



John Madill / H-P staff

Lake Michigan College President Randall Miller (left) and Dr. Timothy Greene (center), dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Western Michigan University, take part in a signing ceremony Friday at LMC's M-TEC facility in Benton Harbor. The signing launches a partnership between LMC and WMU to offer a bachelor's degree in manufacturing engineering that can be obtained by taking classes locally. At the right is John Patten, director of the Manufacturing Research Center at WMU.

## WMU offers engineering bachelor's locally

Southwest Michigan students can stay home and take all necessary courses at LMC, M-TEC

By H-P STAFF

**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — Local students can now stay home to get a bachelor's degree in manufacturing engineering.

Officials at Lake Michigan College and Western Michigan University announced an agreement Friday allowing students to complete their freshman and sophomore course work at

LMC. They would then take junior and senior courses at LMC's M-TEC facility in Benton Harbor, combined with on-line courses taught by WMU professors.

Graduates will get their engineering degrees from WMU.

"The partnership we have with WMU is important to our region," said LMC President Randall Miller. "As the knowledge and capabilities needed to be successful in manufacturing grow, it is important for our local talent to have access to programs where they can learn those skills. Having this program here is a win for our students, local manufacturers and

the community."

Using the M-TEC facility will allow students to do hands-on laboratory work with equipment in electronics, drafting, CNC (computer numerical control) and machine tools, officials said.

Timothy Greene, dean of WMU's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, said WMU is one of the few universities in the nation to offer a degree in manufacturing engineering.

The curriculum will provide students with the skills needed by manufacturers in the automobile, metalworking, plastics, appliance and other industries.

"We see this agreement as a way to provide new educational opportunities for Southwest Michigan students," Greene said. "We're offering an engineering degree for students who want or need to stay in this area while they earn a bachelor's degree."

He said the program will give students experience working on teams, developing oral and written communication skills, a knowledge of probability and statistics, CAD modeling and simulation, and an understanding of the design process.

People interested in finding out more about the program should call 934-1500.