

BENTON TWP.

LMC seeking able cask master

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BENTON TOWNSHIP — Wanted: Someone who can teach winemaking to college students.

Lake Michigan College has launched a winemaking program, but it's still looking for someone qualified to teach and lead it at the college level.

LMC President Bob Harrison said the college has interviewed four or five candidates for an instructor and a director for its enology and vitology program — as it's formally known — but hasn't settled either position yet.

"We still have more (applicants) lined up. This is very specialized, and it's got to be the right match for the industry, the college and the community. We're still looking," Harrison said.

Basic requirements for both positions include a master's degree in a related field, plus teaching and industry experience, he said.

Candidates should apply through the college's website, "or they're free to send their resume and (cover) letter to me," Harrison said.

Harrison's comments followed last week's Board of Trustees meeting, where the board endorsed the new program's curriculum. The curriculum still needs approval by the Higher Learning Commission, he said.

The college has 30 days to jump-start the review, which will probably take two or three months, he said.

The new program will be housed on the Mendel Center's east side, in the Upton Telecommunications Center — which the board voted to renovate last fall.

The college plans to roll out its new program by the end of summer 2015 or the start of fall 2015.

To make that timeline

happen, "the key is starting to recruit students by the first of the year, preparing for harvest, and grape crushing," Harrison said. "It's like the 'World Series of Wine.'"

Paramedic program

In another curriculum vote, the board unanimously allowed paramedic students to choose between completing the program or getting a certificate.

Students who choose the full program will get an associate's degree, while the certificate takes about a year to complete, Harrison said.

The college's decision to offer the choice followed discussion with local industry representatives, "with whom we talk on a regular basis," he said.

Students going for the certificate could focus on taking the paramedic classes needed to complete it, minus the general education courses — such as English and science, for example — that a two-year degree requires, he said.

"It's giving our students more options," Harrison said. "They'll finish it, and then, we can give them a piece of paper that says they've completed the program."

Meetings

The board has confirmed its schedule for next year, with meetings set for Jan. 27, March 24, April 23, May 19, June 13, Aug. 25, Sept. 22, Oct. 27 and Dec. 8, 2015.

All meetings begin at 6 p.m. in the LMC Mendel Center's Executive Board Room — except for May 19, at Bertrand Crossing; Sept. 22, in South Haven; and Dec. 8, at M-TEC.

There are no meetings currently scheduled for February, July or November.