

LCCPA NEWS

Monthly Newsletter
APRIL 2021 | ISSUE 5

In this newsletter:

Faculty View Featuring: Page 01
Anna White

Youth Apprentices Featuring: Page 02
Kyra Lefebber

Where Are They Now? Featuring: Page 03
Claire Vandenheuvel

HOSA State & POW: Page 04
Chris Choudoir

YA Partners with Businesses: Page 05
Dawn Grenzer

#1 School in Appleton, WI Metro Area
#4 Wisconsin Charter School
#34 in WI High Schools
#204 in Charter High Schools
#1,222 in Nation Rankings



LCCPA is ranked #1,222 in the National Rankings. Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation and how well they prepare students for college.

FACULTY VIEW- LAST 10 YEARS

Anna White



As I look back on the first decade of the LCCPA's existence, I can't help but feel a sense of overwhelming pride and satisfaction based upon all of the wonderful things our current and past students, staff, board members, and community members have accomplished. I believe I also own a unique perspective in that my involvement in the LCCPA began in my very first year as a teacher.

Picture this: a bright-eyed college grad eager to take on her first year as a Spanish teacher. Something I wanted since my high school years -- all coming to fruition. In a lovely dose of serendipity, I came on board the LCCPA halfway through the school year to serve as the school-to-career liaison. In those initial years of the LCCPA, my charge was largely to coordinate career experiences for healthcare and manufacturing/engineering students including facility tours, guest speakers, job shadows, and virtual/distance learning experiences. I also spent much of my time building relationships with our business partners: trying to help others to both understand and get excited about helping us to achieve our mission.

But...wait a minute....I'm a bright-eyed, 22-year-old teacher who is managing her first classroom--in Spanish. That little dose of context might help you to imagine the stretch I experienced at times trying to do this school-to-career liaison role justice. I felt a little conflicted trying to decide what "hat" I should be wearing -- Spanish teacher or community liaison. Am I grading papers or writing thank you notes? Am I making lesson plans or phone calls to our business partners? Am I planning a field trip to the Mexican restaurant or LCCPA partner breakfast? Though it was challenging in the moment, I cherish the many lessons that I learned, relationships I built, and the overall realization of my personal growth through the process.

You see, I really didn't identify with my LCCPA role at first. As a high school student, I generally knew exactly what I wanted to do when I grew up, where I wanted to go to school, etc.

I wasn't much for exploring other career paths, and, if we're being honest, I didn't face much adversity or bumps in the road to make me consider otherwise. I am also lucky enough to say that I landed exactly where I wanted and needed in order to be fulfilled in my work life. But....many of the students I worked with didn't have the same situation as I did. Many had almost no idea of what they wanted to do; some thought they had it all figured out only to realize that it was not at all what they had expected, and beyond. Some students were ready to take some healthy risks and begin exploring the career possibilities ahead of them, while others needed coaxing just to get on the bus to attend a career visit. It was a challenging yet refreshing pivot from the "typical" classroom teacher experience. I was lucky enough to help coach students to take healthy risks and glean whatever they could from the area business partners who were so gracious as to share their time and resources.

In time, I started to make the connection that my LCCPA mission and Spanish classroom teacher mission weren't too unrelated after all. Healthy risks. Seizing opportunities. Learning and growing. Making connections. Not only were these things I coached my students towards, but also I coached myself on in this new role. After all, the best teachers don't just talk the talk, they walk the walk, right?

Though I was eventually called back to the Spanish classroom full time, I still fondly remember my days "in the trenches" during the infancy of the LCCPA. I remember how passionate I felt about our mission and the excitement of all the innovative things we created together. Though my involvement with the LCCPA has changed, I still get to remain connected to our students and invested in our school's mission via serving as class advisor and (I like to think) number one cheerleader for students to include world language in their career exploration and academic plans. I will always have a special place in my heart for the LCCPA, and I am excited to see our students, staff, and other stakeholders into another decade!





YOUTH APPRENTICE EXPERIENCES

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Describe yourself
- Describe your career development path
- Describe your current career experience and what you learned from it
- Share advice with younger students on how LCCPA prepares you for life beyond high school
- Other interesting facts about yourself



KYRA LEFEBBER

Hello, my name is Kyra and I am a senior at LCCPA. I play softball, I am in NHS, HOSA, and LCCPR. Currently, I work as a CNA at St. Paul Elder Services. I've always had an interest in working in the healthcare field ever since I was young. I also love science.

When I first started at the Career Pathways Academy I heard some older students talking about being a CNA and I knew it was something I wanted to do as an introduction to the healthcare field.

As a sophomore, I took the CNA class and I will be reaching my 2-year mark working as a CNA at St. Paul Elder Services this coming June. Right now, I work on the locked dementia unit in the nursing home part of St. Paul.

At first working down there was not an easy task. There were a lot of behaviors and it could be scary. Even now working on that unit is sometimes incredibly difficult. However, I found out very quickly that I have the heart (and the much-needed patience) to work on that type of unit.

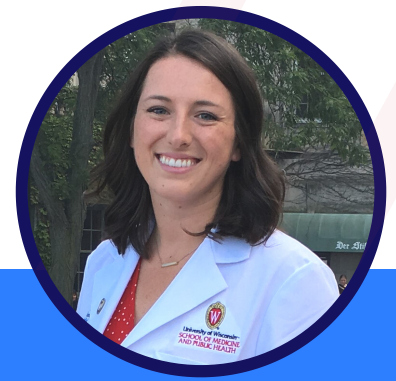


My favorite thing about working on the dementia unit is being able to make people laugh and smile with a quick bad dad joke, small dance move, or just by giving them a hug. Working at St. Paul has helped me realize just how much I love the healthcare field and helping people.

The advice I'd give to incoming freshmen is don't be afraid to be a self-advocate. I was able to get myself in the CNA class and an AP class as a junior because I advocated for myself and got myself scheduled for them.

Next year I will be attending UW Eau Claire for their Pre-Medicine and Nursing programs. I hope to become a pediatrician or a nurse practitioner that works in pediatrics.





WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

CLAIRE VANDENHEUVEL

Claire graduated from LCCPA in 2015 and was asked to reflect on her journey from LCCPA to pursuing the career of her dreams.

Where did you go to school? What degree did you receive or in progress to achieve?

I earned my bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, where I am now a second-year medical student.

How did your path through college match what you thought it was going to be when you left LCCPA? We have always spent a lot of time discussing 5-year plans and personal mission statements. How did your plan evolve for you in your years since you left LCCPA?

For the most part, my path through college did match my 5-year plan. Medicine has served as a good framework for fulfilling my personal mission as it incorporates patient care, science, ongoing learning, and leadership - all things that make my career feel meaningful. While the details of your career plans might change, keeping in mind why you chose a particular field or what you need to feel fulfilled in your career will help guide you no matter what you end up doing.

Do you have any advice to give our current students as far as college is concerned? What can they do to be prepared?

Don't be afraid to challenge yourself in high school! LCCPA is unique because it gives you the flexibility to work at your own pace and dive into topics that interest you. Familiarizing yourself with challenging concepts will make learning them in college so much easier, and developing curiosity and the ability to learn independently is crucial to success in college and beyond!

What career are you currently working in or pursuing? How does the career you are working in/pursuing now compare to the career you THOUGHT you would be working in/pursuing when you left LCCPA?

I am pursuing a career as a physician, which is where I had hoped to be when I left LCCPA. While I had some ideas about specialty interest when I graduated high school, med school has opened my eyes to tons of new career options, specialties, and practice settings. Currently, I am most interested in ophthalmology or pediatrics, but am open to other areas depending on what the next phase of my training brings.

What advice would you give to our current students regarding their career journey?

Treat every shadowing experience or career development event like a job interview. Be on time, dress professionally, and show interest in the field. Professionals are often willing to offer their mentorship to enthusiastic students. The summer after high school, I spent two afternoons a week volunteering at the surgery center where I had been placed through medical mentoring. I learned a lot through that experience was hired full-time for the following four summers. In addition, one of the physicians I met through medical mentoring has been a fantastic mentor and role model for me throughout my medical career. In short, if you have a great experience at a job shadow or really connect with a mentor and want to learn more, tell them!

Are there any particular partners or events that a big impact on helping you become the person you are today?

Yes! Three specific things come to mind. First, the medical mentoring program opened many doors for me in terms of mentorship and job opportunities down the road. Second, working with Mr. Van Eperen to develop strong writing skills (MELCon style) was one of the most important skills I learned at LCCPA. Writing was crucial to almost every college course I took and became even more important when I started applying to medical school. Finally, Project Lead the Way with Mr. Choudoir taught me how to think like a scientist and design experiments. The course content also sparked my interest in genetics and biochemistry, which helped me choose Molecular Biology as a college major.

We spent a lot of time talking about 21st Century Skills while you were a student at LCCPA. We also set up our curriculum to try to help you learn how to become confident, self-directed learners. What do you see as the most important 21st-Century Skills to be successful in college and career?

Self-directed learning is important both in college and in whatever field you choose. Being curious and developing the skills to find answers to your questions will help you advance in your career and refine your skills as a professional. As a medical student I am constantly doing research on topics I don't understand, reviewing old material, and asking questions about concepts I am struggling to grasp on my own. Even in your personal life, setting goals and learning new skills can be fun and rewarding!





HOSA STATE & POW

CHRISTOPHER CHOUDOIR

Given the uncertainty of this school year, one thing was assured, the first year of HOSA was going to move forward. HOSA is an organization for students who are pursuing careers in the healthcare profession. The HOSA program encourages students to work within the community by implementing Programs of Work, challenge themselves academically through competition, and develop leadership skills via officer positions in the club.

Programs of Work (POW) are student designed and implemented activities aiming to increase community involvement and build empathetic character. The POW projects can be big or small, but all need to be created in a SMART goal format and carried out by HOSA members. Some examples of projects this year included a supply drive for an area homeless shelter, canned food drive for a local food pantry, and recognizing healthcare professionals with thank you cards.

Competitive events organized by HOSA encourage members to learn new skills and apply classroom lessons for judges to evaluate. This year, the LCHS chapter of HOSA had four brave individuals compete in Regional and State level competitions: Trisha Lenz (Medical Terminology), Katie Mlodzik (Medical Terminology), Kyra Lefebber (Extemporaneous Writing), and Bree VandenBurgt (Sports Medicine). All participants performed very well at the regional level and qualified for the state competition. Moreover, at the state competition, Bree qualified in the top three and is eligible for the international competition.

As the school year comes to an end, it is time to elect officers for our HOSA chapter. We did not have officers this past year; however, as we move forward into next year, we are looking forward to our students stepping up into new leadership positions. HOSA is a student-led organization, thus quality leadership from our student members is imperative.



**TRISHA
LENZ**

**KATIE
MLODZIK**



**KYRA
LEFEBBER**

**BREE
VANDENBURGT**



If you are interested in becoming actively involved with our HOSA chapter, please contact Christopher Choudoir (cchoudoir@littlechute.k12.wi.us) for more information.

We are always looking to increase hands-on opportunities for our students in the healthcare field.



YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PARTNERS UP WITH BUSINESSES



DAWN GRENZER



Interested students and employees may contact Dawn Grenzer at 920-470-5614 and by email at dgrenzer@cesa6.org

"I am learning skills needed for my career and getting school credit for working because I am in Youth Apprenticeship!" This is a very popular theme when students are asked why they enrolled in Youth Apprenticeship (YA). I am Dawn Grenzer, the Little Chute School District Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator and I am excited to coordinate these opportunities for students and businesses. It has been incredible working with LCHS/LCCPA students the last two years and look forward to continuing to build connections.

When a junior or senior in high school is registered in the Department of Workforce Development Youth Apprenticeship (Y.A.), the student needs to have paid employment that will accumulate 450 hours of work during a school year. The job tasks must match the Y.A. checklist and the student needs to take related classroom instruction throughout the employment. Many students will begin their Youth Apprenticeship work experience the summer leading up to the academic year. This is a great onboarding experience for the student and employer.

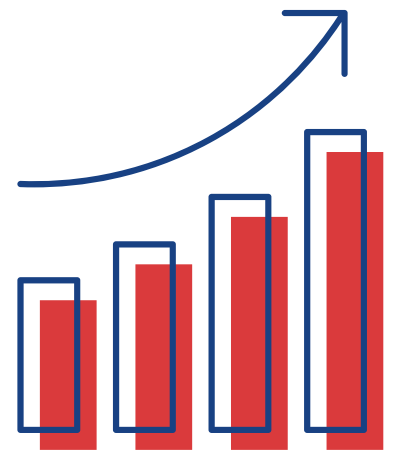
In YA, there are **11 Career Sectors:**

1. Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
2. Architecture & Construction
3. Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
4. Finance
5. Health Science
6. Hospitality, Tourism & Lodging
7. Information & Technology
8. Manufacturing
9. Marketing
10. Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)
11. Transportation, Distribution & Logistics.

These career sectors have 55 pathways for students to obtain experience and training.

Youth Apprenticeship is thankful for the support from local businesses that provide students the opportunity to learn more about a career and gain knowledge and skills through employment. Over the past three years, you can see below how the Little Chute School District Youth Apprenticeship has grown.

Years	18-19	19-20	20-21
YA Enrollees	10	23	29
YA Completers	5	17	22
Active Employers	11	24	24
Estimated Wages Earned	\$ 49,234.00	\$ 117,079.00	\$ 151,280.00
Average Wage	\$ 10.94	\$ 11.31	\$ 11.59
Average GPA	3.075	2.99	3.15



Find more information on the YA website:
<https://www.cesa6.org/services/youth-apprenticeship>

