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Editorial Quick Hits: Ours

Legislators set transparency example

In the month or so since assuming office, two freshman state representatives have set a good example by posting their office expenditures online for public scrutiny. Tom McMillin of Rochester and Justin Amash of Grand Rapids, Republicans both, took up the Mackinac Center on its "Show Michigan the Money" challenge. The lawmakers follow Attorney General Mike Cox and Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land in posting their spending. Voters should pressure more state government officials to do the same.

Grants let Northern students see world

Students at Northern Michigan University will be granted a respite from the harsh Michigan winter and a chance to expand their horizons -- thanks to an endowment funding the university's study abroad program. The endowment, funded by a \$1 million donation from Northern Michigan alum Gloria Jackson and her husband Bill, will allow students to travel and study all over the world without racking up too much debt. One student from each of the 15 counties in the Upper Peninsula will be granted a study abroad grant each year.

Said Gloria Jackson upon announcing the endowment: "The world is shrinking. It is critical to have some exposure to other cultures, whether you work for a company with a presence overseas or you work and live in the United States alongside people from other countries." Indeed it is. We appreciate the Jacksons' investment in preparing Northern Michigan students for the big, competitive world that awaits beyond campus.

Happy 100th anniversary, NAACP

It is only fitting that the NAACP is enjoying its 100th birthday in the same year that America's first black president, Barack Obama, took the oath of office. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples was founded on Feb. 12, 1909, to combat the systemic racism that kept blacks locked out of the economy and in physical danger. The NAACP has kept Americans conscious that the American Dream hasn't always applied to minorities and has tested the country's character and its founding rhetoric by spending the last century boycotting, cajoling, litigating and marching for changes that have benefited all Americans.