

LIT continues spirit and tradition of closed college

Lawrence Institute of Technology will establish an endowed faculty chair in manufacturing engineering, naming it in honor of the Detroit Institute of Technology, which closed in 1981 after several years of declining enrollment.

LIT is also re-establishing full alumni programs for DIT graduates and is the depository for

DIT student transcripts. LIT and DIT were not previously affiliated, but similar technologically based academic programs were offered at both private institutions, and they shared a close relationship with the industrial community.

"We are very pleased to memorialize DIT's distinguished record of educational service, dating

back to 1891, through establishment of this faculty chair," said Richard Marburger, LIT president and chairman of the 6,200-student college's board of trustees.

"We plan to attract and support a nationally recognized scholar in manufacturing engineering on this campus and also to enhance our efforts to attract qualified minority

students to LIT."

CHARLES HEIDEL, former chairman of DIT's board of trustees and president of Detroit Edison, lauded the announcement. "Although DIT has closed, DIT's spirit and traditions of service will live on at Lawrence Institute of Technology, allowing new generations of stu-

dents to benefit from the respective technological programs that DIT and LIT both championed."

The State Board of Education in 1984 appointed the LIT registrar to administer all of DIT's student transcripts and records.

LIT also will begin a full service alumni program for DIT graduates and is asking them to reg-

ister with LIT's Alumni Office because address records from DIT are not current.

Manufacturing engineering, focus of the DIT faculty chair at Lawrence Tech, involves students in assembly and production technology,

including robotics, computer-aided, engineering, and computer integrated manufacturing, said Robert Ellis, dean of LIT's school of engineering.

Ellis was president of DIT when a similar program was initiated there. It was a major element

of DIT's academic program prior to its closing and was planned with the assistance of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Lawrence Institute of Technology is Michigan's largest private undergraduate college. It of-

fers a variety of day and evening programs in engineering, architecture, management, and arts and science, as well as evening associate programs in science and engineering technologies. LIT's 90-acre campus is in Southfield.

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