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April 19, 2016

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Community Members:

**Can \$1.04 per month position our region for a stronger future?**

We at Lake Michigan College are committed to seeing our region thrive. Accordingly, we have been working with community, industry and education leaders to identify campus improvements that will help us contribute substantially to delivering an educated, well-trained workforce, more well-paying jobs and a stronger regional economy.

**Why now? Why is this urgent? What steps has the College already taken?**

More than ever, the economic success of our region is directly tied to employers having access to a well-trained workforce. In fact, within a few short years it is estimated that 60% of available jobs will require some level of education beyond high school. Today, only about one-third of adults in Berrien and Van Buren counties hold an Associate's degree or higher. Much more needs to be done to reduce unemployment and underemployment in our region.

It is critical that new opportunities are created to expand educational opportunities and workforce training for recent high school graduates and adults seeking to change careers or obtain additional training. There is also a need to further expand opportunities for high school students to earn college credits while still in high school.

Since 2013, the College has raised \$16 million through private donations and state and federal grants. These monies are being used to fund important new projects like the Hanson Technology Center and others. In addition, the College is also investing about \$24 million of general fund monies in critical capital improvements at each campus.

**What's left? What's the next step?**

To fund a portion of the facility improvements designed to meet the needs of our students, employers and the region, LMC is considering placing a millage proposal on the November 8, 2016 ballot.

The proposal being considered is .25 mills (one-quarter of one mill) over 20 years, with an estimated tax impact of \$1.04 per month per \$100,000 of a property's market value (\$50,000 taxable value).

Proceeds of the millage – the final component of the College's funding strategy – would be used to fund projects in three key areas, if approved:

***1. Academic & Student Success***

- Modernizing instructional spaces at all LMC campuses and equipping them with real-world technologies that will allow the College to expand programming in health sciences, technology, manufacturing, tourism and other rapidly growing industries.
- Expanding and enhancing collaborative and support-service spaces for tutoring, workforce placement, business and industry mentoring, transfer services, career counseling and other services that foster student success.

**2. Safety, Security & Critical Capital Improvements**

- Upgrading entryways, adding security cameras and addressing other improvements to protect students, staff and guests.
- Replacing the College's 50-year-old heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, reducing energy costs by an estimated \$300,000 annually.
- Addressing other major building improvement projects focused on reducing operating and maintenance costs, improving energy efficiency and extending the useful life of existing facilities.

**3. The Mendel Center**

- The 37 year-old Mendel Center – one of the region's most important cultural and meeting centers, and home to the College's instructional arts program – would be modernized and renovated, including the updating of sound, lighting and presentation technology.

**The College's Board of Trustees will make a final decision on whether to place a millage proposal on the November 2016 ballot before August 15, 2016. This will provide time for public input.**

As an important stakeholder in our community, we would greatly appreciate your thoughts and recommendations on this proposal.

Sincerely,

**Lake Michigan College Board of Trustees**



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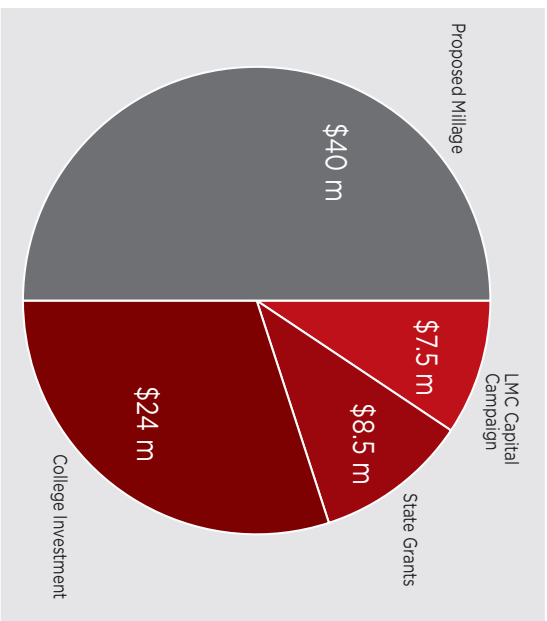
Stephen Small  
*Trustee*

*P.S. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person to discuss LMC's proposed projects and millage. Furthermore, if you would like a representative of Lake Michigan College to make a presentation to your civic, business or other organization, we would welcome that opportunity as well. Please contact Mary Klemm, Executive Director of Lake Michigan College Foundation, at 269-927-6849 if you would like to set up a meeting or presentation.*



# PROPOSED MILLAGE REQUEST OVERVIEW

	Private, Grant & College Funded	Proposed Millage Funding
<b>Academic &amp; Student Success:</b>		
Hanson Technology Center	\$11,883,000	
Modernize Teaching & Learning Spaces:	\$7,638,000	\$7,614,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 Classrooms &amp; 2 Lecture Halls at Napier Campus</li> <li>• South Haven Campus Classrooms</li> <li>• Napier &amp; Bertrand Student Success Centers</li> <li>• Business Education &amp; Resource Center</li> </ul>		
Wine & Culinary Education Center	\$2,456,000	\$2,675,000
Instructional Technology & Program Equipment	\$8,410,000	\$5,175,500
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$30,387,000</b>	<b>\$15,464,500</b>
<b>Safety, Security &amp; Critical Capital Improvements:</b>		
Safety & Security Upgrades (All Campuses)		\$1,678,000
Energy Efficiency Improvements	\$2,168,500	\$2,168,500
Critical Capital Improvements (All Campuses)	\$7,162,000	\$16,591,000
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$9,330,500</b>	<b>\$20,437,500</b>
<b>Mendel Center:</b>		
Renovations & Equipment Replacement	\$500,000	\$4,388,000



FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY 4/13/16

**ACADEMIC & STUDENT SUCCESS**



- Modernize Teaching & Learnings Spaces
- 50 Classrooms & 2 Lecture Halls at Napier Campus
- South Haven Campus Classrooms
- Napier & Bertrand Student Success Centers
- Business Education & Resource Center
- Wine & Culinary Education Center
- Instructional Technology & Program Equipment

**SAFETY, SECURITY & CRITICAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**



- Safety & Security Upgrades (All Campuses)
- Energy Efficiency Improvements
- Critical Capital Improvements (All Campuses)

**THE MENDEL CENTER**



- Renovation & Equipment Replacement