College Now Program Gives Students a Head Start

Noel Albers, former LLCC College Now student

To meet the demands from a growing number of high school students wanting to start college classes early, Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) offers opportunities for students to earn college credit in “concurrent enrollment programs.” One of the programs offered, College Now, consists of students who are enrolled in a set of LLCC courses that fulfill the requirements within the general education core curriculum guidelines and/or a specific academic discipline at LLCC. The courses offered through the College Now program are taught on the LLCC main campus, at outreach centers and online.

Noel, a College Now student completed 16 credit hours of general education requirements before attending Illinois State University (ISU). Completing high school a year early and taking college level courses required sacrifices, discipline and initiative for Noel. Because of her College Now courses, Noel was able to immediately begin taking classes required for her major of Interior Design at ISU. “My College Now experience helped me immensely. I got several of my general education requirements out of the way before going to ISU, and it gave me a feel for the atmosphere and expectations of college,” says Noel.

Being directly admitted into the interior design program felt like a dream come true to Noel and that her efforts had paid off. Her ultimate dream is to start her own interior design company that focuses on environmental sustainability. “I want to create homes (maybe businesses too at some point) that use materials and décor that are as eco-friendly as possible. While raising awareness for climate change, I want to show people that living sustainably doesn’t have to be expensive, and that everyone can contribute to a cleaner and more conscientious society.”

Data shows that students who participate in College Now have a 90 percent success rate in passing their classes, and those seniors that enroll at Lincoln Land Community College continue to thrive as college students. The cost to participate in College Now can be daunting for some. The average fee for tuition and books for two courses is $1,100. Because high school students are not eligible for financial aid, many do not have the resources to participate in College Now without the help of scholarships.

Please consider making a donation to help students like Noel reach their goals without the strain of a heavy financial burden. Visit www.LLCCFoundation.org/donate to help a student today.

"Five words I would use to describe my experience at Lincoln Land Community College are:
Fulfilling, Meaningful, Impactful, Useful, Challenging"
LLCC West Lake Nature Grove Opens

LLCC recently dedicated its newest learning space, 2.1 acres of land at 2321 West Lake Shore Drive now known as West Lake Nature Grove. The outdoor lab adjacent to the LLCC campus contains an apiary (beehives), fruit trees, bushes and other plantings, along with benches.

“This land was generously donated to LLCC by Robbie Robert Jr., president of Robert’s Seafood in Springfield,” said Karen Sanders, vice president of advancement and executive director of the LLCC Foundation. “Robbie donated the property in memory of his good friend, Lloyd Inslee Jr., who lived in a house here for more than 50 years. Lloyd was a great lover of nature and wildlife. In his honor, Robbie specified that the land be used to educate students, to carry forward Lloyd’s legacy.”

The Grove will be used for various biology and agriculture classes. Apiaries, orchards, succession plots and pollinator gardens are just a few of the ways faculty are incorporating this living learning lab into their curriculum.

Biology Professor Dave Cox partnered with local beekeeping groups to establish the apiary and harvest honey. Thank you to the Prairie State Beekeepers, Lincoln Land Beekeepers Association and Steamship Bees, along with LLCC workforce students who have assisted.”

Bill Harmon, LLCC agriculture program coordinator, uses the Grove in ag and horticulture classes. This project will allow LLCC to demonstrate the importance of bees to the pollination and production of these crops. As a result, our students will have a wider understanding of specialty crops and their potential as a part of a profitable business.”

Enhancements to the land were made possible through the Kreher Farm Perpetual Charitable Trust within the LLCC Foundation.

Following the ceremony, an open house was held at the college’s newly constructed greenhouse, adjacent to the Kreher Agriculture Center, also made possible by the Kreher Trust.
A Workforce and Agriculture Career Expo was held on LLCC’s Springfield campus on September 21, in conjunction with the annual lineworker’s safety rodeo. Approximately 900 students from 32 area high school students were on LLCC’s campus to learn more about affordable training for high-demand, high-wage occupations.

In addition to the high-school students, nearly 70 area businesses and trade organizations participated as exhibitors, bringing heavy equipment for a more hands-on approach for attendees. “The goal for the expo was to give students the chance to explore workforce careers while giving employers an opportunity to interact with potential future employees,” said Nancy Sweet, dean, LLCC Workforce Institute. The LLCC Workforce Institute offers certificate classes with convenient start dates that focus on trades at half the cost as private institutions in the areas such as automotive and diesel technology, welding, HVAC, construction and aviation.
Give a Lifetime of Learning on LLCC Giving Day

Giving Day is an event held November 15 designed to engage alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of LLCC to advance the mission of the college while raising critical funding for student needs.

Gifts provide the precious gift of opportunity - the opportunity to innovate and to provide maximum flexibility for the college to meet our current priorities. With your help, we can develop groundbreaking programs, invest in essential resources, and nurture the seeds of positive change. Your generosity becomes the catalyst for progress and creates a lasting impact where it is needed most.

Please give a gift today to give a lifetime of learning. Visit www.llccfoundation.org/giving-day for more information or to donate.

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