
The final countdown

LMC board ups budget by \$150,000 as Hanson Center nears grand opening

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BENTON HARBOR — Lake Michigan College board members have added a \$150,000 cushion to its construction budget for the Hanson Technology Center as the project enters the home stretch.

The college originally budgeted \$11.9 million for the center, which is being built on the Napier Avenue campus — where the college will house all of its manufacturing technology programs.

However, the additional \$150,000 will prove helpful if any last-minute issues arise, according to Anne Erdman, vice president of administration.

“We just know we’re being cautious, because

we know that when you get down to doing punch list items, that’s when you make those last-minute decisions, once you get the feel, and see the inside of the building,” she said.

The center will open for the new academic year on Tuesday, Aug. 23. Donors will get a private tour and lunch, after which the building will open to the public, said President Emeritus/Acting CEO Bob Harrison.

LMC intends the Hanson Center to serve as the focus of its efforts to take its manufacturing technology education and training programs to a new level.

The college cited that reason, as well as the space issue, for its closing last

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winter of the M-TEC Center, where most of the programs were housed.

The board last week approved the additional \$150,000 after hearing an update on the construction from Erdman and Facilities Management Director Lee Van Gin Hoven.

Contractors are down to a final list of items, as well as installing the center's interior fixtures and panels, Erdman said.

"Compared to what I've done before, this is the most exciting (design) – the word 'wow' should be the first thing out of their mouths, when they walk in," Erdman said. "What we've heard so far is that, when people walk in the

door, people are stunned at how much space there really is in the place."

The next order of business is moving equipment and furniture out of the Ausco building, where it has been stored since the M-TEC Center's closing, Van Gin Hoven said.

"Starting Aug. 1, you're going to see a lot of activity going on at that (Hanson construction) site," he told the board.

Both said it may be possible to put \$30,000 or \$40,000 of the additional \$150,000 back into the budget, but that will depend on how the last month of construction goes.

"At this point in time, we're not really in a position to know (how much money LMC will get back)," Erdman said.