

PRESIDENT'S DESK



LCCC student athlete named Player of Week

Lehigh Carbon Community College women's basketball point guard, Casey Rinfret, (Palmerton, Pa./Palmerton H.S.) earned the honor of EPAC Player of the Week after exceptional play in games played against Sussex County Community College and Ocean County College last week. (EPAC is the Eastern Pennsylvania Athletics Conference.)

Rinfret, an early childhood education major, led the LCCC Lady Cougars to two victories scoring a game-high 16 points over Penn State Schuylkill and 18 points over Ocean County.

Linny Fowler fondly remembered by LCCC



Mrs. Fowler is pictured above, center, with professor Melanie Wursta and Dr. Snyder at the 2005 Moon Dance.

Lehigh Carbon Community College mourned the Feb. 4 passing of Marlene "Linny" Fowler at her home in Bethlehem. LCCC president Dr. Donald W. Snyder offered his thoughts on this special lady.

"The college joins with everyone in the Lehigh Valley whose lives have been touched by the generosity and kindness of Mrs. Fowler," Dr. Snyder said.

Linny Fowler visited Lehigh Carbon Community College's Schnecksville campus in 2000 for a conference. While on campus, she toured the Teacher Education department which, at the time, consisted of a one-room children's program with a small resource room in the lower level of the gymnasium.

Mrs. Fowler, who had had a keen interest in educating teachers from her early association as a board member of Lehigh Valley Children's Center, developed a vision with Dr. Donald W. Snyder, president of LCCC, and professor Melanie Wursta, then the coordinator of Teacher Education. The vision resulted in the Fowler Education Center which was dedicated in 2007.

Through this center, Linny Fowler leaves behind a concrete and philosophical legacy at LCCC of her love for children and her passion for teacher education.

"Linny Fowler was an inspiration to us all," said Wursta, now the director of the Fowler Education Center at LCCC. "Her love for children, her passion for education had such a huge impact on so many families in the Lehigh Valley."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



With this week's passing of Linny Fowler, I was reminded of the significance of encouragement and optimism. Anyone who met Linny immediately understood her values – that she always sought to help those in whom she could see a spark of a dream or aspiration. She wanted to provide assistance for those who could only have the opportunity to pursue their goals with a helping hand. Her thoughtfulness and unselfish awareness of the community and people around her were her gift to us, her inspiration to us to continue doing the good work we do here at the college and beyond. We were blessed to know her and to be able to learn from her as our friend.

Donald W. Snyder
LCCC President

WXLV continues Campus Connection radio program, Thursdays

Lehigh Carbon Community College's radio station, WXLV 90.3FM, invites listeners to stay connected with important information affecting college students, their parents, and the community with the recently launched radio program "The Campus Connection."

The new weekly program is connecting listeners to important issues and recognizing noteworthy achievements on the college campus.

Hosted by Ed Rabinowitz, communications instructor at LCCC, the program covers topics including time management, how to select a major, finding a job and much more. It's an excellent resource for current college students, as well as guidance counselors advising high school juniors and seniors.

The 30-minute programs air Thursday afternoons at 1 p.m. The program is also accessible online at www.WXLVradio.com. Past programs can be accessed at <http://wxlvradio.podomatic.com>.

CAMPUS CONNECTION



Campus Connection Upcoming programs

February 14: A discussion on campus security with Rick McDonnell and Brian DeLong

February 21: An up-close look at Distance Learning with Dominic Christison

February 28: Preview the March celebration of Women's History Month with Keren Saltz

March 7: Tina Moyer shares details on the Spring Job & Transfer Fair

Dr. Snyder teams with NCC president Mark Erickson for opinion piece in Call, Express Times

Community College Support Needed Now More Than Ever

More than 50 years ago, education, government and community leaders from across the state realized that the future workforce needs of the American economy could not be met by a labor force comprised solely of workers who had a high school diploma or less, or those with a degree from a four-year college or university. There was a skills gap that needed to be bridged. Out of these basic economic and community needs came Pennsylvania's community colleges - institutions of higher learning focused on the needs of local communities, committed to a high-quality education, open to all members of the community and affordable.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania realized the importance of community colleges from the start and provided major funding to help build the original community college system. State leaders were true visionaries, and their investment has greatly helped the Pennsylvania economy. Recently, though, funding for community colleges has suffered. With flat or reduced funding from the state over the past several years -- at the very time community college enrollments were exploding -- per student support is lower today than it was nearly two decades ago.

While state funding has dropped, the need for community colleges has continued to grow. Last year, 19,060 students enrolled in the academic and career programs at both Northampton and Lehigh Carbon community colleges with a combined 26,000 additional students enrolled in our noncredit programs. The numbers speak for themselves regarding the importance of community colleges to our communities, our stu-

dents, to the state and to employers.

Manufacturing is a good example. After more than a decade of steady decline, the nation saw an uptick of 109,000 manufacturing jobs in 2010 and 237,000 in 2011. A survey of American manufacturers by Deloitte Consulting LLP in 2011 indicated that 5 percent of openings -- nearly 600,000 jobs -- at their companies remained unfilled because they could not find workers with the right skills. The study noted that 74 percent of manufacturers surveyed claimed that workforce shortages and skills deficiencies were keeping them from expanding operations or improving productivity. Community colleges are working every day to fill this need and provide the highly skilled workers critical to a resurgence in manufacturing. This is particularly important in the Lehigh Valley given our manufacturing base. Jobs here favor an associate degree.

The need extends to other sectors as well. Even in the midst of difficult economic times and high unemployment, it is estimated that 1.5 million job vacancies in the country consist of jobs that require more than a high school diploma, but less than a bachelor's degree. As the most affordable and accessible avenue to post-secondary education and training for many Pennsylvanians, community colleges continue to be the solution to the skills gap.

Community colleges are also much more important to students who pursue advanced degrees than many people realize. A recent study by the American Association of Community Colleges found that more than one-quarter of all students who earn a bachelor's degree began their college experience at a community college before transferring to a four-year institution. With tuition at traditional four-year colleges climbing every

year, community colleges have become a wise starting point for many students. In counties like Northampton, one out of every four high school graduates attends community college -- for Carbon, Lehigh and Monroe counties, the figure is one in six.

The evidence and facts are compelling. Community colleges are essential to the success of Pennsylvania and our local and national economies. We are a vital part of the solution to creating jobs and bringing America's economy back.

In the coming weeks, Governor Corbett will propose a budget and the Pennsylvania House and Senate will begin consideration of that fiscal plan. We understand that times are tough for state governments across the country and Pennsylvania is no exception -- however, the Commonwealth cannot stop investing in programs that support the type of education and skill development so critical to providing a knowledgeable workforce. Proper funding of community colleges is needed now more than ever!

Community college funding is an investment in Pennsylvania, and the return on that investment is clear -- community college graduates are working! State funding for community colleges provides new chances and opportunities for people, young and old alike, to get the skills they need to find a good job and to pursue an advanced degree.

As our state legislators put together the state budget, we urge our leaders to invest in the workforce of the future by appropriately funding Pennsylvania's community colleges.

Dr. Donald W. Snyder, LCCC president
Dr. Mark Erickson, NCC president

(Originally published in the *Morning Call* and *Express Times*.)

Save the Date - Clay Shoot

^{10th Annual}

Friday, April 26, 9 a.m.

Register by April 19



For information or to register, please contact Jane Wilchak
at jwilchak@lccc.edu or 610-799-1929.

Keep up to date with
all of LCCC's events on the
"Events Calendar" on our
website at www.lccc.edu

February

11 - New Employee Welcome
through Human Resources

13 - Lehigh Valley Collegiate Career
Expo for students, Holiday Inn,
Fogelsville, Pa.

18 - Late Start spring semester
classes begin

18 - JobTrakPa Health Technology
Specialist class

26 - Computer Clinic – Repair clinic
for computers, free of charge

March 21 - Spring Job/Transfer Fair

April 4 - Spring Open House

April 26 - Clay Shoot

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