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# Grant advances LMC tech training

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HP Correspondent

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**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — Lake Michigan College's long-standing campaign to prepare local workers for advanced manufacturing jobs has received a \$1.2 million boost from the federal government.

The college will use the funding to develop curriculum and upgrade labs and equipment for its manufacturing technology program so that area employers get the workers they need, LMC President Bob Harrison said Friday.

"We are proud to be a part of this important initiative as the only community college in the greater southwest Michigan region (to get funded), which will strengthen our local and the state economy," Harrison said.

Ken Flowers, director of Workforce and Technology Development agreed.

"I know many of our area's manufacturers are seeking trained and qualified people to fill well-paying jobs," he said. "We hope this program will help address their need for an available well-trained workforce."

LMC's funding came through the Michigan Coalition for Advanced Manufacturing (M-CAM), a consortium of eight community colleges that received \$24.9 million altogether.

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College will manage the grant and serve as lead agency.

Harrison estimates that 170 people could be helped through the LMC Job Readiness Program, as the new initiative will be known.

The college will target people who need additional job training assistance, including displaced workers, employees needing to upgrade skills and

veterans, according to a news release.

LMC will work closely with other organizations to find likely candidates, Harrison said.

“We’ll do some assessments, some fundamental skills development, identify which areas they’re assessed for, and do some retraining,” he said.

The initiative aims to provide students with industry-recognized credentials or associate’s degrees in machining-computer numerical control, mecha-

grams.

Students will also get help in transferring from LMC to complete their training at four-year colleges.

The funding helps community colleges like LMC offset continuing state and federal cuts in job training support, Harrison said.

“For somebody looking to make a career transition, there’s great opportunities in the manufac-

turing part of the economy. We just don’t see it slowing down. It’s becoming a high talented, high skilled career,” he said.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Flowers at (269) 927-4103, or email: [flowers@lakemichigancollege.edu](mailto:flowers@lakemichigancollege.edu).