

LMC to host apprenticeship event

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Lake Michigan College will celebrate the nation's second-annual Apprenticeship Week on Monday, Nov. 14, in its new Hanson Technology Center, LMC announced.

The event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. The program begins at 8 a.m. and includes a tour of the technology center at 2755 E. Napier Ave. Guests should RSVP at lakemichigancollege.edu/NAW or contact Lynette Wolf at lwolf@lakemichigancollege.edu or 926-4297.

Guests will learn about the area's latest apprenticeship successes and opportunities and hear the results of a three-year initiative to improve statewide manufacturing training programs.

National Apprenticeship Week was established in 2014 to double the amount of apprenticeships within five years. It is part of an overall effort to make a dent in the skills gap faced by U.S. em-



Don Campbell / HP staff

Lake Michigan College will host Apprentice Week on Monday, Nov. 14 at the new Hanson Technology Center on its campus in Benton Harbor Township.

ployers who are trying to fill a near-record number of 5.4 million unfilled jobs.

Apprenticeships use an "earn and learn" training model that

combines paid on-the-job experience coupled with a substantial educational component.

"Apprenticeships are a win-win for everyone, and they're making

a comeback. Students are catching on to the vast career opportunities in advanced manufacturing and local companies benefit by diversifying their workforce, improving productivity and profitability, reducing turnover and receiving tax credits," Ken Flowers, LMC's Dean of Career and Workforce Education, said in an LMC news release.

During the event, an impact report prepared by the Michigan Coalition for Advanced Manufacturing will reveal the outcome of a \$24.9 million U.S. Department of Labor grant awarded in 2013 to a group of eight Michigan community colleges, including LMC.

The report will highlight the massive strides LMC has made since then to modernize programs, update equipment and technology; enhance job placement and career development services; improve statewide policies and strengthen partnerships with regional industry leaders.