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### **LCC President Knight Unveils “Creating Opportunity Plan” in State of the College Address**

LANSING, Mich. (February 5, 2009) – Lansing Community College President Brent Knight unveiled a three-point “Creating Opportunity Plan” during his State of the College address tonight to a group of business leaders and community members. The plan outlines three major changes that the college must make to proactively address these challenges, including:

- ***Focusing college resources on offering relevant, challenging and innovative teaching that aligns with the region’s and state’s workforce needs.*** LCC will continue to offer, update and expand its programs in such growth sectors as information technology, health care, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, alternative energy and business services. It will also continue to collaborate and work with regional employers and Capital Area Michigan Works to provide students with the skills needed for jobs in the region. And it will offer more fast-track programs to expedite learning wherever possible.
- ***Continuing to strengthen efforts to help students succeed.*** The college is expanding its recruiting force in area high schools; making technology more user-friendly for classroom, registration and financial aid; improving customer service; increasing awareness of LCC programs and services; expanding parking; providing more scholarships; and establishing a child care center on campus.
- ***Living within the college’s means.*** The college is continuously improving effectiveness and achieving cost savings wherever possible. The difficult economic times require that the college do all that it can to avoid tuition increases for students who are already struggling financially.

“If we do all these things, Lansing Community College will be healthier, stronger, and well-positioned to survive today’s challenges and emerge stronger than ever,” said LCC Brent Knight.

President Knight also addressed the impact of the economic crisis on the college and LCC’s plans to face those challenges while continuing to provide affordable education and job training, urging community partners to continue their involvement with and

support of the college so that LCC and the region's employers can be national leaders in education and job growth.

He also cited the impact of the economy, technology and changes in higher education on LCC, including:

- Declining state and property tax funding streams to support college operations, leading to a projected deficit of approximately \$8 million in the next fiscal year that begins July 1, 2009.
- Constantly changing technology, particularly in the tools used by students to communicate and obtain information.
- Increased competition in higher education, even though LCC remains the lowest cost provider in the region.

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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).*