

LCCPA NEWS

Monthly Newsletter
JAN 2021 | ISSUE 3

#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



In this newsletter:

Faculty View Featuring:

Christopher Choudoir
Page 01-02

Youth Apprentice Featuring:

Hunter Janssen
Page 02

Where Are They Now? Featuring:

Hannah Dornfeld
Page 03-04

Highlights

Page 04

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

Christopher Choudoir



Why Did You Become a Teacher?

In my eighteen years of teaching, I have been asked this question more times than I care to count. Nonetheless, prior to ever writing my first lesson plan, my answer has stayed true: I know education can be better than what I experienced as a student. These words may seem a critical indictment on teachers of my past, but they are not. I had great teachers! Rather, my education lacked personalized purpose and direction. Moreover, the academic rigor of my educational experience met the needs of one individual: Student Average. Over the course of the last ten years, we, the LCCPA staff, have had the privilege of creating and curating an academic environment that fundamentally challenges the assembly line process of education, requires courageous actions of its stakeholders, and increases the expectations and opportunities for our students.



Change, on any level, is hard (how many of you are still working toward your New Year's resolution?). Moreover, changing deeply rooted ideologies and traditions can seem impossible. The LCCPA, ten years ago, decided to uproot the commonplace vision of education and cultivate a pedagogy that empowers the individual student to meet personalized learning needs. Every student, at one time or another, has been in a classroom that either moves too quickly or slowly through content. The individualized learning model of the LCCPA strives to eliminate this quagmire. Core academic classes are structured for students to develop individualized learning plans, create weekly goals, and assess at high levels of accountability to earn credit. The teacher becomes an academic coach for the student rather than a purveyor of one-size-fits-all lessons. Over the years, as teachers, we have listened to feedback from students and parents to improve this process. The results of these efforts are evident in the success of our students in the classroom, on standardized tests, and in post-secondary placements.

"Would you send your child to this school?"

This is the second most common question I hear since the inception of the LCCPA. My typical answer, for the first 5 years, summarized how I thought more and more schools are going to move to a similar model and that it would not have to be a decision of open enrollment. However, as I have seen our programs grow in depth and focus, my response has changed. Without question, if my child has an interest in one of our career pathways, I will send my child to the LCCPA. The academic rigor, incorporation of 21st Century Skills, and the availability of career experiences/exploration is something very rarely seen in other academic environments. I am encouraged to see more emphasis on Career and Technical education and the evaluation of professional skills in other schools, but I have not witnessed the level of the LCCPA's incorporation of these pillars. In addition, the professional culture and high expectations of the LCCPA create unique opportunities for all of our students. Moreover, the career and educational networking available to our students continues to grow.



Is it easy to innovate?

Progress is typically limited by two things, resources and expectations. One of these prerequisites does not cost anything: expectations. The LCCPA prides itself on high expectations for our students and staff. At times, this results in mental fatigue and physical exhaustion, but there isn't an easy path for achieving one's ambitions. The expectations set for our students gradually transfer into goals students establish for themselves. Students are capable of setting lofty and challenging goals; we see this all the time when they pursue their passions (e.g. sports, music). School and education should push students to challenge themselves and create higher and more challenging benchmarks. The LCCPA stakeholders (parents, students, and staff) have worked collaboratively to embed this norm into our culture. As such, our success has been recognized by U.S. News and World Report as a premier school in the area. Moreover, Project Lead the Way has recognized the LCCPA as a "Distinguished School." Most importantly, I hear from students, past and present, how appreciative they are for the opportunities afforded them in the LCCPA.

All in all, I am a very humble person who does not like to brag, but I feel that after ten years of hard work from students, parents, and staff, we need to take a moment to be proud of our success. Has everything worked as planned all of the time, absolutely not. However, innovation is not easy. It is much easier to fall back on what was always done because it is comfortable, easy, and known. However, this mentality does not result in lasting and meaningful improvement. As we continue to reflect on the past ten years, I am reminded that continual growth is the cornerstone of success; as such, I look forward to ongoing development and achievements of the LCCPA and its students.



YOUTH APPRENTICE EXPERIENCE

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 Hunter Janssen, and I am a junior at the Little Chute Career Pathways Academy. Beyond this, I have an internship through Youth Apprenticeship at Pheifer Brothers Construction, and I am an active member of many school clubs and sports. Outside of school and work, I enjoy visiting my cottage in the summertime, watching sporting events, and learning new hobbies. Though I am only a junior, I have used my high school years to grow and progress in my personal and professional life, and I am excited to share that story with you.



As my years of high school have progressed, I find that being involved in my school and community has been a growing passion of mine. I started to love the idea of giving back to my school/community and being able to strengthen myself along the way.

One of the organizations that held the greatest impact on me was Youth Apprenticeship. At the end of my sophomore year, I began exploring opportunities to work through the YA program. The initial process was made easy as I worked with Dawn to find the job best suited for me.

Soon, I found a position offered at Pheifer Brothers Construction. Pheifer Brothers is a construction company in Neenah that specializes in bridge building. While I was never expecting to be working at a construction company, I was able to start a job and be exposed to a variety of career pathways. This was very helpful to me as I was undecided on my future career choice. At Pheifer Brothers, I can work hand in hand with the Project Managers and the CFO of the company; these were two career options that I had an interest in.

At Pheifer, I mainly work at my desk to track our inventory and equipment, manage all of the money we receive, and make payments. I have also been able to take part in smaller roles such as tracking change orders and employee certifications and aiding in the closing of each month. Although I do most of my work in accounting, some of my most memorable days at work have been visiting job sites with the project managers. It has been helpful for me to aid in a variety of roles in the company as I decide on a career choice for the future.

The two pieces of advice I could give to the career pathway's freshmen is to stay up to date on their core school work and to always be willing to take healthy risks when the opportunity is given. Without doing these two things, the opportunity for me to get a head start on my future career would be made much more difficult.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

HANNAH DORNFELD

Hannah 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?

I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May. Majors: Operations and Technology Management & Management and Human Resources. Certificates/Minors: Supply Chain Management & Spanish

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?

While I was in LCCPA, my original intent was to go into industrial engineering. After designing and managing the construction of the Children's Hospital Christmas parade float, I realized I wanted to do something more related to project management. Working on the parade float led to me having the realization that I was interested in planning, problem-solving, and managing the project from beginning to end. While looking for a major at Madison, I discovered the Operations and Technology Management major and it sounded like the perfect fit for me. LCCPA provided the necessary stepping stones to see what would be the best fit for me.

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?

My advice would be to be open to trying and exploring new things! Take some different classes, and push yourself to not just stay in your major. I have found several things I'm interested in through trying to go outside of my comfort zone. I would also say to be prepared to work hard, find what studying skills work for you, and know your learning style. Knowing that I'm a "learning by doing" person, it helped me figure out how to study effectively and efficiently.

What career are you currently working in or pursuing?

I am a Brand Deployment Analyst at Kimberly-Clark. I work in their Supply Chain, and I work closely with Planning, Asset Schedulers, Material Planners, Transportation, and Customer Logistics. In my role, I work to deploy diapers from production sites to downstream sites to satisfy orders, forecasts, and safety stock levels. I look at the inventory situation as a whole and work to balance the network and minimize costs. I absolutely love my role, and I have been working online since my start date in June. With my experience working online at LCCPA, it definitely helped me transition to my full-time role.

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?

To be honest, I didn't even know a Brand Deployment Analyst existed! I didn't know what supply chain was when I left LCCPA, so I definitely pictured my future a lot differently. I pictured myself working as a project manager at a construction company.

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

Nothing teaches you more about the role than actually seeing someone else do it. You can read about it, but I would always recommend giving someone a call and seeing what they have to say. Gaining "insider knowledge" is so important! Before I accepted my job at K-C, I went in to meet the team and people in my role to gain their perspective. There are so many careers out there that you don't even know that they exist! Overall, I would say that you should always keep learning and look for a company that has the type of workplace culture you work best in.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

(HANNAH DORNFELD CONTINUED)

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

The opportunity to build the Children's Hospital Christmas parade float with Mr. Matelski. He pushed me to take on this opportunity, and I'm glad I went out of my comfort zone. I learned so much, and the float progressively got better throughout my four years working on it. I learned about budgeting, project planning, light programming, construction, people management, and problem-solving. It made me realize that business was the right path for me, and I'm so thankful. I've talked about this project in every job interview, and I think that it's helped me get to where I am today.

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?

In my opinion, the most important 21st Century skill is self-directed learner. In order to do well in college, find unique opportunities, and obtain a full-time job, you need to be motivated and push yourself to do these things. It is very competitive to find cool internships and unique educational opportunities, so it's important that you work to find these and do everything in your power to get them. I've found that professors and employers appreciate the "go-getters" and want to employ them due to their high motivation to learn and work hard without needing the extra push to get the job done.

HIGHLIGHTS

Click the below link
for the LCCPA
Application
Due Date: Feb 19

**Course
Catalog**

Click the above link for
the LCCPA Course
Catalog

Application

**Informational
Video**

Click the above link for
the Informational
Video

