



Contributed photo

Lake Michigan College President Robert Harrison and Board of Trustees Chairwoman Mary Jo Tomasini hold the street sign to be used to honor the soon-to-retire president.

## Ending his tenure on a high note

LMC, Gov. Snyder praise soon-to-retire Harrison

By **RALPH HEIBUTZKI**  
HP Correspondent

**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — With just over two weeks left in his tenure, Lake Michigan College President Bob Harrison is stepping down with accolades from Gov. Rick Snyder and the institution he's led since 2009.

LMC Board members approved a resolution this week to give him "president emeritus" status, and renames the entrance to the Napi-

er Avenue campus as Harrison Boulevard.

Both honors are fitting rewards for Harrison's many contributions to the college, said board Chairwoman Mary Jo Tomasini — who presented him with a tribute from Snyder.

"Dr. Harrison wholeheartedly embraced all of the duties assigned to him throughout his career at LMC," Tomasini said in an LMC news release. "He provided a successful long-term college vision in a contagiously enthusiastic and often humorous manner. We're saddened that his tenure here has reached its end, but

grateful for his contributions, and we wish him the best in this next phase of his life."

Snyder cited "the addition of a bachelor's degree in energy production and distribution management, the opening of an enology and viticulture center, construction ... of the Hanson Technology Center, (the) addition of first residence hall and a successful 'Start to Finish' program supporting at-risk students."

Harrison is LMC's first leader to earn emeritus distinction, Tomasini said.

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## HARRISON

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“It’s a mark of distinguished service that denotes all the great work (recipients have) done and continues to uphold them with high regard. We name professor emeritus after 15 years of service. We felt that Bob had done such great work, we wanted to have him be our first president emeritus,” she said.

Tuesday’s meeting at MTEC marked the last one for Harrison, who’s retiring at the end of the month.

His replacement is Jennifer Spielvogel, vice president of evidence and inqui-

ry at Cuyahoga Community College.

Harrison wasn’t available for comment Wednesday because he was in Lansing advocating on the college’s behalf, Tomasini said.

“He’s going to work right till the last minute, that’s for sure. He won’t be taking any vacation time on the way out the door,” she said.

Harrison spent 16 years at LMC – first as dean of community and business services, then as dean of occupational studies, and executive dean of its Bertrand Crossing campus.

He served twice as interim president. The board chose him as LMC’s ninth president in May 2009.