

OCC seeks leadership with fluid tech deal



Christine Gram
Auburn Hills president

By Tim Richard
staff writer

A fluid power technology program at Oakland Community College will be richer by \$175,000 worth of equipment under a contract with a major automotive supplier.

"The bottom line is a tremendous opportunity," OCC Board Chairman Suzanne Reynolds said after trustees gave a 6-0 green light to the administration to proceed with a contract.

The two-year program attracts 150 students to OCC's Auburn Hills Campus west of Rochester, campus President Christine Gram said. OCC will be able to expand enrollment by half, to at least 225 within a year and a half.

FLUID POWER technology covers such hydraulic and pneumatic equipment as compressed air. It's taught in Building A of Auburn Hills, the campus where most automotive tech programs are offered.

"It's another large gift to our Auburn Hills technology area," said Anthony Jarson, vice chancellor for business. Jarson is working on the deal with Rexroth Corp. of Lehigh Valley, Pa.

The college will put up \$27,500 of its Business and Professional Institute money, Jarson said.

"Two of our instructors will be trained by Rexroth, a major supplier to the automotive industry."

"OUR EQUIPMENT is not up-to-date."

"Rexroth will provide eight teaching fluid power systems with the latest electro-mechanical components, a value of approximately \$175,000," Gram said in a memo to the board.

"In cooperation with the Business and Professional Institute, Rexroth would offer a series of workshops and seminars to industries in fluid power, which will provide additional income to the college. The cost to the college would be \$64,000."

The college share would be reduced by state-federal vocational grant of \$32,000 and a \$5,000 grant from industry.

"At this time, 12 major fluid power companies have indicated an interest in either a financial donation or equipment to support this needed training site."

"THE WORKSHOPS, seminars and courses requested by Rexroth would be advertised by Rexroth. They would be responsible for recruiting the tuition from the participants and would be billed directly by the college for the cost of training offered here."

"The intent is for the college to coordinate and teach the course offerings for Rexroth, utilizing Rexroth training units and curricula as well as other equipment that presently exists or that will be acquired through donations."

A college electrician can install the new equipment, Gram said.

The result would be that within two years the northeastern OCC campus, a stone's throw from the developing Oakland Technology Park, would have the latest curriculum and equipment.

Moreover, college officials see OCC as being recognized in industrial and educational circles as the leader in fluid power technology.

Regular OCC students, as well as those trained in Rexroth's courses, would have access to the new equipment, Gram said.

IN A RELATED action, the board of trustees approved Chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson's recommendation that non-resident owners paying taxes on property in Oakland County be charged in-district tuition rates.

Under the policy, a person who pays property taxes to OCC would be charged resident tuition of \$26 a credit hour rather than the non-resident rate of \$41.

The policy would apply to the property owner's dependents, Nicholson said.

"We're not a pioneer in this area," Nicholson said, noting many colleges follow that policy.

About 15 percent of OCC's students are non-residents of the college district, Nicholson said, but just

"a few" will qualify as property owners eligible for the resident tuition rate.

"It's a step in the right direction," said an encouraging trustee, Douglas Wakefield of Southfield. "Ideally, I'd like to think any American could go to any college free."

IN OREGON, where Nicholson was a college president for almost a decade, community colleges charge a single rate to all Oregon residents, regardless of whether they live in a particular district, Nicholson said. Oregon state government pays about half the cost of operating community colleges, he said.

In Michigan, however, state government pays one-third or less of community college cost, property taxes cover one-third and tuition one-third.

Michigan community colleges commonly charge three tuition rates: one to residents of the college district, a higher one to non-resident Michiganders, and the highest one to out-of-state residents.

Lucas due at GOP fund-raising party

Gubernatorial candidate William Lucas will speak at a garden party, Oakland County Republican Chairman Joe Knollenberg said.

It will run 5:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Ben Weinberg in Bloomfield Hills. The house is known as "Walrus Manor" because it was the home of the late industrialist Walter Briggs. The affair will be the largest fund-raising event for the Republican Committee of Oakland County, Knollenberg said. Tickets are \$75 a person and \$125 a couple. Members of the GOP's 300 Club will be charged \$35 and \$50.

Tickets may be reserved by calling Republican headquarters at 338-1193 (Pontiac).

This is the 10th annual such event, Knollenberg said. Besides hearing Lucas, patrons may meet the candidate.

OCC telecourse on 'Africans'

Students can take an Oakland Community College course by television at home if they register in the next day or two.

The telecourse is "The Africans" and will be broadcast by Channel 56, the public station, at 10 p.m. Tuesday beginning in October.

"The Africans" also will be shown

over the College Cable Channel at 4 p.m. Mondays and noon Thursdays. The college channel is carried by most local cable systems — Metrovision, Continental, Oncom, Tribune-United and Booth.

Interested students may register for credit by signing up for Anthropology 251, Profiles of Ethnology, at any of the four OCC campus locations. Registration is Sept. 2 and 3. Classes begin Sept. 4.

Information about this and other telecourses is available from OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus history and communications department at 471-7682.

"The flexible scheduling of telecourses appeals to many people who cannot come to the college campus as often as a regular course requires," said Don Nichols, OCC's dean of arts and sciences.

"The Africans," a multi-disciplinary course, examines the history and contemporary life of African through its tribal heritage. Nine programs hosted by Ali Mazrui are filled with on-location film footage.

plus as often as a regular course requires," said Don Nichols, OCC's dean of arts and sciences.

Fuel cheapest since '78

Labor Day gasoline prices continue to defy traditional summer increases tumbling 7.5-cents-per-gallon since July 4 and 34.7 cents since Labor Day 1985.

It was the sharpest retail gasoline price drop in a 12-month period in this century, the American Automobile Association reported.

Other findings from AAA's fuel report:

• The 23.5 million motorists expected to travel over Labor Day weekend will pay an average of 92.2 cents a gallon for gasoline, the lowest Labor Day prices since 1978.

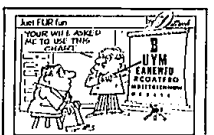
• Self-service gasoline averages 79.6 cents per gallon for regular and 84.5 cents for unleaded, a decrease of 9.1 cents and 9.8 cents, respectively, since July 4.

• Premium unleaded full-service is \$1.12, down 10.9 cents per gallon since July 4. Self-service premium unleaded is 95.6 cents, a 9.6-cent-per-gallon decrease.

• Extreme prices: New Jersey was lowest, averaging 78.9 cents; the state of Washington was highest, averaging \$1.07.

Nearly 63 percent of all service stations will maintain normal operating hours during the Labor Day holiday weekend.

The AAA report is based on a survey of 6,000 service stations along major travel routes throughout the continental United States.



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