

DR. ANN D. BIEBER  
PRESIDENT'S  
DESK

SEPTEMBER 2022



Lehigh Carbon  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## Secretary Pete Buttigieg Announces Two-Year Grant to Provide Free CDL Training to Military and Families

Lehigh Carbon Community College is one of 19 colleges or training centers in the country and one of only two in Pennsylvania to receive a federal grant that provides funding to former and current military service members and their families to pursue careers as commercial truck drivers.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and U.S. Congresswoman Susan Wild announced the grant, greeted students and local business leaders and toured CDL training facilities on Aug. 2. The college will receive \$193,677 for this two-year grant, which will go to provide scholarships for the training program, valued at \$5,530 each.

The funds come from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration through the Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training (CMVOST) Grant Program.

Funds will address the growing need for drivers in the rapidly expanding trucking industry. The grant will assist current or former members of the United States Armed Forces (including National Guard members and Reservists) and their spouses or children to receive CDL training and job search support in order to gain employment in the commercial motor vehicle operation industry.

The CDL program at LCCC teaches the knowledge and skills drivers need using a combination of classroom, driving range and on-road training.

For additional information, contact CDL Admissions Representative Jack Bruer at 610-799-1704 or [jbruer@lccc.edu](mailto:jbruer@lccc.edu). ■



*Pictured left to right: Pete Buttigieg, Dr. Ann D. Bieber and Representative Susan Wild*



## Local Community College Graduates to Receive 50 Percent Tuition Discount to Drexel University

Students graduating with an associate degree from either Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) or Northampton Community College (NCC) will soon have the opportunity to apply for a renewable 50 percent tuition discount at Drexel University as part of the university's new Drexel Promise Program.

The program, which begins in fall 2023, is designed to increase the accessibility and affordability of a Drexel degree.

"This is an incredible opportunity for our students at LCCC, and we thank Drexel University for providing an equitable pathway, through the Drexel Promise Program, for students to attain their higher education goals," says Dr. Ann D. Bieber, president of Lehigh Carbon Community College.

"Affordability is such a large hurdle for many college students, but especially so for those attending community colleges who come from lower income backgrounds," says Dr. David A. Ruth, president of Northampton Community College. "The Drexel Promise Program addresses that head on and will open the door for many of our students who are focused on transferring to a four-year institution to earn a bachelor's degree."

There is no additional form or application required for graduates from LCCC or NCC to be considered for the program. However, to be eligible, students must be enrolled full-time, on-campus and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA for a maximum of 12 academic quarters.

For information about transferring from Lehigh Carbon Community College, contact Fauzia Graham, LCCC's transfer advisor, at [fgraham@lccc.edu](mailto:fgraham@lccc.edu) or call 610-799-1691. ■

## LCCC Receives Grant from PPL Foundation for STEAM Creative Makerspace

Lehigh Carbon Community College's Design Den creative makerspace has received a \$1,000 grant from the PPL Foundation. Funds will support the facility, which will provide hands-on learning opportunities to LCCC students in the Teacher Education degree programs as well as professional development opportunities to classroom K-12 teachers in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM).

Located on the college's main campus in Schnecksville, the Design Den follows the model created by the college's SHINE (Schools and Homes in Education) after-school program that includes project-based learning involving collaboration, creativity and technology. Beginning this fall, the space will teach students in Teacher Education classes how to integrate STEAM principles into lesson plans and curricula and will promote professional development for LCCC Education faculty.

The Makerspace will be a resource for school districts, area schools, colleges and universities and other community partners. It will also serve as a hub for STEAM-related summer camps, after school programs, Saturday programs and field trips for area school children.

For additional information on the Design Den, contact Dr. Kelly Trahan at [ktarahan@lccc.edu](mailto:ktarahan@lccc.edu). ■



## Council of Presidents Meets at LCCC

Presidents from the state's community colleges gathered together at LCCC on Thursday, Aug. 11, as part of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges (PACCC) Council of Presidents yearly meeting to receive updates and discuss issues relating to community colleges. ■



## Congresswoman Susan Wild Hosts Broadband Panel

U.S. Congresswoman Susan Wild hosted a panel discussion at LCCC on Thursday, Aug. 4, centered on internet accessibility in the area, and also toured the SHINE summer camp that was held at Peters Elementary in Slatington. Joining Rep. Wild for the panel discussion was Andy Berke, special representative for broadband at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Other participants on the panel were Dr. Ann Bieber, LCCC president; Geoff Brace, Lehigh County Commissioner; Becky Bradley, executive director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission; Nancy Dischinat, executive director of the Workforce Board Lehigh Valley; local businessman Brian Dietrich; and Erin Smith Wachter from the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority. Additional photos from the visit can be viewed on the college [Flickr](#) account. ■



## Lehigh Carbon Community College HVACR Graduates Ready for Cool Job in Hot Career

The summer is the beginning of a new career for seven new graduates from the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration program at Lehigh Carbon Community College. This is the first class to graduate from the 12-month certificate program, which launched in August 2021. Previously, the program required students to commit to 24 months to earn their HVACR certificate.

The class is a mix of recent high school graduates, adult students and people wanting to change careers.

The program is demanding, as it requires students to take four technical classes each semester in three consecutive semesters. Classes cover a variety of topics including hydronic heating, advanced air conditioning and refrigeration, residential wiring and heat pumps. In both the 12- and 24-month programs, students take the same theory, labs, examinations and certifications. Students earn eight certifications with the choice to earn four additional certifications related to heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration. In addition, about half the cohort worked full- or part-time while completing their degree.

For information on the 12- or 24-month HVACR certificate program at LCCC, contact Timothy Brady, associate professor, at [tbrady@lccc.edu](mailto:tbrady@lccc.edu) or 610-799-1028. ■



*Pictured left to right: Kenneth Schleicher, Dario Martinez, Danny Camacho and Truong Dang*



*Pictured left to right: Benjamin Hudak, Wilkins Rodriguez and Cesar Carino*

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*Dr. Ann D. Bieber*

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## Important Dates for September 2022

September 4-5 College Closed for Labor Day

September 19 LCCC Foundation Tony Boyle  
Golf Classic

September 28 HSI Transfer Event at 10 a.m.

## Alumna Finds Sweet Success in Business



Jessica Dean admits that she wasn't sure what she wanted to do when she entered college. After trying different majors, Dean eventually took a break to decide what she truly wanted to do. Realizing she might want to start her own bakery, she went back to LCCC to earn her A.A.S. in Business Management in 2010. "That just felt like who I was."

For Dean, living with a tree nut allergy meant missing out on desserts and other foods that contain trace amounts of nuts, and she used that as an impetus to strive toward a better future for others like her. Licensed through the Department of Agriculture, Dean opened a nut-free bakery from her home, using her business management skills. Benny Dean's Bakery is helping those with a nut allergy enjoy delicious desserts.

Dean says it's worth the trouble to make sure all her ingredients are nut free. "It's been so rewarding to be able to hear from people who say, 'My son or daughter is in that same position.'" Having gone most of her life without meeting others with the same severity of allergies as her, she's grateful to connect with them now through her business.

LCCC offered many benefits that fit Dean's situation and helped guide her toward success. "I had bills to pay for the apartment I was in...I was working and going to school, and I was able to take 99% of my classes online." In speaking to prospective LCCC students, she says, "I always highly encourage anyone coming out of high school to go to community college. Go to LCCC. Start off there and figure out what you want to do."

Read more alumni stories at [Aspire](#). ■

**Lehigh Carbon Community College**  
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