

# Just waiting for the icing

## LMC gets ready to serve culinary program

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**BENTON HARBOR** — Nearly everything's in place for Lake Michigan College's culinary program. All that's left is to buy the equipment and get the site ready.

As part of that effort, LMC board members agreed last week to spend \$233,500 on kitchen equipment for the Wine & Culinary Education Center, which includes \$22,500 for a commercial dishwasher, "like students would find in a restaurant or commercial kitchen," president emeritus/Acting CEO Bob Harrison said.

LMC will house the kitchen

at a temporary site in the L-wing of its main campus along Napier Avenue until it finds a permanent location, Harrison said.

LMC will cover the cost from its general fund, "or do some debt, at some point in the future – and we're always looking for donations, to offset the cost of equipment and facilities," he said.

"It's a relatively old part of the college, so we've got to make some code corrections," Harrison said. "The dish machine that we'll buy, like most of the equipment, will move to the formal, permanent location at a later date."

Harrison said he expects the temporary kitchen and

site to be up and running by the fall semester.

"It's the same process that we used for starting the wine program," Harrison said. "We did the temporary winery, and all the equipment moved to the permanent location at a later date. The key is to get the programs up and running in a relatively lower-cost environment."

The Mendel Center is also getting a new technical services provider, which includes audio, lighting and video help for productions and events, as well as computer and video projections, and setup assistance.

Board members accepted a \$220,800 bid from TPC Technologies of Niles. TPC edged out AudioBahn

Productions of Mishawaka, Ind., (\$229,984), and DPM Events of Buchanan (\$281,101).

TPC will get a three-year contract with possible extensions in one-year increments.

AudioBahn had provided the services on a five-year contract that LMC re-bid after it expired, Harrison said.

"I think we're pleased that we're holding the line on costs. TPC's well-recommended, so we're pleased," he said.

The board changed its August meeting date to avoid conflicts with the long-awaited opening of LMC's Hanson Technology Center at the Napier Avenue campus.

Board members moved the meeting from Aug. 23, which is Hanson's official opening, to Aug. 30.

"The (Hanson) open house will be Aug. 23, so we'll start classes after Labor Day," Harrison said. "We align our schedule to the state, when they passed the requirement that school districts couldn't start after Labor Day."

However, that's not the only reason for the change.

"We end up with a lot of adult students with young children, and they have a real issue with morning classes, (potentially) leaving the kids at home. So we're going to do what's in the best interests of our students and start after Labor Day," Harrison said.