

Far East teachers study how OCC did it

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Less than two years ago, Oakland Community College trustees vowed to develop a computer information system that would turn it from a follower to a leader in technology.

Last month the effort got international recognition when an OCC vice president flew to the island of Singapore to speak to educators from 14 Pacific Rim countries.

"IBM was utilizing OCC as an example of the way to do it," said Dorothy J. Hopkin, the college's vice president for information and telecommunication systems.

"I learned that full-service information departments are almost non-existent in the Far East. They tend to use computing more for research than for instruction."

"IN THE U.S. we have full-function departments. We are making better use of computing resources by extending it to all facets of the college and supporting it."

"That's my reason for being here,"

'I learned that full-service information departments are almost non-existent in the Far East. They tend to use computing more for research... They buy single computers for single purposes.'

— Dorothy J. Hopkin
OCC vice president

said Hopkin, who was hired away from Michigan State University to set up OCC's system in the central office in Bloomfield Hills.

By "full function," she means her office serves faculty, the registrar (touch-tone registration system), accounting, administration, human resources and the physical plant. One of the 10 largest two-year colleges in the U.S., OCC found that by 1986 it had fallen behind in information systems. It consulted IBM on

what is known in the trade as an "application transfer study." The results: the beginning of a five-year, \$13.9 million initiative to put itself on the "leading edge."

"We're just beginning to reap the rewards," said Hopkin.

SHE FIELDED a lot of questions from Asian educators about the CIM (computer integrated manufacturing) program's curriculum.

CIM is operated on the college's Auburn Hills Campus. Its partners are IBM, which supplies equipment, people, software and robotics systems; Cross and Trecker, a large machine manufacturer; and Kenametal, a tool manufacturer. The campus is adjacent to the \$2 billion Oakland Technology Park and Chrysler Research Center.

Says OCC Chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson: "We see the CIM curriculum as a paradigm of how industry and education can work together to advance a common interest."

In the last year, OCC has pumped in \$1.9 million to upgrade its technology, including outfitting four new instructional laboratories, Hopkin said.

IBM INVITED her, she said, because the college is "a key partner" in the CIM facility and because

"we've taken so many steps after falling behind."

"IBM is holding up OCC as an example of what a community college can do in training and retraining." The 3 1/2-day session in the island nation of the Malay Peninsula was attended chiefly by educators rather than administrators from voc-tech schools in Hong Kong, Japan and Australia — with one participant from mainland China.

Dem economist to lecture at OU

Lester Thurow, controversial author and economist, will lecture at a Wednesday, Oct. 5, luncheon in the third annual business forum at Oakland University.

Thurow, a public policy adviser to the Democratic Party and business school dean, will speak in the Showell-Gustafson Pavilion. The forum is sponsored by the School of Business Administration student board and Ameritech Publishing Inc. of Troy.

The lecturer advocates a governmental agency to aid American firms in becoming more productive. He calls for the repeal of corporate income taxes, a large increase in the gasoline tax and the use of a "big stick" approach to encourage Japanese to buy American.

Previous forum speakers were David Halberstam (1987) and John Naisbitt (1986), also under sponsorship of the SBA student board in co-

operation with Ameritech Publishing Inc.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS or corporate-sponsored tables for the Thurow lecture are available at \$70-400.

In addition to the luncheon talk, Thurow will give a public lecture at 2:30 p.m. in the Crockery of the Oakland Center. This talk is sponsored by the Student Life Lecture Board. Ticket information is available by calling 370-2620.

sets Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management and is implementing a new approach to business education for the 1990s.

Before coming to MIT, Thurow taught at Harvard and the University of Arizona. He has advised several Democratic presidential candidates on issues of public policy, he writes for the New York Times and Wall Street Journal and has been a contributing editor to Newsweek.

College offers reward in robbery

Macomb Community College is offering a reward in the armed robbery of \$44,000 in college tuition money.

MCC and the Macomb County prosecutor's office announced the establishment of a secret witness program and a \$5,000 cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individuals involved in the Aug. 17 armed robbery.

The Secret Witness telephone number is 469-7336. It is open between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Complete anonymity of callers is guaranteed, the prosecutor's office said.

Callers will be asked for a five-digit numerical code for future communication purposes.

"Our institution will not tolerate the kind of criminal activity we experienced on Aug. 17," said MCC president Albert L. Lorenzo. "We are certain that somewhere out there, someone has facts which will help us solve this case. We are making it easy for them to share these facts."

The \$5,000 cash reward, based on arrest and conviction of the suspects, will be assigned to the anonymous tipster by a four-member panel.

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