

DR. ANN D. BIEBER PRESIDENT'S DESK

FEBRUARY 2022



Lehigh Carbon
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CELEBRATING
55
YEARS 1966-2021



A Message from Dr. Ann Bieber

LCCC is a special place, and few people embody the culture and history of LCCC more than Dr. Ann Bieber, LCCC's President. She recently sat down to speak about what

LCCC means to her, and what students and families will find if they come here.

View the video [here](#). ■

LCCC Students Inducted into Phi Theta Kappa

LCCC students were recently inducted into Alpha Omicron Alpha, the college's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, the national honor society for two-year colleges. A listing of students who were honored can be found [here](#).

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is the only nationally-acclaimed honor society serving two-year colleges, which offers associate degree programs. Membership into Phi Theta Kappa is by invitation only. To be considered, a student must be enrolled in an associate degree program, have completed at least 12 credit hours of coursework, have established a minimum grade point average of 3.5, have established a record of academic excellence as judged by the faculty, and be of good moral character and possess recognized qualities of citizenship. ■

"Be Anyone. Start Here." Video Series

The Office of College Relations recently completed a large scale video series featuring seven students from varying backgrounds, with a goal of highlighting diversity, equity and inclusion at LCCC. The theme of the campaign is "Be Anyone. Start Here." and the goal was to allow prospective and current students to see themselves when watching the videos, and realize that regardless of their circumstances or challenges faced, there is a place for them at LCCC. The first video in the series is below.



Paige Knowles

"Why would a smart girl like you go into the trades?" This was the kind of question Paige Knowles received from family and friends when she made the decision to pursue a career in the

trades at a young age. Paige's goal is to help young people answer those same questions, and encourage them to break through social norms to pursue their dreams.

[This is Paige's story](#). ■

Spring Semester Students at LCCC Have Access to Tuition Assistance and Emergency Funds

LCCC students who have been impacted by COVID-19 have access to a variety of grants through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and can use these funds to support their education for the spring semester. Students who have faced unexpected educational expenses or financial hardship related to the pandemic can apply for these grants. More than 2,000 students have received funding so far.

Students do not need to complete the FAFSA for these funds. Those who need assistance paying their tuition can apply for financial aid, scholarships and the federal stimulus funds. Or, they can set up payment plans to spread the payments over the semester.

Students can get financial assistance to cover tuition for credit and noncredit courses plus added expenses if eligible. In addition, grants can also assist with expenses such as food, housing and utility costs, transportation costs, childcare and healthcare.

To apply, students should complete the online application found on the myLCCC portal. Click on Apply for Scholarships under Student Resources on the left side of the screen. Or go to www.LCCC.edu/scholarships and click the Apply for Scholarships link.

For information on short-term skilled training in noncredit, trades or workforce programs that can be completed in three months or less, as well as funding opportunities to pay for classes, contact workforce@lccc.edu. ■



LCCC and ESU Partner on Grant to Help Students Complete STEM Degrees

To support students studying to earn their associate and bachelor's degrees in STEM majors, Lehigh Carbon Community College is one of the partners for a National Science Foundation grant through East Stroudsburg University to assist low-income, first-generation and minority students.

The program is administered by ESU through National Science Foundation funding, the S-STEM Program (Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). LCCC has applied to receive over \$197,000 in this [Clear Path](#) funding.

LCCC is one of the partners in East Stroudsburg's five-year, \$5 million grant to provide scholarships and support for students in targeted STEM programs with the goal to help students complete their associate and bachelor's degrees. LCCC's award will cover student scholarships, student field trips and travel to meetings and workshops. The goal of the project is to increase the success of STEM students, support diverse populations in STEM majors and will also address elevating the level of communication between the two institutions, coordination of the curriculum and holistic academic advising.

LCCC is designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Hispanic-Serving Institution and serves as a gateway to a bachelor's degree for low income, first generation and minority students, as well as underprepared students who need intensive support.

Mary Engel, LCCC assistant professor of chemistry, will serve as LCCC's Clear Path liaison. She will work with LCCC student services and academics to identify and recruit scholars and help them to complete the program application. She will advise scholars and direct them to college services and resources and assist with professional development for staff and faculty.

Previously, LCCC and ESU collaborated on a Clear Path grant from 2016 to August of 2021. Of the student scholars participating in that cohort, 100% have completed or are expected to complete their bachelor's degrees, and 100% completed their associate degrees.

To be eligible for the program, students can major in biology, chemical technology, chemistry, computer forensics and digital security, computer science, environmental science, mathematics or physics.

Students who would like to learn more about the grant opportunities and transfer to ESU should contact Mary Engel, assistant professor of chemistry and Clear Path liaison, at mengel@lccc.edu. ■

Reporting Live: Anna Laible

By: Sara Karnish

At just 16 years old, Anna Laible has found a creative way to combine her passions for sports and writing.

A junior in high school and carrying a full load at LCCC, Laible, of Lehighton, will earn her associate degree in communications by the time she finishes high school. Her professional goal is to become a sports broadcaster or reporter. "I've always been a huge sports fan. I love watching them, and I've enjoyed writing about them when I could," said Laible. "My mom and I looked for new opportunities for my writing, and we came across *Sports Illustrated (SI) Kids*." Laible submitted writing samples as part of her application and was chosen as one of the magazine's 10 young reporters from across the country, and the only one from Pennsylvania. She has been writing for *SI Kids* since 2019, during which time she has interviewed top athletes and other notable figures in the sports world and covered high-profile games and events; it's difficult for Laible to narrow down her list of favorite assignments.

Through her work for *SI Kids*, Laible was recruited as the kid reporter for the televised National Dog Show Jr. in Philadelphia, which aired on Peacock this past fall. "For the first time ever, the National Dog Show did a National



every TV show, and there are so many people who work so hard to make it all look so amazing. Most of them aren't on the screen."

In March 2020, she took her love of sports and media in a different direction by launching her podcast, *Speak Up Sports*, available anywhere you can access podcasts. In less than a year, she's already spoken with an impressive roster of guests that includes Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker, whom she says "is kind of like a second grandfather to me. He's so genuine and so kind." She hopes to interview sportscaster Maria Taylor, basketball player Steph Curry and baseball player Juan Soto soon. "One of

the things that I think is really cool about the podcast is learning the stories of others besides just what they did in the sport. There's usually so much more to know about them. It's really cool to learn about them as a person rather than just an athlete," she said.

Laible's short-term goals include playing collegiate softball (she currently plays travel softball year-round). She plans to continue the podcast for as long as she can. As if all her projects and a full course load was not enough, Laible served as the social media editor for LCCC's *Paw Print* publication. She wrote and edited columns, blog and social media posts, then posted them to the *Paw Print* site. Most recently, she wrote an [article for Major League Baseball](#) detailing their DREAM Series showcase in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It's undoubtedly a juggling act, but Laible does her best to make it all work. "You have to be able to have a little bit of fearlessness. I don't know anyone else my age who is doing what I'm doing. Sometimes I think, 'I shouldn't be doing this at my age', but then I think, 'This is exactly what I should be doing.' I'd love to get more females in sports, and I want to learn from these folks now" she said, adding, "I think through LCCC

I learned the importance of hard work. I'm a pretty hard worker already. I'm in high school but taking college classes—I've kept up the dedication and hard work through *SI Kids*, the podcast, LCCC. It's intimidating to do something this young. Sometimes it's hard to be doing something at this age when I'm the only one doing it, but I'm developing that hard work ethic. I wouldn't have had any of these opportunities without my parents' support. They drive me to the *SI Kids* events. I'm grateful to them for helping me chase my dreams." ■



Dog Show Jr. They wanted to bring a wider audience to the next generation of dog handlers," Laible explained. The show was a combination of a judged competition and features about dog science, junior handlers, and trainers. Hosted by Matt Iseman (host of *American Ninja Warrior*) and Olympic gymnast Laurie Hernandez, Laible was the ringside reporter. "It was amazing to work alongside these talented professionals," she said. "I was the youngest person there. It was so fun to learn from everybody—there is so much hard work that goes into

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Dr. Ann D. Bieber

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Important Dates for February 2022

- Feb. 1-3** At Your Service Virtual Fair
Feb. 9 Admissions Information Session and Tour –
3 to 5 p.m., LCCC Schnecksville
Feb. 15 Spring Late Start 10-week Classes Begin
Feb. 16 Admissions Virtual Information Session –
4:30 p.m., via Zoom

Memorial Scholarship Supports Students in LCCC Truck Driving Training Program

In memory of Joseph T. Gero of Quakertown, a memorial scholarship has been established to support students studying for their CDL license at Lehigh Carbon Community College. The \$10,000 Joseph T. Gero Memorial Scholarship will provide funding to offset the cost of the training in this growing field.

Gero died in May 2021 and had been a lifelong hot rod and car show enthusiast. He owned JTG Trucking in Quakertown for many years.

LCCC's Commercial Driver's License program provides classroom, driving range and on-road training in both Class A and Class B. The four-week program prepares students to take the licensure exam. Because of growth in this industry, the demand for trained truck drivers is increasing. The Gero Scholarship will help ease the financial load for students training for their CDL.

In addition, this new scholarship kicks off a campaign to raise additional funds to support students in workforce development and upskill training programs and military veterans at LCCC. The LCCC Foundation will hold three events throughout the year to raise funds for scholarships: the Clay Shoot in June, the 27th Annual Golf Classic in September and the Fall Fitness Fest 5 and 10K in November.

For more information about the CDL program, go to www.LCCC.edu/CDL. For information on the LCCC Foundation and the 2022 events, go to www.LCCC.edu/Foundation or contact Foundation@LCCC.edu or call 610-799-1711. ■