

OCC builds new learning network

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

It's just an "interim agreement," but it gives you a picture of how Oakland Community College will run its business and teach its students in about five years.

By Internet. The OCC board Monday gave 4-0 approval to a two-month, \$240,000 contract with SCT Software and Resource Management Corp. of Malvern, Pa.

"There will be a new learning environment," said David Sorenson, SCT's executive director of higher education. "It will be independent of place and time."

On the administrative side,

Sorenson said, "there will be more effective communication between students, faculty and administration."

"A student can look up admissions information, get schedules, see the course catalog and enroll."

"He can set up a meeting with a faculty advisor and request his own transcript."

"This interim agreement starts the planning of an overall program that will be gradually implemented. We'll have three to five people here (OCC's five campuses and central office) at any one time."

Educationally, a student will be able to research the contents of a university library thousands

of miles away, added G. Scott Cornell, SCT's principal consultant.

"The academic community doesn't know yet what it can accomplish with multi-media techniques. There is an emphasis on learning in a student-centered institution," Cornell said.

Anatomy, for example, can be taught better on a computer screen than on a flat chart. "They actually have doctors who do operations on a PC (personal computer) before they do it on a patient," Cornell said.

"Technology won't replace a good teacher," he said. "We're talking about a wide mix of strategies with technology and the traditional teacher."

"Community colleges are leading the way," added Sorenson, "doing things even universities can't."

A major task will be teaching faculty of all ages how to take

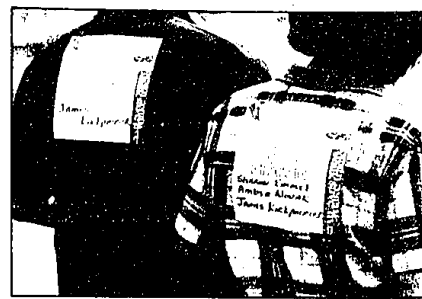
advantage of Internet to enhance their own teaching skills.

The interim agreement, said OCC Chancellor Richard Thompson, is necessary to "obtain early faculty involvement in the Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtable Workshop process."

The discussion recalled the days of Dr. Joseph Hill, OCC's second president in the 1970s. An education theorist, Hill spun out abstract ideas of how every student had a different cognitive learning style — not just lectures and books but spoken words, pictures, three-dimensional hands-on experiences.

"Joe Hill was years ahead of his time," observed Thompson, who was an English teacher and counselor in those days.

The OCC-SCT interim agreement is a two-month deal that the board may extend in November through next Jan. 31.



Special time: Participants were able to walk as a tribute to loved ones who have suffered heart problems.

Heart Walk from page A11

Brighton sales representative.

The walk kicked off with 200 Red Caps, individuals who have survived a heart attack, stroke or heart surgery.

Walled Lake resident John Johnson took his place among fellow Red Cappers with his three stepchildren. "They would, it's let me go without them," explained Johnson, who later stopped to visit the bears.

A former underground sprinkler installer, Johnson is a kidney patient who suffered from congested heart failure two years ago at age 30. He and his wife, Pat Crusan, an employee of American Plastic Toys of Walled Lake, raised \$75. "My wife has walked for diabetes and a lot of other causes," said Johnson. "We

walk because we're concerned about other people."

Carol and William Duthie of Southfield took a break to enjoy heart healthy snacks like bagels, orange juice, pasta salad and raisin bread before starting the third leg of their jaunt to complete the 6.2 miles.

Since Carol's first angioplasty, the elderly couple has been working out together three times a week at CardioQuest Associated in Birmingham. "My mother died at 49 of a heart attack and that puts us right in the gene pattern," said William. "If you just sit and talk about it, you might not live long."

"It's so nice knowing so many people are interested in keeping healthy by exercising," added

William, who raised \$100.

Throughout the day, a steady stream of health-conscious individuals lined up for cholesterol and blood pressure screening. This year's walk also included a women's heart assessment.

Heart disease is the largest cause of death in every county in

Michigan. The fund-raising event was organized by the American Heart Association of Metropolitan Detroit based in Lathrup Village and sponsored by The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, a subsidiary of HomeTown Communications Network, Inc. of Livonia.

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