A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the LBCC Foundation,

Each Annual Report we share with our donors is an opportunity for the Linn-Benton Community College Foundation to reflect upon the incredible generosity of our community, and to share the amazing stories of students whose lives have been changed for the better as a result. But this report is special… it goes without saying that this past year has brought about challenges never before seen in our college’s history in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic. And yet, your kindness has resulted in remarkable assistance for our students during this time. We cannot thank you enough.

That’s why we are calling this report, “Community Rays” – the people who chose to shine a light by giving back to their community, supporting educational opportunity through the power of philanthropy. You will also discover students whose stories show the very real impact your generosity has had on their lives, and who are now able to spread light even further as a result.

That’s the special enduring quality of a ray of light: it always has a starting point…but it doesn’t have an ending point. It keeps going. I want to thank you for choosing to be that starting point, and extending a ray of hope that falls on our students first, but then extends to their families, and then to our whole community, at a time when we have needed it the very most.

On behalf of the LBCC Foundation Board of Directors, it is with great pleasure that I present to you the Linn-Benton Community College Foundation’s 2020-21 Annual Report. Thank you, again, for making all of this possible.

With deep gratitude for the light you shine,

Jennifer K. Boehmer
LBCC Foundation Executive Director

-Tripti Yadav
LBCC Nursing ’21
Johnny Media grew up thinking college was for a demographic that didn’t include him. Thanks to Linn-Benton Community College and scholarships from the LBCC Foundation, now he’s on a mission to include as many people like him as possible.

“In my youth, college was for other people. It was designed for people who were smart and wealthy, and it wasn’t an option for us,” said Johnny. “That’s what the world looked like to me growing up.”

Johnny’s parents had no education past high school. Both worked in factories. Johnny figured his life would look much the same.

But LBCC changed that view for Johnny. And these days, he’ll talk about LBCC scholarships to everyone who will listen. “They’re a tool that helps you get through the door to where you want to go.”

A promise to his brother
It took Johnny a long time to find that tool. He watched, impressed, as his brother, two years older, held down two jobs and simultaneously made progress toward a business degree. But he didn’t think he’d follow suit. Then his brother got sick. And everything changed.

The boys’ parents never took time off, Johnny recalled. They couldn’t afford health insurance. “We would see them with a really bad flu or bad cold, and they’d go to work, because they had to. That was instilled in us,” he said.

“My brother did the same thing and it cost him his life.”

Johnny’s brother caught strep throat, which morphed into encephalitis. In 2014, while in the hospital, he asked Johnny to make him a promise. “My brother’s and my last conversation in the hospital, he made me promise that we’d go back to school together, and that I’d do something I actually care about. So I promised.”

Although his brother didn’t get to go with him, three years later, Johnny decided it was time to fulfill that promise.

On a recommendation from his sister-in-law, Johnny began commuting from Monmouth to LBCC. With his passion for athletics in mind, he wanted to study sports science. Financially, he didn’t think he’d make it past the first term.

LBCC scholarships helped fulfill the promise
He hadn’t thought about scholarships. Like college itself, Johnny figured financial aid went only to the best and brightest. But then an instructor in his Destination Graduation class gave an assignment to research financial aid. So Johnny filled out the basic application for the scholarships available through the LBCC Foundation.

The beginning of his winter term, he learned he’d be receiving $800. The money made the difference between completion of the term and quitting school. He kept applying.

Last spring, Johnny completed his associate’s degree in exercise/sports science and transferred to the University of Oregon. Initially, Johnny planned to be an athletic trainer, but he’s found that trainers tend to focus on football, soccer, basketball—and men. Many times, the sports that aren’t as popular—often women’s sports—are overlooked when it comes to the kind of training that could prevent injuries.

As the father of a little girl, Johnny said, that’s something he wants to change.

Advocating for others
“I’m trying to be more of an advocate for students in public schools and people in need,” he said.

“I wanted to go do something I’m passionate about,” he added. “I want to show my daughter college is accessible for everyone regardless of what time you started—it isn’t outside the means of possibility—but also to show her that her demographic is important and matters.”

In addition to his studies at LBCC, Johnny had been a student ambassador and the Legislative Affairs director for Student Leadership. He used all those platforms to tell students like himself that LBCC is there for them.

“With as much help as I’ve received, it would be a disservice to the people around me if I didn’t do everything I could to share my story and let others know that college is meant for them, too. I can’t thank donors to the LBCC Foundation enough for being there to help us students survive and thrive.”
Thanks to a new scholarship from the LBCC Foundation, more than 300 students have found the courage to make a rebound from the pandemic, and continue their journeys toward a degree. The new “Rebound Scholarship” awards a $500 scholarship to students who were forced to drop out between March of 2020 and August of 2021 due to COVID-related circumstances. While the scholarship doesn’t cover the full cost of tuition, for students like Bianca, Alex, and Heather, it has been just the boost needed to be able to start again.

Bianca’s story
For nearly two years Bianca Blancas has been waiting for the perfect moment to re-enroll in college. “I realized that the perfect moment is never going to come,” said Bianca. “So, I either have to do it right now or I’m never going to do it.”

Bianca had finished her freshman year when things started to get bad. During the 2020 fall term, her grades began to slip. The following term she crashed. “Mentally I couldn’t keep going because I had to keep it together for so long,” said Bianca.

After taking a break to work on her mental health, Bianca says she is ready to finish what she started. And with help from the Rebound Scholarship, she will continue toward her goal of getting her degree.

Alex’s story
Alex Ferrell was apprehensive about coming back to campus after being virtual for a year in large part because he contracted COVID-19 back in February. “It was rough,” said Alex. “But I’m really excited to get back into it because I’m not a good remote learner.”

Alex is pursuing his dream of becoming a cardiac sonographer. “There’s a lot of people that need help right now and that is why I decided now’s the time,” said Alex. “Especially with a pandemic ongoing.”

Heather’s story
Heather Campbell, who is working on completing her prerequisite courses for the RN nursing program, had to stop attending classes last year to take care of her son who’s school had closed due to the pandemic.

As she was getting ready to return to LBCC for fall term 2021, she noticed the Rebound Scholarship opportunity. “When I received the email about the Rebound Scholarship I was like ‘why not go for it!’” Heather said. “I had planned on returning regardless of the scholarship opportunity, but having it made my return so nice!” Heather noted that she’s taking this opportunity to complete her final required math course, which is now essentially paid for in full thanks to the scholarship.

Once she graduates from the nursing program at LBCC, Heather hopes to work with the Intellectually Delayed/Developmentally Delayed community doing case management at the County or State level. “Anyone this is questioning themselves about returning to school should just do it!” Heather proclaimed excitedly. “The help is out there, and thanks to this scholarship I am staying on track to my dreams.”

LBCC is here to help the community rebound
“As the community rebounds from COVID, we want to thank all the donors to the LBCC Foundation who are making college as affordable as possible so that our students can get back to school and work,” said LBCC President Lisa Avery. “With affordable classes offered both online and in person, now more than ever LBCC is committed to being a conduit for our community’s success.”
JOAN REUKAUF BELIEVES THAT KNOWLEDGE TRULY IS POWER

When it comes to supporting an important cause, Joan Reukauf is all in. And for her, that cause is Linn-Benton Community College.

All in for Linn-Benton

“I’m a big believer in, ‘You kind of have to put your money where your mouth is,’” she said. “I can support, I can represent, but I would sure hate for someone to say, ‘What do you give to?’ and not have an answer.”

Joan became connected with LBCC about four years ago when she was asked to join the budget committee. As president and chief executive officer of Willamette Community Bank (now the People’s Bank of Commerce), the service made particular sense.

“At that point in time a few years ago, I was looking to get a little more involved, community-wise,” she said. “I lived in Corvallis but worked in Albany, and this was a really good way to be tapped into both communities.”

Her service didn’t stop there, however. She is president of the LBCC Foundation Board, helps fundraise for the student emergency fund and just recently served as the Zone 6-7 representative for the college’s Board of Education.

Community connection and support matters

Education is important to her and her family, Joan said, as is being a part of an organization with such a connection to the community.

LBCC is there for students who want a smaller, more personal education setting, for laid-off workers looking for a new direction, for people looking to advance in their careers, and for anyone who wants to take on new knowledge and skills.

“Community colleges fill that niche of really partnering with the community in a way that really helps that community grow,” Joan said.

Showing student support through emergency funds

She is particularly proud of helping to provide access to the Roadrunner Student Emergency Fund, established in March 2020 when the state shut down to reduce exposure to the novel coronavirus. The fund is an emergency resource for students who can’t make utility payments or have other financial issues related to COVID-19.

Sometimes, even a small amount to cover an expense such as an unexpected doctor’s appointment can make the difference between a degree and a dropout. And it’s important to complete an education, Joan said, because education changes lives.

“I’m a big believer in the idea that knowledge is power,” she said. “Empowering individuals with knowledge helps families to succeed—but it empowers our entire community to succeed, too.”
When Dave Schmidt donates to Linn-Benton Community College, he knows exactly how he’s helping—because he was once part of the student body.

A long history with LBCC

Dave, a forester who spent 12 years as a Linn County commissioner, has a master’s degree in Forestry, Business, Economics and the Law. But when an injury several years ago forced him to be less active for a time, he decided to take some additional classes at the community college.

“Western Civilization,” he recalled. “Lit classes. I re-took Math 101 and kind of brushed up on that. Higher-level courses; one on the rainforest of Brazil, quite an in-depth study.”

Not only did he enjoy the learning, Dave said, he appreciated his new perspective on the college itself.

“It was wonderful to be with the students out there, to get to know all the ends, from administration to the board to the student life,” he said.

Dave has long been a part of LBCC. He has been a part of the budget committee and served as chairman of the LBCC Foundation Board, a presidential search committee, and a major capital campaign.

“My parents had a fairly strong community service ethic, and certainly I’ve picked that up,” he said. “A philanthropic ethic has always been important to me.”

LBCC support is support of the local economy

LBCC is important to support, he said, because of its role in “changing and elevating people’s lives in one way or another.” That might be anything from providing basic education, such as a General Education Development certificate, to helping someone in welding or nursing or some other career; to offering courses for personal satisfaction.

The college also drives the local economy by bringing in students and turning out members of the workforce, Dave went on. And when the state isn’t in the middle of a global pandemic, its shows at the Russell Tripp Performance Center are an important cultural resource.

Giving through a named scholarship fund

Dave gives both time and funds to support the college’s mission. He began the Robert Dale Schmidt Memorial Scholarship Endowment to honor his late son and to help struggling students pay for tuition. He’s also particularly proud of the Student Completion Fund, started in 2017, which helps students who have small financial issues that might keep them from graduating. Dave says it’s used, “if a student is about to graduate and finish a term and the car blows up on them and they’re going to have to drop out if they don’t get 300 bucks to fix it ... that sort of thing. That’s absolutely crucial to a lot of people’s lives.”

Without a stable and well-funded community college, Dave said, the mid-valley would be poorer in many ways: economically, academically and culturally. People need a place to study to further their careers, bridge gaps between high school and universities and form community partnerships. It’s something he’s proud to support.

“I’m trying to be a good citizen for our community. It comes back,” he said. “I have enjoyed so much being associated with LBCC, and I feel appreciated.”
After many years of obstacles Amanda Seward has achieved her dream of being a nurse. She credits Linn-Benton Community College and the LBCC Foundation for helping her get there.

“There were many times through this journey that I became jaded and said, why am I doing this? Why don’t I just stop and pick something else?” recalled Amanda, 35, of Salem. Deep down, she knew the answer.

A lifelong passion for nursing

“A nursing means everything to me,” Amanda had written in her nursing philosophy portfolio. “I am blessed I can be one of the few people in this world who can say I know exactly what I was meant to do.”

Amanda took classes in health occupations as a high school freshman in Hillsboro, enough to become a certified nursing assistant. A close friend wanted to be a nurse in a neonatal intensive care unit. When the friend died unexpectedly at age 16, her family organized a nursing scholarship in her memory - and Amanda received it.

Life got in the way

As Amanda put it, life happened. She gave birth to her daughter at age 19 and extra schooling suddenly became more of a challenge.

That didn’t stop her. She enrolled in medical assisting school to get her foot in the door of the medical field. She took classes as she could, and eventually became a Licensed Practical Nurse.

There were struggles and extra demands on her time all along the way. She worked as an LPN, parented her daughter, married, had a son, got divorced and then got married and divorced again.

Whenever her timeline to becoming an RN hit a setback, she set a goal, worked until she achieved it, then made a new one. “It’s been very hard,” Amanda said. However, she added, “I knew that I was meant to be a nurse.”

Auditing into LBCC Nursing

Amanda almost didn’t come to LBCC. She and a friend looked at LBCC together after roadblocks prevented them from starting on time. At the late date, LB told the two it was possible to audit into the program; if all the tests and requirements were passed, they would be part of the graduating class of 2020.

Amanda knew it was a risk. She had to pay the tuition, purchase the books, put in the time and fight to pass everything at the required level. She wouldn’t be eligible for financial aid, because auditing meant she wasn’t really a student, and she wouldn’t be able to both study and work full time.

“It was very, very stressful,” she said. But she enrolled –and she’s never been sorry. “Oh my gosh, I am so grateful,” she said. “I feel so blessed. I feel like nothing worth anything comes easy.”

College as a single parent

The work was particularly hard for a mom with two kids living in another town. Depending on her classes, if she got home early she’d do laundry and hit the books. When the children got home, she’d help them with their homework. If she had morning clinicals, she’d leave Salem at 5:00 a.m. and often didn’t get back until after dinner. Those were followed by early-morning classes. “From when I woke up to when I went to bed, it was spent just on the go,” she said of her time.

“There was a lot of self-doubt.”

That self-doubt can make it hard to be a non-traditional college student, Amanda said, but it can be overcome. “For every test, I would go in with stress and anxiety. Am I smart enough? Has it been too long since I’ve been in school?” It’s important, she said, to realize you are smart enough, and you do have the capability. She added, it’s important not to compare yourself to others, especially those not trying to support a family while at school. “Give yourself grace,” she said. “Life is hard. Going to school is hard. Doing it with children is really hard. You feel like you’re not giving enough,” she said. “Be kind to yourself.”

LBCC helped make it possible

The kindness of LBCC instructors made a world of difference to Amanda, she said. That was important both emotionally and academically.

Whenever the work was especially hard, Amanda would dig down and remember why she wanted to be a nurse. Nurses are there during some of the most frightening, vulnerable times of a person’s life, she said, and it is an honor to be there for them and to help them through it, even if it’s just holding hands while they cry.

“I think it is one of the most magical things that you can become,” Amanda said. “You’re always going to be a part of people’s lives—the good and bad and all the things in between. How many other jobs can you be a part of the entire life cycle in one shift?”

She read her nursing philosophy out loud to her children when her son gave her a hug and said, “Mom, I’m so proud of you.”

“That was huge,” she said.
Helping Students Climb Mountains

LBCC FOUNDATION EMERGENCY FUNDS HELP STUDENTS OVERCOME OBSTACLES DURING THE PANDEMIC

Community college students face unacceptably high rates of housing and food insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the burden. The LBCC Foundation is committed to ensuring that students can continue their education. To that end, a new Roadrunner Emergency Fund was established in 2020 to assist students specifically weathering this crisis.

Through the amazing support of our community of committed donors, the Foundation has been able to provide emergency aid, to include support for food, housing, and other basic needs, and to enhance remote learning activities to help students stay on track to reach their educational goals and dreams. Examples of specific emergency awards appear below.
Roadrunners Take Their Final Lap

LBCC FOUNDATION HELPS STUDENTS CELEBRATE MAJOR LIFE MILESTONE DESPITE PANDEMIC

The smiles told it all. After a year of hard work, perseverance, and constant adaptation to new circumstances due to COVID-19, the class of 2021 celebrated the culmination of their educational achievements, along with the class of 2020, at Linn-Benton Community College’s “CARmencement” ceremony. And the LBCC Foundation was a proud partner in celebrating their successes!“Were so proud of these Roadrunners! It’s been a tough year. We struggled through it together without the benefits of being together, physically, as a community.”We were thankful to be able to mark this important milestone for our students in a safe and special way, with the help of the LBCC Foundation,” said LBCC President Lisa Avery.

Upon entering campus for their “final lap” at LBCC, graduates were given a road map amidst masses of balloons, cheering faculty and staff in regalia, 12-foot blue and yellow banners and homemade signs. The mapped route included a “selfie-station,” photo pit stops in front of a Wall of Fame, and photo opportunities by a Wall of Honor, photo pit stops in front of a Wall of Fame, and photo opportunities by a Wall of Honor, and photo opportunities by a Wall of Honor.

“It was a really difficult year for so many students. They had so much to deal with — learning online, taking other support, Silva described how an unexpected emergency grant to be able to continue college for some students, it was just what they needed to finish up their degree and move forward,” said Hammond.

Take the case of Damaris Silva, who received an emergency grant to be able to continue college this past spring. As a single mother of three with no other support, Silva described how an unexpected bill almost unraveled her spring term, just as she was entering the final stretch at LBCC.

“That money, it allowed me to breathe. I’ve felt underwater for a long time and that support—it meant one less thing I had to worry about so I could catch my breath and focus on my studies,” said Silva.

Count Silva among the graduates who celebrated at CARmencement. Silva’s certificate in medical billing and coding, and two associate’s degrees in general studies, was conferred upon her by Ann Buchele, Vice President of Academic Affairs.

“The fact that you persisted, despite one of the greatest challenges in modern history, only confirms what we have believed about you all along: that you are capable … that you have the power to change the world for the better.”

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Generous gift reminds students to reach for the top!

Thanks to the generosity of LBCC Foundation donors Bill and Jane Siebler and the talent of renowned artist Rip Cronk, LBCC has a new mural on the south wall of Takena Hall. ‘Starry Peak’ is done in the style of Van Gogh and it depicts Mary’s Peak — the highest point in both Linn and Benton counties. The mural serves as a constant reminder of how LBCC helps students reach their highest potential every day. We welcome you to campus to see this beautiful mural for yourself!

At left: Faculty member Sisi Virasak views ‘Starry Peak’ outside Takena Hall.
The Economic Value of Linn-Benton Community College

**ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS**

1 out of every 26 jobs in the Linn-Benton Community College District is supported by the activities of LBCC and its students.

**LBCC TOTAL ANNUAL IMPACT**

- **$317.9 million** Added income
- **4,613 Jobs supported**

**INVESTMENT ANALYSIS**

The average associate degree graduate from LBCC will see an increase in earnings of $8,500 each year compared to someone with a high school diploma working in Oregon.

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<th>Level</th>
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<tr>
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**Alumni impact**
Impact of the increased earnings of LBCC alumni and the businesses they work for

- **$232.6 million** Added income

**Operations spending impact**
Impact of annual payroll and other spending

- **$61.1 million** Added income

**Student spending impact**
Impact of the daily spending of LBCC students attracted to or retained in the region

- **$21.3 million** Added income

**Construction spending impact**

- **$2.8 million** Added income

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**LBCC FOUNDATION FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT 2020**

The LBCC Foundation is the only organization completely dedicated to expanding access to higher education and helping more people succeed through support of Linn-Benton Community College.

**TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER SUPPORT** $2,027,480

- Investment $1,086,259
- Contributions & Fundraising $327,073
- Other $39,540
- In-Kind/ Non-Cash Contributions $122,707
- Annual Scholarship 8%
- Program & Campus Support 9%
- Scholarship & Program Endowment 3%
- Grant 2%
- Emergency 10%
- General 24%

**OUR SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT PROGRAM**

2016 & 2017 saw the introduction of new scholarship software that allowed for the distribution of backlogged funds.

**ASSET GROWTH**

- **$8.4 M** 2016
- **$9.3 M** 2017
- **$11.1 M** 2018
- **$12.3 M** 2019

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS** $301,184

**EMERGENCY FUND AWARDS** $28,029

Foundation audited financial statements are available at: linmbenton.edu/annual-report

Source: Emsi Economic Impact Study
“My whole adult life, I’ve been trying to go to school and there were all these roadblocks in the way that were keeping me from it. Finally, through help from the LBCC Foundation, those roadblocks were removed.”

- DAKOTA GANGE, JOURNALISM

“I would like to personally thank each and every person who has donated to a scholarship; it is made a dramatic difference in my life and has helped me immeasurably. Without the scholarship, I would not be able to graduate this year.”

- JIM HARRIS, NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING

“Thank you so much to the LBCC Foundation, the donor who funded my scholarship, and to all of the scholarship donors. I don’t think people who help our students can be thanked enough. Our students would not be here if it wasn’t for them.”

- HANNAH BRIGGS, BIOLOGY

Students Give Thanks for the opportunity to pursue their dreams

THANKS TO DONORS LIKE YOU, THE LBCC FOUNDATION HELPS MAKE COLLEGE POSSIBLE!

When we work together to remove barriers to education and give hard-working students the chance to achieve their dreams of graduating from college, our entire community prospers. Your support of the LBCC Foundation today not only creates a stronger local economy tomorrow — but creates pathways out of poverty for the next generation. We invite you to reach out to us to learn more about our mission and consider how you might join us. We can’t thank you enough for choosing to make a difference!

WAYS TO GIVE

- Cash or Check
- Credit Card
- LBCC Payroll Deduction
- Stocks, Bonds & Securities
- Insurance Policies
- Personal Property & Gifts In-Kind

Endowment Gifts ➔ require a minimum one-time donation of $15,000, or $3,000 per year over a five-year period. Endowments are permanent funds which are invested and the earnings used for college or student assistance.

Planned Gifts ➔ can be intended for current use or endowments. Planned gifts include a variety of life income plans, stock plans, real estate gifts, trusts, wills, annuities and estate plans.
You can help shine a light on students in our community!