

# The Bridge

Winter 2015-16

Luzerne County Community College

Alumni & Friends

## MULTIGENERATIONAL LCCC ALUMNI



2014-2015  
Annual Report  
of Gifts



**LUZERNE**  
County Community College

# Progress through the years

For almost half a century, Luzerne County Community College has been northeastern Pennsylvania's leading provider of postsecondary education and training. During that time, our mission to make a quality program of higher education accessible and affordable, to support student success, and to positively impact the vast NEPA community that we serve has remained relatively



*Thomas P. Leary,  
LCCC President*

unchanged. What has changed over time are the ways in which we implement our programs and services. As we approach our 50th anniversary, we continue to develop creative and innovative ways to provide education and training that allows us to successfully meet our mission with the new and changing populations we now serve.

LCCC has come a long way since our early years, when we offered 11 academic programs and served 836 students in two buildings in downtown Wilkes-Barre. Our main campus in Nanticoke, has grown to over 167 acres, currently holds 15 buildings, which includes the Joseph A. Paglianiti Culinary Institute and the Francis S. and Mary Gill Carrozza, R.N. Health Sciences Building in downtown Nanticoke. With additional dedicated sites in Berwick, Kulpmont, Hazleton, Shamokin and Wilkes-Barre, a full slate of distance education (online) courses, and over 100 programs to choose from, LCCC has proven itself adept at making changes to accommodate new and emerging trends.

Staying current is vitally important in the world of community colleges. Because of our flexibility, the broad scope of programs and services we provide, and our ability to provide an advanced degree, certificate or diploma at affordable rates, the almost 1,200 regionally accredited community colleges across the U.S. have taken on a leadership role in higher education. Our two-year colleges are leading the way by maximizing return on investment for students who seek 2- and 4-year degrees, and building a solid, well-trained workforce for employers to maximize community development.

As outlined in my President's Vision for the next five years, and in the LCCC 2016-2021 Strategic Plan currently under development, LCCC will maintain

and expand its leadership position in postsecondary education in northeastern Pennsylvania by offering alternative programming and scheduling, increased opportunities for program completion and success, and enhanced partnerships with community, education, and business/industry organizations.

Being a leader means being able to see changes coming and adapt to them smoothly and effectively. We have known for some time that those who were once thought of as "non-traditional" students – usually adult students with jobs and families – are not always well-accommodated by the 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. day/15-week semester college schedule. We are finding that now even "traditional" students are seeking alternatives to this schedule to accommodate work and family responsibilities as well as extracurricular activities such as athletics, music or dance. Evening classes, distance education and off-campus dedicated sites have helped to meet the needs of these students, but more must and will be done.

In the coming years, LCCC will begin to offer accelerated degree programs that students can complete in less than 2 years. The College will also make other schedule adjustments to address the current needs of students. As always, we will maintain a continuous cycle of review of academic programs to ensure students have multiple options for selecting a career that is right for them and also for which job opportunities are available at a self-sustaining income.

The College will also work to increase opportunities for program completion and academic success. One key initiative that supports this goal is enhancing our Prior Learning Assessment practices, through which students earn credit for prior life, work and military experience, for advanced and technical high school coursework experience, and through the standard transfer of credit from other colleges and universities. Gaining academic credit for these past learning achievements will help students earn their degrees more quickly and cost-efficiently.

We will further increase opportunities for completion and success by continuing to build upon our programs and services for special populations, such as ESL and Early College (high-school) students, and also by continuing to develop Dual Admissions agreements with 4-year colleges and universities. Dual Admissions agreements provide our students with a smooth and successful transition from LCCC to our partner four-year institutions, as participating students are considered fully admitted to both institutions upon acceptance. They may also benefit from additional financial incentives depending on the agreement in place with the transfer institution.

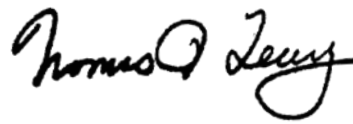
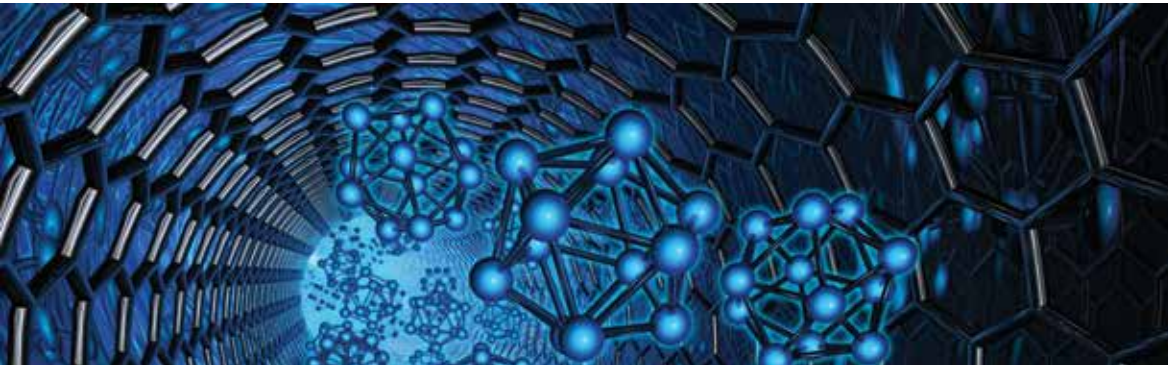
Finally, as the only community college in northeastern Pennsylvania, it is incumbent upon us

to ensure that our affordable, quality education is accessible to all audiences within our service region. Along those lines, the College is close to finalizing its plans to open a new dedicated site in Lackawanna County that will expand access for residents of Lackawanna County and surrounding areas. The College will offer academic and workforce preparation programming at this site at almost half the cost of our closest competitor. For many who are struggling to get by, who want to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to earn self-sustaining wages, that cost difference can mean the difference between getting an education and pursuing their goals, or continuing to struggle.

The growth and development the College will undergo in the next few years will be anchored by the solid foundation of our academic faculty, who remains our strongest and most

stable resource. LCCC faculty care about our students. They teach in small classes where they can give students the attention they need to be successful, and they take the time to get to know their students so they can more effectively meet their learning needs.

The stability of our faculty, surrounded by the flurry of activity resulting from our growth and development, will set the stage for our 50th anniversary celebration, where we will not only celebrate the past 50 years of excellence in higher education, but also the coming 50 years and the exciting changes they will bring.

## Welcome new Dean of Business and Technology

The College is very happy to welcome Bonita Moyer as the new Dean of Business and Technologies. Moyer graduated from Lehigh Carbon Community College and Muhlenberg College with degrees in Computer Science, and Lehigh University with a Master of Science in Educational Technology. She comes to LCCC from DeSales University with experience as Assistant Professor and Department Chair, Mathematics/Computer Sciences/Media Studies and Pennsylvania State University as Assistant Professor, Information Sciences and Technology.

Moyer says LCCC is a good fit for her and her new position brings all her past experiences together. "LCCC has great faculty here and I hope to work with them to expand on all the good programs we offer," Moyer says. "We want to make the student experience here the best it can be."

Moyer will be reaching out to employers and the community to make sure they are involved in ensuring LCCC students are best prepared to enter the workforce and be active members in the community.

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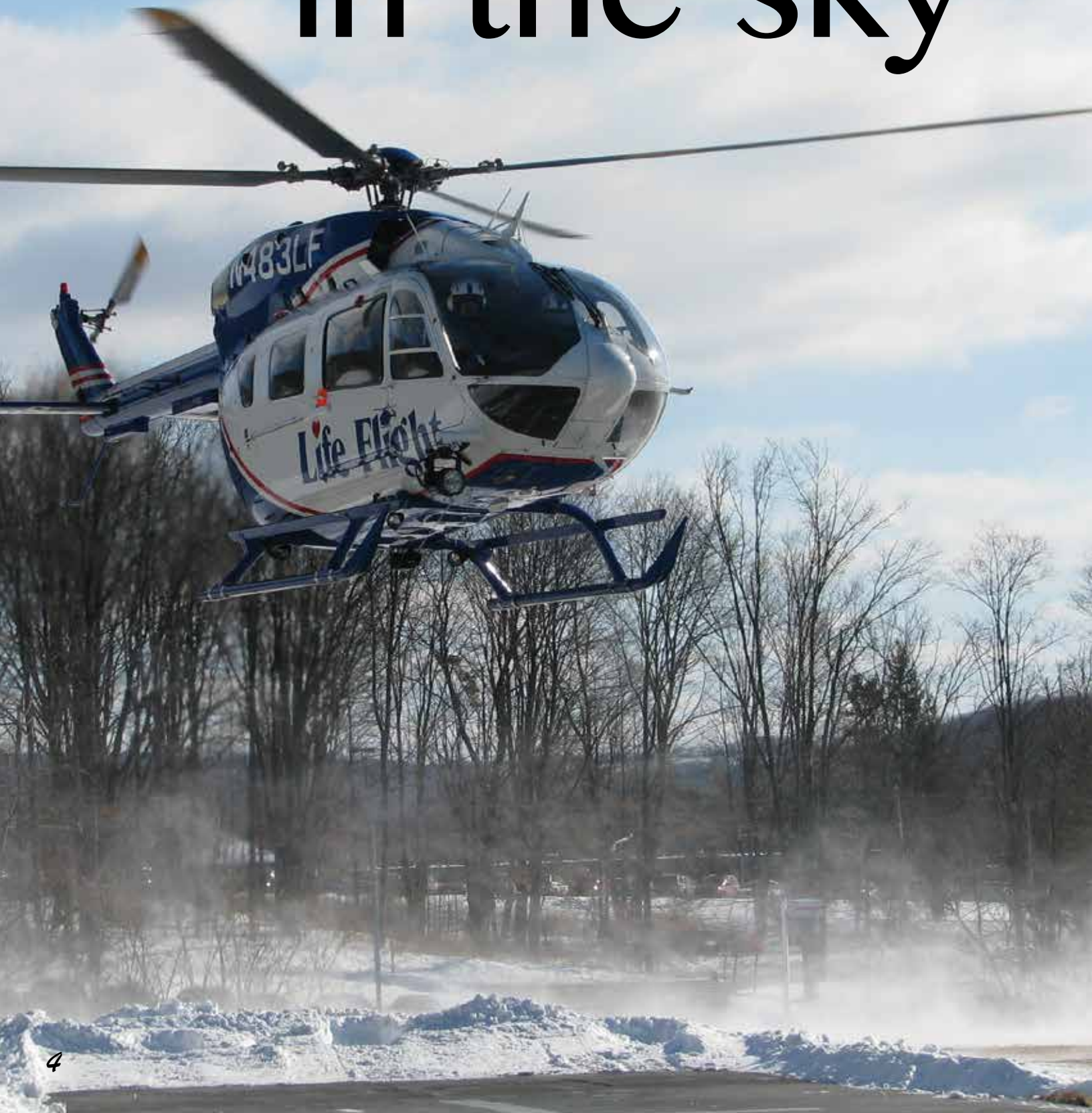
Robert Bogdon

### Cover Photo:

As LCCC is coming up to its 50th anniversary, the College looks at the multigenerations of families who have attended over the years.



# Paramedic in the sky



Performing CPR on a patient while traveling at 120 knots several hundred feet above the ground may seem like a superhuman feat, but for Darlene Murawski '96, it's just part of the job.

Murawski is a Geisinger Life Flight paramedic stationed in a hangar at the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre International Airport in Avoca. She provides life saving support as part of a three person team consisting of a pilot, paramedic, and specialized nurse aboard an \$8 million helicopter.

The Life Flight team provides pre-hospital, on-scene advanced life support and rapid transportation to accredited trauma centers, burn centers and critical care facilities in the mid-Atlantic region with a flight range of more than 400 miles.

Murawski is part of a staff that works 12-hour rotating shifts every day of the year. She says the hangar consists of offices, crew quarters, and space to store the helicopter when not in use. When the emergency tones are sounded, the team has just seven minutes to tow the EC 145 Eurocopter out of the hangar, power it up, and take off.

"The Life Flight helicopter has the same equipment found in advanced life support ambulances," according to Murawski. "We oftentimes fly into difficult environments such as work sites, highways, parks, near rivers and lakes, and deal with many potential emergencies."

Car crashes, ATV flips, snowmobile accidents, motorcycle spills, boating mishaps, stabbings, and hunting gunshot victims are just



*Murawski stands ready to go with the Life Flight helicopter in Avoca.*

some of the emergency calls the Life Flight crew respond to.

The helicopter can transport two patients at a time and is equipped with such emergency medical equipment as advanced cardiac monitors, defibrillators, intravenous infusion pumps, oxygen and a full range of emergency cardiac medications.

"It's a very dangerous job," Murawski points out. "You are flying into difficult environments, dealing with severe trauma, and in varied weather conditions. You have to be dressed to handle the climate you are in."

Murawski says the weather is one of the most challenging factors in reaching victims or transporting patients. "Most people aren't aware that helicopters don't perform well in severe thunderstorms, heavy rain, snow squalls and blizzards." Advanced onboard weather monitoring equipment constantly monitors changing conditions.

Murawski says the use of night vision goggles have been a major asset in helping with night landings and finding accident scenes in the dark. "You don't want to land in a black hole,"

she points out. "The goggles help you see everything when there is little to no light."

According to Murawski, the crew often transports patients from one medical facility to another. They can provide critical care transport for premature newborns, cardiac patients, critically ill adult and pediatric patients, high risk obstetrics and organ transplant patients from local hospitals to specialty care hospitals up to 250 miles away.

Murawski says she felt the calling to emergency service from her family. "My mom, Mildred Charney, and brother-in-law, Bill Hizny, used to volunteer with the West Wyoming fire company and ambulance," she says. "Because of my mom, I was inspired to also volunteer."

She says that feeling of accomplishment kept her interested in the field. "You get that good feeling that you've done something to help another human being," she states proudly. "There's always someone who appreciates that."

Murawski enrolled in the paramedic program at Luzerne County Community College and received her paramedic certification in 1982. When the criteria for

paramedics changed some time after, she re-enrolled at LCCC and completed her education in 1996.

"LCCC has a well established Advanced Life Support – Paramedic certificate program and Emergency Medical Services degree," she states. "The instructors together have over 100 years of experience and work hard to make sure their students are the best at their jobs."

In addition to being an alumna of the college, Murawski is also an adjunct instructor and clinical coordinator at LCCC. "I teach several classes and as the clinical coordinator, I schedule student classes and training at area hospitals and life support units." She also adds that teaching helps keep her skills sharp.

Murawski brings her work to class sometimes. One lesson her students learn is how paramedics make the call to bring in the Life Flight helicopter. The crew flies the copter to LCCC's Public Safety Training Institute and shows the class the equipment and operation of the flying facility.

But it's the rush she gets of flying in a helicopter that she continues to love. Murawski worked for the Wyoming Valley Health Care System Advanced Life Support on the ground until 2001. "When I helped patients onto the Life Flight helicopters, it always seemed like the helicopter crew had a thrilling job," she says. "So when a position opened up in Avoca, I applied and was excited when I found out I was accepted."

To potential students who want to enter this field, Murawski advises if you want to be a paramedic, then make that your goal. "Keep educating yourself, keep up with your certifications, and work hard," she says.

"I love my job. It's very rewarding and it's very stressful. You are making split second decisions to save someone's life. You have to be on your game at all times. But at the end of the day, it's all worth it."



*Murawski poses with her crew and her LCCC Paramedic class in front of the Life Flight helicopter at the LCCC Public Safety Training Institute.*

# Caregivers

## Nurse Aide Program

**T**he Nurse Aide Training Program at Luzerne County Community College is designed to train students in the basic knowledge and skills needed in order to take care of the elderly and/or the disabled. This dedicated career path needs caring and well-instructed individuals willing to learn specialized skills and care techniques. Many people may know or have heard of nurse aides, but may not know what it takes to be a nurse aide.

The Nurse Aide training program is a three-week course. This comprehensive course is designed to train the student in the basic knowledge and skills he/she will need to care for the elderly. Students learn to give personal care and use basic nursing skills; assist with basic emergency care; recognize basic signs and symptoms of common ailments and conditions; how to provide a clean and safe environment; and apply the basic principles of infection control.

After completing the course, the Nurse Aide trainee takes written and skills competency testing administered by the American Red Cross to be placed on the PA Nurse Aide Registry.

Nancy Adkins just completed the Nurse Aide Training program at LCCC in 2015. "There's more than just maintaining another person's hygiene needs," she says. "When I said I wanted to become a nurse aide, that's what people assumed I would be doing, but I learned it's much more than that."

A nurse aide provides hands-on care to patients and observes the patients physical, mental and emotional conditions. This includes taking the patient's temperature, pulse and respiration rate. The aide must also prepare and serve meals (mash up the food if necessary), bathe, and dress the patient.

"This job isn't for everyone," Brittany Samsal, Nurse Aide student says. "However, this course helped me out a lot. It taught me the proper patient care, how to handle working with other workers, and how to deal with the daily living skills for patients."

Tammy Ondeck teaches the nurse aide classes. "I like this course because it gives students a chance to see if they really like this field," she says. "It's extremely important that you treat patients the way you want to be treated, because you become part of their family," she adds.

The Nurse Aide training program is taught at the LCCC Francis S. and Mary Gill Carrozza, RN Health Sciences Center in downtown Nanticoke. The classrooms simulate a medical facility.

In the classroom, instructor Megan Bartuska observes one of her students practicing how to perform blood pressure on another student.

"Understand you're caring for a real person," Bartuska says to the students. "You have to take care of the patient like you would want to be cared for yourself."

A cart next to the bedside carries blankets, hospital gowns, and gloves – all of the items found in nursing facilities and hospitals. Students practice use of privacy curtains which surround the beds of patients.

Similar to any health care facility, the students must follow rules to help give them the hands-on experience they will face in the future. To understand those rules, Bartuska prepares them for their Red Cross certification by having the students practice their skills training and adhering to the Red Cross guidelines publication which the instructors have dubbed "their bible." "The steps are brutal," Bartuska says. "Follow your steps, follow your bible," she keeps repeating to her students.

"It's important that you do what you think you're supposed to do," Bartuska states. "I am the Red Cross watching what you do. Forget that I'm here and take care of your patients," she says as she watches her student Tyler, as he attempts to correctly put a sock on another student acting as a patient. After LCCC, Tyler plans on continuing his education and hopes to be a future doctor.

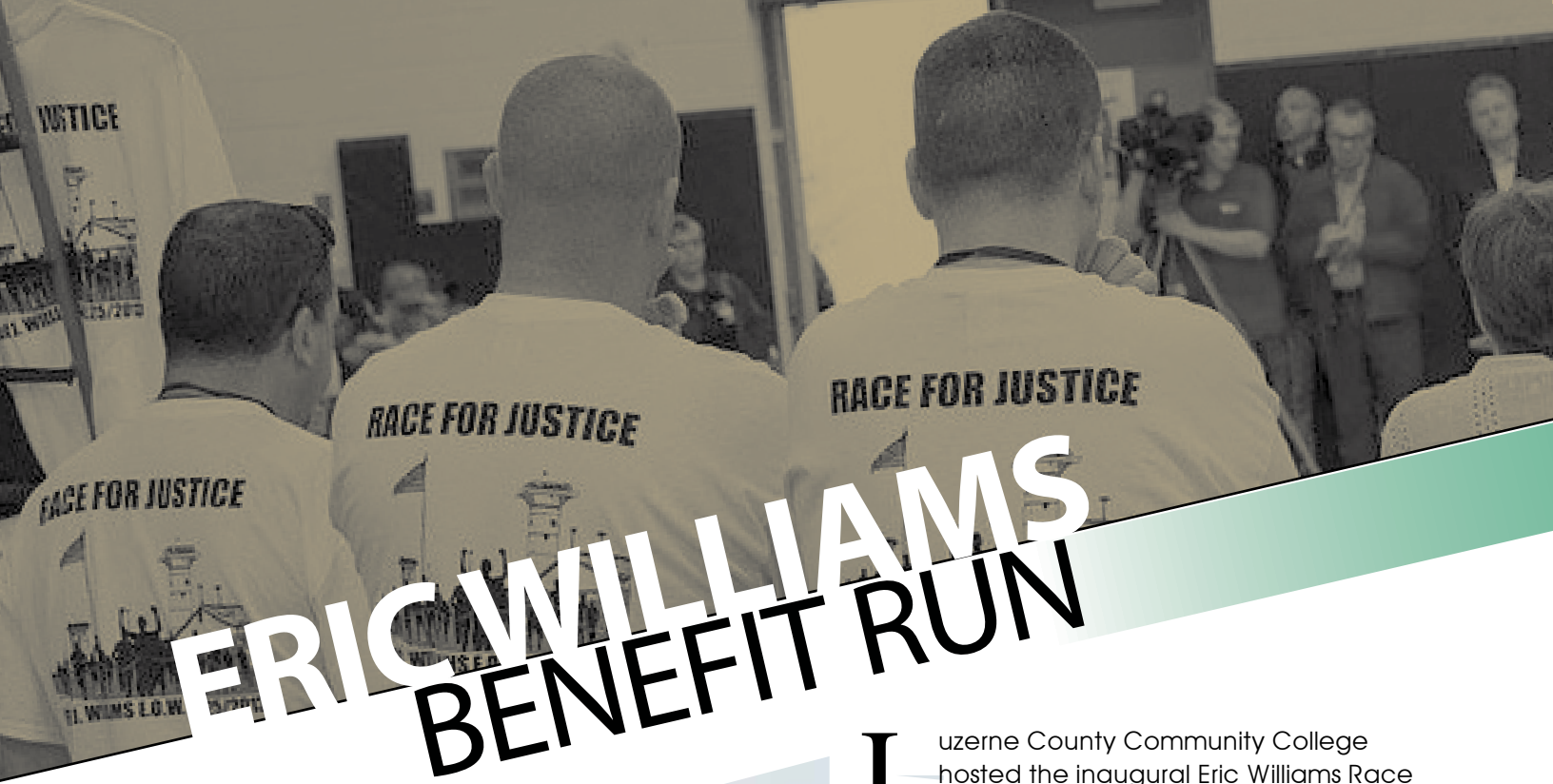
Bartuska points out that nurse aides don't get the recognition they should. "Aides aren't thought about and that's what bothers me," she says. "I want to see people getting help. This is a very good program, because these students deserve the recognition."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics nursing assistants held about 1.5 million jobs in 2012. More than 75% of all nursing assistants work in hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities.

The median annual wage for nursing aides was \$24,420 in May 2012, that's an hourly wage of \$11-15.00. Most work full time. Since nursing homes and hospitals provide care at all hours, nursing aides and orderlies may need to work nights, weekends, and holidays.

Students who wish to take the Nurse Aide Training Program at LCCC can visit the Continuing Education Office in person at the Main Campus in Nanticoke or call (800) 377-5222 ext. 7495 or ext. 7489 or online at [luzerne.edu/coned](http://luzerne.edu/coned) for registration details.





# ERIC WILLIAMS BENEFIT RUN



Luzerne County Community College hosted the inaugural Eric Williams Race for Justice in May of 2015. The event, held as part of Law Enforcement Week, honored the slain federal correctional officer. Williams was killed on Feb. 25, 2013 while working a cell block at the United States Penitentiary Canaan in Wayne County. LCCC's race was one of 12 held nationally throughout the United States.

The four-mile relay race was held at LCCC's Main Campus in Williams' hometown of Nanticoke. The purpose of the race was to raise awareness for law enforcement safety and raise money to award scholarship funding.

The Eric J. Williams '99 Memorial Scholarship was established in 2013 by Donald and Jean Williams in memory of their son, Eric. Williams was a graduate of Luzerne County Community College, Lackawanna College Police Academy, and King's College. First preference for this scholarship is to a student pursuing a career in Criminal Justice and have financial need.

Overall, eight scholarships – one national, six regional and one at random – were awarded from the proceeds of the annual event.

The team with the fastest time was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship and six regional winners won \$1,000.

Don Williams thanked the more than 100 participants for their turnout, their hard work, and for keeping Eric's memory alive.

The team with the best time from all of the races received \$5,000 in scholarship funds at the school's Walk of Honor ceremony in June where a plaque honoring Eric Williams hangs on the wall. LCCC also received a surprise \$1,000 donation toward The Eric J. Williams '99 Memorial Scholarship





# Honors alumnus federal correctional officer

The Officer Eric Williams Memorial Race will be held again during National Law Enforcement Week at LCCC on May 14, 2016.



# HELPING HAITI

By Rob Wheary, Staff Writer News Item  
originally published 4/13/15

**F**or Vicky Burnside, the short amount of time she spent on a mission trip to Haiti a month ago will pay big dividends in the long term - not only spiritually, but in her chosen field of nursing.

The Riverside resident, now a 2015 nursing graduate student from Luzerne County Community College's Kulpmont Center, spent February 26 to March 9 in the village of Violet helping to build a retaining and security wall at the Petit Goave Agricultural School, and also providing care to local children.

It was her first international mission trip. A member of Wesley United Methodist Church, of Danville, she hadn't done something like this in 20 years since she traveled to New Mexico. "There were 10 people on my team, including my husband, Lonzo," she said. They worked to help the school reopen and assist in reforestation of the land

"We were all from this area from different Methodist churches," she said. The trip organized through Haiti Partners.

## Go-to medic

Burnside was the group's medic, responsible for any medical problems with her group and Haitian volunteers.

"For all cuts and scrapes and any kind of illness, I was the go-to person," Burnside said. "At times it was tough, because all I had to work with was a glorified first-aid kit."

To help Burnside in her mission, her Kulpmont classmates donated money and goods for the trip, including medical supplies, diapers and clothes to be distributed to the locals.

"They were things they were so appreciative of that we don't even think about, items like children's pain reliever, hand sanitizer and nutrition bars and multivitamins. It all was very helpful and I was very appreciative, as were all the people helped by my classmates' generosity," she said.

## Treating Zachary

While many members of her team toiled with construction of the wall, Burnside helped a young boy named Zachary.

"When we started Vacation Bible School that week for the children, this young boy came on the first day and could barely walk," she said.

Zachary had a bandage around his knee and, upon examination, Burnside found he had a half-inch deep cut, suffered accidentally with a machete.

"In America, such an injury would be treated by just butterfly strips across the knee, but when you are in a country that is not very advanced in medical care and does not have clean running water in some places, it's a little tougher," she said. "He was cut close to the bone."

Twice a day, she met with Zachary, cleaning out the wound with hydrogen peroxide and putting on a fresh dressing. By the end of the week, Zachary was feeling - and moving - much better.

"He was one of the bravest kids I've ever met," Burnside said.

## With gratitude

While the sheer magnitude of the trip hasn't sunk in yet for Burnside and her fellow missionaries, there were so many memories she has taken away from the Caribbean country.

"It is amazing how they work with so little," she said.

She told how sand, water and rocks were mixed by hand to create cement for the retaining wall, "when we, in America, are used to bringing in a cement mixer to do the job," Burnside said. Team members were also amazed at the children's enthusiasm for learning the Word of God.

"The first day of the Vacation Bible School we had 20 kids present," Burnside said. "By the last day, we were up to 90, and they all participated with such fervor," she said.

Burnside hopes it won't be 20 years before she travels again.

"We've all talked that we want to go back to Haiti. I hope the next time it will be more of a medically based trip," she said.

*Burnside treated Zachary, right, twice a day during her time in Haiti. He had suffered a machete wound to the knee that wasn't healing, but by the end of the week, Zachary was feeling — and moving — much better.*



*Vicky Burnside poses with children at the Petit Goave Agricultural School in the village of Violet, Haiti, during a mission trip she took in March 2015.*



# Trustees: Guiding the Community College

Most students, staff and alumni know that Luzerne County Community College is governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Luzerne County Council in compliance with the Community College Act. Very few, however, understand exactly what role the Board of Trustees plays in the overall operation of the College.

Of major significance in the roles and responsibilities of the LCCC Board of Trustees is the Board's fiduciary responsibilities for the College. The Board of Trustees sets the annual budget for the College and establishes tuition and fee rates. In addition, the Board must approve the rent, lease, sale, purchase and improvement of land and buildings. In accordance with College policy, the Board must also approve all purchases over \$20,000. Other fiduciary responsibilities include approving contracts, accepting and receiving grants and gifts, and approving bids.

Another major responsibility of the Board of Trustees is to establish policies that ensure the College achieves its mission and complies with applicable local, state and federal regulations. These policies range from those providing for admission to the College, placement testing, Internet usage, and academic honesty to the use of College vehicles and codes of conduct for students and for employees.

The Board has four standing committees: Academic, Executive, Finance and Human Resources. The Academic Committee receives regular enrollment management reports, approves new and revised academic programs, and recommends academic and student service policies.

The Executive Committee transacts any business necessary for the best interest of the College between Board meetings, and reports all actions at the next regular Board meeting. The Finance Committee reviews all fiscal matters such as the College's annual budget, student tuition rates and fees, and audit reports, making recommendations to the Board on financial matters that require formal approval, including finance-related policies.

The Human Resources Committee receives regular updates on personnel matters

such as position vacancies, new employee appointments, and staff on extended leave.

The Board generally meets in the fourth week of every other month. The public meeting of the Board are usually held in the Educational Conference Center on the main campus in Nanticoke, and are open to the public and minutes of Board meetings are posted on the College Website under the "About/Board of Trustees" section.

The fifteen members of the Board, as of January 2016, are Board Chair Carmen F. Magistro '97, Vice President, Middle Market Banking, M&T Bank; Board Vice Chair Susan E. Unvarsky '86, Chief Operating Officer, Total Retirement Solutions, Prudential Retirement; Board Secretary John R. Serafin, retired, Executive; Joan M. Blewitt, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Management, McGowan School of Business, King's College; John J. Bryan, retired, Procurement Manager, Bechtel Power Corporation; Elaine Cook, R.N., J.D., Attorney, Cook Law, PC; Francis P. Curry '71, retired, Director of Admissions, LCCC; Lynn M. Distasio, Chief Operating Officer, Clinical Director, Pro Rehabilitation Services; Michael J. Dubinski, Full-Time Undergraduate Student, Misericordia University; Brian D. Gill, Director of Development, F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts; Paul A. Halsey '84, Operations Supervisor, CVS/Caremark; Erin K. Keating, Supervisor of Elementary Education, Scranton School District; Margaret Steele, Regional Vice President, ESSA Bank and Trust; David James Usavage, retired, Educator, Elementary Education; and Barry H. Williams, J.D., C.P.A., Dean, McGowan School of Business, King's College.

In addition to the Trustees appointed by the Luzerne Council, a student representative from the College is selected by the College President to serve on



*LCCC's newest trustee, Michael J. Dubinski, is shown being sworn in by Honorable Lesa S. Gelb at a recent board meeting. The LCCC Board of Trustees meets every other month.*

the Board. LCCC's current student representative is Curtis Bates

Four members of the Board are also alumni of the community college: Francis P. Curry '71; Paul A. Halesy '84; Susan E. Unvasky '86, Vice Chair; and Carmen F. Magistro '97, Chair.

Anyone wishing to know more about the LCCC Board of Trustees can contact Paula Labenski, Administrative Assistant to the President. Paula can be reached at [plabenski@luzerne.edu](mailto:plabenski@luzerne.edu) or 800-377-5222, extension 7388.

## Genna Koval Kundratic Memorial Nursing Scholarship Recognized



The Genna M. Koval Kundratic Memorial Nursing Scholarship at Luzerne County Community College was recognized by the installation of a plaque in the Francis S. & Mary Gill Carrozza RN Health Sciences building in downtown Nanticoke. The plaque will note the names of the scholarship recipients every year.

Genna Kundratic was a 1991 graduate of the Nursing Program at LCCC who passed away in 2013. During her career, she worked as an Emergency Room nurse at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center and Scranton Community Medical Center.

The scholarship honors her commitment to her patients, dedication to her profession and willingness to help others.

*Shown at the plaque installation are: L to R: Leah Kendra; Julia Kundratic; Kevin Kundratic '87; Marge Koval; JoAnne Yuhas '08, Institutional Advancement, LCCC; Dr. Deborah Vilegi Payne '84, Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences LCCC; and Thomas P. Leary, President, LCCC.*



## Get your LCCC Alumni Gear

Attention graduates! Our exclusive Alumni Gift Bundles are now available – buy yours today! Special promotional price is \$5 for a license plate frame and bag. Individual prices are \$3/each.

Free shipping is included if ordered by June 30! To order please call 570-740-0734 or email [blauer@luzerne.edu](mailto:blauer@luzerne.edu). Thank you!



# 40th Anniversary of First Nursing Grads Celebrated

Luzerne County Community College celebrated its nursing department's 40th anniversary by hosting an all-class nursing reunion at the College's Educational Conference Center.



Shown are members of the College's first graduating nursing class, the Class of 1975, from left, first row -- Debbie Everett, Sharon Koziel, Patricia A. Pascoe, Bonnie Boyson, Eileen Maskinas, and Dr. Leona Castor, first director of nursing, LCCC. Second row -- Thomas P. Leary, president, LCCC; Dr. Dana Charles Clark, provost and vice president, academic affairs, LCCC; Rose M. Carroll, Nancy McGinley Bellas; Roseann Solano-Hizny; Andrea Zilonis Bacci.; Dr. Deborah Vilegi Payne., dean, nursing and health sciences, LCCC; and Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87, director, alumni relations, LCCC.

# Diesel Technicians needed

**D**iesel technician jobs are in demand and growing, especially in northeastern Pennsylvania. Currently, there is a shortage of skilled workers in the diesel technology field.

One reason behind the lack of skilled diesel technicians is new federal government regulations for vehicle manufacturers which have been enacted over the last ten years to maximize safety and increase maximum fuel efficiency, while not polluting the atmosphere. In order to accomplish this, vehicle complexity has increased dramatically. With this comes the need for more highly-skilled workers to efficiently service and repair the latest generation of high tech diesel truck vehicles.

The second motivating factor for the need for skilled diesel technicians is the natural gas industry just north of our area which requires a large quantity of personnel to service and repair diesel vehicles, drilling rigs, and various diesel equipment. Many local voids are created because technicians have left to work in the natural gas industry.

LCCC was part of a consortium of three community colleges in Pennsylvania to receive a \$10 million federal grant to develop programs in high priority career fields. The funding is part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program.

With these grant funds, the LCCC automotive department has created a new diesel truck technology program to help fill the regional need for technicians. Two new diesel programs started in the fall 2015 semester.

The Diesel Truck Technology program is designed to prepare students for careers as diesel technicians in a variety of industries. Students completing the program will be qualified for employment at an apprenticeship level as a preventive maintenance technician.



*Robert Conner '84, Assistant Professor, Automotive Technology*

The first offering is an 18-credit diploma program which can be completed in two semesters. It is designed so that graduates can go to work as entry-level technicians in preventive maintenance or as service and light repair specialists on large over-the-road trucks. The second offering is a 30-credit certificate program, which adds two academic classes and two advanced level vehicle technical classes to give students a higher level of marketable skill. The College has offered diesel truck classes for the last five years with a strong enrollment and a high degree of job placement.

Job opportunities in the diesel truck industry are not only in demand, but also profitable. According to an economic report conducted by EMSI for NEPA, diesel bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists in the eleven counties of NEPA earn a median salary of \$18.29 per hour with a projected employment increase of 2.9% between 2014 and 2019. The increase statewide is projected at 4.6% and the nationwide increase is predicted at 6.2%.

For anyone wanting to be part of the exciting and always changing transportation industry, earning the hands-on work experience and skills in the field can lead to immediate employment and a high-paying career. The opportunity has never been better and Luzerne County Community College can help get you there.



"I firmly believe this is what I was meant to do."

As a CPS-GPS Caseworker II at Children & Youth Services of Luzerne County, Mary Ritsick feels she has found the career that matches her desire to help others. "I love it here," she says. "I really feel I'm making a difference."

Ritsick admits that "making a difference" wasn't always what she aspired to. "I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life, but I liked being social and interactive with others."

Not long after high school, Ritsick went looking for a job that would work best with her outgoing personality. She found a job in a doctor's office doing front desk administrative work. For seven years, Ritsick enjoyed what she was doing and felt comfortable in her interactive role.

But as she got to know the patients coming and going through the doctor's office, she learned of the difficult challenges and struggles many of them were facing. Ritsick began to realize she wanted to take more of an active role in helping people. "I felt like I wanted to make a difference in people's lives," she says. "I just wasn't sure how yet."

A friend attending Luzerne County Community College encouraged her to sign up for some classes at the college and try out a new career path.

Ritsick started at LCCC part-time. "I met with a counselor, discussed my interests, and we came to an agreement to try a major in social sciences."



*Mary Ritsick '07, stands before many of the drawings and messages from children she has worked with at Children & Youth Services over the years.*

"I was a bit fearful of going back to college," Ritsick admits. "I was an older student and wasn't sure about going back to school."

However after a few classes she felt more at ease after meeting many other students returning to college just like her. "I received support from the other adult learners and traditional-aged students," Ritsick recalled. "College was an excellent experience; the instructors were wonderful, and it felt like everyone was there to support me and make sure I was absolutely prepared to enter my new career path."

While taking part-time classes at LCCC, Ritsick took a position

# Making a Difference



at Luzerne County Children and Youth Services as a social service aid. “I would work with a caseworker, supervise visits, and go to client homes,” she says. “I was more like a friendly visitor, but I wanted to do more.”

After graduating LCCC with a degree in Human Services in 2007, Ritsick transferred to Misericordia University for her bachelor’s in Social Work and finished her master’s degree through Temple University. Her continued education helped Ritsick eventually land a full-time caseworker job at Children & Youth.

Ritsick says much of the skills and education she received at Luzerne she still uses in her career. “The faculty emphasized on how to be sensitive in questions you ask and also how to use empathy to put yourself in the emotional state of family and children,” she says. “I also made some of my greatest friendships at LCCC.”

“When I walk into a situation, I have to process what is happening, then look at what I am able to accomplish to make sure everyone involved is safe,” Ritsick explains. “I then try to find ways to help that family.”

As a caseworker, Ritsick meets with family members, the children/child she is working with, relatives, school teachers, and many times, foster parents. She will visit the child at home, school, foster home, and set up supervised and unsupervised visits. Oftentimes, Ritsick has to attend court hearings to provide progress updates to the judge. She carries a caseload of up to 25 children – which can range from infants to age 18 or sometimes up to 21.

As a caseworker, Ritsick also has to keep contact with service providers, doctors, utility companies, and other agencies who may also be working with a family.

“When working with children, it’s important to understand what development stage they are at, learn about their likes and dislikes, and ask them what I can do to help their family,” Ritsick says. “You need be able to listen and build a rapport to show that you do care.”

Ritsick’s office is decorated with many drawings, coloring book pages, homemade jewelry, and letters made by the many children she has helped over her career. “I keep all of these around me to fuel me to keep going and remember why I do what I do,” she said determinedly.

In September of 2015, Ritsick’s career took a slightly new direction. She accepted a position with the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole working with veterans as a reentry parole agent at SCI Dallas. “My new position is specific to the offenders returning to the community.” Ritsick says.

“I conduct groups, individual sessions, and assist with plans for follow up needs. It was with a heavy heart I left Children & Youth, but I feel this new path will allow me to help make a difference with another group of the population who need support to succeed.”





Stanley '80, Theresa '80, and Mary '15 Buckley

has with a number of four-year colleges, and transferred to what was then College Misericordia, earning Bachelor of Science degrees in Nursing in 1983. They continued their education at the University of Scranton, earning their Masters of Science degrees in Human Resources Administration in 1986.

With textbooks and term papers behind them, the couple decided to start a family, and welcomed their son David in 1989. Mary soon followed in 1990 and Nicholas and Christopher arrived in 1993 and 1999, respectively.

While juggling full-time employment and raising a family, the couple also worked as adjunct professors at LCCC; Stanley in 1990 and 2008 and Theresa, from 2008 to 2014. Stanley still works in the cardiac catheterization lab at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and Theresa works as nursing education specialist at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center.

David graduated from LCCC in 2013 with an Associate's Degree in Electrical Construction and Mary, who graduated last May, earned an Associate's Degree in Nursing and a second degree in Commercial Art. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree at Misericordia. Nicholas recently completed a semester of General Studies at LCCC and sixteen-year-old Christopher, has already decided that his destiny is at LCCC, said Theresa. "It has definitely created an avenue of success for all of us," she said.

"A good thing about LCCC is that you can learn to cook, drive a truck and get a CDL license or a Respiratory Therapy license," said Stanley. "There are so many avenues that are available and affordable. There are too many young people that have \$100,000 in student loans and are turning hamburgers in restaurants."



Lynn '14, Adam '15, Jillian, and Yvette '86 Viercinski

# Multigenerations of grads

By: Camille Fiotti '12

## The Buckley Family

Little did Theresa and Stanley Buckley know that the day they met at Luzerne County Community College nearly thirty-nine years ago would be the beginning of a family legacy.

It was the summer of 1977 and Theresa, fresh out of high school, waited nervously for an interview in the office of Leona Castor, Luzerne County Community College's Director of Nursing at the time. She had no idea that the young man sitting next to her would become her husband two years later.

"We were there to have interviews; to see if we were appropriate for the nursing program," Theresa recalled. "I thought he was extremely polite," she said of Stanley, who had just completed two years at Kings College, and at the encouragement of a neighbor, visited the college to explore the possibility of a career in nursing.

Theresa and Stanley graduated from the nursing program in 1980 and were immediately offered jobs at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital as critical care nurses. The couple credits LCCC for preparing them for immediate employment upon graduation.

The Buckley's, who live in Wilkes-Barre, took advantage of the articulation agreement that LCCC

## The Viercinski Family

When Yvette Viercinski of Shavertown graduated from Nanticoke Area High School, she wanted to attend Wilkes University or Kings College, but her father pushed her into enrolling at LCCC because it was the most economical choice.

"There was this stigma," she said. "People said that it was for kids who didn't do that well in school." Yvette reluctantly gave in to her father's persistence and soon discovered after enrolling in the pre-pharmacy program that she made the right decision. The school became a great academic and financial primer for her as she prepared to transfer to Temple University upon graduation in 1986. "I met a lot of my best friends at LCCC and we ended up going to Temple together," she said, pointing out that four of those friends also became her room mates.

"Everyone did really well," said Yvette, who is a pharmacist at CVS. She pointed out that she and her friends had little student loan debt when they graduated, thanks to the money they saved by attending LCCC for the first two years.

Two of Yvette's three children also attended LCCC. Her son, Adam, found a job immediately upon graduating with an Associate's Degree in HVAC last May. Her daughter Lynn graduated from LCCC in 2014 with a degree in photography and is preparing to start her own photography business. "Kids are crazy if they don't use the opportunity to go to LCCC," she said. "Everyone who I know that went to LCCC is happy they went there," she said. "Plus, it's really nice on your wallet."

## The Powell and Schraeder Family

The education Joan Powell of Nanticoke received at LCCC opened many doors for her and her daughter, Ann Marie Schraeder, as well as her granddaughter, Kristen Schraeder. Joan, who was working as a nurses' aid at HCR Manor Care, wanted to advance her career, so she began taking classes at LCCC in the late 1980's.

Joan graduated from LCCC in 1991 with an Associate's Degree in Business Management. Her degree prepared her for a promotion to business office manager and then to the position of Director of Human Resources at the nursing and rehabilitation facility.

Ann Marie earned her first Associate's Degree from LCCC in 1979 in Early Childhood Education. She also worked at HRC Manor Care until she



Ann Marie '79, Kristen '06, Schraeder & Joan Powell '91

accepted a job in the Admissions Department at LCCC in 1994. She started taking business classes, and in 1999 she graduated with an Associate's Degree in Business Management.

In 2007, Ann Marie earned her third Associate's Degree, this time in Office Management and Micro-Computer Specialist. She then enrolled in the Expressway Program at Misericordia, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 2010.

Like her mom, Kristen also earned an Associate's Degree from LCCC in Office Management and Micro-Computer Specialist and continued her education at Misericordia University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 2012.

Multiple degrees, complimented with job and life experience, qualified Ann Marie for the position of Assistant to the Executive Director of Institutional Advancement at LCCC, a job she's held since 2008. "But something just kept telling me I wasn't done with my education," she said, adding that Kristen also felt the same way. So in 2012, she and her daughter decided to pursue their Master's Degrees together, and once again enrolled at Misericordia, graduating in 2014. Kristen is now employed with First Quality in McElhattan, Pennsylvania as a Raw Materials Buyer.

"LCCC gave us a good foundation for me and my family," said Ann Marie. "The key to getting ahead is through education. That's the way to go if you want to advance yourself in life."

# SERVING THE COMMUNITY

By Laura Katrenicz

**O**n January 4, 2016, LCCC alumna Melody Robinson '02 was sworn in as the first woman Mayor of Honesdale, Pennsylvania. Melody's path to this accomplishment has been paved with an energetic personality, hard work, persistence, and a solid educational foundation that was provided, in part, by Luzerne County Community College. Melody credits LCCC with preparing her for her future academic, career and public service success. "I gained not only academic knowledge, but also useful life lessons that I continue to apply to this day," said Mayor Robinson.

Melody was elected mayor in November of 2015. This was her first run for public office in Wayne County, but not her first venture into public service. Melody served on the Lewisburg Borough Council for two years prior to moving to Honesdale. She said many times she found herself observing in action the democratic system that she had learned about in theory in the classroom. "The education I received at LCCC on topics such as the democratic system, interpersonal communications and the study of ethics prepared me for many situations I encountered while serving on Council. Learning from faculty who had firsthand experience with similar situations was especially helpful because they taught me not just how things were supposed to work, but also how they often end up working in the real world. I was able to apply that knowledge to more effectively fulfill my duties and therefore more effectively serve my constituents."



*Melody Robinson '02 sits with her husband, WNEP-TV news anchor James "Jim" Hamill and son, Cagney at Melody's mayoral installation.*



Opportunities to learn outside the classroom, Melody said, are another reason she values her time at LCCC. "I was impressed by all the extracurricular activities available at LCCC." Melody participated in the Intercollegiate Leadership Wilkes-Barre Program through LCCC, and said the experience had a tremendous impact on her. That, combined with her education at LCCC, provided her with a meaningful understanding of community issues and how to develop and implement strategies for making change to address problems.

As an example, Melody noted that she learned how community partnerships can help to provide creative solutions to many issues faced by municipalities. Melody explained that when she served on the Lewisburg Borough Council, Lewisburg was moving to a regional police force, and she was able to successfully articulate the benefits of this initiative thanks to her experiences and education while at LCCC. One of her goals as mayor is to address the growing use and abuse of opiates (heroin, painkillers) in and around the Honesdale area. Recognizing this cannot be accomplished without community-wide support, Melody said she will be turning to organizations like the Wayne County Drug Task Force to partner on finding and implementing solutions.

Melody said that during her time at LCCC she not only learned how to address community problems, more importantly, she was inspired to want to be part of the solution. "I learned how important it is to get involved. I had never really thought about how these things worked before attending college. LCCC and

Intercollegiate Leadership Wilkes-Barre helped me to see that if we have the ability to do so, we have an moral obligation do our part to help make our communities safe and maintain the quality of life we want for our children.”

These learning outcomes were an unexpected benefit of her LCCC education, according to Melody. Her primary concerns when planning for her postsecondary education were finding a college that offered the academic program that was right for her, that was affordable, and that allowed for a flexible schedule to accommodate her work hours. “LCCC was the obvious choice for the first two years of my education, because it met all of my needs,” Melody said. She said she also liked the fact that she knew quite a few students attending LCCC at the time. “Many Wyoming Area graduates whom I knew were enrolled at LCCC at the same time as I was.”

Melody attended LCCC part-time while managing a beer distributor and bartending to put herself through school. She says she would not have been able to afford to go to college without the assistance of her parents and without LCCC’s affordable tuition and the scholarships she received from the College.

After graduating from LCCC with her Associate in Science degree in General Studies in 2002, Melody

transferred to Misericordia University, where she went on to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a minor in Marketing, in 2008.

After receiving her Bachelor’s degree, Melody worked in workforce development at the PA CareerLink at its Selinsgrove and Williamsport locations, where her primary responsibility was to help clients find jobs and go back to school to get the skills and education they needed to find self-filling employment. She now works in the Customer Service department at Top Notch Distributors, Inc. in Honesdale. “Part of what has made me successful professionally is that I’m a people person and good listener who is goal-oriented and who understands that hard work pays off. The solid, well-rounded college education I received is the other part,” Melody said.

With her work, public service and family responsibilities, Melody doesn’t have much free time. But she manages to fit in a little gardening, a solid workout routine, and guitar lessons, which supplement her skilled piano playing and singing talents. “James and I strongly believe that it’s important for our son to grow up in an environment that fosters personal growth and development in every way – academically, creatively, socially. So I do try to fit in time to pursue my interests, but for the most part, if I’m not at work or working on duties of the mayor’s office, James and Cagney and I are spending family time together with our dog, Bueller, either outdoors exposing Cagney to new adventures, or home listening to music, reading or playing.

“My education even helped to prepare me for parenthood,” Melody said. “Without the time management skills I learned, I would not be able to balance all the parts of my life.”

Melody is looking forward to the challenge of leading Honesdale into the next two years as mayor. She said when she meets people who mention that they are thinking about going to college, she always encourages them to enroll at LCCC. “LCCC did so much for me in terms of preparing me for my future, I want others to benefit from all the College has to offer.”

As for the students already enrolled at LCCC, Melody said that if given a chance to send a message to them, she would tell them: “Be cool. Stay in school. And contact the Student Life and Athletics Office about participating in Intercollegiate Leadership Wilkes-Barre and other leadership development opportunities.”

*Cagney stands behind his mom’s campaign sign as he “stumps” for her.*

*Photos courtesy of Melody Robinson*



# SAVE THE DATE

Last year's Alumni Golf Tournament event was a great success! Beautiful weather, lots of fun, and wonderful friends helped to make this activity now an annual event. This year, the Alumni Association is hosting its Second Annual Alumni Golf Tournament on May 23, 2016. Sponsorships are available.

You can register online for this year's event at [www.luzerne.edu/golftournament](http://www.luzerne.edu/golftournament)



Alumni Association  
1333 S. Prospect Street  
Nanticoke, PA 18634

SECOND ANNUAL

# GOLF ALUMNI

Save the Date:  
**MAY 23<sup>rd</sup>**





The Annual LCCC Faculty and Alumni Exhibition, a special tradition at the Schulman Gallery.



Melissa Williams Taney '03, president, LCCC Alumni Association, presents Maria Marianacci with the Alumni Association's Outstanding Graduate Award.



Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87, director, alumni relations, presents George Steltz, with the Alumni Association's Outstanding Adult Learner Graduate Award



The Luzerne County Community College Alumni Association and Dental Health Department recently held the 16th Annual Dental Health Alumni Day.



Students, staff, and alumni volunteered to help raise funds from alumni and friends of LCCC during the annual phonathon.

## 2015 Alumni Events

# Alumni Class Notes

## 1972

**David Zack** (Education) continued his education at Mansfield State College earning a bachelors degree in special education in 1974. He and his wife Barbara have three daughters. David recently moved to Henderson, NV to enjoy his retirement.

## 1983

**Patty Stout Kalina** (Dental Assisting) is a senior business analyst at Prudential Financial. She earned a certificate in business management from LCCC in 2004 and continuing on to earn her bachelor's degree in business administration/management from Post University in 2014 – just 31 years after completing her first degree from LCCC! Congratulations Patty!

## 1986

**Andrew Bohensky** (Pre-Mortuary Science) has been appointed funeral director at McCarty-Thomas Funeral Home in Hughesville. He has more than 25 years of funeral experience and is a licensed Pennsylvania insurance agent. Following his LCCC graduation he continued his education at the Simmons School of Mortuary Science, Syracuse NY. He also earned his bachelor's degree from Misericordia University. Andrew resides in Laport with his wife, Megan and their daughter.

## 1988

**Mark "Mishu" Luchetti** (Commercial Art) is employed by Bio-Rad Laboratories, Informatics Division in Philadelphia, as a marcom specialist/tradeshaw manager for their software group. He regularly applies the skills and tools he learned at LCCC to design for print, web, and video projects for his company. Additionally, he runs a successful freelance business, MLD Media. Mark is also an active member of the community, serving his local Knights of Columbus in West Chester in the role of Grand Knight of his Council, and is on the Planning Committee for the Chester County Bike Ride for Cancer. He resides in West Chester with his wife Gigi, and daughters Anna and Erin.



## 1990

**John Mendola** (Broadcast Communications) is the host of Fox56 Sports Show which airs throughout NEPA. He has been with the show since 1994.

He also hosts a weekly radio show on WILK. John continued his education at Wilkes University and Marywood University.

## 1995

**Michelle Bressi Bryant** (Health / Physical Education) was recently named the Dallas Elementary physical education teacher in the Dallas School District. Following LCCC she continued her education at Kennsaw State University in Georgia. She and her husband Brad, reside in the Back Mountain with their three daughters.

## 1998

**Elaine Flanagan** (Legal Assisting) and her husband, Lee recently relocated to Gulf Breeze, FL to enjoy their retirement years. Elaine & Lee are now closer to their two sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Elaine was an active member of our Alumni Association board for many years. Best wishes for many happy and healthy years!

**Marcia Tomaszewski** (Dental Hygiene / General Studies) and Mark Roney were united in marriage in May 2015. Marcia also earned her dental business assisting degree from LCCC in 1996. She is a registered dental hygienist for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections in Frackville.

## 1999

**Rose Mary Sciandra** (Nursing) is the assistant director of nursing and chief corporate compliance officer of Riverside Rehabilitation, a 160 bed long term care facility located in Taylor PA. She is the director of the nursing staff, provides clinical oversight of the facility and chief of legal compliance. Rose Mary earned her Wound and Hyperbolic Supervisory Certification in 2011. She and her son Nicolamo reside in Pittston.

## 2002

**Jennifer Mahovich** (Dental Hygiene) and Robert Wylie were recently in united marriage in an outdoor double ring sunset ceremony at the Laurita Winery, New Egypt, NJ. She is a dental sales representative for Patterson Dental Co. for the northern New Jersey territory. The couple resides in Weehawken, NJ.

## 2005

**Megan Schlosser Filak** (Broadcast Communication) is a Relay for Life Specialist for the American Cancer Society throughout Northeastern PA. Following LCCC she continued her education at American University in Washington DC. She and her husband welcomed their baby girl, Natalya in October 2015.



## 2006

**Carol McIntyre Fahnestock** (Legal Assisting) earned her bachelors degree in business administration in 2008 and her MBA in 2014 from Misericordia University. She is the executive assistant to the president / secretary to the board of trustees for Misericordia. In addition she was recently elected to the board of the National Association of Presidential Assistants in Higher Education; sworn in as a court appointed special advocate for CASA of Luzerne County; and a member of the Wyoming Valley West Youth Aid Panel. Carol and her husband Michael reside in Kingston.



## 2007

Congratulations to **Michele Fine** (Science) and Shaun Barry on the birth of their daughter, Samantha Elizabeth Barry on September 2, 2015. Michele teaches Science courses at LCCC. Samantha joins a long line of LCCC Trailblazers including father, Shaun who graduated in 2007; grandmother,

Joann Fine graduated in 1989; and aunt Tracy Lee Fine, graduated in 2001.

**Heather A. Schield** (Broadcast Communication) has been promoted from director of annual giving to associate vice president at Keystone College. Schield earned her certified fundraising executive (CFRE) and graduated from Bloomsburg University with a bachelors degree in mass communication.

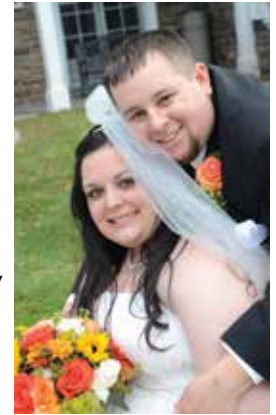
## 2008

**David Good** (Business Management Technology) is the new owner/publisher of the Pocono Business Journal, an online resource to assist the business and industry community in the Poconos and surrounding areas. In addition, David is the president of M3 Internet Marketing, a search engine marketing company located in Northeast PA. Additionally, David owns and operates VisitPoconos.com and PoconoWaterParks.com which are online resources to help visitors learn about the area and what to do while visiting. David helps businesses with their online marketing by helping them manage Google advertising PPC, SEO and SEM. David resides in Honesdale with his wife, daughter, son, dog, and rabbit.



## 2009

**Cait Akins** (Journalism) and Lindy LaRue exchanged wedding vows on Saturday, October 17, 2015. The ceremony was held at the historic Hayfield House on the Penn State University, Wilkes-Barre campus where they first met. The happy couple resides in Dallas.



## 2010

**Darlene Tomayko** (Office Management Technology) and her husband Bill recently retired to Supply, NC. Their children also attended LCCC. Kevin Tomayko is the graphic designer for the Dallas Texas Zoo and Sara graduated from Misericordia University with a bachelor's degree in health care management and working at Saxon Psychiatric in West Wyoming.

## 2012

Congratulations to **Jason Henderson** (Journalism) on completing Army Basic Training. He is stationed at the US Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker Alabama training to be an Air Traffic Controller. Jason also earned a broadcast communication degree from LCCC in 2008. Following his LCCC graduation Jason continued his education at the Community College of Beaver County and earned his AAS in air traffic control. Best of luck Jason on your journey to be an air traffic controller!

## 2014

**Susan Porter Allen** (Nursing) was the overall winner of the 2015 Ms. Elite Women of Achievement Pageant competition. The highly competitive pageant took place on the Queen Mary in Long Beach, CA and Susan represented her home state of Oklahoma. Susan performed in the talent portion with the original song she wrote titled, "My Stars with Stripes". Over the next 12 months she will travel the country promoting awareness for wounded and disabled veterans, a cause very near to her heart. Congratulations Susan!



## 2015

**Kelly Hopkins** (Business Management) recently joined LCCC's Wilkes-Barre Extension Center as a secretary. She also earned a degree in 2013 from LCCC in Food Production Management. Welcome Kelly!

# 2016 Events Calendar

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**April 13:** Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Campus Center, second floor, Alumni room (#214)

**May 7:** 18th Annual Alumni Flea Market & Collectible Show and Auction, Educational Conference Center, 8 am - 2 pm

**May 13:** Dental Health Alumni Day, ECC, speaker: Judy Bendit, RDH, BS, 8:30-3:30pm, Fee

**May 23:** 2nd Annual Alumni Golf Tournament - Blue Ridge Trail Golf Course - noon shot gun start

**May 24:** Graduate Reception, Educational Conference Center, 5:30-7:30 pm

**May 26:** Commencement Ceremony, Mohegan Sun Arena, 6:00 pm

**June 6:** Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Campus Center, second floor, Alumni room (#214)

**October 16:** 27th annual Craft Festival, main campus, 10:00-4:00 pm

*For more information on these events contact the LCCC Alumni office at [alumni@luzerne.edu](mailto:alumni@luzerne.edu) or call 570-740-0734. Or go to our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/groups/luzernealumni](http://www.facebook.com/groups/luzernealumni) to learn more about future events.*

## In Memoriam

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*Sincere condolences are extended to the family and friends of alumni and members of the College family who have passed away since the last publication of The Bridge.*

### LCCC Graduates

Gail Acquisto '01 (Nursing)  
Harry Anderson '92 (Electrical Construction)  
Deborah Bromack '79 (General Studies)  
Frank Buzin '71 (Architectural Engin. Tech.)  
Joseph Carden '71 (General Studies)  
Elizabeth Carter '98 (Nursing)  
Michael Denoy '76 (General Studies)  
Anthony Destefano '70 (Hotel & Restaurant Mgmt.)  
Judy Donahue '85 (Business Administration)  
Daniel Doughton '70 (Education - Secondary)  
Phyllis Feddock '85 (Hotel & Restaurant Mgmt.)  
Coleen Felia '13 (Culinary Arts)  
Frank Ferraro '84 (Social Science)  
Paul Gibbon '77 (Business Administration)  
Anne Gober '89 (Tourism & Travel Mgmt.)  
Edwin Gunshore '72 (Computer-Aided Drafting / Design)  
Matthew Hilenski '12 (Plumbing, Heating & AC Tech.)  
Steve Hutz '92 (Mathematics)  
Erin Jacobs '03 (Computer Applications)  
Billy Johns '90 (Plumbing & Heating Tech.)  
William Kennedy '72 (Business Administration)  
Richard Kenzakoski '88 (Architectural Engin. Tech.)  
David Klem '76 (Business Administration)  
Lawrence Knowles '88 (Education - Secondary)  
Barbara Kotlarchick '95 (Computer Information Systems)  
Joseph Lukus '11 (Fire Science Tech.)  
Henry Malisko '84 (Business Administration)  
Brenda Martin '91 (Banking)  
Jeffrey Martin '97 (Criminal Justice)  
Darlene Maslar '91 (Nursing)  
Joseph Mengeringhausen '86 (Banking)  
Kevin Mikolosko '76 (Electrical Construction)  
Roberta Morris '75 (Exercise Science)  
Anthony Musto '75 (Business Administration)  
Michael Piatt '86 (Plumbing & Heating Tech.)  
Maureen Redmond '79 (Hotel & Restaurant Mgmt.)  
William Rusin '89 (Hotel & Restaurant Mgmt.)  
Charles Steever '71 (Business Administration)

Irene Steinger '90 (Word Processing Specialist)  
Shelby Steward '07 (Medical Transcriptionist Specialist)  
David Stupak '98 (Culinary Arts)  
Madalyn Wabik '97 (Nursing)  
Maryann Waslasky '88 (Accounting Tech.)  
Kenneth Weidner '02 (General Studies)  
Mary Ann Whittaker '94 (Nursing)  
James Williams '69 (Electronics)  
Janet Williams '81 (General Studies)

### Faculty & Staff

Walter V. Anusiewicz Sr., maintenance	Linda Levandoski, Microbiology lab Asst.
Catherine Collins, nurse educator, Wayne Memorial Hospital	Richard P. O'Brien, MD, instructor, LCCC
Esther Flannery, faculty	Paramedic Program
Robert Komnath, faculty	

### Friends of the College

Anna Cervenak, Emeritus Board member LCCC Foundation,  
Scholarship Donor  
John J. Charles, Scholarship donor  
Paul Platukis '70, LCCC Trustee  
Hon. Peter Paul Olszewski Sr., instrumental in the establishment of  
Luzerne CCC

## Retirees/Career Moves

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*The following members of the faculty, administration, and staff have retired from the College since the last issue of The Bridge was published.*

Rosemary Bray, Assistant to Director of Institutional Research,  
21 years of service  
Cathryn Brown, Director of Dental Health, 31 years of service  
Martin Gallagher, Associate Professor, Counselor,  
36 years of service  
William Karlotski, Assistant Professor, Commercial Art, 17 years of  
service  
Mark Norton '89, ATC Laboratory Tech, 26 years of service  
Donna Smith '90, Commercial Arts Lab Tech, 21 years of service  
David Stout, Professor of English, 48 years of service

# Your Gift is Important

Heartfelt thanks go out to our alumni, friends and community businesses, faculty and staff who have made gifts to LCCC. Thanks to your philanthropy, LCCC continues to make life better for current and future students by providing scholarships, financial aid, library books, technology and other necessities. Nothing touches the lives of LCCC students as much as the Annual Fund.

## BENEFITS TO YOU

Charitable gifts are generally exempt from taxation for those who itemize deductions on their tax returns. The higher your tax rate, the more you can save when you make a donation to the College.

Gifts of appreciated property (stocks, bonds or mutual funds), held for longer than one year, allow you to bypass capital gains tax normally due when you sell the assets and provide you a charitable income tax deduction that reduces the cost of your gift.

**Give a gift to the LCCC Foundation online at <https://www.luzerne.edu/foundationgiving/>**

Matching gifts allow you to double, or possibly triple, your gift at no additional cost to you, and are credited in full toward leadership gift club membership. Contact your human resource office to see if you work for a matching gift company.

Alumni participation is also one of the criteria used to leverage gifts from private and public foundations as well as corporations. Any gift of any size publicly demonstrates your pride and helps the College continue its tradition of excellence.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Several gift options are available to you for making a financial contribution to LCCC. They include: a pledge, an outright contribution by cash, check or charge (Mastercard, Visa or Discover), securities (stocks, bonds or mutual funds) and a planned gift (bequest and charitable trust arrangement) through the Heritage Society. For more information, or to make a gift, contact the Alumni Office at (800) 377-LCCC, ext. 7734 or at 570-740-0734.

## Changing the face of childhood poverty

How could anyone turn down the opportunity to help children in need? When Rebecca Shedlock-Brominski '91 and her husband Don Brominski (photo on right) were asked to co-chair the United Way of Wyoming Valley's 2015 Campaign they did not hesitate in their response. "The opportunity to serve the community in which we were born and raised has been an absolute honor and privilege," commented Rebecca.

Serving as the College's Director of the Wilkes-Barre Center and Conference Center and being in education for most of her career Rebecca has seen the increased need for supplemental life-sustaining social services. She commented, "The need for these services are great and do not discriminate, not even for the youngest within our community."

According to local statistics, 33% of children under the age of five residing within our community are living in poverty. These children are going to school at a decreased rate and when they do attend they are not prepared to learn and many of their basic needs are not being met. Rebecca, her husband and countless volunteers and supporters set out to change these startling statistics.

"The goal of the United Way of Wyoming Valley campaign was to create pathways to provide the skills and resources so every family can become self-sufficient



by developing good nutrition habits, receive excellent and timely medical care and that each child has a supportive and nurturing home life," stated Rebecca.

Generous community support and strong partnerships with this campaign can create these critical pathways to eliminate childhood poverty.

"To have the opportunity to be a servant leader and assist in the development of the children in our community has been both a priceless and rewarding experience," says Rebecca.

Her work in business and the community have earned her the 2016 title of "Top 25 Women In Business in Northeastern Pennsylvania" by The Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal.

# ALUMNI AND FOUNDATION HONOR ROLL

JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

## DONORS BY GIVING LEVEL

### Foundation Society (\$50,000 or more)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
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Francis X. & Caroline Kowalski  
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P&G Fund of the Greater Cincinnati  
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Thomas McHugh '72  
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Moroso Performance Products  
Motorworld  
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Kulpmont Nursing Forum  
Lamar Advertising  
LCCC Pastry Arts Club  
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Lightspeed Technologies, Inc.  
Daniel Marriggi '81  
Kenneth Musto  
Nanticoke Fire Dept. LAPE Hose Co. 2  
NBT Bank  
One Point  
Brian Overman '83  
Ronald Pajor '69  
Brian Reklaitis '96  
Maureen Ryneski  
John Thomas Sedlak '88  
In Memory of John Sharkowicz '80  
Leonard '69 & Bernadine Shimko  
Mary Stchur  
John Stikar '80  
Mary Sullivan  
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Upstate Velo  
Valley Power Equipment, Inc.  
W H Watters LLC

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Donald Alonzo '75  
Charles Altmiller '83  
Mary Ankenbrand '91  
State Senator Lisa Baker

## LCCC ALUMNI & FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS

William & Betty Jane Barrett	Teddi Janosov	Randolph Rompola '82	Elizabeth A'zary '80
Raymond Bartosh '73	Kathleen Jenkins '96	Amanda Ruark '05	Robert Babetski '85
Mia Bassham	Park Johnson '70	Joseph J. Rymar	James Balavage '70
Benco Family Foundation	David Jolley	Carol Salek '69	Paul Baloga '94
Deborah Bomber	Luther Jones '81	Geraldine Samselski '76	Edward Baltrushes '89
Debbie & Walter '89 Boyson	Laura Katrenicz	Nicole Saporito '89	Carol Baran '82
John J. Bryan	William F. Katsak '78	Bette Saxton '98	Rachael Baratta '10
The Bush Natishan Group	Joseph & Amanda Kluger	Ann Saxton	Nicholas Barto '76
at Morgan Stanley	Heidemarie '92 & Mark '92	Richard Schall '73	Debra Bayer '71
Dr. William & Ann '70 Camp	Kobusky	Susan Searfoss '87	Mary Bednar '76
Jane Castora '85	Theodore Koch '06	John Serafin	Donna Bednarski '81
Dr. Joanne Chipeco	Bruno Kolodgie '72	Susan Socash	John Belak '88
Citizens Bank	Edward Kopec '75	Margaret Sosnak	David Bell '75
Virginia Clarke, R.N.	Debbie Kropiewnicki '85	Maryann Spieth '78	George Below '04
Dr. Kathleen Clemente	Michael & Tish Last	Susan Spry '99	Valerie Berzanski '71
Company's Coming	Robert & Bonnie '87 Lauer	Natalie Staron '95	Melissa Betkoski '96
Comprehensive Microfilm Scan	Nancy Lavan '78	John J. Terrana Atty at Law	James Biehl '85
Joseph Compton '69	James J. Leary	John Terrana, Esq.	Joan Blaum '86
Mary Connell '84	Dennis Lello	Rachel Tomaszewski '87	Christopher Blizzard '71
Christine '83 & John '84 Corgan	M&T Bank	Robert Type '71	Mary Bobeck '76
Creative Business Interiors	Jacqueline Matthews '00	Joseph Van Jura, Esq.	Andrew Bohensky '86
Martin Cusick '00	Gerald Mazur '92	Mary Waclawski '06	David Borofski '69
James Domzalski	Catherine McElroy '84	WBRE Eyewitness News	Paul Bosco '77
Daniel Doughton '70	Anna Mary McHugh	Robert West '73	Wendy Braz '82
Daniel Dudrick '70	Thomas Merlie	Barry H. Williams, J.D., C.P.A.	Adele Brelsford
Dorothy Dysleski '77	B. Richard Miller '86	Dr. Janis Wilson-Seeley	Broski Distributing
Fast Signs	Joanie Minor '01	Worlds Finest Chocolate	Judith Brown '92
Elaine Fisher '98	Karen Misorek '71	Andrea Yachera '99	Richard Brown '77
Bob & Deb Frasson	Cheryl Moritz '90	JoAnne Yuhus '04	Ronald Buchanan '81
Gerrity's Supermarket	Susan Murdoch '87	Beth Zukowski '82	Theresa Buckley '80
Mary Ghilani	Karen Natishan		Thomas P. Burns '00
Sheila Gionfriddo '08	Richard & Diane Nemetz		Amy Butchko '79
Dolores Goble '76	Roseann O'Connor	<b>Friends Circle</b>	Joseph Butkiewicz '78
Rose Goin	Thomas Opet '79	<b>(\$1 to \$99)</b>	Cambell Business Machines
Gerald Gruver '92	Frank '06 & Lisa '96 Owens	Frederick Addison '80	Susan Capece '91
Edward & Pamela Gurtis	Penlights Enterprises	Anthony Alu '71	John Carey '69
Thomas & Beverly Gusher	Richard Pendolphia '74	Elizabeth Ambrose '83	Rose Carroll '75
Paul Halsey '84	Linda Philbin '76	Christopher Amico '85	James Cawley '96
Kathy '80 & Jack Heltzel	Dr. John Pisano	Kristeen Andes '11	Jason Cease '01
Debbie Hinz '93	Susan Porter-Allen '14	Dory Andrews '83	Brenda Chester '96
Anne Holmes	Stephanie Reidinger '95	Lynnette Ashley '00	JoAnn Chukinas '02
Melissa Jabore-Futch	Jane '79 & Alan '79 Rogers	Jane Ashton '87	Richard Cielez '80
Michael Jackubowski '11	James Rolands	Carmen Attanasio '83	Janet Cirko '86

## Cervenak Scholarship Established

The Luzerne County Community College Foundation has established a scholarship in memory of the late Anna Cervenak, who passed away on July of 2015.

Cervenak was a well-known community leader, volunteer and tireless regional advocate. She was a member of the LCCC Foundation Board of Directors since 1993 and served a term as the Board's president. She also served as chair of the Foundation's annual dinner and was president emeritus of the Foundation Board at the time of her death.

"Anna was a generous and caring person who believed strongly in education as a path to opportunity and a better life for individuals as well as a key to building the region," says Thomas P. Leary, President, LCCC. "She had a great impact on the Foundation and LCCC and she will be missed. This scholarship will be a long lasting memorial to her belief in helping others."

Sandra Nicholas, Executive Director of the LCCC Foundation, adds, "Anna was a donor, volunteer, leader, and a friend to LCCC and all of us who were fortunate enough to have worked with her."

The scholarship is open to students with financial need. Applicants can apply online at [luzerne.edu/scholarships](http://luzerne.edu/scholarships).

For more information, or to contribute to the Anna Cervenak Memorial Scholarship at LCCC, contact Peter Lello at 570-740-0757 or online at [luzerne.edu/foundationgiving](http://luzerne.edu/foundationgiving).



## Fidelity Contributes To Foundation Dinner



Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank has contributed to the Luzerne County Community College Foundation in support of the Foundation's Annual Scholarship Dinner. Fidelity has donated \$10,000 as the major sponsor of the event.

This annual event raises funds to assist Luzerne County Community College students with financial need by providing scholarship opportunities. The Foundation has awarded \$250,000 in aid to eligible students in the 2015/2016 academic year.

For more information on the scholarship program at LCCC or to apply for a scholarship, visit [www.luzerne.edu](http://www.luzerne.edu).

*Shown at the check presentation, left to right, are: Donna Gizenski, Vice President and Business Banking Relationship Manager, Fidelity Bank; Michael J. Pacyna, Jr., Executive Vice President & Chief Business Officer, Fidelity Bank; Daniel Santaniello, President and CEO, Fidelity Bank; Bob Stanley, Immediate Past President, LCCC Foundation; Judy Aita, President, LCCC Foundation; Thomas P. Leary, President, LCCC; and, Sandra Nicholas, Executive Director, LCCC Foundation, Inc.*

Althea Clark '87  
 Clark Cohee '02  
 Sharon Cohen '73  
 Charles Consagra '74  
 Joan Considine '81  
 Lesley Corey  
 Sally Corl '89  
 Cornell Iron Works  
 Rosemarie Corsaletti '01  
 Katherine Costello '95  
 Mark Costigan '83  
 Beth Cottle '13  
 Donna Cottone '91  
 Annette Craig '88  
 Joseph Crossin '84  
 Kristin Culver '90  
 Sandra Cumberland '05  
 Richard Cups '73  
 Laurie Cywinski '91  
 Joseph Damiano '72  
 Drue Daniels '80  
 Melody Danko-Holsomback '09  
 Elizabeth Davis '82  
 Louise Davis '94  
 Carol Dean '90  
 Mark Dechman '85  
 Karen Delay '89  
 William Deletconich '72  
 Amber DelPriore '10  
 Michael Demko '79  
 Eveline Denardi '90  
 Suzanne DePrimo '81  
 Nancy Divers '85  
 David Dombek  
 Michelle Donato '81  
 Carolyn Dorshefski '86  
 Donna Dotson '80  
 Lawrence Doughton '95

Marjorie Douglas '93  
 Robert Drago '96  
 Donna Dragon-Oschman '84  
 Conrad Duhoski '70  
 Nancy Dunn  
 John Dylski  
 Susan Edner '98  
 David Ehrensperger  
 John Ellison '69  
 Holly Evanoski '05  
 Richard Evanoski '00  
 Frank Evanosky '70  
 Gertrude Evans '92  
 Duane Fall '95  
 Brendan Farrell '13  
 Jeanne Farrell '82  
 Rosella Fedor Purcell  
 Andrew Fedorchak '77  
 Dawn Fisher '90  
 John Fisher '73  
 Diane Fontinell '92  
 Joan '77 & John '77 Foster  
 Laura Fowler '94  
 Jeffrey Fox '95  
 Lisa Fox '89  
 Gwen Foy '88  
 Dorothea French '97  
 Jane Fritz '71  
 Robert Furedi '71  
 Mary Ann Gabel '91  
 Harold Gabriel '84  
 Jo Nell Garrah '01  
 Justine Garstka '84  
 Joseph & Cathy Gasper  
 Doris Gayeski '84  
 Daniel George '00  
 Mario Giancini '03  
 Paul Gibbon '77

Robert Glycenfer '81  
 Cynthia Gocek '93  
 Stacey Godak '01  
 Barbara Godlewski '90  
 George Gramata '84  
 Janet Grazul '75  
 Kathleen Green '84  
 William '79 & Janet '76  
 Groblewski  
 Susan Grohowski '88  
 Lois Gross '86  
 Marlene Guarilia '93  
 Thomas Gushaulis '89  
 Donna Gustave '70  
 John Gutkowski '90  
 Amy Gyory '84  
 Barbara Halaburda '79  
 John Halko '70  
 Marianne '84 & Francis  
 Hanify  
 Donald Hanson '71  
 Susan Hanusek '95  
 Kathleen Harrington '99  
 Todd Hastings '94  
 Fikriye Havale '12  
 Karen Havy '89  
 Harry Hayes '73  
 Andrea Heller '06  
 Cynthia Heness '98  
 Marion Hiday '83  
 Deborah Higgins '02  
 Elaine Hobart '02  
 Diane Hogan '80  
 Michael Hogan '78  
 Janet Hogle '90  
 Sandra Honis '89  
 Sandra Hopkins '89  
 Judith Houtsch '98

Mary '91 & Michael '78 Hronich  
 Kenneth Humiston '74  
 Frank Hummel '13  
 Brooke Hunter '02  
 Helen Hutner '09  
 Renee Jakubovics '76  
 Phyllis Johnson '13  
 Jason Jolley '07  
 Ronald Jones '69  
 Deborah Jones  
 Albert Jumper '72  
 Donna Kachinko '91  
 Anne Kachline '75  
 Mark Kalas  
 Joseph Kandrovoy '70  
 Joseph Kane '75  
 Michelle Kaneski '89  
 Joseph Kanyak '71  
 Donald Kapral '90  
 Joann Karpinski '83  
 Doris Keeler '80  
 Byron Keener '05  
 Judith Keller '97  
 Catherine Kenenitz '95  
 Nancy Killian McBride '92  
 Deborah Kirkwood '92  
 Carmelita Klatch '91  
 Brenda Kline '88  
 Deborah Kline '90  
 Mary Ann Kline '97  
 Deborah Klopotoski '77  
 Michael Klopotoski '82  
 Lawrence Klug '78  
 Marlene '02 & David '73 Kluger  
 Mark Koch '08  
 Helen Kopec  
 Robert Kopec '71  
 Carl Kosch '72

## LCCC ALUMNI & FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS

Kelly Kostanesky '99	Joel Martz-Hanna	Antoine Obas '97	Stephenny Rush '95
Joy '84 & David '72	Sujanet Mason	Renee O'Connor '90	Christine Rutkowski '80
Kozemchak	Gary Masters '82	Leslie Olerta-Leibman '96	Lauren Sabol '88
David '94 & Suzanne '91	Todd Materna '02	James Opet '83	Mary Rose Salvo '79
Kozlowski-Jarrett	Arline '95 & Edward '77	Mr. & Mrs. David Oravitz	John Sandstrom '86
Jewel Kravich '85	Matkins	Cheryl Oster '93	Catherine Saporito '86
Jonathan Kray '98	Colleen Matthey '92	David & Charlene Outt	Daniel Sarosky '99
M. Renee Krempasky '91	Judith Matulewski '90	Debra Paradis '80	Edward Sartin '93
Barry Kresge '99	Gail Matushoneck '99	Ellen '93 & Dale '82 Parmenteri	Heather Sartin '93
Gale Kresge '71	Robert McCue '95	Kimberly Parsons	Kimberly Sauerwine '78
Eric Kubasek '03	Mary McGeer '96	Bruce Partches '03	John Savitski '71
William Kuklewicz '71	Patrick McHale '74	Patricia Pawlak	Valerie Schultz '98
Cheryl Kundrat '86	Charles McKeown '93	Jennifer Pawlowski '88	Susan Schuster '78
Beverly Kuprionas '79	Maurita Medash '92	Stacey Pellegrino '03	Gloria Sekusky '82
George Lacey '85	Eugene Mehalshick '89	Sandra Person '77	Laurie Selecky '86
Theresa Langan '85	Corey Miceli '05	Patricia Peters '99	Robert Sembrat '92
Michael Leahey '90	Genevieve Mihalick '72	Marie Poplawski '00	Patricia Sentigar '91
Christina '89 & Robert '94	Ann Marie Miller	James Price '83	Anne Marie Shabelski '70
Legath	Cynthia Miller '94	Jean Profka '78	Joshua Shaffer '11
Mary Lenahan '86	Lisa Miller '92	Joseph Prushinski '79	Diane Shellenberger
Robert Lewis '76	Richard Miller '73	Laura Prushinski '02	Cynthia '75 & James '76 Shudak
Edward Lewko '73	Jodie Miscavage '00	Richard Pshar '88	Betty Sikora '83
Lisa Lindquist '88	Melanie Mizenko	Justin Pshar	Carol Silver '82
Robert Linskey '82	Florence Mokris '83	Danita Puhl '84	JoAnn Sitrler '87
William Liotta	Fran Moriarty '95	Ryan Quinn '98	Marilyn Sladon '88
Ronald Lipinski '73	John Morris '90	Deborah Radogna '84	Sandra Slosky '70
John Loftus	Richard Moss '00	Lori Radzinski '88	Patricia Smith '02
Barry Lohman '70	John Mudrian '05	Stephen Rakos '91	Robert Smith '88
Peggy Long '76	Courtney Muendlein '09	Gloria Rawls '86	Kristina Snyder '97
Deborah Luchetti '91	Autumn Muntz '84	Blaine Readler '74	Joline Sobeck '80
Helen Macareo '87	Elaine Murray '86	Lewis Reich '72	Kathleen Socha '80
William MacCollum '71	Beth Musselman '82	Dawn Richie '93	James Solomon '10
Carol Maculloch '94	Luciana Musto '00	Molly Rinker '91	George Soppeck '74
Margo Magda '76	Patricia Naegele '89	Raymond Ripka '08	Elaine Sozzi '77
Camille Mainiero '93	Mario Naticchi '05	Carol Risch '89	William Speare '08
Lisa Malcolm '88	Amanda Neidlinger '07	Roxanne Robinson '92	Shelley Spencer '86
Deborah '72 & Kenneth '72	Jamie Nichols '09	Cheryl Rogers '81	Joanne Spisak
Malia	Nancy Nicoletto '08	Leonard Roman '95	Jean Marie Stack '88
Joan Malishchak '77	Gilbert Noll	Christopher Romanowski '81	Gail '80 & Christopher '81 Stasko
Richard Marchetti '70	Judith Novak '92	Lori Roth '89	Michelle Stchur '10
Diane Martinez '94	Sybil Nudo '90	Cinde Roup '97	Judith Steigerwald '83
Cathy Martinson '84	Robert Nygren '75	Carol Ann Royer '77	Robert Steiner '80

## LCCC Foundation Receives Donation From Motorworld Toyota



The Luzerne County Community College Foundation recently received a donation from MotorWorld Toyota to support scholarships for students in the College's automotive and diesel technology programs.

The \$20,000 contribution will be used to defray the cost of tuition, books, fees, and tools for full or part-time students enrolled in the automotive and diesel technology programs.

The scholarships will be available for the 2016-17 academic year. *Shown at the check presentation are, from left – Jay Thomas, Sales Manager, MotorWorld Toyota; Rick Osick, CEO, MotorWorld Toyota; Thomas P. Leary, President, LCCC; Sandra Nicholas, Executive Director, LCCC Foundation; and Peter Lello, Major Gifts Officer, LCCC.*

Linda Stephanik '87  
 Cynthia Stone '82  
 John Stubb '90  
 Bruce Talipan '84  
 William Taney '99  
 Joan Taylor '87  
 G. Theresa Thomas '79  
 John Thomas '78  
 Margaret Thorne '88  
 Susan Thorne-MacNamara '07  
 Sharon Tier '86  
 Richard Timko '69  
 Andrea Tirpak '10  
 Darleen Tomayko '10  
 Karen Tomulaitis '82  
 Connie Toporcer '03  
 Ursula Tracy  
 Carl Tranell '84  
 Gary Travinski '74  
 Debbie Tressa '80  
 Ann Tripp '78  
 Kristie '11 & Alexander '07  
 Troy  
 Richard Uhing '72  
 Jennie Valick-Kopacz '74  
 Alice VanDyke '92  
 Linda VanGorder '97  
 Terry '00 & Robert '90 Vosik  
 Denise Wagner '13  
 Frank Walton '96  
 Jacqueline Warnick-Piatt '89  
 Kathleen Warren '88  
 Carol Weaver '06

Ramona Wech '82  
 Dean Welch '71  
 Karin Wellings '98  
 Christopher White '77  
 Robert Whitmire '84  
 Stanley Wielgopolski '93  
 Jean Wiernusz '99  
 Michael Wilchinski '76  
 Norma Wildoner '94  
 Jean Williams '88  
 Robert Williams '83  
 Thomas Wilson '79  
 Melanie '76 & Frank '78 Wojak  
 Betty Wojcik '71  
 Sandra Yanchick '95  
 Donna Yanuzzi '80  
 Jill Yeager '09  
 Mary Lou Yerke '72  
 Melissa Zaborney  
 Annmarie Zaffuto '85  
 Joseph Zamulinsky '74  
 Barbara Zardus '84  
 Chester Zaremba '79  
 Donna Zigmund '80  
 Gary '77 & Bonnie '74 Zisko  
 Karen Zmijewski '84  
 Christine Zuber '94  
 David Zurek '83

+ deceased



## Get Social With LCCC on Facebook, Instagram Flickr, YouTube, Google+, Pinterest and Twitter!

Keep up to date with all the happenings at LCCC and keep connected with friends. LCCC is on multiple social media channels to provide communication in whatever way you choose. Explore videos, student work, upcoming events, new classes, and faculty news through the power of social media. Go to LCCC's website: [www.luzerne.edu](http://www.luzerne.edu) and click on the social media icons to join in. You can also search for our LCCC alumni group on Facebook. See you online!

## LCCC Foundation Receives Donation To Establish Cook Scholarship



Shown at the check presentation are, from left -- JoAnne Yuhas, Administrative Assistant, Institutional Advancement, LCCC; Christina Cook, donor; Thomas P. Leary, President, LCCC; and Sandra Nicholas, Executive Director, LCCC Foundation, Inc.

The Luzerne County Community College Foundation, Inc. recently received a donation to establish the Cook Family Scholarship.

The donation was made by Walter and Christina Cook who both attended LCCC. Walter Cook also serves as a board member on the U.S. Department of Labor's 2014 TAACCCT Grant industrial advisory board. The board advises the welding, diesel mechanics, and advanced manufacturing departments which are establishing new job training programs for students in fall semester 2015.

The scholarship was created to help defray the cost of tuition, books, and fees for single parents in pursuit of continuing their education. The scholarship application will be available for the 2015-16 academic school year.

For more information about scholarships at LCCC, call 570-740-0731 or visit [www.luzerne.edu](http://www.luzerne.edu).



## Microbiology Lab Named for Distinguished Local Scientist



Luzerne County Community College has dedicated its Microbiology Laboratory in memory of Cornelia Aurelia Tengowski, Ph.D. The late Dr. Tengowski was a pathologist, research scientist, teacher and author who led a distinguished career with the Center for Disease Control and other national and worldwide health organizations. The donation to purchase microscopes for use in the laboratory was made by her husband, Thomas Tengowski.

The microbiology laboratory is utilized by all health science students at Luzerne County Community College enrolled in the nursing, dental, respiratory, surgical technology and EMS programs.

*Shown at the dedication from L to R are: Dr. Dana Clark, V.P. for Academic Affairs/Provost; Thomas P. Leary, President; Thomas Tengowski; Mary James, Chair, Biology Department; and JoAnne Yuhas, Institutional Advancement Assistant, LCCC Foundation, Inc.*

## Medico Industries Supports LCCC Early College Program

Medico Industries recently donated \$5,000 for 2015 and \$2,000 for 2016 to Luzerne County Community College through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program to support the Early College initiative at the College. LCCC has been approved by Pennsylvania to be an Educational Improvement Organization.

The Early College Program allows high school students to earn LCCC college credits at a reduced rate which are transferable to other colleges and universities after high school graduation. The program is designed for motivated junior or senior high school students with good academic and attendance records who wish to earn college credits. All school districts in Luzerne County and the Berwick School District are participating in this program.



*Participating in the check presentation are from L to R: Peter Lello, Major Gifts Officer, LCCC; Larry Medico, Treasurer, Medico Industries; Thomas P. Leary, President, LCCC; Sandra Nicholas, Executive Director, LCCC Foundation; and Mary Dolon, Grants Officer, LCCC*

### Matching Gifts

Many community-minded organizations match the gifts their employees give to non-profit and community organizations. Financial support was received during the past fiscal year (7/1/14-6/30/15) by the following organizations.

Entergy  
 GE Foundation  
 Guard Insurance Group  
 The P&G Fund  
 PPL Services Corporation  
 The Prudential Foundation  
 Verizon Matching Gifts

### In-Kind Gifts

The College receives "In-kind" support (contributions of equipment, services, supplies, or other non-cash gifts) from philanthropic-minded companies to support our student programs. In-kind support was received during the past fiscal year from the following individuals and organizations.

### In Kind Donors

Age of Innocence  
 Art N Vino  
 Asian Café  
 Malcolm Barber  
 Drea Barbose  
 Patricia Besermin '08  
 Best Western Genetti Hotel  
 Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club  
 Rebecca Brominski '91  
 Sam Brosso

Brucelli Advertising  
 Buffalo Wild Wings  
 Callahan's Café  
 Carol Dean '90  
 Mark & Brenda '96 Chester  
 JoAnne Chukinas '02  
 Cornell Iron Works  
 Beth Cottle '13  
 Sandy Cumberland '05  
 David Sawicki  
 Carol Dean '90  
 Mary Dolon '74  
 Euro Treasures / Summer Hill Botanicals  
 F M Kirby Center  
 Fire & Ice on Toby Creek  
 Elaine Flangan '98  
 Gerrity's Supermarket  
 Grotto Pizza  
 Hershey's Chocolate  
 Anne Holmes  
 Hoopla Frozen Yogurt  
 Isabella Restaurant  
 Mark James '95  
 Teddi Janosov  
 Jersey Mike's Subs  
 Margarita J. Langon '14  
 Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87  
 LCCC Alumni Association  
 LCCC Bookstore  
 Leggio's Italian Restaurant  
 Mark James '95  
 Jim McAndrew  
 Gloria Migatulski '88  
 Mohegan Sun Arena  
 Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs

Sandra Nicholas  
 Outback Steakhouse  
 Janice & Sheldon Owens  
 Lisa Owens '96  
 Jennifer Pawlowski '88  
 Pocono Raceway  
 Project Joy  
 R Bar & Grill  
 RC Wilkes-Barre Movies 14  
 Bonnie Ritchey  
 LuAnne Russin  
 Sam's Club  
 The Café - An American Bistro  
 Thrive Wellness Center  
 UGI Utilities Inc.  
 Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins  
 Webb Chiropractic Center  
 Weis Markets  
 Wise Potato Chips  
 Woodland's Inn and Resorts  
 Brooke & Libby '80 Yeager

*The Foundation and Alumni Offices have made every effort to make the information contained within this publication accurate. Should you observe any discrepancy or error, we ask that you contact us at 570-740-0735.*

## Buy a Brick at LCCC's Walk of Honor



LCCC's Walk of Honor began as an idea by Mrs. Phyllis Carlo, of Wanamie, to honor her son, Michael Scott Carlo, a NYFD firefighter who lost his life on September 11, 2001 in the World Trade Center. The memorial is located near the College's Prospect Street entrance adjacent to the Regional Public Safety Training Center.

Since its inception in 2009 nearly 150 bricks, plaques and benches have been purchased and inscribed with a lasting memory of College family members and friends. The site is an impressive tribute to graduates, staff, faculty and friends of LCCC, local businesses and organizations that support our College, as well as first responders and those who have died in the line of duty.

You can become a permanent part of LCCC history by sponsoring an engraved memorial brick or plaque. A remembrance ceremony is held each year on September 11th and the new bricks and plaques are displayed. For more information visit our website at [www.luzerne.edu/walkofhonor](http://www.luzerne.edu/walkofhonor) or contact the office at 570-740-0734.

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 Patricia Besermin '08  
 Brenda Chester '97  
 Joann Chukinas '02  
 Holly Evanoski '05  
 Elaine Flanagan '98  
 Lisa Fox '89  
 Edward Hennigan '95  
 Mark James '95  
 Russel Keeler '91  
 Gloria Migatulski '88  
 Jennifer Pawlowski '88

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 Erin Kathleen Keating  
 Margaret Steele  
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	Frank Kowalski	Robert Stanley	
	Nancy Lavan '78	Robert Tamburro	
	Dawn Lombardo Gaudino	Melissa Williams Taney '03	

# What's *NEW* with YOU

The Bridge is our way of keeping you up-to-date. This is your way to keep us up-to-date. Let us know about changes in your career, family, or place of residence (attach additional sheet if necessary). We may publish your news in an upcoming issue. You may include a recent photo of yourself, too. Thank you!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year of graduation/program \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names, birth years of children \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post LCCC education \_\_\_\_\_  
 Program & completion date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name & address of employer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Present position and job responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recent accomplishments/points of interest \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Address Service Requested

## *Upcoming Anniversary*

Luzerne County Community College is going to turn 50 in 2017. We are starting to prepare for this historic milestone and are asking for your help! Go onto LCCC's alumni webpage and share your favorite memory or experience of the college at our alumni guest book at [www.luzerne.edu/alumni/main](http://www.luzerne.edu/alumni/main)

