



LCCC Adds State-of-the-Art Nursing Manikin

LCCC is adding one of the world's most advanced interdisciplinary patient simulators to its Health Care Patient Simulation Center.

The school is one of only two colleges in the tri-state area of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York to include the state-of-the-art HAL S5301 high fidelity manikin in its student health care labs. Purchased with funding through a Perkins Grant, the HAL S5301 features conversational speech enhanced by artificial intelligence, providing live interactions with students in addition to the ability to simulate stroke symptoms such as facial droop and robotic arm movement. The manikin also has ultrasound capability.

The HAL S5301 model will join 12 other high fidelity manikins in the LCCC Patient Simulation Centers at the Schnecksville, Tamaqua and Donley campuses.

The Patient Simulation Center encompasses both high- and low-fidelity patient manikins. These fully equipped simulation labs, located at the main campus and the two sites in Tamaqua and Allentown, create learning opportunities for students in Licensed Practical Nursing, Registered Nursing, Medical Assistant and Phlebotomy.

The manikins mimic the clinical setting and help build critical thinking by presenting students with situations they will encounter in clinical rotations. These simulators can be pre-programmed with scenarios to mimic a wide variety of conditions, allowing students to learn about anesthesia, obstetrics and gynecology, internal medicine, pediatrics, and emergency medicine, to name a few.

In addition, low fidelity simulators allow students to practice their skills to learn to take blood pressure, listen to heart sounds and take pulses. They learn skills in areas such as ostomy, gastronomy, tracheostomy and nasogastric tubes.

The labs connect classroom learning with real-life clinical experience and help students build confidence as they learn to interview and care for patients.

Nursing programs are currently accepting applications for 2024. The ADN, LPN to RN, and PN application deadline for Summer 2024 is due by February 1, 2024. The ADN and LPN to RN application deadline for Fall 2024 is due by June 1.

For more information regarding the nursing program at LCCC, contact Karen Clark, Director of Nursing, at kclark@lccc.edu or www.LCCC.edu. ■



LCCC Accepting Applications for Veterinary Technician Program

People interested in working closely with animals are encouraged to apply for the Veterinary Technician program at LCCC. The program is offered in partnership with Northampton Community College. The application deadline and required materials for all applicants is due March 15 to be considered for the fall 2024 semester start.

The Vet Tech Associate in Applied Science degree is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association/Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities. Students can earn the degree in two full years, taking daytime coursework and clinical labs in the fall, spring and summer semesters. Courses include exposure to working with small, large and exotic animals. Students take part in on-site clinical training at LCCC's veterinary technician animal facility, where hands-on experience includes working with animals both large, small and exotic. The program culminates with a summer externship during which students can expand and build proficiency of clinical skills at veterinary hospitals.

The program instills in its students a commitment to be a lifelong learner, a competent communicator, and to provide excellent patient care and compassion for animals. Veterinary

technicians are professionals knowledgeable in the care and handling of animals, office and hospital procedures, client relations, routine laboratory and clinical procedures, radiology, veterinary medical, surgical and anesthetic nursing, and critical care.

Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the Veterinary Technician National Board exam to become licensed as a veterinary technician. Credentialed veterinary technicians find employment in research labs, as lab animal technicians, in small and large animal practices, in exotics, specialty and emergency practices, at zoos, with wildlife rehabilitation centers, with pharmaceutical companies, teaching institutes, diagnostic labs, aquariums, animal shelters and animal feed companies.

For specific admissions requirements, go to the Vet Tech page on www.LCCC.edu, which lists academic prerequisites and necessary documents. Applicants must also have at least 20 hours of observation in a veterinary facility. Applicants must complete a college application for admission, as well as a Veterinary Technician application.

Questions can be directed to restrictedprograms@LCCC.edu. ■

Sky's the Limit

Nathan Steigerwalt began his journey at LCCC captivated by the world of aviation. Initially apprehensive, his limited knowledge posed a challenge. However, Steigerwalt acknowledges the pivotal role played by his dedicated instructors and faculty, who fueled his determination to pursue his passion. Nathan graduated from LCCC in 2020, with an Associate Degree in Aviation Science and went on to obtain his Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics from Liberty University in 2022.

During his time at LCCC, Steigerwalt recognized the strategic design of the aviation program and became accustomed to step-by-step guidance provided by his instructors. He notes these qualities of the program as key factors contributing to his success, "Aviation is a very complex world, and if you do not have your thoughts organized and a plan for where you want to go, it's very easy to get lost in the process." Through the dedication and careful planning of LCCC instructors, Steigerwalt was able to obtain the skills and mindset necessary to succeed.

Steigerwalt underscores the significance of LCCC's unique standing as a 141 program. Schools with a 141 certification foster a connection with the Federal Aviation Administration by following a federally approved and regulated syllabus. Steigerwalt expressed the rarity of government-affiliated programs in higher education and shared how valuable this was for him. As a 141 school, LCCC provides an advantage that enables students to accrue fewer overall training hours while maintaining the standards required for piloting at commercial airlines. LCCC's status as a 141 school also helped Nathan obtain a career with PSA Airlines before meeting his hourly aviation requirements. "They scoop up people – especially out of 141 schools like LCCC because they know exactly what type of training that you have."



A recipient of the Morgan Scholarship, Steigerwalt says this opportunity was imperative in helping him navigate the high costs of aviation school. "The Morgan Scholarship came in at the right time, and it helped me not have to worry about tuition and helped me focus on pulling money together for flying." Designed for graduates of Tamaqua High School, the Morgan Scholarship covers the full cost of tuition. Steigerwalt feels the Morgan Scholarship helped not only him, but numerous other Tamaqua High School graduates to be able to obtain a college degree they would otherwise not have.

Today, Steigerwalt is employed by PSA Airlines, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Airlines, as a First Officer. His passion for aviation is driven by his sense of service to the public, "What I love about it is the people that you fly with, and connecting people from place to place. Seeing the expressions on their faces, it gives you a sense of service to the people that you are flying with." Nate also enjoys the unforeseen day to day changes that occur in the airline industry, and relates this back to the importance of having a clear thought process, a skill he learned at LCCC.

Reflecting on his journey to become a pilot, Nathan has deep gratitude for the instructors as he feels they changed his life and helped him connect the dots between a dream and reality. His recommendation for success is to become a self-advocate.

The core of his passion for aviation lies in its ability to provide a sense of connection, "You are making the world smaller as a pilot. We think the United States is so big, everything is so far apart. Airplanes are just time machines, and I'm able to connect people from place to place to bring everybody closer." ■

Actualizing an Artistic Path

"I want to keep myself involved in art in any way possible," says 2021 graduate Kas Brittenburg. Originally from Allentown, Brittenburg found their initial passion for the fine arts when they attended Parkland High School. From gaining a foundational understanding in introductory courses, to building professional skills in capstone courses, to learning that perfecting their artistic craft is an ongoing process, they earned their A.A. in Fine/Studio Arts from LCCC with an additional A.A.S. in Computer Generated Animation Digital Arts.

Brittenburg's interest in LCCC was due to a family member's positive experience taking classes, but once they got here themselves, they could see the benefits first-hand. "[LCCC] taught me all the core ideas of art like composition and line weight," they say. "Now I know the rules and can either play with them or break them."

While 2D art offers comfort for Brittenburg, they find the most satisfaction in creating 3D sculptures and paintings.

Even throughout their learning of animation, they leaned toward 3D modeling. Learning how to connect with audiences through sculpture is enriching, but an ongoing opportunity for more learning. "I often forget that physics comes into play when you're playing with sculpture...I'm still learning how to curve," they say.

In continuing down an artistic path after graduating from LCCC, Brittenburg now attends Kutztown University, dual majoring in art and animated arts. Their coursework through KU has taught them more about art than they'd considered, including the importance of narrative and audience perception of one's work. "The sculpture studio is very open-minded," they say. "They give you feedback on things to take into account, and we decide what we take from it."

Through providing feedback to peers in art workshops and the variety of assistance they provide to KU's Art and Design Department, Brittenburg discovered a passion for helping others. They've worked as a dark room tech in KU's dark room photo studio, and will continue working in the department as a sculpture studio tech. "That includes helping students make sculptures and making their ideas come to reality," they say. In addition, they currently work at the Miller Gallery on campus as an installation assistant, helping with installing art shows and performing maintenance.

Wanting to stay "involved in art in any way possible," Brittenburg also works at Board and Brush Creative Studio, assisting guests with their creative projects. Most recently, they signed on with Paint Some Pottery, serving in an instructional position that has them considering a career in teaching. "I'm not sure yet if I would want to be a professor or if I'd want to work in non-traditional teaching through workshops," they say.

While teaching may be on the horizon, Brittenburg hasn't stopped getting their work out in as many ways they can.

Recently, they were featured as an alumni artist at the LCCC Foundation Art, Rhythm and Tasting event in August. "It was nice seeing some of my former classmates again and other alumni that were there," they say. "To have a gallery space like that is awesome for student artists. I think we need more of that in the world, especially on college campuses. It shows students starting out that there's a market for your art and that you can do this for a career."



Art as a career is a hot topic for Brittenburg, as many do not see it as a viable profession. They didn't lose hope, however, thanks to the guidance of Jeremy Siedt, assistant professor of art at LCCC. "He was really hands-on with students and went above and beyond," they say. "I was in his first capstone class, and he taught us how to make art a job, how to sell your art and how to network. That really got me thinking that art could be my career."

Currently, Brittenburg is working on their KU Honors Program capstone project, an art exhibition surrounding the concept of aphantasia, a characteristic that they have. Aphantasia relates to an individual's ability, or lack thereof, to visualize images in their mind. This brings a unique perspective to being an artist for Brittenburg, one that they plan to showcase in their capstone.

"[For my project]," they say, "I'm specifically curious as to what in the brain differs for those who can't visualize during the day, but can visualize in their dreams." Though they have much work left to do to make the project a reality, they're excited for the end result.

Even in the midst of so much artistic success, Brittenburg remembers their roots at LCCC and the advice they wish they'd received. "Keep an open mind," they say, "because what you may think you want to go into and want to study might not be what you end up studying."

Additional alumni stories can be found in the most recent edition of *Aspire* on lccc.edu. ■

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Important Dates for January 2024

- Jan. 1** College Closed
- Jan. 8** Morgan Center Spring Semester Welcome Event, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Jan. 10** Donley Center Spring Semester Welcome Event, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Jan. 13** Virtual Enrollment Day, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Jan. 15** Admissions and Dual Enrollment Information Session at Main Campus, 1-2:30 p.m.
Dual Enrollment Virtual Spring Orientation, 5-6 p.m.
Admissions Information Session at Morgan Center, 5:30-7 p.m.
- Jan. 17** Adjunct/Part-Time Faculty Convocation
- Jan. 19** Main Campus Spring Semester Student Welcome Event, 1-3 p.m.
Virtual Spring Semester Welcome Event, 4-5 p.m.
- Jan. 20** Virtual Enrollment Day, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Homecoming, games start at 12 p.m.
- Jan. 22** Spring Semester Classes Begin

LCCC Takes on NYC

Fifty-two faculty, staff and alumni embarked on a sold-out trip to NYC on Dec. 2. There was shopping at Bryant Park, window shopping at Saks 5th Avenue, the beautiful Rockefeller Christmas Tree, visits to the Central Park Zoo, museums and shopping, while others enjoyed lunch at a famous landmark followed by a Broadway show matinee. Watch for details next year as we will be returning to NYC in December.

