



## **Affordability in Higher Education: The Benefits of Starting at Luzerne County Community College**

**Nanticoke, Pa., April 24th-** In an era where rising tuition costs are a significant concern for students and families, the importance of affordability in higher education cannot be overstated. Luzerne County Community College (LCCC) has emerged as a vital stepping stone for many students seeking to pursue four-year degrees at the Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania while effectively managing their finances.

The journey often begins at LCCC, where students benefit from lower tuition rates and a robust selection of programs. Graduates from LCCC, like Alex Gross from Pittston, illustrate the advantages of this educational pathway. Alex graduated from Pittston Area High School in 2018 and spent two years at LCCC, majoring in Communications, before transferring to Bloomsburg University, part of the Commonwealth University system, in 2020.

“Affordability was a major factor in my decision,” Alex shares. “I was able to save significantly by starting at LCCC, where tuition is much lower compared to a four-year institution. Transferring my credits to Bloomsburg meant I could complete my degree with fewer courses, ultimately reducing my overall debt.”

Several compelling reasons underscore the affordability of beginning at a community college. Primarily, students can take core courses and general education classes at LCCC, which often transfer directly to four-year universities, allowing them to complete their degrees in less time and at a lower cost. The financial benefits multiply when students recognize that LCCC’s tuition rates are significantly lower than those of state universities. These initial cost savings can be critical, especially for students who may not have the financial means to attend a four-year institution for all four years.

“Coming out of LCCC, I was in a much better financial position than if I had attended Bloomsburg for four years straight,” Alex notes. “I graduated with less debt and a sense of accomplishment that I wouldn’t have had otherwise.” Furthermore, the transition from LCCC to Bloomsburg is not solely financial. The relationships formed at LCCC provide students with a supportive network as they move forward in their education. Alex highlights

that many of his peers who began at LCCC also transferred to Bloomsburg, creating a sense of community that eased the transition.

“Meeting people at LCCC who were also planning to transfer made the jump to Bloomsburg much smoother,” he explains. “The support system was already in place, which was invaluable.”

For many students, the combination of lower tuition rates, manageable class sizes, and the ability to transfer credits seamlessly makes LCCC an attractive option. In a landscape where student debt is a growing concern, LCCC stands out as a pathway to affordable education. As more students like Alex recognize the benefits, the trend of starting at community colleges and then transferring to state universities is likely to continue, ensuring that higher education remains accessible to all.

In conclusion, the affordability of education at Luzerne County Community College serves as a vital bridge for students pursuing their academic goals at the Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania, paving the way for a brighter and more financially stable future.