



PRESS RELEASE

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LCC Students Renew Link to Japan

LANSING – Lansing Community College is sending four students to Japan this summer to serve as cultural ambassadors who will study the Japanese language and business practices and get the chance to observe Japanese society. It's part of the new "Japan Immersion" program that will return students to the island nation for the first time in four years.

LCC has long recognized the importance of Japan – and the global economic dynamo it has become. Thirty years ago, LCC's first president, Dr. Philip Gannon, organized a Goodwill Mission to Japan. It later became known as the Japan Adventure, and for 25 years the work-study program gave more than 500 LCC students a front-row seat to observe Japanese heritage and culture and the strong work ethic and mastery of high technology for which Japan is noted.

"The people of Japan are thoughtful, humble and hard-working and they have been gracious hosts the many times I have visited," said Marc Thomas, a professor in LCC's Social Science Department who is the college's liaison for the new Japan Immersion program and coordinates global initiatives for LCC Provost Stephanie Shanblatt.

During the 11-week internship (June 4-August 21) the LCC students will work aboard the Michigan Boat, a tourist vessel on Lake Biwa, Japan's largest lake, where they will greet Japanese tourists who ride the boat to experience American culture. The students, who receive three credit hours, will also attend a month-long language course at the Kyoto Institute of Culture and Language. The students will be housed in dorm-like facilities in Otsu, which is Lansing's Sister City in Japan.

"This opportunity will be life-changing for our students," Professor Thomas wrote in an email exchange from Japan where he has been since May 7, teaching an East Asian politics course to a number of students enrolled at Michigan's 15 public universities. "They will overcome the

challenges that come with communicating in a different language every day, and working and studying in a very different environment from ours. Japan is their classroom this summer. The lessons they learn will stay with them like no textbook reading can.”

The LCC students aren’t expected to be negatively impacted by the ongoing cleanup from the earthquake and tsunami that occurred in March as they will be 450 miles away from that area.

About Lansing Community College

Lansing Community College is Michigan’s third largest community college with more than 20,000 students attending each year. 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.