

LMC upgrades phlebotomy program

Board formalizes policies for faculty hiring

By RALPH HEIBUTZKI
HP Correspondent

BENTON HARBOR — Students can now add phlebotomy technician to Lake Michigan College's growing list of program options.

The new program will prepare students for work in clinical laboratories, while giving them a foothold to pursue other health care careers, according to Leslie Kellogg, vice president of academic services.

"We've offered a phlebotomy program for quite some time, but it was in our short-term training division. Now, it's a credit-bearing, 12-hour program, so that was the change."

Kellogg said.

LMC Board members approved the change last week.

Students who complete the program — which prepares them to draw blood for various lab tests and procedures — can then earn a Level certificate, and sit for the National Healthcareer Association certification exam.

Getting that certificate will require 100 hours of supervised clinical practice and 100 successful collections, as well as classroom lectures and lab demonstrations, according to an outline prepared for the board.

Students will also earn

infection control standards and safety guidelines, law and ethical standards, quality control methods, and specimen collection techniques.

"It is also a gateway into other health sciences. It is hands-on patient care," Kellogg said.

Students who graduate from the program could then work for local health care providers like Lakeland Health, and InterCare Community Health Network, but the possibilities don't end there, Kellogg said.

"For 12 credit hours, which you can complete in one semester, you can get a job in the field, and if you like it, continue your education while you're employed.

and move into the higher levels of the healthcare industry, such as medical assisting, radiography, sonography, and even nursing."

In other business, the board approved a policy that spells out minimum qualifications and standards for LMC faculty members.

The idea is "to ensure that the faculty that we hire to teach have the qualifications necessary to deliver quality education," Kellogg said. "We've always practiced it. We did not have it in policy."

For example, arts and sciences courses will require a master's degree in the subject, "or a master's degree in some other discipline (subject) — plus 18 gradu-

ate hours in the discipline," Kellogg said.

Career technical education courses will now require at least a bachelor's degree, plus proof of relevant licensing and certification, and additional work experience.

For example, "if we hire a business faculty (member), they'd have to have a bachelor's degree, and at least two years of working full time, in the business field, preferably more," Kellogg said.

Faculty members teaching transitional studies courses will need at least a bachelor's degree in their subject, plus experience in working with adult or developmental learners.

Faculty members in applied music, foreign lan-

guage and physical education will need at least an associate's degree for their subject, plus any required certifications, and prepare to show their proficiency at it.

For example, vocal and instrumental music teachers must expect to have their talents validated through "wide critical and public acclaim, peer review, or publication," the policy states.

The board also made one change to its 2017 meeting calendar. Election of officers will now happen at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017, instead of Jan. 10, as previously scheduled.

The venue will be announced when the meeting is posted.