

## **REPORT OF THE 2011 MICHIGAN STUDENT POLITICAL ISSUES CONVENTION**

The 2011 Michigan Student Political Issues Convention had 656 students register and participate on Friday November 11, 2011. Students and faculty from Henry Ford Community College, Oakland Community College - Auburn Hills, Oakland Community College - Royal Oak, Macomb Community College, Monroe Community College, the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Wayne County Community College, and Wayne State University participated in the 2011 convention.

The Michigan Agenda included the following 7 issues.  
(A complete list of issue receiving votes is attached).

1. Unemployment	180
2. Education	124
3. Gay Marriage in the State of Michigan	112
4. National Debt	65
5. Healthcare	59
6. World Hunger	48
7. Homelessness	47

The students in attendance request that all those political leaders holding office and seeking office consider ways of addressing these concerns with effective public policy. They urge these political leaders to take these concern seriously and find ways to meaningfully attend to these issues.

### **Overview of the 2011 Convention:**

The opening session convened in the Forfa Auditorium at Henry Ford Community College at 9:30 am. Dr. Eric Rader chaired the opening session. Providing the Keynote at the first session was Former US Congressmen Bart Stupak. Mr. Stupak spoke about the importance of leadership in public service.

Mary Bugeia, the League of Women Voters-DDH welcome the students and provide brief remarks on the importance of civic engagement. Michigan Circuit Court Judge Christopher Dingell read the rules and spoke about the importance of having rules in a democratic society.

At 10:15 students broke into two sets of issue workshops. Students had the opportunity to select 2 workshops to attend (see attached program for list of workshops). In each of these workshops student led the majority of workshop, where all participants not only listened, but they participated in questions and answers as well as detailed debate and discussions.

From 11:50-12:20 students voted for the issues they felt were in most need of governmental attention in 24 separate caucus rooms. Students discussed and voted on their top concerns and

student caucus facilitators reported their results at the final session back in the Forfa Auditorium.

At final session Henry Ford Community College President Gail Mee introduced Congressman John Dingell who spoke to the students about the importance of political participation. Michigan State Senators Morris Hood and Hoon-Yung Hopgood and Michigan State Representatives Robert Constan, George Darany, Rashida Tlaib, Kurt Heise, and Phil Cavanagh responded to the students agenda. Mr. George Cushingberry gave Civic Engagement Awards to League of Women Voters partners Chris Sullivan, Mary Bugeia, Judy Carty, and Betsy Cushman for their 8 years of working and promoting the Michigan Student Political Issue Convention.

US Senator Debbie Stabenow Provided a video to be shown at the convention. Technical difficulties and time did not permit the short video being shown, but the student will be made available.

The final session was closed after door prizes donated from Dr. Henry Bowers and CENGAGE Publishers were given away to a number of lucky students.

### **National Student Political Issues Week**

On November 4, 2011 the University of Illinois-Chicago held their convention and other institutions developed independent student agendas. All student agendas will be combined into a National Student Political Agenda. These National, States, and local agendas will be distributed to get attention to the various challenges addressed by students.

These agenda are one avenue to help engage young people in the political process and to begin to develop coalitions that well help find solutions to many of these important challenges. We encourage everyone to find ways to promote these concerns and to foster greater student engagement in the democratic process.