



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 and their lives after. The students volunteer hundreds of hours to the community and to helping those in need. We support their academic pursuits through educational workshops and college visits. Cultural excursions broaden their social experiences to build confidence and poise, and help them learn more about the world. The students also engage in many activities throughout the year that are designed to foster teamwork, leadership, and good communication skills. The program director, Mike Sobolewski, also serves as a mentor, sharing in their experiences and goals. The program assistant, Kelsey, is another mentor for students, with the experience of having gone through the program herself!

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!

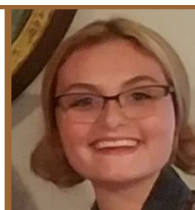


Mike Sobolewski,
Program Director
sobolewskim@wmfc.org

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

"Don't wish it was easier, wish you were better.
Don't wish for less problems, wish for more skills.
Don't wish for less challenges, wish for more wisdom."
- John Rohn

I feel like this quote touches what we are all about!
COP helps students prepare for those challenges
and come out successful!



Kelsey Miller,
Program Assistant
millerk@wmfc.org

Dow College Opportunity Program

West Midland Family Center

4011 W. Isabella Road

Shepherd, MI 48883

989.832.3256

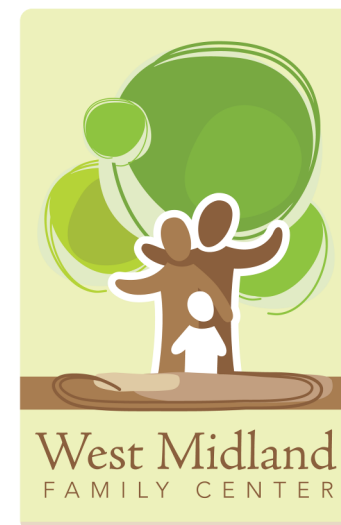
www.wmfc.org/programs/dow_cop.html

Find us on Facebook and YouTube:

Dow College Opportunity Program



The mission of the Dow College Opportunity Program is to help qualified students become prepared to achieve their post-secondary goals through mentoring, cultural exposure, community volunteerism, and the development of academic and social skills

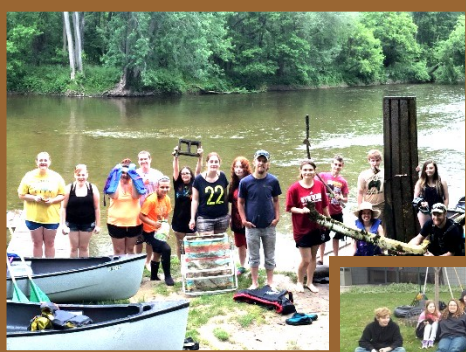


Helping each community member TODAY to reach their full potential TOMORROW

Student Experiences



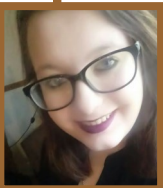
Mackinac Island Service Trip—
Students help the community and explore the island!



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



Dow COP gave me the support, hope,
and opportunities I needed to
succeed in my life. -Sasha



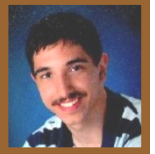
Breanna and Sabrina learn to support
one another through difficult challenges

{On my mission trip} people kept asking me how I did what
I do and I told them it was the stuff I learned in COP from
volunteering, and being very flexible in what I did. Then I
volunteered to lead my group in devo-
tions and that was scary, but I couldn't
have done it without the communication
skills I learned in COP. -Edwin



Students are trained in valuable skills, such as
CPR, AED, and First Aid

[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!"

When students are
empowered through
challenges, they learn
there is no limit to
what they can achieve



The Summer Adventure Experience shows students they
can overcome any obstacle!

