

## The Millage

- GRCC is seeking a millage increase of 0.56 mill from voters in the Kent Intermediate School District on the May 8, 2007 ballot
- This is our first request for millage in 16 years
- The level of millage requested would mean \$28 to the owner of a \$100,000 home (taxable value) and would raise \$11.2 million for GRCC
- State funds have been cut back to 1995 levels
- The college has 3 major revenue streams: property taxes, state funds and tuition
- Our enrollment has increased for 7 consecutive years
- Tuition alone does not cover the cost to educate each student – to do so would significantly increase GRCC tuition rates, thus putting higher education out of reach for many; that would make it impossible for GRCC to uphold its mission
- Unlike K-12 schools, we do not get more state funding when we have higher enrollment
- The college contributes \$977.5 million in regional and non-labor income to this county's economy and employs over 1,000 people (Source: MCCA Economic Impact Study)
- Our mission is to provide learning opportunities that help people in our community achieve their goals
- To make excellent affordable education accessible to everyone, our tuition must be kept low. Without increased funding from a millage, tuition will increase, important programs and services will be cut, and GRCC will be unable to accommodate the current demand for our services.

## Community Future Funding Committee and Its Recommendations

Over the past several years GRCC leaders have worked closely with a community committee that reviewed GRCC finances and made three recommendations to us:

- 1) Address disparity between in-district and out-district revenue support to provide fairness and equity for KISD taxpayers AND increase fundraising efforts through the GRCC Foundation,
- 2) Implement a process to regularly review all aspects of the GRCC system for efficiency and cost savings, and
- 3) Implement a process for regular review of programs and services GRCC provides for the community.

GRCC has addressed all three of these recommendations to the satisfaction of the Community Future Funding Committee and continues today to:

- 1) address the tuition plan with greater increases to non-resident and out-of-state students,
- 2) look for opportunities for cost-savings throughout the college, and
- 3) look for grant opportunities and fundraise through the GRCC Foundation.

The Community Future Funding Committee concluded last fall that GRCC should pursue support from the community in the form of a millage request.

## The college - quick reference

- Over 26,000 students (80% for credit and 20% for workshops and training)
- Off campus, we teach classes from Regional Centers located in six area high schools and two Learning Corners, which serve area neighborhoods
- GRCC began as GRJC in 1914 as a prep school for the University of Michigan with 49 students taking courses in Central High School's attic

## **Education Opportunities:**

- We offer over 150 degree and certificate programs
- We "deliver" through classrooms, video, television, Internet, and podcasts so that our learners have every opportunity to move ahead 24/7
- We have transfer agreements with 28 Michigan colleges and universities
- We provide training to over 600 area businesses

## **Student Info:**

- Students from all 20 local school districts attend GRCC
- The top colleges and universities that GRCC students transfer to, in order, are GVSU, FSU, MSU, WMU, CMU, and Aquinas

## **Tuition:**

- Kent County:  
\$ **73.50** per contact hour
- Michigan (outside Kent County):  
\$ **142.00** per contact hour
- Outside Michigan:  
\$ **200.00** per contact hour