

# LMC closes after perceived threat

Police conclude no credible threat made; locations open today

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**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — All Lake Michigan College campuses were closed and events canceled Friday as a security measure after an employee who police say may have been disgruntled was fired Thursday.

Spokeswoman Laura Kraklau said all locations are open today.

Benton Township and state police said Friday their investigations concluded that no credible threat was made, and students and staff were sent home as a precautionary measure.

Kraklau said by telephone the decision was made to shut LMC down at about 11:45 a.m. Friday after a third party informed the college of a possible

threat. In a news release later Friday, she said an employee who had been terminated was said to be making retaliatory threats.

The school posted the following alert: "All Lake Michigan College campuses are closed, Friday, December 6, 2013, for the remainder of the day due to a security concern. This includes all scheduled campus events."

Campuses are in Benton Township, Niles and South Haven, along with the M-TEC building in Benton Harbor. Kraklau said the cancellations included a Friday night basketball game and a Madrigal Feast at the Mendel Center. The Madrigal Feast will go on as scheduled tonight.

Benton Township Police Deputy Chief Carl DeLand said the college had asked for a police presence at its Benton Township campus on Thursday while firing a

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person who may have been disgruntled.

“We had a police presence there yesterday for the termination, and that’s not an uncommon request from work places if they think an employee will be less than happy,” DeLand said Friday. “In today’s society, it’s better safe than sorry.”

DeLand said school officials on Friday told police that a third party had informed them of a possible threat, without providing specific details. DeLand said an officer was sent to the campus in Benton Township and all campuses were closed for the day.

“At this point, it appears there’s been no crime,” DeLand said Friday afternoon. “No threats have been verified to warrant a criminal action. I think this was more about security protocol, and that’s not a bad thing.”

Kraklau said the college took precautionary steps to protect its campus locations and the college community.

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