LCC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES IRON AND STEEL PRESERVATION FUND

LANSING – Lansing Community College has announced the establishment of a preservation fund which will support activities and scholarships to preserve our iron and steel heritage. The fund was established by LCC employees Vern Mesler and Nan Jackson. Mesler is an adjunct welding faculty member with unique background and expertise in the hot welding process used in numerous historic bridges. Jackson, Mesler’s wife, is a mathematics instructor at the college.

“Historic wrought iron and steel truss bridges fabricated between 1850 and 1950 are rapidly being replaced today with new concrete or steel bridges, in part because of the lack of knowledge in the restoration of historic metals,” Mesler explains. “We need to develop expertise in preserving the original materials by combining modern technology such as electric arc welding with historic methods like hot riveting. This fund will help support education in historic bridge preservation.”

One primary fundraising goal is an international conference to be hosted by LCC in March, 2011. Last year’s conference introduced a capacity crowd of attendees to restoration processes of historic metals using electric arc welding, heat straightening, and hot riveting processes. Attendees included craftsmen, engineers, engineering students, general contractors and historic bridge preservationists, as well as State Historic Preservation officers and Department of Transportation officials. The workshop was funded in part by a grant from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. The 2011 conference is expected to attract even more.

For more information on the fund, contact Sue Fisher Trimmer, 517/483-9670, fishers8@lcc.edu. For information about the 2011 conference, contact Vern Mesler, 517/614-9868, vernmesler@earthlink.net
Lansing Community College is Michigan’s third largest community college with more than 32,000 students attending each year. The College has more than 240 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 www.lcc.edu.