

Pay raise for the president

LMC board pleased with Harrison

By **RALPH HEIBUTZKI**
HP Correspondent

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Lake Michigan College's board is giving President Bob Harrison a pay hike, citing his executive leadership.

Trustees unanimously approved a 2.5 percent raise Tuesday to Harrison's annual base salary of \$159,900. The action marked the last piece of unfinished business from his June evaluation.

"This is a very good board, very conscientious and a pleasure to deal with. I feel myself very lucky," Harrison said after Tuesday's meeting.

In their evaluation, board members cited

Harrison's ability to get the college's message across and increase local awareness of the institution, and his leadership in developing projects like student housing.

Board Chairman David Maysick alluded to those changes.

"It's a different era. There's a new dorm under construction, a soccer team that's already started. This college will never be the same," he said.

"They're wonderful additions," Trustee Judy Truesdell said.

Harrison said his work would be more difficult without having a good management team in place.

"There's a very strong leadership team here at the college, so I think (the raise) is a validation of their efforts to improve

the college and move things forward for the region," he said.

Harrison has a long history with LMC.

He became the college's ninth president in January 2009, replacing Randall Miller. He served as its interim president for five months in 2005.

Harrison joined LMC in 1999 and became its dean of community and business services. In 2003, Harrison added the title of dean of occupational studies. Three years later, in 2006, the college named Harrison as executive dean of career technical programs, and its Bertrand Crossing campus.

Prior to joining LMC, Harrison worked as chief operating officer for Lakeland Regional Health System.