



LCCC Agreement with Alvernia Supports Nursing Students

Students who complete their associate degree in Nursing from LCCC will have an additional option to continue their pathway to a bachelor's degree through an agreement with Alvernia University. LCCC and Alvernia have supplemented a recent dual admissions agreement to create full transfer of credits, allowing LCCC Nursing graduates to transfer to Alvernia University's [RN to BSN online program](#) to complete their bachelor's of science in nursing (BSN) degree.

A private university with campus locations in Reading, Pottsville, and Philadelphia, Alvernia offers the RN to BSN completion program completely online, accepts up to 90 credits for transfer and is competitively priced

at \$400/credit. Alvernia's Pottsville CollegeTowne location is located near LCCC's Tamaqua site, allowing Tamaqua students to easily access campus resources if needed. The LCCC Tamaqua site offers a state-of-the-art nursing simulation center in its Scheller Center near Tamaqua's city center.

In addition to the RN-BSN Nursing program, LCCC students will be guaranteed admission with junior year status at Alvernia after they have completed their appropriate Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.) or Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree. Students must meet additional requirements for a minimum GPA, submit an intent form, complete an admissions application, not attend another college or university between when they graduate from LCCC and enroll at Alvernia, and enroll at Alvernia within one year of LCCC graduation.

Information about the transfer program can be found on LCCC's [transfer webpage](#).

For information about LCCC, contact the Office of [Admissions at Admissions@lccc.edu](mailto:Admissions@lccc.edu) or 610-799-1575. For information about Alvernia's RN to BSN Program, contact GradandAdult@alvernia.edu or 610-796-5187. ■

LCCC Offers Saturday Virtual Office Hours for Fall Registration

For the convenience of students who are registering for the Fall 2024 semester, LCCC will hold virtual office hours on Saturdays, Aug. 17 and Aug. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., to help students with services they need to be ready for the fall semester. Contact information for each of the services available is below.

The following services will be offered via email or phone on Aug. 17 and 24:

- Admissions – 610-799-1575 or Admissions@lccc.edu,
- Academic Advising – schedule an appointment online. (Appointments must be scheduled in advance – no one will be available to answer phone calls or emails on those days.)
- Financial Aid – 610-799-1133 or finaid@mymail.lccc.edu
- Make tuition payment or set up payment plan – Business Office, 610-799-1592 or bursar1@mymail.lccc.edu
- Registration/Student Records – 610-799-1171 or registrar@mymail.lccc.edu

All tuition payments are due by Aug. 1 or at the time of registration. Current students can register or make payment online through the [portal](#).

Fall classes begin Aug. 26, and students can register through Aug. 30. For more information, visit www.lccc.edu or contact LCCC at 610-799-1575. ■



Making Their Mark in the Field

Students in Associate Professor Andrew King's General Biology II course are immersed in an experiential learning project that is paying big dividends not only for themselves, but also for the public at large. Not to mention a grove of trees. The unique opportunity allows students



to conduct research in the field for Wildlands Conservancy of Emmaus. Perhaps most importantly, the students' work is helping to solve a vexing ecological problem.

As a keystone species, American chestnut trees played a vital role in our country's history. Their wood had been used for construction and burned for heat. Their seeds fed livestock, and provided shelter, food, and resources for a variety of animals. But with the advent of international trade, fungal pathogens and destructive ambrosia beetles were unknowingly introduced into our ecosystem. Their impact was profound, decimating whole forests of these essential trees. When it was discovered that Chinese chestnut trees resisted the fungal blight, researchers attempted to develop a hybrid of the Chinese and American chestnuts. The research is ongoing, but it includes a collaboration between Wildlands Conservancy and LCCC students.

Wildlands Conservancy is dedicated to responsible stewardship of natural areas and waterways. The conservancy established its chestnut tree research site on a four-acre plot in the Trexler Nature Preserve in Schnecksville, the largest park in Lehigh County—and conveniently adjacent to Lehigh Carbon Community College. "We wanted to identify additional partners to help us with some of the long-term efforts there, and LCCC was a natural fit," said Kate Ebel, senior restoration ecologist at Wildlands Conservancy.

Ebel says that LCCC students have been involved with the chestnut tree project from the beginning, helping the conservancy plant the first run of trees in 2012. The information that the students gather today is sent by the conservancy to the American Chestnut Foundation to be used in their multi-state research program on combating the blight.

LCCC students do fieldwork twice a year at Trexler for this research project. Every student enrolled in the General Biology II course, between 60 and 90 pupils, is required to participate. For the majority of the students, the excursion to Trexler and collecting data outdoors was an eye-opening experience. "They're always apprehensive at first, because they don't have an idea of what fieldwork means. A lot of times, they confuse it and think it's yardwork—no. Instead of being in the comfort

of our labs, we're going to see what people do who are out in the field gathering these measurements. This is a great example of how academics and community can come together," King said.

Students look for and record data such as a tree's height, estimate

its life cycle stage, and whether trees have been attacked by invasive species. Back in the classroom, King evaluates student performance on the quality of their data collection process and whether they followed proper research protocols.

With more than 1,000 trees to assess in the chestnut orchard at Trexler, it's a daunting task for Ebel's two-person department. The additional assistance of LCCC students makes the job more manageable and reinforces the school's ties with the community. "They have good attention to detail and it fits in well with what they're learning in their classes. Having the students assist really allows us to collect high-quality data without so much of a time commitment on our part," Ebel says. "We're very pleased with the partnership and we're excited to continue it in the future."

The students' contributions will certainly help researchers in their efforts to stem deforestation and perhaps restore the American chestnut population to prominence. Beyond that laudable goal, however, students are also acquiring practical transferable skills that will help them stand out to potential employers. "We really wanted to make sure the students got experience with research, [something] that will allow them to apply the theoretical material they learned in lecture in a real-world setting," King said.

For more information on science programs, contact admissions@lccc.edu or visit the [website](#). ■



Customized Training Builds Competitive Edge



The surface of an office desk, the seat fabric in a car, laminates that mimic wood and stone; all are manufactured by Omnova North America, Division of Surteco. The company, headquartered in Germany, with a plant located in Auburn, is known worldwide for providing a diverse array of coated and engineered fabrics and laminates for everything from the marine and RV industries to electronics and corporate office spaces. Some of its notable clients include Walmart, Burger King and Subway. When it came time for employees at the Auburn plant to be trained, Omnova turned to Lehigh Carbon Community College. "We sent our team to LCCC for basic pneumatics, basic hydraulics and pneumatic troubleshooting on campus in 2023," says Sarah Sarlat, maintenance planner scheduler at Omnova.

For companies like Omnova, A Division of Surteco, looking to train employees on-site, LCCC's mobile manufacturing lab fits the bill perfectly. The state-of-the-art lab is accessible for electro mechanical technicians looking to complete training. The lab is typically deployed on-site for six to seven months while training is conducted and is equipped with industry-standard Amatrol learning equipment machinery and technology, including electro-mechanical trainers, control logic simulators, AC/DC systems, electric motor controls, laser shaft alignment and vibration analysis instruments.

Staying current in a competitive landscape is vital for any business and with a growing manufacturing sector, companies in the greater Lehigh Valley area are turning to LCCC and the mobile manufacturing lab to achieve their employee training goals. Currently, 10 Omnova, A Division of Surteco employees are working to complete the training with plans to graduate the program at the end of July, 2024.

They each attend four-hour hands-on training sessions in the lab before or after their shift under the supervision of trained instructors. Students learn ladder logic programming skills and troubleshooting on Programmable Logic Controllers as well as basic pneumatic systems. The benefits have been clear to Sarlat, "It's critical. We intend to put all of our newly hired electro-mechanics (EMT's) through this program because we found it to be that beneficial." As a training partner, LCCC allows Omnova to save money as it alleviates the need to hire an in-house trainer or training equipment, while reaping the rewards of having a customized experience and increasing employee retention and recruitment. "It's helping to keep us competitive as a business. We're using it as a way to encourage people to come on board with us," says Sarlat.

Don Worman, who heads up Specialty Manufacturing Training/Business Development at LCCC, notes the value to employers, "Bringing the college to the business provides vital training to the employees and minimizes the time the students (employees) must be away from the plant and off the floor. It's a huge cost and time savings to the employer."

Each industry is different and as such the college prioritizes a customized experience for every training partner, to ensure that training meets specific needs. Omnova was no different. According to Sarlat, "Every single person that I have worked with from LCCC has been very communicative, explains everything very clearly, has been super flexible, and very open to customizing the program."

For more information on any of the three mobile manufacturing labs LCCC has available for customized training, contact Don Worman at dworman@lccc.edu or visit the [website](#). ■

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Important Dates for August 2024

- Aug. 8** Student Services Fair, Building 21, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Aug. 17** Virtual Office Hours for Registration, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Aug. 19** Honors Induction, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 22** Virtual Parent and Family Orientation, 5-6 p.m.
- Aug. 24** Virtual Office Hours for Registration, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Aug. 26** Fall Semester Classes Begin
- Sept. 1-2** College Closed

President Bieber Emphasizes Career Development and Workforce Training

An interview with LCCC president Dr. Ann Bieber was featured in the July 16, 2024, issue of Lehigh Valley Business. Dr. Bieber discussed career development and workforce training programs and the importance of community partnerships and employee training to enhance economic development. The article can be viewed [here](#). ■

College Received AACC Grant for MentorLinks: Advancing Technological Education

LCCC has received a \$30,000 grant to participate in the American Association of Community College's MentorLinks Advancing Technological Education program, which is supported by the National Science Foundation. The grant begins Oct. 1, 2024, and runs to Nov. 30, 2026.

LCCC's project is entitled "Embedding Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experiments (CUREs) in Biology Labs to Prepare Students for STEM Careers." Through the grant, the college will learn new ways of improving upon programs that prepare students for careers in STEM fields. The award is for professional development and technical assistance and will be used to support efforts associated with program development or improvement.

LCCC will receive mentoring through Waubonsee Community College in Illinois. LCCC team members are Andrew King, associate professor of biology, and Robyn Davis, assistant science laboratory manager. In addition, the college will partner with regional employers in STEM and STEM-related industries to develop CUREs and secure a project advisory team member. ■