

DR. ANN D. BIEBER PRESIDENT'S DESK

DECEMBER 2022



Lehigh Carbon
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Community College Alumna and Mother of Four Pursues Dream of Becoming a Teacher

Xiomara Pagan, a 2022 graduate, recently shared with the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges her aspirations of becoming a teacher and some of the challenges she had to overcome to earn her associate degree. She found an affordable transfer pathway to pursue her dreams at community college.

Ms. Pagan is just one of the thousands of students that transfer from a Pennsylvania community college annually. Last year, more than 31,000 community college students transferred to another college – and 79 percent of them transferred in-state. For example, nearly half of all incoming Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) transfer students in the Fall 2021 semester came from a Pennsylvania community college, making up a total 12 percent of the new undergraduate population that semester.

Pennsylvania community college transfer students also continue – persist in or complete their program of

study – at a higher rate than non-transfer students. All this correlates to a higher rate of student success for community college transfer students – and when you look at employment data, it's clear that continued investment in community colleges and this higher education pipeline is critical for Pennsylvania's vibrant future.

At least 80 percent of community college transfer students who graduate from a PASSHE university with a bachelor's degree are still employed in the Commonwealth three years after graduation. These alumni earn family-sustaining wages that are above

median income. Ten years after graduation, 70 percent of these students are still working in Pennsylvania, contributing to a thriving economy and prosperous communities.

An accompanying video interview with Ms. Pagan can be viewed [here](#). ■



Penn State Visits LCCC

Chancellors and directors of enrollment management from area Penn State campuses visited LCCC on Oct. 31. They discussed ways to strengthen partnerships for students after graduating with their associate degree to transfer for their bachelor degree and also earn scholarships.

Visiting campus were: Hazleton – Dr. Elizabeth Wright, chancellor, and Aaron B. Mattern; Lehigh Valley – Dr. Tina Richardson, chancellor, and Dr. Denise O'Neill; Schuylkill – Dr. Patrick Jones, chancellor, and Lia Morrison; Scranton – Dr. Marwan Wafa, chancellor, and James Garraway; and Wilkes-Barre – Dr. Lynda Goldstein, chancellor, and Dr. Janine Becker. ■



LCCC Recognized as Pennsylvania Hunger-Free Campus

Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) has received the Pennsylvania Hunger-Free Campus designation from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The college



is being recognized for its dedication to alleviating hunger among college students. The designation is part of efforts to advance student food security across the state by the Pennsylvania Office of the First Lady and the Department of Education.

The *Pennsylvania Hunger-Free Campus* initiative includes building a coalition of colleges and universities focused on addressing hunger and other basic needs for their students and strengthening the resources to help alleviate the issue statewide. Nearly one third (29%) of college students have missed a meal at least once a week since the beginning of the pandemic, and 35% of college students say hunger has impacted their ability to study at some point.

LCCC has several resources available to help alleviate food insecurity among its students. Both the Schnecksville and Allentown locations have food pantries, the “Cougar Cabinet,” and the Tamaqua site has snacks and basic personal items available for students.

In the 2021-22 fiscal year, the food pantries served 179 LCCC students, 85 in Allentown and 94 in Schnecksville. The total impact was 653 total individuals and household members served.

The food pantries opened in the fall 2018 and are supported by the LCCC Foundation, United Way and a partnership with the Second Harvest Food Bank. Students can access resources at the pantry once a week and are not required to document need.

For additional information on the college’s food pantry and how to access resources, click [here](#). ■

Fall Job Fair

Ninety-five employers visited Main Campus to meet with students and alumni interested in joining the workforce. Students gained professional and networking experience that will help them throughout their careers. ■



LCCC Foundation Basket Raffle

The LCCC Foundation hosted a basket raffle to raise funds for scholarships and the LCCC Cougar Cabinet Food Pantry. Both students and staff entered their tickets for a chance to win one or several of 15 baskets. A special thank you to Wind Creek Bethlehem, Advanced Solar Products, American Bank, Astound Broadband, Highmark, and the Krysta Hankee Memorial Fund for their support. The raffle raised over \$1,700. ■

LCCC Earns Guard-Friendly School Designation

Lehigh Carbon Community College has recently earned the Guard-Friendly School designation for 2022-23 from the Pennsylvania National Guard Associations (PNGAS). PNGAS is a non-profit organization that supports the men, women and veterans of the National Guard, their spouses and families. It is not associated with or legally connected to the Pennsylvania National Guard, the state or federal government, the U.S. Military or the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Developed by the PNGAS Education Advisory Council, the Guard-Friendly School standards were designed to recognize high schools, colleges, universities and trade schools that create a supportive learning environment to assist members of the Pennsylvania Guard and their families in pursuing post-secondary degrees.

LCCC continues to provide resources and support services to more than 350 active military and veteran students, spouses and dependents, to meet their specific needs while attending college. Resources include veterans' lounges at both the Schnecksville and Tamaqua campuses, preferred scheduling, scholarship opportunities and a dedicated Veterans Support Team to provide the resources needed to successfully transition to college. The LCCC Veterans Club provides an opportunity to find support, a purpose and make connections with fellow veteran and military students. In addition, the Veteran Advisory Board ensures LCCC remains current on relevant veteran-related issues. Students can also join SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society that recognizes academic achievements.

For more information on LCCC's veterans programs, contact Ariel Van Dam at avandam@lccc.edu or 610-799-1545. ■

Homecoming Brings Students and Alumni Together

This year's Homecoming celebration was the first since 2019. LCCC alumni, current students, staff, faculty and family members enjoyed the day together. The festivities began with an alumni basketball game prior to the men's basketball game where LCCC went head to head with Delaware County Community College. ■



Filmmaker Tours Campus



Larissa Verta, Eike Reichardt, Robert Morgalo and Dr. Cindy Haney. As part of the tour, the group visited Construction, HVAC, TV/Film and the WXLV Media and Design Center. ■

The college hosted a tour on Nov. 10 for filmmaker Robert J. Morgalo and his business partner Ozz Gomez, who are interested in working with the college to benefit students with real-world experience through a film studio being proposed for construction in Tamaqua. Morgalo, CEO of [Outhouse Production Films](http://OuthouseProductionFilms.com), is proposing to build a \$25 million movie studio on a 50-acre tract of land in Tamaqua to attract producers to take advantage of lower production costs. He met with local Tamaqua officials in October to discuss his plans. During his tour of the Schnecksville campus, he discussed student internship opportunities and ways that LCCC could be a partner in the project. Pictured: Dr. Ann Bieber, Ben Turrano, Ozz Gomez,

Lehigh Carbon Community College President

Dr. Ann D. Bieber

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Important Dates for December 2022

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|-----------------------|---|
| Dec. 7 | Info Session from 3 - 5 p.m.
(Main Campus) |
| Dec. 19 | Online Winter Session Begins |
| Dec. 23-Jan. 2 | College Closed |
| Dec. 27, 28 | Administrative Offices Open on a
Limited Basis, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,
Main Campus, Morgan and
Donley Only (Virtual Only on Dec. 28) |

Open House

More than 200 prospective students registered for the fall open house held Nov. 10. Guests had the opportunity to speak with faculty coordinators in career pathways about degrees and programs of interest as well as student life and activities available on campus. In addition to campus tours, presentations about financial aid (offered in English and Spanish), the SEED program and the honors scholars program were also offered. ■



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