

Contact: Donna Meyer, L&C Dean of Health Sciences
(618) 468-4400, dmeyer@lc.edu

Laura Griffith, L&C Media Specialist
(618) 468-3255, lgriffith@lc.edu

Paige Allen, L&C Media Specialist
(618) 468-3280, pallen@lc.edu

Lewis and Clark Named Winner of 2010 MetLife Foundation Community College Excellence Award

Godfrey, IL — April 19, 2010 — Lewis and Clark Community College has been named as one of three national winners of the prestigious **2010 MetLife Foundation Community College Excellence Award** and will be receiving a \$50,000 grant.

The **MetLife Foundation Community College Excellence Award** honors the important roles community colleges play in addressing educational, social and economic needs and opportunities. **Lewis and Clark** was recognized in the Service through Innovation category, for delivering healthcare to the underserved areas of the community through the Nurse Managed Center and Mobile Health Unit, all the while using those resources for training future nurses on campus. More than 215 applications were received for this national award program.



“Lewis and Clark’s Nurse Managed Center is not only unique in the healthcare it delivers to the growing number of underserved and uninsured residents of

our region, it’s also unique in that it provides a clinical practice learning environment for community college nursing students,” Lewis and Clark Board Chairman Robert L. Watson said.

“Lewis and Clark was the first community college to operate a nurse managed center, and four years later we remain the only community college operating a nurse managed center,” Lewis and Clark President Dale Chapman said. “We would like to see that change, and are working to spread the news about how to replicate this model throughout the nation to better position community colleges to take the lead on providing healthcare in the communities they serve.”

Chapman said the Nurse Managed Center nurse practitioners continually hear from students in the nursing program about how valuable their clinical experiences with the Nurse Managed Center are to opening their eyes to the growing healthcare disparities in their communities.



“We are pleased with the tremendous support we have received from Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) and from our local businesses, hospitals, school districts, public health departments and community health agencies. We are honored by MetLife Foundation’s recognition of Lewis and Clark Community College’s Nurse Managed Center, and we are pleased to be the recipient of such a prestigious national award program that recognizes the innovative nature of community colleges,” he said.

Donna Meyer, Dean of Health Sciences and Project Director of the Nurse Managed Center said, “We are truly grateful for the recognition from [Jobs for the Future](#) and [MetLife Foundation](#). This model could assist in providing healthcare to millions of Americans, as community colleges can play a vital role through replication of the model. Since the inception of the Nurse Managed Center, we have had more than 20,000 patient encounters, which demonstrates the need. The support from this award will allow the Nurse Managed Center to assist those who are so much in need and hopefully provide a means for replication for our nation.”

Students of the Nursing Program and staff involved in running the Center and the mobile health clinic have had nothing but positive feedback regarding their experiences, Meyer said.

“The Nurse Managed Center is the building blocks of nursing research and practice,” said Jesse Fassler, a second semester Nursing student. “The children I have interacted with through my work with the Nurse Managed Center reminded me how much children look up to nursing professionals as leaders and teachers in the community.”

“I enjoy working with the Nurse Managed Center because I see the difference we make in people’s lives. We make healthcare easy, convenient and affordable, while truly caring for our clients as individuals. We are on the front lines of healthcare filling in the gaps in service, supplementing not supplanting the healthcare network provided by the hospitals, physicians and clinics in our community, creating an interconnected web of healthcare providers who meet the needs of the patients in

the communities we serve,” said Barbara Van Walleghen, Nursing Program Alumna and Per Diem Nurse in the Nurse Managed Center.

The winners of the award competition, which is administered by [Jobs for the Future](#) and sponsored by [MetLife Foundation](#), were selected after a careful review process, involving a National Advisory Review Panel of experts and Jobs for the Future staff. Two hundred fifteen applications were received, and then narrowed down in stages to nine finalists for site visits. Based on this rigorous process, the three award winners were selected.

“Innovations on community college campuses are instrumental in retraining and reenergizing the U.S. workforce,” said Marlene Seltzer, president and CEO of Jobs for the Future. “This college is a sterling example of how community colleges can provide creative solutions that specifically address the challenges of a community, while at the same time expanding opportunities for the students and workers of the future.”

“The three winners are exceptional examples of what community colleges do well,” said Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation. “All community colleges can recognize something of themselves in these winners and gain new perspectives from their examples.”

For fuller descriptions of the award winners and finalists, visit <http://bit.ly/3Bay5K> to download a copy of the award brochure. For additional information on the work of Jobs for the Future, visit www.jff.org; for MetLife Foundation, visit www.metlife.org.

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Photo captions: (Top photo) Lewis and Clark Community College President Dale Chapman receives a 2010 MetLife Foundation Community College Excellence Award from Dennis White, CEO and President of the MetLife Foundation.
(Second photo) Associate Nursing Professor Vicki Young sees a patient in the Nurse Managed Center.