

Reynolds to leave OCC

Board chief takes job with Florida college

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Choking back tears, Suzanne Reynolds, Oakland Community College's biggest cheerleader, resigned this week as an elected trustee and as head of the OCC Foundation.

"For the last year, I've been look-

ing for a job in a warmer climate," said Reynolds, who Monday starts work in Leesburg, Fla.

There she will be on the staff of Lake Sumter Community College. As director of college development, reporting to the president, she will oversee that college's foundation director, the grants and proposals off-

ice and the alumni association.

"Leesburg is a little town about 25 miles from Orlando," she said.

REYNOLDS, of West Bloomfield, is the third elected OCC trustee in recent years to quit to take a salary job in education.

Richard Pappas of Troy left to become an administrator of Jackson Community College and now heads the downtown campus of Wayne County Community College. Elizabeth Hawthorne of Birmingham quit when she married and left the county, and now is a professor at the University of Toledo.

Vice Chairman Sandra Ritter of Waterford is expected to succeed Reynolds as chairman. The remaining six trustees will appoint her successor as trustee for the remaining 2 1/2 years of her term. The job pays no salary — only mileage.

REYNOLDS' WORK as the unpaid, part-time head of the OCC Foundation had stirred controversy over charges of conflict of interest.

The foundation, though private, receives important contributions from the college budget.

That reasoning argument with the state attorney general's office wounded Reynolds personally more than politically or financially, because she carried on a public, volatile love affair with OCC ever since she was elected to the board 11 years ago.

She constantly urged three administrators to seek "good PR" through advertising, marketing and the news media.

She and husband Bill will have a commuting-type marriage, at least for awhile. He will continue as manager of R&M Department Store in Union Lake.

Reynolds, an Indiana-born educator by background, had not worked full time while her children were growing up.

She decided to run for OCC trustee after reading a newspaper story that the "lakes country" section of Oakland County had no representative on the board.

New VP to head OCC info systems

"I've had several people from around the country call me and congratulate us on getting the best," Chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson told the Oakland Community College board Tuesday.

The board promptly approved a \$68,000 contract for Dorothy J. Hopkin in the newly created post of vice president for information and telecommunications systems.

Hopkin, now with Michigan State University, takes her new post Dec. 1 with a 1 1/2-year contract that also covers moving expenses.

She replaces C. Bruce Martin, who headed computer sciences and will transfer to the faculty.

Nicholson said the new vice president title was necessary in order to pay her what the job market says she's worth and to attract a key employee for the two-year college. The chancellor said he recruited her after a national search.

Besides having growth problems on its four campus systems, OCC is

expanding rapidly in the fields of robotics and computers.

Since 1980 Hopkin has been MSU's director of administrative information services. From 1972-80 she was at the University of Illinois, rising from senior systems analyst to director of the university office of administrative information systems development.

Other work has been as a consultant to Michigan Blue Shield, senior software specialist for RCA Corp., and economic analyst, programmer and senior systems analyst for Michigan Bell.

She has a bachelor of arts degree in economics from Michigan State and master of business administration from Wayne State University.

Hopkin has been a leader and prominent in CAUSE, a professional association for the advancement of technology in higher education.

Memberships include the Michigan Capital Girl Scout Council, MSU Women's Sports Boosters and Zonta International.

Auto body engineering now science, exec says

Automotive body engineering has changed from an art to a science, allowing body engineers to play a major role in the future of domestic vehicle manufacturers, according to Chrysler Motors' product development chief.

John D. Withrow, executive vice president for product development, made the prediction in a recent address at the American Society of Engineers' annual technical seminar dinner in Bloomington.

Withrow said today's body engineers, armed with state-of-the-art technology, can play "a major role in bringing back the dominance that U.S. car makers used to enjoy."

"Body engineers, back then, were considered nothing more than tin benders, rags and bags experts."

"Today it's different. Everything is computer-aided design. Computer-aided manufacturing. Finite element analysis. Fit and finish," Withrow said.

UTILIZING technology to the fullest is the very heart of body engineering's future, enabling engineers to work quicker and more accurately to accomplish the goals of providing low-cost, high-quality, innovative future products, he said.

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THE REAL KEYS to the survival of the U.S. industry are low-cost, high-quality and innovative products that customers want, he said.

Reflecting on the changes in body engineering from 1958, when he started his automotive career, to 1986, Withrow said body engineering has changed from one of the least technical aspects of the car process to one of the most technical.

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