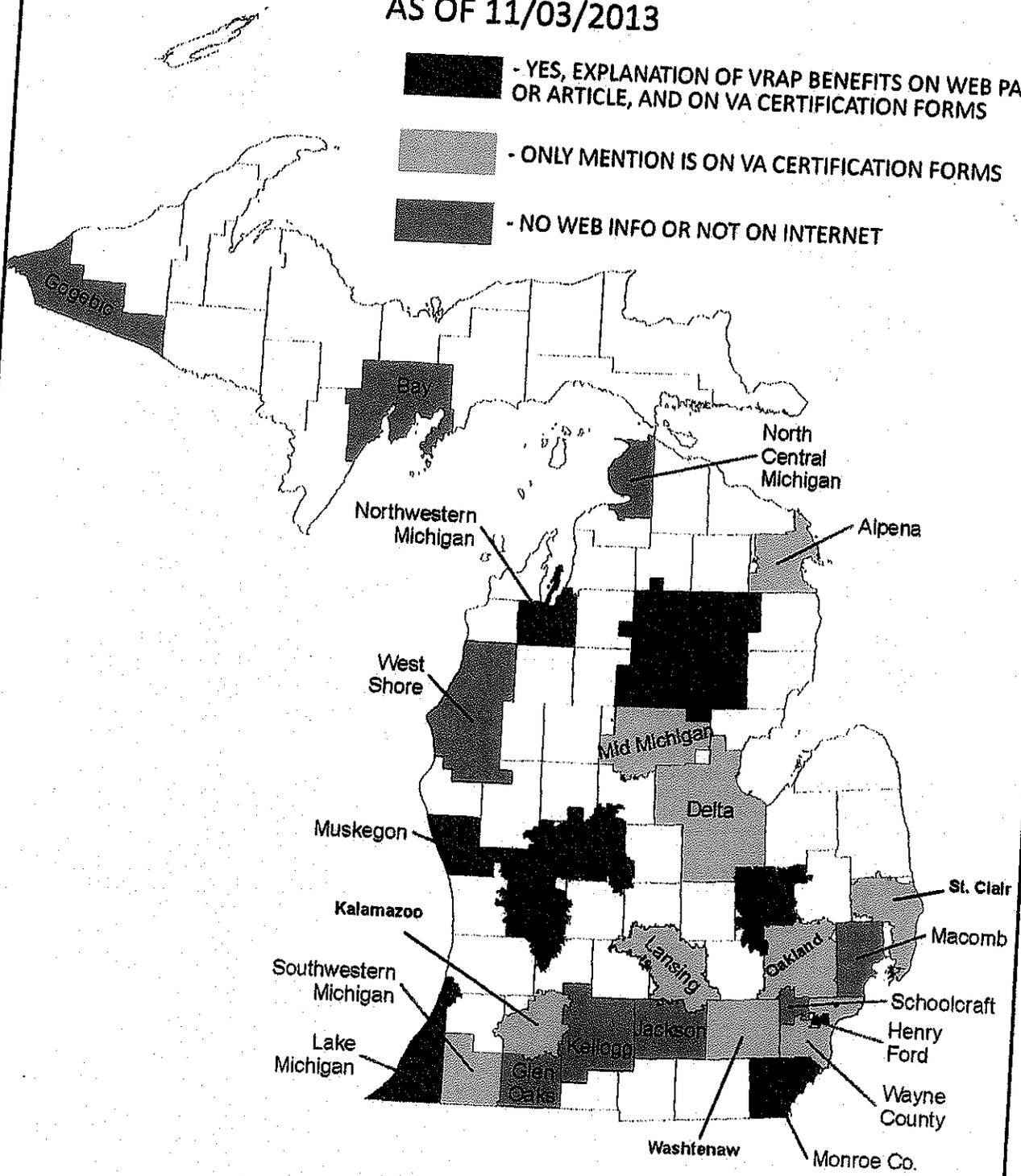
Participants must be enrolled in a program of education approved for VA benefits that is offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate, and train the Veteran for a high demand occupation. [Search for an approved program here.](#)

### HOW TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION

Click [here](#) to read frequently asked questions about VRAP. Call us at 1-800-827-1000 to learn more information about the VOW to Hire Heroes act of 2011, or visit us at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/vow>.

# HJR M VRAP MENTION ON MICHIGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS WEBSITES AS OF 11/03/2013

- YES, EXPLANATION OF VRAP BENEFITS ON WEB PAGE, OR ARTICLE, AND ON VA CERTIFICATION FORMS
- ONLY MENTION IS ON VA CERTIFICATION FORMS
- NO WEB INFO OR NOT ON INTERNET



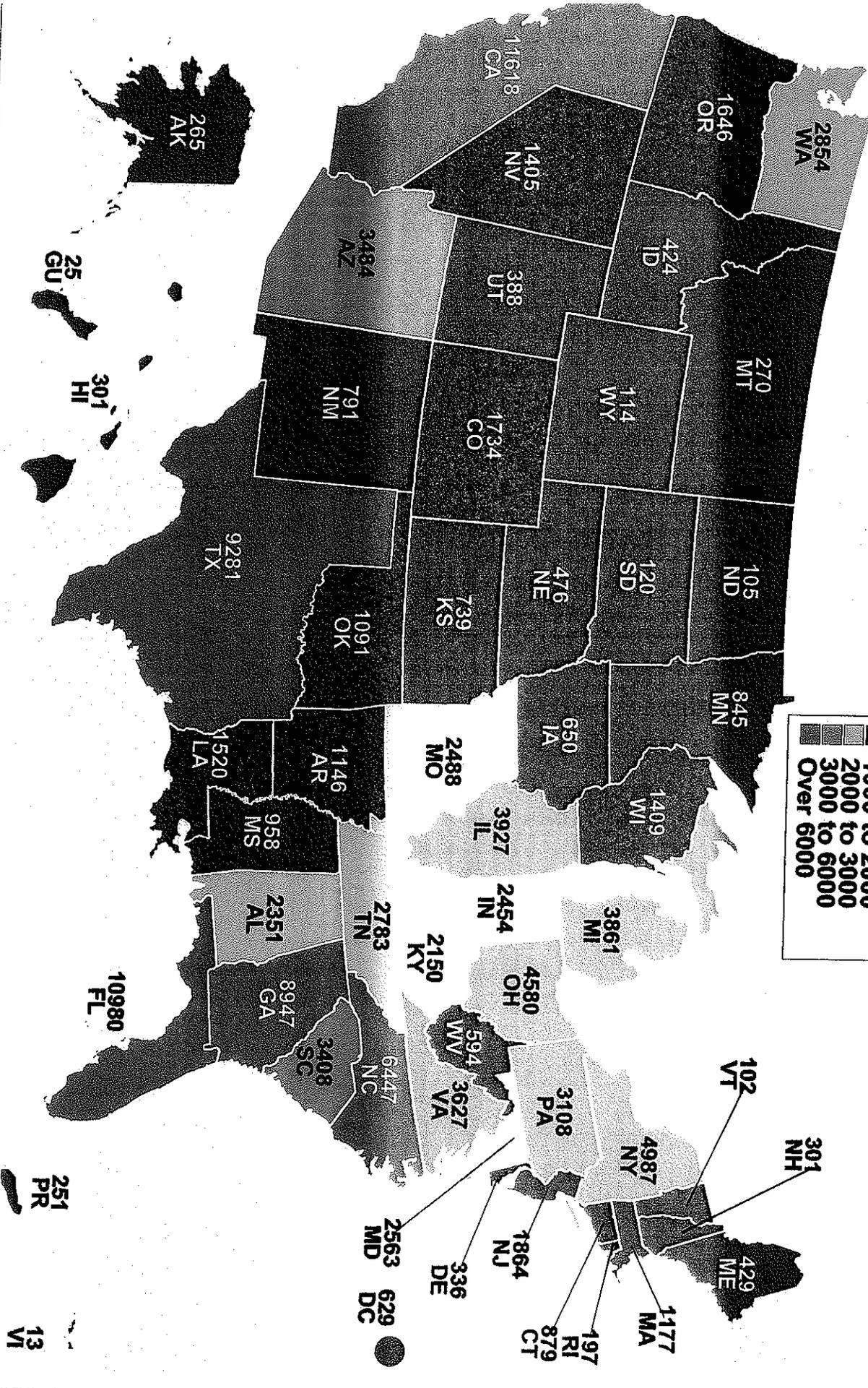
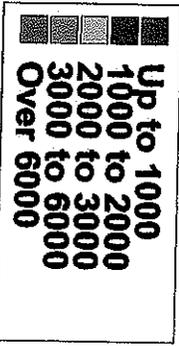
# VRAP Applications Approved

August 29, 2013

Total Applications: 136,797

Applications Approved: 119,199

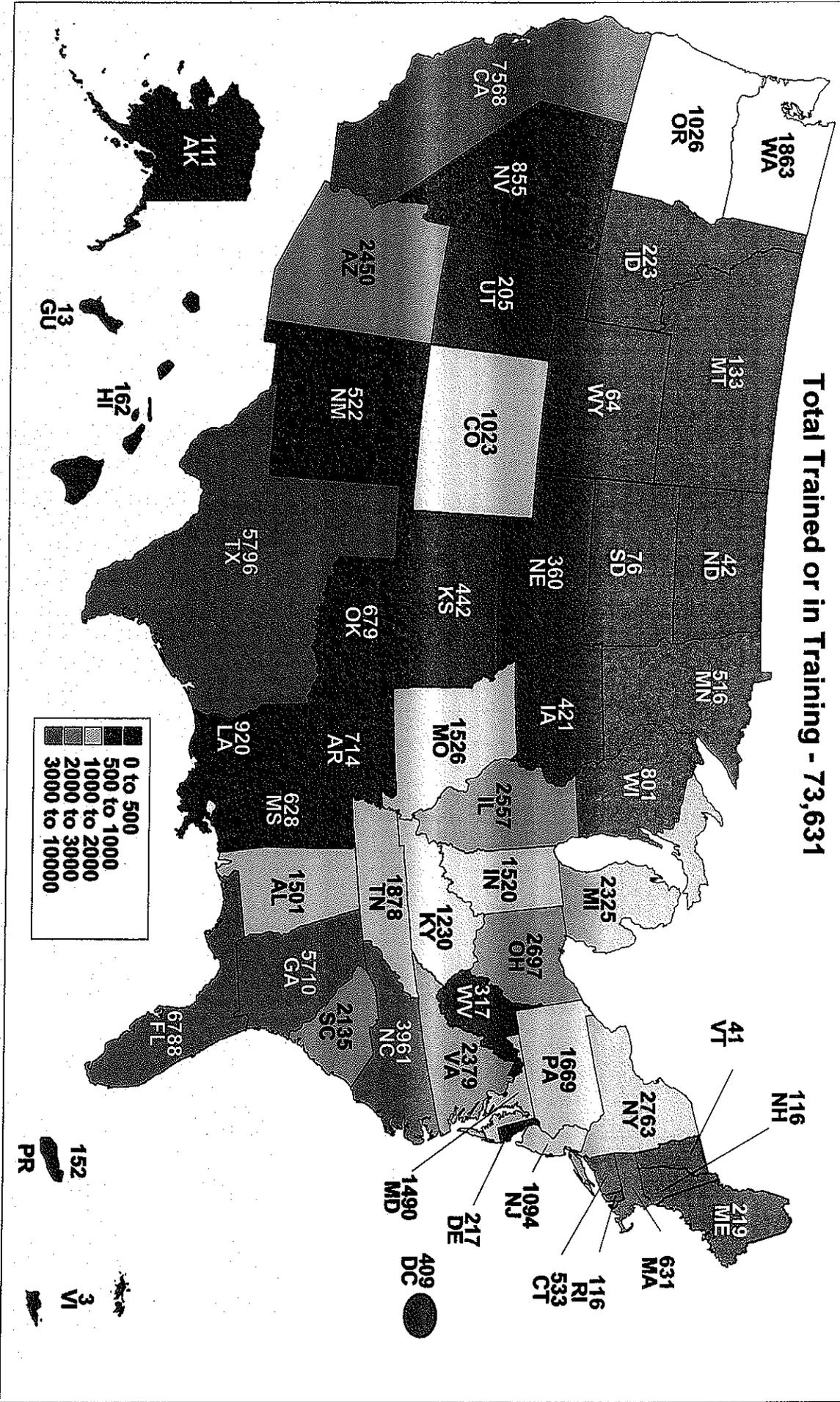
Other (Outside USA): 107



# VRAP Participants Trained or in Training

12/12/13

Total Trained or in Training - 73,631



# 2013



## WHO ARE MICHIGAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES?

Michigan has 28 public community colleges, ranging in geographic and cultural diversity from Gogebic County to the City of Detroit. We enroll almost half a million students statewide, roughly half of all the undergraduates in Michigan pursuing higher education. 60 percent of students attend classes part time. The average age of a community college student in Michigan is 26.

## WHAT DO MICHIGAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES DO?

Community colleges work to make affordable higher education opportunities accessible to all the people of Michigan. Because community colleges are governed by locally elected public board of trustees, colleges have a special mission to meet local and regional needs that may be unique. At this time when higher education opportunities are changing so dramatically, community colleges in Michigan have focused their collective efforts on three areas:

### • Talent Development

Economic forecasts project that by 2018, 62% of all jobs in Michigan will require education beyond high school, but currently, only 39% of Michigan's workforce has any post-secondary education. That's a gap of almost a million jobs. Michigan's community colleges have established creative, affordable ways to increase college attainment, including the Michigan New Jobs Training Program and the ability for colleges to offer four-year degrees in targeted technical fields. Michigan's colleges will continue our efforts to develop a highly talented workforce that is the envy of other states.

### • Breaking Down Barriers

There is no single path that Michigan's students take to meet their educational goals, nor is there a time when today's citizens can afford to stop learning. Michigan's community colleges have responded to these realities by working to eliminate barriers within the state's P-20 pipeline. Colleges advocated for expanded dual enrollment and early college opportunities for high schoolers. Although many community college students already transfer successfully to a university, we are working with our university partners to improve the transfer of credits between higher education institutions. Michigan's colleges also created an online partnership that allows students seamless access to coursework throughout the state at their own in-district tuition rates. We will continue to seek ways to ease transitions and eliminate barriers in students' pathway to education.

### • Student Success

Although any college improves a student's job prospects, the greatest benefit is realized when a student completes his or her program, certificate, or degree. Michigan's community colleges created the Michigan Center for Student Success to improve rates of college attendance, to more efficiently move students into credit bearing courses, and ultimately to increase the number of community college students who leave and successfully transition into a good job or a university program. Colleges will continue to seek ways to transform existing institutions in order to ensure the highest return on the investment that students and the state make in a community college education.

Community colleges...

the best value in higher education

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# 2014

## APPROPRIATIONS

Michigan's community colleges are committed to providing students with an affordable, high-quality education. Colleges recognize that in order to meet employer demand for a skilled, modern workforce, the state must ensure cost does not become a barrier to college access. Facing a large budget surplus, Michigan should build on the modest appropriations increases of recent years by continuing to invest in community colleges, and by supporting capital outlay projects that will allow community colleges to provide quality educational facilities and infrastructure to their students.

## TRANSFERRING COLLEGE CREDITS

By the year 2020, economists project that 65% of jobs will require some college credit. Unfortunately, only 37% of working-age adults in Michigan have at least an associate's degree. Bridging this skills gap will require the most efficient use of our higher education system, including dual enrollment, early colleges, and community colleges. Michigan's community colleges and universities have been working together to ensure that students get full credit for all these educational experiences when they transfer between institutions. The state should take the next step by creating incentives for students to use low cost postsecondary options, and to build a portfolio of degrees and credentials on their way to the full baccalaureate degree.

## VETERANS SERVICES

Michigan's community colleges recognize the sacrifices our military members have made in serving our country, and the critical role colleges play in helping many veterans transition home successfully. We are proud to have joined with the state's universities to create the Consortium of Michigan Veterans Educators and will continue to work with the State of Michigan and other partners to improve services for our active military and veteran populations.

## RETIREMENT

Escalating retirement costs have deeply affected community colleges' operating budgets. Michigan's community colleges strongly supported recent legislation reforming the Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System (MPSERS) to ensure its sustainability. Next year, accounting changes will require colleges to show a portion of the MPSERS unfunded accrued liability on their own books, causing concern for borrowing, accreditation, and other purposes. Colleges strongly support efforts by the state to direct surplus one-time revenues toward paying down MPSERS unfunded accrued liability.

## DUAL ENROLLMENT

In 2012, Michigan enacted legislation dramatically expanding dual enrollment options for high schoolers to allow even younger students and opportunities for more college credit. Colleges across the state are creating innovative and varied dual enrollment models, including traditional courses, courses offered at high schools, virtual courses, and early and middle colleges. Michigan should support these growing options by maintaining the authority colleges have to determine what programs best meet college and community needs.



2014

LEGISLATIVE  
PRIORITIES

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