

LAKE REGION STATE COLLEGE

# branches

MAGAZINE



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in the future of farming

**#LETSGOFARMIN**

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Community College  
FOUNDATION

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Here we are with Issue 2 of Branches. This issue features the wonderful liberal arts transfer program at Lake Region State College.

Many students start their bachelor's degree here at LRSC. Not only are class sizes and costs smaller, students find numerous opportunities to become involved in co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

As I stated in our inaugural issue, we are looking at material for future articles. Please let us know if you have a graduate, program, or faculty member you'd like to see featured in an upcoming issue.

Thank you for making our first issue a success. We hope you enjoy its sequel.



Erin Wood  
Director of College Relations | Editor, Branches  
Erin.Wood@lrsc.edu

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### FOUNDATION STAFF

Elonda Nord, Executive Director  
Dianne Gunderson, Research/Publications  
Jessica Hjelden, Donor Relations/Events  
Jolie Johnston, Advancement/Foundation

### MARKETING STAFF

Erin Wood, Director of College Relations  
Carla Freschette, Web Developer/Designer

### PUBLICATION

Editor: Erin Wood  
Design/Layout: Carla Freschette  
Photos: Agency MABU  
Sarah Smith Warren Photography  
CK Photography  
Printer: Forum Printing

---

### CONTACT US

Community College Foundation  
1801 College Drive North  
Devils Lake, North Dakota 58301-1598

Phone: 701.662.1520  
Email: Elonda.Nord@lrsc.edu

[www.lrscfoundation.org](http://www.lrscfoundation.org)  
[www.lrsc.edu](http://www.lrsc.edu)

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## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The hallways are buzzing with activity as the students prepare for finals. This fall felt like the buildings took on a new life with a new crop of freshman students. Away from home for the first time, they are hopeful, and anxious to succeed in college. Our enrollment is down just a little from the all-time record last fall. We have 1982 students registered on the census date compared to 2072 last fall. Enrollment has been stable with between 1900 and 2072 students for the last 10 years.

I had the opportunity to visit with the new students during their orientation. I focused on three keys for them to be successful and complete their degree. 1) Show up – go to class everyday. 2) Get involved with something besides classes on campus. We have all kinds of opportunities from CRU to Student Government and other student organizations on campus. 3) Ask for help when they need it. We have incredible resources to provide assistance to those struggling academically, socially or personally. We want each and every student to graduate with the certificate, diploma or degree they are seeking and we stand ready to help!

As usual, we have a good number of local athletes on our rosters. Come and watch them compete. We have wrapped up the volleyball season and our clay target team held its fall league championship tournament. Basketball is underway as is practice for Softball and Baseball.

In our last issue of Branches we discussed our foray into Apprenticeships. Over the summer we signed our agreement with the Department of Labor to provide Registered Apprenticeships. We also have our first employer partner, Northrup Grumman, with agreements at both the Grand Sky facility and New Town. We are in the process of getting our first apprentice(s) placed.

Students, faculty and staff are excited as we finalize the blue prints for the Hofstad Agriculture Center. We are working hard to raise the funds to match what the legislature provided to make our dream become a reality. As of November 1st, we have approximately \$300,000 committed as we work on the total of \$1,500,000 needed to complete the project.

This is a great opportunity to invest in the future of farming and leave a legacy for decades to come. If you are interested and want to leave your legacy please contact us.

Wishing you a Happy Holiday season.



Doug Darling, Ph.D.  
President, Lake Region State College



## NOTE FROM THE CCF PRESIDENT

**A**s President of the Community College Foundation, I am pleased to announce the exciting things happening at LRSC! This year the Foundation is able to provide scholarships to almost 300 students and provide program support to over 20 different programs.

The Foundation continues to be busy with numerous fundraising activities. The recent Key Event was a great success with attendees enjoying the theme of "A County Fair with a Royal Flair." Raising just over \$70,000, it was a great success!

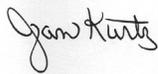
The North Dakota State Legislature again approved a challenge match for the 2019–2021 biennium. Make your gift 50% stronger with Match Funds.

The Hofstad Agriculture Center Capital Project is in full fundraising gear. The 2019 North Dakota Legislature authorized construction of a new \$3 million ag education center on LRSC campus grounds which will be the new home for one of our most successful and in-demand programs. Bringing our ag program to campus is an exciting move.

There are many ways you can support LRSC. The Community College Foundation accepts donations of time, talent and treasures. We work hard to provide support to the areas of greatest need. Students remain our number one priority. The CCF Board of Directors is committed to being good stewards of the funds entrusted to our care.

If you know of someone who would like to be on our mailing list, please forward their information to LRSC via our website [www.lrsc.edu](http://www.lrsc.edu) or call 701-662-1600.

Thank you for caring about the future of Lake Region State College.



Jan Kurtz  
President, Community College Foundation





# INVEST in the future of farming.

James Fisk enrolled in the Precision Ag program at Lake Region State College to further his knowledge and bring that information back to his family farm.

"I heard many great things about the program. It saves me money because it's close to home. I enjoy the hands-on, face-to-face learning and atmosphere," he said.

Having a Precision Ag program close for students in the region is important. Most students state having the program close to home is a big attraction to enrolling because students still can help on the family farm during harvest and planting.

"It's what I want to do in the future (for a career) and it's the right path," said student Jacob Erovick.

Even if students don't come from a farm setting but want to work in the industry, the program immerses them in production agriculture.

"Precision Ag is going to play a big part in the future of farming and staying on top of the technology will increase profitability," said Justin Hoffman.

That's why the new Precision Ag center project at Lake Region State College is so important.



Building renderings by ICON Architectural Group LLC.

The Precision Ag program at LRSC has continued to grow since starting classes in 2013. Recently, the ag program was ranked #10 by Precision Ag Institute in its top-20 list because of LRSC's combination of Industry partners and hands on approach to instruction. The excellent relationship with industry benefits students and employers.



*LRSC students and Precision Ag Director Preston Sundeen standing in a local wheat field.  
Photo by CK Photography.*

## NEED FOR A NEW FACILITY

The 2019 North Dakota Legislature authorized construction of a new \$3 million ag education building at LRSC. The legislation provided a direct appropriation of \$1 million along with some matching fund opportunities and named the building for Curt and Annette Hofstad, long-time Lake Region residents and friends of LRSC.

“When the program was started, we leased a facility. We’re one mile north of campus. It’s been a great home for these six years, but there are limitations to our current facility, such as size of the shop,” said Preston Sundeen, director of the LRSC Precision Ag program.

The new ag education building will provide enhanced classroom space and a shop more suited for working with today’s precision ag components and large equipment. With LRSC’s own test field right outside the new building location, students will have real-world experiences and graduate with knowledge from the classroom and field.



The Community College Foundation is raising \$1.5 million to make the ag center a reality by 2020.

The campaign, when combined with the state appropriation and other state match programs, will bring the college to its \$3 million goal.

We want you to join us in our campaign for the Hofstad Precision Ag Center! Gifts of all sizes are welcome with shop, field, and other naming opportunities available. ■

# #LETSGOFARMING

**WILL YOU JOIN US?**



# APPRENTICESHIPS

## EARN & LEARN WITH LRSC

BY ERIN WOOD | PHOTOS BY AGENCY MABU

Apprenticeships are nothing new. Around since ancient times, apprenticeships were the manner to pass skills on to future generations.

For years, Lake Region State College President Doug Darling has researched opportunities to find apprenticeship opportunities with LRSC technical programs that don't necessarily fit the traditional apprenticeship mold.

"We've been looking at more modern apprenticeships and some non-traditional apprenticeships," Darling said.

That idea became a reality when Lake Region State College and the Department of Labor entered into an agreement June 21, 2019, officially granting LRSC the ability to host apprenticeships. A few years in the making, Darling said the Earn and Learn Apprenticeship program at LRSC is an exciting endeavor for the campus.

"We are developing non-traditional apprenticeship opportunities for programs, specifically Information Technology and Simulation Technology. Students will be hired and sponsored by an employer, complete related classroom instruction with LRSC and have on-the-job worksite training. After two years, the registered apprenticeship is completed, an AAS degree earned, and a full-time job waiting," Darling said.

Barry Dutton, State Director DOL office of Apprenticeship in Bismarck and Darling signed the agreement.

With this agreement, the Department of Labor recognizes LRSC's ability to provide apprenticeships in four areas, Dutton said. Those areas are IT Specialist, IT Cyber Support Technician, Electronics Technician, and Electro Mechanical Assembly.

"This allows a more technical approach to earning a degree and creating a career for those looking to enter the workforce sooner rather than later," Dutton said.



*Flying a simulator is part of the program. Sim Tech students learn the ins and outs of aviation simulators to prepare for a career as technicians.*

It also will allow veterans to use previously learned skills and apply them in an apprenticeship to get them into the workforce.

Not long after Lake Region State College signed the agreement with the Department of Labor, the first industry partner agreement was signed.

In July, LRSC and Northrop Grumman Corporation entered into an agreement for apprenticeship programs in electronics-based roles with skills taught/found in LRSC's Simulator Maintenance Technician program. Northrop Grumman's facilities at Grand Sky (at Grand Forks Air Force Base) and New Town, ND, are to take advantage of the program.

"Many young North Dakotans are wanting to live and work in their home state. Programs like this provide education, training, and the career in North Dakota," Darling said.

The areas LRSC is focusing on are high target areas because there's a great need for employees in those sectors.

"Lake Region State College has a mission is to meet the labor market's needs in our region. We help train tomorrow's workforce," Darling said.

And hopefully, this is only the beginning of apprenticeship option at Lake Region State College.

Applications for apprenticeship options in Child Care Development Specialist/Early Childhood Education and Social Work/Social and Human Service Assistants have been submitted.

Darling said there also are plans to add Fitness Training, possibly by the end of the year.

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## THIS ALLOWS A MORE TECHNICAL APPROACH TO EARNING A DEGREE AND CREATING A CAREER FOR THOSE LOOKING TO ENTER THE WORKFORCE SOONER...

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"A nursing apprenticeship model has been developed and will be utilized to begin a dialog with the North Dakota Board of Nursing. There is a committee involved NDSU and Cankdeska Cikana Community College and the ND Department of Labor working with LRSC on this effort. There is no reason apprenticeship programs can't align with academic degrees so the individual can further their personal career goals while benefiting the organization who employs them."

The need for Electronics and Information Technology specialists continues to grow as consumer use and need for advanced technology grows.

That's where apprenticeships in the Simulator Technology and Information Technology programs at Lake Region State College became attractive. This area of the workforce – deemed gray collar by many – is new to the apprenticeship models.

### **SIMULATION TECHNOLOGY**

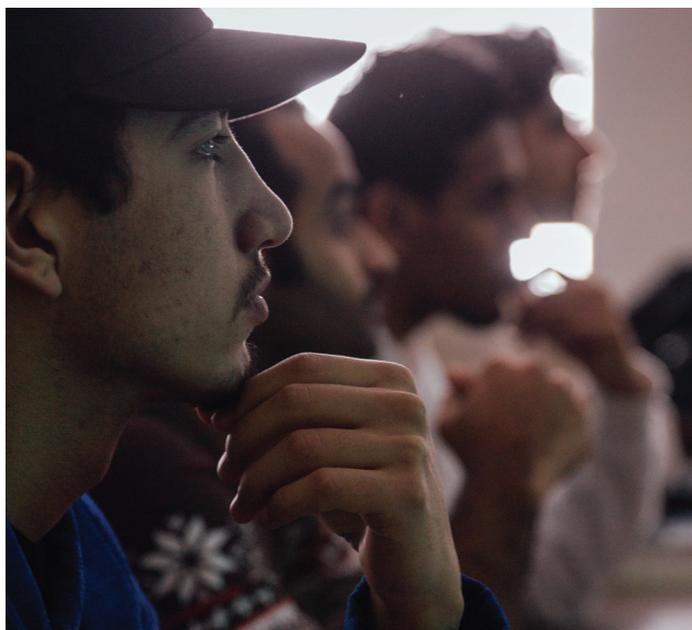
Lake Region State College's Simulator Technology program, or Sim Tech, truly is a one-of-a kind affair.

The Sim Tech program at LRSC is one of the few training programs for simulator technicians in the United States.

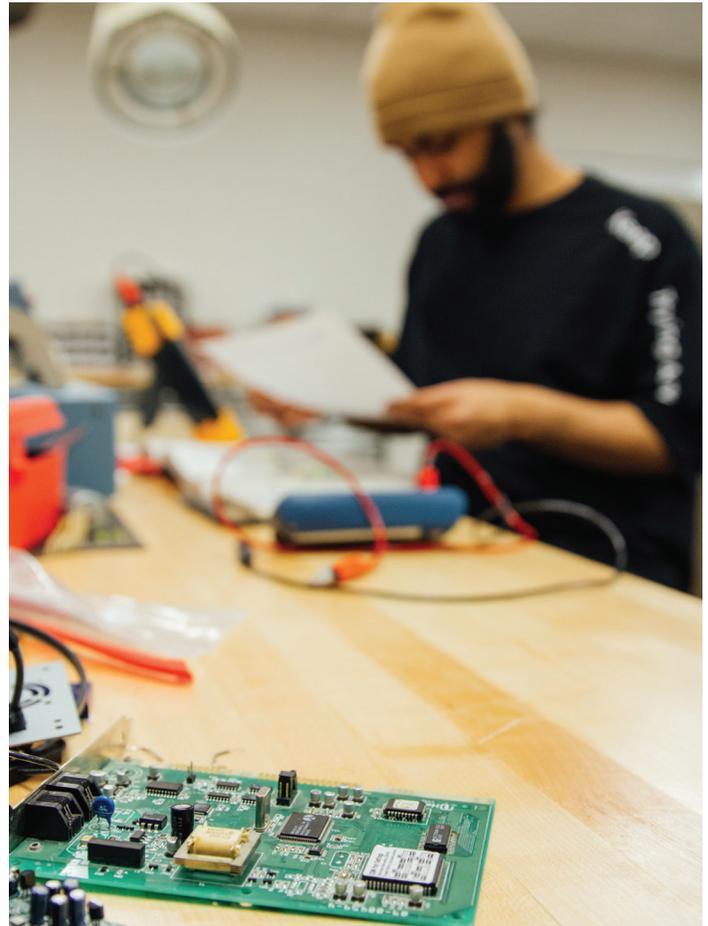
In the past, most graduates went on to work in commercial aviation as repair technicians for aviation simulators or continued to study in a related engineering field. However, the need for experience like this in assembly, medical simulation, entertainment, and unmanned aerial systems has grown the job market for graduates of the program.

Simulation Technology courses at LRSC provide hands-on training in computer systems, digital and solid state electronic devices, printed circuit troubleshooting and variety of other systems essential to the operation of state-of-the-art simulators.

Students learn to use specialized tools, test equipment, built-in diagnostic equipment and technical data to isolate and locate faulty components or system malfunctions. While in the program students will gain experience in electronics, flight characteristics and computers.



*There are a number of similarities between Sim Tech and IT program courses. A program's curriculum and career opportunities help students choose the right path with their interests.*



*Electronics lab is an important part of the Sim Tech program. Students create their own boards and groups even create their own simulations.*

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

In today's technological world, IT is the driving force of business, education, entertainment, health care and government. IT is all about combining the power of computing with the study of managerial know-how and social issues to effectively solve current problems.

Today, cyber security is a necessary piece of network infrastructure for small and large business, and for personal technology applications.

The Information Technology program at Lake Region State College prepares students for exciting, ever-changing job opportunities. Students will be prepared for information-oriented office environments and learn a variety of computer application software. Lake Region gives students access to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities to prepare them for industry required certification tests available on the Lake Region State College campus.

When pursuing the Associate in Applied Science for Information Technology, students may select to concentrate in one to four 4 sub-plans which includes cyber security, web design, computer support, and office technologies. ■

# Earn & Learn

with Lake Region State College

## WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP

Registered Apprenticeships have been utilized to meet the needs of America's skilled workforce for over 80 years. Registered apprenticeships are jobs where you Earn & Learn. While working on the job, you receive one-on-one, full-time training from a skilled staff member of the employer as well as related classroom instruction.

Apprenticeship programs are for ambitious people of all ages who want to earn a salary while they learn, gaining real skills and knowledge.

### JOB SHADOWING

## THE PATH

President's Commission on Apprenticeships — Apprenticeship programs, when implemented effectively, provide workers with a career path featuring paid on-the-job training, skills development, and mentorship, while at the same time providing employers with a steady source of highly trained and productive workers. The LRSC Earn and Learn Apprenticeship Program works with both newcomers to the field or a seasoned employee looking to upgrade and specialize their skills.

## PRE-APPRENTICESHIP

Work-based learning experiences for ages 16 and older.

### STUDENT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Internships  
Student Employment

## CORE CURRICULUM

The core of our curriculum is built on a broad foundation of industry-relevant concepts adapted for use in the courses to give students hands-on experience, allowing students to transition easily from class to work and back.

### PRIOR CREDIT

Industry Certificates  
College Coursework  
Military Training  
CTE Dual Credit  
Academic Dual Credit

## INTERACTIVE COURSEWORK

The interactive coursework covers the analytical and technical skills necessary to monitor and respond to situations that arise. Our curriculum aligns with industry-standard certification-exam content, to prepare an individual to pass exams from industry leaders. At the end of the apprenticeship program, students gain both experience in the profession as well as an Associate of Applied Science Degree in their chosen field.

## APPRENTICESHIP

Federally registered certificate; 1-year academic certificate; or 2-year academic certificate. For ages 18 and older.

### EARN & LEARN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Academic Certificate  
Academic Degree  
Registered Certificate

## DONE IN 2

LRSC's Apprenticeship Program is designed as a two- to three-year program in partnership with employers. Students are assigned a mentor at their employer to work with throughout the program. LRSC offers apprenticeship and mentor coaching as a distinct part of the program management. The curriculum is delivered online or at the worksite which makes it convenient for individuals to Earn & Learn. Academic credit is offered for qualified certifications and experience.



# /// Choose Your Path ///

BY ERIN WOOD | PHOTOS BY AGENCY MABU

For many, the road to numerous opportunities starts with a degree from Lake Region State College.

Kelly Leiphon received scholarship offers to attend a variety of colleges and universities, but as a senior in Edmore, ND, her parents encouraged her to attend Lake Region State College.

Hesitant about what she really wanted to do with the “rest of her life” she took her parents' advice and chose the path of Lake Region State College.

“I wasn't sure what to expect and went to college unsure of what I wanted to do. I started to love classes right from the start,” she said.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

Leiphon, who attended LRSC from 2003 to 2005 was able to continue playing basketball and found her love of nursing. She graduated and transferred to continue her studies, earning a bachelor's degree in Nursing and Master of Science, both at UND. Today, she's a gerontological nurse practitioner at Altru Clinic in Devils Lake.

Kids constantly are asked what they want to be when they grow up. Fact is, many high school students don't know what they plan to do career-wise. It's a big decision to make. What many parents and future students should appreciate is that students can earn the first half of any



*Kory Boehmer, Professor of Biology & Chemistry works with student, Nicole Rinas, during Anatomy & Physiology Lab.*

bachelor’s degree at LRSC. Many past graduates and current students say the benefits of doing just that are amazing.

“I truly couldn’t have imagined going to a four-year college to start my college education. Coming from a small high school I felt that Lake Region was a great fit,” says LRSC graduate Katie Ralston.



*Katie Ralston, 2009-2011, and her fiancé Mickey Berry.*

Ralston added that going to college, especially for students from smaller towns or schools is a huge adjustment. So, a college like LRSC teaches life skills such as time management, responsibility, motivational skills, self-discipline, and the quality of time LRSC faculty and staff invest in students creates colossal benefits.

Today, Ralston, who hails from Dahlen, ND, is a preschool teacher and early childhood special education teacher at Midway School in Inkster, ND.

After earning a degree from LRSC in 2011, she went on to Valley City State University and earned an elementary education degree. She took a few years off before going to the University of North Dakota where she earned a Master of Science (Special Education).

“I loved coaching and working with kids so I decided that teaching would be a good option for me,” she said.

### **SMOOTH TRANSITION**

Many LRSC students hail from the immediate service area of northeast North Dakota. The smaller size of LRSC helps put students who prefer a close-knit learning environment at ease. Students from other parts of the country, and even across the pond, also find the size and atmosphere of LRSC quite welcoming.



Assistant Professor of Art Deb Carlson giving instruction during ceramics class. Students are creating cellphone holders and amplifiers.

Jeremy Brandt said attending a small college kept him accountable.

“Coming from a high school with a graduating class of 22, the smaller class sizes made me feel comfortable. The faculty and staff knew me on a personal level. There was an expectation that I would attend and put forth an effort during class. These were values I carried with me when I left and continued my education.”



Jeremy Brandt, 1993-1995.

Brandt said the rigor of coursework at LRSC was equal to that at larger universities. His years at LRSC then led to a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and Physical Education with an emphasis on Coaching from Jamestown College in 1998, followed by a master’s degree in Educational Leadership from UND in 2009. Today, Brandt is superintendent of Central Valley Public School in Buxton, ND.

“My passion growing up was competing in sports. I also enjoyed working with kids. It seemed like a natural fit to make a career in k-12 education, as a teacher and coach, and later as an administrator,” he said.

### /// EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE //////////////

Two-year colleges are known for providing career and technical degrees in two years or less and/or transfer degrees. Some colleges may focus on one of these paths, but Lake Region State College specializes in both, being long-time providers of education for students in both arenas. Some students may even dive into both areas, earning an associate in arts degree teamed with an associate in applied science in a technical field.

Sometimes, however, people forget the transfer option for students, said Dr. Doug Darling, LRSC president.

“We have quality programs at an affordable cost for students. We are producing graduates who are incredibly successful in their careers and at other institutions as they continue their education,” Darling said.

For Callie (Hanson) Greene, LRSC was the right path for her on a journey to becoming a physical therapist. Greene, who attended LRSC from 2007-2009, earned an Associate in Science with a focus in pre-physical therapy classes. She went on to UND and graduated with a Doctor of Physical Therapy and today is a physical therapist at Sanford in East Grand Forks, MN.

“After graduating high school, I personally did not feel I was ready to attend a major university. Lake Region gave me a great foundation of knowledge and confidence to help succeed in a bigger university setting.” said Greene.

Instructors at community colleges, especially at LRSC, have qualified faculty, and classes are never handed off to graduate teaching assistants.

The one-on-one faculty instruction was second to none, Greene added. “The teachers were readily available and willing to assist when needed. The smaller class sizes enabled more small group discussions and the ability to learn from one another.”



Kelly (Holmen) Leiphon, 2003-2005.

Leiphon loved science and psychology coursework and soon found herself pursuing nursing. She graduated with the first Practical Nurse certificate class of the Dakota Nursing Program at LRSC.

“The instructors were all great, and I gained confidence in my capabilities. I enjoyed going to class and working hard. It was especially fun to take classes of my choice. My experience at Lake Region prepared me for UND,” Leiphon said.

One misnomer many hear is that transferring credits from LRSC to another university is a challenge. Both Leiphon and Greene had positive transfer experiences.

Testimonials from graduates show that what makes LRSC stand out is how college employees make students feel.

“Instructors made student learning the priority,” Brandt said. “There are pros and cons to both two- and four-year schools. For me, being from small town North Dakota, leaving my family and setting off on my own for the first time, LRSC was a perfect fit. It was small, close knit, with a family-like feel to it. Everyone knew my name, which made me feel comfortable as I adjusted to the next phase of life after high school.”

That confidence-building atmosphere is just what many new college students need, Leiphon added.

## /// COST SAVINGS ///

Another big benefit of attending colleges like Lake Region State College is the cost.

"I would really encourage students who are unsure of their future to consider a community college. It saves money," Leiphon said.

College is expensive and an investment. However, students who live at home and commute to LRSC for the first two years of their bachelor's degree and then transfer to a larger university save around \$19,000. That can be a big savings and help students avoid larger debt loads. Many students also may find numerous scholarship opportunities at a college the size of LRSC and additional transfer scholarship dollars from the university to which they transfer. Some organizations like Phi Theta Kappa, the college honor society, offer transfer scholarships to members.

"LRSC is a great way to fast track your career. Financially, I found myself in a better place than my classmates who started out at UND," said Greene.

Current student Emily Eback echoes those sentiments.

"Let the factors that matter to you personally have the largest weight, and set aside the idea that one college is more impressive than another. It's the amount of effort you put forth that dictates how far that degree will take you."



Callie (Hanson) Greene, 2007-2009, and her husband Josh Greene with their two young children.

## /// LIFETIME FRIENDSHIPS ///

Since Lake Region State College is smaller, students have many opportunities to get involved whether in athletics as the graduates in this story or many other campus organizations (see alumni stories, page 18).

Greene said playing basketball and being active in Student Senate helped her grow as an individual and team member. Leiphon and Ralston echo that statement, agreeing that being part of a team helped them grow as individuals both on and off the court.

"Student Senate helped me appreciate the value of giving back to the community through volunteer efforts," Greene added.



Math instructor and LRSC alum Kristi Kienast-Hernandez, 1998-1999, teaching a morning math class.

Some of these students also get to experience other parts of the country and network with other students.

"I remember when my parents dropped me off and I was walking up to my dorm. I had not been nervous until I was walking up the stairs and realized I really didn't know anyone. It was such a moment because as I walked up the stairs, I met a sophomore that I sort of knew and she asked if I would come with her for supper. I did, and I feel this was the start of many great memories and life-long friendships," Leiphon said.

Teammates were from various parts of the state, other states, and even other parts of the world.

Greene said playing basketball helped her grow as an individual, learn to be accountable, and better with time management. Brandt had similar experiences.

"My best memories about LRSC involve the group of friends I made, the guys I competed with on the basketball team. The friends I made over that period are friends I still have today. Those were some of the best times of my life. The state championship team had a reunion in Devils Lake in November of 2018, and it was like we had never left (except we went to bed much earlier than we would have 25 years ago)," Brandt says with a smile. ■



Long-time Associate Professor Dick Olson in class discussion with his sociology students.



# Save the Date

## MARCH 6TH ARIZONA FRIENDRAISING EVENT

It's always fun to get together, especially when there is warmer weather! President Doug Darling and Community College Foundation Director Elonda Nord invite LRSC alumni and friends to LRSC's annual Friendraising event March 6th, 2020, at Apache Wells, Arizona

Please join them as they host and LRSC fun-filled social at the beautiful Apache Wells Club House, located at 5601 Hermosa Vista Drive.

These events are great opportunities to showcase the Keys to Opportunities provided to LRSC students through the fundraising initiatives of the Community College Foundation. College leadership enjoys reveal the everchanging landscape at the college and visit about program and student news.

"This a great way to reconnect with friends and alumni of LRSC and to hear about all the exciting changes that are happening on campus," Nord said.

The club house has been reserved from 2:00 to 5:00 pm March 6. Light appetizers will be provided, and a cash bar will be available. Arrangements are pending to host a second event at Lake Havasu City around that same date.

"Help us spread the word. We'd love to have Lake Region residents and LRSC family join us for this event," she said. ■



Pictured left to right: Pat Horner, Jean Janssen, Larry & Karen Liere and Jim Kienast.



Pictured left to right: Betty (Rohrer) Johnson, Jerry Rohrer, Gene Serumgard and Cathy Wolfe.



**EMILY EBACK**

Devils Lake, North Dakota  
Business Administration - Marketing

**WHY LRSC**

This is a college that will work with you one-on-one to get you exactly what you want out of your education. All the advisors will go out of their way to make sure you have all the right classes, are happy with your course load, and feel prepared for your transition onto campus.

**WHY LRSC**

I chose Lake Region State College because I wanted to be in a small classroom environment and get a degree in agriculture.

**WHAT WOULD YOU TELL FUTURE STUDENTS**

Don't look down on two-year colleges. They will help you get ready for the next step!

**WHAT YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT LRSC**

What I like about LRSC the most is the instructors. They genuinely care about you and will help you succeed.

**THE IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

The impact scholarships have made on me while I've been here has been huge for me. Not worrying about if I can pay for books and tuition have helped me put my focus to my education.

**WHAT WOULD YOU TELL FUTURE STUDENTS**

Pay attention to what will make you happy. Let the factors that matter to you personally have the largest weight and set aside the idea that one college is more impressive than another. In the end a degree is a degree and will help you reach your goals no matter the college/university. It's the amount of effort you put in that dictates how far that degree will take you.

**WHAT YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT LRSC**

My favorite part about LRSC is the environment. Everyone on campus is extremely friendly and genuinely cares about how you are doing. You will never feel like you are on your own. The environment here on campus is very welcoming and supportive.

**THE IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships had a huge impact on my experience here at LRSC. Thanks to the generous scholarships offered, I will be finishing my first year debt free.



**HAYES HASLEKAAS**

Milton, North Dakota  
Precision Agriculture

*With the revamp of Branches, we want to feature more of our students. Nominate someone today by emailing LRSC.foundation@lrsc.edu.*

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# SEEDS TO SUCCESS

The career path Everett Ritterman planned for himself was cut and dried.

He was planning on earning his associate's degree in sales and marketing management and move into the workforce.

Lake Region State college was close and convenient. Ritterman had grown up in Cando, N.D., and was living in Leeds, N.D., when he decided to enter college. Attending LRSC would allow him to keep working in Leeds while attending college. He was able to balance work and education.

"Being an older than average student, I didn't want to be involved in anything else on campus. I just wanted to be there to get that piece of paper and move on to my future career," he said.

He also had a family connection with the college. His aunt, Judy Barstad, taught at LRSC. She urged him to immerse himself in student life.

"I wasn't very outgoing at the time and timid about starting college with a younger generation. I somewhat ignored her advice to get involved," he said.

Then, he registered for classes and his advisor that day told him the same thing – "get involved as much as possible!"

Intrigued that being a member of Collegiate DECA may mean travel to competitions in sunny California, Everett gave the organization a chance to see what it all entailed.

That advisor would impact his entire college career.

"Donna Gutschmidt saw the potential in me. She was persistent and structured, which only made me better. She wasn't just another instructor, but a leader and essentially my "boss" when it came to projects," he said.

DECA has impacted the lives of more than ten million students, educators, school administrators and business professionals since it was founded in 1946. Its programs and activities have constantly evolved as we use the latest technology and apply cutting edge educational research. Its core focus has remained consistent and is captured in the mission.

As a Royal Ambassador, Everett played a direct role in recruiting future students to the college. Their primary goal is to provide prospective students an opportunity to explore LRSC through the eyes of a current student with their unique insight and firsthand experiences.

"Ambassadors serve as a link between current students, faculty, staff, administration and alumni and the perspective student and their family and friends. Tasks



**EVERETT RITTERMAN**  
Cando, North Dakota  
Associate in Applied Science –  
Marketing/Management  
**District Sales Manager**  
*Proseed*

for Royal Ambassadors include providing tours, assisting with recruitment events and various campus functions and promoting the college, among other things," said Nicole Dinger, Enrollment Services Specialist at LRSC and former advisor to the Royal Ambassadors.

"As college progressed, I got heavily involved. It changed who I was and made me a leader. I gained knowledge and confidence in real world situations by attending LRSC and taking part in groups like these," Ritterman said.

Not only did Ritterman spend two years gaining an Associate in Applied Science degree (2004-2006) in marketing/management, he also decided to start taking some general study classes and transfer into the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration program through Mayville State University that is located on the LRSC campus. He completed his bachelor's degree at LRSC with courses on campus, over interactive video, and online. Ritterman earned his bachelor's degree from Mayville State in 2009.

Now a district sales manager for Proseed, Ritterman said he would recommend a path like his to others.

"I would recommend everyone to start at LRSC for their education. Even if it is for the first two years of general education courses. And to older adults, don't let your age be an intimidation factor. There are many people in all areas of LRSC that are there to help you succeed. LRSC really does change lives – it changed mine!" ■

# GROW WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED

People don't care about how much you know until they know how much you care. When someone believes in you, it makes a huge difference. For Julie Schlieve, that statement represents her learning experience at Lake Region State College.

While attending LRSC from 1984 to 1986, Schlieve says all her instructors were motivators.

"All my instructors had a positive impact on me. They were all so personable and professional. My advisor, Janet Wood, was very eager to help and was a great role model as a professional. She believed in her students and when my employer was looking for a prospect, she recommended me and encouraged me to apply for the job. I have built a career in banking because of her advisory role and confidence she had in me," she said.

Growing up in the Lake Region, Schlieve knew about the opportunities available at Lake Region State College. She decided to attend college close to home and close to family, but also to stay involved in her community.

"Devils Lake and the entire Lake Region has been my home and I love being part of this great community," she said.

Schlieve also became involved in her campus community.

While attending Lake Region, she participated in the secretarial club and helped coordinate Sno Daze activities. Her studies and involvement in college activities solidified Schlieve's love for and dedication to the Lake Region.

Sno Daze was a combination of Homecoming and Winter celebration. The campus didn't have any fall sports so it was held in February during the basketball season. Activities were held during the week, such as snow sculpture contests, spray painting in the snow to advertise events, and open skating at Burdick arena. During the week activities in the evening included comedians, hypnotists, and coffee house artists. The week would end with the coronation of Sno Daze King and Queen followed by a dance.

King and Queen candidates were put forward by each club and organization on campus and then the entire student body would vote on the King and Queen. On Thursday evening about 6pm the King and Queen Coronation would be held in the Auditorium (which was usually decorated in the theme of the week). After coronation the Sno Daze Dance with a live band was held and this rotated around venues throughout the years. The bands were usually well known and the one most often contracted was the Johnny Holm Band.



## JULIE SCHLIEVE

Devils Lake, North Dakota  
Associate in Arts — Liberal Arts  
Mortgage and Consumer Banker  
Bremer Bank

////////////////////////////////////  
"Lake Region allowed me to get an education and prepare for a career. Instructors truly invested in me as a student with their time and hands-on instruction," she said.

She earned her Associate in Arts Degree, along with a legal secretary certificate. Today, she is a Mortgage and Consumer Banker with Bremer Bank.

"I work closely building relationships with my clients to find solutions for all their financial needs including buying a home, refinancing their home, personal deposit goals and loan needs, as well as guiding them to other partners that can be of assistance."

She continues to be active in the community. She and her family call the Lake Region home. And, she is fond of her community's college.

"It is a great place. You can earn a degree in many fields, there are so many options. Plus, programs are affordable, and it's a smaller campus with a great atmosphere. The college adapts and looks to offer new programs needed by the workforce. It also works well for those who want to earn credits during high school, thus lessening the time and money spent at a bigger university," she adds. ■

////////////////////////////////////  
*With the revamp of Branches, we want to feature more of our alumni. Nominate someone today by emailing [LRSC.foundation@lrsc.edu](mailto:LRSC.foundation@lrsc.edu). Please include their contact information in your submission. Thank you.*



**LES AND KARN WINDJUE**

Les, son of Leland and Cecilia Windjue, grew up on a farm northeast of Devils Lake in Morris Township, along with five brothers and two sisters.

The daughter of Gordon and Beth Berg, Karn grew up on a farm, along with three brothers and one sister, east of Webster, North Dakota, in Harding Township.

Les and Karn met and dated throughout high school and were graduates of Devils Lake High School with the class of 1977. They continued their education at Lake Region Junior College. Les attended the Farm Management Program and Karn graduated with an AAS in Fashion Merchandising/Marketing Management.

They were married in August of 1978 and began their farming career working together with Les' father, Leland, and his brother, Dennis. They moved onto the family farmstead of Les' grandparents, Philip and Eva Lauinger, in 1983. Here they raised their family of three children—Bethany, Sharlene and Adam—all of whom would go on to attend LRSC.

In later years, Karn worked for LRSC in Student Services as an Admissions Rep, also known as a "Road Warrior." She worked side by side with students of all walks of life, and it is here that her passion for LRSC grew.

Les has served on several local boards as well as two terms on the Community College Foundation board of directors. Together Karn and Les attended several Named Scholarship Endowment Recognition Events. Hearing success stories from students, along with their own children being recipients of endowed scholarships, left a lasting impression.

Through the establishment of this endowment, it is Les and Karn's intent to help secure bright futures for deserving students. ■



Discover some of the world's most sought-after destinations. Southern France and Spain are bursting with personality and beauty, making the possibilities for cultural discovery virtually endless. Set off on this guided adventure to soak in Mediterranean sunshine in Nice, take relaxing siestas in Barcelona, admire renowned artwork in Madrid and visit some of the most stunning places Europe has to offer.

The tour includes 10 nights in handpicked hotels, guided sightseeing tours, expert guides and a train ride. Highlights include the French Riviera, calanques of Cassis, Avignon's Papal Palace, Carcassonne, La Sagrada Familia, Royal Palace and Prado Museum. You'll walk for about 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets.

**ITINERARY, JUNE 6-17, 2020**

- Day 1: Travel Day
- Day 2 & 3: French Riviera
- Day 4 & 5: Avignon
- Day 6, 7 & 8: Barcelona
- Day 9, 10 & 11: Madrid
- Day 12: Departure

**POST-TOUR EXTENSION TO LISBON**

- Day 12: Flight to Lisbon, Portugal
- Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Lisbon
- Day 14: Departure

**CONTACT**

Elonda Nord, Executive Director  
Community College Foundation  
Elonda.Nord@lrsc.edu | 701-665-4639

Teresa Tande, Study Abroad Coordinator  
Lake Region State College  
Teresa.Tande@lrsc.edu | 701-662-1656 ■

# YEAR END *giving*

*join the challenge match*

The Lake Region Community College Foundation of Devils Lake (CCF) has once again been given the challenge to raise money for projects dedicated to the advancement of academics. The State Board of Higher Education will award one dollar in matching grants for every two dollars of non-state, non-federal dollars raised by the CCF. Funds must be received by the foundation now through December 31, 2020.



Donations for endowed scholarships and for endowed program support may be eligible for state matching funds. Eligible match contributions can come from individuals, families, corporations, nonprofits or dedicated campaigns organized by the Foundation. Donations received by the foundation, but not available for use until the death of the donor, are also eligible for state match.

The North Dakota Higher Education Challenge Fund, initiated by the ND Legislature, is intended to ignite a philanthropic spirit to support North Dakota colleges and universities.

A charitable contribution to a qualified endowment fund must be at least \$5,000 to qualify for the North Dakota 40% Endowment Fund Contribution Tax Credit. Qualified endowment funds are permanent, irrevocable funds held by qualified nonprofit organizations. Endowments are established for religious, educational or other charitable purposes.

Please contact the Community College Foundation office to learn more about a charitable gift and potential tax benefits you may receive. 🎁

*Always visit with a financial advisor or legal consultant to discuss income or tax options that are best suited to each individual legal and tax situation.*



Recipients Dylan Rue, Chelsea Young (left) and Shaun McKewin (far right) pictured with their donors Arvin & Jeanette Rohrer (center).



Scholarship endowment donors Bonnie & Julin Hagen with recipient Shaelynn Tofte and her mother Lisa Tofte.



LRSC Registrar Dan Johnson representing the two endowments (AAUW and Jay & Mavis Gerrells) that provided scholarships to Kendall Parker.



A memorial gift is a lasting tribute and a meaningful way to honor loved ones. Since July 1, 2018, gifts have been received in memory of the following individuals:

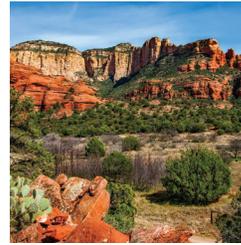
- |                                 |                                  |                                |                                   |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Cliff Abrahamson</i>         | <i>Vivian Gilbertson</i>         | <i>Merrill Kreuger</i>         | <i>LeRoy Rice</i>                 |
| <i>Richard Adahl</i>            | <i>Jeanne LaFleur Glasscock</i>  | <i>Joyce Kruckenberg</i>       | <i>Donald Ripplinger</i>          |
| <i>Kurt Anderson</i>            | <i>Paul Grann</i>                | <i>Idella Kuchar</i>           | <i>Carolyn Sager</i>              |
| <i>Milan "Red" Anderson</i>     | <i>Harvey Hagen</i>              | <i>Donald Kuntz</i>            | <i>Leona M. Schell</i>            |
| <i>Richard Anderson</i>         | <i>Curtis W. Hallaway</i>        | <i>Casper Kurtz</i>            | <i>Anna M. Hoffart Schiele</i>    |
| <i>Daniel R. Asleson</i>        | <i>Bradley "Haro" Halldorson</i> | <i>MaryAnn "Marie" Kurtz</i>   | <i>Ron Schilling</i>              |
| <i>Merle Aus</i>                | <i>Agnes Anna Haman</i>          | <i>Darlys Kuschel</i>          | <i>Rev. Marvoin R. Schoenfish</i> |
| <i>Sharon Axdahl</i>            | <i>Drina Hansel</i>              | <i>Karen L. Johnson Lang</i>   | <i>Donald Schultz</i>             |
| <i>Scott Baerenwald</i>         | <i>Deanna Hanson</i>             | <i>Henry Joseph Lange, Jr.</i> | <i>Eva J. McDougall</i>           |
| <i>Lois Balkenbush</i>          | <i>Ethel "Effie" Hanson</i>      | <i>Glenn Lannoye</i>           | <i>Schumacher</i>                 |
| <i>Vernon Bertsch</i>           | <i>Butch Hastings</i>            | <i>Amiee Larson</i>            | <i>Mary Shankar</i>               |
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| <i>Betty A. Bloomquist</i>      | <i>Reuben Hellekson</i>          | <i>Ed Lauinger</i>             | <i>Daniel Shirek</i>              |
| <i>Marilyn Braathen</i>         | <i>Jim Helten</i>                | <i>Jack Leevers</i>            | <i>Ramona Sletten</i>             |
| <i>Lyle C. Bracken</i>          | <i>Yvonne I. Herda</i>           | <i>Rev. Roger Leonhardt</i>    | <i>Jim Smith</i>                  |
| <i>Roger Bracken</i>            | <i>Ardon Herman</i>              | <i>Lorayne Lillehaugen</i>     | <i>Betty Soper</i>                |
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| <i>Richard Bye</i>              | <i>Evan Heustis</i>              | <i>Stewart Lorenz</i>          | <i>Jim Stewart</i>                |
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| <i>Dina Campbell</i>            | <i>Bradley D. Hoime</i>          | <i>Jim Melville</i>            | <i>Irving Thompson</i>            |
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| <i>Duane Carter</i>             | <i>Eugene Howard</i>             | <i>Gladys Moen</i>             | <i>Leon A. Timboe</i>             |
| <i>Elaine Coploff</i>           | <i>Harold Jack</i>               | <i>Mark Motis</i>              | <i>Marlene Tollefson</i>          |
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| <i>Joyce Dahlen</i>             | <i>Ron Jacobson</i>              | <i>Carmen Myer</i>             | <i>Darold Ulrich</i>              |
| <i>George "Bud" Dahlen, Jr.</i> | <i>Marcia Jager</i>              | <i>Jerome Narum</i>            | <i>Ione Vosberg</i>               |
| <i>Dr. Lee Dannenberg</i>       | <i>Alice Johanson</i>            | <i>Agnes A. "Aggie" Nelson</i> | <i>David A. Walford</i>           |
| <i>Dale Dinger</i>              | <i>Norma Johanson</i>            | <i>Debra Nelson</i>            | <i>James Walski</i>               |
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| <i>Brian Duchscherer</i>        | <i>Eric Kaeding</i>              | <i>John Nelson</i>             | <i>Donald Weed</i>                |
| <i>Kathy Eisenzimmer</i>        | <i>Vernon B. Kelly</i>           | <i>Steven B. Nyland</i>        | <i>Ron Weinmann</i>               |
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| <i>Mark Freier</i>              | <i>Brandon Kolstad</i>           | <i>Katie Olson</i>             | <i>Norman Wirth</i>               |
| <i>Stella Garcia</i>            | <i>John Kosobud</i>              | <i>Shirley Ann Olson</i>       | <i>Allan Young</i> ■              |
| <i>John Geveszek</i>            | <i>Matt Kostecki</i>             | <i>Gary Oram</i>               |                                   |
| <i>Helen Gilbertson</i>         | <i>M. David Koukari</i>          | <i>Deb Peterson</i>            |                                   |
| <i>Mark Gilbertson</i>          | <i>James Edward Kram</i>         | <i>Dorothy Pung</i>            |                                   |

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Dec END-OF-YEAR GIVING AND COUNSELING

Set up an appointment, and learn how to qualify for the ND tax credit.



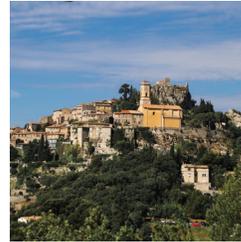
### 3/6 FRIENDRAISING IN AZ

Join friends of LRSC in Apache Wells, AZ and support LRSC in warmer weather.



### Feb LOVE YOUR COLLEGE

Show your love to LRSC during the month of February.



### 6/6-17 TRAVEL WITH THE PRESIDENT

Enjoy a 10-day excursion in the Mediterranean sunshine.



### 2/11 & 12 NAMED ENDOWMENT RECOGNITION EVENT

Recognizing our donors who have given a gift that keeps giving.



### 7/10 ROYALS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mark your calendars for a great day to support the Royals!

## HOW TO DONATE YOUR IRA REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION



Have you considered making a gift to reduce your taxes with a minimum required distribution from your IRA? Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) are minimum amounts that a retirement plan account owner

must withdraw annually starting with the year that he or she reaches 70 ½ years of age. Those meeting the age requirement can transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly from an IRA to an eligible charity without paying income tax on the transaction. But you don't need to make a large donation to benefit from this tax break. This IRA charitable contribution will also satisfy the annual RMD for your IRA.

Qualified charitable contributions must be made by December 31 each year in order to exclude that amount from taxable income. Charitable contributions can only be made from IRAs, not a 401k or similar type of retirement accounts. Funds must be transferred directly from the IRA to an eligible charity by the IRA trustee in order to qualify for the tax break. If you withdraw the money from your IRA and later donate it, it won't qualify as a tax-free qualified charitable distribution. And retirees don't need to itemize to qualify for this charitable tax break.

For more information, please contact the Foundation at 701-662-1520. ■

**Article written by Emily Brandon**, senior editor for retirement at U.S. News & World Report. Writing about retirement planning for U.S. News since 2006, she covers topics like 401(k)s, IRAs, Social Security, and Medicare.

*This information is not intended as tax, legal, or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.*

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