

Name: Luzerne County Community College Board of Trustees Board Meeting
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2020
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Luzerne County Community College, Educational Conference Center, Nanticoke PA
Zoom Link

AGENDA ITEM	NOTES	ACTION TAKEN/FOLLOW UP ACTION NEEDED
Pledge of Allegiance	Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.	
1. Roll Call	<p><i>Present:</i> Joan M. Blewitt, Ph.D.; James Dennis (via zoom); Lynn M. Distasio, Board Chair; Holly A. Evanoski; Bernard W. Graham, Ph.D., Secretary (via zoom); Paul Halesey; Erin K. Keating, ED.D. (via zoom); Catherine R. O'Donnell, Esq.; August J. Piazza; Daniel C. Rodgers (via zoom); David James Usavage; Susan E. Unvarsky, Vice Chair; Brian Stahl, Esq., College Solicitor.</p> <p><u>Excused:</u> George Brown, Joseph Lettiere</p>	
	<p><i>Lynn Distasio, Board Chair, thanked those in attendance and, noted these are unprecedented circumstances, this is the first in-person public Board meeting since the beginning of the pandemic and noted several trustees participated remotely. We are very respectful for everyone's personal circumstances and have taken an abundance of precautions to keep everyone protected.</i></p> <p><i>An Executive Session was held prior to the start of the Board meeting to discuss personnel and litigation issues.</i></p>	
2. Approval of June 23, 2020, Board Minutes	2. Lynn Distasio, Board Chair, recommended approval of the June 23, 2020, Board minutes.	<p>2. Approved. Motion made by David James Usavage; seconded by Anthony Seiwell.</p> <p>Vote was all "yes". Motion carried.</p>

<p>❖ AllOne Recovery Education Institute</p>	<p>LCCC we chose to offer individuals who are collecting unemployment a tuition offset for any credit-based course work the individual felt would help advance getting their job back, upskill to a better job or total change of career path. Since its inception, the program has served 642 individuals, providing a total of \$542,375 in tuition offset, and the College has had an approximate 50% retention rate with students in the program.</p> <p>To address the high rate of unemployment due to the coronavirus pandemic, the economic downturn has left a number of individuals unsure if they will be able to return to their previous positions. Vice President Spry noted the unemployment tidal wave has hit those who possess less formal education particularly hard. Individuals who do not possess some type of post-secondary credential or degree find it daunting to work their way back into well-paying jobs.</p> <p>In a recent survey conducted by Strada Education Network, two-thirds of working Americans state that they are worried about losing their jobs, and the majority of those individuals feel more training or education would help them weather the storm and improve their outcomes if they do lose their jobs.</p> <p>From a labor standpoint, employers seek job candidates that possess skills and competencies that can be packaged into a credential and this is central to what we provide at Luzerne County Community College. The ERO program has played a role in providing hope and strengthening a person's confidence and optimism about their future</p> <p>Through the generosity of the Luzerne County Community College Board of Trustees, the College has been supported in continuing to offer this program for all these years.</p> <p>Rosana Reyes, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs reported through the generosity of the AllOne Foundation, we established the AllOne Recovery Institute. AERI has three main goals, sustain the recovery of students with substance abuse disorder by</p>	
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	<p>providing intense cohesive recovery, and wraparound support services; expand the number of certified recovery specialists in our region, and expand the LCCC Certified Recovery Specialist degree to the 13 counties in PA with AllOne Foundation.</p> <p>When the program began last Fall 2019, our goal was to have 47 students in our first year and we have exceeded that goal.</p> <p>At this time, Vice President Reyes introduced the Ms. Antoinette Sacco.</p> <p>Antoinette Sacco, Director of AllOne Recovery Educational Institute, noted she is a person in long term recovery who has not had a reason to use a drink or a drug since August 25th, 1992.</p> <p>Director Sacco noted before her hire, several forward-thinking Faculty and Administrators believed that Luzerne County Community College could become a source of education and support for students in recovery and created a pathway to become the first Collegiate Recovery community college Campus in Northeast Pennsylvania.</p> <p>The AllOne Foundation has provided the College with a generous grant to establish The All One Recovery Institute, also known as AREI, under the division of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. Through AREI, the College provides financial and wraparound support for students in recovery to return to school and begin to achieve their career goals. AREI students can enroll in any of the 100 plus academic components that Luzerne County Community College offers, in addition to the Certified Recovery Specialist Diploma Program, developed by Heather Jones and Bill Stauffer and a part of our Human Services degree. This degree provides a path for a student to become a state Certified Recovery Specialist.</p> <p>AREI offers CRS training to the substance abuse field and healthcare workforce staff. This training consists of 29 participants from The AllOne Foundation service counties.</p> <p>Students in recovery receive support services through the AREI grant</p>	
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while working with a Certified Recovery Specialist to help retain students in school and help navigate the enrollment and registration process. AREI offers individual and group recovery support, a safe place to meet and a system to help find outside resources such as housing, food, legal resources, and other financial assistance through the LCCC Single Stop program.

In its short period, AREI has made significant accomplishments and exceed several of the AllOne Foundation grant goals. The Institute enrollment goal for the year was 47. Today we have 109 AREI participants, a 204% increase. AREI students enrolled in many academic areas beyond Human Services, including Nursing program, welding, culinary arts, journalism, business majors, and social work. The CRS workforce training goal was to be 25 in the first year. AREI has 29 substance abuse field, and healthcare workforce staff trainees enrolled in the CRS training.

Twenty-six students have either completed the Human Service Addiction Recovery Diploma certification diploma program or enrolled for fall 2020. Of those 26 AREI participants, seven students are moving forward with obtaining an associate's degree in Human Services. Our sustained recovery grant goal was 75%. 98% of AREI students have sustained their recovery to date.

COVID-19 has devastated our country, counties, families, employers, educational institutes, and the recovery community. Ongoing individual recovery requires community support. In the wake of COVID-19 recovery support meetings shut down and access to the necessary community support stop. The unavailability of these meetings resulted in an increase in relapse among the recovery community and overdose rate.

From November 2019 until February of 2020, the episodes that required Naloxone treatments, an overdose reversal medication, shows that it was dispensed monthly in PA on an average 382 times a month. The rise began in March 2020, during the COVID 19 shutdown.

	<p>Information on the Pennsylvania Opioid-Related Data site shows that there was an increase to 413 cases in Pennsylvania. Over the next two months, those numbers continued to increase to 551 doses administered.</p> <p>In the wake of these numbers, Luzerne County Community College AllOne Recovery Educational Institute grew. In December of 2019, we began with 26 AREI identified students. Those numbers continued to grow through COVID 19, reaching 109 AREI students as of this date.</p> <p>AREI has provided over \$19,680.83 in tuition and book assistance during Academic Year 2019-20. LCCC is proud of the Institute's success.</p> <p>Ms. Sacco introduced Ashlynn Heller, graduate of the LCCC Human Service Addiction Recovery program and returning student in the Human Services associate degree program.</p> <p>Ms. Heller addressed the Board and spoke of her experience. She noted not everyone realizes what individuals like her go through. She enrolled and successfully completed the Certified Recovery Specialist diploma program. Ms. Heller sat for her Board's last summer and became a Certified Addiction Recovery Specialist.</p> <p>Ms. Heller noted how she was worried about the cost of continuing her education, with the AERI program she did not have to worry about that. Ms. Heller stated that she has the opportunity to promote the program and educate those in recovery that they can go to school and realize there are opportunities here at LCCC and noted this was an amazing experience.</p> <p>Board Chair Distasio thanked everyone for their presentations this evening. To Ms. Heller, Board Chair Distasio stated the presentation provided was amazing and clarifies as a College why we are all here. The LCCC Board of Trustees are proud of your achievements and that we are happy to be part of this journey for you and you as a student are able to move forward and utilize the services that we have. We are thankful to the AllOne Foundation for the opportunity to bring these programs</p>	
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	<p>today of what the students and staff have accomplished. we had no idea of how successful this would be.</p> <p>As we are about to start the Fall 2020 semester, and through the generosity of the donors and community sponsors, the Foundation Office was able to award 400 students with \$370,000 in scholarships to assist in their achievement of their academic goals.</p> <p>Each year at this time the Foundation begins their annual fundraising campaign to support the annual scholarship dinner. This year the annual scholarship dinner will be a virtual celebration held on October 21, 2020 at 6 p.m.. The virtual scholarship program will highlight our students, donors, sponsors, and community who support our student and programs.</p> <p>On behalf of our students, thank you to those trustees and community sponsors who have already made their gift. Thank you to Trustee Catherine O'Donnell for her leadership in helping us raise funds and identify and cultivate new donors. These gifts and the generosity of others will enable the Foundation to assist hundreds of students each year with scholarships, textbooks, and transportation.</p> <p>In addition to the Student Support initiative, the Peter J. Lello Student Food Bank is ready to welcome students to the Fall 2020 semester. The Student Food Bank offers day and evening hours and access upon request. Due to the generosity of our donors and community support, the Foundation can help our students with food insecurity and hunger.</p> <p>Trustee Catherine O'Donnell stated this is a wonderful opportunity, as a trustee, to participate and support the Ignite the Future 2020 Virtual Scholarship Celebration by purchasing a ticket in support of the Foundation.</p>	
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5. Report of the Executive Committee	Susan E. Unvarsky, Board Vice Chair, presented the following Executive Committee report.	
5A. Ratification of Restroom Renovations, Buildings 4 and 5	5A. Recommend Luzerne County Community College Board of Trustees ratify and reaffirm approval of bid award for Buildings 4 and 5 Restroom Renovations to the lowest responsible bidders: Champion Builders, Inc., general construction, in the amount of \$158,500; and L.H. Reed and Sons, Inc., plumbing construction, in the amount of \$54,946. A 5% project contingency (\$10,672.30), and hemmler + camayd architects will be compensated in line with our agreement for miscellaneous services in the amount of \$19,027.64 for a total project cost of \$243,145.94.	5A. Approved. Motion made to ratify and reaffirm Board poll vote by Joan M. Blewitt, Ph.D.; seconded by Paul Halsey. Vote was all “yes”. Motion carried.
6. Report of the Academic Committee	6. Bernard W. Graham, Ph.D., Chair, LCCC Academic Committee, thanked the committee and staff members for 100% attendance and a full agenda and lively agenda.	
7. Report of the Finance Committee	7. Susan E. Unvarsky, Chair, LCCC Finance Committee, noted there were no action items to report.	
8. Report of the Human Resources Committee	8. Paul Halsey, Chair, LCCC Human Resources Committee, noted there were no action items to report.	
9. Report of the Legislative Committee	9. Catherine R. O’Donnell, Esq., Chair, LCCC Legislative Committee, noted there were no action items to report.	
10. Nomination Committee Report	10. Erin K. Keating, Chair, LCCC Nomination Committee presented the following report.	
10.A. 2020-2021 Slate of Officers	10. The Nomination Committee recommends the Luzerne County Community College Board of Trustees approve the slate of officers for fiscal year 2020-2021. Board Chair: Lynn Distasio; Vice Chair: Susan E. Unvarsky; and Secretary: Dr. Bernard Graham.	10. Approved. Motion made by Lynn Distasio, Board Chair; seconded by August Piazza. Vote was all “yes.” Motion carried.

	<p>At this time the floor was open for nomination. No nominations were presented.</p> <p>A motion to close nomination was made by David James Usavage and seconded by August Piazza.</p> <p>In reference to information on Appointments, Attachment 3. Trustee August Piazza inquired as to the process for hiring positions at the College. President Leary reviewed the hiring procedure established by Luzerne County Community College.</p>	
11. Public Comments	No comments.	
	<u>Informational Items</u>	
1.Unfinished Business-Previous Meeting	1.N/A	1. No action required.
2.Informational-Executive Committee	2. N/A	2. No action required.
3.Informational- Human Resources Committee	3. Information on appointments and leave reports are included with the Board agenda.	3. No action required.
4. Communications	4. All communications were included in the Board packets.	4. No action required.
<i>INFORMATIONAL ITEMS</i>		
5.Adjournment	5. Board Chair Lynn Distasio asked for a motion to adjourn.	5. Motion made August Piazza; seconded by Joan M. Blewitt, Ph.D. Vote was all “yes”. Motion carried.