

Lincoln Land Community College



## May 2023 Award Winners

**Nominee: Laura Anderson and Dr. Natasha Casey**

Nominator: Laurie Lewis-Fritz, Assistant Professor, Music

Their work on the Give InKind website and the fundraiser means so much to me and my family. We are so grateful for the compassion shown to us by the LLCC community. We will never be able to adequately express our gratitude.

**Nominee: Lisa Avendano, Writing Center Specialist**

Nominator: Dr. Natasha Casey, Assistant Professor, Communication

Lisa worked tirelessly with my public speaking classes all year helping them craft stronger thesis statements and write effective outlines. When I asked (last minute) if she could visit my College Now class at Beardstown High School, she didn't hesitate. I appreciate her dedication and talent in helping students and her collaborative attitude.

**Nominee: Nikki Baker, Compliance and Prevention Coordinator**

Nominator: Alison Mills, Director, Financial Aid

During our recertification process to remain eligible for TIV funding, we had to scramble to ensure our website was updated with information to remain compliant with federal regulations. Given a short completion time frame, Nikki went out of her way to coordinate with Leslie Johnson to create verbiage for a webpage that met federal requirements. Thank you, Nikki!

**Nominee: Nikki Baker, April Bergman and Caitlin Davis**

Nominator: Lindsey Weihmeir, Admission Specialist

April, Caitlin and Nikki created a beautiful, relaxing and much needed update to the lactation room in Millennium Center for students and staff.

**Nominee: Debbie Bell, Custodial Operations Supervisor**

Nominator: Dean Butzow, Professor, Geography

A huge thank you to Debbie Bell for helping plan and set up for the Illinois Geographical Society's annual banquet and conference held at LLCC. It was a pleasure working with Debbie throughout the planning process. She was always positive and offered great advice. She did the same thing for the National Weather Service Spotter Training class held in March. Thanks, Debbie, I appreciate all of your help!

**Nominee: Dr. Barb Bernardi, Professor, Biology**

Nominator: Anonymous

Professor Bernardi goes above and beyond for the students she teaches. She is dedicated to her students' educations and futures. She has been influential in many students' lives. She helps students in her courses as well as after they graduate.

**Nominee: Aleshia Bunting, Accounting Technician**

Nominator: Erica Beeman, Accounting Technician, Finance

I just recently started working at LLCC, and Aleshia has been really wonderful in welcoming me to the team and has really helped in my training for this new position. She is very knowledgeable and patient, and she has taken the time to teach me Colleague, along with all the departmental procedures. I really appreciate her!

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

Nominator: Alison Mills, Director, Financial Aid

The VA Administration has recently transitioned from VA ONCE to Enrollment Management System to certify VA benefits. This process has been long and included many training sessions. Dawn has implemented this system change by herself through trainings and many calls to the VA helpline and other VA certifying officials to ensure our VA students don't have a lapse in benefits and that we stay compliant with VA regulations.

**Nominee: Christina Courier, Program Assistant, Aviation**

Nominator: Arnold Tullis, Aviation Mechanics Training Specialist

Christina's hard work and dedication to our program are invaluable to the success of our students and our department. I can't say how much I appreciate the work she does for the instructors and director.

**Nominee: Cody Cox, Research and Analytics Associate II**

Nominator: Anonymous

Cody was invited to attend the social sciences and business department meeting on Professional Development Day for a presentation on enrollment trends. I thought he did a fantastic job presenting the materials and answering all our questions. We appreciated him taking the time to prepare the information and present at our meeting. Thank you, Cody!

**Nominee: Dave Cox, Professor, Biology**

Nominator: Anonymous

Dave always goes above and beyond for current and former students. His dedication in the classroom is shown through his teaching and willingness to help students when they don't understand a concept. He is always there to bring real world examples to classroom discussions to help students understand certain topics. His passion has positively shaped several students' career paths after taking his classes. Thank you for all you do, Dave!

**Nominee: Alex Dean, Enrollment Services Representative**

Nominator: Shelly Smothers, Student Enrollment Advisor, Student Success

Alex recently filled in for me to put on two Reg Prep events for area high schools. He was eager to help and jumped right in to put on two great events. His willingness to help and his passion for serving students make him an awesome coworker, and I appreciated his assistance very much!

**Nominee: Danny Dugger, Maintenance Technician**

Nominator: Bree McClenning, Education Services Representative, LLCC-Beardstown

Kudos to Danny for being a great maintenance person at our Outreach Center in Beardstown! He is not only a fabulous handyman, but he also goes above and beyond when requested to do anything with a positive attitude. Danny always greets our students and makes an effort to make them feel welcome. He has a heart of gold and enjoys the work that he does. I am so sad that he is retiring and will miss him a ton! Thank you, Danny, for being awesome!

**Nominee: Facilities Services**

Nominator: Anonymous

A great big job well done to the LLCC Facilities team involved in Professional Development Day! There were a lot of moving parts to that day, and it couldn't have happened without the hard work and effort shown by this department. We notice you all and everything you're doing behind the scenes to make things happen around campus!

**Nominee: Facilities Services**

Nominator: April Bergman, Program Assistant, Student Success

Caitlin Davis, Nikki Baker and I have been working on redecorating the Lactation Room and making it more a comfortable and restful place for nursing parents. We've had some pretty big asks, and David Bretscher, Debbie Bell and their team have really gone over and above for us. We thank them for helping us behind the scenes.

**Nominee: Daniel Fleming, Chemical Hygiene Officer & Lab Supervisor**

Nominator: Anonymous

Since Daniel started at LLCC, he has been an invaluable resource to the department. He is always willing to help when needed. He approaches his job with seriousness and always manages to throw some humor in there as well. Thank you for all you do, Daniel!

**Nominee: Bobbi Henry, Research and Analytics Manager**

Nominator: Anonymous

Bobbi is always quietly working behind the scenes on projects for folks across campus. It is only when you start talking to others about your requests that you realize how much she has done for so many. Recently she helped make a seamless transition of a new report that has just been developed but is very important. Even when there is an issue, she just jumps in and works to make corrections. She is such an incredible asset at LLCC!

**Nominee: Raven Horsthemke, DMS Adjunct Instructor**

Nominator: Leigh Giles-Brown, Program Director, DMS

When debriefing our students on their one-day clinical observation, they all agreed that they felt well-prepared. One student said she did not see anything that she could not handle or did not understand about how the sonographers scanned. She got the chance to scan a patient and "felt Ms. Horsthemke had prepared all of the DMS students very well in their lab classes." Thank you, Raven, for doing a great job developing the students' scanning skills!

**Nominee: Bridgette Hudson, Instructor, Nursing**

Nominator: Jeni Noble, Assistant Professor, Nursing

I want to thank her for being my mentor. I could not have survived without her knowledge, patience and feedback!

**Nominee: Carrie Jacobs, Administrative Assistant to the Dean, Health Professions**

Nominator: Jeni Noble, Assistant Professor, Nursing

I cannot say thank you enough to Carrie! She helped me transition into my new role this year, and I cannot thank you enough for putting up with all my questions. She always shows so much joy and care. Thanks, Carrie, for all you do!

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

Nominator: Alison Mills, Director, Financial Aid

During our recertification process to remain eligible for TIV funding, we had to scramble to ensure our website was updated with information to remain compliant with federal regulations. Given a short completion time frame, Leslie went out of her way to coordinate with Nikki Baker to create verbiage for a webpage that met federal requirements. Thank you, Leslie!

**Nominee: Dr. Joi Kazenski, Associate Professor, Nursing**

Nominator: Bridgette Hudson, Instructor, Nursing

Thank you for being an awesome course coordinator over the past year!

**Nominee: Dr. Joi Kazenski, Associate Professor, Nursing**

Nominator: Jeni Noble, Assistant Professor, Nursing

I really appreciate all the help, knowledge and patience she demonstrated during my first year as a new instructor at LLCC!

**Nominee: Kyla Kruse, Director, Communications**

Nominator: Alison Mills, Director, Financial Aid

During our recertification process to remain eligible for TIV funding, we had to scramble to ensure our website was updated with information to remain compliant with federal regulations. Given a short completion time frame, Kyla got the new web information created by Leslie Johnson and Nikki Baker updated on the LLCC webpage. Thank you, Kyla!

**Nominee: Dr. Tricia Kujawa, Assistant Vice President, IRE**

Nominator: Alison Mills, Director, Financial Aid

During our recertification process to remain eligible for TIV funding, we had to scramble to ensure our website was updated with information to remain compliant with federal regulations. Tricia did some research and was able to find the ICCB information and links needed for inclusion on the webpage. Thank you, Tricia!

**Nominee: Patti Leamon, Writing Center Specialist**

Nominator: Dr. Natasha Casey, Assistant Professor, Communication

Patti has worked enthusiastically with my public speaking classes to help them write thesis statements and speech outlines. I appreciate her talents and dedication to the students, not to mention her willingness to collaborate.

**Nominee: Clayton Mason, Research and Analytics Associate II**

Nominator: Anonymous

Clayton has worked hard on many projects. When presented with a challenge that LLCC faces, he conducts research into the best way to solve the issue, then sets forth a solution that is better than what could have been envisioned. Additionally, when requested, Clayton is willing to drop in to help. He truly goes above and beyond, and he will be sorely missed.

**Nominee: Ann Neilson, Assistant Professor, DMS**

Nominator: Leigh Giles-Brown, Program Director, DMS

Ann Neilson is such a great colleague! She is always in lockstep with me and is thoughtful about ways to improve our DMS program. Most recently, she covered for me when I was double-booked with meetings. Ann gracefully covered a site visit for a new clinical site and two tours of eighth grade students. Thanks so much, Ann! I don't know what I would do without you!

**Nominee: Jennifer Ramm, Professor, Chemistry**

Nominator: Dean Butzow, Professor, Geography

A huge thank you to Jennifer for being keynote speaker at the Illinois Geographical Society's annual banquet and award ceremony. Jennifer's talk, "The Geography of Bluegrass Music," was enjoyed by all! Thanks, Jennifer!

**Nominee: Tony Rothering, Professor, Biology**

Nominator: Dean Butzow, Professor, Geography

A huge thank you to Tony for being a lunch keynote speaker at the Illinois Geographical Society's conference. Tony's talk, "The Science and Value of Bird Banding," was the perfect way to end Saturday's conference sessions. Thanks to Tony for hosting our last field trip to Jubilee Farms for a bird banding demonstration on Sunday morning. It was a beautiful morning to witness the amazing things that Tony and his crew do for the bird community!

**Nominee: Karen Sanders, Vice President, Advancement & Executive Director, Foundation**

Nominator: Anonymous

Thank you, Karen and the LLCC Foundation, for all that you do for LLCC students!

**Nominee: Rick Schnetzler, Director, IT Support**

Nominator: Dave Ferrill, IT and Audio Specialist, Information Technology

Rick is always willing to go the extra mile for our team.

**Nominee: Dr. Karen Sisk, Professor, English**

Nominator: Eric Stachera, Professor, English

Karen saved the day and week for me when she agreed to switch classrooms at the last minute after I discovered that my classroom, next to hers, did not have a DVD player. She then graciously exchanged rooms with me for the rest of the week, and for this I am grateful!

**Nominee: Amanda Skinner, Adult Education Instructor**

Nominator: Dee Krueger, Director, LLCC-Taylorville

Kudos to Amanda Skinner, adult education instructor at LLCC-Taylorville, for creating building and room numbers for every classroom whiteboard! Amanda used a Cricut to create professional-looking building and room numbers for safety purposes. Great initiative!

**Nominee: Dr. Sonja Spencer, Associate Dean, Nursing**

Nominator: Jeni Noble, Assistant Professor, Nursing

I cannot thank you enough for all the help, support and encouragement you have given me this year in my transition to my new position! I have learned so much from you. Thank you so much!

**Nominee: Dr. Sonja Spencer, Associate Dean, Nursing**

Nominator: Anonymous

Sonja is deserving of a KUDOS award for her unwavering dedication to the inclusion and success of health care students. This is not an easy time of year to be in her position, having difficult conversations and making even tougher decisions. She works tirelessly to educate future nurses, lead a team of forward thinkers and maintain the high reputation for producing successful, clinical nurses. Sonja is an asset to LLCC!

**Nominee: Julie Sutfin, Facilities Office Coordinator**

Nominator: Dean Butzow, Professor, Geography

A big thank you to Julie Sutfin and the LLCC Facilities team for helping plan and set up for the Illinois Geographical Society's annual banquet and conference held at LLCC. Thanks also for helping plan and set up for the National Weather Service Spotter Training class held in March, an event that was a last-minute request. Thanks, Julie and Facilities!

**Nominee: Binh Trinh, Information Technology Specialist**

Nominator: Dean Butzow, Professor, Geography

A huge thank you to Binh Trinh for all his help and IT support for the Illinois Geographical Society's annual conference in April and the NWS Spotter Training class held in March. Binh went above and beyond! I was having trouble with the computer/projector in Trutter Center for the Friday evening banquet. Around 5 p.m., Binh came to check on things, fixed the issue and stayed well into the evening to make sure everything was working. It is very much appreciated!

**Nominee: Calvin Walter, Course Materials Coordinator**

Nominator: Anonymous

Calvin is always smiling and friendly every time I stop in the LLCC Bookstore. He also takes the extra time to go over any questions anyone in our department has about textbook adoptions.

**Nominee: Thom Whalen, Professor, Art**

Nominator: Dean Butzow, Professor, Geography

A big thank you to Thom Whalen for printing out two LLCC student's GIS projects in a 24 in. by 36 in. size. The posters were displayed at the Illinois Geographical Society's annual conference. Thanks for all your help, Thom!

**Nominee: Doug Wilson, Public Safety Assistant**

Nominator: Dee Krueger, Director, LLCC-Taylorville

Kudos to Doug Wilson, public safety assistant at LLCC-Taylorville, for working with Amanda Skinner to put building and room numbers on every classroom whiteboard! Great initiative!



**Nominee: Kim Young, Program Assistant, Nursing**

Nominator: Jeni Noble, Assistant Professor, Nursing

I cannot thank Kim enough for all the help she gave me this year as I transitioned into my new role at LLCC. Kim always has so much joy and an infectious smile. No matter the question or issue, she always jumps in to help. Thank you so much for all you do!