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Roadrunner Volleyball Lands Team Academic Award

Roadrunner Volleyball was honored with a Team Academic Award from the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) for the 2017-2018 season – the only Northwest Athletic Conference team to receive the award.

The award recognizes teams that match their dedication to the sport with excellence in the classroom. LBCC was among only 26 two-year colleges nationwide to receive the award.

This is the third time the Roadrunners have received the academic award under Head Coach Jayme Frazier; winning in the 2009, 2010 and 2016-2017 seasons. Teams need a minimum 3.3 GPA overall to qualify for the award. The Roadrunners finished the year with 3.5 overall GPA.
The Roadrunners also received recognition for reaching their “Dig Pink” campaign goal, which raises money during a game for breast cancer research. LBCC was one of only six schools recognized for both academics and service.

Coach Frazier sets high standards for her players, with student retention and academic success a priority. And with 45 to 50 games each season, having good study habits is a big deal, said Frazier. “We have set this trend as a team that this is what we do, this is who we are. We really work hard to put academics in the forefront for our players,” she said.

“Athletics plays a bigger role for our students than just the competition,” said Frazier. “Our students want to show that they are more than just athletes. They are students. They are ambassadors. They are leaders. That’s what they work to show.”

Frazier’s players also take on leadership roles outside the classroom, such as putting on a Volleyball Clinic for young women in the Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility, holding athletic tryouts at the Boys and Girls Club, volunteering with Linn Benton Food Share, or working as ushers for the LBCC theater.

“Putting on the volleyball clinic was amazing,” said Frazier. “Working with high-risk clients at Oak Creek was huge for both the athletes and the young women at Oak Creek. I’ve had students from Oak Creek come into my classes and they remember the experience they had playing alongside our athletes. It means a lot to them, as well as our student athletes.”

Cheering on the Roadrunners at home games is a great way to show support. Games are free for students and staff. Be sure to check out the Roadrunner Athletic game schedules online at www.linnbenton.edu/athletics.

ABOUT LBCC ATHLETICS: LBCC offers four intercollegiate sport programs; baseball, men's and women's basketball, and volleyball. LBCC athletic teams compete in the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC). LBCC is committed to providing quality experiences for students looking to further their academic and athletic careers.
Mark had the DREAM, but the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Linn-Benton had the blueprint. From its conception, Cheesy Stuffed Burgers was built alongside the SBDC every step of the way.

Owned by husband and wife, Mark and Janice Encke, and long-time friend Devan Elkins, the Cheesy Stuffed trio has put lots of love into the creation of the food and friendships that nurtured its beginnings.

Early iterations of Cheesy Stuffed offerings were in fact inspired by Janice’s cooking. “I don’t like big, bland burgers,” Mark said. “My wife started marinating burgers and stuffing them with cheese. It was flavorful and delicious and I thought ‘This is it!’”

Today, that dream has grown from one food truck in Corvallis, to another in Albany, and as of May 2018, a downtown Corvallis storefront. Cheesy Stuffed Burgers is also an exclusive vendor at Reser Stadium, home of the OSU Beavers.

The Cheesy Stuffed team has built everything in the span of six years. And Mark admits, to this day he still calls the SBDC before making big decisions.

“‘I’m an opportunist, an entrepreneur, a nice guy - but I’m not that sophisticated,’” Mark said. “that’s where my pals at the SBDC come in.”

The SBDC is now helping Cheesy Stuffed in their next phase of business, consulting with franchise specialists. The trio feels their hands are full with the current locations they manage, but with a goal to still grow the business, franchising the brand is a natural next step.

“My 10-year plan is to be an SBDC advisor,” Mark said. “I feel like I was given a gift and I want to give it back in return. Cheesy Stuffed Burgers would never exist if it wasn’t for the SBDC at Linn-Benton Community College.”

The Cheesy Stuffed Burger team has gone from a single food cart to considering franchising options in the span of six years. And Mark admits, to this day he still calls the SBDC at Linn-Benton Community College before making any major decisions.

LOOKING TO START A BUSINESS OR EXPAND ONE?
Call the LBCC Small Business Development Center at 541-917-4929

Voted “Best Burger in Oregon” in 2015 by Business Insider.
Textbooks cost a lot. A student can expect to spend around $1,420 a year on books and supplies. 65% of students report that they have decided at least once not to buy a textbook because it was too expensive. Fully 94% of these students were concerned that not purchasing the book would hurt their grades.

In the fall of 2015, LBCC’s Textbook Affordability Steering Committee began working with faculty to reduce textbook costs by developing low-cost or no-cost options for students. One of the most exciting low-cost options being adopted at LBCC is Open Educational Resources, or OER. OER are teaching and learning materials created by educators and experts in the field, which are for the most part free and open for anyone to use.

Instructors choose educational materials that best fit their classes. Students access the course materials online, and can choose to print the open textbooks, or purchase them at a low cost through the Campus Store. Anyone can access OER course materials for free, said LBCC OER Librarian Michaela Willi Hooper. “As our instructors create OER, it benefits both students and community members. They can access OER through the college Community Archive section on our library web site.”

The Textbook Affordability Committee is comprised of students, faculty and staff. Working together, they are committed to generating more solutions for textbook access for students in the future – in fact, $2 million more savings are projected over the next year.

Textbook affordability is just part of a larger effort by the college to address financial barriers for students which can greatly affect their ability to complete their educational goals. The LBCC Foundation has a fund designated to help students overcome some of those financial barriers, helping students get back on track and stay on track to finish their college goals.

To find out more about this fund and how you can help, go to the Foundation webpage at http://www.linnbenton.edu/foundation or call us at 541-917-4209.

"Textbooks can be so expensive, and many students tell me they often won’t enroll in a course that has expensive books. OER helps make college affordable."

- Tinamarie Ivey
LBCC Faculty,
Performing Arts Department
COMMUNITY COLLEGES NEED YOUR HELP TO ADDRESS CRITICAL BUDGET SHORTFALL

Community colleges provide the backbone of post-secondary education for students in Oregon. They serve the most diverse populations, from single moms and dads, to students who are living in poverty or who are the first in their families to attend college. They also create a link to good jobs and four-year degrees for many who would otherwise not have the option – all while supporting employers and partners throughout the community.

But right now, community colleges are in urgent need of support.

Oregon’s state budget is not sustainable for community colleges just to keep operating at their current levels without creating a significant hardship for students. As a result, Linn-Benton Community College is ramping up government relations efforts to coordinate community members, employers and students who can help advocate for increased support for community colleges.

A Budget that Keeps Oregon Working

To support community colleges, Oregon’s Higher Education Coordinating Commission is proposing $787 million from the state’s 2019-20 biennium budget. As costs increase, that figure will equip Oregon’s 17 community colleges to continue serving people with critical job skills education, and employers throughout the state with a trained labor force.

The current state budget of $575 million falls far short of that figure. To maintain their basic level of service, colleges estimate they will need at least an additional $72 million to just balance their budgets and end deficit spending that dips into critical reserves. Alternatively, colleges will be forced to face decisions that will lead to serious repercussions for students. At LBCC for example, possible risks are increasing tuition, limiting or cutting programs, and lessening student services like guided pathways, advising and completion efforts – all outcomes the college is working hard to avoid.

Additionally, community colleges will seek $140 million in funds to create more economic opportunity for Oregon. This investment would dramatically increase the output of career and technical education programs (CTE), so desperately needed to meet the needs of business and industry in the new global economy, and to significantly increase student completion rates overall:

- **$70 million for CTE programs** would allow colleges to double the number of graduates (an additional 7,900 graduates per year statewide) in programs like welding, dental assisting, advanced manufacturing, and alternative fuels.

- **$70 million for student success efforts** would enable dramatic increases in completion rates targeted toward first-generation and under-represented students. Particularly in community colleges, these means supporting students who need additional assistance in juggling the costs of tuition and utilities—or even food—while working full-time and caring for children or family members.
Community Members Can Make a Difference

All citizens can play a big role in how the Oregon budget is decided—and right now, everyone in Linn and Benton Counties can lend their voices to affect the upcoming biennium. Whether LBCC students, alums, or local employers, citizens can contact their legislators and share their personal experiences of how community colleges like LBCC have made an impact.

As Jim Merryman, President and CEO of OFD Foods, a local company that employs more than 500, wrote in a letter to the Governor in September, “I see firsthand in our own business how the college contributes to the economic vitality of our area by providing needed skills training to support business and industry of all sizes. Each year we hire a number of the graduates of LBCC’s various programs. A trained workforce is essential both in a global marketplace, and to continue Oregon’s economic growth.”

Merryman also serves as the Chair of LBCC’s Board of Education. Together with the full Board, he is focused on keeping community colleges strong as a critical bridge between K-12 and universities.

“Investing in community colleges helps build student success across the education spectrum and gives them the skills to succeed in life,” he said. “Oregon’s long-term path to economic success requires this investment. We can’t put an ever-growing share of the financial burden onto students.”

For more information on how you can help, check out LBCC’s Legislative Advocacy page at http://www.linnbenton.edu/advocate, or contact John McArdle at john.mcardle@linnbenton.edu or 541-917-4210.

LBCC Impacts Our Community

- More than 18,000 STUDENTS attend annually.
- Nearly 6,000 FULL-TIME STUDENTS attend annually.
- Almost 3,000 STUDENTS DUAL ENROLL with Oregon State University.
- Around 300 VETERANS use their benefits annually.
- LBCC employs more than 850 people.
- More than 300 INDUSTRY PARTNERS serve on Advisory Committees, keeping LBCC relevant by helping drive course content.
- 7 META MAJORS feed into 85 PROGRAMS including Nursing, Mechatronics, Non-Destructive Testing (the only program in Oregon), Graphic Design, and Associate Degrees that transfer to any Oregon public university.
- LOCATIONS offer credit and non-credit courses in Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon and Sweet Home.
Join the LBCC Foundation in

Lifting Up

Students & Community

Just like the beautiful hot air balloon festival that takes place in our region every year, our mission is to help students soar to new heights, despite the odds. Through the power of a great education at Linn-Benton Community College, every student can overcome obstacles and achieve their dreams for the future – not just for themselves, but for their families.

This giving season, please join us in helping deserving students graduate with a college degree. Every gift to LBCC can change a life!

Thank you for reaching out today!
541-917-4209
linnbenton.edu/foundation