

# OCC hires Saunders for Highland Lakes

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Dick Saunders is coming home. Well, almost home.

The former Schoolcraft College dean and one-time Livonia high school music teacher will return to the metro area after five years in Traverse City to be president of the Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College.

"I can do some things for them," Saunders said in a telephone interview, touching on health programs and economic development.

OCC Chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson recommended, and the board of trustees agreed, on Saunders, 53, as president of the western outpost in OCC's five-campus system. He starts July 1 at \$69,100, replacing Dr. Ned Brodbeck, who has health problems and will have central office duties until he retires next year.

ONCE A CLARINET player and music teacher, Saunders has been on a fast administrative track in recent years.

Currently academic vice president of Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, Saunders has been a finalist for several presidencies around Michigan.



**Highland Lakes emphasizes 'health occupation and business programs. They also have liberal arts transfer programs. They're very good at what they do. It has a quality faculty — very dedicated.'**

— Dr. Richard Saunders  
new president

He taught music in western Wayne County K-12 schools until 1971, when Schoolcraft hired him as director of fine arts. He rose to the dean level by 1983 when he moved to Traverse City. His four degrees — including a doctorate in education administration — were earned at Wayne State University.

"Highland Lakes was one of the first two OCC campuses. Its original emphasis was health occupation

and business programs," Saunders said. "They also have liberal arts transfer programs. They're very good at what they do. It has a quality

faculty — very dedicated.

"BUT THEY'RE NOT as involved in economic development as they'd like to be. That's an outsider's reading. I've done strategic planning and have been a consultant with private business here."

"I shared that with the selection committee, and they seemed to agree." The Highland Lakes Campus, in Union Lake, has built several new buildings and remodeled some old ones in recent years.

OCC officials say libraries are a priority because they have been neglected during the recent years' emphasis on technology programs. That suits Saunders, who has been involved with Northwest's library expansion.

CAN A FORMER musician find happiness on a campus whose magnet programs are in health careers? "I've done a number of health programs," said Saunders, who was re-

sponsible for setting up a cardiovascular technology program at Schoolcraft. "I have connections with hospitals that I'll be able to make work for the college."

His wife, Janis, is a physician who helped expand his knowledge of health careers. Two weeks ago, she gave up her Traverse City practice to head a "by women, for women" health center in South Bend, Ind.

That was before they knew he would get the Highland Lakes presidency.

"We'll have a commuter marriage for a while. She'll live out her one-year contract, then come here," Saunders said.

They have three sons.

SAUNDERS IS the third of four presidents appointed by Nicholson in

his two-year tenure.

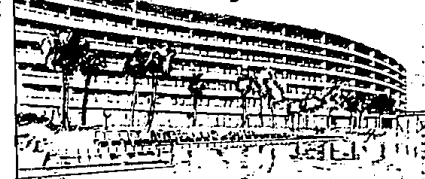
"He is a dynamic leader," said his current boss, NMC President Philip E. Runkel, former state superintendent of public instruction. "He has the ability to motivate and inspire people."

Runkel credited Saunders with developing a student retention program that resulted in a 20-percent improved retention rate, creation of six new career programs and acquisition of NMC's cable television channel.

Student retention is another of OCC's priorities.

Runkel also praised Saunders' development of business partnerships that resulted in construction of a \$15 million technical testing center.

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## Anti-porn video bills pass Senate

(AP) — Bills aimed at protecting young children from pornographic material are on their way to the House after receiving unanimous Senate votes.

One measure would require that rental videocassettes carry the movie's rating on the outside of the container. If the movie isn't rated, it would have to carry a "not rated" label.

The other would forbid store owners from displaying material featuring sexual intercourse or sadomasochistic abuse if it were visible or accessible to a minor. The goal is to keep such material high enough or hidden so children couldn't examine it.

The bills, sponsored by Sen. Robert Geake, R-Northville, passed on votes of 34-0 and 35-0 respectively and headed for the House.

Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, said some libraries have raised doubts about the video rating bill. "They see it as some form of censorship," he said. "They are recognizing some of the security problems," Welborn said. He said he expects the state Department of Corrections to improve conditions because of the Justice Department's interest.

Corrections director Robert Brown described the Reynolds letter as routine. "I don't attach any significance to this at all," he said.

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