

It's good to be the president

LMC pleased with response to opening at the top

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BENTON TOWNSHIP — Judging by resumes, there's no lack of interest in becoming Lake Michigan College's next president — whom board members hope to hire by Dec. 1.

The college has received 29 resumes from candidates wanting to succeed Bob Harrison — and it expects many more by the Sept. 14 deadline, board President Mary Jo Tomasini said following Tuesday's meeting.

"We've got a really great internal candidate (in vice president of student services, Clint Gabbard), and the search committee is engaged. So the process is well underway," she said.

Tomasini chairs of the

18-member committee, which will oversee the search to replace Harrison, who's retiring in December, after leading the college since 2009.

Other board members include board Vice Chairman Michael Lindley and Treasurer Judy Truesdell.

Other key members are Bertrand Crossing's executive dean, Barbara Craig; Candice Elders, director of marketing; student life and housing director Pam McVay; and athletic director Doug Schaffer.

The committee has three community members, including LMC's co-president of the Student Senate, Caroline Amy, and South Haven City Manager Brian Dissette.

Committee members met Tuesday for the first time to work out search process details with its consultant, Future Management Systems of Beverly, Mass. LMC is paying Future

Management about \$40,000 to help in the process.

"They've (Future) told us that, (in) the last week, a lot (more resumes) will come in," Tomasini said. "I don't know if that means we'll get another 40 or 50 applicants. Then we have to go through the process of identifying who meets the criteria."

Those details are posted on LMC's website at lakemichigancollege.edu/pres-search.

The college's website lists a dozen desired characteristics, such as a track record of successful leadership; progressive experience in senior level administration; significant experience as a fundraiser, and working with large budgets; and a readiness to work actively with local business, civic and community leaders.

Applicants must provide five references and explain, in three double-spaced

pages, how they fit the profile.

The committee will have to determine how the interviews will be structured, including what types of questions to ask, and whether any of the sessions will be public.

Those matters will depend on how many first-round interviews the committee does, and how many suitable finalists emerge, Tomasini said.

Semi-finalists will be chosen by Oct. 5, with the board making its final decision by Dec. 1, and the new president in place by Jan. 1, according to the timeline on LMC's website.

"Even how you look for a candidate is different today than it was five years ago. We've been doing more atypical things, like LinkedIn, things that weren't tools five years ago. So we're definitely thinking

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