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LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO LEAD ESTABLISHMENT OF MICHIGAN'S SCIENTIFIC CENTER IN NANOTECHNOLOGY

Experts say that more people will work in nanotechnology than the auto industry in 15 years

LANSING, Mich. (Nov. 3, 2008) – Lansing Community College announced today that it will lead the establishment of a regional center in nanotechnology education that will support workforce development and bring nanotechnology education to community colleges and high schools throughout Michigan. The center, called Nano-Link, is a partnership of 6 community colleges and two research universities across the Upper Midwest,, funded by a four-year, \$3 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

“The National Science Foundation estimates that in 15 years, there will be more people working in nanotechnology than the auto industry,” said Thomas Deits, chairperson of LCC’s science department, who will lead the development of Nano-Link in Michigan. “Companies throughout Michigan have already invested in nanotechnology and through Nano-Link, LCC can prepare students and educators to meet the huge future demand for skilled workers in nanotechnology.”

According to Deits, nanotechnology enables entirely new uses for materials. Because of applied nanotechnology, there are now laptop batteries that can charge in one minute and cell phone batteries that can charge in five seconds. Nanotechnology also has the potential to greatly increase energy efficiency and solve major health problems.

Nano-Link will give selected LCC students the opportunity to attend the University of Minnesota for a full semester, expenses paid, and receive training on state-of-the-art nanotechnology equipment.

LCC plans to create an educational nanotechnology program and share its curriculum and access to technology with other community colleges in Michigan. To determine the curriculum, LCC will work with Michigan companies involved in nanotechnology to identify the skills that companies are looking for in employees. LCC has already offered an introduction to nanotechnology course and will offer it again in the spring 2009 semester.

Nano-Link will provide high school teachers with workshops and online professional development classes so they can incorporate nanotechnology into their curricula. The grant also will provide funding for LCC faculty and local high school teachers to attend week-long intensive workshops in nanotechnology curriculum at Northwestern University.

“It’s important that high school students learn about nanotechnology so they recognize the huge career opportunities it has to offer,” Deits said. “Students can apply what they learn in nanotechnology to medical devices, agriculture and electronics.”

LCC was chosen to lead Nano-Link in Michigan partially due to its work with Michigan State University on the Impression 5 Center, which focuses on introducing nanotechnology education to kindergarten through eight-grade students.

LCC will collaborate with community colleges in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota on Nano-Link as well as the University of Minnesota’s National Center for Nanotechnology Instrumentation and Northwestern University’s National Center for Learning and Teaching in Nanotechnology.

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About Lansing Community College

Lansing Community College is Michigan’s third largest community college with more than 32,000 students attending each year. The college has more than 240 degree and certificate programs. LCC offers courses in general education for those interested in transferring to a four-year institution, career and workforce development, developmental education and personal enrichment. To meet the professional development and training needs of regional employees, the college offers customized programs for credit, non-credit and continuing education. The University Center at LCC offers students the opportunity to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees from six partner universities on the downtown LCC campus. For more information, visit www.lcc.edu.

