

# Coordinated Care Newsletter

LOWER COLUMBIA  
COLLEGE  
18 April 2025



## Commencement

The 2025 Commencement will occur **Friday, June 20th** at 6:30pm at the Kelso High School Stadium.

The ceremony will include student acknowledgments, presentation of the Scholastic Achievement Award winners, and conferral of diplomas.

## Multicultural Grad Night

Multicultural Graduation Night will take place **Wednesday, June 18th** from 6pm-9pm in the Outdoor Pavilion.

## Nurse Pinning Ceremony

The Nurse Pinning Ceremony will take place **Wednesday, June 18th** from 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Rose Center.

## Important Spring Dates

**5/5** Priority Reg (Veteran)

**5/12** Priority Reg

**5/19** Open Reg

**5/20** 60% Point of Quarter

**5/30** Last Day to Withdraw

**7/1** Summer Quarter Begins



## Alé Sanchez: New Education/OLTM Advisor

Alé Sanchez, Career Pathway Advisor, is transitioning from advising for health sciences to our education and OLTM programs, and will be working primarily in the University Center.

We are excited to see how Alé's talent and expertise will shine in this new challenge!

# Assistant Director of Advising and One-Stop

We'd like to highlight an important update in the Advising Team: the addition of our Assistant Director of Advising & One-Stop, **Stacie Johnson!**

Stacie Johnson brings a decade of experience in student support, academic planning, and program coordination to her new role as Assistant Director of One-Stop and Advising. Before stepping into this leadership role, Stacie served as a Career Pathway Advisor for the Education Department, Music Department, and Organizational Leadership and Management Bachelor's Degree.

Stacie's earlier experience includes positions as Training Director and Academic Program Coordinator at residential treatment centers, where she led staff development initiatives, coordinated academic programming, and mentored at-risk youth.

She is known for her exceptional organizational skills, attention to detail, and ability to motivate both students and colleagues alike.



Stacie is passionate about fostering student growth and enhancing advising services through innovation, collaboration, and a student-centered approach.

Congratulations, Stacie!



## Career & Networking Fair

LCC's Career Fair allows students to explore career options, practice networking, and learn about local opportunities.

The Career Fair will occur Thursday, May 29th from 10 am to 2 pm in the LCC Student Center



## Resource Fair & BBQ

Join Student Services for their annual BBQ and Street Fair, where students can learn about programs, services, and more.

This event will occur on Wednesday, May 28th from 10am to 2pm. Food will be provided from 11am to 1pm.

# Resource Spotlight: Red Devil Welcome Day

Did you know that new students at LCC are invited to an orientation the Friday before the start of their first quarter?

This event is called **Red Devil Welcome Day**.

It includes:



- Free pizza and swag.
- A welcome from Advising and LCC's executive team.
- An overview of Canvas.
- An overview of how to pay for college.
- Campus tours organized by pathway.
- Help with ID cards, parking passes, financial aid, printing schedules, and getting books.



## Advising Feedback: What Are Students Saying?

My advisor...

“ was so helpful and made me feel comfortable with the classes I was picking and making a plan for my college career. ”

“ helped me understand the next steps. ”



“ was extremely helpful and very kind. ”

“ took the time to answer all my questions, provided valuable guidance, and made sure I was on the right footing as I start my journey back to school. ”



“ was incredibly knowledgeable, kind, and supportive throughout our conversation. ”

“ was helpful and very informative and I had an amazing experience with her. ”



# Stories from Our Graduates



## Teancum French

2025 LCC Graduate



Hi! I am Teancum French, and graduating from LCC with an Associate's Transfer Degree in General Studies has been one of the best decisions for my career. Now, I finally have the resources and the opportunity to work on the next chapter of my life, whatever pathway I choose.

I am very pleased with how LCC has treated me and helped me grow, equipping me with the skills I need for my future job. I have received nothing but undying support from students, staff, and advisors alike, all of whom cared to ensure I succeeded in both life and schooling. I would highly recommend Lower Columbia College to anyone looking to start their educational journey.

## Courtney Buchanan

2025 LCC Graduate



I have enjoyed attending Lower Columbia College from the Winter of 2024 to the Spring of 2025. Over the last year, I have had so many life changes that should have impacted my schooling, and honestly, many in my shoes would have probably given up. I went through a bad break-up and got married; I have moved two different times and had to rebuild my life from scratch. I have lost a job and started a new one; I was even hit by a truck in January of this year, a week after the winter semester started. I overcame it all by obtaining my transfer credits and qualifying for graduation in June of 2025.

The greatest part about all the journeys I have been on in the last year is that I had an army of people at LCC who were cheering me on as I overcame these obstacles. My advisor, Kristen, who herself was overcoming obstacles that I had not even known about; Crystal Heitz, who showed me why I needed to keep fighting and guided me with support and encouragement; my professors, Anita Quirk and Fox Leavens, two honorable mentions, both of whom I had on more than one occasion and would be my personal cheerleading squad. The LCC Scholarship Foundation also recognized my hard work. I was honored with multiple awards during my time at LCC, showing that effort and hard work paid off at Lower Columbia College.

Next, I will climb the University ladder at Washington State University Vancouver, entering in the Fall of 2025. I will be working towards my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology as well as a Bachelor's in Social Science, a dual bachelor's program unique to WSU. There are not enough words to express my heartfelt gratitude to the staff and students who have encouraged me through my time here at LCC. I look forward to the new journey I am embarking on and will take the words of encouragement I have received during this first part of my journey and use them to continue to overcome whatever obstacles are thrown at me during my new adventure.



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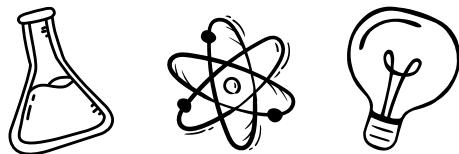
# Faculty Advisor Spotlight: *Adam Wolfer*

## **What drew you to your discipline originally, and what do you enjoy about it now?**

I have liked science since before I can remember. I performed "science" experiments at home before I started 1st grade, which got me into trouble on more than one occasion.

In 8th grade we did a unit on chemistry that got me very interested in the subject, but I really got interested when I took chemistry in high school from Mr. Butchart. He made it fun, challenging, and interesting all at the same time.

I still enjoy chemistry because you can see it around you all the time: when you bake (which I enjoy), or observe nature. Explaining why things happen the way they do is really interesting for me.



## **How has faculty advising changed since you began advising?**

When I first started, the focus was primarily on what classes to take and where the students were planning to transfer. Now, there is more focus on the students as learners and their life outside LCC.

## **What's one piece of advice you often give to students?**

Don't look for the easiest path to their degree, because they may change their mind and it is harder to go back to take a higher level math or science class than it would have been to take it right away.



## **What do you wish more students knew about your program or pathway?**

There are many directions that people can go with degrees in chemistry or chemical engineering (or STEM overall). I have former students that work in many different fields, many they would have never thought of. STEM prepares you to look at the world with a broad view that allows you to try new things and learn new things.

## **What's something fun or unexpected about you that students might not know?**

I have an artistic side (many scientists do). I am active in local theatre as an actor and director. I also create metal art through LCC's Metal Art class.

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# Staff Spotlight: *Tanya Pisarchuk*

## **How does your role support Coordinated Care?**

My role supports Coordinated Care by ensuring students receive accurate, timely information to help them stay on track for graduation. I build and maintain systems that contribute to academic advisement, such as maintaining Academic Advisement Reports (AARs) in ctcLink and ensuring that student degree programs are correct in ctcLink when students prepare to apply for graduation. I work with students and advisors, letting them know what their remaining requirements are and what steps are needed if they are not on track.

I am also on the committees for Commencement, Academic Standards, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Curriculum.



## **Are there any resources at LCC that you believe are underutilized?**

I believe several valuable resources at LCC are underutilized, largely due to a lack of awareness. One example is our lactation rooms - an important resource for students, faculty, and staff, who are nursing, but many aren't even aware they exist. Making this information more accessible and visible could make a big difference for those who need it. The DEI Committee is currently exploring the best ways to raise awareness, more information is available through the Disability and Access Services department.

Another area where I've noticed a gap is language accessibility. I've personally helped translate for students who speak Russian, and that experience highlighted how critical language support can be. Unfortunately, not all students have access to the help they need. That's why I've been advocating for formal translation services over the past few years. It's something I'm deeply passionate about, and I believe improving access in this area would help make our campus more inclusive and supportive for everyone.



## **What drew you to this role?**

I've worked in the Registration department for nearly 10 years, and what drew me to this role is the opportunity to support students in meaningful ways. Helping students navigate through the process of completing their degree requirements and awarding degrees is incredibly rewarding. I also love being part of commencement—it's such a joyful celebration of students' hard work and achievements. Watching students walk across the stage is a great reminder of why this work matters.

## **What would you like more people to understand about your role?**

One thing I wish more people understood about my role is the volume and complexity of the work involved. Each year, we manage the processing of hundreds of graduation applications. The Evaluation Team works directly with every single graduating student and their advisor(s), ensuring each case is handled with care and attention to detail.

## **What are your favorite pastimes?**

I'm a big sports fan—hockey and football are my top two. My favorite teams are the Seattle Kraken and the Seahawks. Outside of sports, I really enjoy spending time with my family and friends, especially over board or card games. I also enjoy puzzles and binge-watching TV shows.



## Program Spotlight: LCC Welding Department

Have you had the chance to explore the welding art scattered throughout our campus? The talented students from the LCC Welding Department have been hard at work crafting unique art pieces that showcase their skills and creativity.

These pieces are being placed around campus for faculty, staff, and students to enjoy. As you wander through the campus, keep an eye out for these impressive works of art.

You might spot sculptures that celebrate beloved pets, intricate representations of various hobbies, and nods to popular fandoms. Each piece tells a story and reflects the individuality of its creator, making the campus not just a place for learning but also a vibrant gallery of student artistry.



Be sure to take a moment to appreciate their fantastic work!



Photos from LCC Welding Department Facebook

# Let's Talk About Graduation Processing

The process of evaluating graduation applications and awarding degrees involves multiple stages and a substantial amount of manual review to ensure each student's academic progress is thoroughly assessed.

## 1. Graduation Application Submission

Students submit their graduation application through ctcLink and their graduation status is automatically updated in ctcLink.

## 2. Confirmation Email

The evaluation team sends a confirmation email to the student, acknowledging their application has been received.

## 3. Initial Review of Degree Requirements

The evaluation team conducts the first in-depth review of the student's academic progress to ensure they have completed or are on track to complete all degree requirements. A review letter is then generated for the student.

## 4. Manual Status Update to 'Program In Review'

The graduation status is manually updated to 'Program In Review' to reflect the start of the evaluation process.

## 5. Second Review for Accuracy

A second review is conducted to ensure the first review's findings are accurate, ensuring no requirements are overlooked.

## 6. Communication to Student and Advisor(s)

After the second review, the evaluation team sends an email to the student and their advisor(s), detailing any remaining requirements and providing instructions on how to update their information in ctcLink. This email also includes key dates, such as the conferral date and diploma mailing date.

Advisors can **check a student's graduation application status** in the ctcLink Advisor Center by following these steps:

1. Click on Academics in the sidebar.
2. Look up a student.
3. Choose Edit Program Data.
4. Click on the Student Degrees tab.
5. The Degree Checkout Status will display the student's graduation application status.

For detailed information on how students can apply for graduation, update their information, and understand graduation status definitions, please visit the [Graduation Processing](#) page.

## 7. Manual Status Update

Based on the outcomes of the second review, the student's graduation status is manually updated to reflect their progress.

## 8. Final Grade Review Notification

After grades are posted for the current quarter, the evaluation team sends a reminder email to all applicants, informing them that their grades are being reviewed and encouraging them to verify that their information is correct in ctcLink.

## 9. Final Degree Audit and Transcript Updates

The evaluation team completes two thorough reviews of each applicant's grades to ensure all degree requirements have been met. Each student's degree is then posted individually to their transcript.

## 10. Diploma Issuance

Beginning Spring 2025, the evaluation team will send the student's information to our new diploma servicer (Parchment), who will then mail the diploma directly to the student.

## 11. Notification of Incomplete Requirements

For students who do not meet all graduation requirements, an email is sent outlining which requirements remain unmet and providing guidance on how they can fulfill them.



This process requires careful attention and coordination to ensure each student's academic record is accurately assessed and that all graduation requirements are fully met. If you have any questions regarding a student's graduation progress, please contact the evaluation team at [evaluation@lowercolumbia.edu](mailto:evaluation@lowercolumbia.edu).



*Thank you for reading!*

