

# Crowded field for LMC president

Search team ponders 73 applications

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**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — Seventy-three candidates say they're ready to succeed Lake Michigan College President Bob Harrison, but the final field won't become clearer until late next month.

An 18-member search committee led by LMC Board President Mary Jo Tomasini is doing a preliminary review of the resumes, which include two from outside the U.S., she said.

"We're pleased that we had that many candidates," Tomasini said. "I thought we would get maybe 50. The search firm said that there'd be a significant influx at the end, and they were right."

Applicants had until

Sept. 14 to apply to succeed Harrison, who's retiring in December. He's led LMC since 2009.

"We have a really great candidate pool with a good mix of traditional and non-traditional backgrounds," she said.

The next major step comes Oct. 1. The search committee and LMC's consultant, Future Management Systems of Beverly, Mass., will begin determining the most viable semi-finalists.

"They'll be reviewing resumes and see how they compare to the criteria we set out — the characteristics that we're looking for in our next leader," Tomasini said. "I'm hoping that it's five or six, at the most, that would be highly qualified and meet the criteria that we've set out."

The criteria includes a record of successful leader-



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**MARY JO TOMASINI**

Lake Michigan College board president, on the search to replace outgoing LMC President Bob Harrison

ship; progressive experience in senior administration; an ability to work with large budgets, and raise funds; and a readiness to work actively with local business, civic and community leaders, according to the college's website.

Future Management has already begun background checks and weeding out unqualified candidates, Tomasini said.

"I don't remember the number, but there were a few that didn't follow the process. There were people that didn't do the (required) writing sample, and didn't submit references," Tomasi-

ni said. "So they're sorting through all of those things."

For those reasons, Tomasini said, the committee might need to work past the Oct. 5 deadline listed on LMC's website for identifying semi-finalists.

Once it finishes that work, the committee would choose two or three finalists by the end of October, Tomasini said.

Interviews and site visits with the top candidates would follow.

"There are resumes that are a half-inch thick. It's not

See **PRESIDENT**, page B2

## **PRESIDENT**

From page B1

like reviewing single-page resumes,” Tomasini said. “We don’t do this very often, so that makes the process different. I can’t tell you, for the last 30 years, we’ve always done it this way.”

Harrison said it’s not surprising to see interest from outside the U.S.

“I’ve not looked at the applications, but there are people that move around between this country and other countries. If they want to get back into the U.S. proper, this would be a great spot to do it,” he said.

The board wants to choose a new president by

Dec.1 and have that person in place by Jan. 1, according to the college’s website.

The other trustees on the committee are Vice Chairman Michael Lindley and Treasurer Judy Truesdell.

Among the other members are Bertrand Crossing campus Executive Dean Barbara Craig, Marketing Director Candice Elders, Student Life and Housing Director Pam McVay and Athletic Director Doug Schaffer.

The committee has three community members: LMC’s co-president of the Student Senate, Caroline Amy; South Haven City Manager Brian Disette; and Otis Joseph, alumni representative.