

LETTERS

LMC board was wise to address problem head on

Editor,

As a former board member and board chair of Lake Michigan College, I know about some of the challenging decisions trustees are presented with on a regular basis. These dedicated public stewards volunteer countless hours and expertise to protecting one of our community's greatest resources. Choosing an individual with the ability to lead effectively is not easy. What would have been easy is if the board had chosen to look the other way when the problems began to surface with Jennifer Spielvogel. Instead, they identified a problem, practiced due diligence, took decisive action, and efficiently handled the situation. They took a preemptive strike against what could have been a devastating chapter in the college's history.

Of extreme importance is the nation's concern about the rising cost of attending state colleges, and I believe college tuition will continue to increase in the years ahead. Furthermore, I think it will be very difficult to pass legislation to subsidize individuals to attend state colleges.

Therefore, in my opinion, community colleges will begin to play a larger role in providing education and training beyond high school. It will be necessary for community colleges to fill the gap for career-focused degrees which will enable students to fill jobs in our community and beyond. In the future, the offerings of community colleges will parallel state colleges. This is a very important issue which I am very sure could happen, and we as a community need to support the operations and growth of LMC.

Community colleges don't need to be the "other" choice for anyone choosing to go to college. LMC is doing great work, the faculty and the board are dedicated, and I trust this recent episode will not dampen their fortitude while guiding the exciting and important projects which are in progress or the community's support for these projects.

**Merlin Hanson
Former Lake Michigan
College Board Member
and Chairman**