

# LMC accepting bids for planned technology center

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**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — With a May 2016 groundbreaking still in its sights, Lake Michigan College is ready to move on the construction of its Hanson Technology Center.

Board members recently authorized LMC's management team to accept the lowest qualified bidder and stick with its architect, Progressive AE, of Grand Rapids, LMC President Bob Harrison said.

"Those (bids) should come in at the end of the month, so we're OK to go ahead," Harrison said. "We'll take some time to analyze all the bids, make sure they're all qualified, and go with the lowest (qualified) bid."

LMC is pursuing the project to house all its technology programs in one place on its Napier Avenue campus. It had previously operated those programs at the M-TEC Center on Klock Road, which the college sold to Whirlpool Corp. in December.

The estimated cost of the technology center is

\$9.6 million, which the college expects to finance through its general fund and "Campaign for Tomorrow."

About 70 percent of the campaign's \$7.5 million goal has been raised, but the hardest work is still coming up and that effort won't wind down until this fall, Harrison said.

"The basic themes are job creation, student success, and community engagement. We're still quite a ways from having everything wrapped up, but we're plugging away," he said.

The college is also submitting a \$500,000 request to the Upton Foundation, Harrison said. He didn't know when the foundation will respond.

"What we'll get, if anything, we don't know. That's their time frame," he said.

In other business, the board agreed to accept the lowest qualified bidder for redoing the Mendel Center Mainstage IV area, which hasn't been redone in 10 years, Harrison said. Bids are due in July, with the expectation of work being done at the end of August.