

DR. ANN D. BIEBER
PRESIDENT'S
DESK

JULY 2022



Lehigh Carbon
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Commencement Speakers Share LCCC Experiences

This year's commencement speakers – Laurisa Gruver and Shanise Cooper – both reflected on the challenges of attending college during a pandemic. In their address to fellow graduates and the 2,000+ attendees at the May 16 ceremony they shared their experiences attending LCCC in these unique circumstances.



Laurisa Gruver

As a communication major at LCCC, Laurisa Gruver used the skills she developed as editor of *The Paw Print* student newspaper and member of the Art Club and Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Her campus involvement complemented the engagement she found in the

classroom. "I enjoyed being involved in class discussions and getting a taste of the on-campus college experience," she said. "My time at LCCC reminded me how much I enjoy school."

Gruver initially chose LCCC, "For a great education that was accessible in a difficult time." She graduated high school in 2020 at the height of the COVID pandemic, which cut her senior year short and affected her in other ways. "Isolation and Zoom classes caused me to close up and I became shy and anxious, which is a bit of a problem for a communication major," she says. "When I first started in-person classes at LCCC, I didn't say a word and always felt nervous." Slowly, her face-to-face courses helped her open up. "I shared stories in class, joined clubs, and overcame my insecurities. I look forward to bringing this newfound confidence into my future."

In her speech, Gruver spoke about how COVID impacted her as both a student and a person. "It felt right to discuss how the pandemic changed us and made us stronger—how it developed us into who we are today. My goal was to primarily focus on this change and what we accomplished, because that's what graduation is about—celebrating how we've grown and what we've achieved."

Next up for Gruver is pursuing a professional writing degree at Kutztown University.



Shanise Cooper

For Shanise Cooper, returning to school as an adult learner was daunting at first; however, her determination quickly overcame her uncertainty. In her previous job as a technician at St. Luke's University Health Network, Cooper regularly worked alongside nurses, leading

her to consider a nursing degree at LCCC. After learning more about the profession, she had a change of heart. "I always loved helping people, but I used to think I had to work in a hospital to do that. When I realized that wasn't the case, I changed my major to communication. I would watch motivational videos and began to feel inspired to speak to other people and help them see themselves in a better light," she said.

Being a full-time mom and student left little time for joining campus clubs or activities; however, Cooper enjoyed the many events held throughout the year. "The job fair was the best one, because I haven't been working since I changed my major. Looking for work after getting a degree is hard because you lack experience. I also enjoyed the professors. Every professor I had was understanding and helpful through all assignments."

Cooper plans to take a few months off to focus on building her brand, Embrace a Greater U, which she describes as, "an LLC that provides self-love videos and quotes to help you have a better day."

Next spring, Cooper plans to attend Delaware State University and pursue a degree in social work. She is proud of her accomplishments at LCCC, saying, "I am most proud of the person I have become. I am a better listener and have gained so much more self-respect after taking certain classes." ■

Students of the Year Set Paths for Success

Student of the Year is Lehigh Carbon Community College's most prestigious annual honor. Students are nominated by instructors, and the winners are chosen by the LCCC Faculty Association based on their performance in and out of the classroom. For 2022, Jace Izellah Mary was named Student of the Year, and Tucker Zimmerman was named Early College Student of the Year.

Jace Izellah Mary – Honors Scholar, A.S. in Physics

Earning a college degree is a remarkable achievement in the best of times but earning a degree during a global pandemic is even more remarkable. As the first student in her family to attend college in the U.S., Jace Izellah



Mary initially chose LCCC because of the college's incredible cost savings. In addition, LCCC offered the benefit of being close to home in the Lehigh Valley, where her family has lived since they moved from the Philippines. After a high school presentation from LCCC's admissions office, Mary was interested in

learning more. "When the Admissions representative said the Honors Scholars program would cover my tuition, I was sold," Mary said. "The uncertainty that came with the pandemic only solidified my decision."

Mary knew almost instantly that she'd made the right choice. "At LCCC, I felt welcomed and accepted. My efforts and hard work were noticed and encouraged. I met so many different people from all age groups, political views, general upbringing and ethnic backgrounds," she said. The diversity of the student body helped Mary feel much less like an outsider, a feeling she said came from attending public school as an immigrant. She was active on campus as a member of Student Government Association and Phi Theta Kappa. "We sponsored a lot of virtual events because we couldn't be on campus," she said. She later served as SGA president and PTK vice-president in spring 2022 when most students returned to campus. Reflecting on her time in both organizations, "We held a lot of in-person events. It was work but also fun!"

Mary can't help but look back on her unique two years at LCCC, "I think back on all the hard work...to finish my degree. There were so many times I thought, 'This is it. I'm going to fail', but I managed to pull through every single time." She is grateful for the support system of family, friends, faculty and administrators at LCCC who helped her every step of the way. She plans to continue her education at Temple University as a bioengineering major with a concentration in engineering devices.

Tucker Zimmerman—Early College Student of the Year, A.A. in General Studies

Students in LCCC's Early College program get a jump start on their college education while still in high school. Tucker Zimmerman had been a student at the Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School and on track to graduate by the end of his junior year—"However, upon hearing about the Early College Program that my local high school, William Allen, offered, I felt that it was an exceptional opportunity...

I had never officially attended a public school, as I had gone directly from homeschool to cyberschool.

"On top of the financially beneficial opportunity the Early College program presented, I also saw it as a chance to attend public school for the first time. This would enable me to warm up to that experience before diving headfirst into a four-year, out-of-state university," Zimmerman said. He said engaging with professors was one of the most enjoyable aspects of his LCCC experience.

After graduation, he plans to continue to establish and nourish connections with those he meets. He plans on attending LeTourneau University in Longview, TX, to study mission aviation, a major that will help him reach his goal of becoming a missionary pilot. The profession will require him to spend extended periods of time in impoverished countries providing various basic needs to the residents of these nations.

While LCCC's Early College program provided Zimmerman with a stepping stone to completing his undergraduate studies, the experience also offered him the ability to meet, connect with, and help people. "The rewards [the program] can yield for those willing to put their best foot forward toward it are incalculable," he said. ■



LCCC Tamaqua Invites Students to Summer Application Day

Students who live near Lehigh Carbon Community College's Tamaqua site and who are interested in taking classes at LCCC this fall can tie up loose ends at the Summer Application Day at LCCC Tamaqua from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, July 20. Prospective students can get assistance with the following:

- Complete their LCCC application for Fall 2022
- Have transcript(s) reviewed by an admissions representative to determine if placement testing is required. (Bring unofficial copies with you.)
- Register for remote or in-person [placement testing](#)
- Register for an upcoming [New Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration \(NSOAR\)](#)
- Speak with admissions and financial aid representatives
- Tour the Morgan and Scheller Centers

The Summer Application Day event is designed to help students complete their next steps towards enrollment



at LCCC with ease. Applicants who have already completed placement testing and/or orientation would not need to attend.

Students should register online for a specific time slot for the [July 20](#) session.

For those who need additional information or who have questions, contact the LCCC Office of Admissions at admissions@lccc.edu or 610-799-1575. ■

Integrated Education and Training Certificate Ceremony

On June 16, non credit ESL students participating in the Integrated Education and Training Program (IET) had their certificate ceremony. Students who complete one of the IET's in either pharmacy technician or office clerk move on to either post secondary education or obtaining employment in their field of study. Tara Ondra, coordinator of the IET program, served as lead speaker for the ceremony. Student speaker Haidar Alsaman gave an inspiring speech about the joys and challenges of learning a new language. ■



Congratulations to LCCC's Beacon Conference Participants and Panel Award Winners

On Friday, June 3, eight LCCC students participated in the 30th Annual Beacon Conference, which showcases the work of student scholars at two-year colleges in the mid-Atlantic region. The conference, hosted online this year by SUNY Orange, brought together students and faculty from 13 colleges in four states.

Three LCCC students participated in the poster session:

- Kathryn Kelly: "The ACT UP Movement's Importance in Humanizing HIV." Mentored by Dr. Christine Bowditch. Women's / Gender / LGBTQ.
- Asher Smith: "The Dissolution of the Soviet Union." Mentored by Dr. Andrea Grant-Friedman. Political Science.
- Ashley Guava: "Bacterial Evolution: The Importance of Antibiotic-Resistant Bacterial Evolution." Mentored by Teresa Heisey. Biology.

Five LCCC students competed for panel awards, three winning the award for Best Paper and Presentation:

- Emily Foehrkolb: "Beyond Sexuality: When the Gay Movement and Race Intersect." Mentored by Dr. Christine Bowditch. Women's / Gender / LGBTQ panel. Panel Award Winner.
- Michelle Kenstler: "The Effectiveness of Rituals on Social Cohesion and Anxiety in Classroom Culture After COVID-19." Mentored by Dr. Robin Musselman. Psychology panel. Panel Award Winner.
- Mads Hennings: "The Versatility of Spider Silk." Mentored by Holly Morris. Biology panel. Panel Award Winner.
- Donovan Muick: "Properties and Functionality of Spider Silk." Mentored by Holly Morris. Biology panel.
- Jace Izellah Mary: "Newton's Law of Cooling." Mentored by Joseph Kazan. Empirical Research / Environment panel.

Panel award winners' papers will be published in the conference's Proceedings, and each winner and their mentor will receive a monetary honorarium. ■

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Important Dates for July 2022

- July 5 Summer Session II Begins
- July 13 Summer Application Day Schnecksville
- July 18 "Futuros Empresarios"/Future Entrepreneurs (FE) Program Begins
- July 20 Summer Application Day Tamaqua
- Aug. 5 1-2 p.m. Design Den Makerspace grand opening, Schnecksville campus

ADN Pediatric Students Help Get Camelot Ready for Summer Camp



On Wednesday, June 16, Dr. Ina Levin's ADN pediatric students helped prepare Camelot for Children for summer camp by removing old shrubs, weeding, cleaned outside toys, etc. ■

LCCC Receives \$5,000 from Dollar General Literacy Foundation to Support English Language Learning

The Lehigh Carbon Community College Foundation has received a \$5,000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to hold a new English as a Second Language (ESL) class entitled "Won't You Be My Neighbor," an experiential English language learning program for new Lehigh Valley residents.

The project will serve 20 ESL students who are recent immigrants to the area. Participants will learn about the area and how to navigate challenges. Following lessons in the classroom, students will learn to use their newly acquired language skills out in the community, such as at the library or the mall. Program activities are designed to build confidence and help new immigrants access critical resources they need in their everyday lives.

This grant is part of the Dollar General Literacy Foundation's recent \$10.5 million donation to support summer, family and adult literacy programs.

Classes will run in fall 2022 and spring 2023.

For information on the program, contact Allison Ludlow, assistant director of literacy, aludlow@lccc.edu. ■

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