

# LCCC Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Morgan Center in Tamaqua

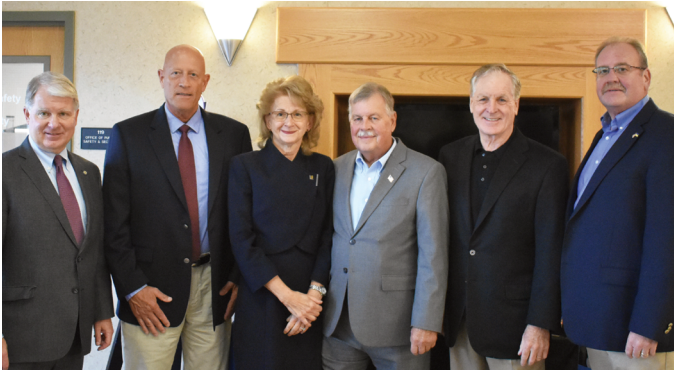
Lehigh Carbon Community College celebrated the 20th anniversary of the John and Dorothy Morgan Center for Higher Education, on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

The festivities included tours, refreshments and giveaways. Speakers included LCCC president Dr. Ann D. Bieber, PA Senator David Argall and former PA governor Mark Schweiker. In addition, alumni who have been positively impacted by the center’s presence in the community were on hand to describe their experience at the center: Kaitlyn Herling, George Zubey and Brian Faust.

The center was dedicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 26, 2003, and courses were first offered in the fall 2003. It was constructed at the site of the former 1927 Tamaqua High School, which later became a middle school.

Mr. Morgan, founder of J.E. Morgan Knitting Mills, left a legacy that allows for his charitable trust to continue his efforts to advance health care and higher education in the Tamaqua area. As a resident and prominent businessman in Tamaqua, his wish was to enhance opportunities for his neighbors so they could remain in the community.

In addition to the charitable contribution from the Morgan Foundation, both Sen. Argall and former Gov. Schweiker secured funds through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to construct the center.



The impact of the Morgan Center has been dramatic. Since the center opened in the fall 2003, 7,720 credit students have attended classes there. Of these credit students, 2,233 have earned an associate degree and 364 have earned a certificate or diploma. In total, 10,866 students have attended credit, noncredit or workforce classes at the Morgan Center.

Over the past 20 years, the Morgan Center has provided an educational hub with offerings including general education coursework, business, criminal justice and more, housed the SHINE after-school administrative offices and the former Business and Entrepreneurship Center, and held a number of noncredit/workforce courses. The site hosts a range of community meetings, as well. The site has expanded to encompass the Lisa Jane Scheller Student Center, which houses the state-of-the-art nursing simulation center.

In addition to the campus site, the Morgan Foundation has provided nearly \$4 million in scholarships for Tamaqua Area High School graduates either attending LCCC or other approved colleges and universities, and recently extended financial support to students in workforce (noncredit) programs.

For information on the Morgan Center, contact Amber Zuber, director of Site Educational Services, at 570-225-7020. ■



## International Book Award Winning Poet Visits LCCC

LCCC kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a performance by Columbian-American poet Carlos Andrés Gómez, who appeared in HBO's "Def Poetry Jam" and in Spike Lee's movie "Inside Man" with Denzel Washington. Gómez performed his original work on Wednesday, Sept. 20, at the Schnecksville campus in the Community Services Center ballroom.

Gómez is the author of "Hijito," for which he was awarded the Foreword INDIES Gold Medal and the International Book Award for Poetry in 2020, and the coming-of-age memoir "Man Up: Reimagining Modern Manhood," released by Penguin Random House in 2012. His most recent book, "Fractures," was selected by Pulitzer Prize-winning former U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey as the winner of the Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry.

Hailing from New York City, Gómez has performed at nearly 800 colleges and universities in 47 U.S. states and headlined shows in 26 countries across five continents. He has been featured on NPR, TEDx, Upworthy, Central Park SummerStage, and partnered with John Legend for Senior Orientation, a program to counteract bullying and champion inclusive masculinity among high school students.

A former social worker and public school teacher, Gómez first made a name for himself by winning at the Apollo Theater's celebrated Amateur Night and later as a member of the renowned Nuyorican Poets Café's slam team. In 2008, he collaborated with Tony Award-winning tap dance legend Savion Glover on Broadway. Gómez is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College.

For additional information contact Natalie DeRosa, Director of Student Engagement and Inclusion, at [nderosa@lccc.edu](mailto:nderosa@lccc.edu).

Photo credit: Friends & Lovers Photography. ■



## LCCC Recruits for Students to Participate in Disney Co-op Program

LCCC will offer a cooperative work experience for students at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, or Disneyland in Anaheim, California, during the spring and summer 2024 semesters. The program is available to students attending LCCC or who have graduated in the last 24 months and who are at least 18 years of age at the time of application.

The co-op program allows students to earn six college credits as they spend one semester working, learning and living at Disney World or Disneyland. Since the program began in September 1989, more than 450 LCCC students have participated.

Students who are chosen will work in a major operating area in one of the theme parks, resorts, or entertainment venues such as Foods, Merchandise, Operations, Tickets, Water Recreation and Transportation. Students are housed in apartments located near the Disney Resort complex. This course is a combination of working, learning and living experience that is open to all majors. Selection to participate in the program is competitive and is based upon approval by the Disney recruiting team.

Interested students may apply for the program online at <https://jobs.disneycareers.com/disney-programs>. Registration is available on the website.

For additional information about LCCC's Disney Co-op program, contact Walter Sweedo at [wsweedo@lccc.edu](mailto:wsweedo@lccc.edu). ■

## Career Development Center Partners with LVHN to Host BBQ

As part of its industry spotlight on health care, the Career Development Center hosted a Back to School BBQ sponsored by Lehigh Valley Health Network on Sept. 19. More than 80 students interested in careers in healthcare stopped by to meet with LVHN ambassadors to learn about current and future job opportunities and enjoy food from Mission BBQ. ■





## J.E.D.I. Center Opens in Grand Style

The college's new Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (J.E.D.I.) Center hosted a grand opening on Tuesday, Sept. 12. Dozens of students and staff attended the ribbon cutting and were able to explore the space and partake in fun activities. The J.E.D.I. Center includes offices of Student Engagement and Inclusion and First Year Experience. Programming surrounding diversity, equity and inclusion will be held monthly to help improve belongingness at LCCC and help connect students with the resources they need to succeed.

For more information, contact Natalie DeRosa at [nderosa@lccc.edu](mailto:nderosa@lccc.edu). You can view all photos from the grand opening on our Flickr account [here](#). ■



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## Alumni and Friends Gather at Iron Pigs Game

More than 50 LCCC alumni, guests and current students gathered in the Tiki Terrace at the Iron Pigs game on Aug. 30 to enjoy the late summer game, food and fellowship.

The game is an annual tradition for the alumni group, and an outing to the Lehigh Valley Phantoms is scheduled for the upcoming hockey season.

Watch for news about additional alumni and friends' events in the coming months. If you are interested in attending or have ideas for events, contact JoEllen Rooney, alumni and special events manager, at [JRooney@lccc.edu](mailto:JRooney@lccc.edu). ■



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## Important Dates for October 2023

- October 2** Virtual Returning Adult and Veteran Info Session, 6-7 p.m.
- October 6** School Counselors and Professionals Breakfast
- October 9** Admissions and Dual Enrollment Info Session, 5:30-7 p.m.
- October 10** Development Day - No Daytime or Evening Classes
- October 17** Virtual Aviation Info Session, 6-8 p.m.
- October 18** Fall Late Start Session Begins

## New York City for the Holidays



Join LCCC alumni and friends on a holiday excursion to New York City on Saturday, Dec. 2, where

you can take in a show, shop, stroll through Central Park - or whatever you enjoy. You're on your own for the day!

You can sign up using the [online link](#). Alumni, staff, faculty, family and friends are welcome to join the trip.

We are chartering a bus, which will depart main campus in Schnecksville (parking lot A) at 7 a.m. (Please arrive by 6:45 a.m. to board.) The bus will depart NYC to head back at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$50 per person round trip (includes transportation, coffee and donuts).

There will be trivia on the bus for raffle prizes!

Deadline to RSVP is Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023.

Questions? Contact JoEllen Rooney, alumni and events manager, at [JRooney@LCCC.edu](mailto:JRooney@LCCC.edu). ■

*"The Morgan Scholarship and Tamaqua Center truly opened countless doors and led to so many possibilities in both my personal and professional development. It has also given me a sense of pride in my community that I will always carry with me and be grateful for."*



**Lehigh Carbon Community College**  
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