



# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Lincoln Land Community College Foundation

SUMMER 2020

## LLCC and Memorial Health System Partner to Address Nursing Shortage



**Lincoln Land Community College nursing students attend a press conference at LLCC on Feb. 20 announcing a major gift from Memorial Health System for the nursing program.**

Even before the Coronavirus pandemic, the nation was experiencing a shortage of skilled nurses. To address the regional nursing shortage, officials of Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) and Memorial Health System (MHS) announced a nursing education partnership

with a press conference held on Feb. 20, 2020. With support from MHS, LLCC will admit 90 additional students per year to the college's associate degree nursing program, for a total of 215 new nursing students annually.

Approximately \$6.1 million in funding from MHS will allow LLCC

to renovate the west wing of Montgomery Hall on the LLCC campus for a new nursing center, purchase state-of-the-art equipment and hire additional faculty and staff to recruit, advise and teach nursing students.

"This partnership between Lincoln Land Community College and Memorial Health

System aligns with both of our missions: to improve the lives and health of the people in the communities we serve, and to be responsive to community needs," said Charlotte Warren, Ph.D., president of LLCC. "This region, along with all of Illinois, faces a severe shortage of nurses," she

continued. "With this support, LLCC will increase the number of new students accepted into our nursing program and produce more registered nurses to serve the health care facilities of our communities."

"LLCC has been supplying quality nurses to Memorial Health System since the early 1970s," said Ed Curtis, MHS president and CEO. We are excited to now expand our partnership with LLCC to address the regional nursing shortage."

Dr. Warren noted that the quality of the LLCC nursing program is outstanding, with completion and national certification pass rates far above national averages. "The demand from students wishing to enter our excellent, affordable nursing program has grown steadily since its inception."

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## LLCC and Memorial Health System Partner to Address Nursing Shortage (continued)



LLCC nursing student Haley Caise addresses the audience.

The renovation of approximately 12,000 square feet of Montgomery Hall will provide the physical space needed to enhance LLCC's nursing skills and simulation labs, expand classrooms and accommodate increased incoming class sizes. Initial phases of design and planning are underway with construction to follow and anticipated occupancy in May 2021.

Dr. Warren and Mr. Curtis, who both started their careers as nurses, encouraged all students to consider a career in health care and to continue to make central Illinois their home "A vast majority of LLCC nursing graduates remain in the district to work and live," said Mr. Curtis. "We want to continue to keep these nursing graduates in the area by providing the tools, support and opportunities to learn and grow, and enjoy long, rewarding professions."

LLCC Nursing student Haley Caise commented, "I am so excited about this announcement. This is an amazing collaboration of two organizations that are near to my heart. Lincoln Land Community College offers an incredible

education and value. Now, thanks to Memorial Health System's support, more aspiring LLCC nursing students will have additional resources available to them to help them reach their dreams."

LLCC's associate degree nursing (ADN) program provides training and clinical experience for a career as a registered professional nurse (RN). Students interested in enrolling in the LLCC

ADN program can learn more at [www.llcc.edu/associate-degree-nursing](http://www.llcc.edu/associate-degree-nursing). Other LLCC health professions programs include occupational therapy assistant, radiography, medical coding, surgical technology, respiratory care, neurodiagnostic technology, emergency services, fire science and exercise/sports science. More information is available at [www.llcc.edu/health-professions](http://www.llcc.edu/health-professions).

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## Tasty Italia Pairs Great Food with Student Resources



*Gustoso Italiano!* In 2015, community leaders Satch Pecori and Mike Aiello set out on a mission — a culinary journey of sorts — to help LLCC culinary students. The duo shares a passion for creating and sharing culinary sensations from their heritage. Recipes passed down from generation to generation. The two came together on Feb. 1 at LLCC's Bistro Verde to create yet another inviting meal for guests while at the same time raising money for a scholarship they established for the benefit of culinary students.

A world of thanks to Mike and Satch for donating their time, talent and treasure, and to our culinary staff and students who help with preparations for the dinner.



# First LLCC Giving Day a Success

When a student caring for seven children including two family members lost his job just before Christmas, he almost had to drop out of classes. Thankfully, his instructors persuaded him to apply for assistance from the Foundation. Financial aid paid for his tuition and books, but he had no way to pay rent and the utility bills while looking for a new job.

Thanks to donors including alumni, faculty, staff, retirees and generous community members, the student received financial assistance and is on track to graduate. Assistance for situations

such as this come from the Pay It Forward Fund – the student emergency assistance fund. To replenish the fund that was greatly diminished during the holiday season, the first ever 24-hour online Giving Day was held Feb. 25. The goal was to raise \$5,000 and nearly \$6,000 was donated.

According to Shelby Bedford, LLCC compliance and prevention coordinator, she has seen first-hand how the Pay It Forward Fund has helped students. “I’ve worked with students experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault that benefited from this fund, and I honestly



believe it played a huge part in their ability to heal and continue classes,” said Bedford. “I am really happy that Giving Day is supporting the emergency assistance fund.”

Now the Pay It Forward fund is being used to assist students

affected by COVID-19. Many students did not have adequate technology at home to continue their courses via alternative learning methods. Some have lost their jobs and need assistance with rent, utilities and other expenses. Now

more than ever, donations to the fund can make the difference between a student continuing their education or dropping out. Donations to the Pay It Forward fund can be made online at [www.LLCCFoundation.org](http://www.LLCCFoundation.org).

The LEAGUE Grant Review Committee, one of the committees of the LLCC Foundation Board of Directors, met to review LEAGUE grant applications and award funding.

More than \$10,000 from donations to the LEAGUE Campaign was awarded for the following:



- **Accessibility Services** – For the purchase of five ExamReader Pens which allow students to read course content independently without human test readers
- **Health Professions, Radiography** - For purchase of a television display monitor and required components to enhance viewing of radiographic images
- **Natural and Agricultural Science** - Lymph node models for Anatomy and Physiology
- **Health Professions, Respiratory Therapy** - MegaCode Kid Manikin for pediatric simulations

## Faculty and Staff Give Back to Students

This year’s 90s theme for the annual faculty and staff giving campaign, known as LEAGUE, was intended to bring some fun and nostalgia to events associated with the campaign. But even though faculty and staff weren’t able to join together for the kickoff, they still continue to support students by donating.

“We enjoy incorporating some fun and camaraderie into the faculty and staff giving campaign,” says Karen Sanders executive director of the Foundation. “But in all seriousness, it helps raise necessary funds for the benefit of students like Jason.”

Jason, who dropped out of school in the 10th grade, gained fame and fortune as a musician but at the height of his career he experienced a debilitating back injury and was forced to come up with an alternate plan to support he and his 12-year-old son. As a single father, enrolling in college in his mid-30s was not easy but receiving a scholarship meant less time spent looking for income for car repairs, rent and food and more time concentrating on his studies.

Donations to the LEAGUE Campaign are used for scholarships, grants for projects and programs and for the college’s greatest needs. Every dollar donated is a dollar benefiting the students at Lincoln Land Community College.



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