

About LCC

Lower Columbia College is a public institution located in Longview, Washington. Established in 1934, Lower Columbia became an official community college in 1961. In 1967, LCC joined the state-supported community college system. Today, the College includes 26 buildings on nearly 40 acres and enrolls over 4,000 students each year.

Accreditation Statement

Lower Columbia College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

NWCCU is one of seven institutional accrediting agencies that operate within a scope of authority approved by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). Institutional accreditors have traditionally had oversight over higher educational institutions within a selected subset of the 50 states and U.S. territories, along with institutions outside of the U.S., which have voluntarily sought membership for accreditation. However, under the new 2020 USDE regulations, the former regional accreditors are now allowed to operate nationally. Institutional accreditation serves to assure the educational community, parents, students, employers, policymakers, and the public that an accredited institution has met high standards of quality and effectiveness.

For the purposes of determining eligibility for United States government assistance under certain legislation, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education recognizes institutional accrediting agencies as reliable authorities on the quality of education offered by educational institutions.

Institutional accreditation applies to an institution as a whole, not individual programs or units within the institution.

Institutional accreditation agencies perform important functions, including fostering quality education and continuous improvement, and encouraging institutional efforts toward maximum educational effectiveness. The accrediting process requires institutions to examine their own missions, operations, and achievements. It then provides expert analysis by peer evaluators, which may include commendations for accomplishments as well as recommendations for improvement.

Inquiries regarding an institution's accreditation status by the NWCCU should be directed to the administrative staff of the institution. Individuals may also contact:

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100,
Redmond, WA, 98052
[\(425\) 558-4224](tel:4255584224)
nwccu.org (www.nwccu.org/)

Accreditation by the NWCCU refers to the institution as a whole. Therefore, statements like "fully accredited" or "the program is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities" or "this degree is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities" are incorrect and should not be used.

In addition to institutional accreditation, specific programs at LCC have obtained specialized accreditation, including:

- The Lower Columbia College Nursing Program is approved by the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).
- The Lower Columbia College Medical Assisting Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs on recommendation of the Curriculum Review Board of the American Association of Medical Assistants Endowment.

- The Automotive Technology program has Master Automobile Service Technology Accreditation from the Automotive Service Excellence Education Foundation.

Board of Trustees

Marc Silva, Chair, appointed March 2022
Branch Manager, Red Canoe Credit Union
(Longview branch).

Bogyong Kim, Vice Chair, appointed
January 2023
Former English teacher in South Korea.

Alice Dietz, appointed October 2018
Public Relations Manager at Cowlitz PUD;
former Director of Programs at Cowlitz
Economic Development Council.

Michael Karnofski, appointed June 2020
Kelso City Council Member; former County
Commissioner.

Liz Cattin, appointed March 2021
Director of Community Health for
PeaceHealth Columbia Network.

See also: [LCC Board of Trustees webpage \(lowercolumbia.edu/trustees\)](https://lowercolumbia.edu/trustees) .

Class Size and Student-Faculty Ratio

Class sizes vary depending on the discipline and available facilities and equipment. Certain disciplines, such as Nursing, must adhere to external standards that limit class size. Other disciplines, such as Machine Trades, Welding, and Automotive Technology, set class size according to the available equipment. The majority of LCC classes range from 15-35 students.

In 2023-24, LCC's student-faculty ratio was 12.83 for all students, and 10.40 for state-supported students.*

The student-faculty ratio indicates how many full-time equivalent students were on campus for every full-time equivalent faculty member. Full-time equivalency is determined

by credits taken for students, and credits taught for faculty.

*Source: SBCTC website (Data Tables)

Faculty and Administration at LCC

President

Charles (Matt) Seimears, Ph.D (2024),
President
B.S., Pittsburg State University; B.S.,
Newman University; M.Ed., Wichita State
University; Ph.D., Kansas State University

Vice Presidents

Kristen Finnel, Ph.D (2019), Vice President
of Instruction
A.A.S, Tidewater Community College; B.S.,
Norfolk State University; M.Ed., Concordia
University; Ed.D., Edgewood College; PhD,
Edgewood College

Wendy Hall (2003), Vice President of
Effectiveness and College Relations
B.A., Whitman College; M.P.A., University of
Washington

Sue Orchard, Psy.D (2016), Vice President
of Student Services
B.A. and M.A., Eastern Washington
University; Psy.D., Pacific University School
of Professional Psychology

Kendra Sprague (2011), Vice President of
Foundation, Human Resources and Legal
Affairs
B.A., Washington State University; J.D.,
Willamette University College of Law

Nolan Wheeler (1994), Vice President of
Administration
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.A.,
Western Washington University; M.B.A.,
University of Phoenix

Deans

Merry Bond (2011), Dean of Instructional Programs/Nursing Program Director
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.S., Washington State University; M.S. Capella University

William (Henry) Brewster, Ph.D. (2018), Dean of Instructional Programs
B.A., Colby College; M.Ed., University of Washington; Ph.D., Columbia University

Stefanie Gilberti (2008), Dean of Instructional Programs
B.S., North Dakota State University; M.A., Colorado State University

Tamra Gilchrist (2007), Dean of Instructional Programs
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.S., M.S., Warner Pacific College

Michaela Jackson (2001), Interim Dean of Education, New Program Development & Educational Partnerships
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.A., Concordia University

Department Directors

Magnus Altmayer (2019), Director of Registration/Registrar
B.A., Whitman College

Jason Arrowsmith (2016), Director of Security
A.A., Clark College; B.A., Washington State University; M.A., Central Washington University

Sheila Burgin (2008), Director of Development and Major Gifts
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.S., Western Governors University

Desiree Gamble (2007), Director of Finance
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.A., Washington State University

Sarah Griffith (2010), Director of eLearning and Education
B.A., Abilene Christian University

Richard Hamilton (2001), Director of Campus Services, Facilities and Capital Projects
A.S., City University; A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.A., Washington State University

Deanna (Andie) Ingram (2024), Director of International Student Programs
B.A., Whitworth University

Kari Johnson (2018), Director of Early Learning Center
A.A.S., Lower Columbia College

Mindy Leasure (2007), Director of Head Start/ECEAP/EHS
B.A., University of Washington; MSMOL., Warner Pacific College

Alyssa Milano-Hightower (2020), RCA Director of Operations
B.S. CSU Stanislaus, M.B.A. CSU Stanislaus

Mary Kate Morgan (2013), Director of Disability and Access Services
B.A., Gonzaga University

Donna Myers (2024), Director of Outreach Services
B.S., University of Delaware; M.Ed., Wilmington University

Samantha Orth (2014), Director of Human Resources
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.A., Washington State University

Jodi Reid (2010), Director of TRiO Programs
A.A., ITT Technical Institute; B.A., Washington State University; M.F.A., Northwest Institute of Literary Arts

Natalie Richie (2017), Director of Instruction Division Operations
B.S., Oregon State University; M.S., Warner Pacific University

Guadalupe (Lupe) Rodriguez (2012), Running Start Director
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.A., Central Washington University

Angela (Angie) Rogers (2013), Director of Institutional Research
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.A., Washington State University

Kirc Roland (2001), Athletic Director
B.A., San Diego State University

Daniel (Dan) Ruiz (2024), Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Student Housing & Programming (DEI-SPH)
B.S., Boise State University; M.S., Brigham Young University; M.H.A., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Angel Ruvalcaba (2013), Director of Advising, One-Stop, & Testing
A.A., Clark College; B.S., Washington State University

Janel Skreen (2013), Director of Environmental Health and Safety
B.S., M.S., Washington State University

April Tovar Villa (2022), Director of Financial Aid
A.A., Clark College; B.A., Washington State University

Dani Trimble (2010), Workforce Programs Director
B.A., The Evergreen State College; M.Ed., Central Washington University

Rheannon Van de Voorde (2021), Director of College & Career Preparation
B.A., Washington State University; M.A., University of Portland

David Wallis (2024), Director of Information Technology Services
B.A., Western Washington University

Full Time Faculty (Tenured and Tenure-Track)

Natasha Allen (2021), Welding
A.A., Lower Columbia College

Jolynn Amrine, Ph.D., (2023), Language and Literature

B.A., John Brown University; M.A., Queen's University Belfast/University of Alabama; Ph.D., University of Alabama

Larissa Arnold, Ph.D., (2022), Psychology
A.A., Seward County Community College; B.A.S., M.S., Ph.D., Iowa State University

Lori Babbick (2024), Mathematics
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.A. and M.S., Washington State University

Earnest (Trey) Batey, Ph.D. (2015), Anthropology
B.A., Louisiana State; M.A., Wichita State University; Ph.D., University of Arkansas

Hiedi Bauer (2006), English
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.A., The Evergreen State College; M.A., Portland State University

Kimberly (Kim) Beebe (2022), Communications Studies
B.A., M.A., Oregon State University

William (Brad) Benjamin (2008), Mathematics
B.S., Miami University; M.S., Portland State University

Jessica Bilek (2023), Basic Education
B.A., Western Washington University; M.A., University of Washington

Elena Boleyn-Ross (2008), Physical Education
B.A., Pacific Lutheran University; M.A., University of Alabama

Austin Bosgraaf, Ph.D. (2025), Mathematics
A.S., Butler County Community College; B.S., M.S., Wichita State University; Ph.D., Oregon State University

Amy Boultinghouse (2018), Nursing
A.A.S., Lower Columbia College; B.S., Western Governors University; M.S., Capella University

Kali Brandt (2018), Nursing
A.A.S., Lower Columbia College; B.S.N., Grand Canyon University; M.S.N., Western Governors University

Alexander (Alex) Brehm (2016), Communication Studies
B.A., Saint John's University; M.A., Portland State University

Sarah Bustamante (2025), Education
B.A., M.A., Pacific University

Ashley Cahill (2021), Teacher Education
A.A., Highline Community College; B.A. and M.A., The Evergreen State College

Gina Challed (2010), Choral Director
B.A., Western New Mexico University; M.M., New Mexico State University

Naser Chowdhury (2025), Computer Science
B.S., Khulna University of Engineering and Technology; M.S., Boise State University

Becky Connolly (1999), Language and Literature
B.A., Eastern Washington University; M.S., Capella University

Julianna Crisman (2024), Nursing
A.A.S., Lower Columbia College; B.S.N. and D.S.N., Washington State University

Leszek Cromwell (2013), Mental Health Counselor
B.A., Central Washington University; M.S.W., Eastern Washington University

Dana Cummings (2008), Business
B.A., Washington State University; M.S., Strayer University

Robert (Rob) Davis, Ph.D. (2012), Instrumental Music
B.M., M.M., Brigham Young University; D.M.A., University of Southern California

Donald (Don) Derkacht (2002), Computer Science
B.S. and M.S.E.E., Washington State University

Kailie Drumm, Ph.D (2022), Nursing
A.A., A.A.S., Lower Columbia College; B.S.N., Ph.D, Washington State University

Firaol Fekadu (2024), Engineering

B.S., Purdue University; M.S., University of Colorado Boulder

James (Jim) Franz (2008), Economics
B.A., State University of New York Plattsburgh; M.A., California State University

Mark Gaither (2013), Business Technology
B.S.; Portland State University, M.A., University of Phoenix

Adrienne Godschalx, Ph.D (2023), Microbiology
B.S., Western Oregon University; M.S. and Ph.D., Portland State University

Becky Grabenhorst (2018), Nursing
A.A.S., Lower Columbia College; B.S., Grand Canyon University

Joshua Hanson (2025), Automation, Instrumentation, & Robotics (AIR)
Apprenticeship Program, Lane Community College; Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Certificate, Perry Technical Institute

Kathryn (Kat) Harlan (2025), Bachelor of Science - OLTM
B.S., University of Portland; M.B.A., Hawai'i Pacific University; M.A., Gonzaga University

Armando Herbelin, Ph.D. (2002), Chemistry
B.S., Oregon State University; Ph.D., University of Washington

Cassie Hummel, (2025), Nursing
A.A.S., Lower Columbia College; B.S.N., D.N.P., Washington State University

Klint Hull (2004), Language and Literature
B.A. and M.A., Eastern Washington University

Jones Kasonso, Ph.D (2024), Accounting
A.A., Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants; B.A., Oxford Brookes University; M.B.A., Keller Graduate School of Management; Ph.D., Northcentral University

Lindsay Keevy (2016), Librarian & Library Director
B.A., California State University; M.L.S., San Jose State University

Corry Kile (2011), Automotive Technology
A.T.D., Phoenix Institute of Technology

Jessica Kooiman (2006), Nutrition and Health
B.A., Westmont College; M.A., Liberty University

Ashleigh Kruckenberg (2023), Education
B.A. and M.A., Western Governors University

Louis LaPierre, Ph.D. (2004), Biology and Environmental Science
B.A. and Ph.D., University of California

Mary Leach (2005), Humanities
B.A., Washington State University; M.A., California State University

Fox Leavens (2014), Language and Literature
A.A., North Iowa Area Community College; B.A., Waldorf University; M.F.A., University of California - Irvine

Amber Lemiere (2013), Language and Literature
A.A.; Lower Columbia College, B.A.; Washington State University, M.A., Northern Arizona University

Keith (Sunny) Liston, D.B.A. (2024), Business
M.B.A. and M.S., Golden Gate University; D.B.A., University of Phoenix

Peteris (Pete) Livins, Ph.D. (2008), Physics
B.S., State University of New York Stonybrook; Ph.D., University of Virginia

Amber MacLaren (2011) Nursing
A.D.N., Lower Columbia College; B.S.N. and M.S.N., Western Governors University

Jason Malozzi (2015), Mathematics
A.A., Harrisburg Area Community College; B.A., Penn State; M.S., Lehigh University

Emmeline (Emme) McCarthy (2023), Counseling
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.A., University of Washington; M.S.W., Eastern Washington University

Michael Morris (2024), Diesel/Heavy Equipment Technology
A.A., Lower Columbia College

Joanna Mosser, Ph.D. (2018), Political Science
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Yale University

Lucas Myers (2011), Biological Sciences
B.A., Linfield College; M.P.H. and A.T. Still University; M.S., New York Chiropractic College

Michael (Shane) Prine (2022), Visual Arts
B.A., Valdosta State University; M.A., Washington State University

Anita Quirk, J.D. (1993), Criminal Justice
A.A., Spokane Falls Community College; B.A., Walla Walla College; J.D. Lewis and Clark

Connie Ramos (2005), Nursing
A.A.S., Portland Community College; B.S.N. and M.S., Regis University

Elizabeth (Betsy) Richard (2015), Drama
B.A., City College; M.A., Eastern Michigan University

Benjamino (Stefan) Rijnhart (2015), Computer Science
A.A., Lower Columbia College

Mavourneen Rister (2010), Language and Literature, College Success
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.A., Washington State University; M.A., National University (San Diego)

Gary Roeske (2013), Automotive
A.A., Mount Hood Community College

David Rosi (2003), Computer Science
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.A., Central Washington State University; B.A., Western Washington State University; M.S., Nova Southeastern University

Morgan Salisbury, Ph.D. (2016), Earth Science
B.S., University of Idaho; M.S., Central Washington University; Ph.D., Oregon State University

Shari Samuels, Ph.D. (2015), Mathematics
B.S.E., Chadron State College; M.A.E.,
Chadron State College; Ph.D., Montana
State University

Courtney Shah, Ph.D. (2007), History
B.A., Duke University; M.A., Brandeis
University; Ph.D., University of Houston

Nathan Shepherd (2015), Machine Trades
A.A., Lower Columbia College

Terri Skeie (1996), Mathematics
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.A., The
Evergreen State College; M.S., Utah State
University

Victoria (Vicky) Soladey (2009), Medical
Assisting
A.A., Lower Columbia College; Medical
Assistant Certificate, Apollo College

Ian St. Germain King (2019), BAS/OER
Librarian
B.S., Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University;
B.S., Stevens Henager College; MLIS,
Wayne State University

Morgan Stierman (2023), Language and
Literature
B.S. and M.A., University of Hawaii

Corey Strand (2024), Nursing
A.A.S., Lower Columbia College; B.S.N.,
Grand Canyon University; M.S.N., Purdue
University Global

Richard (Rick) Swee (1993), Mathematics
B.S. and M.A.T., University of Portland

Natalie Tonn (2019), Biology
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.S.,
Humboldt State University; M.S., University
of Michigan

Michal-Ann Ure (2008), College and Career
Preparation
A.A., Lower Columbia College; B.S., Saint
Martin's University; M.Ed., University of
Phoenix

Barry Walther (2011), College and Career
Preparation

A.A. Everett Community College; B.A.
Western Washington University; M.A.
Western Governors University

Marguerite (Nonnie) Weaver (1995),
Sociology, Psychology
B.A., Hunter College; M.S.W., Walla Walla
College

Adam Wolfer, Ph.D. (2000), Chemistry/
Chemical Engineering
B.S. and M.S., Oregon State University; M.S.,
Colorado State University; Ph.D., Oregon
State University

Sarah Willoughby (2025), Spanish
B.A., M.A., University of Hawai'i

Kiersten Wolfe (2024), Nursing
A.A.S., Lower Columbia College; B.S.N.,
M.S.N., Western Governors University

Josie Zbaeren (2013), Early Childhood
Education
A.A. Lower Columbia College; B.S.; Kaplan
University; M.Ed., Walden University

Faculty and Administrators with Emeritus Status

Name	Date Conferred
Dr. Vernon Pickett, President Emeritus	June 1997
Dr. Donald Fuller, Dean Emeritus	June 1998
Mr. Hilmar Kuebel, Dean Emeritus	May 1999
Mr. Bruce Cardwell, Trustee Emeritus	June 2000
Mr. Gary Healea, Trustee Emeritus	May 2005
Dr. Kurtz Carpenter, Faculty Emeritus	May 2005

Name	Date Conferred
Mr. Lionel Livermore, Faculty Emeritus	May 2005
Ms. Carol McNair, Faculty Emeritus	April 2006
Ms. Judith Irwin, Faculty Emeritus	April 2006
Ms. Ann Mottet, Trustee Emeritus	June 2006
Dr. Clint Benjamin	May 2008
Mrs. Evelyn Boyd, Faculty Emeritus	April 2009
Mr. Lyle Lovingfoss, Trustee Emeritus	November 2009
Ms. Kathy Demarest, Faculty Emeritus	January 2010
Ms. Mary Harding, Vice President Emeritus	June 2010
Ms. Mary Stone, Faculty Emeritus	April 2011
Ms. Helen Kuebel, Dean Emeritus	June 2011
Dr. James L. McLaughlin	June 2011
Mr. Michael Dugaw, Faculty Emeritus	December 2011
Mr. George Dennis, Faculty Emeritus	December 2011
Mr. Richard Kelly, Faculty Emeritus	December 2011
Mr. Jerry Zimmerman	December 2013
Ms. Kathy Meier	November 2014
Mr. Don Correll	May 2017
Mr. Dave Cordero	May 2017

Name	Date Conferred
Ms. Darlene DeVida	May 2017
Ms. Sharon Layton	May 2017
Mr. Joel Schaaf	May 2017
Mark Bergeson	April 2018
Joe Green	December 2018
Mrs. Rhonda Meyers, Faculty Emeritus	July 2020
Mr. David Benson, Faculty Emeritus	April 2021
Mr. Michael Strayer, Faculty Emeritus	April 2023
Mrs. Karen Joiner, Dean Emeritus	April 2023
Dr. David McCarthy	June 2024
Mrs. Ann Williamson	April 2025
Mr. Jim Stanley	April 2025

Key Performance Indicators

Workforce and Economic Development

1. Provide quality professional/technical education for employment, skills enhancement, and career development.
 - Student performance
 - Demonstration of program competencies
 - College level math and English in first year
 - Completion
 - Licensure/certification rates
 - Success after completion (placement rate in the workforce)
 - Demonstration of General Education Outcomes (Global Skills)
2. Partner with business, community groups, and other educational entities to provide workforce development and customized programs and services.
 - Client assessment of programs and services

Academic Transfer

1. Offer courses and support for students to meet the requirements for transfer from Lower Columbia College.
 - Student performance
 - Transfer readiness
 - Demonstration of General Education Outcomes (Global Skills)
 - College level math and English in first year
2. Provide the support for transfer students to successfully transition to

upper division college and university programs.

- Completion and academic transfer rate
- Success after completion/transfer

Preparation for College Level Studies

1. Ensure that learners who are under-prepared for college level studies have access to developmental coursework and bridge opportunities to college level work.
 - Basic Education for Adults achievement
 - Academic performance of precollege students

Student Access, Support and Completion

1. Offer a full array of educational programs and support services to meet the diverse needs of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.
 - Participation rates in service district
 - Enrollment
2. Provide students with the support needed to pursue and achieve their educational goals.
 - Student persistence
 - Completion
 - Student satisfaction with support services
 - Faculty-student engagement
 - Student satisfaction with instruction
 - Student sense of belonging

Institutional Excellence and

Community Enrichment

1. Demonstrate our commitment to institutional integrity by investing in our campus, students and employees.
 - Employee satisfaction and morale
 - Condition of infrastructure
 - Employee demographics
 - Employee sense of belonging
2. Uphold our reputation for high quality and contribute to the value of the community by promoting excellence in our programs, services and activities.
 - External perceptions/satisfaction with LCC

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

The mission of Lower Columbia College is to ensure each learner's personal and professional success, and influence lives in ways that are local, global, traditional and innovative.

Vision

Our vision is to be a powerful force for improving the quality of life in our community.

Values

Our campus community expects an environment of integrity, respect, collaboration, cooperation, inclusion, and innovation that fosters personal growth, academic excellence, and accountability.

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

Lower Columbia College is a participating member of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA).

SARA "is an agreement among member states, districts, and territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offerings of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. It is intended to make it easier for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state. SARA is overseen by a national council and administered by four regional education compacts." ([Washington Student Achievement Council Website](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sara) (<http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sara>))