

Loh awarded Dodge endowed chair at OU

Nan K. Loh, an internationally known expert in robotics and advanced automation, has been named John F. Dodge professor of engineering at Oakland University effective Jan. 1.

Loh of Rochester is the fourth person to hold the chair, endowed by a \$750,000 gift from the late Matilda R. Dodge in memory of her first husband, auto pioneer John F. Dodge.

Loh has current research contracts worth nearly \$250,000, the university said. The engineering professor has been at OU five years, coming from the University of Iowa. His doctorate is from the University of Waterloo in Ontario.

Loh's appointment was made by the OU board of trustees. He succeeds Mohammed S. Ghausi, dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science, who will leave OU Oct. 1 to become dean of engineering at the University of California at Davis.

Keith R. Kieckhefer, OU provost, called Loh a "cornerstone of the new OU Center for Robotics and Advanced Automation." Kieckhefer said Loh is in continuing demand as a consultant to government agencies and industry.



Nan K. Loh
John F. Dodge professor

GM, UAW await retraining funds

By Tim Richard
staff writer

General Motors Corp. and the United Auto Workers are still awaiting word from Lansing on whether the state will help them finance a \$4.75 million job retraining program in Oakland County.

"They're trying to reach agreement on the rules," said an aide to state Sen. Philip O. Mastin, D-Pontiac, a member of the Michigan Job Training Coordinating Council which is writing the rules.

Mastin's office is hopeful the GM-UAW proposal will get a high priority because they are putting up half the money — \$2.39 million.

The proposal's goal is to retrain 2,250 laid-off workers from Pontiac-area GM plants with a 65 percent success rate in placement, either in other GM plants or in other industrial firms.

THE PRIVATE money is coming from the so-called "five-cent fund" set up in the 1982 GM-UAW contract, according to GM spokesman John Mueller.

"There are two separate training funds in the '82 contract," said Mueller. "One is set up by five cents per straight-time hour worked by UAW members in GM plants."

"It is administered as a joint GM-UAW entity, which figures out what to do with the money. Among other things, it can be used for retraining laid-off workers."

Nationally, the fund can amount to \$40 million a year, Mueller said.

He said that in California, for example, \$4 million is being used in joint GM-UAW-state of California retraining effort for laid-off workers at two assembly plants — Fremont and Southgate — which ceased operations in 1982.

GM AND the UAW hope Michigan's Job Training Council will write rules whereby the state can allocate a matching \$2.39 million in federal funds to cover the total \$4.75 million program.

"We're hoping the highest priority projects will be the ones with matching funds," said Mastin's aide.

The state will have \$18 million to al-

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locate, and competition is expected to be stiff. "I have no doubt that the state will be forced to choose among programs that, in total, will cost 10 times that amount," said Mastin.

Mastin, whose district ranges across northern Oakland County, including Rochester, is pushing the GM-UAW plan. "This proposal represents a tremendous commitment on the part of the UAW and GM toward assuring that their former workers are provided the assistance they need to secure and maintain new employment."

"This would represent one of the largest funding commitments made anywhere for worker retraining by GM and the UAW."

ELIGIBLE FOR the 2,250 first year training slots are 13,000 persons on layoff and another 1,000 in jobs that are considered obsolete and scheduled for layoff.

New job sources are expected to be the new GM Lake Orion plant, where many will be robotics-oriented, and suppliers of the automotive industry.

Mastin is particularly enthusiastic because the proposal represents a co-operative effort between management, labor and state government. His aide said such an effort would be "more real-world oriented" than a totally state-administered program.

Just where the retraining would take place hasn't been decided.

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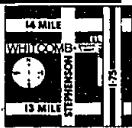
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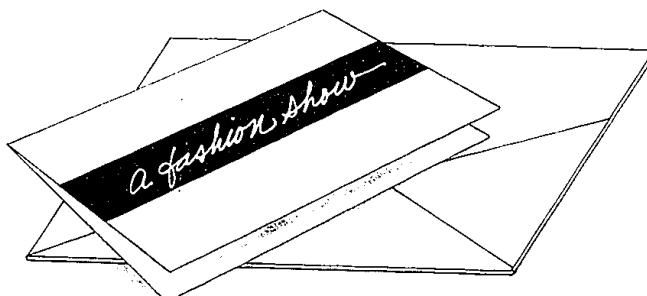
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