

OCC

Millions sought to build tech training center at Auburn

By TIM RICHARD
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Oakland Community College is seeking \$6 million in state money to build a "Center for Advanced Information Technology Training" on its Auburn Hills campus.

The money would come from the state Jobs Commission as part of Gov. John Engler's recently passed program to boost technical education through scholarships and training centers.

"What happens if Oakland County doesn't get it?" asked Doug Rothwell, CEO of the state Jobs Commission, during the college's recent presentation.

"If you don't build it, we'll get our employees from somewhere else," said a spokesman from EDS (Electronic Data Services), one of the partners in OCC's consortium.

"They (Jobs Commission) were noncommittal," said David Adams, who heads the community college's marketing program. He said four Jobs Commission staff members visited applicants'

campuses and will decide how to spread \$30 million by year's end.

Others in the local consortium are Oakland University, Oakland Intermediate School District, IBM, Chrysler Corp., Kelly Services and EDS. They - along with Microsoft, Kmart, Inca Computers and county government - hire OCC graduates.

Most also are committed to helping with cash, in-kind support, curriculum advice and employee training.

Cheryl Kozell, of the OCC administration, said OCC's center "will train 16,000 individuals over five years for high-skill, high-wage, high-demand jobs."

These would include personal computer user support technicians, applications, network technicians, database systems technicians and operating systems technicians.

"When completed in June of 2000, the 35,710-square-foot facility will house 12 computer laboratories, faculty and staff offices, a Michigan Works outreach center, other classrooms and seminar rooms," she said.

OCC proposes a 4-acre site in the southeast section of OCC's

Auburn Hills Campus, near the intersection of Squirrel and Hamlin roads, and near M-59 and I-75. It would be contiguous to the Oakland Technology Park.

"Trainees can enter and leave training and employment as needed and can individualize their training paths to suit both the individual and the employer," Kozell said.

"There is a severe and well-documented shortage of information technology professionals in Michigan," Kozell said, citing 95,000 IT jobs between now and 2005. "In Michigan there are over 9,000 unfilled IT positions in companies that provide computer solutions for business."

Three of the top 10 growth areas in Oakland from 1994-2005 are in IT occupations. Oakland has the largest concentration of high-tech companies in the state.

"The center builds upon OCC's experience in developing and maintaining strategic training partnerships with business, industry, professional associations, community agencies and other educational institutions," Kozell told the panel.



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Hills senior minister tapped as moderator

The Rev. Mark Jensen of North Congregational Church in Farmington Hills was elected moderator at the annual meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

As Senior Minister for more than 18 years, Jensen has been active in a variety of groups.

In June he finished two years as president of the Interagency

Council of Farmington/Farmington Hills and is a member of the board of the Farmington Hills Community Foundation for Children, Youth and Families.

In April he received the Dove Award given by the Ecumenical Institute for Jewish Christian Studies and in 1995 was the recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award.



The Rev. Mark Jensen of the North Congregational Church

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