

Lincoln Land Community College



## December 2023 Award Winners

**Nominee: Dr. Carmen Allen, Professor, Computer Science**

Nominator: Owen Pals, Student

She has helped me so much during my first semester here. I like having her as my professor and wish to have her again. With fixing issues and more, she has been very helpful.

**Nominee: Dr. Carmen Allen, Professor, Computer Science**

Nominator: Julie Brennan, Assistant Professor, Computer Science

Dr. Carmen Allen deserves a KUDOS award for her outstanding contributions to the DoIT trainee program, a collaboration between the state of Illinois and LLCC, as well as her initiative to create CBE learning in the computer science program. She has shown tremendous dedication to her students and to the field of computer science, and her work has made a real difference in the lives of many.

**Nominee: Vanessa Avery, Administrative Assistant, LLCC-Jacksonville**

Nominator: Khara Koffel, Adjunct Instructor, Art

I am so lucky to work with someone like Vanessa. Her knowledge of LLCC-Jacksonville and ability to solve any problem are incredible! She was a superwoman on a day when I couldn't attend my class due to illness. She swooped in and took care of everything. She's priceless!

**Nominee: Evan Barber, Help Desk Specialist II**

Nominator: Aleshia Bunting, Facilities Office Coordinator

Evan had the daunting task of uninstalling and reinstalling Adobe campuswide in October. He had to take each call individually to complete this task. He is amazing at his job, and we appreciate everything he did for us to get us back up and running. Thank you, Evan! You rock!

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

Nominator: Anonymous

In the absence of a dedicated facilities reservation technician, Debbie stepped up and made sure that all LLCC events continued to run smoothly. From communicating with clients to following through to see that all set ups were as perfect as possible, Debbie made sure that all bases were covered. Kudos, Debbie!

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

Nominator: Anonymous

Debbie deserves this award for her dedication to LLCC Facilities. Her leadership and drive to provide the best service possible is inspiring. Debbie truly shows what it means to lead by example.

**Nominee: Megan Bierbrodt, Program Navigator, WEI**

Nominator: Anonymous

Megan has been a great addition to LLCC. Her hard work and dedication have made a significant impact. She greatly contributes to the WEI program and creates a positive work environment. Her willingness to help is greatly appreciated. We feel fortunate she's here.

**Nominee: Kristin Booher, Director, Student Engagement**

Nominator: Mackenzie Bryant, Recruitment Specialist

Kristin has transformed LLCC Student Life in the short amount of time she's been here. From the reorganization of space to make it more efficient, to adding commonly used forms on the wall, the small details are noticed. Her dedication to student activities and involvement is recognized and treasured. What she does helps students find their place at LLCC and allows them the opportunity to connect and create new relationships. I'm so grateful she's here!

**Nominee: Dr. Amy Branham, Assistant Professor, Nursing**

Nominator: Dr. Amanda Roche, Professor, Nursing

Amy did a great job navigating all courses last week. Way to go! Thank you for all you do!

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

Nominator: Chelsy Lovelace, Enrollment Services Representative

We had a student come into the registration office and state that she loves working with Dawn. The student is a veteran and said that Dawn is very knowledgeable and helpful in discussing VA benefits. I wanted to take the time to give Dawn a shoutout for helping our students and providing an excellent experience.

**Nominee: Michelle Burger, Scholarship Program & Alumni Services Coordinator**

Nominator: Mackenzie Bryant, Recruitment Specialist

At a school visit one day, I noticed an issue on the back of scholarship cards. When I returned to campus, I contacted Michelle to let her know, and within five minutes she was down at my office with a stack of updated cards, plus posters for my schools. Thanks, Michelle, for your kindness and speediness. I, along with our counselors and contacts in the district, appreciate it!

**Nominee: Alex Dean and Carley Young**

Nominator: Anne Armbruster, Director, TRIO

Thank you to Alex and Carley for presenting at McClernand Elementary in Springfield on Nov. 16 about the PATH, TRIO and WEI programs at LLCC. Your presentation was very engaging for the students and their parents! Well done!

**Nominee: Mion Denton, Program Assistant, Student Life**

Nominator: Mackenzie Bryant, Recruitment Specialist

Since Mion joined LLCC, her energy and personality have brightened up LLCC Student Life. Recently during their open house, Mion had such a lively spirit. She shared updates and improvements in the office, and even I, someone familiar with Student Life, gained some new knowledge in just a few minutes. I can tell she enjoys her job, and I'm sure the students can too! Keep up the great work!

**Nominee: Dave Ferrill, IT & Audio Specialist**

Nominator: Rick Schnetzler, Director, IT Support

Dave pushes hard to make sure that campus events are handled in a professional and efficient manner. From board meetings, to Fear 101, to events run by outside parties, Dave never fails to put in any effort needed when called upon.

**Nominee: Sarah Frey, Website & Social Media Writing Coordinator**

Nominator: Misty Schierer, Graphic & Website Coordinator

I would like to extend a big thank you to Sarah for her interest and involvement in this year's LLCC Art After Hours exhibit. I very much appreciated her assistance with installation of the exhibit, helping plan and execute the LLCC exhibit reception, as well as providing some of the yummy treats at the event!

**Nominee: Kyla Kruse, Chief Communications Officer**

Nominator: Lynn Gerton, Concurrent Enrollment Coordinator

Kyla went above and beyond to ensure creation of a College Now flyer for LLCC Concurrent Enrollment with a very short deadline. This allowed us to have something for high school students to take home, and it looked very professional.

**Nominee: Greg Matejka, IT Security & Assurance Manager**

Nominator: Erik Bartholomew, Student

Greg proactively sought out our club and suggested we organize a presentation for LLCC students on cybersecurity. The information he presented was excellent, plus his Q&A session showed us some humanity behind working in the field versus the online textbooks and videos in our coursework. Thank you and KUDOS, sir!

**Nominee: Misty Schierer, Graphic & Website Coordinator**

Nominator: Anonymous

Art After Hours for LLCC employees is a wonderful opportunity and very much appreciated. The exhibit looked great! Thank you, Misty, for coordinating!

**Nominee: Dr. Amy Strawn, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice**

Nominator: Anonymous

Amy is working hard to research new and innovative ways to help fill the gap for the law enforcement community. She works hard to put her students first and is pushing the criminal justice program forward.

**Nominee: Katie Tice, Professor, Accounting**

Nominator: Anonymous

In the last few months, Katie has been an integral part of working with the Illinois Department of Revenue on a new program for their employees. She has been involved in every stage of the process. She has worked to recruit additional adjuncts to cover on-campus classes, adjusted her schedule to work to meet the IDOR needs and really shown her excitement about accounting (yes, she is excited about accounting). Kudos!

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

Nominator: Misty Schierer, Graphic & Website Coordinator

I would like to extend a big thank you to Thom for his expertise in the installation of the 2023 LLCC Art After Hours exhibit and for allowing the exhibit to hang in the Trutter Museum/Murray Gallery. His unwavering support of the program and his willingness to help us on his own time was very much appreciated and led to a very successful and well-received exhibit!

**Nominee: Amy Williams, Academic Services Coordinator**

Nominator: Robin Ackman, Curriculum Specialist

Amy has proven invaluable in my transition to my new position as curriculum specialist. She went above and beyond in providing training to me for this role, of which she held the responsibilities on an interim

basis. She's always there if I have questions or need clarification, despite having a full plate of her own.  
Thank you, Amy!