

Lawrence Tech unveils plans to expand campus

By CRAIG PIECHURA

Lawrence Institute of Technology (LIT) trustees will formally announce on Friday the start of a \$12.5 million construction program at a dinner in Dearborn's Hyatt Regency Hotel.

College spokesmen say 40 percent of the \$12.5 million goal has already been pledged by local businesses and foundations.

College officials plan to build two buildings.

The first is a 100,000 square-foot Business and Industrial Management Building with classrooms and offices

for 1,000 management students as well as a library, cafeteria and student service facilities. Target date for completion is the fall of 1981, according to college officials.

The second building planned is a Campus Affairs and Activities Building, also to be built on the Southfield campus. Plans call for construction of a gymnasium, pool and physical fitness room along with various offices and conference rooms.

Capital improvement funds will also be used to renovate portions of the college's Administration and Engineering

Building, built in 1955 and its Architecture Building, built in 1962.

LIT trustees hope to conclude all construction in 1984.

Plans to build a student activities center started in the early 1970s. Dr. Wayne Buell, chairman of the board at LIT, remarked earlier this year that he has "taken a lot of jokes" about an early slogan that the student affairs building "must come through in '72."

Members of the college fundraising council and board of trustees held off announcing the badly-needed building drive, said Buell, "until 35 to 40 percent of the funds were committed."

Buell said the delay in capital improvements had nothing to do with recent building programs at Wayne State University and the University of Detroit.

"There's no good time to raise this much money — \$12.5 million," he said.

"When we look at it from our own standpoint we see a need to break ground for the first building next year. The need to initiate the campaign is urgent. We waited about as long as we could. A capital improvement program is an enormous undertaking. It takes a long time to prepare for such a campaign. We're building now because we need it now."

LIT moved from Highland Park to the 85-acre Southfield campus in 1955. The campus was designed to accommodate less than 3,000 students, according to Buell. By staggering classes around

the clock, LIT managed to enroll 4,991 students this fall.

But the campus is visibly bursting at its seams.

Two giant trailers were installed in the middle of the campus in August to serve as temporary bookstores. The old bookstore was converted into a manufacturing engineering lab after Ford Motor Co. donated a \$125,000 grant to fund the program.

FORD is the major contributor to the capital improvement drive, too, having pledged \$1,225,000. That's one of the reasons the fund kick-off dinner is being held in Dearborn, home of Ford World Headquarters, rather than Southfield.

Chairman of the capital improvement drive is Lewis C. Veraldi, of Birmingham. Veraldi, a 1968 LIT mechanical engineering graduate, introduced the sub-compact Fiesta in 1976 while

vice president of product development for Ford of Europe. He joined Ford in 1949 as a file clerk and is vice president for advanced vehicles development.

Ford has always been LIT's biggest backer. There are 1,100 LIT graduates working for Ford Motor Co., according to college officials.

General Motors Corp./General Motors Foundation has contributed the second largest donation — \$588,000 to the capital improvement drive. LIT members of the corporation and board of trustees pledged another \$265,000. Even financially-troubled Chrysler Corp. is among the major corporate contributors.

CHRYSLER's \$25,000 gift dates back to 1973 when fundraising efforts for the student affairs building began.

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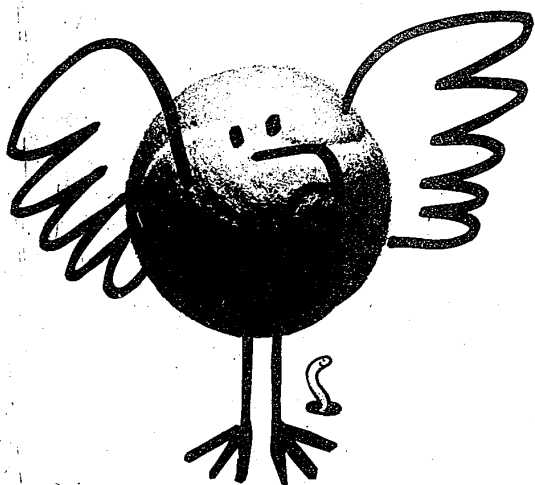
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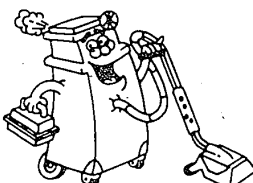


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