



What is Dow COP?

In 1989, the Dow College Opportunity Program was founded to help break the cycle of poverty and lack of higher education so prevalent in rural Midland County. Making its home at the West Midland Family Center, the Dow College Opportunity Program has improved the lives of our students in the program who are deserving, hard working, and from families who need many types of assistance to send their children to college.

Students begin the program when they enter high school. The next four years are filled with activities designed to help prepare students for college. The students volunteer hundreds of hours to the community and to helping those in need. We support their academic pursuits through educational workshops. Cultural excursions broaden their social experiences to build confidence and poise. The students also engage in many activities throughout the year that are designed to foster teamwork and relational success. The program director, Mike Sobolewski, also serves as a mentor, sharing in their experiences and goals.

After four years of hard work and commitment, the students are ready to begin college. The program guides them through the maze of financial aid, scholarship searches and applications, and college admissions so that this big step is a successful one. Mentoring and social support continues throughout the students' college careers but our relationships with the students last a lifetime!



Give the Gift of Education!

To Donate to the Dow College Opportunity Endowment fund simply go online to midlandfoundation.com click on "Make A Gift" and select the "West Midland Family Center/Dow College Opportunity Endowment Fund"

or, contact

Mike Sobolewski, Dow COP Director,
at sobolewskim@wmfc.org
(989) 832-3256 to have a contribution form sent to you.



Mike Sobolewski,
Director - Dow COP

The Dow COP students have a common goal of success to help them bond. The program works because students with the resolve to attain a college education are given the skills necessary to keep moving forward in realizing their goals!

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The mission of the Dow College Opportunity Program is to help financially challenged students become self-sufficient through a college education, mentoring, cultural exposure, and the development of community stewardship, academic and social skills.



West Midland
FAMILY CENTER



Washington D. C. - 2007 Helping the homeless!

The Student Adventures



Mackinac Island Service Trip



Volunteering on a Chippewa River cleanup and at the Arnold Center!



DOW COP is the only reason I was motivated to go to college. Without the program, I wouldn't be at GVSU.
- Jes



Breanna and Sabrina learn to support one another through difficult challenges

These last few semesters of college are not the most fun, but having the backing and support from a group of people who truly care is something that takes the stress and worry away. All I have to say is thank you Dow COP for your unconditional support and dedication to all of us trying to make it!!

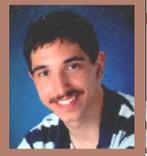
- Laura



Spring cleaning for others in the community



[Dow COP] built me a better character than what I had before. If it wasn't for the program, I would not be in college at all. It helped clear out a foggy path for me to understand. - Pedro



"Working together to build not only a team, but also a family!"

