2026-2027 COLLEGE MID-YEAR UPDATE

November 2026



Dear LCCC Community,

As we move through the 2026–27 academic year and continue our journey Beyond 60, I am pleased to share this Mid-Year Update highlighting the many accomplishments and opportunities that are shaping the future of Lehigh Carbon Community College.

The first half of this year has demonstrated the strength of our mission and the impact of our collective work. Through generous philanthropic support, significant grant awards, expanding industry partnerships, and continued investments in student success, LCCC is creating new pathways for learners while responding to the evolving needs of our communities and employers.

Together, we have celebrated student scholarships that change lives, secured resources that strengthen our programs and services, and advanced partnerships with organizations such as Eli Lilly and other regional employers to prepare students for high-demand careers. We have also expanded outreach and engagement efforts, including Open House and marketing initiatives that introduce more students and families to the opportunities available at LCCC.

Another important milestone this fall is the completion and submission of our Middle States Self-Study Report to our Team Chair. This represents the culmination of extensive work by faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees over the past year. We welcomed our Team Chair in October and continue our preparation for the full Evaluation Team visit in March. This process provides an important opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments, assess our challenges, and demonstrate the thoughtful, evidence-based work taking place across LCCC.

These accomplishments are possible because of the dedication, innovation, and commitment of our faculty, staff, trustees, Foundation supporters, community partners, and students. Each success reflects our shared belief in access, student achievement, and workforce responsiveness.



As we look ahead to the remainder of the academic year, we do so with confidence, purpose, and excitement for what we will continue to accomplish together. Thank you for all that you do to make LCCC the first choice for education and workforce training in our region.

With appreciation and pride,

Ann D. Bieber

Dr. Ann D. Bieber
President

2026-2027 COLLEGE MID-YEAR

UPDATE

November 2026



Welcome Week and the Pep Rally!

LCCC welcomed new and returning students to campus during our Fall 2026 **Welcome Week and the Pep Rally**, which featured Wayfinding stations across all three campuses, a variety of free food truck offerings, free swag items and games for students to feel a sense of belonging the moment they start their classes. The Office of College Relations and Student Life also hosted a marquee Welcome Week event: a high-octane pep rally, where students listened to welcoming remarks from Dr. Ann Bieber, President of LCCC, gained inspiration from Brittani Bedoya, LCCC alumna and former Commencement Speaker, cheered for Clawrence the Cougar and participated in the Recreation Sports and Wellness relay race gauntlet. Over 800 students came together to kick off the 2026-27 academic year!



Middle States

LCCC's Middle States Reaccreditation 2027 is underway with the approval of the Self-Study Design by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The Middle States process is outlined for all stakeholders and the public on our website. Additionally, monthly updates are provided to stakeholders and through the College Voice. We are nearly finished with collecting evidence and have moved towards ensuring the evidence is up to date and formatted. This also involves numbering the evidence and cataloging it for upload. Finally, we are preparing an extensive evidence map for the evaluation team. We continue our efforts to involve and educate the college about the overall process of Middle States, including the Team Chair Evaluation visit in October and the full visit in March. We have started more active communications in the College Voice and hosted a Middle States Development Day. We prepared a narrative draft for our Team Chair ahead of his visit in October. This represents a majority of the narrative writing covering all seven standards and incorporating evidence.

October 2026

Hosted a college-wide Development Day to focus on LCCC's Vision, Mission, and Values Statement and Middle State Education (October 13) and welcomed the Team Chair Visit of Dr. Brenden Rickards (October 20).

Fall /Winter 2026

Upload Self-Study Report and Evidence Inventory to Middle States Portal. This must be done no less than 10 weeks before the spring visit. Attend the MSCHE Conference.

Winter 2026

Preparations for the Spring Team Visit will amplify as we engage the entire college community in targeted Middle States Education and training for the visit.

Spring 2027

The Evaluation Team will be visiting campus on March 7-10. This will involve a variety of meetings for campus stakeholders and a site visit.

TWI Job Instruction Program for Spot & Tango

LCCC's Center for Workforce Development celebrated a major milestone with **Spot & Tango**, a leader in the pet food industry, as two full graduating classes successfully completed the **Training Within Industry (TWI) Job Instruction program**.

This customized, in-house training program for Spot & Tango's supervisors and trainers was designed to build a culture of consistent, high-quality training across their entire workforce, bridging the gap between daily tasks and standardized operational excellence.

Through this globally recognized, battle-tested methodology, participants learned a structured, four-step method to break down jobs, analyze work processes, and deliver hands-on instruction with confidence. Delivered by LCCC's Center for Workforce Development, this initiative equips Spot & Tango's team with the tools to reduce errors, improve quality, and accelerate employee onboarding to drive sustainable organizational growth.





LCCC Announces Nearly $500K in Scholarships for Lehigh County Residents

Lehigh Carbon Community College announced an incredible expansion of financial support for local students. With new funding, **almost $500,000 in scholarships** will go to Lehigh County residents. Removing major financial barriers and opening doors to higher education and workforce training right here in our community. A large portion of the funds is dedicated to a "Second Chance" initiative for individuals who have faced incarceration or struggled with opioid use, covering 100% of tuition for high-demand workforce certifications like healthcare, IT, and commercial driving (CDL). Funding is also available for recent high school graduates looking to continue their education.











Lehigh Carbon Community College Launches Five Dual Enrollment Academies Backed by Pennsylvania Dual Credit Innovation Grant

LCCC has announced that the **Pennsylvania Dual Credit Innovation Grant funding** will cover up to 12 credits, textbooks, and fees to help high school students explore high-priority career pathways. The funding will support the launch of five new Dual Enrollment Academies designed to guide high school students along structured pathways directly aligned with high-priority occupations across the Commonwealth.

Participating high school students can now enroll in curated course sequences within five key industry sectors:

- **Criminal Justice**
- **Education**
- **Healthcare**
- **Computer Science** (Computer Science & CIS, Network & Cybersecurity, and Gaming)
- **Technology** (Advanced Manufacturing)

Through June 30, 2028 (or until funds are exhausted), the grant fully covers up to 12 credits of Academy coursework—including all tuition, required textbooks, and course fees.

The Academy program is structured for maximum flexibility. Students are not required to complete an entire Academy track to receive funding. At a minimum, taking one or two introductory courses offers a tuition-free, low-risk opportunity to test a career field while earning credits toward an LCCC degree or transfer path. Stand-alone eligible classes outside the formal Academy pathways are also fully covered by the grant, with tuition adjustments applied automatically by LCCC's Business Office.



Expanding Pennsylvania's Digital Infrastructure, Four Community Colleges at a Time

LCCC was proud to host an intensive, **four-day fiber optics training** in partnership with **Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Light Brigade**.

Four PA community colleges, Lehigh Carbon Community College, Northampton Community College, Luzerne County Community College, and Bucks County Community College, have officially joined forces with AWS as part of the Technology and Trades Consortium to train local faculty in fiber optics. Faculty representatives from LCCC, along with regional partners and instructors from local Career and Technical Centers, gathered on our campus for hands-on, industry standard training.

In total, 13 invited faculty members were instructed by Light Brigade during the week. Those who completed the certification will now move into a train the trainer two day class, ensuring they are fully certified to bring this vital curriculum back to students across all four institutions and build a lasting local pipeline of skilled workforce talent.

With the surge in high speed internet demand and data center expansion across the nation, trained technicians are needed now more than ever. As AWS Principal Workforce Development Leader Nick Lee Romagnolo noted, these essential, hands on jobs require real technical skills that are protected from automation.





Driving Student Experience Through Professional Growth

At Lehigh Carbon Community College, we are dedicated to continuously improving customer service across every stage of the student journey. Our staff members recently participated in **hands-on service mapping workshops** designed to evaluate, refine, and improve every touchpoint, thereby ensuring that students receive high-quality support. These workshops enable LCCC staff and administrators to deliver an optimal experience to students, whether during their initial interaction or as part of an ongoing connection.

These skill-building workshops, offered directly by our own Center for Workforce Development, provide customized training solutions that are customized for what organizations are looking for. The programs, including service mapping workshops and leadership development courses, are tailored to address the specific objectives of our organization and teams.

Our employees utilize these workforce development opportunities not only to enhance their skills but also to pursue ongoing professional growth within the institution.

LCCC Receives $1.43 Million Grant to Boost Training Services

Lehigh Carbon Community College received a **$1.43 million grant** from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) through its **Empower to Grow Program**. This funding will support specialized employee training in advanced manufacturing, electrical and mechanical engineering, and electronics for local businesses in Lehigh, Carbon, and Schuylkill counties. The goal is to help these businesses improve their workflow and productivity.





LCCC Expands Aviation Offerings with New Aviation Management Program

Lehigh Carbon Community College announced the launch of its new **Aviation Management Associate in Science (A.S.) degree program**, expanding its academic portfolio at its Lehigh Valley International Airport aviation center. The new program compliments LCCC's existing Aviation Science (A.A.S.) and Professional Pilot (A.A.S.) offerings, providing a streamlined track for students seeking business, administrative, and operational careers in the rapidly growing aviation industry.

"Adding Aviation Management to our curriculum ensures LCCC remains at the forefront of workforce development in the Lehigh Valley," said LCCC's Scott Aquila, Dean of Business, Legal, and Institutional Effectiveness. "By equipping students with both industry-specific knowledge and essential business skills, we are opening doors to rewarding, high-demand careers both on the ground and in the air."

With the addition of the Aviation Management program, LCCC offers three specialized academic tracks:

- **Aviation Management (A.S.):** Provides students with basic knowledge of the aviation industry and with specific skills in business and technical knowledge in airport facilities and airway systems management. Graduates of this program will be qualified for management positions in air carrier operations, commuter airlines, corporate aviation, aviation-related government agencies, and fixed base operations.
- **Aviation Science (A.A.S.):** Blends aviation and management studies into a degree that includes earning the private pilot certificate as well as business, computer and liberal arts courses. Graduates may become airport operations inspectors, airport managers, fixed-base operator managers, corporate or airline scheduling coordinators and customer service representatives.
- **Professional Pilot (A.A.S.):** Provides students earn the commercial pilot certificate for single and multiengine airplanes, an airplane instrument rating and the Certified Flight Instructor certificate. Graduates of this program may begin their aviation career as a flight instructor, leading to a position as a corporate or airline pilot.

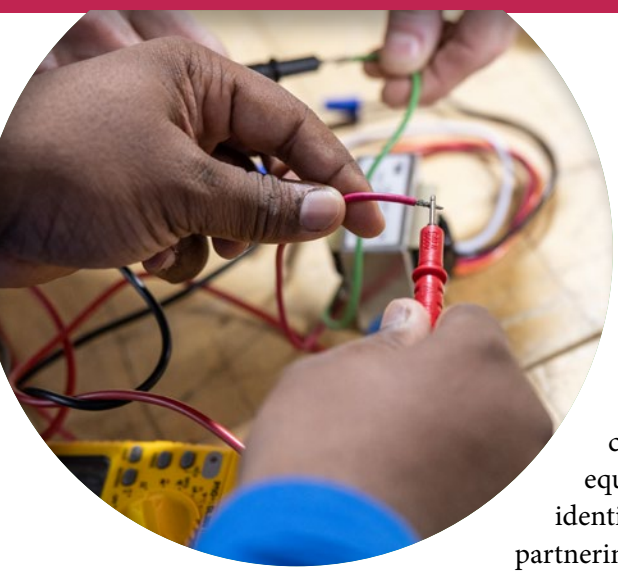


A Day on the Course for Student Success

The LCCC Foundation proudly hosted the annual **Tony Boyle Memorial Golf Classic** this September. The event brought together friends of the College, alumni, community partners, and supporters for a day of golf and shared purpose. This event is especially meaningful because it honors the legacy of Tony Boyle, who combined a passion for golf with a deep commitment to higher education.

Even though the sunshine and the excellent course made the day pleasant, the real success of the event was evident in the generosity of the people who took part. Because of the help from our golfers, sponsors, and volunteers, the Golf Classic raises money that is used directly to support scholarships and opportunities for LCCC students. Every swing, every putt, and every sponsorship represents a step in opening the way for students who are working hard to achieve their dreams.

- The Tony Boyle Memorial Golf Classic is not merely a tournament; it is a tradition that demonstrates the strength of our community and expresses the belief that investing in education can transform peoples lives.



Expanding the Skilled Trades Workforce Pipeline

LCCC continues to strengthen partnerships with industry to develop the highly skilled workforce needed to support the region's unprecedented economic growth. As major employers—including Amazon Web Services and Keel Infrastructure— advance data center development projects in the region, the College is expanding workforce training programs to prepare students for high-demand careers in the skilled trades. To support this initiative, the interior of LCCC's Professional Trades Building has completed a comprehensive renovation and features state-of-the-art simulation equipment that mirrors real world industry environments. With electricians identified as one of the region's most critical workforce needs, the College is partnering with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to recruit, train, and prepare the local workforce for careers in the electrical trade. Recognizing that today's learners require flexible educational pathways, LCCC is designing programs with stackable credentials that allow students to earn industry-recognized workforce credentials, followed by certificates and diplomas, before seamlessly progressing into associate degrees.

LCCC Awarded PATHWAYS Grant

Lehigh Carbon Community College has been awarded a $**2.17 million, five-year PATHWAYS (Philanthropy and Academic Transformation for High-demand Workforce Advancement that Yields Success) grant** from the U.S. Department of Labor to update campus facilities, expand skilled trade programs, and strengthen fundraising. Front-loaded in Year 1 under a new Project Coordinator, the initiative creates flexible workforce-to-degree tracks that allow noncredit students to earn industry credentials course-by-course. Supported by faculty stipends and a Career Pathways Navigator, the academic focus centers on electrical trades and biotechnology alongside hands-on learning experiences.

Physical upgrades include $207,775 to convert a classroom into a fully equipped Electrical Training Laboratory, as well as $340,000 in supplemental funding to construct and equip the college's biotechnology wing. To sustain growth beyond the five-year grant period, LCCC is also expanding its personnel by hiring a Director of Development to cultivate donor relationships and a Grant Writer to secure future public and private funding.

LCCC Welcomed the Inaugural Workforce Summit of the Workforce Investment Board

This fall, the Workforce Board Lehigh Valley hosted its inaugural **Annual Workforce Summit, "The Key to a Successful Workforce,"** at Lehigh Carbon Community College in Schnecksville. The morning event brought together regional employers, educators, government leaders, and community partners to examine the local workforce system, share success stories, and explore strategies for economic growth.

Attendees gained valuable insights into connecting businesses with top talent and supporting job seekers on their career paths. By facilitating cross-sector collaboration and highlighting regional resources, the summit successfully laid the groundwork for stronger talent pipelines and ongoing economic vitality throughout the Lehigh Valley.





New Resource: The AI Student Study Center

We know our students learn in diverse ways—some visually, others through self-testing. To support student success while promoting responsible technology use, we are excited to introduce the AI Student Study Center.

This center works hand in hand with our campus education center and tutoring services to give students a well-rounded, ethical, and effective study strategy.

What the AI Student Study Center Offers:

- Introductory Micro-trainings about AI Safety, Academic Ethics, and Study Techniques: Bite-sized videos teaching prompt engineering, spotting AI "hallucinations," and techniques for studying. Students can earn badges to demonstrate their awareness of these skills.
- A Digital Library of 270+ Vetted AI Study Guides, reviewed by content experts for accuracy, covering a variety of English, Math, Chemistry, and Anatomy topics.
- Students can access the center via their portal under Student Resources or directly on the AI Student Study Center Website.

Fall 2026 AI Learning Series for Faculty and Staff

This practical, hands-on professional development program is designed to turn Google's Gemini workspace tools into your productivity partner. Whether you join our flagship workshop, **Navigating the AI Frontier** (master data integrity, contextual bias auditing, and institutional citation standards) or attend targeted breakout sessions on building custom Gemini Gems, each interactive session delivers immediate, role-specific takeaways for staff and faculty alike. Virtual workshops run throughout September, October, and November.

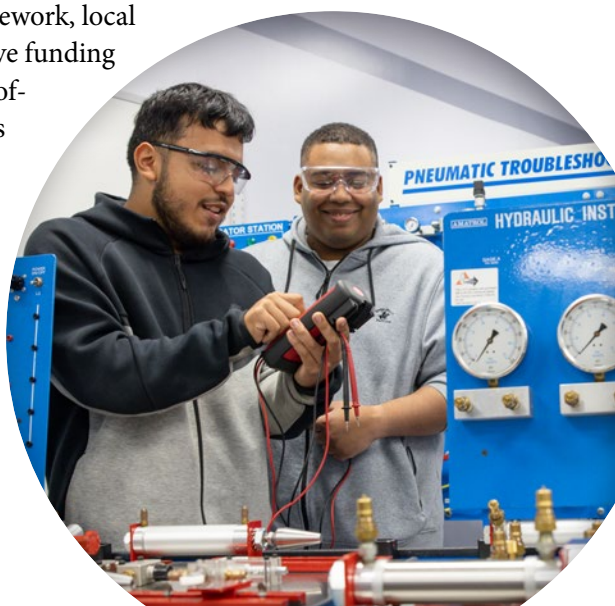
Foundation Board of Directors - Planning for the Future

The LCCC Foundation Board of Directors recently gathered for **a productive day of reflection and strategic planning**. Reviewing existing and creating new pathways to provide student and college support is always imperative in the everchanging higher education landscape. Periods of reflection are vital to our continued success. A huge thank you to Stick Figure Fundraising for facilitating a fantastic retreat.

Amazon's $1B "Built Together" Initiative Opens New Opportunities

Amazon has announced a **$1 billion commitment over the next five years to support communities hosting its data centers**, bringing exciting new opportunities to students. Lehigh Carbon Community College will benefit from this initiative.

As part of the framework, local residents will receive funding for remaining out-of-pocket tuition costs after financial aid, along with hands-on training for high-demand careers like IT, HVAC, health care, and advanced manufacturing.





Biotechnology Partnership with Eli Lilly

Our partnership with Eli Lilly continues to make strong progress, with significant milestones on the horizon. The college's **Associate Degree in Biotechnology** is scheduled to launch in Fall 2027, while the P**A Biotechnology Academy workforce training program** is expected to begin in Summer 2027. Participants who successfully complete the Bioprocessing Basic training program will have the opportunity to interview with Eli Lilly, establishing an important pathway from workforce training to potential employment.

Planning and renovations are also progressing at the college's **Science and Technology Center**, which will house the **new Biotechnology Center**. The facility will feature customized training spaces equipped with state-of-the-art technology, providing students and workforce participants with hands-on learning experiences aligned with industry needs. Together, these initiatives represent a significant investment in the region's biotechnology workforce and strengthen the college's role in preparing students for high-demand careers in this growing industry.



LCCC Promotes Fall Open House

LCCC's Fall 2026 Open House campaign was created by Paskill, our agency of record, to promote the November 4 Open House event at main campus. A multi media approach broadcasted the event to prospective students and their families. Two digital billboards in high visibility locations promoted the event. The Open House was featured on a postcard mailing, emails, display ads, social media channels, search ads, and on the website homepage. This comprehensive strategy focused on maximizing reach by using different ad formats to connect with prospective students and families where they spend their time.

Biopharmaceutical Workforce Development Partnership

LCCC, in partnership with another community college, PA Business, and five leading pharmaceutical corporations, convened to discuss strategies for **recruiting and establishing baseline credentials for entry-level biopharmaceutical manufacturing positions**. The discussion focused on aligning workforce preparation with the evolving needs of this critical and growing industry.

Participants identified the importance of matching projected workforce demand—including industry growth, retirements, and employee turnover—with the available talent pipeline, taking into consideration geographic location, training capacity and equipment, and curriculum delivery. The group also recognized that credentialing requirements must continue to evolve in response to emerging technologies and advances in biopharmaceutical manufacturing.



An important outcome was the recognition that these credentialing pathways can serve a broad range of learners, including high school students exploring career opportunities and individuals pursuing an associate degree. This collaborative effort represents an important step toward building a coordinated workforce development strategy that aligns education and industry needs while creating accessible pathways to careers in biopharmaceutical manufacturing.

Celebrating America 250!

What an incredible turnout for our **America 250 Spirit Day**. The weather was perfect, and it was great to see so many people from our campus community wearing red, white, and blue. Thank you to everyone who dressed up and brought so much energy to the mall area. Thank you to everyone who came out, and a special thanks to our fantastic volunteers. This event would not have been a success without your hard work preparing food, keeping the hot dogs and chips flowing, and handling cleanup.



LCCC at Musikfest



LCCC staff members volunteered at Musikfest in August, managing a ticket booth, beer tent, and beverage tent. The team enthusiastically represented the College throughout the warm summer evening, even pausing for a photo in front of one of the event's two jumbotrons featuring a rotating LCCC message.

Food Trucks, Deli Meals, and Free Food Offerings



For a second year, students, faculty, and staff are enjoying a variety of food options. **Food trucks** are scheduled for Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This fall, an **additional food vendor** offers meals on Thursdays in the ARC. **Free food offerings** for students has increased with designated Student Life events that include free food with its programming.

Development Day 2026

On Tuesday, October 13, Lehigh Carbon Community College **brought faculty and staff together in the CSC Ballroom on the Schnecksville campus for Development Day**. With no classes and college operations paused for the morning session, employees from across all campus sites assembled in person to connect and align on key college priorities.

The program opened after morning refreshments with a welcome by Dr. Ann Bieber and an insightful overview of Middle States Education led by the tri-chairs. Attendees then heard from **guest speaker Dana Evans Amberge** of Paskill, who delivered a keynote focused on the impact of LCCC's vision, mission, and values on recruitment. The morning concluded on an energetic note with interactive team-building activities hosted by the Spirit Committee. The campus community left feeling energized and well-prepared for the October 20th Middle States Higher Education team chair preliminary visit with Dr. Brenden Rickards.



Enrollment



8,941 Annual Credit Headcount 2025-26

1,442 Annual Noncredit Headcount 2025-26*

*(Includes job training courses, contract training, Adult Basic Education, GED, English as a Second Language)

Credit Statistics (Fall 2026)

5,972 Credit Headcount

Full-time **26%**
Part-time **74%**

PT Degree seeking **46%**
PT Dual Enrollment **27%**
PT Guest **2%**
FT Degree seeking **22%**
FT Early College **3%**
FT Guest **<1%**

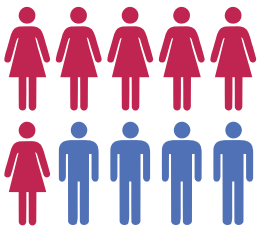
19% Enrollment in **career programs** (AAS)

43% Enrollment in **transfer programs** (AA, AS)

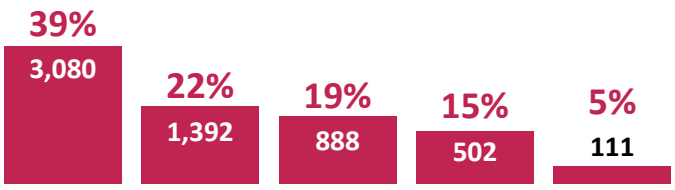
4% Enrollment in **programs under 2 years** (certificates and diplomas)

34% **Undeclared** (includes Early College, Dual Enrollment, guest students)

Female – **65%**
Male – **35%**



Credit Enrollment by Age (All Students)

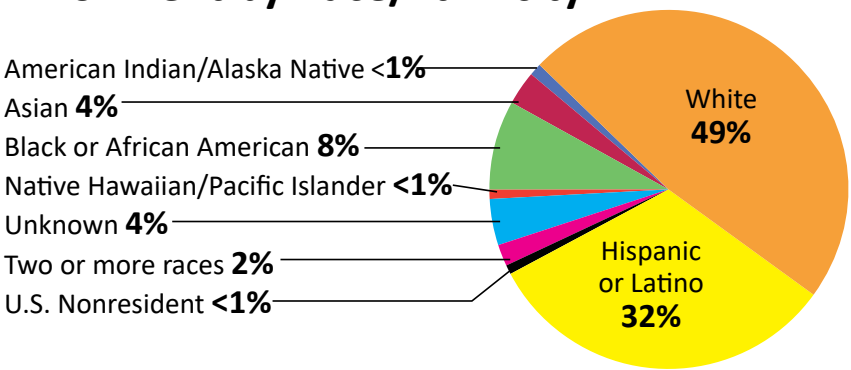


The mean age of all LCCC credit students

23 Years

(Median = 19)

Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



(Data from Infoquest)

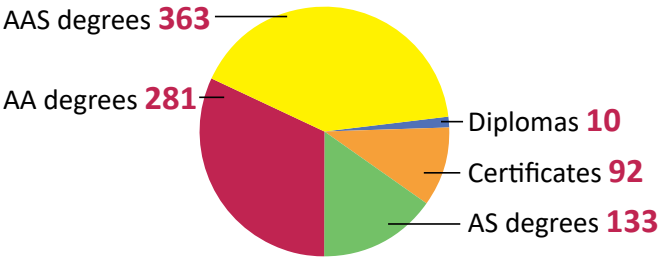
(Data is from fall 2026)

Credit Enrollment by Site
(May be duplicated among categories)

Distance Ed only **2,286**
Distance Ed plus face-to-face all sites **1,512**
Schnecksville **1,854**
Dual Enrollment **1,208**
Donley Center **193**
Tamaqua **145**
Airport **35**
Other sites **88**

Awards Conferred
(December 2025, May 2026, Summer 2026)

TOTAL 879



Online Programs

10 programs offered
100% online

19 programs offered
80% or more online

Veterans on Campus

427 (fall 2026) Includes active duty, dependents, spouses, National Guard, reservists, veterans

In 2025-26 students received
$21 million+
in all forms of **financial aid** and **scholarships**.

The **college** and the **LCCC Foundation** disbursed
$1,511,184
in **scholarships** to
1,292 students.

First Year Enrollment by School (Headcount)
(Data from Infoquest. New students.)

School of Aviation, Business, Education, Legal, and Social Sciences
Applied **712**
Registered **330**

School of Healthcare Sciences, Mathematics, and Science
Applied **1,289**
Registered **524**

School of Online Learning, Workforce, Development, and Technology
Applied **284**
Registered **106**

School of Humanities, Arts Computer Science, and Social Sciences
Applied **923**
Registered **437**

