

# March 2018 Award Winners

## Nominee: Dr. Carmen Allen, Professor, Computer Programming, Business and Computer Technology

Nominator: Anonymous

LLCC Student Life and TRIO held the first Don't Fear the Future transfer panel discussion, and Carmen was not only a panelist but also helped promote the event, creating videos and making her classes aware. She was engaged and enthusiastic, and her advice and support were incredibly beneficial and appreciated by the students present.

## Nominee: Anne Armbruster, Student Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Nominator: Claire Heffron-McKinney, Student Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Anne is a great co-worker. She is caring and passionate about helping students. Anne is the main nursing advisor and strives each day to help students reach their goals of becoming a nurse. Anne also teaches College Success for local high schools. Her dedication to helping students succeed is evident. Our office could not function without Anne! She is always on time, is willing to help out and takes on extra duties. Although some in our office would say she loses points for being a Cubs fan, we would not be LLCC Advising, Counseling and Career Services without Anne!

## Nominee: Vanessa Avery, Administrative Assistant, LLCC-Beardstown

Nominator: Brenda Schuster, Site Coordinator, LLCC-Beardstown

KUDOS to Vanessa for going above and beyond when our building custodian had to leave unexpectedly. Vanessa and Gabby did a fantastic job of keeping our facility in tip-top shape for our students, faculty and staff — even during an extremely busy registration time! Thank you for caring so much about the tidiness and appearance of our facility. You are VERY much appreciated for ALL you do!

## Nominee: Chris Barry, Director, Retention/Student Success, Retention and Student Success

Nominator: Anonymous

Chris enthusiastically moderated the LLCC Student Life and TRIO Don't Fear the Future transfer panel. He ensured the program ran smoothly and was as effective as it could be.

## Nominee: Chris Barry, Director, Retention/Student Success, Retention and Student Success

Nominator: Lynn Whalen, Executive Director, Public Relations and Marketing

Your contributions as a Welcome Week volunteer are greatly appreciated. The time you take to greet and assist new and returning students helps give them a great start to their semesters. Thank you for the positive energy and guidance you share with these students and for being an important part of so many Welcome Weeks!

## Nominee: Shelby Bedford, Compliance and Prevention Coordinator, Student Success

Nominator: Lynn Whalen, Executive Director, Public Relations and Marketing

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## Nominee: Dawn Burch, Financial Aid Advisor, Financial Aid

Nominator: Robin Ackman, Student Accounts Manager, Finance

Dawn was alerted that the VA recently sent payment to LLCC for a student for two older semesters. Because of the amount of time that had passed, I was unsure the address we had for the student was accurate and was hesitant to send a refund to an address that had been provided to the college more than four years ago. After discussing my concerns with Dawn, she reached out to the VA, and they were able to provide new contact info for the student. This allowed me to contact the student to make her aware of the situation and obtain the most up-to-date address. The student was thrilled to hear she is receiving an unexpected refund, and none of that would have happened without Dawn going above and beyond. Her assistance is very much appreciated, especially by the student!

## Nominee: Michelle Burger, Career Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Nominator: Claire Heffron-McKinney, Student Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Michelle has tons of energy! She is always running to a meeting or to help a student — with anything. Michelle and Cathy Huffman as well as Mary Beth Ray, recently helped make the Suit Up event at J.C. Penney and the career fair at UIS excellent and well-attended events. Michelle is also a wonderful photographer, and her photos are amazing. Thanks for all you do, Michelle!

## Nominee: Phil Burnett, Facilities Maintenance Technician, Facilities Services

Nominator: Lyn Buerkett, Director, Adult Education

I would like to thank Phil Burnett for noticing that our program assistant was having difficulty getting from her car to our office on a Monday in February when we had some ice. He left what he was doing, approached her and asked if he could walk her in, which he did. I am sure he doesn't feel he needs a KUDOS for that, but we think he does! Thank you!

## Nominee: Laurie Clemons, Academic Advisor, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Nominator: Claire Heffron-McKinney, Student Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Laurie works tirelessly to help her students succeed. From sending letters out about early advising, to reminding them of important dates, Laurie always goes the extra mile. Laurie is also an advisor for BSU and puts in many hours outside of work to mentor and help students in BSU. Thanks for all you do, Laurie!

## Nominee: Becky Croteau, Professor, Biology, Mathematics and Sciences

Nominator: Anonymous

LLCC Student Life and TRIO held the first Don't Fear the Future transfer panel discussion, and Becky not only supported the mission of the panel but created a video to promote it. We really appreciated her support in this program.

## Nominee: Andrea DeRosa, Admission and Registration Service Representative, Admissions, Records and Registration

Nominator: Amy Flynn, Public Relations and Marketing Assistant, Public Relations and Marketing

Andrea is always willing to help. Whenever I have a question or bring a student that needs assistance, she is always there to assist me and is very prompt and efficient. My parents are thankful for her as well for going above and beyond getting my brother registered for his summer class. Thank you for always working Campus Visit Days and getting students through the enrollment process with a smile on your face!

## Nominee: Dr. Jason Dockter, Professor, English, Arts and Humanities

Nominator: Anonymous

LLCC Student Life and TRIO held the first Don't Fear the Future transfer panel discussion, and Jason was not only a panelist but also helped promote the event by creating a video. He was engaged and enthusiastic, and his advice and support was incredibly beneficial and appreciated by the students present.

## Nominee: Gailyn Draper, Assistant to the Vice President, Student Services

Nominator: Lynn Whalen, Executive Director, Public Relations and Marketing

Your contributions as a Welcome Week volunteer are greatly appreciated. The time you take to greet and assist new and returning students helps give them a great start to their semesters. Thank you for the positive energy and guidance you share with these students and for being an important part of so many Welcome Weeks!

## Nominee: Barb Eades, Assistant Director, Foundation

Nominator: Lynn Whalen, Executive Director, Public Relations and Marketing

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## Nominee: Julie Eason, Assistant to the Vice President, Administrative Services/Assistant to the CIO, Information Technology

Nominator: Jill Whitney, Accounts Payable Technician, Finance

Julie is always willing and able to help me whenever I get bogged down and overwhelmed with accounts payable bills. Even though she is very busy herself with her responsibilities, she finds the time to assist me when I need it the most. Thank you, Julie for helping take some of the pressure and stress off of my busy workload!

## Nominee: Kim Eddings, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Center for Academic Success

Nominator: Julie Clevenger, Executive Director, Center for Academic Success

Kim has been a part of the non-academic assessment work group for the past year and has brought a lot of experience and insight to the table. She has worked closely with the group and her teammates to develop a top-notch assessment plan for LLCC Accessibility Services. Kudos to Kim for taking on this challenge for her department!

## Nominee: Amy Flynn, Public Relations and Marketing Assistant, Public Relations and Marketing

Nominator: Lynn Whalen, Executive Director, Public Relations and Marketing

Amy goes above and beyond in creating videos for social media. She has a great rapport with students and involves them in the videos. She also did an excellent job organizing the student panel for Campus Visit Day and speaking in front of the prospective students and parents who attended.

## Nominee: Melissa Franzen, Student Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Nominator: Claire Heffron-McKinney, Student Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

I would like to extend a KUDOS to Melissa Franzen. She was awarded a grant from the Schultz Foundation for Advancing Counseling in the amount of $1,000 to study cognitive behavioral therapy. Melissa is also nearing the end of her Ph.D. program. Congrats, Melissa!

## Nominee: Dr. Lesley Frederick, Vice President, Student Services

Nominator: Lynn Whalen, Executive Director, Public Relations and Marketing

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## Nominee: Brad Gentry, Chief of Police, LLCCPD

Nominator: Leslie Johnson, Assistant Vice President, Student Success

Brad Gentry went above and beyond in helping a student at one of the LLCC Outreach Centers. Brad met one-on-one with the student and provided support to the student to help him meet his educational goals. Thank you, Brad, for going beyond the call of duty!

## Nominee: Holly Gietl, Academic Advisor, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Nominator: Claire Heffron-McKinney, Student Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Holly is our advisor for LLCC athletes. She is always welcoming to them and helps them plan their schedules, which can be tricky given all the practices and games our athletes have. Holly follows up with her students to ensure they have early advising appointments and understand important dates. Thanks for all you do, Holly!

## Nominee: Dr. Ashley Green, Professor, English, Arts and Humanities

Nominator: Mary Wheeler, Adjunct Instructor

Kudos to Ashley Green for making the LLCC Writing Center such an inviting place through her contribution of several large, healthy and beautiful plants. The plants are lovely to behold and create such a welcoming environment for students!

## Nominee: Dr. Ashley Green, Professor, English, Arts and Humanities

Nominator: Mary Wheeler, Adjunct Instructor

Kudos to Ashley Green for introducing students and faculty to a number of enlightening and enriching foreign films through the film series “Through a Different Lens” that she initiated along with Joe Hoff and Paul Van Heuklom three years ago.

## Nominee: David Green, Project Manager, Applied Technology and Workforce Development

Nominator: David Bowman, Workforce Program Coordinator, Workforce Development

Upon arrival at LLCC in 2012, one of the first individuals I met was David Green. It was through developing new career programs alongside academic ones, that we met formally and chatted informally about a variety of past, existing and future courses and programs. David always rose to the discussion, advisory committee meeting, etc. with a sincere interest and keen appreciation. His door was always open, his input greatly valued and his contribution “right-on.” Thank you, David Green!

## Nominee: Steve Handy, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, Facilities Services

Nominator: Anonymous

Steve and his crew are always willing to work together with other departments to get an office move, painting, etc. done around the schedule of the customer. They will do whatever it takes to make sure the customer is happy with their work. It is great to have such an accommodating crew!

## Nominee: Tricia Hardway, Academic Success Professional, Center for Academic Success

Nominator: Julie Clevenger, Executive Director, Center for Academic Success

Tricia has been a part of the non-academic assessment work group for the past year and has worked hard to learn about the assessment process from scratch. She has taken this task to the next level by working closely with her supervisor and her teammates to develop a top-notch assessment plan for the LLCC Center for Academic Success. Kudos to Tricia for taking on this challenge for her department!

## Nominee: Richard Hayes, Academic Advisor, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Nominator: Claire Heffron-McKinney, Student Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Richard is a wonderful co-worker. He coordinates the transfer fair every year, and it is always very successful. He also helps our aviation students out by going to the airport to help them get registered. Thanks, Richard, for all you do!

## Nominee: Richard Hayes, Academic Advisor, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Nominator: Janelle Murphy, Program Director, Radiography, Health Professions

Richard deserves this award for always helping the radiography program with all things regarding program application!

## Nominee: Richard Hayes, Academic Advisor, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Nominator: Dr. Deanna Blackwell, Director, TRIO Student Support Services

Richard participated in the TRIO Academic Check-In event. He provided guidance to students planning to transfer to a four-year college or university. Even as the event ended and he had another engagement, Richard took the time to meet a student and made sure he knew how to set up an appointment to talk in-depth. Richard expanded the network of support for many students today. Thank you!

## Nominee: Dr. Joe Hoff, Professor, Spanish, Arts and Humanities

Nominator: Mary Wheeler, Adjunct Instructor

Kudos to Joe Hoff for introducing students and faculty to a number of enlightening and enriching foreign films through the film series “Through a Different Lens” that he initiated three years ago along with Ashley Green and Paul Van Heuklom.

## Nominee: Ryan Howland, Student Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Nominator: Claire Heffron-McKinney, Student Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Ryan has been with LLCC for just over two years. He has been a great addition to the LLCC Advising, Counseling and Career Services team. He has a great sense of humor, and students really like working with him. This semester, Ryan is teaching CRJ 211, and we are all very proud of him. Thanks to Ryan for all he does for our office and our students!

## Nominee: Cathy Huffman, Career Development Specialist, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Nominator: Claire Heffron-McKinney, Student Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Cathy has been a wonderful addition to our team. Cathy has a great sense of humor and is always willing to help and encourage students to reach their goals. Recently Cathy, Michelle Burger and Mary Beth Ray helped to make the Suit Up Event at J.C. Penney and the career fair at UIS well-attended and successful events. Thanks for all you do, Cathy!

## Nominee: Christi Hustedt, Program Assistant, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Nominator: Claire Heffron-McKinney, Student Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Christi is a great co-worker. She is the first friendly face our students see when coming in to LLCC Advising, Counseling and Career Services. She is always willing to assist students and help them find out the information they need. Christi is also a student and taking classes at UIS, which is a difficult task to undertake when working a full-time job. Thanks for all you do, Christi!

## Nominee: Asia Jackson, Program Assistant, TRIO Student Support Services

Nominator: Dr. Deanna Blackwell, Director, TRIO Student Support Services

Asia expertly handled the logistics for the TRIO Academic Check-In event. She selected the food, ordered the perfect amount for everyone's enjoyment (no more, no less) and made sure that everything was where it was supposed to be when we needed it to be there! Asia also paid attention to details that made the event run smoothly and kept the team from having to run up and down the stairs. Thank you, Asia, for taking care of the logistics from beginning to end, and with an unflappable calm!

## Nominee: Leslie Johnson, Assistant Vice President, Student Success

Nominator: Lynn Whalen, Executive Director, Public Relations and Marketing

Your contributions as a Welcome Week volunteer are greatly appreciated. The time you take to greet and assist new and returning students helps give them a great start to their semesters. Thank you for the positive energy and guidance you share with these students and for being an important part of so many Welcome Weeks!

## Nominee: Nina Koch, Records and Registration Technician, Admission, Records and Registration

Nominator: Stephanie and Carrie, Placement and Testing

Nina has worked diligently on setting up the codes needed to input scores for the ACCUPLACER Next Generation placement test. Her patience and hard work show in how we are seamlessly able to input scores after a student has tested. The amount of work Nina has done to provide such a fairly smooth transition was a lot to ask of one person. We would like to thank her for working so tirelessly on behalf of those who input scores or work with Colleague. The ladies in LLCC Placement and Testing are certainly thankful!

## Nominee: Lara Marshall, Financial Aid Advisor, Financial Aid

Nominator: Dr. Deanna Blackwell, Director, TRIO Student Support Services

Lara participated in the TRIO Academic Check-In event. She provided students with a real-time financial aid status check and information about how to apply for federal student aid. Each student walked away saying that they learned a lot from the session. Now, they have another familiar face in the LLCC Financial Aid Office. Thank you!

## Nominee: Gabriela Montoya, Education Service Representative, LLCC-Beardstown

Nominator: Brenda Schuster, Site Coordinator, LLCC-Beardstown

KUDOS for going above and beyond when our building custodian had to leave unexpectedly. Vanessa and Gabby did a fantastic job of keeping our facility in tip-top shape for our students, faculty and staff — even during an extremely busy registration time! Thank you for caring so much about the tidiness and appearance of our facility. You are VERY much appreciated for ALL you do!

## Nominee: Mary Beth Ray, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Nominator: Claire Heffron-McKinney, Student Development Professional, Advising, Counseling and Career Services

Mary Beth is a really supportive boss and a great person to work for at LLCC. She always listens to her staff. She is a well-liked instructor on campus as well, and her psychology classes always fill. Mary Beth, Michelle Burger and Cathy Huffman recently helped to make the Suit Up Event at J.C. Penney and the career fair at UIS well attended and successful events. Mary Beth also is a drummer on the side! Thanks for all you do, Mary Beth!

## Nominee: Joanie Rogers, Alumni Services/Foundation Coordinator, Foundation

Nominator: Lynn Whalen, Executive Director, Public Relations and Marketing

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## Nominee: Leanne Roseberry, Library Acquisitions Specialist, Library

Nominator: Lynn Whalen, Executive Director, Public Relations and Marketing

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## Nominee: Leslie Ross, Librarian (Associate Professor), Library

Nominator: Anonymous

LLCC Student Life and TRIO held the first Don't Fear the Future transfer panel discussion, and Leslie participated as a panelist. She was engaged and enthusiastic, and her advice and support was incredibly beneficial and appreciated by the students present. She also stayed after to speak with students regarding her experiences, and they were really inspired by her insight.

## Nominee: Phil Schaefer, Professor, Accounting, Business and Computer Technology

Nominator: Dr. Judy Nichols, Professor, Psychology, Social Sciences

You are not only a good instructor, but a good leader as well! Thanks to Professor Phil Schaefer for taking on the role of Faculty Senate President during a difficult time and for providing stable leadership.

## Nominee: Denese Schaljo, Program Assistant, Community Education

Nominator: Lynn Whalen, Executive Director, Public Relations and Marketing

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## Nominee: Sarah Scheufele, Academic Support Specialist, TRIO Student Support Services

Nominator: Dr. Deanna Blackwell, Director, TRIO Student Support Services

I want to recognize Sarah for her contribution to the design of the LLCC Faculty and Staff Transfer Discussion. Sarah carefully thought out how best to address students' needs with regard to the process of transferring to a four-year institution. The event provided insights and candid testimony from faculty about what the transfer process was like for them and why starting at LLCC was key. Thanks to Sarah, students got advice for their own transfer journey that they may not have received otherwise. Thanks, Sarah, for your creativity and thoughtfulness in designing programming for students!

## Nominee: Irene Siewert, Program Assistant, Center for Academic Success

Nominator: Marina Wirsing, Program Assistant, Student Life

Irene Siewert is a wonderful asset to LLCC, and she has specifically been a very good friend to the LLCC Food Pantry (located in LLCC Student Life). Irene recognizes the need to provide food security for our students, and she donates food to the pantry on a weekly basis. Recently, she also donated about 150 bottles of water to the food pantry. We are very grateful for her contributions, and we feel honored to recognize her for a KUDOS award!

## Nominee: Candace Silas, Program Assistant, Retention and Student Success

Nominator: Austin Harris, Student Success Leader

We are so glad to have her on our team. She helps make the office such a fun place to work and has helped improve the program so much. We love you, Mrs. Candace!

- from the Orientation Leader Team

## Nominee: Student Services Hallway

Nominator: Anonymous

Just wanted to give a big shout out and KUDOS to the entire student services hallway — advising, registration, financial aid, records and testing — for all the hard work and extra hours put in to support our students. Thanks for all you do to help support LLCC students!

## Nominee: Tyra Taylor, Academic Coach, TRIO Student Support Services

Nominator: Dr. Deanna Blackwell, Director, TRIO Student Support Services

Tyra participated in the TRIO Academic Check-In event. She provided students with advice in course selection and program completion. Each student gained perspective on their status toward degree completion. Tyra took the time to talk with each student about their specific goals and situation. In fact, talking with Tyra was in such high demand that after the event ended there were three students still waiting patiently to talk with her! Thanks, Tyra, for your dedication and enthusiasm for students.

## Nominee: Paul Van Heuklom, Professor, English, Arts and Humanities

Nominator: Mary Wheeler, Adjunct Instructor

Kudos to Paul Van Heuklom for introducing faculty and students to “Masaan,” a film set in modern India. His enlightening lecture in advance of the film's showing did an excellent job of preparing the audience to view this beautiful film in which characters struggle against the stranglehold of centuries-old traditions.

## Nominee: Vickie Ward, Administrative Assistant to the Dean, Arts and Humanities

Nominator: Brenda Protz, Professor, Communication, Arts and Humanities

Vickie has gone out of her away to assist me in creating some tools for use in student grading and student attendance. She has the forms ready at the beginning of the semester now, and the system has helped me to be more effective in the classroom. With a student load of 170 some semesters, it is great to be able to be more organized, and Vickie has helped me to do just that.

## Nominee: Marie Watson, Student Engagement Coordinator, Student Life

Nominator: Dr. Deanna Blackwell, Director, TRIO Student Support Services

I want to recognize Marie for her contribution to the design of the LLCC Faculty and Staff Transfer Discussion. Marie carefully thought out how best to set up a forum for students to have meaningful dialogue with faculty and staff about the transfer process. She also curated a space in which participants could engage comfortably and even passersby were able to glean that assisting students with their transfer process is a priority. The event provided insights and candid testimony from faculty about what the transfer process was like for them and why starting at LLCC was key. Thanks to Marie, students got advice for their own transfer journey that they may not have received otherwise. Thanks, Marie, for your creativity and thoughtfulness in designing programming for students!

## Nominee: Thom Whalen, Professor, Art, Arts and Humanities

Nominator: Anonymous

LLCC Student Life and TRIO held the first Don't Fear the Future transfer panel discussion, and Thom participated as a panelist. He was engaged and enthusiastic, and his advice and support were incredibly beneficial and appreciated by the students present. He also stayed after to speak with students regarding his experiences, and they were really inspired by his insight.

## Nominee: Kimberly Young, Program Assistant, Nursing, Health Professions

Nominator: Lynn Whalen, Executive Director, Public Relations and Marketing

Your contributions as a Welcome Week volunteer are greatly appreciated. The time you take to greet and assist new and returning students helps give them a great start to their semesters. Thank you for the positive energy and guidance you share with these students!