

BENTON TWP.

# A visionary president

## LMC board pours plaudits on Harrison

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**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — Lake Michigan College's president is an effective advocate and communicator for the institution, which has made great strides during his five-year tenure.

That's how trustees summarized their collective feelings about Bob Harrison, whose evaluation results were announced in a recent board meeting.

LMC's development of a wine-making program and first-ever student housing unit, Beckwith Hall, are just two examples of Harrison's visionary

touch, LMC Board Chairman David Maysick said.

"He's exceptional in his presentation of this college to outside entities. He's done a great job of bringing this college and outside entities together. He has a vision for the future of this college," Maysick said. "He's done a great job, and we appreciate what he's done."

Maysick said the trademarks of Harrison's leadership style quickly became apparent after he replaced Randall Miller in January 2009.

"There was a lot of unrest at the college. I remember thinking at the time, it (hiring Harrison) was like pouring oil on troubled waters," Maysick

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## HARRISON

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said.

Other board members voiced similar thoughts.

“I think we’ve got a great culture here, and it’s because of you that we have this culture,” Vice Chairman Paul Bergan said.

“You also have a way of getting great people around you,” Trustee Stephen Small told Harrison. “The campuses are well staffed, and people care about what they’re doing.”

The board won’t act on any changes in Harrison’s salary until August or September, when it also evaluates the rest of the college’s management team, Maysick said after the Monday meeting.

The board doesn’t meet next month.

“Either we think he’s doing right, or he’s not – if he’s not, we would tell him so. Financial matters, we’ll deal with when we deal with when we deal with the whole college,” Maysick said.

The board gave Harrison a 2.5 percent raise last year on top of his base salary of \$159,000.

Harrison has proven his worth to the college in numerous ways since his arrival, Maysick said.

“When he became president, the only question in my mind was, ‘Does he have a vision?’ But look at what he’s done – look at Beckwith Hall, look at the (new) student center, the

soccer team, the vintage team. He’s done a tremendous amount for the future planning of this college. This college will never be the same, and part of that (reason) is him.”

Harrison is the college’s ninth president. He also served as 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.

Prior to joining LMC, Harrison worked in the health