

The

Bridge

Luzerne County Community College Alumni & Friends

WINTER 2021

ADAPTING TO COVID-19



Plus

**2019-2020
Annual Report
of Gifts**



LUZERNE
County Community College

In 2020, We Met The Challenge

When asked a few years ago to reflect on my time at Luzerne County Community College, I recalled the simple but eloquent words of a former college president, "Our job is to help people; let's just do something to help people."

Never was that responsibility, indeed, that duty, more important or more challenging than during the year 2020 when a global pandemic forced unprecedented changes in how we in this country go about living our lives, and how we at the community college go about fulfilling our mission. As I contemplate the College's sweeping response to the difficulties of delivering on what I consider the most important part of our mission statement -- "fostering student success" -- four words keep coming to mind: We met the challenge.

The contributions made by the Leadership Team, faculty, support staff, Board of Trustees, Alumni Association, and Foundation Board helped us chart our path as we moved forward. Initiatives included developing a new plan of instruction within a few days to provide a viable path for student success; professors committing to providing our students the understanding and encouragement needed for them to succeed; our Trustees providing guidance and support; and the increase of scholarships by our Foundation Board to assist those students who needed help to stay in school. Most importantly, I was inspired by the determination of our students to do whatever was necessary to continue the uninterrupted pursuit of their educational goals as we navigated through the difficult times.

The heartwarming stories that have been brought to my attention could fill this entire publication. I think of our faculty who were responding to our students to help them learn in this new environment. I think of the students driving to parking lots of fast-food restaurants in order to tap into Wi-Fi and participate in their classes. I think of the volunteers who, despite the College being closed, continued to supply and operate the Peter J. Lello Food Bank, which became more important to our students than ever before. I think of the recent graduates of our health sciences programs who found themselves in front-line positions battling the virus, and how Grateful Roast, the popular coffee shop near campus, provided us with coffee and treats to be delivered to these graduates at their workplaces.

This is just a glimpse of the LCCC Family meeting the challenge. The individual stories, which I hear on a daily basis, underscore something we at the College have always known and always held dear -- that the College is not buildings or budget spreadsheets. The College is people. People who have come to us for more than 50 years with their hopes and aspirations, and who we help to fulfill their dreams.



Thomas P. Leary,
LCCC President

Yes, helping people is our job, but it is even more than that. Helping people is woven into our very fabric. It's in our DNA. Never before has that been more evident than during the past year.

I am profoundly proud and ever grateful to be part of this College community and the impact we have on the people we serve. I wish you all well and please, stay safe!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas P. Leary". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'L' and 'Y'.



A PROUD HISTORY – A SHINING FUTURE

LCCC Foundation Changes Hands

After a seamless transition in August of 2019 thanks to retired, former Executive Director Sandra A. Nicholas, Rebecca Shedlock-Brominski, LCCC Class of 1991 was appointed to serve as the new Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and the Luzerne County Community College Foundation, Inc.

“It is both an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to continue the legacy of moving the Foundation forward. I look forward to continuing the history of



Rebecca Shedlock-Brominski '91

collaboration and teamwork with the Board of Trustees, Foundation Board, our donors, Alumni and colleagues to accomplish our goals and increase scholarship opportunities,” stated Rebecca. She continued to say, “We have certainly worked together to weather the storm and coupled with unwavering generosity during this unprecedented time in our history we have been able to continue to accomplish great things including purchasing science equipment for remote learning, addressing student hunger issues by supporting the Peter J. Lello Student Food Bank and countless other student support initiatives. While we are experiencing a new normal, the College continues to remain committed to support our students by providing a place where they can begin their college career, develop as an individual and contributing member of society and have the ability to see their future goals as attainable and achievable. Thanks to you, this will be possible.”

Get to know Rebecca

Rebecca Shedlock-Brominski graduated from both LCCC 1991 and Wilkes University in 1993 and 1997. A member of the College’s

administration for the past 16 years serving in various roles she also was the College’s 40th Anniversary Co-Chair, served on the 50th Anniversary Gala Committee, and expanded the College’s Food Bank and Coat Closet initiative to include a location at the Wilkes-Barre Center dedicated site located on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre. In addition, Rebecca co-chaired the College’s Foundation Scholarship Dinner in 2018 and in 2019.

Rebecca also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Dress for Success of Luzerne County, Wyoming Valley Children’s Association, Leadership Wilkes-Barre and the Luzerne County Bar Association as a Lay Member.

In addition, Rebecca is one of the 2016 recipients of the NISOD (National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development) Excellence Award and the 2016 Leadership Wilkes-Barre Distinguished Alumni Award. Rebecca was recognized by the Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal among the ‘Top 20 under 40’ and again as one of the ‘Top 25 Women in Business’. Rebecca served as the 2016 Co-Chair of the United Way of Wyoming Valley’s Annual Campaign helping to raise over 3.5 million dollars to help fight childhood poverty in our area. Most recently, Rebecca was named one of 2020’s Distinctive Women by the Times Leader Media Group.

Rebecca lives in Mountain Top with her husband Don and son Anthony who is a 2018 graduate of the College’s Pre-Engineering Program.

Rebecca



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Credits

Contributing writers & editors

Robert Bogdon
Bonnie Lauer '87
Lisa Nelson

Rebecca Shedlock-Brominski '91
Thomas P. Leary

Photography

Mark James '96

LCCC Archives
Contributed photos

Layout and Design

Robert Bogdon



About the cover: LCCC student Taylor Rachiele, GenEd major, wearing her LCCC mask.

COVID-19 brought many challenges and changes to the LCCC campuses.

Greater Susquehanna Valley Area's New LCCC Center Thrives



In August of 2019, Luzerne County Community College held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its newest dedicated center in Northumberland County. Located at the former Watsonstown Elementary School, the new LCCC Greater Susquehanna Center features five classrooms, two computer labs, office space, student lounge and a common area. One year later, the Center is gaining traction and finding its niche even during a pandemic.

"We're really excited to bring that College access into the region," says Kelly Foran, director of the Greater Susquehanna Center. "I think being able to offer a college education at such an affordable cost is what surprises most of the people who arrive here inquiring about our academic programs."

Foran, a native to Columbia County, graduated from Temple University with a Bachelor's Degree in music education and from School for International Training Graduate Institute with a Master's Degree in international education. She has worked as a music teacher in Philadelphia, as a coordinator in education and community development projects in Belize, and most recently worked in higher education at the University of Alaska in Anchorage.

LCCC President Thomas P. Leary says the Center in Watsonstown couldn't have happened without the support of the community.

"I'm really impressed with the interest we have here on the part of the community," he stated. "The school districts, the superintendents, the educational leaders, and the Chamber of Commerce, are so committed to our success

here and are helping us build on the momentum."

Leary pointed out that it's essential for Luzerne and the area leaders to educate the area just what a community college does and what it can do.

Luzerne County Community College committed \$100,000 for the first year toward tuition and construction costs.

The College and the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber are seeking donations from Union, Snyder, Montour, Northumberland, Lycoming and Clinton counties that will allow the in-county tuition rate for students remain at \$130 a credit.

The College is looking to renovate the Center further with a new science lab.

"We feel this investment we're making, this commitment we're making, this area is rich for community college opportunities," says Leary. "We get a sense from the community on what is really needed and we try to partner with the community to get the necessary investment, technology and equipment to offer that."

"With the new science lab," Foran says, "we'll be able to offer some of the science courses that are needed for our pre-health majors and our science majors." Foran also expressed that many



Kelly Foran, Director of the LCCC Greater Susquehanna Center in Watsonstown, PA

of the school districts are excited about LCCC offering Early College classes in the high school.

“We are currently offering general college courses but looking to add some additional academic degrees offered,” Foran added.

During the ribbon cutting ceremony the College received a warm welcome from officials from the Greater Susquehanna Chamber of Commerce, Warrior Run School District, Central Susquehanna Valley Intermediate Unit, Watsontown Business Association, and longtime supporter, Senator John Gordner. Remarks were also provided by Elizabeth Bolden, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges, and Lynn Distasio, LCCC Board of Trustees Vice Chair. An open house and tours were also provided to guests in attendance.



Officials participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony are front row, from left, Rosana Reyes, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs; Barb Diehl, WABA President; Dr. Alan Hack, Warrior Run School District Superintendent; Traci Donahue, first chair of the LCCC Foundation Board; President Leary; Dave Zartman, Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce; Lynn Distasio, Vice Chair, LCCC Board of Trustees, Senator John Gordner; Sam Schiccatano, Northumberland County commissioner; and State Representative David Rowe; back row, Bob Garrett, GSVCC President and CEO; Dr. John Kurelja, CSIU Assistant Executive Director; and Elizabeth Bolden, CEO, PA Commission for Community Colleges.

SAVE THE DATE

22nd Annual LCCC Alumni Flea Market & Collectible Show
Featuring the HiLite Motor Club Car Show
Saturday, MAY 1, 2021 • 8 AM - 2 PM, Main Campus, Nanticoke
For more information visit www.luzerne.edu/alumni/fleamarket

7th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament
Monday, May 24, 2021 with a Shot-Gun Start as noon
Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club, Mountain Top
Captain and Crew Format \$100 Per Golfer • \$35 Dinner Only
Sponsorships Available • For more information visit www.luzerne.edu/alumni/golf

2021 Faculty & Alumni Virtual Art Exhibition

The 2021 Luzerne County Community College Faculty and Alumni Art Exhibition will be presented in a virtual on-line only format on the Schulman Gallery website.

This Virtual Exhibition will run from Friday, January 29, 2021 through Friday, March 05, 2021, and will feature digital file images of original artworks in a variety of mediums created by the Faculty and Alumni of Luzerne County Community College.

To view the LCCC 2021 Faculty and Alumni Virtual Art Exhibition visit the Schulman Gallery website click on 'CURRENT EXHIBIT' between January 29, 2021 and March 05, 2021.

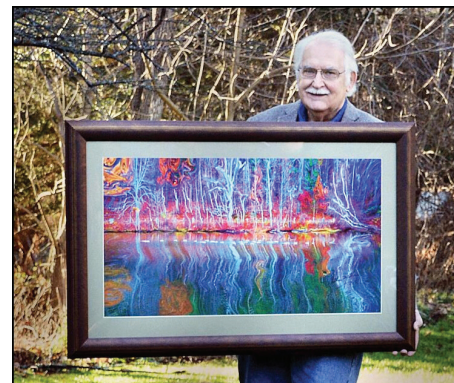


Art Alumnus Work Exhibited in Ambassador Residence

Arthur Miller '69, a graduate and former instructor at Luzerne County Community College, has been informed that his art work has been selected for display in Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou, West Africa at the official residence of United States Ambassador, Sandra E. Clark.

Ambassador Clark stated that she was interested in works that depict different landscape scenes in the United States and was drawn to Miller's exceptional photography, in particular his semi impressionistic view of Francis Slocum State Park, Luzerne County, PA, titled "Ducks In A Row".

By creating cross cultural connections through visual art, the Art in Embassies program seeks to achieve a visual diplomacy between the United States and its host countries.



Miller's works has appeared in exhibitions including the Salmagundi Club in New York City, Everhart Museum Scranton, PA, F. M. Kirby Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA, U.S. Naval Museum, Washington, D.C. & The Schulman Gallery.

LCCC'S AREI PROGRAM HELPS PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR THOSE IN RECOVERY



Luzerne County Community College AllOne Recovery Educational Institute

College recipient of a \$1.19 million private grant

Last September, Luzerne County Community College held a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for the newest addition to its main campus. The new AllOne Recovery Educational Institute (AREI), located in College Hall (Building Nine) at the Community College was established through a \$1.19 million private grant from the AllOne Foundation. The AllOne Foundation donation is the largest single private contribution in the College's 53-year history.

The AllOne Recovery Educational Institute, as noted by Heather Jones, Coordinator of Human Services, provides students in recovery innovative and holistic support to achieve their educational and career goals and sustain recovery.

"Connecting recovery with education, it supports the person's overall well-being and helps them to strive to reach their full potential," states John Fabiseski '18, addiction recovery specialist at Luzerne. "Having an atmosphere in a college where you can go and be with like-minded people who are in recovery, supports that recovery. We all need support throughout our lives and for a person in recovery, that is magnified."

Antoinette Sacco, Director of AllOne Recovery Education Institute (AREI), says 64 students have enrolled at LCCC since Spring of 2019 through the AREI program. Students are taking classes in Addiction Recovery, Human Service, Welding, Nursing, Building Maintenance, and other various academic degree programs offered at Luzerne County Community College.

"In the past year, AREI has assisted 244 students through intake, registration, Blackboard Learn, setting up student accounts and other various levels of college enrollment," Sacco says.

"Currently we have 26 new students enrolled for the Fall 2020 semester in the Certified Recovery Specialist diploma program." The Certified Addiction Recovery Diploma program in Human Services is designed to prepare students for work in the drug and alcohol field specializing in peer support recovery. The curriculum was created in conjunction with Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance for individuals interested in pursuing the Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) credential through the PA Certification Board (PCB). Only students who have been in recovery for 18 months or more can take the Certified Recovery Specialist Exam for PA Board Certification.



LCCC's AllOne Recovery Educational Institute provides students in recovery:

- Planning and support for an individualized career goal leading to gainful employment
- Academic support
- Coordinated social and financial support services beyond individual student federal and state grants.
- Child support and child care referrals
- Assist with finding resources on and off-campus, peer support, pathways for entering into the substance use treatment industry, and recovery events

AllOne Recovery Education Institute
www.luzerne.edu/arei
Contact us at arei@luzerne.edu
570-740-0406



Antoinette Sacco, Director of AllOne Recovery Education Institute (AREI) and John Fabiseski '18, AERI certified recovery specialist meet to coordinate student service needs.

SHARING GRATITUDE

*From: "Melanie Domingue"
Subject: Sharing my gratitude!*

Hi Antoinette & John!

This is Melanie Domingue. For HMS105 (CRSII) we have a discussion board question about what AREI has to offer and our thoughts on it, and I wanted to share with both of you what I wrote. You are genuinely heart-warming individuals and I want to make sure you know your efforts with AREI and what you do for us is deeply appreciated. THANK YOU!!!! For everything you do!!!!!!

"The All One Recovery Institute on Main Campus is absolutely amazing. I was first introduced to AREI in the Spring by my FYE instructor and I was in awe when I found out everything that they offer for students in recovery. AREI has many resources to assist students in recovery at LCCC such as tuition assistance, counseling, tutoring, a variety of recovery meetings, advocacy, support, as well as a student center in building 9. At the student center they have a computer lab, a lounge area, a little kitchen, a meditation/relaxation room, multiple rooms with tables and chairs for study groups or tutoring, and the offices of John Fabiseski, CRS, and Antoinette Sacco, Director of AREI. John and Antoinette go above and beyond for students in recovery. They meet with students individually to create an individual success plan, they are there for any questions/help/concerns you may need, and they open themselves up as a personal support system for students in recovery. The compassion and empathy they have is admirable and they create a sense of trust, security, and community for the students in recovery at LCCC. I am deeply grateful for everything that AREI has to offer and everything that John and Antoinette have done and continue to do for supporting my success in college. AREI is an incredible program filled with resilience, humility, and empowerment that I believe would be beneficial for every college to have."



Throughout her childhood, Harveys Lake resident Kate Evans remembers her family often stopping into Dymonds Farm Market Bakery to buy “goodies” as she called them – fresh baked doughnuts, rolls, pies, and cakes. Never during her childhood, did she envision this place would lead to her career.

Evans and her mother, Cathie became interested in baking during her junior and senior years in high school. They enjoyed spending time together trying new baking recipes. Evans wasn’t sure what educational path she wanted to pursue in college. She has a lot of family in the area and wanted to stay local. Evans says she chose Luzerne County Community College because of the low tuition rate and because LCCC is great for students who are unsure of their career path. “I really didn’t know what I wanted to do and LCCC was very accommodating,” Evans stated. “The counselors told me to try one class in this major and try one class in another major. I did and, eventually, I found my niche.”

Kate started with some education classes and broadcast communications classes. Then she took a baking class at the College and fell in love with it. “I’m a hands-on learner, and the class was completely hands-on,” she says. “I started to love the idea of taking my interest in baking into a career.”

Kate joined Luzerne’s Pastry Arts program just as it moved into the new Joseph A. Paglianite Culinary Institute in downtown Nanticoke. “We had state-of-the-art ovens, cooking facilities, and lots of room to work and learn,” Kate says proudly. “The instructors wanted everyone to learn and even have fun.”

At LCCC, Evans learned many different skill sets and was encouraged to practice and try new things. “The faculty let us know if we were good at what we do, wanted us to succeed, let us be creative, and were always encouraged,” she says.

“When I was attending LCCC, my stepdad asked what am I going to do with a baking degree. I looked at him and said I’m going to own a bakery one day in the Back Mountain.”

Shortly after completing her Associate of Applied Science in Pastry Arts Management in 2011, she worked as an assistant pastry chef at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre and sold some of her baked goods at the Back Mountain and Tunkhannock farmers markets.

Evans started putting her baking skills to the test by entering her Swedish Apple Pie in the 2016 Luzerne County Fair Apple Pie Contest.



She won, and finished within the top 25 contestants in Pennsylvania. She also won first place with her chocolate cake at the Bloomsburg Fair in 2017.

Then came the once in a lifetime opportunity for Evans. The Dymond family closed the Dymonds Farm Market Bakery at the end of 2016 after 34 years in business. They continued to run the farm market part of the business, but were interested in renting the space out for a bakery. "My mom has actually known Teddy Dymond, the owner of the store, for years so when they closed, my mother approached him and said my daughter and I are interested in running the bakery," Evans says. "We were told it's a lot of work and there were several others interested in renting. Eventually, the other inquiry fell through and he approached us again. My mom looked at me and said: 'Kate, we might as well do it. If you don't take a try at it, how will you know if you're going to fail or succeed?'"

In December of 2017, the bakery section of Dymonds Farm Market and Bakery officially opened again as "Dymonds by Kate."

"It was scary at first," Evans recalls. "But the people in the Back Mountain have been very supportive and the business has been doing very well."

Dymonds by Kate specializes in crumb pies, cream pies, sticky buns, fresh breads, specialty cakes, and soft-baked sugar cookies.

"Our Swedish Apple Pie is our biggest seller," Evans points out. "We also won New and Emerging Business from the Back Mountain Chamber of Commerce."



So far, Evans' recipes have been drawing in business throughout the Back Mountain area.

"Holidays, especially Thanksgiving, Christmas, and end of the year, are really crazy," she says. "Weekends are busy; people love our hot sticky buns."

Evans says her LCCC professors also taught to try new recipes and ideas. "We started offering old time candy, soups, and my mom started making home cooked meals. It really helps a lot of older people in the Back Mountain area." Evans says she recently sold 42 pieces of lasagna. "We receive calls weekly for her meals."

On the wall of the bakery, Evans has a large United States map showing where people have taken their baked goods. "A lot of people pick up our pies and sticky buns and have taken them to relatives and friends all over the United States. I need an international map now, because one of our customers took some of our pastries to Ireland."

Evans has some ideas for whipping up the shop's online and social media presence. She is planning a Facebook page, complete with short videos showing the bakers at work or explaining a recipe.

"This has been a wonderful opportunity for me," Evans boasts. "Never give up on your dreams. It took me a while to get myself started and I had to take a lot of chances. I want to thank Luzerne County Community College for the opportunity to develop my skills and help me believe in myself."





INVESTIGATING

OUR

ROOTS



"Your life is divided in thirds," says Chester Zaremba '79. "The first third is growing up, going to school. The second third is getting married, starting a family, and beginning your career. And if God gives you that last third, you take it and do what you have always wanted to do."

First Third

Zaremba's paternal grandfather settled in Plymouth in the late 1800s. Not long after he and his brother were born, the family moved to Nanticoke, Pennsylvania in 1949. "I have lived in Nanticoke ever since," Zaremba stated proudly. "I graduated from Nanticoke High School Class of 1963. Right after high school, I was more interested in cars than careers. I had no desire to go to college. But I did decide I wanted to do something, so I joined the Air Force at the end of the summer." Zaremba says he originally wanted to be an air policeman, but because of his testing, the Air Force pushed him toward language school for a year at Syracuse University to learn Czechoslovakian. "The kid that didn't want to go to college," Zaremba jokes. He graduated in 1964, and was then sent to Goodfellow Air Force Base, an intelligence base, as part of the Air Force security team. "I was then sent to Germany at a listening post in January of 1965," Zaremba recalls. "There were different linguists there: Russian, Bulgarian, and German; all listening to passing transmissions. I left the Air Force in 1967 and returned home."

Second Third

Zaremba had been dating Henrietta since high school, and in 1967, they were married. He held a number of jobs, but never settled into one he liked. "In my high school yearbook," Zaremba says, "I wrote my future career would be working with the state police. So one day I told my wife, I have to get this out of my system, I'm either going to do it or not." Zaremba went out to the state barracks and applied to the state police. After his six months training at State Police Academy in Hershey he was assigned to Lock Haven barracks in 1972. "I was transferred to Montoursville from 1974 to 1980 and was assigned as a plain clothes patrol officer doing criminal investigations," Zaremba says. "I was commuting to Montoursville from Nanticoke every day and had to buy a new car every two years."

A friend of Zaremba told him the only way to get back to their home towns is to get promoted. So, Zaremba went through the Pennsylvania State Police promotional examination process. The higher you perform on the test, the more choice you have where to go. Zaremba scored

third in the state, so he was able to come back to Troop P in the criminal investigation unit in Wyoming as a corporal. After a while there, he took the sergeant's test and scored fifth in the state. He transferred to Towanda to be the station commander for a little over a year, then to Shickshinny as the station commander, and then Wyoming again in a supervisory position.

"My son was born in 1971," Zaremba says. "I was moving around too much and was missing a great deal of my son Michael growing up. In the mid-70s, I received a letter from the VA that I still had GI Bill money left over after attending the police academy. I lived on Kosciusko Street, and Luzerne County Community College was right down the road.

Zaremba enrolled at LCCC in the Criminal Justice program in 1974. He started part-time taking a few courses at a time.

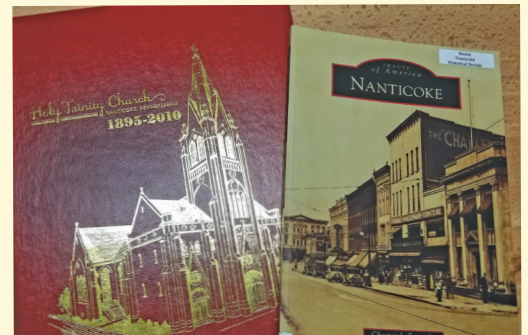
"LCCC had a lot of great courses," Zaremba recalls. "The students in the class wanted to be there. There was such a desire to learn, and the faculty knew the students wanted to learn. It was so different than my experiences in high school. One of my classmates was Gerald Dessoie, who went on to be the Chief of Police in Wilkes-Barre. He took that education and parlayed it into his life and used it in his career. My experiences at Luzerne allowed me to learn a lot about criminal justice, even though I graduated from the state police academy."

One of the classes, Zaremba recalls, involved a criminal justice class where a guy comes in, pretends to "shoot" the instructor, and then runs out. The class then had to give a description of the shooter. "What was interesting was that all "witnesses" gave various accounts of what the guy actually looked like," he says.

In addition to his criminal justice classes, Zaremba really enjoyed learning from his history classes. "The best course I ever had at LCCC was Ethnic Studies with Bob

Janosov," he says. "That class tied in with my interest in history. The way he presented the material on the early days of Nanticoke really represented the history of the Wyoming Valley." He says the discovery of coal allowed for the mass immigration of settlers from Eastern Europe. "The immigrants settled in with their own people," he learned. "The Polish went to Nanticoke, the Irish went to Wilkes-Barre, and the Italians settled in Pittston. The course helped me understand the way we are. They say if you don't know where you came from, you don't know where you're going."

Come graduation time in 1979, Zaremba told his wife he didn't know if he wanted to go to the graduation ceremony.



Two of the historical books Zaremba has authored "Holy Trinity Church 1895-2010" and "Nanticoke, Images of America"

"I said to her, 'I'm 34, a lot of these kids were just out of high school! My wife encouraged me to go and I went. We were all lined up in the parking lot. I'm standing there in the 'Z' line, a young lady comes by and says 'I'm looking for Zaremba.' I started to think, oh-no, they must have miscounted my credits, I'm not going to graduate; some major mistake was about to happen. She said 'Would you come with me, you're our honored graduate this year. You're going to lead the class in and lead them out.' Zaremba realized he had earned a 4.0 at graduation and thus the title. "I remember our graduation speaker was Jessica Savitch, best known for being the weekend anchor of NBC Nightly News and daily presenter of NBC News updates during the late 1970s and early 1980s. They guided me over to her, and we took some photos."

Later on, in 1990, Zaremba earned the Outstanding Alumnus Award.

"My LCCC experience was well worth everything that I put into it," he says. Zaremba was working out of Montoursville, he was coaching his son's little league team, and going to LCCC. After years of homicide investigations with the state police and a great deal of traveling, he was offered the position as Chief of Police in the city of Nanticoke. "I thought it's time for a change, and it's my hometown," he says. "I took the job in 1993."

Zaremba made a great deal of changes to the police department from the technology to the organization of the department. "I had a good group of officers," he says. "A good second-in-command and good detective. I wound up staying there for ten years until I retired in 2003. I spent 35 years in law enforcement and I had many other interests I wanted to pursue."

Last Third

During his time as police chief in Nanticoke, the son of the former chief came in the office one day and remarked about the historical postcards of Nanticoke Zaremba had displayed around his office. "This led to a discussion on how it would be a great if Nanticoke had a historical society," Zaremba says. "So we decided to start one." Zaremba placed articles in the newspaper looking for people interested in starting the organization. "We began with a small group who met regularly," he says. The group grew bigger, amassed more and more items and resources, and the Nanticoke Historical Society eventually settled into a home next to the Mill Memorial Library in Nanticoke.

"We service a lot of people," Zaremba says. "We get a lot of genealogy requests. We had a population of about 26,000 people in Nanticoke during its prime of the coal industry in the 1920s. Many people were born here and later moved away as the coal industry faded. The descendants contact us to find information about their ancestors. We send pictures of gravestones, high school yearbooks, and whatever information we can find. They

are looking for their roots and their roots are right here in Nanticoke."

Zaremba says he still uses detective work in his new position to find information.

"My work at the historical society is similar to my detective work through my whole career," he says. "When we are given a research task, we find a lead here and there and combine all that with research: photographs, newspaper archives, and documents to 'solve' the request."

"This all comes back to my history classes at LCCC and how we all came together here," he says. "Everyone wants to know their roots." Zaremba says he always kept in touch with his professors at Luzerne and sought their advice. "Bob Janosov and Sheldon Speare helped me with many projects, from a dedicated marker for Concrete City, a historical site in Nanticoke; to a book I wrote and assembled about the history of the city. When I went to LCCC, it allowed me to get a different take on the way life works and helped me truly understand the role our history has for all of us. Luzerne was an incredible experience for me."



"My work at the historical society is similar to my detective work through my whole career," Zaremba says.



Hola



Hello

BRIDGING THE LANGUAGE GAP

In 2018, Luzerne County Community College announced the launching of a new Academic English as a Second Language (ESL) Program which offered credit equivalent courses to potential full-time and part-time college students whose first language is not English.

The program is a new English language skill building program for academic purposes, designed to bridge the gap that exists for a growing population of non-native English speakers who wish to earn a college degree or validate an international college credential.

The goal of this program is to support students in achieving the level of language proficiency required to succeed in college and beyond. By implementing this service, the College is expanding access to higher education to many students in the area.

The first group of students just completed the program at the end of 2019. And the initial reports show the program has been very successful. During the spring 2019 semester, the ESL Program offered 16 sections of different levels of ESL courses in grammar, reading, writing, and speaking and listening in Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre. All sections were well-populated, and some exceeded the maximum enrollment cap. More than 100 students participated in the ESL courses in the spring 2019 semester. The data provided by LCCC's Office of Institutional Research and Planning office indicates a 60% increase in the ESL student enrollment in Hazleton between the fall 2018 and spring 2019 semesters.

"Most students who come to us are high school graduates who are capable of communicating in English, but have challenges with writing and handling college courses," says Irena Mira, M.Ed., LCCC Director of ESL/ Assistant Professor and Chair of the ESL Department. "These students are motivated with doing well in these courses and we are seeing a 92% success rate in their retention. The ESL program helps students converse better with peers and faculty to express opinions and share ideas."

Northeastern Pennsylvania has seen a dramatic increase in the Hispanic population around the Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre, and Scranton areas. In fact, more than 50% of the Hazleton School District is now comprised of ESL students. Luzerne created the Academic English as a Second Language program as a way to meet this growing need. "We already had an existing, smaller ESL program with a large waiting list," Mira says. "This new program greater meets the needs of students in need of a more intensive program to help them succeed in a college environment."

Students enrolled in the program take two semesters of ESL courses that include reading, writing, speaking and listening. A third semester includes college-level courses required for their major. Each course is supported by an

Classes are being held at the LCCC Hazleton, Scranton, and Wilkes-Barre Centers during both day and evening.

ESL students had an opportunity to speak at an LCCC Board of Trustees meeting, as well as at the opening ceremony at the LCCC Hazleton Center. Students shared their struggles that come with learning a second language and expressed an appreciation for the Academic ESL Program.

Cheryl A. Lesser, Ph.D., Vice President of Academic Affairs, says the ESL program has a positive impact on college enrollment. "As students enroll in degree programs after completing their ESL courses, the population will have a positive impact on degree program enrollment and retention," she says. "There are clear cultural benefits for LCCC students to share the classroom and student life environments with

students who represent a more diverse perspective. This is an opportunity that best prepares our students to study, live and work in an increasingly globalized world."

ESL student Shirley Mejia is very appreciative of the program. "English as a Second Language is a great program," Mejia says. "If a student really wants to succeed, the program is a good way to help get started." Originally from the Dominican Republic, Mejia now lives three miles from the Hazleton Center in the borough of Beaver Meadows.

"The principal reason I took the new English as a Second Language program at Luzerne's Hazleton Center is to learn the English language better," she says. "I heard about the program here and wanted to try it. I wanted to be able to improve my language skills better so I can be successful with my major." Mejia is interested in finding a career in the medical field, possibly as a medical assistant or nurse. "In high school, I



learned just a little of the English language," she states. "With the ESL classes, I'm much more proficient with the language and I feel more confident. I didn't want to fail my classes because I couldn't understand what my instructors and fellow classmates were saying."

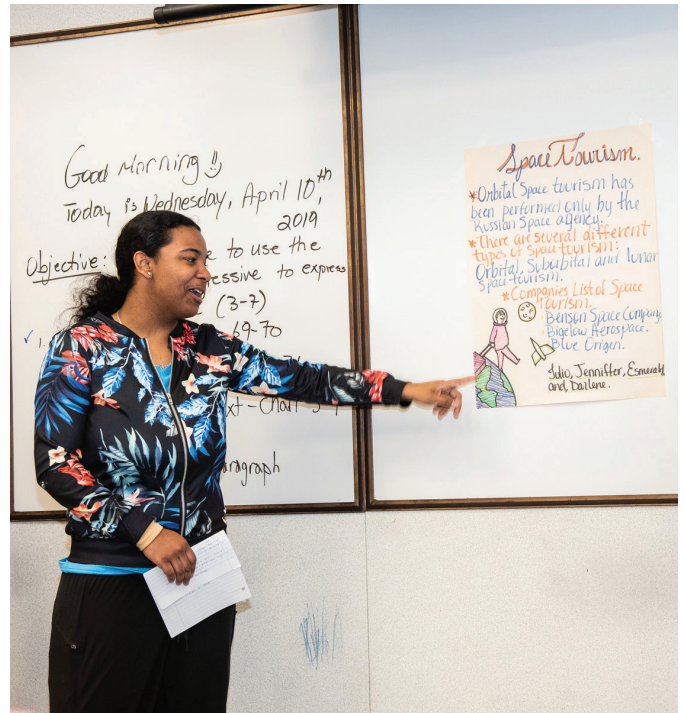
Mejia is amazed at the progress she has made as a result of her classes. "I relate this ESL program to building a house," she says. "Your house needs to have a good foundation. That's what I'm looking for. That's why I'm here."

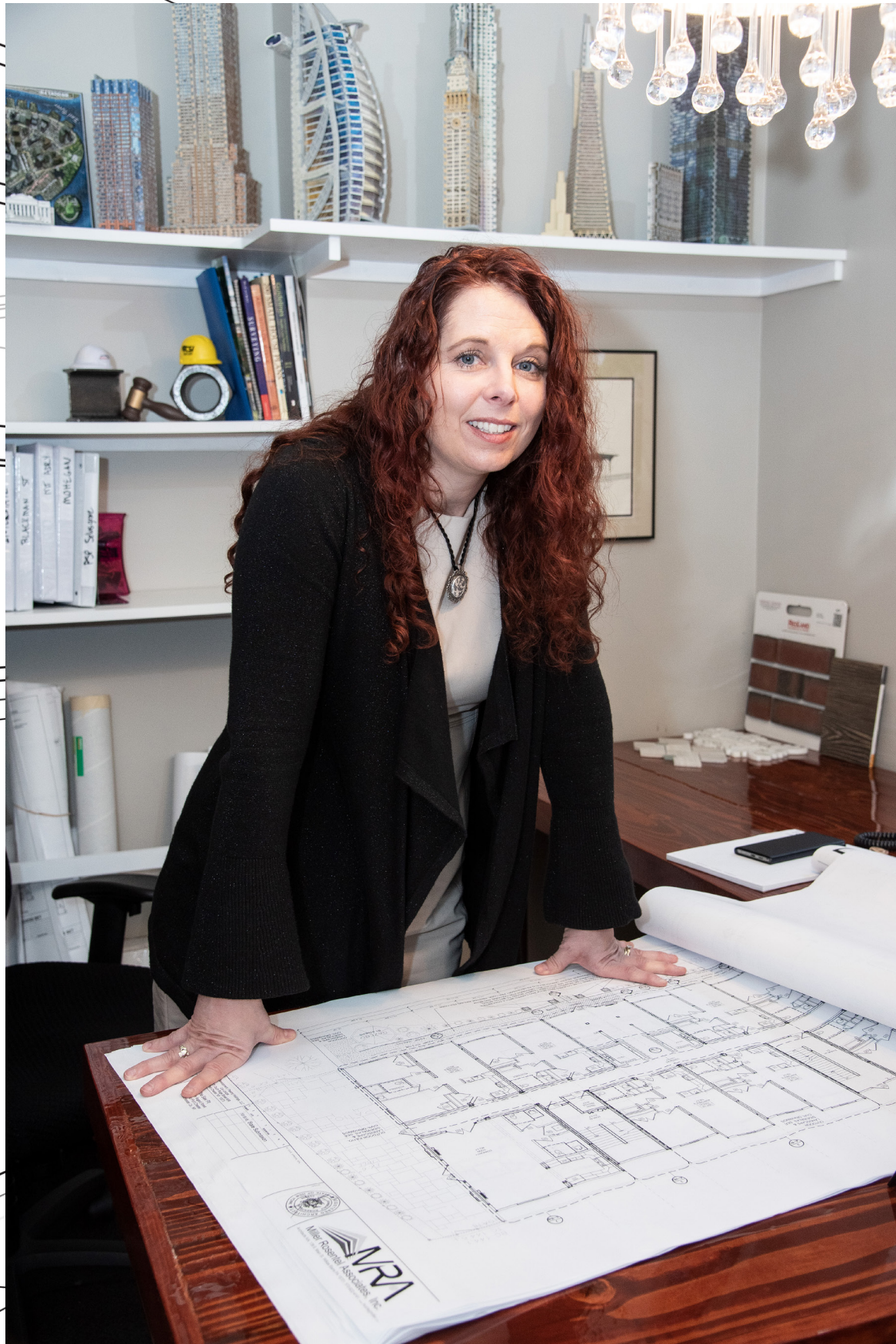
Mejia was afraid to even make the first step to contact the College. She didn't feel she had the language skills to initiate a conversation to start the admissions process.

"I feel this program is a gift," she says proudly. "I am more prepared to go into my classes. I can understand my instructors more clearly. They are always helpful and understanding and want to make sure we improve."

The ESL department is looking forward to the next academic year to continue supporting the ESL students in achieving their educational and career goals.

An endowed scholarship was established to support students in the Greater Hazleton area. The Pathways to Success Endowed Scholarship fund supports was established and endowed in 2018 by Anna Mary McHugh, retired LCCC faculty member, to benefit a 1st generation ESL student who has financial need. Applicant must be enrolled in the Early College or ESL Academic Program. First preference will be given to a student residing in the Greater Hazleton Area.








GOOD FOUNDATION

"I always wanted to be an architect," says Kimberly Rosentel '06. "My dad worked in construction during the day and worked at a factory at night. As a little girl, I would sit and watch him sketch up building additions he was doing for people." Rosentel was fascinated by how her father configured square feet for roofing and worked out the quantities of material he needed for a project. She mimicked her father by sketching her own buildings and houses.

"I would go with him to job sites," she says. "My dad would give me scraps of whatever he was building, whether it be drywall, little pieces of wood, nails and screws, and I would create all these projects like birdhouses, sculptures, and things like that. Some kids liked Toys "R" Us, I liked Home Depot." However, Rosentel didn't follow her interest path immediately. After high school, she married and went to work at Nesbitt Hospital employed as a transcriptionist for a pathologist. Shortly after working at Nesbitt, she had her first child. "While I was at home, we decided to remodel the house," Rosentel says. "I was working on hardwood floors, ripping out the drywall, redoing the walls down to the joists, and I was loving doing it. It was at that moment I told my husband that I wanted to go back to school for architecture." Rosentel says when her son was a baby, she was thinking of going to school, and when her daughter was born she decided to look for a school offering architecture. At the time, there were no other colleges locally which offered the program as a major except for LCCC.

"Luzerne County Community College gave me the opportunity to earn a degree," she says. "I wanted to at least earn an associate's degree." Rosentel attended classes at Luzerne in the late '90s, while caring for two young children, Ellie and Ethan. On top of this, her husband Jack, who had just completed his degree in electrical engineering at LCCC in 2001, was continuing his education at University of Scranton. "We were both in school at the same time, and would swap watching the kids at night," she recalls.

"To this day, I don't know how we did it. I would put the kids to sleep, stay up until one o'clock in the morning, and wake up a few hours later at six. Jack would deal with the kids, while I worked on school projects over the weekend. It was really hard, but I found out really early in life, if you want something bad enough, you will make it happen. If you don't, you make excuses."

The background of the page is a complex architectural wireframe drawing. It features multiple overlapping rectangular and polygonal shapes, representing the skeletal structure of buildings. The lines are thin and black, creating a sense of depth and perspective. Some areas are shaded in light gray, particularly on the right side, to indicate volume and form. The overall style is technical and precise, typical of architectural blueprints or conceptual drawings.

“Luzerne County Community College definitely provided me with a great design background,” she says. “The classes they offered through the program prepped me for my work at my firm and for my licensure as well. The Architecture program at Luzerne is a perfect feeder program. During her licensure tests, Rosentel often came across questions and techniques she learned in her classes.

“The AutoCAD is an essential program,” Rosentel says. “The design classes were also very valuable. They opened up your mind as to how things could be put together.” AutoCAD is computer-aided design (CAD) software that architects, engineers, and construction professionals rely on to create precise 2D and 3D drawings. “When we see graduates from other schools, they don’t have the same design background. They may have the technical background, but don’t have the same imagination.”

Rosentel says all the classes she’s taken touch what she does in her career. “I loved the model building in LCCC’s architecture classes,” she says smiling. “That is a great hands-on way to show off your design.” Rosentel says model building comes in handy especially when you have a very abstract building with crazy roof lines. “I will build a small replica design to play with to figure out how to make the roof work.” She remembers the structures class as also being very helpful. “It’s great if you can come up with a great design or drawing, but you also need to understand what materials are feasible to make it actually work. This field requires a lot of math and physics that architects need to know in their jobs.”

Rosentel had just started working part-time with Murray Jay Miller Architecture in Wilkes-Barre in 2004 while working on her Architecture

degree. After graduating from Luzerne in 2006, Miller and Rosentel found that the state of New York offered a pathway to earn Rosentel her licensure while working as an apprentice under Miller. She had to put in many hours and practice in various architecture disciplines. Rosentel went on to receive her NCIDQ (National Council for Interior Design Qualification Certificate) in October of 2010 and then later completed the Architecture Registration Exam in June of 2017. She is a licensed architect in the state of New York. Every time Rosentel passed a test to earn my license, I added a letter to the ARCHITECT sign on her wall. “It was really satisfying to place the last letter up there,” she says proudly as she looks at her sign. Rosentel is now principal and partner with Miller.

Rosentel has been working toward finding new clients and business opportunities for the firm. “We’re a small firm, but we push out a lot of work,” she says. “A lot of people in the area know us.” The firm’s original focus was on shopping centers, but through the years, they have expanded their business to include medical centers, restaurants, warehouses, office buildings, and residential units.

“I enjoy working on projects that are really unique.” She says. “One of my favorite projects was designing Ruth’s Chris Steak House in the Mohegan Sun Pocono. That was a fun project playing with different materials to create that space.”

Rosentel is also working on a modular project in Port Chester, New York. The project is a 34 unit, 55 plus building, with individual modular units that stack and fit together to create a building. “It’s like putting a puzzle together

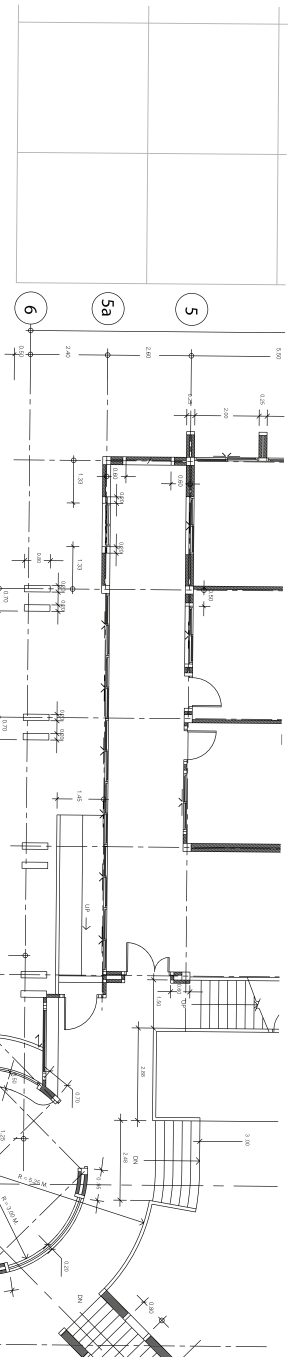


*Top photo: Kimberley Rosentel in her office at Miller Rosentel Associates, Inc. 2020.
Bottom photo: Rosentel as a student at LCCC in the Architecture program in 2005.*

and I really enjoy puzzles,” Rosentel says as she points to the 3D building puzzles that adorn her office. “I had to squeeze as much as I can within a confined space and meet the requirements and guidelines to make it work.”

“This field can be really rewarding,” she states. “I love what I do. If you go into this field you have to really love doing it. You have to like math, geometry, fractions, and physics. It’s not just drawing a pretty picture; you still have to build it. You have to enjoy the art side and the technical side. You have to make sure the structure looks great and is structurally sound. You have to incorporate information and advice from mechanical, structural, HVAC, and civil engineers with your project. You need to know where items like air conditioning units, plumbing, electrical lines, sewer pipes, windows, and where they need to be placed.” Rosentel says restaurants need more air conditioning and pizza ovens need to have a strong structure to ensure the floor can support the weight.

“It’s like anything in life,” she says. “You start from your foundation and build on it. That’s what Luzerne County Community College was for me: my foundation that I built on.”



“Every time I passed a test toward earning my architecture license, I added a letter to the ARCHITECT sign on my wall.”

Adapting the Campus Safely

With the COVID-19 pandemic still affecting the nation's population, Luzerne County Community College undertook extraordinary efforts to adapt our campuses to meet CDC, as well as state and local recommendations to allow the College to offer in-person classes. LCCC requires all students, faculty, and staff to wear masks on campus. The College placed CDC signage throughout the facilities and classrooms. Clear plastic barriers have been placed on the counters between staff and visitors. LCCC enacted social distancing efforts by literally knocking down non-load bearing walls to make the classrooms larger and more spread out. In addition, several areas of campus not normally used for instruction, the rotunda, gymnasium, conference center auditoriums and more, now serve as classrooms.



Alumni Supporting Front Line



Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center

First row, from left, are Shannon Keiser '04, lead food service worker, Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center; Stefani Lasher '19, RN, MS-5 West, Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center; Andrea Kelly '20, GN, ICU, Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center; and Mariah Andres '20, GN, ICU, Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center. Second row: Rebecca Brominski '91; Thomas P. Leary; and Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87.



Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center

From left, are Rebecca Brominski '91; Brian Williams, owner, Grateful Roast Coffee; Louis Smyth, volunteer services assistant, Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center; Michele Yagloski '90, RN, emergency department, Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center; Margaret Ort, DNP, RN, nurse manager, emergency department, Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center; Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87, and Thomas P. Leary.



LCTA

From left, are Lee Horton, executive director, LCTA; Janine Hennigan '97, human resources manager, LCTA; Rebecca Brominski '91; Thomas P. Leary; Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87; Robert Lauer, interim director of operations, LCTA; and Frank Knorek '04, compliance analyst, LCTA.

LCCC's Alumni Association showed support to many of our alumni who work the front line during the COVID-19 pandemic. LCCC President Thomas P. Leary, Rebecca Brominski '91, executive director, institutional advancement, and Bonnie Brennan Lauer, '87, LCCC's Alumni Director visited numerous alumni at their places of business throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. Leary, Brominski, and Lauer delivered coffee and danish from Grateful Roast Coffee to the LCCC alumni to recognize their dedication. In addition, the members of the LCCC Alumni Association made donations to the following non-profit charities that serve the communities at each of our dedicated centers. The donations were made with funds raised during our Craft Festival events: Valley Santa, Al Beech Food Bank, Ruth's Place, Haven Ministry Center, AGAPE, Warrior Run Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Friends of the Poor, United Charities, and the Weinberg Food Bank.



Cross Valley Federal Credit Union

First row, from left, are Thomas P. Leary; Leonard Shimko '69, board member, Cross Valley Federal Credit Union and president emeritus, LCCC Foundation Board of Directors; and Rebecca Brominski '91. Second row: Cassandra Serino; Kristina Meixner; Traci Donahue, CEO, Cross Valley Federal Credit Union; and Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87. Third row: Sarah Tafani '06; Mary Alice Sorber; and Rodrigo Nalmy '19. Fourth row: Sarah Mullery; Valerie Piccola '16; Tina Cerase '10; Diana Higgins '20; Terri Shubilla; and Stacey Kuniskas.



Harrold's Pharmacy

First row, from left, are Michele Fine '08 and Thomas P. Leary. Second row: Bruce Lefkowitz, RPh, owner, Harrold's Pharmacy; Crystal Pajor '94; Tiana Rodriguez '18; Sarah McCann '16; and Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87. Third row: Alexa Read and Rebecca Brominski '91.

ALUMNI AND FOUNDATION HONOR ROLL

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020
donors by giving level

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LCCC ALUMNI & FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS

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Ms. Denise Wagner '13
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Ms. Jean Wiernusz '99
Mr. David Zurek '83



Giant Market Pharmacy in Berwick

Shown are, from left -- Gina Kneeream, RPh, pharmacist, Giant Market Pharmacy; Jana Koval '10, CPHT, pharmacy tech; Judy Burkland, pharmacy tech; Nicole Talanca '16, check-out coach; Chrissy Yoder, pharmacy tech; Rebecca Brominski '91; Thomas P. Leary; Brian Williams, owner, Grateful Roast Coffee; and Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87.



Geisinger CMC in Scranton

Shown are, from left -- Rebecca Brominski '91; Audrey Angelella, RRT, clinical instructor, respiratory therapy, LCCC; Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87; Thomas P. Leary; Brian Williams, owner, Grateful Roast Coffee; Jim Lettieri '16, RT, respiratory therapist; and Wayne Williams '82, RT, respiratory therapy manager.



Wilkes-Barre General Hospital Telemetry Covid Unit

Shown are, from left, first row -- Maria Marianacci '20; Cathy Meyers '02; and Denise Calabrese '93. Second row -- Thomas P. Leary; Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87; Michele Manganelli '14; Lori Schmidt '98; and Noel Jones '13. Third row -- Rebecca Brominski '91; and Amanda Hughes '12.

IN MEMORIAM

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.

Alumni

Frank Baker '83 (Criminal Justice)
John Balasavage '89 (Electronics Engineering Tech.)
Linda Bohman '15 (Hospitality Business Mngt.)
Gail Smolar Boltz '85 (Business Mngt. Tech.)
David Bonner '88 (Social Science)
Joseph Brady '02 (Painting Illustration)
Frank Brazill Jr. '96 (Photography)
Edward Brozena '78 (Electrical Construction Tech.)
Ronald Buchanan '81 (Nursing)
Sylvia Cheponis '76 (Nursing)
Nancy Clarke '76 (Social Science)
Drue Daniels '80 (Business Administration)
Christopher Dawe '80 (Nursing)
Charles Dennis '97 (Social Science)
Carmella Dessoye '88 (Office Information Tech.)
Mary Ann Drugotch '84 (Nursing)
Joyce Evans '87 (Dietetic Technician)
Maggie Falchek '87 (Nursing)
Robert Falletta '14 (Graphic Design)
Anthony Filoreto '79 (Science)
Randy Freas '80 (Electronics Engineering Tech.)
Edward Frisbie '89 (Criminal Justice)
James Gaughan '70 (Education)
Jule Gerrity '90 (Nursing)
Dolores Bruno Gillow '99 (Business Mngt. Tech.)
Ann Golden '94 (Nursing)
Judithann Goldian '78 (Office Information Tech.)
Lonnie Goss '85 (Criminal Justice)
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Anthony Griglock '90 (Computer Science)
Alan Grover '09 (Accounting)
Ronald Heffner '77 (Architectural Engineering Tech.)
Jean Herron '84 (Business Mngt. Tech.)
Joseph Hirko '79 (Nursing)
Joyce Oliver Hislop '84 (Nursing)
Helyn Hodorowski '16 (General Studies)
Emily Price Humenansky '85 (Office Information Tech.)
Carol Kane '97 (Human Services)
Joel Kislin '71 (Social Science)
David Kluger '73 (Electronics Eng. Tech.)
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Thomas J. Lewis (Graphic Design)
Kathleen Little '83 (Nursing)
Marsia Makowski '85 (Office Information Tech.)
Jennifer Malisko '94 (Criminal Justice)
Roberta Malone '94 (Tourism and Travel Mngt.)

James Marsland '88 (Electronics Engineering Tech.)
James Martin '86 (Criminal Justice)
Derek McDaniels '12 (Music Recording Tech.)
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Ann McGuire '77 (Education)
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Tina Pagarelski '96 (Photography)
Tamrus 'Tami' Price '84 (Business Administration)
Gerard Provizzi '02 (Business Mngt. Tech.)
Jack Rosenzweig '04 (Pastry Arts Mngt.)
Angelina Rovinski '15 (Painting Illustration)
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James Ruth '79 (Criminal Justice)
William Saunders '84 (Real Estate Mngt. Tech.)
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Dorothy Scott '83 (Business Mngt. Tech.)
Andrew Scutt '5/24/2018 (Hospitality Business Mngt.)
Mark Senczakowicz '90 (Criminal Justice)
Jane A. Sennett '78 (Nursing)
Vicki Shaffer '82 (Nursing)
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Beverly Ann Smith '87 (Nursing)
Gloria Zatavekas Snyder '94 (Science / Medical Trans. Spec.)
Jolene Sokolowski '95 (Education)
Stephen Sunday '18 (EMS)
Dawn Survilla '89 (Computer Information Systems)
Lois Thompson '82 (Graphic Design)
Mary Schlosser Thorne '74 (Business Mngt. Tech.)
Rachel Tomaszewski '87 (Business Administration)
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Diane Walaitis '84 (Computer Information Systems)
Brenda Watkins '95 (Medical Office Asst.)
Christopher Wickkiser '15 (Criminal Justice)
Denise Ann Yatko '94 (Medical Office Asst.)
Jayme Yesenofski '84 (Dental Hygiene)
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*Multiple Degree

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Lisa Owens '96
John P. Pisaneschi
Stephen Probst

Padmini "Paddi" Rajagopal
Msgr. Joseph Rauscher
Ben Simon
Margaret 'Peggy' Sosnak
Michael Sowers
Ronald Startzel
Dolores Vida
Terry L. Williams Jr.
Michael R. Whitford Jr.

Friends

Phyllis Carlo
Francis S. Carozza
George J. Hayden
Dr. Norman Schulman

In 2020, Luzerne County Community College lost many great friends

The College lost one of its most enthusiastic cheerleaders when Lisa Owens passed away on December 20, 2020. Born in Germany in 1936 to a working-class family, Lisa emigrated to the USA following high school to work and enjoy the free world. In 1975, she and her family relocated to Hunlock Creek to enjoy their beautiful 44-acre property and raise their family. As her kids grew, Lisa began working in a local sewing factory in Sweet Valley where she remained for 15 years until it closed in 1994. Finding herself without a job, Lisa finally had her opportunity to follow her dream and pursue her education at Luzerne County Community College.



Lisa and Frank Owens

Lisa excelled in her classes and during the 1997 graduation ceremony she was presented both the Outstanding Adult Learner and the Outstanding Graduate Awards. She began working in the New Options/New Choices program for displaced workers, something that she knew a lot about. Once a full-time position opened, she worked for many years in both the Financial Aid and Counseling departments. During this time, she served as the President of the Alumni Association and chairperson of our Phonathon. Both she and her husband, Frank, welcomed our Alumni members and their families to their home for their annual summer picnics, with guests often staying until nightfall.

One of Lisa's most notable achievements was when she jumped out of a plane to raise funds for a campaign that the college was

conducting. Lisa's goal had been to skydive before her 65th birthday and she did it while helping a cause near and dear to her heart. Lisa dedicated her finest years to LCCC and her husband, Frank, was by her side. She was the first to volunteer for most events and gave everything 110%. Lisa and Frank both continued their education at LCCC taking classes, earning multiple degrees, and finally graduating together in 2013.

Lisa loved to participate in craft shows, and naturally LCCC's was her favorite. When she became unable to keep up with the rigors of making her own crafts, she volunteered her time to help out at the colleges show.

Due to failing health Lisa retired from the College in 2014 and was able to spend more time with her husband and family. After celebrating 40 years of marriage, Frank passed away in 2019. For those that wish to support her cause, memorial donations may be made to the Albert Floruss Scholarship, an award that Lisa established in memory of her father, to benefit LCCC students with unmet financial need. Donations can be sent to the LCCC Alumni Association, 1333 S. Prospect St., Nanticoke PA 18634 and please note "Floruss Scholarship" on the memo line or online at www.luzerne.edu/givetolccc.



Francis S. Carrozza (top)

Francis S. Carrozza, a resident of West Pittston, passed away June 1, 2020. Mr. Carrozza worked for Keller Industries and in 1972, opened his own company called Interstate Building Products. Mr. Carrozza donated \$1 million to Luzerne County Community College. The gift named the College's health sciences building in Nanticoke in his and his late wife's honor: The Francis S. and Mary Gill Carrozza, RN Health Sciences Center and established an endowed scholarship for students entering the nursing program. Mary Gill Carrozza RN, his beloved wife, was a registered nurse whose career was spent as the director of the surgical recovery unit at Wyoming Valley Hospital. Mary was known for her dedication to her patients and professional ethics. The scholarship endowment was established in 2013 and has helped over 200 students to date enrolled in the LCCC Nursing Program. The scholarship will be awarded in perpetuity.

Dr. Norman Schulman, Shavertown, passed away Oct. 30, 2020. Dr. Schulman started the Radiology Oncology Department at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and in 1998. Dr. Norman and his wife, Mrs. Roxanne, opened Radiation Medicine Specialists in Forty Fort. Dr. and Mrs. Norman Schulman's contribution was the first naming gift to the Luzerne County Community College Foundation, Inc. The gift established the Schulman Gallery at Luzerne County Community College, Nanticoke in 2006.

The Schulman Gallery has been host to over fifty professional art exhibits including works from students, faculty, community and international artists.

These donors and friends will be sadly missed.



Dr. Norman Schulman (left)

27th Annual Scholarship Dinner goes

VIRTUAL

For the first time in its history the Luzerne County Community College Foundation, Inc. Annual Scholarship Dinner went virtual. The Ignite the Future 2020 Virtual Scholarship Celebration was held on October 21st and highlighted our student scholarship recipients, their donors and community sponsors.

“While the evening looked and felt a bit different it was a wonderful celebration of our most deserving students, our extraordinary donors and our most loyal community friends.” commented Rebecca Brominski, Executive Director of the Luzerne County Community College Foundation, Inc.

She added, “With the continued support of our donors and community friends over the past 28 years the Foundation has helped over 5,700 students attain a college education distributing over \$4.2 million dollars in scholarships and student assistance funds. This could not have been possible without the tremendous generosity of our donors and community friends.”

The event was supported by staff, faculty donors and community friends. The evening’s major sponsors included:

Platinum Sponsors:

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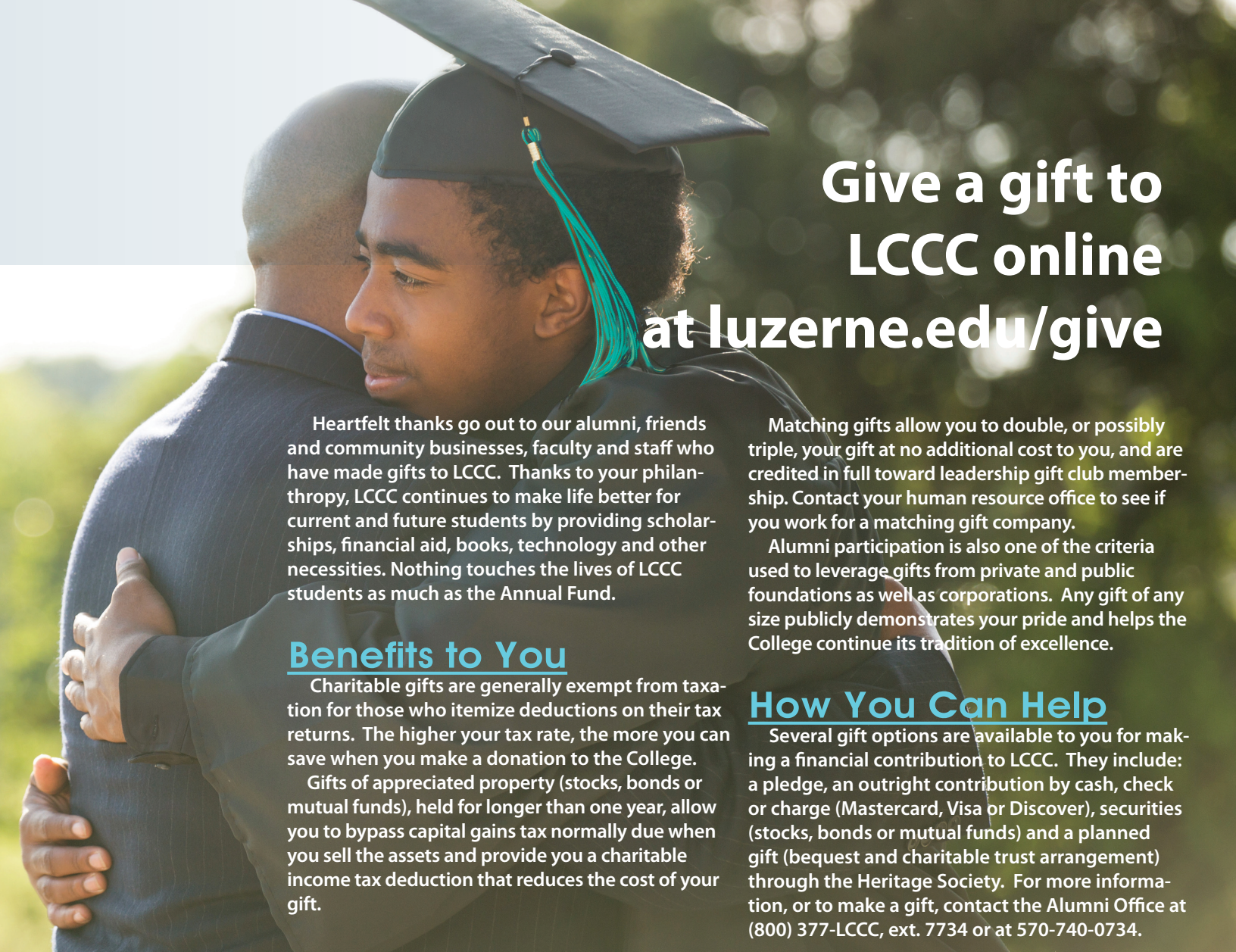


The virtual event raised over \$60,000 to support student scholarships and other student support related initiatives. Rebecca added, “Thank you to everyone who made the evening a success and congratulations to our scholarship recipients. We look forward to gathering in person next year on October 20, 2021.”

To view the Virtual Scholarship Celebration log on to the College’s website www.luzerne.edu/give.

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M&T Bank
Attorney Thomas & Mrs, Roseann O’Connor
Davidowitz Foundation
The Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of
Business and Industry





Give a gift to LCCC online at luzerne.edu/give

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, 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.

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.

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!

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Phone (day) _____ Phone (evening) _____ E-mail _____
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My Story

Ever since I was 4 years old, I was always taking things apart to understand how they worked. Ever since then, I developed a passionate interest in electronics and by age 5, I knew I wanted to be an electrical engineer. After I graduated high school in 2002, I attended Lincoln Technical Institute in Allentown, PA for electronic engineering technology. I graduated in 2003 and worked as an equipment technician for a few years.

Then, in 2011, I decided to fulfill my childhood dream and go back to school for electrical engineering. After deciding to go to the University of Scranton, I knew my best option would be to start at LCCC first. I obtained a list of LCCC courses from the University of Scranton that would transfer into the electrical engineering program. That Fall in 2011, I started my first two electronics courses. I was nervous, but I couldn't let that or anything else hold me back. That was the first of many challenging and rewarding semesters that included Fall, Spring, and both Summer semesters all while working full time as an electronics technician. Not only did LCCC prepare me with a good foundation in electronics with the help of Mr. Eddy and others, I received a comprehensive mathematics education from basic algebra with late Mr. Cappellini all the way to calculus III with Mr. Perkins, along with a good foundation in calculus-based physics with Mr. Hart. I took a descriptive astronomy class for fun and had a blast. I owe my background in chemistry to the late Mr. Hiner who pushed me further than I ever knew I could go.

Not only did I obtain an amazing technical, mathematical, and scientific background at LCCC, I also received a diverse and well-rounded educational experience in many different areas. Mrs. Kovalewski not only taught me about the practical side of psychology, she taught me about life. Mrs. Healey also taught me about life and how to express it through the literary art of creative and persuasive writing. Not only was I able to get over my fear of public speaking,



Jeremy Rizzo '15 in his lab as an Advanced Reliability Engineering Technician at Fairchild Semiconductor

the famous Mr. Ackerman also instilled passion and inspiration like Mrs. Kovalewski and Mrs. Healey did. I learned about how important health education is with Mrs. Holmes, like the others, she taught me how important love is. I was taught to ask the right questions in the late Mr. McGraw's philosophy class and is infectious passion for science and astronomy.

I graduated with an Associate's Degree in Electronics Engineering Technology in the Summer of 2015, all while working full-time. I couldn't have done it without the guidance, education, and inspiration of these amazing teachers at LCCC. In the Fall of 2015, I started at the University of Scranton in the Electrical Engineering program. LCCC prepared me for the rigors of the toughest university in Northeast Pennsylvania. In the Summer of 2016, I started a new job at Fairchild Semiconductor as an Advanced Reliability Engineering Technician performing lifetime stress testing on power semiconductor devices for the automotive market. I'll never forget my time at LCCC. I gained so much more than an education and couldn't be more grateful to the Faculty at LCCC for helping me get there!