

# SJ, Lawrence students to speak at commencement

**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — Stephen Venable of Lawrence and Aiden Weston of St. Joseph have been selected as student speakers for Lake Michigan College's 69th annual commencement exercise at 2 p.m. Sunday, LMC announced.

Venable will graduate with highest honors and an associate degree in applied science – nursing.

After Venable lost his mother to cancer three



VENABLE



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years ago, he was inspired and comforted by the nurses at Lakeland Health, particularly the male nurses. Although he had taken

LMC classes as a high school student, it wasn't

until he became a full-time LMC student that he began to realize he had the chance to make a difference in others' lives the way the nurses at Lakeland made a difference for him and his family.

He was selected to serve as the student nurse representative to the nursing faculty, and he was awarded the Spirit of Nursing Award by the nursing faculty.

Venable has been hired at the medical oncology unit

at Lakeland Health – the same one where his mother was treated.

Weston graduated with honors in Fall 2014 with an associate in science degree, and in Fall of 2015 with honors and an associate in applied business degree in computer information systems – networking.

Weston grew up in Nashville, where he was an enthusiastic math student for as long as he can remember, even tutoring

other students since he was in the fourth grade. When he moved to Southwest Michigan five years ago to spend time with family, he decided to pursue a mathematics degree, and then a computer information systems degree.

He became president of the honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, where he learned leadership skills and met people at PTK events, and because other students recognized him from photos.

Weston wanted to speak at commencement for the challenge of it, and to assure his fellow students that though plans don't always go the way you expect them to, things can still work out well.

The student commencement speaker is selected each year by a panel of LMC faculty and staff from among graduates who enter the annual commencement speaker competition.