



STATE OF

TRAILBLAZER

NATION

2023/
2024



BY THE NUMBERS

2023 - 2024



4,196

CREDIT STUDENTS
FALL 2023

+ 5.6% FROM FALL 2022



4,240

CREDIT STUDENTS
SPRING 2024

+ 5.8% FROM SPRING 2023



557

FULL-TIME & PART-TIME

TEAM MEMBERS



56,705.50

**TOTAL BILLABLE
CREDIT HOURS**
2023 - 2024



16:1

**STUDENT-TO-FACULTY
RATIO**

**ACTUAL
LEVY
RATES**

DECREASED ALMOST
↓ **9.2%**

over the last three years (2021-2023)

\$0.6624 for 2020 real estate taxes collected
in 2021 to \$0.6016 for 2022 real estate taxes
collected in 2023

**LONG-TERM BORROWING
DEBT DECREASED**

↓ **13%**

From 6/30/21 to 6/30/23

WITH A FY23 TOTAL OF \$86,567,871



Letter From the President

Dear Lewis and Clark stakeholders,

Our students are our most important priority. Your support and advocacy are critical and appreciated. They provide our team the opportunity and resources required to serve our students and communities at a high level.

This support is becoming more critical. The educational ecosystem is evolving. Our environment requires serious and continuous evaluation and action in how we offer value through education.

For example, the structure of credentials and degree programs and how we strengthen access and alignment for students and workforce are a few prompts for change.

The good news is L&C's team shares a conviction for readiness, relevance and creativity – from designing and aligning new program pathways with regional employer needs (such as avionics), to introducing and investing in competency-based education, adding a complimentary layer of agility and flexibility to teaching and learning.

We have a remarkable and rich history serving our region and our team continues to work hard to provide relevant and meaningful learning and engagement experiences, all while being mindful and responsible fiscal stewards.

We are proud of our progress and advancement across four strategic key directions (KDs), which you will learn more about in the pages that follow. We are honored and excited to share this progress during our second annual State of Trailblazer Nation.

Thank you for unwavering support, confidence and investment in Lewis and Clark.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Trzaska". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dr. Ken Trzaska

President, Lewis and Clark Community College

KD1

Create Enrollment & Retention Improvement



Enrollment and retention at Lewis and Clark Community College continue to move in a positive direction. We exceeded our goals this year, increasing billable credit hours by more than 2 percent and improving our retention rate. Our Fall 2022-2023 retention rate was 59.7 percent, exceeding our goal of 58.93 percent.

STANDARDIZATION

- Provide an aligned, flexible and accessible information/recruitment and enrollment process.

RETENTION

- Increase current outstanding retention rates by 1 percent, year over year.

GROWTH

- Increase billable credit hours to 55,000; continue growth by 2 percent year over year.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hired a Director of Admissions and Enrollment Management (9/23)
- Improved technology enhanced communication — new lc.edu website (Summer 2023) and texting/web chat platform (Spring 2024)
- Initiation of Welcome Week for students (Fall 2023)
- Added new Open House events – first-ever Summerfest drew 600+ (July 2023)
- Enhanced New Student Orientation (400 students attended, Fall 2023)
- Tracking all recruiting event attendance with recruiting software
- Strengthened Career Services offerings through new events (Career Readiness Day, March 2024)
- Designated a dedicated veterans contact on campus for veteran students (July 2023)
- Established an interdepartmental Enrollment Marketing committee to meet monthly on enrollment and advertising efforts (October 2023)
- New targeted, multimedia marketing campaigns – “Discover Your Path” with Alumnus Mikeith Teague (traditional students, Spring 2024); Illinois High School Diploma to College pipeline campaign (Summer 2024)
- Strengthened mental health resources for students through strategic partnerships (JED Campus BetterMynds), campus speakers and mental health first aid training for team members.

KD2

Invest in Program & Curriculum Development

Lewis and Clark is implementing a culture of assessment in response to feedback from our accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), and creating standardization and transparency across the curriculum. New systems are being implemented to explore new programs and assess the health of existing ones, and 100 percent of the full-time faculty are becoming more involved in these processes.



TRANSPARENCY

- Standardize the academic student experience.
- Develop a transparent process to explore the need for the feasibility of new Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, and get two new programs under development by Fall 2024.

SUCCESS

- Develop a system to ensure the continuing success of existing CTE programs, and assess 90 percent of existing programs by Fall 2024.

INNOVATION

- Explore the feasibility and potential of new program offerings.

ACCESS

- Increase the accessibility and equity of education.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Standardized Blackboard Ultra shells across all courses, exceeding our 75 percent goal by Fall 2024.
- Developing a comprehensive review framework to determine the health of existing programs; assessing 90 percent of all programs by Fall 2024. (In Progress)
- A team of faculty registered for HLC Assessment Academy in April; three faculty members completed HLC assessment workshops and shared what they learned during in-service.
- By end of Fall 2024, we will have two programs offering Competency-Based Education options – Welding (in its second year) and Child Development (Fall 2024). Fifteen other faculty members are engaged in developing or conceptualizing CBE courses to launch between Spring and Fall 2025.
- COMING SOON: Developing Human Services and Sports Management programs; exploring the feasibility of programs in Avionics and Drone Training.

KD3

Build a Transparent & Inclusive Campus Culture

The college has been a flurry of activity all year, with numerous events building connections between students, team members and the community. According to a Spring 2024 team member culture survey, satisfaction with the overall campus culture has increased in the past year, with some work to do in regard to building and nurturing successful working relationships among team members.

COMMUNICATION

- Develop opportunities for increased communication and collaboration between students, team members and the greater community.

CULTURE

- Increase a sense of belonging for all campus constituencies.
- Support the implementation of the college's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) blueprint.

COLLABORATION

- Increase access and visibility through collaboration between team members, students and the community, in conjunction with KD4.

TEAM MEMBER CULTURE SURVEY

This spring's team member culture survey indicated improved communication and sense of belonging year over year, achieving increases in multiple categories:

- Increased satisfaction with overall campus culture (75 percent > 64 percent in 2023)
- Feel a sense of belonging (82 percent > 80 percent in 2023)
- Feel respected by their managers/supervisors (81 percent > 76 percent in 2023)
- Feel respected by their coworkers (83 percent > 80 percent in 2023)
- Good culture within department (79 percent > 73 percent in 2023)
- Comfortable sharing thoughts (75 percent > 69 percent in 2023)

HIGHLIGHTS



Visit KD Cup webpage.

- Introduced the KD Cup and engaged more than 200 participants in each of eight events.
- Supported ~30 events and projects throughout the year with funding and/or volunteers.
- Hiking Through the Holidays drew a record-breaking 5,000+ visitors to campus.
- Enrollment dashboard implemented (March 2024).
- Multiple investments in IT infrastructure: multi-factor authentication, encryption, installed 1,000 computers, migrated team members from Exchange to Office 365, renegotiated internet contract (doubling speed and saving \$140,000), replacing wireless network, upgrading core fiber network.
- Hired Chief Data and Technology Officer (Spring 2024); building additional support staff.
- Developed a Blue Crew with 10 team members to recognize and celebrate peers and encourage communication & collaboration.
- Launched DEI Task Force to implement the college's DEI blueprint.



KD4

Broaden Community & Education Collaboration

The college made strides this year improving connections to the community and to L&C and Monticello College alumni. It was also a strong year for volunteerism through Trailblazers Give Back.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Trailblazers Give Back (est. Fall 2021) engaged team members and students through the Trailblazer Snack Pantry and Student Government Association (SGA) Hygiene Closet: 350+ students served in Fall 2023, 45 team member donors, 150+ items donated.
- Supported successful community collaborations including: the Goshen Market, Rock n' Roll Wellness Resource Fair, Industrial Careers Open House, Fall Choral Concert, NGRRECSM Water Festival, Hiking Through the Holidays, Spring Choral Concert/Master Class, STEAM Festival, Trebuchet, Grad Bash, Commencement and LC's High School Diploma Graduation.
- Hosted ~4 alumni engagement events and visited with alumni across the country.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Strengthen community engagement through Trailblazers Give Back; measure the impact service and volunteerism have on L&C's culture and climate.

ALUMNI

- Coordinate a more defined approach to interacting with L&C and Monticello College alumni in the community to strengthen our philanthropic culture in support of L&C students, campus advancement and innovation opportunities.

COLLABORATION

- Increase access and visibility through collaboration between team members, students and the community, in conjunction with KD3.



NEW KEY DIRECTION: DATA & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION

In 2024-2025, this year's KD4 will merge with KD3, focusing efforts on expanding our work in building an inclusive and transparent culture both on campus and in the wider community.

A new Key Direction 4 will focus on supporting the college's data and technology transformation.



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