

**BAY de NOC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
IRON MOUNTAIN ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

June 10, 2025

- Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Bob Koerschner at 1:30 p.m. CT.
- Roll Call:** Laura Johnson took the roll call.
- Members Present:** Bob Koerschner, Christie Borchardt, Jennifer Huotari, Paul Peterson, Jim Rice, Kevin Sullivan, Terri Mileski
- Members Absent:** Andrew Brisson, Bruce Orttenburger, Russ Kassin
- Administration & Staff:** Nerita Hughes, President; Jason Sullivan, Executive Director of Iron Mountain Campus; Cindy Gallagher, VP of Workforce Innovation & Strategic Partnerships; Chris Wenzel, Student Support Coordinator; Megan Elsey, Student Engagement Coordinator; Dr. Patrick Reinhard, Dean of Nursing & Allied Health; Dr. Amy Reddinger, VP of Academics & Educational Equity
- Guest:** Julie Olson, Bay College Iron Mountain Foundation Board Member
- Recorder:** Laura Johnson, Executive Administrative Assistant to the President
- Introductions:** Dr. Hughes introduced Chris Wenzel, Megan Elsey, and Dr. Patrick Reinhard.
- Chris Wenzel was promoted to the Student Enrollment Coordinator position. Chris joined Bay College in August 2023 as the Student Support Coordinator. The Student Enrollment Coordinator position was vacant due to Linda Varda's retirement from the College.
- Megan Elsey was hired as the Student Engagement Coordinator for the Iron Mountain Campus. Megan is a graduate of Bay College with an Associate of Applied Science in office systems/administrative assistant. She most recently worked at Bay College as a student employee in the Student Services/Testing Services areas and tutored CIS courses.
- Dr. Patrick Reinhard joined Bay College as the Dean of Nursing and Allied Health on May 5. Dr. Reinhard served as the Dean

of Nursing at San Joaquin Valley College in California and came to us with a wide range of experience as a bedside nurse, dean, educator, and nursing administrator. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Iowa, a Master of Science in Nursing from Stanbridge University, a Master of Science in Health Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Doctorate in Health Administration from Central Michigan University. Dr. Reinhard is a Michigander by birth and was excited to return to his home state.

Minutes: The minutes from the March 18, 2025, meeting were presented for approval.

It was motioned by Jennifer Huotari and seconded by Jim Rice to:

“Approve the Minutes from the March 18, 2025, Iron Mountain Campus Advisory Board Meeting as presented.”
No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Moment of Silence: A moment of silence was observed to honor and remember Linda Varda who passed away on June 3. Linda served as the Student Services Specialist at the Iron Mountain campus since 2007.

Administrative Reports:
President’s Report:

Dr. Hughes reported:

New Trustees:

Steve Soderman was elected to the Bay College Board of Trustees to replace Tom Butch after 50 years of service. Steve is the co-owner and CEO of VanAire, Inc. in Gladstone that designs and manufactures engineered valve automation hardware. He took office in January. Steve Davis resigned from the Board as of February 28 due to health concerns. The Board appointed Ben Parmet on March 17 to replace Steve and he resigned shortly thereafter. Dr. Katherine VanEnkevort, also a Bay College alumna, was then appointed. She is a speech pathologist and is the owner of Speak U.P. Speech Therapy, PLLC in Escanaba, MI.

Welding 2+2

Nick Dupont and the welding program have begun discussions and templating a 2+2 transfer degree to Ferris State University (FSU) in Welding Engineering Technology.

Apprentices Articulation: An Articulation Agreement signing will take place at Bay College Escanaba campus on June 25, that will allow registered apprentices to receive advanced standing for their industry skills toward an associate degree at Bay College. The agreement has received statewide attention, and the intent is to expand this to all colleges and universities across the U.P. and the entire State of Michigan. Steve Claywell, President of the Michigan Building Trades Council is attending along with Susan Corbin, Director of LEO; and Marty Fittante, CEO of Invest UP.

Enrollment: Enrollment for fall semester is up 2% overall in student headcount. Dual enrollment for high school students continues to increase due to the close partnership with the Intermediate School Districts. The College is looking at ways to level-set student support while the Board of Trustees is considering ways to support dual enrollment in their budgetary decisions.

Dr. Hughes responded to Jim Rice that the K12 schools pay for dual enrollment from their budget. The Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) is asking for a special fund in the state budget to fund dual enrollment so it would not hit the K12s bottom line.

Geographic enrollment trends are increasing with a notable increase of 20 students from Dickinson County and 9 additional in-state students.

Strategic Plan Revision: Revisions to the language that lays the foundation of the College's strategic plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees on June 18.

Potential Federal Cuts: The TRIO program that serves 160 first generation students, low-income, and students with documented disabilities at the College is a federal program at risk of federal budget cuts. Seventy-seven percent of Bay's students are eligible for TRIO but only 160 can be funded based on the grant.

The federal work study program may also receive cuts. This is in addition to the two MCAN advisor positions lost on May 31 due to the federal cuts to Americorps. They advised 377 students who had to be reassigned to other advisors. Although funding might be restored and those advisors can return, in the meantime it is difficult to meet these students' basic needs without overloading advisors.

State Budget: Sen. Sarah Anthony reported during the MCCA Presidents meeting last week, that the House is holding up passing the

state budget so there are a lot of unknowns with the state budget.

Millage Renewal:

The request for renewal millage for the Iron Mountain campus is August 5.

Bob Koerschner added that he was notified of the Articulation Agreement Signing Event on June 25, through the U.P. Construction Council and stated this is a big deal in the trades. The opportunity for apprentices to earn a degree and a journey certificate is extremely valuable. The attendance of Steve Claywell, President of the Michigan Building Trades Council from Battle Creek, MI, shows it has statewide attention.

Dr. Hughes recognized Cindy Gallagher, Vice President of Workforce Innovation & Strategic Partnerships for accomplishing the articulation agreement.

Exec. Director Report:

Jason Sullivan reported:

Staffing:

Student Services at the Iron Mountain campus is back to being fully staffed with the hiring of Megan Elsey. Chris Wenzel will work closely with the Director of Admissions Jessica Beaver and Director of Dual Enrollment/Early College Jessica LaMarch to process admissions for the Iron Mountain campus.

The new Adult Student Success Coach, Samantha Frizzell, funded by the MiLEAP Go Big Grant, will work at the Iron Mountain campus two days a week. A big part of that job is supporting students age 25+.

Dr. Molly Magestro was hired as the full-time faculty in English for the Iron Mountain campus and Dickinson County high schools for dual enrollment/early college.

Cindy Gallagher reported that filling the Iron Mountain Business Development position has been paused. The position has been vacant for almost year after Michelle Campbell resigned for a position at Billerud. Cindy met with community leaders to identify their needs of the position and revised the description to include lifelong community education. An employment offer was made but declined due to unmet housing needs. The position is on pause until some unknowns are clarified. Meanwhile, Cindy and the workforce team (Amy Gibbs and Renee Lundberg) are on rotation to work at the Iron Mountain campus on Tuesdays to stay connected with business partnerships and attend Rotary.

Events:

A soft orientation event, "Lift Off", will be offered on June 22 at the Iron Mountain campus. Students are invited to attend as a precursor to orientation on August 15, so they feel better prepared and confident at orientation. These events will also be held at the Escanaba campus on different dates.

Bay College will be represented in the Iron Mountain July Fourth parade. The theme is "Christmas in July." Any interested in participating should contact Jason Sullivan.

New Courses:

Evening business classes are returning to Iron Mountain campus for the fall semester. Intro. to Business and Business Math will be offered one evening per week with the rest of the class delivery online. Intro. to Computer Concepts will also be offered.

Bay College is increasing regional support of EMS through two new satellite sites at our Iron Mountain campus and a partnership with Luce County EMS to provide programming in Luce County. This alignment of satellite sites is in the approval stages with the State of Michigan and will be in place for fall 2025.

Unfinished Business:

Millage Renewal:

Dr. Hughes delivered the presentation about Bay College's presence in Dickinson County she, Cindy Gallagher, and Jason Sullivan, are sharing with community groups before the millage renewal ballot question on August 5.

Bob Koerschner and Julie Olson reported BayYES committee activities.

New Business:

Officer Election:

The Advisory Board By-laws require a Chair and Vice-Chair elected in odd numbered years.

Kevin Sullivan nominated Bob Koerschner for Chair. Jennifer Huotari volunteered for Vice-Chair.

It was moved by Jim Rice and seconded by Paul Peterson to:

"Appoint Bob Koerschner as Chair and Jennifer Huotari as Vice-Chair of the Bay College Iron Mountain Campus Advisory Board effective immediately and ending with the next election in 2027. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Dates for
2025-2026:**

These meeting dates were proposed for 2025-26:

September 16, 2025
January 20, 2026
March 17, 2026
June 16, 2026

It was moved by Kevin Sullivan and seconded by Christie Borchardt to:

“Approve the 2025-2026 meeting schedule as presented.”
No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business:

None

Adjournment:

It was moved by Kevin Sullivan and seconded by Paul Peterson to:

“Adjourn the meeting.” No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m. CT.



Iron Mountain Campus

Past, Present, Future





VA Hospital Clinical Nursing
Classes in 1977



American Martyrs
Catholic School in 1987



Cable Contractors
Building In 2003

Community Progress

STUDENT SUCCESS. COMMUNITY SUCCESS. CULTURE OF SUCCESS.

Community Vision

October 2003, Dr. Ted and Eleanor Fornetti donate family land to Bay College to build a college campus for Dickinson County.



May 3, 2005: Dickinson County voters approve 1 mill property millage for 20 years.



Groundbreaking May 26, 2006.



Community Growth



Bay College Fall 2007

Headcount, Fall 2007: 442 degree seeking students

High School Dual-Enrolled: 20 high school students

Tuition Rate Dickinson County: \$115 per contact hour



Bay College Today

Headcount, Fall 2024: 456 degree seeking students

High School Dual-Enrolled: 205 high school students

Tuition Rate Dickinson County: \$231 per contact hour

Campus Numbers Since 1977

4,420

Courses offered

**OVER
203,336**

Total credit hours earned

13,885

Dual Enrollment
credit hours earned

1,879

Graduates

8,319

Total number of students
who have taken classes

1,727

Dual Enrollment Students

Student & Alumni Impact

81%

Represents the students who came to Bay College Iron Mountain campus from within Dickinson County.

\$582,300

Income added to the Dickinson County economy by student spending on groceries, mortgage, rent, and other living expenses.

\$4 Million

Income added to the local economy through the jobs of thousands of Bay College Iron Mountain Alumni now working in Dickinson County.

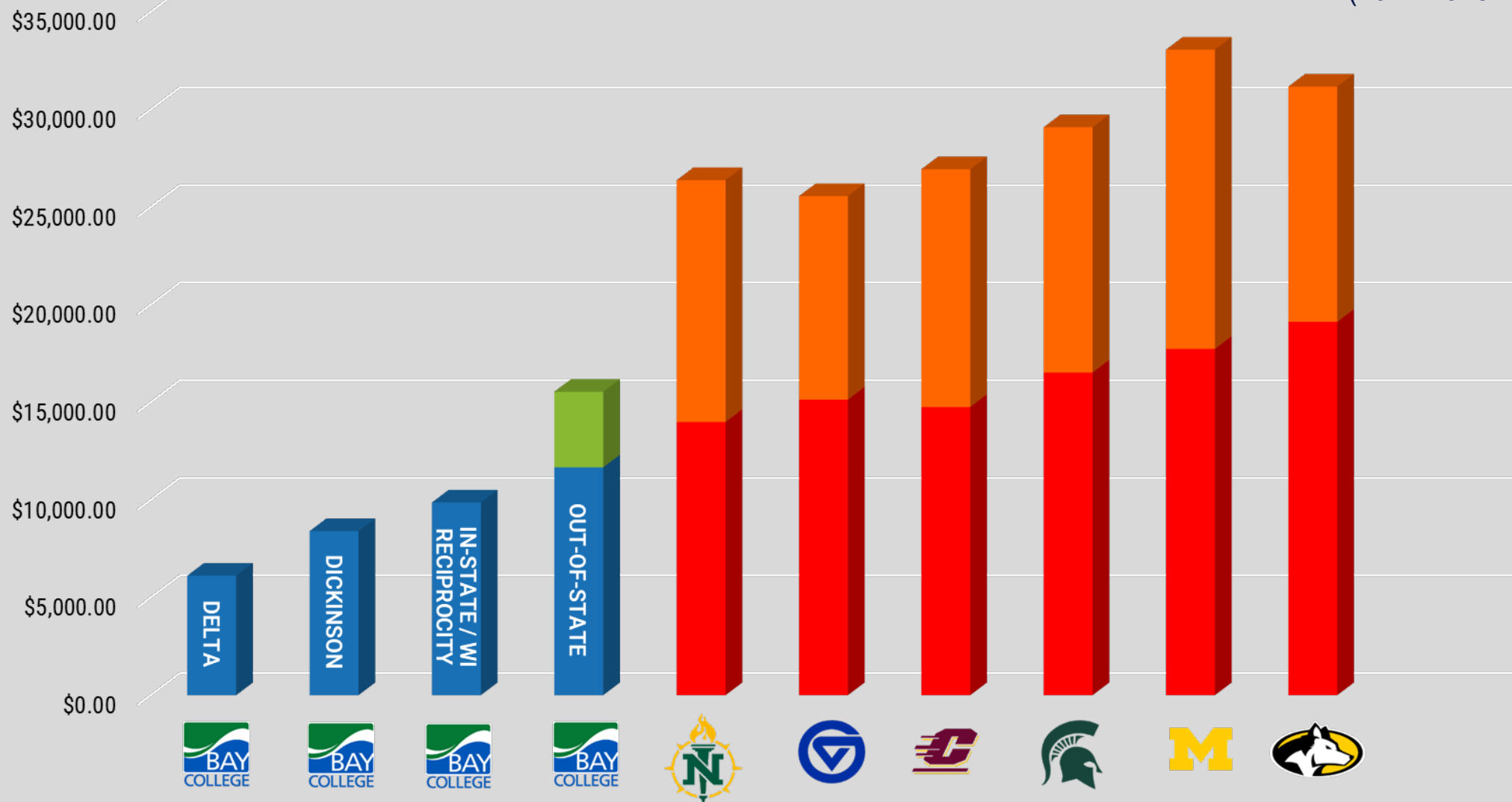
Economic Impact

Lower tuition and high-quality programs benefit Iron Mountain

- ✓ Quality programs and hands-on training through simulations help students gain skills needed for local jobs.
- ✓ Partnerships with businesses and the Leadership Academy support workforce development.
- ✓ The art gallery brings cultural value and attracts visitors to the area.
- ✓ Strong Nursing Assistant (N.A.) program helps meet local healthcare needs.
- ✓ Student supports like the food pantry make it easier for students to stay in school.
- ✓ Successful transfer programs allow many students to continue their education, leading to better job opportunities and long-term economic benefits for the community.

Bay College can save Dickinson County students thousands of dollars in tuition, fees, and housing costs each year.
(2024-2025 Rates)

Tuition Housing



Community Impact



In-Demand Programs

- ✓ Business
- ✓ Computer Networking
- ✓ Criminal Justice
- ✓ Early Childhood Education
- ✓ Early College (ISD)
- ✓ Liberal Arts
- ✓ Nursing
- ✓ Social Work
- ✓ Welding

The Future is Bright



Impact of Bay College in the Community

- ✓ Keeping Students Close to Home
- ✓ Preparing a Local Workforce
- ✓ High Quality Programs
- ✓ Lower Tuition Rates

Expanded Programs/Services for the Community

- ✓ New Partnerships
- ✓ EMT/Paramedic to Iron Mountain
- ✓ Career Services
- ✓ Experiential & Work-Based Learning
- ✓ Lifelong Learning

A millage is a tax rate used to calculate property taxes, where one mill equals one dollar of tax for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value.

With & Without a Renewal

The current millage provides funding for campus programs and student resources.

This ~ 1 mill property millage is up for renewal on August 5, 2025.

Without the renewal of the millage, Bay College will need to re-assess the costs to maintain operations, including tuition rates for Dickinson County residents/students and services being provided to Dickinson County residents/students.





Thank you

Dickinson County Millage
Renewal Proposal

VOTE
August 5, 2025