

# LMC planning computer overhaul

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**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — Lake Michigan College will spend \$448,000 to replace 2,100 computers that have reached the ends of their shelf lives.

LMC board members unanimously awarded the bid to Dell, the only company that responded to the college's request for a proposal.

Kelli Hahn, vice president of financial services, wasn't surprised to see only Dell emerge.

"From what I understand, the thought is that Dell owns the market," she said at last week's board meeting. "We did an RFP (request for proposal), gave people sufficient time to respond, and this is what we got."

The award goes beyond the RFP, which went out in May. LMC asked for a quote based on 563 classroom and laboratory devices, according to a board memo.

However, no major cost problems are expected be-

cause Dell's bid wound up being "below the preliminary capital budget allocation," the memo stated.

Computers in labs account for 69 percent of the devices being replaced (1,478), followed by administrative offices (518), classrooms (98) and digital signs/other uses (39), according to the memo.

In proceeding with the project, LMC is following a five-year replacement cycle, which is considered a recommended best practice "to minimize unnecessary cost, operational inefficiencies and service disruptions," the memo said.

The average age of LMC's current lab and classroom computers is 4.9 and 6.4 years, respectively.

As a result, "due to the age of the equipment, difficulty in obtaining software updates and manufacturer support, replacement of this equipment is necessary," the memo stated.

In other business, the college's management team — including LMC President

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Trevor Kubatzke – and its architect, Stantec, met with state Management and Budget Office officials last month regarding LMC's Napier Avenue renovation project.

The meeting focused on the extended scope of work for the Napier Avenue campus' main academic building, according to a report prepared for last week's meeting.

According to the report, no separate legislative approval is needed for the extended scope, which will be part of the design and program statement.

The college expects to draft and submit those documents by August or September.

LMC is pursuing the project as part of an \$8.5 million capital outlay grant from the state, which required the college to match the amount.

Key aspects include the renovation of 50 classrooms and two lecture halls, collaborative learning spaces, and the creation of the Career and Transfer Center and Student Success Center.

The board began preparing for the project in December when it hired Stantec of Berkeley, Mich., as the architect. Board members followed up in April by hiring Miller-Davis Co. of Kalamazoo as the construction manager.

Both firms are involved in the schematic design work, which Kubatzke is coordinating along with the newly created Capital Outlay Grant Steering Committee, the report stated.