An enchanting celebration of student success

The Lincoln Land Community College Foundation 12th annual Gala on May 5 was truly a celebration of LLCC and its students! Nearly 240 guests visited our “Secret Garden” at this year’s event that supports LLCC programs and students through scholarships, emergency funds and much more. Students like guest speaker Samantha Blimling, who received a scholarship for financial support from the Foundation.

Samantha was 31 when she began her studies at LLCC Jacksonville with the goal of becoming an Occupational Therapy Assistant. “While I was pursuing my dreams of a college education, my husband was going to bear the entire financial burden. There were a lot of sleepless nights wondering if this was the right decision, and how we were going to pay for school and our monthly bills on only one income. We absolutely needed scholarship assistance.” She contacted the Foundation about scholarship opportunities, applied and received assistance that greatly helped.

Samantha is facing a new challenge as she fights breast cancer, diagnosed last fall just after her 34th birthday. However faculty, staff and the Foundation have all pitched in to help Samantha reach her goal. She adds, “All of this support gave me the extra initiative I needed to succeed and helped me to focus on my end result...to obtain a college education and move into a successful career.”

Helping students succeed is our goal and the Gala is a true reflection of that purpose by raising funds in support of student learning this year. Thanks to all our sponsors, donors, friends and volunteers who help our students succeed, and be sure to mark your calendar for next year’s Gala, May 4, 2019!

For Samantha’s complete story, visit llccfoundation.org.
To view more photos, visit warmowskiphoto.com and click on the LLCC Foundation Gala link.

LLCC faculty and staff pledge $50K in support of student learning

Another L.E.A.G.U.E. campaign has come to a close with more than $50,000 in gifts and pledges. Thirty-eight percent of LLCC faculty and staff support students through this annual campaign with an average annual gift of $325. Gifts may be directed as the donor wishes to scholarships, grants, or the Foundation’s “Pay it Forward” emergency student-need fund, among others.

Giving really begins at home and we thank our generous LLCC faculty and staff!

Jerry Wesley joins LLCC Foundation Board

The Lincoln Land Community College Foundation Board of Directors welcomed Jerry Wesley of Witt as a new member at a recent meeting.

Wesley was an elected member of the LLCC Board of Trustees from 2009-2017, serving as board secretary from 2012-2015 and as vice-chair from 2015-2017.

He has been involved in public education all his life. Wesley worked as a high school social studies teacher, a K-12 principal and a district superintendent in Witt, Morrisonville and Hillsboro. Following his retirement, he served as interim superintendent for six districts in central Illinois. In total, Wesley served in public K-12 education for more than 40 years.
Smith named 2018 Honored Alum

Timothy B. Smith of Springfield was recognized with the 2018 Honored Alumni Award at the college commencement on May 18. Smith earned an associate in applied science degree from LLCC in 1987 and a bachelor's degree from UIS. In 2000, he became president of Evan Lloyd Associates, a leading architectural design firm based in Springfield.

Smith has been involved in numerous design projects related to education, aviation, banking, office, retail, medical and parks. He is also an active community supporter and volunteer, including serving as architect for the village of Sherman. He has also served on the boards of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Dana Thomas House Foundation among others and committee member for the YMCA Soccer Program, Habitat for Humanity and Boy Scouts of America Troop 330. In 2017, Tim was honored with the Chamber's Chairman's Award and also Volunteer of the Year Award from the Dana-Thomas House Foundation.

During his commencement address, Tim shared some advice with his fellow alumni. “Follow your passion. This will help you stay driven. Always be kind and treat all people as your equal because they are. Your success will be built on your reputation and the relationships you have along the way. Be patient. Find a good place to work and stay put. If you would not have been patient and enjoyed my smaller successes, the opportunity to be a partner at Evan Lloyd Architects would not have presented itself to me. Furthermore, when you reach your goals and have some success, which you will, stay humble.”

LPN and CNA alumni reunion held at LLCC-Jacksonville

Ag alumni reunion set for July 14

Former LPN and CNA classmates, professors and staff gathered on June 4 to celebrate LLCC’s local training opportunities for careers in nursing.

LLCC began providing the CNA, or basic nurse assistant, program in Jacksonville in 1994 and in Beardstown in 1995. Since that time, LLCC-Jacksonville has graduated 1,328 CNAs and LLCC-Beardstown has graduated 274 CNAs. The LPN, or practical nursing, program has been offered at LLCC-Jacksonville since 2000 and has 223 graduates.

A reunion for alumni of LLCC’s Agriculture program is set for July 14.

“Tasty Italia” supports culinary students

Longtime friends and LLCC Foundation Scholarship donors Satch Pecori and Mike Aiello prepared their favorite Italian dishes to nearly 50 enthusiastic diners at “Tasty Italia,” held April 7 at LLCC’s Bistro Verde. Culinary Specialist Sean Keeley assisted the guest chefs.

Our thanks to Satch and Mike for sharing their talents as well as their treasure. The two donated all food and beverages allowing 100-percent of the more than $6,000 in proceeds to benefit LLCC culinary students.

Allen named 2018 Pearson Master Teacher

Carmen Allen, Ed.D., was named the 2018 Drs. Raymond and Ann Pearson Master Teacher at the college’s annual Faculty and Staff Recognition Ceremony on May 9. Carmen has taught Computer Programming at LLCC for 22 years.

Dr. Allen received several nominations from students.

- “This master teacher has given me a newfound (perhaps first-found) zest for learning.”
- “I took a class from this instructor my first semester back in school in over nine-years. She is the reason I didn’t give up that first semester and I think of this person every time I want to give up again.”

Finalists for the Master Teacher award were Mark Hardiman, professor of theatre; Dr. Taiebeh Hosseinali, professor of teacher education; Rich Teeter, professor of agri-business management; and Katie Tice, C.P.A., professor of accounting.

The Pearson award recognizes a full-time faculty member for his or her exceptional contributions to student learning. The recipient receives a $2,500 stipend to enhance teaching and learning at the college.

Your gift . . . their reward!

Thank you to our scholarship donors whose generosity makes a difference everyday to LLCC students.

One-hundred seventy-seven scholarship awards of nearly $300,000 will support students on their educational journeys.

On their behalf...thank you!