Statement from Michigan Association of State Universities CEO Daniel Hurley on Governor Whitmer's FY 2024 Executive Budget Recommendation for Higher Education

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Contact: Daniel Hurley / 517-243-2520

HIGHLIGHTS:

- "We commend Governor Whitmer for proposing investments aimed at reaching our shared goal of having **sixty percent of Michigan residents possess a postsecondary degree or certificate by 2030.**"
- "Continued investment in the new **Michigan Achievement Scholarship** will provide confidence to students, families, and employers that state lawmakers are committed to the full implementation and long-term sustainability of this landmark student financial aid program."
- "Given the immense state revenues currently available and the urgent need to grow the talent level of Michigan's workforce, **now is the time to make a dramatic improvement in the state's direct financial support of its public universities.**"

FULL STATEMENT:

The leaders of Michigan's 15 public universities commend Governor Whitmer for proposing investments aimed at reaching our shared goal of having sixty percent of Michigan residents possess a postsecondary degree or certificate by 2030, as outlined today in her fiscal year 2024 executive budget recommendation. New funding to expand financial aid opportunities and to provide other substantial student success programs, if enacted, will change the educational and career trajectory for thousands more young adults in the state.

Of particular importance is the inclusion in the executive budget of the statutorily required continued investment in the new Michigan Achievement Scholarship. These dollars will provide confidence to students, families, and employers that state lawmakers are committed to the full implementation and long-term sustainability of this landmark student financial aid program. The Michigan Achievement Scholarship will make a major impact on improving college affordability in Michigan and ensure a more robust workforce talent pipeline in the future.

The recommended four percent increase in operations support to public universities is a good foundation from which to build upon as the budget cycle gets underway. State appropriations to universities are down by more than $1 billion over the past twenty years and remain 19 percent below fiscal year 2011 with inflation. Given the immense state revenues currently available and the urgent need to grow the talent level of Michigan's workforce, now is the time to make a dramatic improvement in the state's direct

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
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MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

THE MICHIGAN FIFTEEN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

financial support of its public universities. Additionally, we are appreciative of the proposed funding in the budget for equipment and maintenance in campus buildings after a 20-year hiatus. However, it has now been five years since capital outlay projects have been recommended for planning, and students need modern, capable buildings in which to learn and to conduct research.

Recent data by the Lumina Foundation's [Stronger Nation report](#) underscore the importance for Michigan to make continued game-changing investments in its talent pipeline. In 2017, Michigan's educational attainment level for residents aged 25-64 stood at 45 percent, ranking the state 32nd nationally. By 2021, Michigan's educational attainment level reached 50.5 percent; while a commendable improvement, the state actually dropped five spots to rank 37th in attainment. The bottom line: While Michigan is making progress on improving college affordability and helping more residents to achieve career- and life-changing postsecondary degrees and credentials, we are being outpaced by other states. As such, state leaders need to further amplify public investment in Michigan's public universities and the more than quarter million students they serve annually. University leaders look forward to working with Governor Whitmer and lawmakers in the weeks and months ahead to inform the final development of the fiscal year 2024 state higher education budget.

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