

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE

Nursing fundraiser supports 4-H program

By **RALPH HEIBUTZKI**
HP Correspondent

BENTON TWP. — Giving back to the community is an important part of many organizational efforts at Lake Michigan College, and its nursing students are no exception.

LMC's Student Nursing Club members recently raised \$1,083 for the 4-H We Can Ride program, which provides therapeutic and recreational horseback riding lessons. The program serves riders aged 5-26 in Berrien and Cass counties.

The money came from the annual "Penny Wars" fundraiser sponsored by

the club, LMC President Bob Harrison said in his April 28 report for the board of trustees.

Each year, the club chooses a local charity to sponsor. Nursing students and instructors then compete "to see which class can earn the most 'bragging rights' for the year as the class that raised the most money for charity," Harrison said in his report.

Of the six classes that competed, LMC's first year medical surgical class emerged as the winner. "LMC is honored and humbled to have such generous nursing students," Harrison said.

LMC's phlebotomy and ultrasound imaging stu-

dents also are making a different kind of mark locally, as Harrison noted, in his report.

Seven of 11 ultrasound students who graduated last December now hold professional credentials in the field, which requires learning how to operate sophisticated equipment to create diagnostic images of the body, according to an outline posted on the college's website.

Two of the graduates now work at Lakeland Regional Medical Center and South Bend Memorial (Beacon Health Systems), Harrison said.

One student from LMC's phlebotomy program is now also working at Lake-

land.

The college also noticed an upsurge in students from Indiana signing up for its first phlebotomy classes at LMC's Bertrand Crossing campus, in Niles, which is mainly due to a "newly reenergized relationship with Work One! (of Indiana)," according to Harrison.

Phlebotomists draw blood for clinical and medical testing purposes, and earn an average of \$15 per hour, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which expects demand for them to grow 27 percent by 2022.

LMC further promoted the program by hosting two recent "Poke Parties"

at Bertrand that featured pizza, pop and volunteers willing to let students work on them.

"As students increase their proficiency in phlebotomy work they need real arms, hands and veins to practice on," Harrison said.

Tuesday is the deadline to register for Bertrand's next six-week course, which runs from May 19 to June 25, and costs \$850. Students who complete it may then take a certification exam through the National Health Institute, which it offers for \$149.

Call (269) 926-6832 with questions and to register.

Recruitment is also continuing for LMC's new

enology and viticulture program, which begins this fall.

The college launched the program publicly by hosting a Cornerstone Chamber of Commerce "Business After Hours Event" in March.

Eight students are now enrolled in the program, which LMC expects to continue promoting this spring through multiple print media ads and personal appearances by its new director, Michael Moyer, according to Harrison.

"This is a very good start and it is anticipated that the number of students will increase between now and the fall semester," he said.