

Lincoln Land Community College



February 2023 Award Winners

Nominee: ADN Nursing Faculty

Nominator: Dr. Sonja Spencer, Associate Dean, Nursing

I want to thank all of you for your dedication to the students and the program. There have been many clinical and lab needs this semester, and you have stepped up to help out. I am so lucky to work with such a great group of people! Thank you for being YOU!

Nominee: Kimberly Alexander, Accessibility Specialist

Nominator: Kim Eddings, Director, Accessibility Services

Kim Alexander has spearheaded two initiatives within Accessibility Services, and we could not be more appreciative! Kim always keeps the students in the forefront. Thank you!

Nominee: Erik Bartholomew, Peer Tutor

Nominator: Jason Howell, Student

He helped me through a difficult time in a class via tutoring when I was struggling with different programming languages. Erik was very patient and understanding, yet thorough and concise enough to help me understand the subject more clearly. He is an asset to LLCC.

Nominee: Lucinda Caughey, Associate Professor, Computer Science

Nominator: Dr. Scott Searcy, Dean, Math and Computer Science

Lucinda worked behind the scenes to mentor our new coordinator for the Academic Challenge. Lucinda was very responsive in answering questions and identifying potential challenges in sponsoring this event.

Nominee: Laurie Clemons, Student Success Coach

Nominator: Claire Heffron-McKinney, Student Success Coach

Laurie took on the role of Interim Director from the end of September through the start of February. She did a wonderful job in keeping us all on track, helping us through the transition and always keeping students in the forefront. We had many changes as we navigated a move to Millennium Center, trained two new coaches and the January rush as we returned from winter break. We could not have done it without Laurie!

Nominee: Dr. Justin Cobb, Assistant Professor, Anatomy and Physiology

Nominator: Brent Todd, Dean, Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Dr. Cobb organized the 2023 Regional Competition of the ACES Academic Challenge, bringing nearly 200 bright and talented high school students to campus. This was Dr. Cobb's first year organizing the event. He did an excellent job!

Nominee: Roderic Cook, Grounds Maintenance Worker

Nominator: Anonymous

Roderic goes above and beyond to make sure the grounds in front of Mason Hall and the linemen's area are kept in great condition. Thank you for all your hard work! It's much appreciated!

Nominee: Caitlin Davis, Student Success Coach

Nominator: Claire Heffron-McKinney, Student Success Coach

Caitlin is one of our new success coaches. She has jumped right in to learn the ropes and helped out at the front desk several times. We are happy to have Caitlin join us.

Nominee: Jeff Eason, Help Desk Specialist I

Nominator: Rachel Duff, Campus Health and Wellness Coordinator

Jeff is always very helpful with any IT needs. Students attending an evening course were taking a final exam, and one student developed an issue logging into Canvas. Jeff responded very quickly to the request for assistance and offered to resolve the issue. His kindness and positive attitude are always noticed and appreciated. Thanks, Jeff!

Nominee: Morgan Elliott, Student Success Coach

Nominator: Claire Heffron-McKinney, Student Success Coach

Morgan is one of our new success coaches. She has jumped right in to learn the ropes and helped out at the front desk several times. We are happy to have Morgan join us.

Nominee: Pawfficer Ember, LLCC Police Department

Nominator: Anonymous

Pawfficer Ember has gone above and beyond in ensuring we all have opportunities to meet her, give her pets and the occasional treat. Her sweet demeanor makes it impossible to walk past her without stopping to give her a "scritch" or two. She is an adorable team player!

Nominee: Sarah Goodman, Accountant

Nominator: Shanda Byer, Interim Vice President, Student Services

Sarah has proven to be a valuable resource as we've worked through the inaugural year of the PATH grant. Her guidance on grant procedures and her knowledge of working with the state has been crucial to setting up processes for grant management. She has been enthusiastically willing to support the PATH team, and we are grateful.

Nominee: Casey Hoenes, Assistant Professor, Nursing

Nominator: Dr. Sonja Spencer, Associate Dean, Nursing

A big thank you to Casey for helping out in the evening program this semester. This is truly appreciated and so are you!

Nominee: Dee Hood, Assistant Professor, Nursing

Nominator: Dr. Sonja Spencer, Associate Dean, Nursing

Dee always steps up to help out in any way, even when she wears herself thin! She puts the students' needs before her own and makes herself available for any assistance she may provide. A truly remarkable person and I'm proud to have her as part of the nursing team!

Nominee: Rashawn Jones, Program Navigator, PATH

Nominator: Shanda Byer, Interim Vice President, Student Services

Rashawn hit the ground running in his new role as PATH Program Navigator. He came into the role in a time of chaos as the semester was ramping up and began learning the job on the fly, all while still assisting Registration. In the midst of welcoming his new baby, he still has not lost sight of student needs, often responding to emails late at night and sending texts to check on student concerns. His dedication to PATH and to LLCC is impressive.

Nominee: Brandon Lewis, Program Navigator, WEI

Nominator: Leigh Giles-Brown, Program Director, Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Brandon did an excellent job facilitating a panel discussion on microaggressions and the Black family experience. He mentioned that he was nervous and had never conducted a panel discussion before. He did a great job stepping out of his comfort zone and provided an engaging program. I truly appreciate him stretching his wings and helping connect us to each other! Thanks, Brandon and keep up the good work!

Nominee: Taylor Littig, Student Success Coach

Nominator: Dr. Sonja Spencer, Associate Dean, Nursing

Taylor goes above and beyond for our students. She is an integral part of this college, and I don't know what the students, or I would do without her.

Nominee: Becky Miller, Professor, Psychology

Nominator: Anonymous

Professor Miller continues to innovate, teach and lead in a positive manner. Her attitude is contagious and pushes everyone to think about how they can improve the student experience at LLCC.

Nominee: Alison Mills, Director, Financial Aid

Nominator: Shanda Byer, Interim Vice President, Student Services

Alison has been an enormous support to the PATH program. As the PATH team learned the ins and outs of awarding stipends, Alison has made countless changes to ensure that student aid is posted correctly. In true Alison-fashion, she has been patient as she's explained the federal guidelines and keeps LLCC in compliance. Her mentorship to those in the program is greatly appreciated.

Nominee: Ann Neilson, Assistant Professor, Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Nominator: Leigh Giles-Brown, Program Director, Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Ann Neilson has been an amazing team member from the moment she joined the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program as faculty. She supports program requirements and stays steady through needed updates and changes. She maintains good rapport with our clinical community, students and graduates. She has been a tremendous help with the clinical portions of the DMS program accreditation self-study we recently finished. I am grateful to work with Ann!

Nominee: Crystal Norris, Administrative Assistant to the Dean, Social Sciences and Business

Nominator: Becky Miller, Professor, Psychology

Crystal went above and beyond in helping a student get logged into their remote class. She not only helped get them logged in and made sure they knew how to work Zoom, but also gave up her office during class time so the student would feel confident in the class format. Thank you SO much for all you do for our students!

Nominee: Erin Pearl, Program Assistant, PATH

Nominator: Shanda Byer, Interim Vice President, Student Services

Erin has done an amazing job working with the PATH program. Through the start of a busy semester and changes in leadership of the grant, Erin comes in each day ready to face whatever challenges come her way. She has given voice to student concerns and frustrations and, even being new in her role, has helped to shape processes for successful grant management.

Nominee: Erin Pearl, Program Assistant, PATH

Nominator: Candace Silas, Director, WEI

Erin joined the PATH team and jumped right in! Her sincere eagerness to do a great job and willingness to help our students goes a long way. Keep up the good work Erin and keep that bright smile. You are much appreciated!

Nominee: Samuel Penning, System Administrator III

Nominator: Anonymous

Samuel worked to find a solution to a pressing IT problem right before classes started. He took time to listen to faculty, then find and fix the issue quickly. This made all the difference.

Nominee: Samuel Penning, System Administrator III

Nominator: Anonymous

Samuel has made outstanding contributions to LLCC with his dedication, hard work and commitment. He consistently goes above and beyond in his role – demonstrating a strong work ethic and positive attitude that sets an example for others to follow. His contributions have been vital to the success of IT projects and have played a significant role in keeping the LLCC ship afloat. He deserves all the credit and recognition for his efforts.

Nominee: Amanda Roche, Professor, Nursing

Nominator: Dr. Sonja Spencer, Associate Dean, Nursing

I cannot thank Amanda enough for all she has assisted with this semester. In addition to taking on the coordinating role of the LPN to ADN program, Amanda has also agreed to work with the upcoming SC Cohort in the evenings. She has made a lot of great changes and is an amazing role model for our nursing students. I'm proud to work alongside her!

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

Nominator: Anonymous

Irene brings a pleasant smile and cheerful voice to each person that she encounters in our department. I marvel at how joyful she sounds as she talks with students on the phone. She has remained her calm, positive self throughout many changes in our work area. Thank you for being our go-to person when we need assistance. You are appreciated!

Nominee: Calvin Walter, Course Materials Coordinator

Nominator: Julie Brennan, Assistant Professor, Computer Science

As a new faculty member, I requested a lot of explanation and guidance in textbook adoptions from Calvin Walter. With pleasant willingness to accommodate my needs, he provided the utmost service and care to tend to my and my department's fluctuating requests, even if they were overdue or last minute. Thank you, Calvin, for taking the extra time to ensure my and our department's needs are met with grace and satisfaction. You are a valuable asset to LLCC.

Nominee: Lynn Whalen, Chief Communicators Officer

Nominator: Anonymous

The Lincoln Lecture with Bob Bunn was very well done! Kudos to Lynn and the PRM team for that event and helping all of us with marketing the cool things happening at LLCC!

Nominee: Kim Wilson, Recruitment Specialist

Nominator: Anonymous

Kim is an incredibly hard worker. Not only does she help students get started at LLCC, but she connects and stays in touch with the students she recruits throughout their time here. She advocates for her students and will drop everything to help someone when they need it. On top of all that, she is heavily involved on campus and is helping to create meaningful change. She truly has students' best interests at heart and is a fantastic asset to the college.

Nominee: Carley Young, Student Success Coach

Nominator: Dr. Sonja Spencer, Associate Dean, Nursing

Carley is a prime example of an exemplary employee. She provides our students with everything they need from enrollment to graduation. I am thankful to have the opportunity to work closely with her.