



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LCC Strengthening its Programs to Give Students Education for New Economy Recommendations emphasize education for high skill, high wage, high demand jobs**

LANSING, MI - After more than a year of careful study the provost and deans of Lansing Community College have recommended changes in a number of the college's 74 programs to refocus the offerings on those subjects that will truly help people find viable work in a rapidly changing economy.

If the recommendations are adopted, some programs will change, some will merge, and others will no longer exist. The review also includes recommendations for the creation of new programs to further equip our students for good paying 21<sup>st</sup> Century jobs.

"Together we can help strengthen this college and lead to better opportunities and outcomes for our students, foster greater economic development for our region, respond to the educational needs outlined by employers and add financial stability to the college," said LCC President Brent Knight. "I know some of these eliminations will not be universally embraced. But at a time of increased demand and declining resources, LCC must follow its core mission to serve the learning needs of a changing community."

The recommendations – the results of a data-informed analysis – were sent to the Michigan Association of Higher Education (MAHE), which represents LCC's faculty. They have 30 days to review them and offer suggestions. A final decision is expected by mid-April.

The recommendations also envision exciting changes to create additional pathways to the jobs of tomorrow and further enhance the value students are getting for their money. They include adding new certification programs in Software Testing, Health Information Technology, and Mobile Applications. New curricula in Mechatronics (multidisciplinary engineering system design) and Construction Management are

also planned. A Great Lakes Utility Training Center is being developed to prepare students for forward-looking jobs in the utilities industry, including smart grid construction which can reduce energy consumption and lessen the emission of harmful greenhouse gases. Also underway is the development of a Michigan Emergency Services Training Center for student instruction and to offer training opportunities to first responders and others in the state and region.

The analysis took into account a range of factors, including a review of enrollment trends, program offerings and the number of certificates and degrees awarded in those programs. It also weighed the level of college subsidies needed to support programs; job opportunities and wages for graduates in various disciplines; and in some cases, the need for future capital investments. As expected, the vast majority of LCC program offerings were deemed to be robust and relevant.

While challenging economic times are a concern for everyone, financial considerations were not the sole driver of the evaluation. For example, many programs – such as nursing, dental hygiene, and fire science academy – are costly programs to offer but they fill a critical public need and graduates in these fields earn high wages. LCC will, however, restructure labs and fees to reduce college subsidies. The majority of allied health professionals, police and fire personnel in the greater Lansing community receive their training at LCC.

A total of 65 programs were recommended for continuation, with some being merged with other programs to maximize efficiency and improve student success. Nine programs may be eliminated. The recommendations include eliminating 17 degrees and 36 certificates of achievement or completion.

Here's a detailed breakdown of the recommendations, the most significant program review undertaken in LCC's history:

**Programs that have already or may soon change:**

- Stage Technology: Some classes would move to the Theater Program
- Sign Language: Continue to offer American Sign Language, and place the Sign Language Interpreter Program on hold pending resolution of state certification issues
- Hotel/Restaurant Management: Eliminate cooking classes due to high cost of capital investment needed to complete kitchen upgrades; and eliminate Travel Agency Operations Certificate.
- Computer Information Technology: Introductory software application courses would be offered through Community Education rather than as for-credit classes
- Individual and Team Sports (for credit, e.g. bowling, bicycling camping/touring): Shift some courses into Community Education

**Programs that have or may merge into other programs:**

- Geography: Merge into Physical Sciences
- Religion: Merge into Humanities
- Philosophy: Merge into Humanities
- Create a new Utility and Energy Systems Program that includes Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning; Electrical; and Alternative Energy (some courses)
- Create a new Applied Manufacturing Program that includes Manufacturing Engineering Technology and Welding
- Create a new Building Design and Construction Program that includes Architecture, Civil Technology and GIS, Alternative Energy Engineering Technology, Residential Building and some courses from Interior Design and Horticulture/Landscape

**Programs that may be eliminated:**

- Automotive Repair and Collision Repair (the two may be replaced by a pair of academy-style programs focusing on electric/hybrid vehicles and computer diagnostics)
- Aviation Flight
- Aquatics – pool may be closed due to high cost of needed capital investment
- Office Systems Administration
- Truck Driver Training and Heavy Equipment Operator/Repair
- Interior and Fashion Design – some courses could be offered through Community Education or other programs
- Horticulture and Landscape - some courses could be offered through Community Education or other programs

Students currently enrolled in the programs slated for elimination would be allowed to complete their degrees or certificates if that can be accomplished by the end of Spring semester 2012.

LCC officials say this first of its kind comprehensive program review will provide a roadmap for similar and regular reviews in the coming years to ensure that LCC is meeting the needs of its students and area employers as well as playing a leading role in mid-Michigan's economic diversification and job growth.

"We launched this thorough review with a keen recognition that our paramount job is – and always will be – serving the needs of our students and preparing them to immediately step into the jobs of the future or to transfer to a four-year institution," said LCC Provost Stephanie Shanblatt. "Michigan, more so than virtually every other state, has watched its economy undergo painful change and upheaval in recent years. As a consequence, LCC has redoubled its efforts to remain nimble so we can quickly respond to changing employment demands and opportunities by providing relevant classroom instruction so our students are equipped to be productive members in the workforce of tomorrow."

Members of the public who would like to comment on these proposed changes can do so by sending a message to [PA2011feedback@lcc.edu](mailto:PA2011feedback@lcc.edu) by 5 p.m., March 28,2011. Anonymous feedback is not accepted but if requested, comments will not be publicly posted.

**About Lansing Community College**

Lansing Community College is Michigan’s third largest community college with more than 30,000 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 bachelors and master’s degrees from six partner universities on the downtown LCC campus. For more information, visit [lcc.edu](http://lcc.edu).