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**SUBJECT:** Lake Michigan College’s Request for Commission Authorization to Proceed in Developing a Written Program Proposal to Establish a Regional Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy

**PURPOSE:** Commission Action

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SECTION</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>
November 22, 2022	Standards Compliance	Timothy Bourgeois	Danny Rosa

### **Background**

Lake Michigan College (LMC) is requesting Commission authorization to proceed in developing a written program proposal to establish a regional basic law enforcement academy to provide basic academy training to the growing number of employed recruits, and to pre-service recruits who already meet educational requirements under R 28.14315(b).

LMC asserts there is a need for a regional basic law enforcement training academy at their institution, situated in the southwest corner of Michigan in Berrien County. The closest regional academy to LMC is Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC), which is approximately 40 minutes east in the best traffic and weather conditions. LMC indicated they contacted KVCC in late 2021 regarding the possibility of their Criminal Justice students attending the KVCC academy. LMC stated they were advised by KVCC that pre-service recruits would have to be put on a waiting list due to the abundance of employed recruits entering the KVCC academy. The increase of employed recruits in basic training academies is consistent with the Commission’s observation of enrollments at other regional academies. The feedback from KVCC strengthened LMC’s belief that a local regional academy was needed.

Lake Michigan College states there is a strong need for a basic law enforcement academy at their institution and supports this position with the results of a local survey of 24 law enforcement agencies in the area. The survey demonstrated a local need for the training and hiring of over 100 officers over the next five years. LMC indicated they have several letters of support for a basic law enforcement academy at LMC from local law enforcement agencies.

### **Information**

The relevant rules regarding the establishment of a basic law enforcement academy, the definitions of the three types of academies, and the status of academy recruits attending these academies, are described in the following Administrative Rules:

**R 28.14302 Authorization of basic law enforcement training academy; approval by commission.**

Rule 302. A city, county, township, village, corporation, college, community college, university, or state agency shall obtain commission authorization before proceeding to establish an agency or regional basic law enforcement training academy or a preservice college basic law enforcement training academy under R 28.14303

An “employed recruit” is defined under R 28.14102(a) as “a law enforcement officer candidate who is employed by a recognized law enforcement agency and who is enrolled in an approved basic law enforcement training academy for the purpose of training in order to become eligible to be licensed as a law enforcement officer employed by the law enforcement agency.”

A “pre-service recruit” is defined under R 28.14103(c) as “a person who complies with the requirements of R 28.14315 and enrolls at his or her own expense in an approved regional basic law enforcement training academy and who is not employed by a law enforcement agency.”

A “regional basic law enforcement training academy” is defined under R 28.14301(i) as “a city, county, township, village, corporation, college, community college, university, or state agency that is approved by the commission to offer a basic law enforcement training program to preservice and employed recruits.”

A pre-service college academy is defined under R 28.14301(g) as a commission approved training and education program offered by an accredited community college, college, or university that incorporates the commission mandated curriculum in the academic course of study.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Commission review this request and allow Lake Michigan College to continue to develop and formulate their official written proposal to establish a regional basic law enforcement training academy for future review and possible Commission action.