



## *Press Release*

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## **LCC SCIENCE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES MINERAL/FOSSIL COLLECTION** *400 piece donation valued at more than \$40K*

LANSING – Lansing Community College has announced it has received a donation of a 400 piece mineral collection valued at more than \$40,000. The family of Gilbert J. Thill, of Milwaukee, donated the collection. Thill’s youngest son, Ron, is a chemistry professor at the college.

The collection will be formally donated at a reception **from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday, November 2, 2009, at the historic Herrmann Conference Center, 520 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.**

“This gift is a significant addition to the LCC Science Department,” said Tom Deits, Science Department Chair. “With this acquisition, not only will professors have quality specimens to show their classes, but students, visitors and the general public will have an opportunity to view this amazing collection on display. We’re very grateful to Ron Thill for donating this family treasure to Lansing Community College.”

Gilbert J. Thill, a Milwaukee printer, became interested in rock collecting in the 1940s and continued to his death in 1969. His hobby involved his entire family, including wife Catherine and sons Kenneth and Ronald. The Thills joined the Wisconsin Geological Society where Gilbert served in various leadership positions. Over the years, Thill acquired a large fossil and mineral collection from the Midwestern states. Vacations were spent trading pieces for those from other parts of the country. He purchased very little. During his lifetime, he donated many mineral and fossil specimens to colleges and museums in the U.S., Canada, and England. After his death, the collection was boxed and stored for more than 30 years before it was unpacked and appraised in 2006.

The collection will be on display after November 15 in the Academic Resource Center, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, A&S Building as well as the LCC Physics Lab. The exhibits will be rotated periodically to assure maximum exposure.

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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](http://www.lcc.edu).*