

LCCPA NEWS

Monthly Newsletter
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#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 7 YEARS

Jon Larson



I started back in the LCASD 7 years ago; I say this because 21 years ago I graduated from Little Chute High School, and for me coming back was something that I never thought would have happened after I left. When I was given the opportunity to apply for my job, and I learned about the LCCPA, I was skeptical. Optimistic, but skeptical. The Idea of a charter school was new to me and I had never learned much about them. After I accepted the job, I was brought on board and started working with the teachers that started this school; I really learned about, and started to appreciate, what the school was created to do.

The LCCPA's passion for preparing students not only for life and post-secondary school, but for careers, has really helped me find and create opportunities for our students to take risks and learn about their potential career aspirations. When I first started taking students on career experiences, I was made more aware of the willingness for local business partners to have us come in, interrupt their work day, and see what potential Manufacturing and Engineering careers they have to offer our students. By doing this we have been able to create many more learning opportunities for our students through job shadowing and Youth Apprenticeships.

It makes me proud to know that we have been giving students a sense of direction in their high school careers. By giving students as many opportunities as possible, I have created an environment where students are encouraged to take risks to learn about themselves. I am proud that the students of LCCPA have embraced taking risks in their education and they are consistently reaping the rewards of their actions.

I look forward to the future of LCCPA and the opportunities we are creating for our students. Next year we will be offering a Computer Integrated Manufacturing course that will integrate the worlds of Manufacturing and Engineering in a way we have not been able to do. It challenges me as a teacher and sometimes as a student to acquire new skills and knowledge to share with our students. Also, our Youth Apprenticeship program has been growing and we are always adding to our list of partnering businesses that give our students great job experiences. Through the pursuit of these sorts of new opportunities, I look forward to expanding the already robust opportunities that the LCCPA provides to our students, and building a program that provides for the students of this community far into the future.





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



My name is Kelsey Hengst and I am a senior at Little Chute Career Pathways Academy. I am heavily involved in both the music department as well as the theater department, and I tend to spend a lot of my day in the music wing. I am also involved in Forensics and Destination Imagination, and I love to put my acting and critical thinking skills to use. In my free time, I like to watch sports, primarily football and hockey, and I do not like movies.

Ever since I was a young child, I knew

that I wanted to be a teacher. I spent a lot of time before high school babysitting and volunteering in daycares, and I absolutely loved to "play school" with my younger sister. When I got to high school, I started to work on making my dream become a reality. I started volunteering with the Boys and Girls Club at the Little Chute Elementary School after school toward the end of my sophomore year. Even though I knew that I wanted to teach high school eventually, I also knew that the experience I would get working with such diverse children was far more important.

During the summer before my junior year, I was offered a position as a junior staff member at that Boys and Girls Club location, and I was ecstatic. Since that summer I have had the opportunity to build people skills when I would have parent conversations, I learned how to effectively lesson plan, and I am now a Youth Development Specialist at my Club location.

The most beneficial part of my career experience was that I was able to see my efforts to go above and beyond in my job pay off. I was also very lucky to be able to "create my own path" when I started high school my freshman year because I was able to tailor my experience to fit my schedule.

I firmly believe that having the opportunity to hold such positions in my career field at such a young age will give me an advantage post-high school. If there was one piece of advice I could give, it would be to persevere. Even though I had such a busy schedule working 5 days a week and being involved in many extracurriculars, I wouldn't trade the late nights and early mornings for the world. The experience that I was able to have is something that most people my age will never get to experience, and I firmly believe that learning how to persevere has shaped my time at the Pathways Academy.



● My name is Alex and I like to bowl and play video games. When I'm not doing those things I am usually in the shop, whether it be at school or work. I like to work on projects and gain more experience in making projects.

● I have an interest in mechanical stuff and manufacturing. This has led me to the career, Mechanical Engineering. This really speaks to me because it has components of being in the shop and developing the product, while also designing and using computers to help you visualize your design.



C³

● My current career experience is with C3. What we do is make and assemble compression and packaging machines, mainly for beds. Our machines basically compress a foam bed to about the thickness of an inch, and then they are rolled into a small roll about 4 feet high and 1 foot thick. We also make glue machines that glue foam parts together, to make a foam bed. What I've learned from this career experience is how to assemble machines. This fits into being an engineer because if you design something impossible or difficult to put together, it won't be viable and it will have to be reworked. This has taught me to consider assembly in the engineering process.

● I would strongly recommend getting into a career experience as fast as possible. It's a great way to know what intrigues you and what career you want to pursue.

● Fun fact: I have been on the Little Chute Bowling Team.





WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

— BRIANNA EVERS —

Brianna graduated from LCCPA in 2016, 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?

Post high-school I attended St. Norbert College and Bellin College. Through their partnership, I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing with a liberal arts foundation. The program consists of two stages. First, you live on the St. Norbert College campus completing general education requirements. Since I completed a good amount of college credits in high school, I was able to complete this stage in three semesters. The second stage of the program consists of transitioning into one of two programs at Bellin College: the 15-month option or 24-month Junior Transfer option. I chose to transition into the 15-month option, which allowed me to obtain my bachelor's degree in three years total, one of my biggest accomplishments.

How did your path through college match what you thought it was going to be when you left LCCPA?

Leaving LCCPA, this was my plan. I would attend St. Norbert College and Bellin College to obtain a degree in nursing. I wasn't sure which program I was going to transition into at Bellin College. The 15-month accelerated program was tempting, but I knew it was a vigorous program, so I planned to wait until the time came to make that decision.

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?

Looking back at my personal learning plan (PLP) dating back to 2013, my biggest goals included attending a four-year college, maintaining a good grade point average, and balancing a CNA position outside of school. While in school, I continued to work as a CNA at Rennes Health and Rehab, a position I originally obtained in high school. As mentioned before, I was able to obtain my degree in three years. In spring of 2019 I graduated from Bellin College and in June I passed my NCLEX. This allowed me to start my nursing career a year earlier than expected.

As far as my personal mission statement, I promised myself that I would work hard at everything and never give up on anything in order to find happiness, success, and peace in my life. Graduating college and passing the NCLEX was a huge accomplishment, but truly finding happiness, success, and peace in my life was just beginning. Starting a new career, especially in the midst of a pandemic, was not easy. Furthermore, nursing school did not have any specialty courses in neonatal intensive care. When I started my career, it was almost like starting from square one. I enrolled in a yearlong course covering maternal-fetal history, the body systems, neonatal diagnoses, and more. Post-college I had my general BLS and CPR certifications, but still had to go through the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP). While I have learned a ton of information thus far, I continue to learn something new every day. I am close to two years into my career and I have finally become confident in my ability to take care of preterm and critically ill infants. While I feel happy, successful, and at peace in my life, I still have goals I want to achieve. Right now, I am thinking I would like to become a Certified Lactation Consultant (CLC) to broaden my ability to assist infants and their mothers.

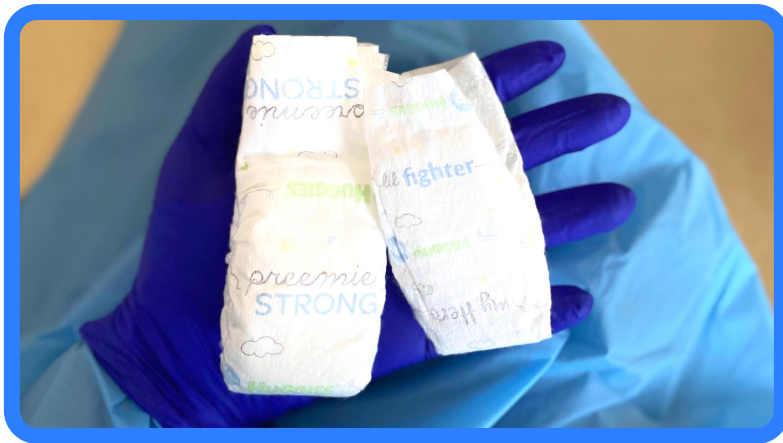
Do you have any advice to give our current students as far as college is concerned? What can they do to be prepared to be successful at the next level?

Master your test-taking skills. Ask any of the LCCPA teachers, and they will laugh with you about my sub-par testing taking skills. I quickly found that I needed to master my test-taking skills when I got to college. The grading system was solely based on quiz scores, exam scores, and some papers and projects.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

(BRIANNA EVERS CONTINUED)



What career are you currently working in or pursuing?

I am currently employed at HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital in Neonatal Intensive Care. Leaving LCCPA, this position was a dream of mine, but I highly doubted myself; confidence was not a strength of mine. During my senior year at LCCPA, I contacted one of the neonatal nurse practitioners at HSHS. I spent a 12-hour day shadowing her, learning her responsibilities as a practitioner and observing the flow of a typical day in the unit. Although I knew immediately the nurse practitioner role was not for me, I was very intrigued with the role of the bedside nurse in this setting. From here on out, I focused every optional topic paper, project etc. on this specialty.

When applications for capstone clinical came around, I became increasingly nervous I wouldn't be given the NICU clinical as it is a highly sought-after specialty among nursing students. I spent a lot of time perfecting my application and reached out to the practitioner I had shadowed as a senior in high school who put in a good word for me. I still remember the day I received the email that I was placed at St. Vincent's NICU. I was ecstatic. My primary clinical preceptor became one of my biggest role models and assured me I had what it takes to be a NICU nurse. On my last day of clinical, she approached the NICU manager about open positions, putting in a good word for me. I couldn't believe it; I was so beyond excited. Fast forward to summer of 2019 and I accepted a position within the NICU and reunited with my preceptor who would now train me for the position.

As you can see, connections are so, so important! Aside from my full-time position in the hospital, I was asked to participate in the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic located at the Kress Center at UW-Green Bay, the first mass coronavirus vaccine clinic in Northeastern Wisconsin. I immediately hopped on this opportunity. The hours are flexible with my other job and allow me to grow and experience another aspect of nursing. It's so fun seeing the faces of the 65 and older generation coming to get the vaccine they have been waiting for since February of last year. They are so happy and grateful for the opportunity to get vaccinated which in turn allows healthcare staff to finally see some light at the end of the tunnel.

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

Find a career that interests you and pursue it. Don't doubt yourself. Know your own weakness' and seek ways to overcome them. Utilizing your resources are so important. Personally, attending a smaller college was the perfect fit for me as I sought to have relationships with my teachers and feel comfortable approaching them when I needed help.

Scheduling appointments with professors and attending office hours were a lifesaver to me. Remember your professors are there to help prepare you for your career, and they want you to be successful.

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

Becoming a volunteer at St. Elizabeth Hospital. I began volunteering there in high school, and when I turned 18 years old, I was able to transition into their neonatal intensive care unit. The hours of experience obtained here really set me apart from other applicants when applying to my specialty capstone clinical practicum and current position.

You obviously know that 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.

Given your experience since graduating from LCCPA, what do you see as the most important 21st-Century Skills to be successful in college and career?

I am unable to pick a single most important 21st Century Skill. In college, self-direction and initiative is by far the most important skill for obvious reasons. As far as career, I would have to choose flexibility and adaptability. In my experience thus far, I have had to work with and adapt to patients, colleagues, and leaders from different generations. Generational diversity is significant in the healthcare field. The way I have found generational diversity to be an asset in my career is to learn from the nurses who have 20+ years of experience. They have a lot of wisdom to share that you do not have the opportunity of obtaining in college. When starting a new career, take advantage of these opportunities and ask questions! If you feel you aren't where you are supposed to be, ask for help. Asking questions and seeking help builds trust in the workplace.



HIGHLIGHTS

SAVE THE DATE

2022
LCCPA PARTNER
BREAKFAST



The last year has been challenging for all of us but despite the adversity, we have found innovative ways to change the way we celebrate and recognize the great achievements happening in our building. This year's partner breakfast will be no exception. Due to Covid restraints, we are still unable to have a traditional partner breakfast but it is critical we recognize the collective accomplishments of our students and partners. Recognition will be in the form of a video that will be shared with all of our stakeholders. We are excited to continue to carry on the tradition of recognizing our exceptional community partners but in a different way. Stay tuned for more information about our video but make sure you mark your calendars for April 14, 2022. We will plan to resume our traditional partner breakfast in 2022, and it will be better than ever. Thank you for your continued support of the LCCPA, and we hope you and your families are doing well.

Go Mustangs,
Tony Bird
LCCPA Principal



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FLASHBACKS

