

LMC creates med. assistant program

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BENTON TOWNSHIP — Add medical assistant to the ever-growing list of programs Lake Michigan College plans to offer students.

LMC board members gave their go-ahead Tuesday for the program, which will allow students to earn an associate's degree in applied science.

The program proposal reflects a long-standing need voiced by area employers, as a memo in Tuesday's board packet stated.

"The job growth for med-

ical assistants will continue to expand as health care organizations and physicians realize their added value," the memo notes. "In some regions, medical assistants will replace other health care workers due to their expanded administrative and clerical skills."

The program starts this fall with 20 students. The college expects a total projected enrollment of 40 students per year.

No additional equipment, facilities or faculty will be needed to run the program, which will complement LMC's other health science

programs, the memo stated.

On a different academic note, LMC mens basketball players are experiencing academic success off the court, according to Clint Gabbard, vice president of student services. The Red Hawks are 7-1.

Last fall, coach Doug Shaffer's players completed all 162 credits they attempted and logged a 2.93 grade point average, Gabbard said.

Both figures are significantly higher than the LMC average, which Gabbard said makes him feel good about the role of college

sports.

"It's exciting to see Doug having the kind of success that he's having on the court," Gabbard said. "It's even more exciting to have him tool through those numbers, and say, 'They're all making progress. They're all moving towards their degree.' That's why we do athletics."

The board also set its meeting schedule for Feb. 24, March 24, April 28, May 19, June 22, Aug. 25, Sept. 22, Oct. 27 and Dec. 8.

According to the schedule, the April 28 meeting

date is new — to avoid conflict with the CTE Banquet that's scheduled for April 21, at the Mendel Center.

All meetings begin at 6 p.m. in the LMC Mendel Center's Executive Boardroom, on the Napier Avenue campus, in Benton Harbor — with two exceptions.

Those are the May 19 and Sept. 22 meetings, which are scheduled at the Bertrand Crossing and South Haven campuses, respectively.

The board has set Feb. 24 as a workshop for discussion purposes, but no action will be taken.

In other business, the

board completed its lineup of officers by electing Trustee Judy Truesdell as treasurer.

Mary Jo Tomasini and Michael Lindley are this year's chairman and vice chairman, respectively, in keeping with LMC's policy of requiring board members to serve rotating positions.

As part of that process, Tomasini also named Truesdell to the finance committee with Lindley and Trustee Paul Bergan, who was last year's vice chairman.

Tomasini replaces David Maysick as chairman.