

Tuition and fees on rise for LMC

By **RALPH HEIBUTZKI**

HP Correspondent

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Like any institution, Lake Michigan College has to walk a fine line between affordability and keeping up with costs — which is why officials say they're raising tuition and fees by about 3 percent.

Board members considered several factors before approving the new rates, LMC President Jennifer Spielvogel said.

Inside

■ Lake Michigan College to launch engineering program

PAGE A3

“We have to look at operations costs. Everything goes up. Health care costs go up, insurance, those kind of things,” Spielvogel said. “We have, as our focus, the quality of our programs, quality of our instructors, and quality of our staff.”

The college looks at cost and enrollment projections

for next year, and what it takes to keep programs at quality levels, she said.

The new rates and fees will take effect with the fall semester, for which registration begins this month.

In-district students will pay \$97 per credit hour; out-of-district students, \$150 per credit hour; international students, \$219 per credit hour; and baccalaureate students, \$290 per credit hour, according to a rate schedule released by the college.

The new fees will net \$3 more per credit hour.

The board also raised general academic, facilities and technology fees to \$14, or \$1 more than before.

By doing so, the college hopes to accomplish one key goal this year — hiring five replacement faculty members, Spielvogel said.

“We’ve had some retirements, people who’ve moved into other positions, and buyouts,” Spiegelvogel

See **LMC**, page A8

LMC

From page A1

said. “When you’re looking for people, you want to be able to offer competitive salaries that attract the right people to our programs.”

Even with the latest increases, LMC students will pay a third less for tuition than they would at a four-year college or university, Spielvogel said.

“It’s important to us, ob-

viously, to be here and be affordable to the region. It’s a difficult decision at any time to raise tuition, but hopefully, we are keeping it low, as one of the lowest cost institutions in the region,” she said.

In other business, LMC Board Chairwoman Mary Jo Tomasini announced this year’s Bernard C. Radde Distinguished Service Award winner, which is Joan Smith, who’s serving her second term on the LMC Foundation Board.

Smith joined the board in July 2010. She’s a partner with Smith-Dahmer Associates of St. Joseph.

Smith is chairwoman of “Campaign For Tomorrow,” the college’s \$7.5 million capital fundraising campaign – for which \$7.4 million has been raised from 230 donors, Spielvogel said.

“It’s very far-reaching in the region, and Joan led that whole process. She stepped up when we talking about the capital campaign, and

has led us to success,” Spielvogel. “It’s really important to identify an individual that we can acknowledge in the community.”

Smith will get the award at the college’s graduation ceremony in May.

The award is named for the late Radde, who served 25 years as an LMC board member and officer, and is given to a person – or persons – who have done the most to advance LMC’s cause, and that of higher education overall.