Northwestern Michigan College

A Partnership for the Future

What Joining Northwestern Michigan College's District Means for Benzie County

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Why We're Here

- ✓ This November, Benzie County has an opportunity to join the Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) district (“annexation”)
- ✓ Joining the district means all Benzie County residents receive lower-cost college tuition (and, a tuition-free pathway to an associate degree)
- ✓ Residents also will have access to skilled training and educational opportunities

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What Got Us Here

- ✓ An Invitation
- ✓ Listening
- ✓ Polling
- ✓ Going Beyond the In-District Value Proposition

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Track Record of Success

Northwestern Michigan College has a proven track record of helping students obtain training and education for successful careers in:

- ✓ Nursing
- ✓ Law Enforcement
- ✓ Culinary
- ✓ Construction Trades
- ✓ Automotive
- ✓ Transfer Options

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A Commitment to Benzie County

- Up to 300 Benzie students have attended NMC in any given semester
- 22 NMC faculty members and staff are Benzie County residents
- NMC enjoys strong relationships with Benzie County businesses and schools

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Building on Our Commitment to Benzie County

In November, Benzie County residents will have the opportunity to join the Northwestern Michigan College district. Becoming part of the NMC district will mean:

- ✓ Allowing all local residents to pay the lower in-district tuition rate, which is less than half the out-of-district rate; and, those who are eligible for the Community College Guarantee or Michigan Reconnect would receive free tuition.
- ✓ Expanding access to specialized certificates, associate's degree programs, and bachelor's degree programs.
- ✓ Preparing students for good-paying jobs with real-world hands-on training. This includes careers in health care, the skilled trades, law enforcement, and culinary.

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On Nov. 5th, Benzie County voters will decide whether to join the NMC District

Voters will see two separate ballot questions.

- ✓ The first asks whether the annexation proposal should pass.
- ✓ The second asks whether the millage should pass.

Both must pass for the annexation to take effect.

Information is available online at: nmc.edu/benzie

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A Permanent Investment in Benzie County

If approved by voters on Nov. 5th, NMC will invest approximately **$2 MILLION every year** in:

- ✓Benzie County facilities
- ✓Benzie County staff
- ✓Benzie County programs
- ✓And, more

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Benzie County Voices for Benzie County Needs

If approved by voters on Nov. 5th, the proposals would:

- ✓ Expand the NMC Board of Trustees to include two Benzie County residents.
- ✓ Establish a Benzie County Advisory Board made up of local residents and leaders to ensure input to the spending of the $2 million investment.

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A Transparent, Fiscally Responsible Proposal

The NMC Annexation and Millage Proposition would:

- ✓ Be subject to annual independent audits
- ✓ Place all funding on a public website to promote transparency and accountability
- ✓ Create a 2.033-mill property tax in Benzie County, with homeowners paying $254 per year, or about $21 per month based on the average taxable value

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What Annexation Means

- ✓ Benzie County homeowners would pay a 2.033-mill property tax, with homeowners paying $254 per year, or about $21 per month based on the average taxable value.
- ✓ In return for the millage, Benzie County would get:
  - ✓ Now, the Governor's Community College Guarantee will afford a tuition-free pathway to an associate degree (for in-district students). Not just going from out-of-district tuition ($269/credit) to the in-district rate ($126/credit), but to tuition-free college.
  - ✓ $2 million annual investment in Benzie County.
  - ✓ Programs and facility in Benzie County.
  - ✓ Increased lifetime earnings of college graduates, and that spending in Benzie County.

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Questions and Discussion