

# LMC gets big boost

Pscholka shepherds \$8.5M spending bill through Legislature, putting college on track for \$17M renovation

By HP STAFF

**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — The Michigan Senate on Tuesday passed legislation proposed by Rep. Al Pscholka that will bring a \$17 million dollar renovation project to Lake Michigan College in Benton Township.

Since 2006, Lake Michigan College has pushed for the funding to restore and upgrade the 307,997-square-foot Napier Avenue Campus Academic Facility, a 45-year-old building.

The project would renovate 50 classrooms and two lecture halls; create a new service center to assist faculty with redesigned curricula; create new collaborative learning and engagement spaces; and provide a Career and Transfer Center and Student Success Center, among other improvements.

Under Pscholka's House Bill 4095, the state would provide \$8.5 million, half the funding, from the State Building Authority for the

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**AL PSCHOLKA**  
79th District state rep.

improvement, restoration, or renovation of state-supported universities, community colleges, and other agencies.

"This project has been a long time coming," said Pscholka, R-Stevensville. "My staff and I have been working on this issue all of my five years in the Legislature, and the college itself has been seeking the money since 2006."

LMC President Bob Harrison said he's eager to

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get the renovation underway.

“I’m grateful to Rep. Pscholka and his staff for their ongoing work to secure this funding,” said Harrison. “Thanks to their efforts, we will be able to expand and bring further educational enrichment to our students and future genera-

tions in Southwest Michigan.”

Pscholka said Lake Michigan College last received state funding for building purposes in 2001, and has historically received less funding compared to other colleges and universities.

“Lake Michigan College was recently rated by Standard & Poor’s with a credit rating of AA-plus, the highest-rated community col-

lege in our state,” Pscholka said. “Considering how much the public sector at large struggled through the recession, this is a phenomenal accomplishment. These are the kinds of institutions we should be investing in; well-managed, proven success stories that know the value of each and every dollar.”

The legislation now goes to Gov. Rick Snyder for his signature.