

LAKE REGION STATE COLLEGE

branches



MAGAZINE



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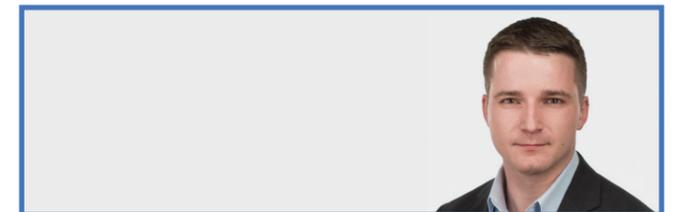
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NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This spring semester has been one for the record books for not only Lake Region State College, but colleges and universities throughout the nation duty-bound to move most of the instruction online to protect students and others from the rapidly spreading COVID-19 situation.

At LRSC, faculty were given a small window of time to transfer their face to face classrooms to distance delivery. Lake Region State College uses technology and online learning components in many classes. Still, the quick, wonderful response by our faculty was nothing short of extraordinary.

Students and faculty, faced with the sudden switch to distance learning, are nevertheless finding ways to support one another. Colleagues are working together remotely and are sharing ideas for making the best use of technology to reach students. Campus leaders are working tirelessly to respond to a multitude of challenges and adapt to changing educational landscape.

Repeatedly we've seen kindness, creativity, compassion, and resiliency.

It shows once again that this campus lives by the phrase We Change Lives. I can't help but feel proud at how Lake Region State College's faculty, staff, and students faced the COVID-19 challenge.

This situation will create a new version of normal when things settle down and we start to return to the way they used to be. I am hopeful that faculty, staff, and students will use this experience to venture into the world with a new understanding and hope.

Lake Region State College is still here, preparing the workforce and planning new, great things.



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



NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As this issue of Branches is published, a new routine is being followed by the Community College Foundation. Office staff members are working remotely from their homes. Meetings of the staff and the board of directors have been switched from in-person to online, utilizing our state-of-the-art technology tools more than ever before. These changes mean we must adopt a new way to reach out to our alumni and friends.

Even as we push forward with these changes, your generosity has been constant. The foundation has received wonderful support for scholarships, instructional programming, and the Hofstad Agriculture Education Center project. The Named Endowment Program has continued its growth. Last year, 300 students received more than \$325,000 in scholarship funds. More than ever before, our students and our programs need the funding your gifts provide.

Our next annual campaign will kick off on July 1st, and our annual Key Event fundraiser has been scheduled for October 23, 2020. Mark your calendars! We're hopeful we will be together again in person for this fun-filled evening of fundraising for our students and programs. As we start the planning process, we will need your help with creative brainstorming. Please contact our office by emailing LRSC.Foundation@lrsc.edu if you'd like to help.

Our hearts and prayers go out to all who are suffering due to the Coronavirus. This is a challenging time for all! Millions are following advice to help to reduce the risk of community spread of the virus. We encourage to you to stay safe and to stay healthy during this difficult time, and we look forward to meeting with you in person soon. In a world of change, caring for our students, alumni and friends – that's one thing that will always be constant.



Elonda Nord
Executive Director, Community College Foundation





Challenge Accepted

BY ERIN WOOD & THE FOUNDATION OFFICE | PHOTOS BY CK PHOTOGRAPHY

You have the power to change a life. Actually, you have the power to impact many lives. The challenge match fund, courtesy of the North Dakota Legislature, gives donors an opportunity to grow qualified gifts by 50 percent.

Most donors do this in the form of endowments that support student scholarships, programs, or priority needs at Lake Region State College. Qualifying gifts received between now and December 31, 2020, may be eligible for this match.

Now is the time for you to consider creating or strengthening an endowment for scholarships or program support at Lake Region State College. Make your match-qualified gift today, and its value will grow by 50 percent.

Students are extremely thankful for the support endowments provide.

“It didn’t take long for me to realize that scholarships aren’t “free money.” They are an investment. A sacrifice. Someone else’s stake in our education. They are a donor’s way of supporting and guiding us. They are donor’s way of saying ‘Hey, I believe in you and want to see each of you succeed and live out your dreams.’ Each of you have made selfless sacrifices that will help us for years to come. We are all extremely honored to receive the endowments you have backed and hope to one day do the same for future students. So, from each of us students, thank you for your exceptionally generous donations and thank you for believing in us.” — Emily Eback

In addition, North Dakota taxpayers may qualify for a 40% tax credit for gifts to endowments at LRSC. Endowed gifts provide a lasting legacy and a hope-filled investment in the future. It’s the gift that keeps on giving!

BUILD POWERFUL PROGRAMS

An endowed gift for program support makes learning experiences strong, better and more powerful. External resources dedicated to program enhancement are transformational by providing new classroom resources, fostering collaboration, encouraging student engagement, encouraging faculty to seek new solutions, and rewarding teaching innovation

They empower faculty to grow professionally and continuously improve student learning outcomes.



“SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE ALLOWED ME TO ATTEND LRSC AND SAVE MONEY SO I CAN DOUBLE DOWN ON CREDITS TO HELP GET AHEAD IN MY PHYSICAL THERAPY ACADEMIC PLAN.”

—BREONNA RANCE



THE POWER OF SCHOLARSHIPS

An endowed gift for scholarships helps students access life-changing learning opportunities. External resources for scholarships have the power to change a life.

And scholarships have done that for Sam Shumway.

“Scholarships have ultimately made it possible for me to be in school. Without scholarships I would not have the ability to learn, further my career and play softball.”

By reducing financial barriers and rewarding academic success, donors help drive enrollment and strengthen retention and through campus and community engagement, donors help students discover LRSC. ■



LRSC student Sam Shumway

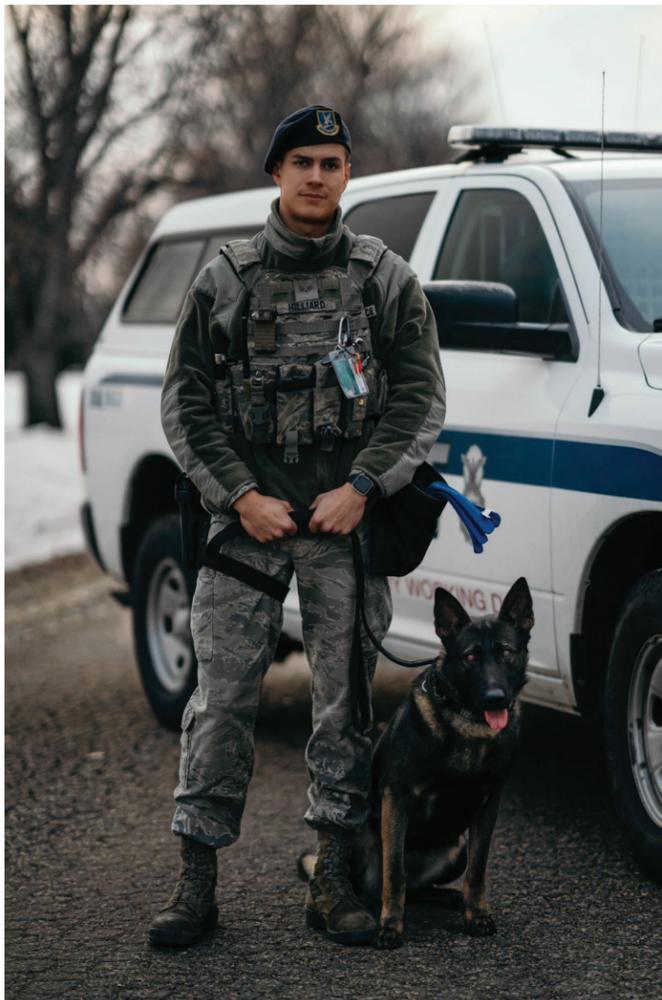
IT'S ALL ABOUT SERVICE

BY ERIN WOOD

Each day, men and women in the U.S. military put their life on the line to protect our country. Knowing these men and women in uniform serve their country and are willing to sacrifice all made it an easy decision when Lake Region State College was approached to offer courses and programs at the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

Since the early 1980s, Lake Region State College has been present on the Grand Forks Air Force Base offering our own degree programs and supporting military members in pursuit of their Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) degrees, as well. The mission of the CCAF is to "offer and award job-related associate in applied science degrees and other academic credentials that enhance mission readiness, contribute to recruiting, assist in retention and support the career transitions of Air Force enlisted members."





GFAFB student Senior Airman Brandon Hilliard with his military working dog.

For Airman Brandon Hilliard, attending college through Lake Region State College at the Grand Forks Air Force Base is all about the service.

Hilliard said once he made the decision to enroll in classes, the experience has been nothing but positive.

“The registering process is very easy and very self-explanatory. Mr. Cowger, Ms. Gratton and Ms. Zielske do a wonderful job at what they do and help me with anything I have questions about. I cannot express how wonderful they are at what they do!”

He’s been a student since the fall of 2019, pursuing a liberal arts degree in pre-nursing. The classes are small and personal. Instructors are incredibly military friendly.

That, he said, means a lot.

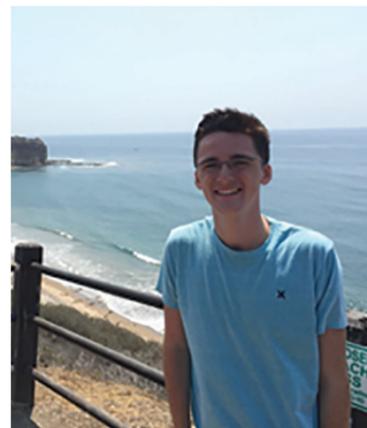
“When I go TDY on a military mission, my professors have always worked with me to make sure I can still complete assignments and achieve my education.” Hilliard said.

Dedication to students is part of the job, said John Cowger, director of LRSC’s Grand Forks Air Force Base campus.

“Our LRSC staff and instructors take the time to know our students and their educational goals. This awareness helps us to better advise each student and become a partner in their success,” Cowger said.

MORE THAN MILITARY

Besides serving Air Force personnel, Lake Region State College at the Grand Forks Air Force Base Education Center is open to military dependents, veterans, and area residents. Students are welcome to pursue a degree or take individual classes. Many students from the University of North Dakota and Northland Community and Technical College take classes that help them complete their degrees at their home campus, as well.



GFAFB student Michael Lazenby.

Students find that the location is close, classes are offered at convenient times that fit around a work schedule, and the small class sizes with excellent instructors offer them the help that they need.

Student Michael Lazenby has been taking classes at Lake Region for roughly two years.

Majoring in investments at the University of North Dakota, Lazenby enrolled in courses at LRSC that meet his major requirements and are a better fit for Lazenby and his schedule.

Jason Paulette has been attending LRSC at the Grand Forks Air Force Base the past few years with a goal of earning his associate in science degree and then transferring on for his bachelor’s. The Air Force veteran, who works for the city of Grand Forks, is working toward a four-year degree in Information Technology.

“I love every instructor that has taught me their courses. There are some gems at LRSC. The assistance that you get from everyone in that office was just amazing.”

Faculty have a way to set courses where learning is enhanced, Paulette added.

Paulette’s not alone in that statement. Past students repeatedly remark on the ability faculty have for bringing real-life implications to the course content, so it’s personalized.



GFAFB student Jason Paulette.

“The instructors are second to none. Not only do they provide exceptional one on one attention and instruction for students, but they also provide practical examples that translate to the real world,” Lazenby said. “This is not something that is very accessible in large universities. Every class that I have taken so far at Lake Region has provided me with a very specific set of skills that have equipped me with a greater passion and love for the world of business.”

“Students appreciate the benefits of LRSC’s small, intimate classes where our excellent instructors get to know each one and work closely with them,” Cowger said.

Full degrees offered at the grand Forks Air Force Base include:

- Associate of Arts (AA) - Liberal Arts
- Associate of Science (AS) - Liberal Arts
- Business Administration (AA)
- Early Childhood Education (AAS)
- Information Technology (AAS)
- Law Enforcement (AAS)
- Marketing (AAS)
- Pre-nursing Associate of Science - Liberal Arts (AS)

After this semester ends, Lazenby will transfer out of state to continue his studies, most likely at Purdue University.

“I owe a lot to Lake Region. Without my experience at Lake Region, it would have been a lot harder to be able to transfer to such a renowned university.”

The future is different for all three of these students. For Hilliard, it’s to apply for the Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program in 2021 in hopes to become a Nurse in the United States Air Force. Paulette will be

MY FAVORITE PART ABOUT THE COURSES ARE THE CLASS SIZES. [...] I HAVE NEVER BEEN AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS IN CLASS AND THE TEACHING SEEMS MORE PERSONAL SINCE THE CLASSES ARE USUALLY SMALL.

Even though Lazenby spends most of his time at his degree granting institution, he feels very connected to LRSC.

“Everyone at the Lake Region GFAFB campus is both extremely warm and welcoming as well as professional and resourceful,” Lazenby said.

There are many other reasons that Lazenby lists as benefits of Lake Region State College’s offerings at the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

“My favorite part about the courses are the class sizes. Courses I’ve taken at the Base have between five to 20 people in them. I have never been afraid to ask questions in class and the teaching seems more personal since the classes are usually small,” Lazenby said.

pursuing his bachelor’s degree and Lazenby’s plans are to work in an investment firm, with a long-term goal of owning his own business.

Thanks to Lake Region State College–GFAFB campus being available when and where they needed it, all three are well on their way to achieving their goals.

“I would highly recommend anyone to take classes at LRSC, regardless of their degree or life plans. To be frank, my experience with all the faculty and administration has been nothing short of incredible,” Lazenby said.

“I urge all my friends to take classes here. Lake Region is not a regular college. It is a REAL learning institution, focusing on real skills and attributes that matter in an everchanging world.” ■

Where the wind takes you

BY ERIN WOOD | PHOTOS BY CK PHOTOGRAPHY

Chandelle McCall's enthusiasm when she received her first job offer this April was excitement, joy, and determination.

The Wyoming native recently accepted a position to be a traveling wind technician. She will be working on sites throughout the country to ensure electrical components are functioning before turbines in wind sites go online.

Always fascinated with wind towers, McCall is now one of a growing number of women entering the wind energy field.

According to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), the U.S. wind industry now directly employs 120,000 Americans, spread across all 50 states.

And McCall can't wait to join that workforce.

After researching what wind energy technicians do daily and seeing women represented in the field, she found herself saying "I want to work with my hands. I could totally do this," she said.

So, when her sister and brother-in-law moved to Devils Lake to attend Lake Region State College, Chandelle decided to venture to North Dakota, too. She found what she calls a well-structured wind energy program at LRSC and enrolled spring semester 2018.

PIONEERING PROGRAM

The Wind Energy Technician Program at Lake Region State College is the first of its kind in the state of North Dakota. Rapid growth in the wind energy industry more than a decade ago sparked a burgeoning need for technicians. The college works closely with industry representatives with curriculum to prepare students for careers in the wind energy industry.

Being a wind energy technician is a great career option for many reasons.

Jay Johnson, LRSC's Wind Energy Technology program coordinator and lead instructor says the steady and dependable nature of a career as a wind technician has an undeniable attractiveness in these uncertain times.

"Wind Energy Technician jobs come with good salaries, health insurance, retirement plans, vacations and sick leave. Wind jobs provide a way for local men and women to remain active in the family farm or ranch and to grow and support new families. Income from these positions bring an economic stability to the individual, families and to the communities in which they live," Johnson said.

AWEA reports that wind turbine technicians, the workers who build and maintain wind farms, continue to represent the second fastest growing career in

the country, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Meanwhile, veterans find wind jobs at a rate 61 percent higher than the average U.S. industry.

The industry also shows promise of growth.

According to the AWEA, wind energy became the largest source of renewable electricity in the U.S. in 2019, generating over 7 percent of the country's electricity. To put into perspective, wind now generates enough electricity to meet the demands of California (the world's fourth largest economy) and New Jersey combined. At the state level, wind provided more than 20 percent of the electricity generated in six states – Iowa, Kansas, Maine, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.



LRSC students sitting atop their live lab wind turbine.

ENERGIZING STUDENTS AND THE CAMPUS

A big draw for students who enroll in LRSC's wind program is the college's wind turbine where students experience vital hands-on learning. The 1.67 MW turbine's electricity generation provides service to the LRSC campus with excess production sold.

Located 3.5 miles north of the Devils Lake campus, the turbine makes LRSC's wind energy technician program stand out from other training module.

"The LRSC wind turbine is crucial to the wind technician training, here, at LRSC. For example, operation and maintenance concepts are introduced in the classroom, practiced in the lab and then taught and mastered in the real world environment that the LRSC wind turbine generator provides," Johnson said.

The turbine was a big draw for recent graduate Jake Miller.

Going into the wind energy field was a change from his initial decision to be an electrician.

"A friend told me that working on wind turbines may better match my interests. I looked online and saw LRSC had its own turbine where students could learn, not just a classroom or simulator."

The other draw for Miller was Jay Johnson.

After going on a tour of the college and the wind program, Miller sat down and had a long visit with Johnson.

"He showcased how important communication is for this career and that you need to be a team player with safety always top of mind," Miller said. "And to always be ready for something new as a team and individual."

SEEING WOMEN REPRESENTED IN THE FIELD, SHE FOUND HERSELF SAYING "I WANT TO WORK WITH MY HANDS. I COULD TOTALLY DO THIS."

Training students to be safe, in all aspects of work on and around wind turbine generators, is the LRSC Wind Program's raison d'être, Johnson said.

"Every wind class is really an opportunity to take a look at best safest way to complete whatever wind skill we are studying at the moment. Every skill is taught with an analysis of hazards and risks."

One thing Miller knew going into the program was that it's not for the faint of heart, or faint of heights.

"You have to become quite comfortable with heights and gear."

Students must have the ability to climb and have good manual dexterity. Wind energy technicians must also be able to work in confined spaces. Work on wind towers may be indoor or outdoor in a variety of weather conditions.

Miller learned how to become more adept with heights over the summers when he worked on cell phone towers that reached 1,800 to 3,000 feet in the air.

"We would tear down and maintain the towers, install new parts through North Dakota to Montana," Miller said.

Miller also found a welcoming campus with student success programs who treated students like professionals.

"Having a program like TRiO was a tremendous help. Everyone was so friendly. The instructors and staff in the background play such a strong role in a student's life," Miller said.

Both McCall and Miller became heavily involved in campus activities. Both were Royal Ambassadors – students who showcase the campus to future students through tours and assist with special events on campus.

Renewable energy camp for girls creates spark for learning



Instructor Jay Johnson (orange hard-hat) with local drone partner giving a lesson on drones during wind camp.

The growing field of renewable energy is seeking more women in its workforce, which is why Lake Region State College hosted a Renewable Energy Camp on its campus last summer for girls ages 13-17.

The camp was sponsored by NextEra Energy, who is working to promote student achievement in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. The students learned all about Renewable Energy sources including wind energy and biotechnology.

These young women learned all about how wind energy works and had many fun opportunities to experience many facets of the renewable technology and tour the college's wind turbine that provides electricity for the campus.

The camp began with an energy monitoring system workshop in which they tested mechanical advantage through games of tug of war. After a few introductory sessions with Shaun Prince, associate professor of science, and Jay Johnson, assistant professor of wind energy, the girls got to build their own miniature wind turbines.

The students continued through the week learning about electricity grids, meteorology, rigging equipment, repelling, and safety. A guest speaker from Next Era visited the students and they participated in some outdoor wind labs where they learned about drone tower and blade inspection from Air Autonomy.

"It was so motivational to see other girls super excited about careers in energy," said Chandelle McCall, LRSC Wind Energy graduate and assistant at the camp.

Although the COVID-19 situation resulted in no summer camps at LRSC, hopes are to bring it back in the future. If you or any one you know is interested in attending this camp next year, contact LRSC. ■



Wind student Jake Miller learning the ropes during safety exercise.

McCall also worked in the campus childcare center and was a resident hall assistant. Miller was active in the new Club Shooting Sports Team.

Scholarship support also was important to both students. The college has multiple scholarships for students specifically in the wind program. Students also may qualify for endowed and honor scholarships. Each year the college awards more than \$300,000 in scholarships to LRSC students.

"Anyone who supports students, whether it's a gift of \$5 or \$1,000, thank you." Miller said.

Miller anticipates a wind energy job will soon be on the horizon. The COVID-19 situation has made finding the right job opportunity challenging.

McCall hopes she's found the key for that career door and helping other young women find that same career if they choose. She was an active leader in the NextEra Wind Energy Camp for girls in 2019 and hopes to continue projects like that. (See sidebar story)

Opportunities for wind energy careers appears to be as wide as the Dakota horizon, and Lake Region State College stands ready to enroll yet another class of future wind energy technicians. ■

Special thanks to American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) Wind Powers America Annual Report for providing supplemental information for this story (www.awea.org).



Save the Date

JUNE 2021 THE BEST OF IRELAND AND SCOTLAND

Traverse small villages, beautiful countrysides, and seaside cliffs.

Travel through the landscapes of Ireland and Scotland, where hundreds of years of history spring to life. Start your journey in charming Galway and explore County Kerry's coastal landscapes, before traveling north to explore Dublin's bustling streets. Then, head to Glasgow and the Scottish Highlands and end your journey in Edinburgh, where you'll admire stunning Georgian architecture.

ITINERARY, JUNE 5-17, 2021

- Day 1: Travel Day
- Day 2: Galway Tour
- Day 3: Kylemore Abbey and Connemara National Park
- Day 4 & 5: County Kerry, Ring of Kerry, and Killarney National Park
- Day 6 & 7: Dublin Tour
- Day 8: Fly to Glasgow
- Day 9 & 10: Scottish Highlands
- Day 11 & 12: Edinburgh
- Day 13: Departure

POST-TOUR EXTENSION TO LONDON, JUNE 18-19, 2021

- Day 13 & 14: Train to London and London Sightseeing Tour
- Day 15: Departure

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JAKENDA SHORT

McHenry, North Dakota
Fitness Trainer Technician/Liberal Arts

WHAT YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT LRSC

I love the family feel. It's important to be surrounded with amazing people who will go out of their way to help you. Faculty and staff are always there for support and want you to succeed.

I have gained confidence in myself through every club and activity I've participated in. From being a leader on the Royals volleyball team to Co-President of Phi Theta Kappa.

WHY LRSC

I chose LRSC for a few reasons. It was close to home, it was a smaller school, and they had the degree I was looking for.

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL FUTURE STUDENTS

I would tell someone looking at college that you don't have to have it all figured out right away. Try some stuff and see where it goes.

WHAT YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT LRSC

The thing that I liked the most about LRSC is that you really had a chance to work one on one with your teachers. The teachers at LRSC care a lot about their students and want to see them succeed.

THE IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships had a huge impact on my learning. I was able to go to school without the stress of worrying how I'm going to pay the tuition.

WHY LRSC

I chose LRSC for the family feel. Since my first semester at LRSC, faculty, staff, and coaches have gone out of their way to help me. Lake Region State College made the transition simple because of the family environment present on campus.

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL FUTURE STUDENTS

LRSC makes you feel at home because of the small class sizes and the one-on-one interactions with the instructors. LRSC has a family environment and you will build relationships with your instructors and meet lifelong friends. The faculty, staff, and the community go out of their way to help students succeed. The faculty impact the students in ways they don't know. I will forever cherish my memories at LRSC.

THE IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to scholarships, I have been given opportunities I never imagined. Scholarships allowed me to finish my Associates Degree without a single loan, which is amazing. Scholarships reduced my financial burdens and allowed me to focus on my schoolwork.



JOSEPH STAPLETON

McVille, North Dakota
Business Administration - Marketing
Joseph is President of DECA and was to compete at internationals this April.

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

A TRIP ACROSS THE POND CHANGED HER LIFE

For Leonie de Jonge, coming to Lake Region State College was a complete leap of faith.

Recruited to attend LRSC and play basketball for Duane Schwab, de Jonge found herself leaving her small country of Luxembourg for the plains of North Dakota.

“I’d never met him in person or lived in the U.S. before and wasn’t sure how I would adjust,” she said. “I still remember when he picked me up at the airport in the middle of the night. I had traveled for 32 hours and was totally jetlagged, but he insisted that we go for ice cream. His wife, Linda, had prepared a bed for me in my college dorm.”

For a small campus, Lake Region State College enrolls around 35-40 international students each year. International students who choose LRSC create an imprint on the campus community by sharing their culture and adopting a new culture at LRSC.

Like many domestic students who attend LRSC, Leonie was a first generation student, so the campus size and attentive staff were an appreciated asset. She soon immersed herself in activities, excelling in the classroom and on the court. She received recognition for her academic achievements through Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the college’s honor society and earned the college’s writing excellence award and even served as head editor of the annual arts publication, Shorelines.

She was one of two students annually recognized as LRSC’s representatives on the ND All-Academic Team. She earned the Guistwhite Award, the second-highest scholarship PTK offers. Only 20 winners were selected from among 1800 applicants. Selection was based on academic excellence, leadership accomplishments, and engagement in PTK programs. Fluent in Dutch, Luxembourgish, German, Spanish, French, and English, Leonie’s PTK project was meeting weekly with 5-year olds at Head Start teaching them German, Spanish, and French in 8-week sessions.

“It was an amazing program,” said Teresa Tande, Associate Professor of English, Humanities and Communication and Study Abroad Coordinator.

From LRSC Leonie went to Cornell College in Iowa, completing a bachelor’s degree in International Relations in 2014. While there she also continued to play basketball. She then attended Cambridge in the United Kingdom for a master’s degree in Politics & International Studies (2014-2015), followed by a doctoral degree in the same subject (2015-2019). Today, Leonie is Dr. Leonie de Jonge lives in Groningen, the Netherlands, and is



DR. LEONIE DE JONGE

Luxembourg
Liberal Arts — Transfer Degree
Assistant Professor of European Politics & Society
University of Groningen

Assistant Professor in European Politics & Society for the University of Groningen.

Even though the entire LRSC family influenced de Jonge, she fondly recalls the impact of Schwab and Tande.

“Coach Schwab constantly pushed and challenged me, but at the same time, he was nothing but supportive. I was very saddened by his recent passing. Looking through some old video footage of games, I could hear his voice from the sidelines, cheering me on, pushing me to work harder. I don’t think he realized how much of an impact he had on international students. It’s like he gave us all an entry ticket to our own future.”

Basketball remains a joy to her as she played through college and now in the “promotiedivisie”, the second tier of basketball in the Netherlands and highest amateur competition in the country.

Teresa Tande, Leonie said, is exactly the kind of caring and knowledgeable teacher she strives to be every day.

“She encouraged me to apply for grants and scholarships and constantly challenged me to become a better writer. I am infinitely grateful to her.”

And now the sky is the limit for Leonie.

“LRSC provided a necessary steppingstone that equipped me with all the necessary skills to succeed in the classroom. I also learned a great deal about myself: I became more resilient and confident both on and off the basketball court. Without LRSC, I would not be where I am today.” ■

SMALL DOESN'T MEAN LESS

Many times, small creates opportunities for significant success.

Growing up in the Lake Region, Dr. Steven Kunkel had an interest in science. College was on his horizon after high school and he enrolled at Lake Region State College (known then as Lake Region Junior College).

LRSC was convenient as it was close to home and financially viable. Digging into his studies the fall of 1969, Kunkel soon found backing from his biology instructor Bill Morrison. “He was fantastic and encouraged me to focus on biology,” and that is exactly what Kunkel did.

Kunkel said his instructors were exceptional and he graduated from Lake Region with a well-rounded education. He fondly recalls instructors who put students first, such as Dan Johnson and Beverly Schmidt.

“Everyone was friendly (at Lake Region) but they also were first-rate. The faculty here (LRSC) could be at any institution.”

That foundation at LRSC paved a road to success and today, Dr. Steven Kunkel leads the entire research mission at the University of Michigan

Like many, Kunkel’s studies at Lake Region were a launching pad. He went on to NDSU in 1971, where his brother also was enrolled. He earned a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in Bacteriology.

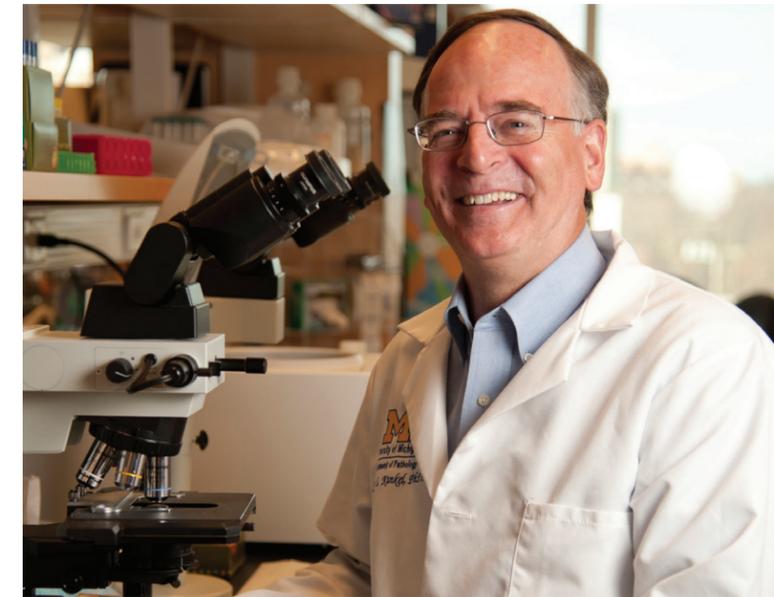
From there, doors opened for a doctoral program at the University of Kansas.

He received his Ph.D. degree in 1978 in microbiology from the University of Kansas. After a short post-doctoral appointment in Connecticut, he joined the faculty at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in 1980 as an instructor in Pathology. He was promoted to professor with tenure in 1991.

His success at the University of Michigan has grown exponentially from the day he joined the faculty.

He’s earned roles as the senior associate dean for research at the Medical School, Endowed Professor of Pathology Research and the Peter A. Ward Distinguished University Professor. He has also held various leadership and administrative positions, including the associate dean for interdisciplinary studies in the Horace Rackham Graduate School, interim dean of the Horace H. Rackham Graduate School and interim vice provost for academic affairs.

His research interests have centered on assessing molecular mechanisms of lung inflammation by studying cytokine and chemokine biology. His studies are internationally recognized. His research group has provided evidence for specific cytokine phenotypes that dictate the progression of certain chronic diseases.



DR. STEVEN KUNKEL

Devils Lake, North Dakota
Liberal Arts — Transfer Degree
Executive Vice-Dean of Research
The University of Michigan Medical School
Chief Scientific Officer
Michigan Medicine

Kunkel also has organized numerous international conferences on inflammation, and is an associate editor for various professional scientific journals. He is an internationally recognized immunologist, with over 600 publications and is the present co-chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease at the NIH. By any measure he has attained great success, as both a research scientist and an administrator.

In 2018, Kunkel was named the interim executive vice dean for research and chief scientific officer for Michigan Medicine, which soon led into a permanent role that he currently occupies.

“The whole spectrum of biomedical research at U-M reports to the Office of Research.” That area includes overseeing \$600 million in grants that will help advance the world of science and medicine.

Kunkel’s success started as a student interested in science who started his post-secondary studies at LRSC. Big dreams sometimes start in small places and petite campuses can develop broad goals.

“For me it was Lake Region that created the foundation for my career. It was the springboard for greater opportunities,” Kunkel said.

He encourages students to take their talents and dreams and apply it to their studies at Lake Region or wherever they are studying. “See what can happen. Build on it. Invest in your potential.” ■

This article was supplemented with material courtesy of the University of Michigan



PHILIP KENNER ENDOWMENT

Philip Kenner has always been fascinated by scientific inquiry as a contributor to meaningful innovation. Through diligence and determination, he has transformed that fascination into a rewarding career.

Philip John Kenner was born to Corry and Kristin Kenner in Devils Lake. He graduated from Devils Lake High School in 2005 and benefited from dual-credit classes and other coursework at LRSC. He went on to earn a B.A. in Biochemical Sciences from Harvard University and an M.Sc. in Molecular Medicine from University College London. Today, Philip is a Managing Director at ClearView Healthcare Partners in Boston, Massachusetts. He works with life sciences-focused clients to support decision-making as they pursue strategic growth.

Philip believes strongly that community colleges serve multiple purposes. They provide a source of learning for talented high school students and provide an accessible starting place for others to jumpstart a college education. Students learn technical skills and pursue important trades, and they develop skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

Although Philip currently lives in Boston, he feels a deep satisfaction in giving back to the hometown community that provided his foundational education. By establishing the Philip John Kenner Science Scholarship, he is making long-term investments in talented students planning careers in the sciences who may have the ability but not the resources to pursue their dreams. ■

An endowment is a wonderful gift that lasts forever! More than 180 endowments have been established by individuals and families wishing to support scholarships or programs at LRSC. A gift of \$15,000 or larger is required to establish an endowment. The cash earnings are awarded annually to support the scholarship or educational program of the donor's choice. The following endowments are new:

GEORGE AND MARY JANE EIDSNESS

Education and music were all important in the Eidsness farm home in rural Edmore, North Dakota. George, a farmer, ran the farming operation while Mary Jane continued her teaching career. She also taught piano and frequently provided music for church services, weddings, and funerals. George and Mary Jane were proud parents of seven children, all of whom went on to college. Believing that a good education is key to success, Mary Jane established this endowment to help students reach for their dreams through education. ■

COLLEEN LEARNED MEMORIAL

This endowment was established in memory of Colleen Learned, a long-time radiology technician at Mercy Hospital in Devils Lake. Colleen truly loved her profession as a sonographer specializing in obstetrical ultrasound, and she dedicated herself to creating an awareness of the extreme need for professionals in the radiologic technology field. When Colleen passed away unexpectedly shortly after her retirement, Andy and Anita Lankowicz established this endowment to honor her memory. Proceeds will support the Dakota Nursing Program at LRSC. ■

BRIAN AND DEB HOUKOM

Brian and Deb Houkom believe education is critical for building a successful career. They felt a deep desire to support students and their former hometown community of Devils Lake. Brian, CEO of Western Bank, and Deb established this endowment to provide scholarship support and reduce student debt for sophomores pursuing careers in business- or finance-related fields. ■

JEFF AND BARBARA WAHL FAMILY

Jeff Wahl proudly served three terms on Community College Foundation board of directors. As president, his steadfast leadership was vital, especially during the fundraising campaign for the Bergstrom Technical Center. He and his wife, Barbara, established this endowment to support exemplary students with financial need. Those enrolling in American Sign Language are given preference. ■

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I can already hear the stories starting decades from now. “Remember back in 2020 when we shut everything down because of corona virus?” And the stories will flow – some happy, some sad, all life altering, as the events of the past months change many pieces of who we are as individuals, teams, family units, and communities.

For me, the past two months have been working from a makeshift desk in our formal entry way. I chose this spot because of the natural sunlight coming through the door; a screen window for spring breezes; proximity to my middle school and kindergarten-age sons who I have been attempting to assist with their schooling; and to have a front row seat to watching the farm get prepared for spring’s work. The sound of humming engines and smell of fresh soil put a spring in any farm girl’s step.

The dirt’s being prepared and turned for another season. Soon, seeds with the hope of a bountiful harvest will exit the drills in a grid that will grow into lush green fields and mature into shades of golds, browns, and amber.

At Lake Region State College, dirt is turning, too. Ground is being worked for the new Hofstad Precision Ag Center on the college campus. Soon, a building to house our Precision Ag and Farm Management programs will be erected to welcome in students ready to forge a career in the vital industry of this region. Doors also will be opened to a variety of visitors for meetings, trainings, and more.



As the construction begins, fundraising continues. Lake Region State College has \$500,000 to make the capital campaign for the ag center complete.

The campaign has allowed the program to strengthen relationships and create new ones with individuals, organizations, and businesses. All gifts of \$2,000 and up will be recognized in our donor recognition area in the new building. We have naming opportunities available for the large shop and for the 40 acre field.

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

So it’s been an exciting, challenging, and monumental 2020 in many ways: planned and unexpected. With that, we present to you the next issue of Branches. Enjoy.



Erin Wood

Erin Wood
Director of College Relations



SAVE THE DATE FOR A ROARING TWENTIES KEY EVENT

The Community College Foundation is looking forward to the day when everyone can be reunited with daily routines and activities. And because we are waiting to get together again soon, we are going ahead with plans for the annual Key Event.

One thing is for certain, we know we will have a roaring good time. The Roaring Twenties Key Event will take place October 23rd in the Memorial Building.

Such a theme is fitting as the 1920s decade was one of jubilee and recovery after World War I. So far, 2020 is waiting for its good times. "This year, we're hoping to recover from the setback of COVID-19 and bring the community back together to celebrate each other and Lake Region State College," said Elonda Nord, executive director of the Community College Foundation.

With all the major impacts to the community and country created with the pandemic, it's likely that the Key Event will also come with some new surprises and changes.

"We are looking for folks to join our planning committee. Meetings will start up early this summer," Nord added.

So mark your calendars, practice your Charleston, and get your Great Gatsby on! ■



BOOSTERS ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Bring on summer and the annual LRSC Boosters Golf Tournament.

Join us July 10th 2020 at Creel Bay Golf Course in Devils Lake for this fun event to support LRSC Athletics.

Cost is \$400.00 per team with a shot gun start at noon and steak dinner to follow.

Atheltic Director Danny Mertens said those who don't want to golf are invited to join in on the steak fry for \$20.00 per person.

Also this year our Booster Club Raffle Drawing will be held at 5:00pm at the Golf Course. Tickets for the Raffle Drawing are \$50.00 a piece.

Go to lrscroyals.com to sign up today! ■



AUGUST ISSUE IS ALL ABOUT ACTIVITIES

Arts, humanities, and athletics all play a strong role in student life at Lake Region State College.

From theater productions, special lectures, and concerts in the Robert Fawcett Auditorium to volleyball, basketball, softball, baseball, and now clay target on the court, field, and range, extra-curricular activities of all sorts bring students and the community together at LRSC.

Find out more about a wonderful endowment to enhance the Robert Fawcett Auditorium and a preview to a great season of sports action in our next issue, coming in August. ■



MAKE A MAJOR GIFT WITH MINOR EFFORT

During these times of change and uncertainty, we want to pause to thank you for your partnership. Thanks to you, Lake Region State College continues to live its mission to "enhance lives and community vitality through quality education." Our mission may take many forms, but at its core is our desire to help people and make this world a better place. And we know small gestures make big differences!

Many people are discovering they can make a big difference with an IRA charitable rollover gift. A charitable rollover provides several benefits. If you are

72 or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to a nonprofit this year. You pay no taxes on the transfer, and your gift counts dollar-for-dollar to support important work.

To help further our mission, please consider designating Lake Region State College as a beneficiary of your IRA. You can reduce taxes and increase the impact of your gifts! ■

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