

# Transitional guidance

Harrison gains consulting contract to help new Lake Michigan College president

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**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — Lake Michigan College's former president, Bob Harrison, isn't riding into the sunset just yet.

Harrison is returning to the college on a four-month consulting contract to help his successor, Jennifer Spielvogel — to help ease the transition between the administrations, she said.

"He'll be introducing me to the community, to (state) legislators, and (other personnel within) the college," Spielvogel said. "As I've said before, Bob left this place in really good hands, and now I just get to continue the kinds of things that we've already started."

LMC board members approved the arrangement in Tuesday's meeting.

Harrison's experience

and institutional memory will be an asset to Spielvogel, LMC Board Chairwoman Mary Jo Tomasini said.

"Bob's role, really, is to be an advocate, and help Jennifer to put the puzzle pieces together — who's related to who, and what company is owned by who," Tomasini said. "We're excited that he's come back to help us out."

For example, Harrison will join Spielvogel and board members and LMC officials today for a trip to Lansing, Tomasini said.

The trip is organized by the Michigan Community College Association.

"It's called the 'Legislative Action Day,' or something like that — they (MCCA) put a lunch program together, and they meet with our legislators, talk about what the college's needs are," Tomasini said.

Tomasini didn't know

how much Harrison will earn under his contract, whose ending will coincide with the wrap-up of LMC's \$7.5 million "Campaign For Tomorrow" fundraising effort.

"The campaign really needs to be done by the end of April, and Jennifer will know everybody by then — she's met a lot of people in the community already," Tomasini said. "She's doing a great job. When you think of it geographically, meeting everyone ... it is a lot to cover."

Harrison stepped down in December after a 16-year career with the college, which he led since May 2009.

In response, the board granted Harrison president emeritus status, and named the entryway of LMC's Napier Avenue campus as "Harrison Boulevard" in his honor.

"I knew we'd see him, but he wants to have Jennifer have a great start," Tomasini said.

Spielvogel formerly

served as vice president of evidence and inquiry at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland before starting her new role in January.

In other business, Spielvogel said she hopes to announce by next month she'll go about replacing LMC's former vice president of student services, Clinton Gabbard.

"I wanted to spend some time understanding all of the areas that reported to him (Gabbard), so they're all reporting to me right now, temporarily," Spielvogel said. "We'll have some sort of announcement by Feb. 1. I gave myself four weeks, but I've had great input."

Gabbard left LMC last month to become president of McHenry County Community College in Crystal Lake, Ill.

He was the only internal candidate to apply for Harrison's job, but withdrew his application after the McHenry presidential spot opened up.