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The Promise Landscape in Michigan

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The Promise Landscape in Michigan

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About the Upjohn Institute

- Not-for-profit, nonpartisan research institute based in Kalamazoo
- Founded in 1945
- Mission: To study policy-related issues of employment and unemployment; to experiment with innovative ways to help the unemployed
- Manage federally and state-funded workforce programs in 4-county region



“Investing in Community” Research Initiative

- Leverages research on state and local place-based policies
- Provides [practical advice to communities](#) and states about how to promote inclusive growth by helping residents get and keep good jobs.
- Draws on research and practice
- “Bottom-up” solutions tailored to local needs

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**Investing in Community: A Playbook for
Connecting Economic and Skills Development**

Timothy J. Bartik
Brad Hershbein
Michelle Miller-Adams
Lee Adams
Amy Meyers
Bridget Timmeney



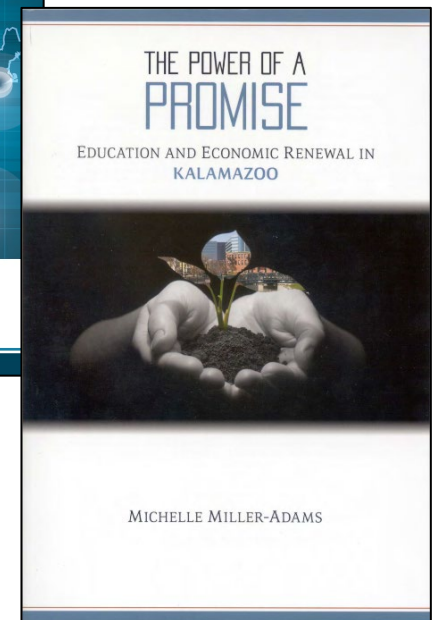
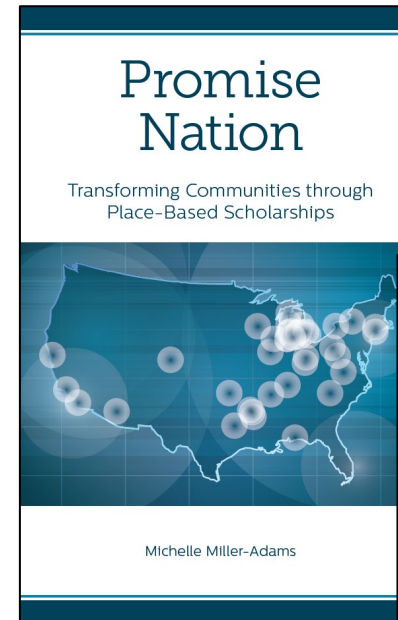
Promise-related work at Upjohn

- Evaluation and data collection re: Kalamazoo Promise
- Tracking of national Promise movement
- Cost estimates and design consultation for local communities and states
- Grant-funded comparative research into impact and outcomes of Promise programs
- Co-convene annual PromiseNet conference



My own work

- Author of book on the Kalamazoo Promise (2009)
- Author of e-book on the Promise movement (2015)
- Completing *Making Sense of Free College* for Harvard Education Press (2021)
- Co-creator of [Promise Programs Database](#)
- Co-director of “Investing in Community” initiative
- Co-director of Strada Education Network-funded study of workforce outcomes of Promise programs



The Kalamazoo Promise

- Founded in 2005, to continue in perpetuity
- Place-based: Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS)
- Universal: every student who graduates and meets enrollment/residency requirements
- Generous: first-dollar scholarship covering 65% to 100% of tuition and fees, depending on length of KPS enrollment, for up to 130 college credits
- Flexible: may use for up to 10 years at any of 59 in-state post-secondary institutions
- Funded by anonymous donors



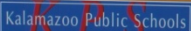
The Kalamazoo Promise – Impact

- KPS enrollment has increased by 25%
 - Driven by decline in exit rates
- Slower out-migration from region for families with children
- Improved test scores across grades and subjects
- Rising high-school graduation rate (64% to 75%) & numbers (454 to 715)
- Increase in post-secondary enrollment
 - 10–13 percentage points (25% to 30%) increase in 4-year enrollment
- Increase in degree/credential completion
 - 10–12 percentage points (20% to 30%) increase in 6-year completion




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Michigan's Promise Zones

- Gov. Granholm initiative, legislative approval in 2009
- Public-private partnership
 - Local \$\$ + Pell grants + dedicated portion of State Education Tax increase
- Eligible communities must meet or exceed state's average poverty level for families with children under age 18
- Currently capped at 15
 - Baldwin, Battle Creek, Benton Harbor, Covert, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Hazel Park, Lansing, Mason County, Muskegon, Newaygo County, Pontiac, River Rouge, Saginaw

[For more information](#)

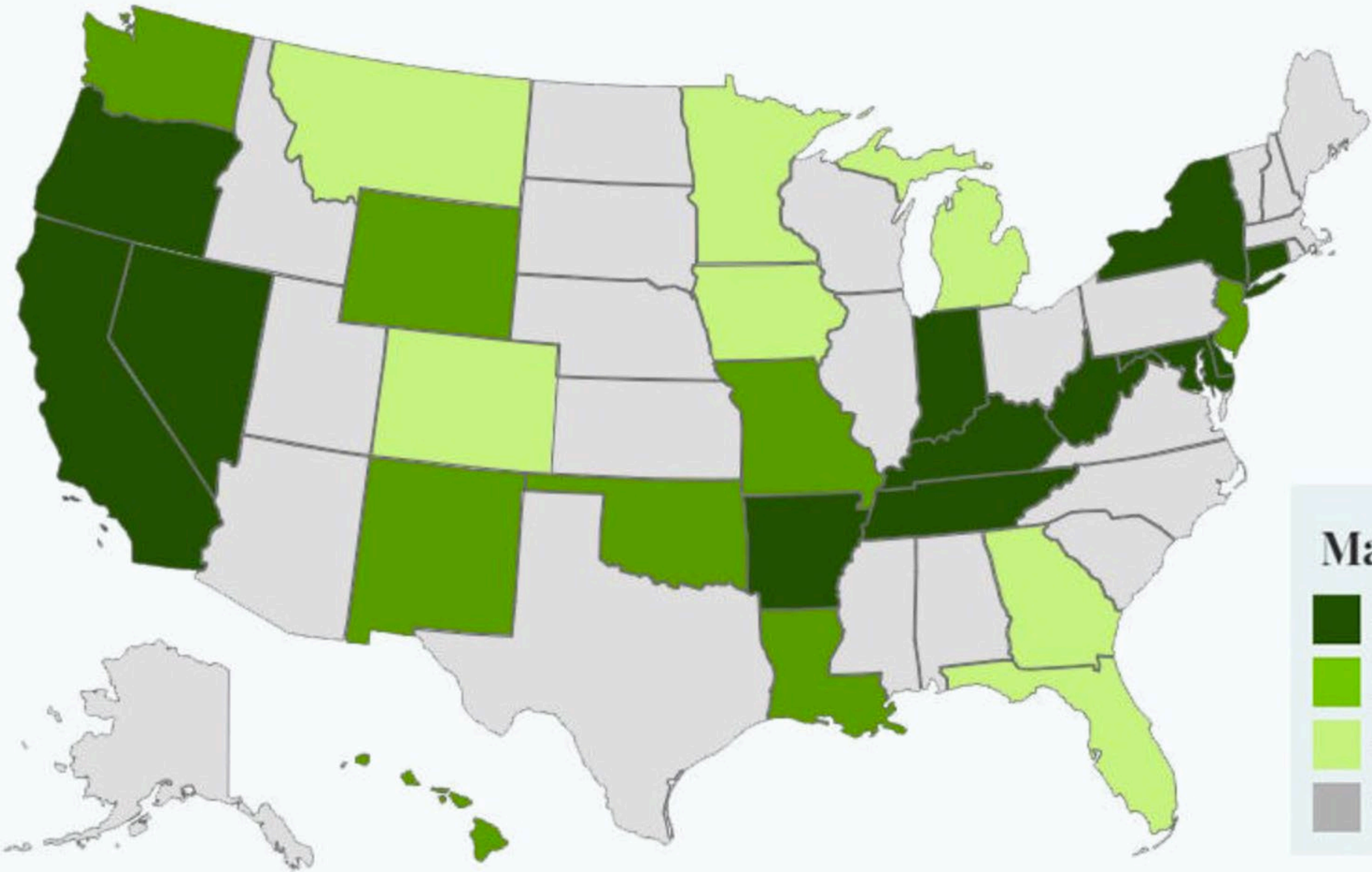
Michigan College Access Network (MCAN)

- Granholm Administration initiative, now an independent entity
- Goal: 60% attainment by 2030 (post-secondary certificate or degree)
 - Current attainment rate is 45%, up from 36% in 2010
- Supports creation, expansion, and sustainability of community-based Local College Access Networks
- Leverages new resources for college access
 - Funding – federal, philanthropic
 - Technical assistance
 - Public messaging resources

[For more information](#)

Statewide tuition-free college

- 24 states have announced some form of tuition-free college
- Distinct from merit-based programs of the past
 - Student eligibility not primarily based on merit considerations.
- Some programs relate to statewide attainment goals
- Extreme diversity of program structure and impact



Map from [Campaign for Free College Tuition](https://www.campaignforcollege.com/)

Tennessee Promise & Reconnect

- Proposed by Governor Bill Haslam (R)
- Tennessee Promise (2014) available to all HS graduates
- Tennessee Reconnect (2017) available to all adults without degrees
- Two-year degree/credential programs covered
- Last-dollar funding structure
- Mentorship, navigation support
- *Outcomes*
 - Leads the nation in FAFSA filing
 - Post-secondary enrollment rose 12.4% in three years (2014-17)
 - Strong completion and transfer effects



Tuition-free college in Michigan

- 2019 proposal by Governor Whitmer; connected to statewide attainment goal
- Three components:
 - MI Opportunity Scholarship, Path 1– for high-school graduates, two-year community colleges, universal, last dollar
 - MI Opportunity Scholarship, Path 2 - \$2,500 scholarship for two years at 4-year public colleges and universities
 - Michigan Reconnect – for adults without college degrees, two-year institutions, universal, last dollar

Michigan Reconnect grant

- Legislation introduced and approved in 2019; funding caught up in budget standoff in Fall 2019
- Approved, funded and signed into law in March/April 2020
- Funding redirected to coronavirus response
- Governor proposes “Futures for Frontliners” time-limited tuition-free college for essential workers
 - Can be paid for with recovery funds
- First step toward a full Michigan Reconnect program

Effective Promise Programs are...

