



# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Lincoln Land Community College Foundation

FALL 2020

## The BRANDT Foundation Donates \$100,000 for LLCC Agriculture



**Dr. Charlotte Warren, LLCC president, is presented a check by Evelyn Brandt Thomas, co-founder of Brandt and Brandt Foundation member.**

More students will prepare for in-demand careers in agronomy and plant nutrition thanks to a \$100,000 gift from The BRANDT Foundation to the Lincoln Land Community College Foundation.

Two new BRANDT Foundation Scholarships will be awarded to LLCC students

pursuing an associate in applied science degree in precision agronomy/fertilizer or a certificate in fertilizer.

Precision agronomy students historically have at least three job offers before graduation. LLCC's precision agronomy and fertilizer programs prepare students to use ever-evolving technology

including GPS, robotics and drones to forecast, monitor, map and improve yields to help farmers maximize profits.

"BRANDT has been a longstanding and highly valued partner in the success of LLCC's nationally award-winning agriculture program," said Dr. Charlotte Warren, president of LLCC, "This incredibly

generous gift is the latest evidence of The BRANDT Foundation's commitment to our ag students' success. BRANDT continues to work hand-in-hand with us as we grow our agriculture program and prepare students for exciting careers in the high-tech future of agriculture."

BRANDT's support for LLCC agriculture students goes back for decades. For over 20 years, BRANDT has sponsored students in the LLCC precision ag/fertilizer program who are then hired by the company. BRANDT opens its facilities to students studying fertilizer equipment and plant operations.

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## The Brandt Foundation Donates \$100,000 for LLCC Agriculture (continued)

Continuing this momentum, the college is developing an accelerated precision ag program that will run throughout the year, graduate students faster and improve the utilization of the LLCC lab, giving students more hands-on training than ever before.

Agriculture is one of the original programs offered by LLCC and has continuously evolved to keep ahead

of the latest technological trends in farming. The agriculture program offers students a hands-on education in the study of cutting-edge agriculture practices, with excellent facilities, dedicated full-time professors, career and internship opportunities, club activities and participation in national competitions. LLCC students can pursue a transfer degree in agriculture or degrees and certificates

in agri-business management, precision agronomy/fertilizer and horticulture.

“LLCC is an incredible asset for our community,” said Evelyn Brandt Thomas, BRANDT co-founder and BRANDT Foundation board member. “We have long supported the college and have embraced their graduates for years. We know that when we hire someone from LLCC we are



Evelyn Brandt Thomas signs check to LLCC Foundation

getting an immediate contributor to Team BRANDT. LLCC graduates hit the

ground running, with the training and experience they need to make a difference.”

## LLCC Alum Receives Microsoft Platinum Award

Recognized by Microsoft Corporation’s Senior Leadership Team as an influential leader that has surpassed expectations by going above and beyond, Julia Carmody Wort has achieved the Platinum Club Award, Microsoft’s premier award. An honor bestowed to individuals who achieve exemplary attainment and who have demonstrated outstanding business impact, The Platinum Club designation is reserved for employees who consistently perform at the highest level and contribute directly to Microsoft’s success.

Julia, a Springfield native and LLCC alum, currently serves as

digital transformation director, and has been with Microsoft for five years. The prestigious Platinum Club honors the top 1% of Microsoft’s finest employees for their outstanding revenue attainment, an honor that only a select few accomplish.

After graduating from LLCC, Julia transferred to the University of Illinois where she earned a degree in political science with a minor in economics. She says her fondest memory of LLCC is carpooling with Dr. John Roberts, a retired professor who taught history for 48 years, and arriving four hours early with plenty

of time to study. She credits the teachers at LLCC who were so engaged as well as the smaller class size for building the foundation for her college career.

### How did your LLCC experience help you to find your first position or career path?

I enjoyed my time at Lincoln Land which gave me a great educational foundation and the ability to transfer to the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana. The teachers were so engaged and the class sizes allowed for great interaction and collaboration.

### Describe your LLCC experience in five words.

Great, practical hands-on learning.



Julia Carmody Wort, Microsoft Platinum Award recipient

### Favorite LLCC instructor, advisor or mentor?

- Virgil Rhodes’ Business Law classes
- Sue Spote saying “calculus is not a spectator sport”

- Bob Redick’s business administration class

# Kate Volk named 2020 Dick Dhabalt Athlete of the Year at LLCC

Kate Volk, an LLCC Volleyball standout, is the 2020 recipient of the Dick Dhabalt Athlete of the Year. Kate was a graduate of Teutopolis High School and has proven herself on and off the court. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA and received LLCC Presidential Academic Honors every semester, while making LLCC volleyball history. During the 2019 volleyball season, Volk helped lead the Loggers to 32 wins. Her season assist total is 2nd in LLCC history. For her success on the court, Volk was named National Junior College Athletic Association first team all-American, Mid-west Athletic Conference Player of the Year, and first team all-Region 24.



## Faculty and Staff Continue to Support Students During Time of Need



Each year faculty and staff are invited to participate in a little fun and frivolity at the kickoff of the annual faculty and staff giving campaign known as

LEAGUE - an acronym for Leaders Establishing Annual Gifts Underwriting Education. But this year activities were cancelled in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite most employees working remotely, faculty and staff rose to the occasion when asked to contribute. More than 100 faculty

and staff pledged nearly \$40,000 with an average gift of more than \$350 per person.

Since 2003, faculty and staff have donated nearly \$750,000 to help fund projects and programs for the benefit of students. Participants can choose what their donation will be used for including scholarships, the Pay It Forward Student

Emergency Assistance Fund or for grants. "I was a scholarship student myself, and that scholarship money opened vistas on the world that I'm still exploring today, and so I give every year with the hope that our LLCC students can have the same life-transforming experiences," said Joseph Hoff, professor

of Spanish. "It's been a challenging time for our faculty as they have had to transform teaching methods to an online platform," said Dr. Charlotte Warren, LLCC president. "But both faculty and staff continue to give tremendous support for our students through their professional standards and philanthropic efforts."

*"I am so happy to have the opportunity to pioneer this program with LLCC and with the new laptop you have loaned me. Therefore, I say THANK YOU! I shall be the best student I can be. Again, I say thank you for this amazing opportunity."*

Jayme, LLCC digital design student

## Late for a Date

The LLCC's Foundation annual signature Gala event would have been held last spring to raise funds for students and programs. But just like the kickoff of the annual faculty and staff giving campaign, LEAGUE, the Gala was re-imagined.

"We always look forward to hosting community friends on campus to experience the talents of our LLCC Hospitality and Culinary Arts program, enjoy great music and experience all that LLCC has to offer," says Karen Sanders vice president of advancement/LLCC Foundation executive director. Each year we welcome around 250 people who partake in a culinary feast. We pivoted and developed an alternative plan to raise the much-needed funds." The Late for a Date "non-event" was conceived. Invitations were mailed asking people to purchase tickets to



an event that would not take place and to instead stay at home and celebrate safely. "Our donors never cease to amaze me," boasted Sanders. "Businesses and individuals allowed us to keep their sponsorship dollars to help students during the pandemic with unforeseen expenses related to housing and technology. We really couldn't ask for more."



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Be a part of the LLCC family! Help us connect with you.  
Send us your email today to [LLCCFoundation@llcc.edu](mailto:LLCCFoundation@llcc.edu) **and receive a special gift!**