

MCCB Fall 2025 Conference Schedule

Gogebic Community College, Ironwood Campus

E4946 Jackson Rd, Ironwood, MI 49938

Note: All times are listed in Central Standard Time (CST). Ironwood, located in Gogebic County, is in the Central Time Zone.

Friday, October 3, 2025

4:15-5:20pm Check-in/Registration - Technical Building Hallway

5:20-6:20pm Dinner - T112-113

*Dinner sponsored by GCC President Chris Patritto and Gogebic Community College.
Catering by Papa Dave's, Hurley, WI.*

6:30-7:30pm Keynote – Ellen R. Campbell (CEO, NECi Superior Enzymes, <https://nitrate.com/>), “A non-traditional student’s odyssey from Community College to CEO of a biotech company in the U.P.” – Room T112-113 and via Zoom

NECi will also feature a vendor table on Saturday and is requesting that those who are able to do so bring water samples (lake, pond, fish tank, etc.) to test. They will be showcasing their nitrate kit and photometer products.

7:45pm- Fellowship off campus - Cold Iron Brewing*

**Wear your best plaid! The town is celebrating its monthly “First Friday” and annual “Plaidurday” - a local tradition where folks don plaid and enjoy downtown festivities. While most events will have wound down by the time we arrive, the festive vibe will still be in the air. If you arrive before the conference begins, also consider exploring downtown - other events and festivities often start earlier. Learn more about Plaidurday here: <https://travelironwood.com/plaidurday-extravaganza/>*

Saturday, October 4, 2025

7:30-9:00am Governing Board Meeting - T116

8:00-9:00am Check-in/Registration - Tech Building Hallway, Breakfast (Toni Ratkowski Catering) - T112-113, Vendor/Photo Contest – T114 and T-building hallways

9:00-9:20am Welcoming Remarks - Room T112-113 and via Zoom

9:30-10:20am General Session I - Maxwell Ramsay (Gogebic Conservation District), "Stream Health in the UP: Insights from Macroinvertebrate Sampling" (includes hands-on insect ID activity!) - Rooms A100-A101 and via Zoom

10:30-11:20am General Session II – Serena Mershon-Lohkamp, Glen Ackerman-Behr, Dr. Chenin Limback, Dario Dominguez, Jamie Brown, "Collaborative Science Education at GCC: Lab Science, Hemp Science, and Student Research" – Room A100 and via Zoom

This general session will highlight GCC's new Laboratory Science Technician program as well as our work in teaching Hemp Science within the program, and Student Research Grant Projects through Xcel Energy STEM Retention Grant.

11:30-12:20pm Breakout Session (Choose 1 of 2 sessions*)

**Session A: Open Discussion, "Incorporating AI into the biology classroom" – Room T115*

Please bring teaching examples of ways you have used AI in the classroom to share with the group.

**Session B: GCC Forestry Technology Program Highlights – Forestry Classroom (Academic building basement)*

GCC has a vibrant forestry program! Join instructors Bill Perkis and Chuck Norgren to learn about their work with students in GIS, soils, botany, and other topics.

12:20-1:30pm Lunch (Toni Ratkowski Catering) and Business Meeting - T112-113

1:40-2:55pm Rotating Activities:

"Mindfulness in Nature" with Serena Mershon-Lohkamp – Campus Courtyard

Campus Tour with Dr. Chenin Limback – Meet in T115

Vendor/Photo Contest Voting – T114 and T-building hallways

Please vote for your favorite photo!

Visit numerous informational and Vendor Tables including:

- *Gogebic Community College Program Highlights*
- *Levels Cannabis*
- *NECi Superior Enzymes (bring water samples to test!)*

3:00-3:50pm General Session III and closing remarks** - Trish Finerty, Isis Arsnoe, Heather Wesp, "Learning Through Service: Conservation and Community in Costa Rica" - Room T112-113 and via Zoom

***General session followed by announcements of \$300 Costa Rica scholarship award sponsored by Darrell Davies, photo contest awards, and closing remarks*

4:15pm- Off Campus Field Trip - Mt. Zion Overlook and Black River Harbor: Waterfalls and Lake Superior! (Meet/Depart from T112-113. Transportation via GCC shuttle(s). Request directions if driving separately).