



PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Ellen Jones

517.483.9871

jonese14@lcc.edu

STATEMENT ON WOMEN'S SOFTBALL SEASON AT LCC

In late January 2011, Lansing Community College received reports of potentially serious NJCAA violations in the softball program. The college began a formal inquiry, and as part of our administrative process, softball coach Bob Every was placed on paid administrative leave effective February 1st.

Unfortunately, considerable dissension arose when some individuals associated with the softball team reacted by attacking those who they suspected of reporting the alleged violations. Throughout this process, Athletic Director Scott Latham held frequent meetings with team members both individually and as a group to hear their concerns. In order to maintain the team, a capable interim head coach was promptly retained and the team continued to hold scheduled practices. On more than one occasion, the athletes were encouraged to do all they could to keep the team and their season intact. LCC President Brent Knight also committed the college to doing whatever was necessary for the players to continue their season.

On February 18, several players and parents voiced concerns to college representatives concerning arrangements for moving forward with the Spring softball season, including the eleven-game season kickoff in Florida beginning March 4th. On February 21, Athletic Director Latham met with the team to discuss the steps the college had already taken, and to lay out the college's commitment to do everything in its power to make sure the Spring season could be successfully completed. The student-athletes were asked to decide whether they were equally committed to completing the Spring season, and to let the college and their teammates know by the following day. On Tuesday, six of the women on the team reported they were unconditionally committed to playing. Unfortunately, the other seven members of the team declined to make that commitment. With only half the team committed to play, the college had no choice but to suspend its season and notify other teams, tournament organizers and the NJCAA that LCC would not be participating this Spring.

Despite the cancellation, the college remains committed to supporting these students. Player scholarships and eligibility will remain intact. “Since this process began, I have done everything I could to support the team, the student-athletes, and prospects for a successful 2011 season,” said President Knight, “and LCC will continue to stand by them”.

About Lansing Community College

Lansing Community College is Michigan’s third largest community college with more than 30,000 students attending each year. The College has more than 280 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 lcc.edu.