

Volume 1

**Lassen Community College  
A Year in Review  
2016-17**

**December 2017**

# Lassen Community College



# Message from the President

“Our goal at Lassen Community College is to be a catalyst influencing the region’s positive image, economy, and human capital by fostering a “We Can” culture of collective impact.”

On behalf of our Trustees, Faculty, Students, Staff, Alumni and Community Members we are pleased to submit for your review and comment of our work from 2016-17. This information provides a quick glimpse of our efforts district-wide and represents a picture of the work completed daily on behalf of our students and our region.

Our successes are stated along with the areas of needed improvement. In order for us to be the best community college in California we have to stand up and face our shortcomings with the identical enthusiasm shown for our achievements.

I am proud of our history in serving our region that includes: Susanville, Westwood, Herlong, Janesville, Johnstonville, Bieber, Adin, Alturas, Cedarville, Milford and other cities in Lassen and Modoc counties.

Our goal at Lassen Community College is to be a catalyst influencing the region’s positive image, economy, and human capital by fostering a “We Can” culture of collective impact.

We will continue to provide outstanding programs for all pursuing their higher education goals. We are committed to providing the latest in technology, programs, expanding our course offerings and services to support the needs of our students and to the region. Together, we will provide the resources necessary for student success at Lassen Community College

All of us thank you for your support of Lassen Community College.

Marlon R. Hall, Ed.D  
Superintendent/President  
Lassen Community College

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# LCC by the Numbers

## Entire Student Body

### Headcount

2016-17 Students

4,255

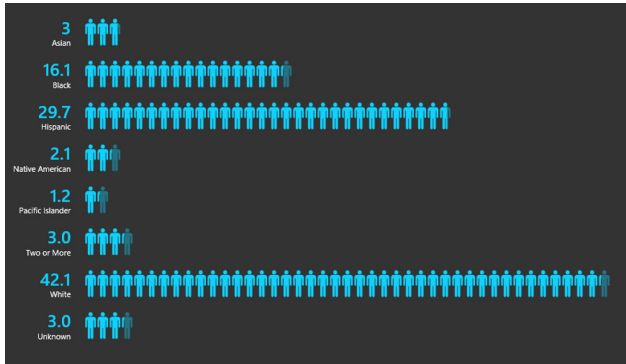
2016-17 Degrees

245

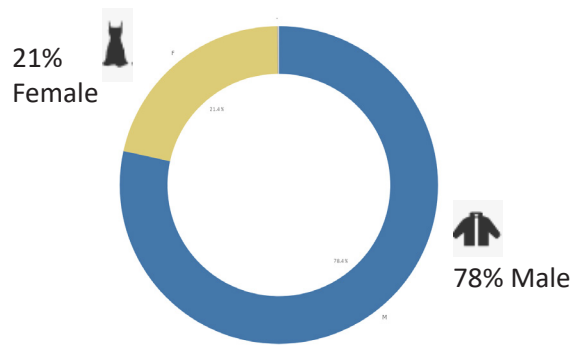
2016-17 Certs

133

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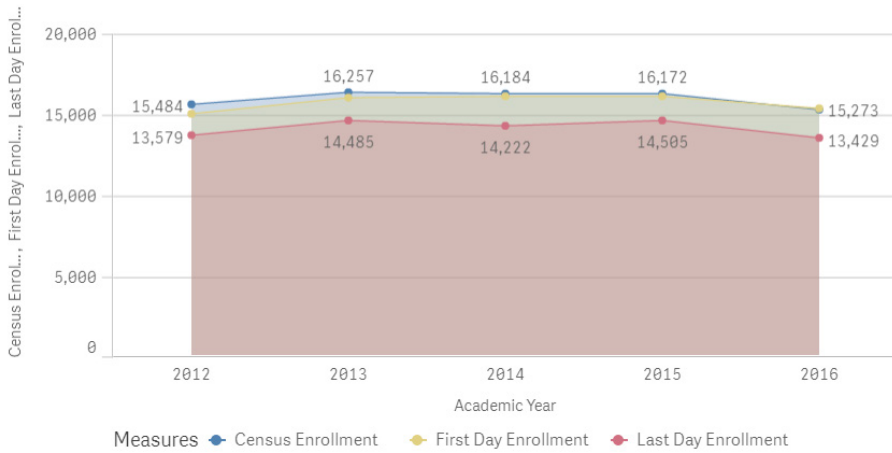


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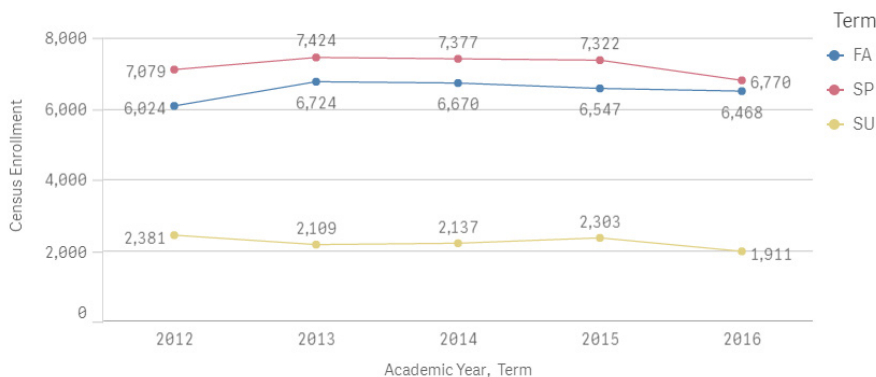


### Enrollments

#### Enrollment by Academic Year



#### Census Enrollment by Term



# LCC by the Numbers

## Free Student Body

### Headcount

2016-17 Students

1,902

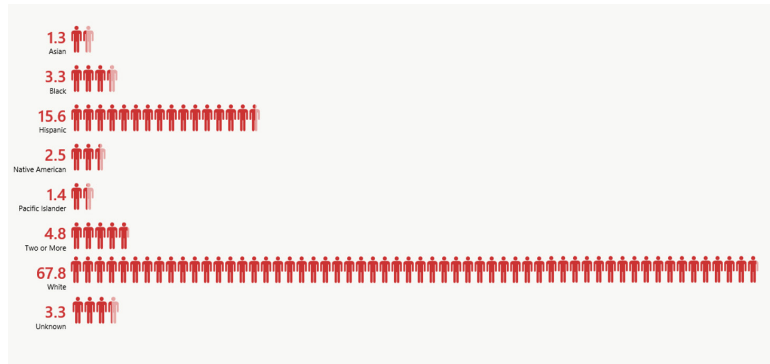
2016-17 Degrees

210

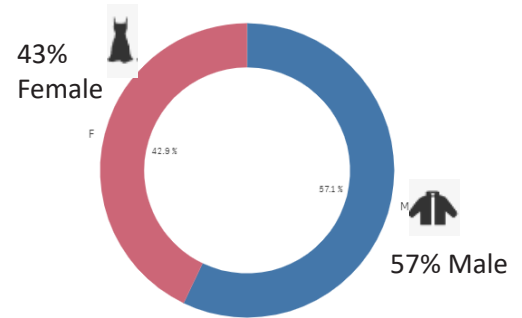
2016-17 Certs

133

### Race/Ethnicity

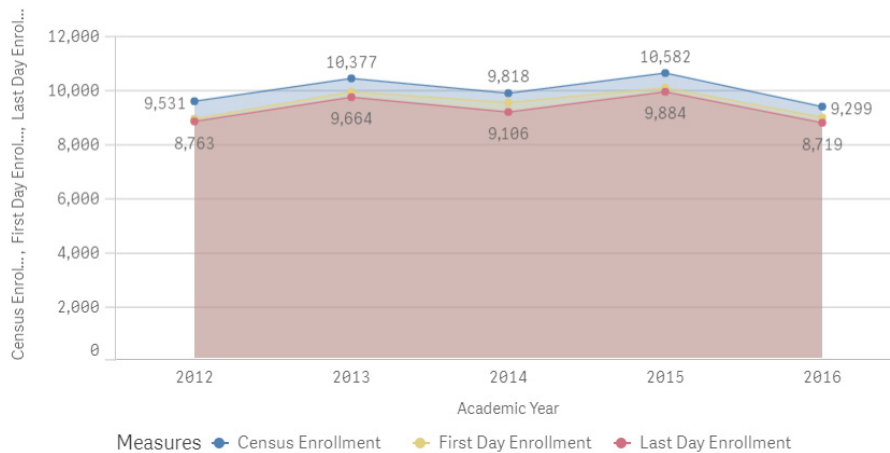


### Gender

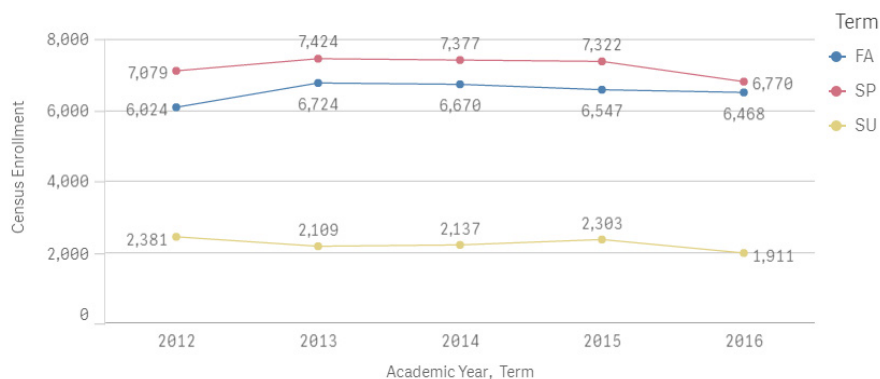


### Enrollments

Enrollment by Academic Year



Census Enrollment by Term





“Pretty much with all the opportunities in my life, there’s one common denominator, and it was because of Lassen College.”

# Alumni Success Stories

## Jim Chapman - May 1974

In 2016, Jim Chapman wrapped up a 40-year career in politics, a career that originated on the campus of Lassen Community College in 1974. Though his career in politics started in the early 1970s, his love of government and civil service spawned at a much earlier age.

For many Americans growing in the turbulent middle 20th century, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was a life changer. Chapman recognizes that moment in history as the impetus for his interest in politics.

“If there was one thing that happened to trigger my interest in politics, it was the assassination of JFK,” said Chapman. “At that time, a lot of people were affected. I was in the fourth grade, and I remember not understanding what was happening but knowing my life and others had been changed forever.”

Chapman graduated from Lassen High School in 1972 and had every intention of beginning his college career at Lassen College. Many people, especially his high school career counselors, expected him to head off to a four-year university but Chapman had other plans ... serving on the debate team under the direction of longtime family friend, Lassen College professor and future LCC President, Bob Shepherd.

And he did. He was also the ASB President, ASB Treasurer, wrote for the school newspaper and was inducted into the honor society. He attended LCC with

the first group of students who went four semesters at the new campus.

Before graduating from LCC, Chapman, at the age of 19, was elected to the Susanville City Council. He transferred to Chico State after graduating from Lassen College in May of 1974 and continued to serve on the Council. He left Chico in May of 1976 with a BA in Public Administration, three months after becoming the Mayor of Susanville. After serving as the youngest mayor in Susanville and California history, he eyed a seat with the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, a position he held for nine terms representing the Second District.

He also served on the College’s Foundation Board, as an adjunct professor and as a member of the College’s governing board. He’s active in the LHS alumni association, a member of the Susanville Rotary, Lassen County Chamber of Commerce, Lassen-Janesville Lodge of the Masons, Lassen County Historical Society, Susanville Elks Lodge, and the Junior Fishing Derby Committee. Not fully retired, Chapman runs a direct mail and copy/printing service, Lassen Addressing, which he founded in 1981.

Chapman will celebrate 37 years of marriage to his college sweetheart Marilyn Sue, whom he met on the campus of Lassen College during his freshman year and her sophomore. For Chapman, there is one commonality in his life’s equation, “Pretty much with all the opportunities in my life, there’s one common denominator, and it was because of Lassen College.”

# Bernadette Chavez - Instructor 1972-2011

Letter to students:

"I was always so proud of each and every one of you. You always filled my heart every day.... I loved you all with my whole heart. I only wanted each and every one of you to love yourselves, trust your feelings and follow your heart...That is what Lassen College was all about, opening doors for you ... learning to Believe in yourself!"

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When Bernadette Chavez arrived in Susanville in 1972, she had no idea she would change so many lives or impact so many students. She didn't even know where Susanville was located, she just knew her hippy spirit loved the mountains and was ready for an adventure. Born in Richmond, California, Chavez was raised in a family that was service oriented. Her mother, a teacher, was from Beirut, Lebanon, and her father was from New Mexico.

Chavez knew her life's mission was to teach despite her mom telling her and her siblings not to go into teaching because "your work is never done". Chavez couldn't deny her calling.

Growing up in the 1960s, Chavez was accustomed to anti-feminist views but not comfortable with them. In high school, she excelled in physics, physiology/anatomy, and chemistry and considered becoming a doctor even though she knew the world expected her to be a housewife. She started modeling in the ninth grade until her junior year of college, and that led to pageants. She was crowned Miss Contra Costa County in 1966, but Chavez knew this wasn't the life she wanted, so she left modeling and pageantry and focused on her education. "At this point of my life, I chose to develop my brain rather than make money modeling," said Chavez. "My choices in life were never based on making money, only doing what I loved."

Chavez received her Associate of Arts from Contra Costa College and her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Chico State. She remained at Chico State to earn her Masters in Psychology. After graduation, she returned to the Bay Area to become a psychology research assistant at the University of California at Berkeley. She returned to Chico State where she worked as an administrator but longed to start teaching. A former classmate from Chico State was the Librarian at Lassen and kept encouraging or "bugging" her to apply for a Psychology teaching position. The College's President traveled to Chico to interview her and hired her on the spot.

During her 39 years at Lassen, Chavez amassed an impressive resume. She received certifications in Positive Psychology, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Spirituality and Healing, and Mind Body Medicine from Harvard Medical School. While at Lassen, along with her career as a Psychology professor, she also served as Director of Student Activities, counselor, President of Faculty Association, President of Academic Senate, President of the Lassen College Federation of Teachers, Advisor to all Clubs on Campus, and Affirmative Action Officer, in which she represented the College in all matters including Title IX, fairness in hiring, complaints involving inequities and sexual harassment for the entire campus.

Chavez didn't rely on a textbook to teach her class, she used current events, the energy from her students, meditation, and her life lessons and past experiences to create everyday new lessons. She taught self-love and self-respect and helped students realize their potential and uncover the tools they needed to be successful in all of their relationships.

Chavez retired from teaching in 2011 but remains a permanent fixture at school events. She stays in contact with many of the alumni and finds great joy in keeping those relationships active. She was and will always be a unanimous favorite among her former students, Lassen alumni and colleagues.





Student success is the central theme for Lassen Community College. Students who feel that they are part of a campus community are more likely to be motivated to succeed.

## Julie Wedemeyer - Alumnus/Instructor

Julie Wedemeyer knows firsthand that life can take some interesting twists and turns. The Lassen College nursing instructor and alumnus experienced her fair share while growing up, starting from an early age. Born in Susanville, she was adopted at 21 days old and moved to Sacramento with her new family, where she lived until she made the decision to find her birth parents.

Wedemeyer was enrolled at American River College (ARC) in 1993, when she made the decision to reunite with her birth parents. The reunion went so well that with the blessing of her adoptive parents, whom she remains very close, the 20-year old made the decision to put school on hold, and move back to Susanville so she could develop a relationship with them. Not only did she begin a relationship with her birth family, she met and married her husband, and started a family. Though the marriage didn't last, Wedemeyer knew she was home with no intention of leaving.

While attending ARC, Wedemeyer was taking a few pre-requisite classes for the nursing program. She knew she wanted to be an LVN, and after putting her education on the backburner to raise her family, she decided it was time to go back to school and Lassen College was a perfect choice.

"It really worked around my life's schedule and allowed me to work and still be involved with my children," said Wedemeyer. "Once I entered the LVN program, my schedule became a little more challenging, but it was still a wonderful program that allowed me to be home with my family."

Wedemeyer attended Lassen full-time while working as a licensed cosmetologist. When she graduated in spring of 2005, she was focused on getting as much experience as she could in nursing as an LVN, and then continuing on to earn her RN. In 2011, she graduated from the College of the Siskiyous with her RN. She was immediately hired by Banner Lassen Medical Center to work on the med-surg floor, but moved to obstetrics, which had always been her passion. Her passion for nursing fueled another desire; teaching. Wedemeyer considered marrying her two passions with the motivation to help make improvements to a field she loved.

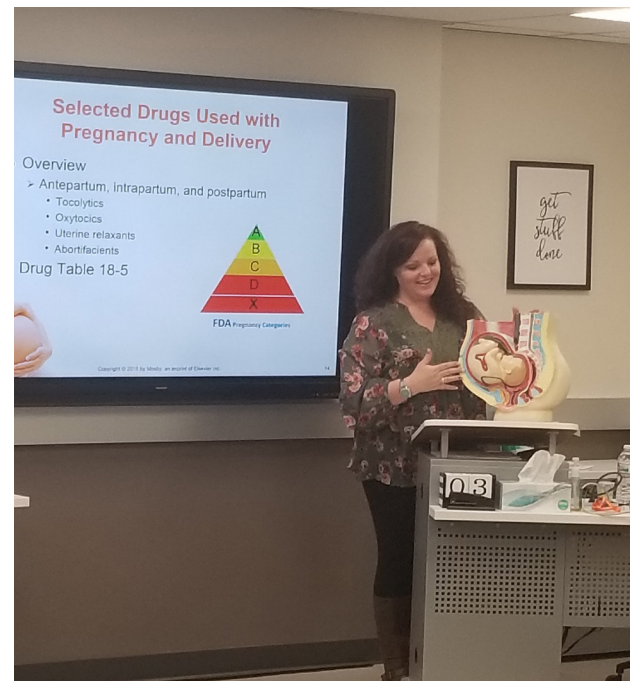
In 2017, the opportunity to return to Lassen College as an instructor presented itself when she contacted Celeste Wiser, a former colleague at BLMC and full-time Nursing instructor at LCC, to see if the College was looking for help with the program. The program was in need of someone to teach maternity. She was excited about the direction the nursing program was moving; the school was planning to build a new facility equipped with state of the art equipment and plenty of room for growing enrollment, and the curriculum had recently been revamped by the Director of Nursing, Christi Myers and Wiser. Wedemeyer talked with John, her husband of 11 years, her birth and adoptive families, and her peers and agreed it was the perfect opportunity.

The new facility opened in winter of 2017 and features three full-time instructors; Myers, Wiser and Wedemeyer, all with different nursing backgrounds.

“I couldn’t ask to be a part of a better team... The passion that we share to make not only our community better, but nursing as a whole, is evident. I believe, in how we teach our students. We are doing some great things”

The new training rooms allow students to be hands on and will better prepare the students for when they are working at clinical sites, and as they enter the workforce and begin interacting with actual patients.

“I couldn’t ask to be a part of a better team,” said Wedemeyer. “The passion that we share to make not only our community better, but nursing as a whole, is evident. I believe in how we teach our students. We are doing some great things with the nursing program and students at LCC.”





“Being involved in student government at the college level is an experience that still helps me today. Without meeting the various students and learning their stories, I don’t think I would be as passionate in helping others realize their goals as I am now.”

## Elizabeth Fernandez - May 2014

When Elizabeth Fernandez decided to attend Lassen College following her high school graduation, she was undecided about what she wanted to study and also a bit hesitant to leave home. The 2011 Lassen Union High School graduate was hoping her time at LCC would expose her to new ideas and create new experiences that would inspire her toward a certain career path. “My experience at Lassen was certainly a positive one,” said Fernandez. “It was due mostly to Alison Somerville, who had been my counselor in high school before she transferred over to the college. She really helped me in figuring out not only my academic plan but also my personal life as I was still going through some rough spots.”

Fernandez also credits former LCC art history professor, Michael Giampaoli, as being instrumental in helping her to figure out what she wanted to study and how to get ready to transfer to UC Davis.

Fernandez is Native American with Pomo from Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians in Nice, California on her dad’s side and Maidu on her mom’s side. She was raised by her single mother on the Susanville Indian Rancheria from the time she was three, and was determined to earn her degree by paying for her education on her own. She received several scholarships that helped her pay for her education at LCC. Although she changed her major three times in two years, it allowed her the time to find her passion for Art History, in which she earned an associate’s degree. She also earned two more associate’s degrees in General Studies and University Studies.

During her time at LCC, she participated in student government, both locally and at the state level, by

serving as a student senator for the Student Senate of California Community Colleges (SSCCC). She was a student senator for two years before transferring to the University of California at Davis in the fall of 2014. “Being involved in student government at the college level is an experience that still helps me today,” said Fernandez. “Without meeting the various students and learning their stories, I don’t think I would be as passionate in helping others realize their goals as I am now.”

Fernandez was also the commencement speaker, something she says she wouldn’t have done without the support and encouragement of Cheryl Aschenbach, who taught her Speech 1 class. “Cheryl’s class and push to be a speaker is a moment I will always cherish and appreciate, even if at the time I was terrified out of my mind,” said Fernandez. “These moments made Lassen really memorable. I couldn’t be more thankful.”

At UC Davis, she studied Art History and graduated in the spring of 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in Art History and Italian, with a minor in Native American Studies.

Fernandez is currently working as an Administrative Support Assistant for California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc., a non-profit that helps Native Americans, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians find employment, and provide other support assistance.

She plans on adding a few years of job experience to her resume and then attending graduate school, where she wants to pursue her other passion, Native art and artifacts with a focus on the effect museum exhibitions have on the art and artifacts.

# Current Students



For most who attend Lassen College, they find it a very small and intimate campus. For Johnny Rasnic, Lassen College is leaps and bounds larger than where he came from – a small town near Eagle Lake, about 20 miles north of Susanville. Lassen offers a hometown type of vibe and the staff and faculty are very good at connecting with the students,” said Rasnic. “LCC offers a very unique experience beyond just being an affordable community college.”

“Going to a state school from the start would put me away from my family, facing a higher cost of living and a larger tuition fee,” said Rasnic. “Lassen gives me the opportunity to go to school and pursue my career goals while achieving the same results at a lower cost close to my family. Lassen has offered a much easier transition.”

Rasnic, who plans to become a high school math teacher, currently works as a math tutor at the college, providing him with real life work experience. Math has been his favorite subject since the third grade, he “absolutely loves it”. He enjoyed helping his little brother and other students in his class with new lessons, and from this he developed his gift and passion for teaching.

“I get to refine my ability to explain and help those who struggle and need a helping hand with math, but I have also found avenues for being able to grow in activities I like such as public speaking and the arts,” said Rasnic. “I have gained a lot of confidence from meeting and hanging out with other people, who have similar interests and different points of view. I didn’t get much of this growing up, so it’s really great for me.”

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While growing up in Chester, CA, Michael Lyman had access to tons of hiking trails, so it’s no surprise that his favorite class at Lassen College is Adapted Physical Education and his favorite activity is walking and hiking. The Co-Vice President of the Special Athletes and Activities Club loves to be active and participate in the Lassen County Special Olympics in track and field. When he’s not competing in the Special Olympics, his favorite sport to play is basketball and bocce ball.

When Lyman isn’t eating his favorite food, pizza, he likes to go to Panda Express. He enjoys spending time with his family, which includes his sister, Charlene, his brother Bradly and his dad. They live in Susanville and spend time making bracelets and watching Lyman’s favorite movie, Star Wars.

Lyman calls his sister his role model. “My sister, Charlene, makes good food,” said Lyman. “She also takes me to church and lunch with Dad and goes shopping with me.” Lyman says his special talent is singing and loves the song, Lean on Me.



Lassen Community College student Jessica Shearer isn't shy when it comes to performing in front of an audience. The 23-year old was born in Louisville, Kentucky but now lives in Susanville with her mom and dad, whom she calls her role models. She competes in track and field in the Special Olympics and loves playing basketball and volleyball in class at Lassen.

She enjoys the diversity at the College and the vast outdoors that surrounds the campus. She named the Special Athletes and Activities Club as her favorite class, which she is the co-president and stated, "I love standing up at the board meetings."

When she's not competing in athletics, she loves to stretch her vocal pipes and sing. "I can sing both high and low and I love to sing Over the Rainbow," said Shearer.



As Mia Torres crossed the stage at her graduation from Lassen High School in 2016, she was unsure of the next phase of her life. She knew the obvious path was through Lassen College but it was not her first choice for continuing her education. She planned to attend the University of Nevada-Reno and hopefully walk-on the softball team, but admittedly wasn't ready for a four-year school. Originally from Southern California, she transferred to Lassen High School in the summer of 2015 at the beginning of her junior year when her mom got a new job in the area. Torres, who has been playing softball since she was six years old and was All Region and All State in high school, wasn't ready to give up softball just yet. "I had no idea what I was going to do after high school," said Torres. "Coach (Glen) Yonan (Head Coach at Lassen College) talked to me on the day of my graduation and convinced me to give Lassen a chance and play softball for him. I trusted the fact that he was keeping my best interests a priority."

As Torres settled into school, she quickly realized she made the right decision. She was enjoying the smaller class size that Lassen offered which lent itself to fewer distractions, an easier opportunity to make new friends, and one on one time with her professors. She was enjoying her total college experience including her time on the Lady Cougars softball team.

"I really think that my first year went very well and it gave me the confidence and reassurance that I would go on and continue to play softball at the next level," said Torres. "I could not say that confidently once I left high school."

In her freshman year at Lassen, she had an incredible year, maintaining a 3.2 GPA while being selected All Conference, All Region and All State. She was the number 20 hitter in the state with a .475 batting average, while adding a .509 on base percentage, .703 slugging percentage, two homeruns, 26 RBIs, and 11 stolen bases.

"Going to college in a small town offers new experiences to students regardless of where they came from," said Torres.



Eric Carlson is the perfect example of not giving up on your dreams. After his freshman year of college, the sophomore from Ashland, Oregon thought his baseball career was over. The third baseman was recruited in 2014 by LCC Head Coach Frank Avilla during his senior year of high school, but opted to attend Ohlone College in Fremont, California for a chance to attend a big school in the Bay Area with hopes of gaining more exposure and opportunities.

At Ohlone, Carlson struggled with a painful elbow injury and decided to redshirt. He focused on school, maintaining a 3.5 GPA, and rehabbing his elbow. He returned to diamond in the summer but lack of playing time and the opportunity to prove himself, led to his decision to leave Ohlone just weeks into his sophomore year. He returned home to Oregon with the idea that he may be done with baseball. He dabbled in web design, real estate and hospitality, while taking online classes at the local community college but something was missing. He started helping to coach the JV team at his high school (Ashland).

One of the baseball coaches, Chris McKean, noticed Carlson's passion for baseball and talked him into giving the game he had been playing since he was five years old, a second chance. McKean played a huge part in getting Carlson back into playing shape and ready to play at Lassen. Carlson started a program that included pre-dawn workouts, conditioning, and one on one practices. He found the time to re-dedicate his life to baseball while working full-time and continuing his education.

With the help of his family and Coach McKean, Carlson gained back his confidence and improved his physical strength and agility. He contacted Avilla to see about joining the Cougars in the fall of 2016. It had been two years since Carlson had been in touch with Avilla and he wasn't sure how he would be received. Avilla told him to pack his bags. Two months later, Carlson was enrolled full-time and officially became a Cougar.

"I had a lot of growing up to do and Lassen has been the right place to do it," said Carlson. "I come from a small town and in small towns you find a real sense of community. Susanville is no different and has made the growing up process easier."

Carlson is focusing his studies on business and plans to receive his BA in Business Administration. He maintains a 3.6 GPA and is on track to graduate with his Associate's Degree in the spring of 2018. Last year, he racked up numerous honors, including All Conference and MVP of the Golden Valley Conference, and was selected to the All-Region and All-State teams for the California Community College Athletic Association. He helped lead the Cougars to their first playoff appearance in nine years, while batting .398 for the season.

# Giving Form

There are many ways in which to give a gift to Lassen Community College. Any amount is appreciated and will be used as the donor requests and in accordance with the Foundation's bylaws.

## GENERAL SUPPORT

To make a tax deductible gift, complete the information below and mail to Lassen Community College Foundation P.O. Box 3000 Susanville, CA 96130. Make checks payable to Lassen Community College Foundation. If you have any questions, please contact the Director of Resource Development 530-251-8882.

### I would like for my donation to be applied to:

- No specification (let the College determine how best to use my gift)
- Athletics
- College/Foundation Projects
- Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Specify)

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

For a tax deductible gift specifically for Student Scholarships, check the "Student Scholarships" box below and mail to Lassen College Foundation P.O. Box 3000, Susanville, CA 96130. Make check payable to the Lassen College Foundation. Call (530) 251-8882 for questions pertaining to scholarships.

### I would like for my donation to be applied to:

- Student Scholarships

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Your Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone w area code (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name or Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

### Credit Card Payments:

Name as it appears on the card: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount to be charged to card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address zip code only: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

**LASSEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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