

Two-year colleges ask state aid for job growth

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Community colleges need more than money for students. They need money for goals, a legislative panel was told.

"State aid is based on formulas with full-time equivalent students. We need formulas based on goals," said R. Stephen Nicholson, chancellor of Oakland Community College.

OCC's Auburn Hills Campus hosted the House Appropriations subcommittee on higher education hearing last week.

OCC and eight other two-year public colleges argued that the sophisticated kinds of job training they perform for industry require exotic and expensive new equipment that "enrollment-driven" aid formulas fail to help.

"WE DON'T need (just) more dollars. We need a reconceptualization of state aid," said Nicholson. "That's more difficult than the allocation of dollars."

In this he was backed by Al Lorenz, president of Macomb County Community College.

"We (the state aid formula) look at what's being done. We are overlooking what needs to be done," Lorenzo told chairman Tom Mathien, D-Grand Rapids.

Libraries and computers, which support instructional effort, need to be looked at, added Richard McDowell, president of Schoolcraft College, Livonia.

UNDER A state "model" formula, full state funding for 29 community colleges would amount to \$212 million in next year's budget, McDowell said.

Gov. James J. Blanchard has recommended \$192 million for general aid and \$20 million for special job training — a 5.1 percent increase over the current year.

But not all 29 colleges get the

same 5.1 percent. Six are in line for 4 percent more, seven for 4.8 percent, nine for 5.3 percent, and seven (including OCC) for 6 percent, according to an analysis by the Michigan Community Colleges Association.

For OCC alone, the "model" formula would yield \$17.3 million. Blanchard recommended \$18.5 million, some 55 percent below the model but 6 percent ahead of the current year.

Nevertheless, the tone of the hearing was upbeat as college presidents thanked the state for boosting aid as much as it has during the economic recovery.

"We have to keep hanging away as a team," said Rep. Mathien, known in Lansing as a champion of community college funding.

NICHOLSON SAID OCC faces twin challenges.

"Pointing across Featherstone Road in Auburn Hills to the forthcoming Chrysler research complex — 'best in the world' — the chancellor said much will be required of OCC in the way of training new workers and retraining older ones."

"There's a sense of urgency, a sense of unlimited responsibility, because of so much growth," he said. "The Auburn Hills Campus is underbuilt . . . in one of the most intensely capitalized areas in the world," Nicholson said.

He noted that Chrysler and other automotive firms will bring 50,000 to 60,000 new jobs in the decade ahead.

On the other hand, Oakland County, with a population of 1.1 million, has 125,000 functional illiterates, Nicholson said, adding "Many curricula and will be displaced."

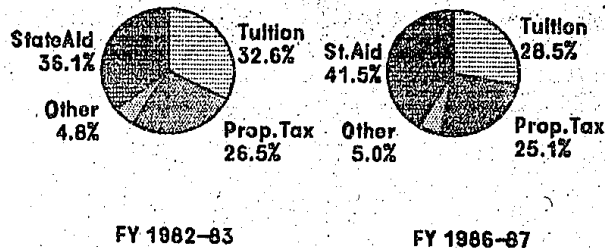
OTHER COLLEGE presidents envied the high technology growth so close to the OCC campus — Chrysler alone is investing \$800 million or more, Nicholson noted.

"Maybe you'd like to spread some of that around," quipped one of the other presidents.

But OCC Vice Chancellor Anthony D. Jarson splashed cold water on that idea.

"It's all in TIFAs — 100 percent — for 15 years," said Jarson.

TIFAs are tax increment financing authorities in which the city of Auburn Hills uses all new property tax revenues for municipal infrastructure improvements, with nothing going to schools, OCC or county government.



State aid has grown as a percentage of community college revenues over the past four years. The 29 colleges are less reliant now on a "model" state aid formula suggests.

Music helps mind, muscle



Dr. Frank Wilson
author to speak

It's never too late to take up a musical instrument, Dr. Frank Wilson, neurologist and author, will say in a lecture at Oakland Community College.

Wilson's program starts at 7 p.m. Tuesday, in the Smith Performing Arts Theatre on the Orchard Ridge Campus, 1-696 at Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

His lecture is titled "Mind, Muscle and Music." Admission is \$2.50, with proceeds aiding the non-profit Music Study Club of Detroit. Co-sponsors are the college and Hammill Music Inc.

A HALF-HOUR of flute and piano music will precede the lecture, which will start at 7:30 p.m.

An amateur pianist, Wilson argues that systematic and consistent musical instruction can help refine and develop a person's brain and neuromuscular system.

"Evidence seems quite compelling that everyone has what it takes to be at least some kind of musician," he says.

He is author of the recently published "Tone Deaf and All Thumbs? An Invitation to Music-Making for Late Bloomers and Non-Prodigies."

He is special consultant to the Music Teachers National Association and the American Music Conference.

He serves on the board of the Oakland Symphony Orchestra Association.

Wilson has a bachelor's degree from Columbia College in New York City and a medical doctor's degree from the University of California.

State aids Troy airport

The Michigan Aeronautics Commission has allocated \$30,000 for Oakland-Troy Airport in Troy.

The money will be used to construct and mark a partial parallel taxiway. The project will complete the parallel taxiway, providing safer operation for aircraft.

The county has allocated a matching \$30,000 for the \$60,000 total project.

The state grant was among \$1.8 million in grants approved by the state agency last week.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

11 a.m.-5 p.m. Personal appearance of Olga designer, Christina Johnson. Lingerie.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

7 p.m. Prom Fashion Show - Find the dress meant for you! Miss J Shop.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Chanel Accessories Collection Show in the Chanel Boutique.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

12 noon-4 p.m. Revitalize winter-weary skin with Chantal Skincare Consultations. For your appointment, call 644-6900, extension 260.

7 p.m. Anne Klein II Wardrobe Building Seminar with Linda Treccapelli, regional representative. R.S.V.P., 644-6900, extension 202.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

11 a.m.-5 p.m. Informal modeling of Christian Dior sleepwear and robes.

7 p.m. Spring/Summer Signature Collection Fashion Show.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Ukrainian Egg Decorating. Children's Store. Main Floor.

12 noon-4 p.m. See spring loungewear informally modeled throughout the store.

2:30-4:30 p.m. Shower of Flowers - Peg Watson will set a fine table and demonstrate spring brunch and luncheon fare. Kitchen Shop.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

11 a.m.-5 p.m. Meet loungewear designer David Brown in our Lingerie department, and see his beautiful spring collection informally modeled.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

12 noon-4 p.m. Children's Easter Party - A fun time with the Easter Bunny. Children's.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

11 a.m.-5 p.m. Loungewear designer Josie Natori presents "Natorious Woman."

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

11 a.m.-7 p.m. Informal modeling, Linda Allard for Ellen Tracy Collection.

APRIL 30-MAY 2

12 noon-4 p.m. For a new look, try a makeup consultation with Deede Hassinger for Estée Lauder. For an appointment, call 644-6900, ext. 347.

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