

Renee Williams retires from LMC board

Former BH schools superintendent served 21 years as trustee

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BENTON TOWNSHIP — After 21 years, Lake Michigan College Board Trustee Renee Williams has retired from the post.

Williams has witnessed a lot of LMC's biggest moments since she was appointed to fill a vacancy in 1993, LMC President Bob Harrison said Tuesday.

"She's been active in the Alumni Association," Harrison said. "She's was



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part of the board when they built the Bertrand Crossing campus, the South Haven campus, the renovation project (of the Napier Avenue campus), and the start of the student housing project. She's been around for a lot of things. She's been a really good supporter of the college through all those years."

The college announced Williams' retirement in a news release issued Tuesday.

Williams's decision took effect with Tuesday's meeting at Bertrand Crossing, which she couldn't attend because she was on a family trip, Harrison said.

"She didn't identify a reason. I think she's just ready to be done," Harrison said. "She came out of the K-12 (educational) system. She understands education. She was really valuable in talking through some of the program issues, and things that we encounter on a periodic basis, so she'll be missed."

LMC Board Chairman David Maysick voiced similar sentiments in his own pre-

pared statement.

"We are grateful for Renee's more than two decades of service on the Lake Michigan College Board of Trustees," Maysick said. "Her perspectives as an educator, LMC alumna, and lifelong resident of this community have been important as we have made decisions about the direction of the college. We will miss her contributions to the board."

Following her original appointment, Williams won election to a two-year term in 1994, and three subsequent six-year terms in 1996, 2002 and 2008. Her current term expires in December, though she remains on the college's Alumni Board.

During her tenure, Williams served as board secretary from 1995 to 2000,

and 2011 to 2012, and also as treasurer from 2009-2010.

Harrison expects the board to name Williams's replacement next month. That person must run for re-election in November to win a full six-year term in their own right, he said.

Williams's connection with LMC goes well beyond her board service, the college's release noted.

She graduated from LMC in 1966, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, as well as a master's degree from Western Michigan University.

During her time at Benton Harbor Area Schools, where she also served as superintendent, she pro-

moted a connection with LMC through such programs as Upward Bound, which aims to help students focus on advancing their education beyond high school.

"Renee has been a part of a transformative era in the college's history. Her professional insights as well as her deep passion for what Lake Michigan College means to the advancement of this region have helped expand access to higher education for all area residents," Harrison said.

Williams co-chaired the college's 50th anniversary celebration committee in 1996. LMC recognized her professional accomplishments in 1997 with the Clarence Beckwith Distinguished Alumni Award.