



PRESS RELEASE

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LCC Board of Trustees Approve Academic Program Changes

LANSING – The Lansing Community College Board of Trustees Monday approved a broad series of recommendations to make changes in some of the college’s academic program offerings and to delay a limited number of decisions while more information can be gathered and analyzed.

The vote comes after nearly 1 ½ years of program analysis by the Provost Stephanie Shanblatt and the Dean’s Council in consultation with faculty. Their recommendations were designed to reflect today’s realities – to ensure the classroom experience is a true pathway for students to follow for the rewarding jobs of the 21st Century and to best serve the long-term needs of the community as it strives to recover from a prolonged national recession which has had a particularly brutal impact on Michigan.

“I am grateful to the board for their courage in making these tough calls which are necessary for LCC to continue to meet the needs of our students and our community,” said LCC President Brent Knight. “The board joins the provost, deans, administrators, faculty and others who have invested countless hours wrestling with these difficult issues and their impact on the college.”

LCC will partner with Eastern Michigan University to offer flight training in Lansing and the Aviation Maintenance program will be expanded into new market areas with the goal of creating a Center of Excellence based at Mason Airport beginning in fall of 2012. The eight-week operator certificate from the Heavy Equipment Operators and Repair program will be eliminated – but non-credit classes will be offered by outside contractors.

The Truck Driver Training program will boost tuition and fees to more accurately reflect the costs associated with offering the training.

Among the eliminations adopted, the teaching kitchen at LCC will be closed and the Travel Agency certificate and degree will be eliminated. The Interior Design and Landscape

Architecture & Horticulture programs will also be eliminated with some courses from both programs being moved to the Design and Construction Technologies program.

A decision on whether to spend \$3.5 million to renovate the swimming pool or convert it to classrooms has been deferred until December. Another decision being postponed for seven months is whether the Collision Repair program can achieve long-term survival through the adoption of a more focused educational model. In addition, the Fashion Technology program will gain some grace time so faculty and the administration can seek ways to redesign the curriculum and improve student completion rates.

Here is a more detailed look at some of the changes adopted by the board:

- Postponing a final decision on the future of the swimming pool will allow time to weigh options. If the aging pool were to be rebuilt with a 30-year life span the cost would be \$3.5 million. In 2010 just 578 people enrolled in swim classes. Numerous swimming options exist, including at area high school pools.
- Automotive Technology will be retained but with changes designed to ensure more students finish a one-year program. Internships will be sought with representatives from the local auto repair industry. Most of the students fail to complete degrees in this field; in 2010, LCC granted only seven certificates and seven degrees.
- Aviation Maintenance will continue to help meet the significant demand for highly trained technicians with FAA certifications. The program will face a thorough review to seek possible ways to make it financially viable such as partnering with airlines and manufacturers, and/or establishing a contract with the National Guard nationwide to provide critical training needed as the Guard transitions to civilian-type helicopters.
- The Truck Driver Training program has an excellent reputation in the industry and its graduates are highly valued but the cost of offering the program is high. In 2010, the college subsidized the training by nearly \$390,000. Instead of eliminating the program, the board gave authorization to the college to increase tuition and fees for a total cost not to exceed \$8,500 per student. Students currently pay about \$4,100 for the 5-week training.

Monday's action follows earlier decisions made by the board at its April 26 meeting regarding program analysis. Specifically, at that time the board approved the merger of a number of programs into others including Architecture, Civil Technology, Geographic Information Systems, Residential Building Trades, Electrical Technology, and Manufacturing Engineering Technology. Religion and Philosophy were merged into the existing interdisciplinary Humanities Program, and the Office Systems program was eliminated.

The board also elected to stop the issuance of credit hours for a number of sport classes by shifting them to Community Education. Those include: Ballroom Swing Dance I and II; Latin Ballroom Dance I and II; Beginning and Advanced Bowling; Beginning and Intermediate Pool (Billiards); Bicycling/Camping/Touring; and Indoor Soccer.

In many cases, students enrolled in the programs slated for elimination may be able to complete their course requirements through Spring Semester 2012. All students in the affected programs can get help by logging on to <http://www.lcc.edu/aa/programanalysis/elim/>.

About Lansing Community College

Lansing Community College is Michigan's third largest community college with more than 20,000 students attending each year. LCC offers courses in general education for those interested in transferring to a four-year institution, career and workforce development, developmental education and personal enrichment. To meet the professional development and training needs of regional employees, the college offers customized programs for credit, non-credit and continuing education. The University Center at LCC offers students the opportunity to earn bachelor's and master's degrees from six partner universities on the downtown LCC campus. For more information, visit lcc.edu.