



Robert M. Bessette
2018 LCC Alumni Association
Distinguished Alumni Award Winner

In October 2015, Robert Bessette appeared in the Foundation office and told an emotional story about how a single, non-credit math class he took at LCC changed his life. Although he eventually received his Associate degree from LCC and a BA from MSU, he credits this one math class with helping him to be incredibly successful in his professional and personal lives.

He came to see us because it was time for him to give back in a way that would help others. He created an endowment that is specifically structured to help students who are struggling with their math requirements. Since then, his gift has helped to imbed special instructors for TRIO and LUCERO students. Robert returns every year to see the data on the successful use of his funds. He has made a difference for some very appreciative students, some who have been able to graduate and transfer to MSU.

Robert M. Bessette was born in Lansing, Michigan, in 1942. Despite struggling with math, Bob went on to a 40-year career in the tech industry – before tech was cool. Bob credits his ability to overcome the math deficiency because of help he received from a developmental math class at LCC. He stated, “it is where things just began to click.” Click they did! Mr. Bessette went on to work in part-time shoe sales and for Aerospace Corporation, Burroughs Corporation, and founded Core Technology Corporation.

Upon graduating from Resurrection High School, Bob began taking courses at Lansing Community College in 1960. One year later, in 1961, he moved to California to work in mail services for the newly created nonprofit organization, Aerospace Corporation. Aerospace Corporation is a federally-funded research and development center providing technical advice to ensure the success of military, civil, and commercial space missions. In his two years there, he was introduced to new technologies. Mr. Bessette was called into active duty through the National Guard from 1963 to 1964 in Fort Knox, Kentucky. He remained active with the Army Reserve until 1969. In between weekends, he continued taking courses at LCC, then transferred to Michigan State University in 1965. Bob completed his Bachelor’s degree in Marketing in 1967. He also applied to receive his Associate degree the same year from LCC.

Immediately after graduation from MSU, Bessette started working as a Sales Representative for Burroughs Corporation. Burroughs Corporation is famous for its innovative adding machines, electronic display calculators, use of multiple programming languages, and the creation of the L and TC series computers. He worked his way up from Sales Rep to Sales Manager. In his 14 years with Burroughs, he climbed all the way up to Corporate Product Manager for the Health and Public sector markets.

Leaving Burroughs in 1981, he was a founding member, President, and CEO of Core Technology Corporation. He spent 20 years as the head of the organization. They provide the information sharing software for law enforcement and criminal justice agencies for searching,

viewing, and exchanging data across jurisdictions. So yes, the Ingham County Sheriff does know about the speeding ticket you just received in Kent County while traveling back late from a concert in Grand Rapids. Thank you, Bob.

Core Technology's product incorporates a range of rapid, cost-effective connectivity software, which includes: data mining, data sharing, high-speed file transfer, and cross-platform host access and terminal emulation. Essentially, it is the software that helps turn a standard sedan into a police cruiser.

Currently, Bob owns a firm that holds commercial property in the Lansing area. He has served on the Grand Ledge Historical Society, Grand Ledge Opera House Authority, Walloon Lake Country Club, and Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy.

Through perseverance, and a little help from a developmental math class at LCC, Robert Bessette has distinguished himself in the Lansing Region. We are proud to announce him as our 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award winner.