

# News

Macomb County, Michigan  
Board of Commissioners



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## **WHITE: MACOMB EMBRACING DIVERSITY FOR BETTER RESPONSIVENESS**

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – Embracing the diversity of its residents will make Macomb County a more responsive government, County Board Chair Nancy White said today during a diversity symposium and job fair at Macomb Community College.

“If we share the goal of Macomb County reflecting its own diversity in a dynamic way, then I believe we can be more responsive to every segment of our community and more faithful to our shared values,” White said at the symposium sponsored by the Macomb County Ministerial Alliance and the Macomb County NAACP.

The morning portion of the symposium featured a job fair for residents and employers in Macomb, Wayne and Oakland counties. The afternoon session featured a panel discussion with White; Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano; Richard Williams Jr., director of Community and Minority Affairs for Oakland County, and Greg Cheesewright, corporate coordinator for the Michigan Minority Business Development Council.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm delivered the keynote address in the afternoon following the panel discussion, which was moderated by WDIV-TV anchor Carmen Harlan.

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White, who attended the event with Steve Cassin, Macomb County's director of Planning and Economic Development, said the County Board heeded issues raised by the Ministerial Alliance last year and adopted a new hiring policy to ensure that county government is open to receive the best applicants for available positions.

"These new practices are now in effect and will be used to hire the new ombudsman, a newly created position also dedicated to making county government more user friendly, more open and responsive to all our citizens," White said.

These are just first steps in the direction of making Macomb County government reflective of the citizens it serves – a journey to which the county is committed on a daily basis, White said.

"If we are to succeed, our county must reflect the world we live in," White said. "I believe we are actively engaged in making this a reality."

White emphasized the diversity of the population by noting that if Macomb County flew the flags of the home countries of its various ethnic residents, 99 flags would be on display.

"So you see how quickly things are changing and this change brings with it a real responsibility to take full advantage for our county."

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