From Beardstown, Illinois to Yale

“Find what pushes and motivates you to work hard and keep working hard. If you have no motivation, the work is meaningless.”

Xitlali Montoya got a head start on her college education at Beardstown High School with LLCC dual credit courses that ultimately propelled her to attend Yale University! Dual credit courses are college-level courses taught during the high school day by a high school instructor as part of the regular teaching load. Credit earned is posted as college credit on an official LLCC transcript. Studies show that students who take college-level courses while in high school adapt more easily to college curriculum. Montoya completed 18 credit hours with straight A’s while a high school student.

Montoya set a goal to attend Yale University, a private Ivy League research university in New Haven, Connecticut. Yale, the third-oldest institution of higher education in the United States is among the most prestigious in the world.

She knew that being accepted to Yale would be no small feat, but she wanted to live without regret and set a good example for her younger siblings. Family is her biggest motivation. “I came from a family of immigrants as my parents and grandparents all worked so hard to get to the United States,” says Montoya. “I wanted to show them that all their hard work was worth it. My parents have five children and I want to be a good example for my younger sisters and show them anything is possible.” Montoya is also very proud of her father, an LLCC alum, who completed his degree. After taking college courses in high school, she realized she enjoyed being challenged academically and it motivated her even more to keep pursuing her dream of attending Yale.

Montoya is grateful for her time with her Lincoln Land courses which she says were fun, challenging and rewarding. Montoya’s LLCC friends continue to cheer her on and congratulate her on tackling big dreams!
Scholarship Application Opens

Do you know someone attending Lincoln Land Community College in the fall of 2023 or spring of 2024? Have them apply for a scholarship. The LLCC Foundation’s scholarship application process is open Dec. 1 - Mar 1. More than $660,000 was awarded to 340 students for the academic school year beginning in fall of this year. “With more than 400 scholarship applications submitted for review, the scholarship awarding process can be very daunting but at the same time very rewarding,” says Jennifer Stice, LLCC Foundation board chair and member of the grant awarding committee. “Helping students financially with their educational goals is extremely gratifying to say the least,” added Stice. Only one application needs to be completed to be considered for all eligible scholarships. For more information or to apply visit https://llccfoundation.org/scholarships.

Scholarship Donor Appreciation Reception held November 16

Scholarship Donors, their recipients, and Nicole Pedigo, LLCC alum as guest speaker.
LLCC Giving Day

“Without generous donors like you, none of this would be possible,
- Paige Burton LLCC elementary education student.

LLCC’s annual Giving Day was held November 15, which just so happened to be National Philanthropy Day - a day to recognize the great contributions of philanthropy and those people active in the philanthropic community. The purpose of Giving Day is to engage our community to advance the mission of the college while raising critical funding for student needs. Alumni, faculty, staff, retirees and friends all came together in support of students to assist with emergency needs, scholarships and through donations to the annual fund.

Nearly 100 donors gave in support of students and programs at LLCC on Giving Day. “We are fortunate to have such great donors and community friends,” said Karen Sanders, vice president advancement and Foundation executive director. Many of our alums including those from across the country are grateful for the foundation that Lincoln Land provided in their pursuit of higher education or for their chosen career path. “It’s an honor to give back to a community that gave so much to me,” says Frank Hopper LLCC class of 2012.

During this season of giving, you can provide assistance for students like Isaiah. While not the oldest of his siblings, Isaiah will be the first of five children to attend college. He works 12-hour shifts Friday – Sunday at Bunn-O-Matic in Springfield as a computer numerical controlled (CNC) machine operator so he can attend LLCC. Isaiah’s goal is to become an engineer and the scholarship support he has received has helped relieve some of the financial burdens. “My job combined with the scholarship I received has given me an opportunity earn and save money for tuition when I transfer from LLCC,” says Isaiah. “I am very grateful for the community and to the donors.” Visit www.LLCCFoundation.org to make a gift or view a list of those who have already made their donation.

The Around World Curbside Dinner Kit Pick-up Held Oct. 7

The Around the World Curbside Dinner Kit Pickup event was held for the second year on Oct. 7. The event featuring a five-course gourmet meal with drink pairings is prepared by LLCC Culinary Arts and Hospitality students and instructors. It serves as both a fundraiser benefiting LLCC students and as part of the culinary curriculum. The meal kit is designed so that minimal preparation is needed to enjoy a delicious meal at home and experience culinary dishes from various regions.
Qualified Charitable Distributions allow individuals age 70½ and older to make direct transfers of up to $100,000 per year from individual retirement accounts to qualified charities without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes. If you are subject to a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), an IRA gift can help you meet that requirement without increasing your taxable income. Since no tax is incurred on the withdrawal, gifts do not qualify for an income tax charitable deduction, but are eligible to be counted toward an individual’s minimum required distribution.

Not intended as legal, accounting, or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts, the services of appropriate advisors should be obtained.