

3 small business training pacts go to OCC

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Three more grants to train workers and managers have been landed by Oakland Community College, Chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson said.

"The benefits to the college are numerous. This grant will firmly establish OCC as an institution with outstanding expertise in small business," Nicholson said.

"This fact can be used to enhance the college's reputation."

"This grant will also position OCC

to offer continuous training with this and other related small business groups."

THE CONTRACTS and broad terms are for:

- Training in basic business counseling skills at Small Business Development Centers in Michigan. Under a subcontract with Wayne State University, OCC will offer two sessions this spring and a followup session in June. It will be paid \$286,000 from federal and state small business administration.

- Teaching statistical process control to 170 employees of Allmand Associates, Livonia. The Governor's Office of Job Training is providing

\$40,980 to OCC's Business and Professional Institute.

- Giving a five-day course in "plant floor communications technology" to IBM instructors. OCC's computer integrated manufacturing (CIM) faculty at the Auburn Hills Campus will provide lectures, overhead transparencies, scripts and hands-on laboratory exercises in a five-day course. Later OCC will train 20 IBM field marketing personnel at Boca Raton, Fla. Cost to IBM: \$37,950.

IN OTHER business last week, the OCC board of trustees:

- Asked the administration to

work with John Parent and others in their Troy neighborhood to bring it into the OCC District. Parent said the neighborhood is in the Warren School District and would like to pay OCC taxes and get lower in-district tuition rates. "I can't get an answer as to why we can't annex," he said.

- Approved purchase, for \$101,000, of three GM pickup trucks, four Chevrolet vans, a Chevrolet station wagon and a four-door Caprice sedan through Oakland County's purchasing department. David Sturges, college purchasing director, said, "We would never be able to match these prices with our comparatively small volume purchase."

- Bought \$44,845 in new administrative office furniture for the Auburn Hills Campus. Low bidder was Edz Cooperative of Grand Rapids. Ten clerical work stations will be furnished with Steelcase wall panels, desks, adjustable keyboard shelves, storage files, lights and acoustical noise reduction.

- Appointed Timothy Delong, of Troy, to the newly created position of director of communication technologies in the office of information and telecommunication systems. He will be responsible for voice, data and video networks at all OCC sites. Previously he was telecommunications manager for Great Lakes Steel.

Southfield campus hosts fire institute

The Oakland Fire Training Institute is six days before each session. Oakland Community College will conduct four seminars. Times and dates are:

- Hydraulic Calculations, Fire Pumps and Sprinkler Systems — Feb. 15, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration deadline is Feb. 10.

- Winter Water Rescue — Feb. 23-26, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Registration deadline is Feb. 17.

- NFA Fire Arson Detection — March 2-3 and April 29-30, 9 a.m. to

4 p.m. each day. Registration deadline is six days before each session.

- Basic Fire Academy — March 6 through April 28, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration deadline is Feb. 24.

Details about the classes and registration information may be obtained by phoning the Institute at 552-2526.

The Institute and the Southfield Campus of OCC are at 23232 Rutland, south of Nine Mile between Greenfield and Southfield roads.

Phone registration a 99 percent hit

There are two anonymous students Charles Kurzer would like to talk to.

They were the only people among 854 Oakland Community College students who registered by touch-tone telephone this semester and never want to do it again.

"Ninety-nine percent said they would use it again," said Kurzer, who is registrar of the two-year college.

TELEPHONE registration, an experiment in the winter semester, will be improved in spring, Kurzer told the OCC board of trustees. "It

will be available to all registered and admitted students."

A person using a touch-tone telephone calls the registration number and punches in the course numbers. A recorded voice verifies the numbers and informs the student if a section is filled.

The caller can punch other numbers to learn if other sections of the course are open, at which hours and on which of the five campuses. Then it tells the caller how much the tuition will be, and the computer does the billing.

"We're pursuing a process for billing to credit cards," Kurzer told

trustee Norma Ross.

"We are the fourth college in the state, and the first community college, to have touch-tone registration. None has a credit card system."

KURZER SAID touch-tone registration has many advantages:

- The line is open longer hours — 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays.

- The process takes less than five minutes on the average.

- The student doesn't have to travel to campus. His survey showed 60 percent called from home, 30 percent from work and 10 percent from other points. One even called from an airport.

Some 5,000 students were invited to try the system, and 4,300 telephone calls were made, most just seeking some information in the computer's memory.

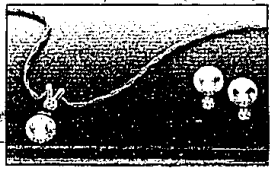
Kurzer is at a loss to guess why two people would never use it again.

The average telephone registrant signed up for eight credit hours. The range was one hour to 20.

Chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson reported OCC's enrollment rose 2.3 percent this winter. Statewide, university enrollments were up a total of 2 percent, and community colleges only 1.3 percent.

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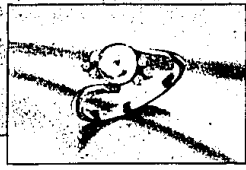
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