

2011 Alumni Awards

Our award winners share a common trait: Their enthusiasm is not just inspiring, it is infectious. Our 2011 honorees personify the very best of what a LCSC education stands for: dreaming big, working hard and reaping the rewards of a job well done.

The Outstanding Alumni award is presented to an alumnus/alumna who has enriched the lives of others through their generous gifts of time and talent, their involvement with civic, charitable and social causes and their ability to inspire.

Alumna of the Year Award Mary Lou Gruber



Our **Alumna of the Year** is also well known for her involvement with LCSC and our community. Mary Lou Gruber began her college education at the University of Idaho in 1953. She wasn't sure what she wanted to do with her life, so she dropped out of college to begin working full-time, to get married and to begin raising her four children. She worked as LCSC's Assistant Controller for 20 years and began taking classes in 1968, one class at a time for 10 years, until she was able to enroll full time in 1978. She graduated from L-C in 1980, one week before her last child graduated from high school.

Mary Lou believes in the power of giving back. She and her husband of 19 years, Jack, established an endowed scholarship at LCSC. They are proud to say that it is their lasting legacy to L-C, every year from now, until eternity, a student will receive a scholarship in their names.

Mary Lou has volunteered at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center for the last ten years. She has served on the auxiliary for eight years, and has spent two years as the president of the auxiliary board. She was recognized as St. Joe's Volunteer of the Year in 2008. Mary Lou created the mascot program, St. Joe Bernard, and dresses up in costume to visit patients and make appearances at special functions. She also implemented the Words on Wheels program. Mary Lou has also been involved with Campfire, Cub Scouts, and Lewiston Service League, among many others.

Thank you, Mary Lou, for being a strong cheerleader for Lewis-Clark State College!

Alumnus of the Year Kenneth "Chip" Damato



Our **Alumnus of the Year** is Kenneth "Chip" Damato. Chip was an outstanding infielder with the Warriors, where he received two team gold glove awards, was named team captain, and was named to the NAIA World Series All-Tournament Team.

Chip has been active with the Warrior Athletic Association since 2004. He served as board president in 2005.

His community involvement is impressive, to say the least. Chip served on the Lewiston City Council from 2000-2002. He has been very involved with the Twin County United Way, serving as board president, loaned executive and campaign chair. Chip was a director for the Lewiston Chamber of Commerce and the Valley Boys and Girls Club. He was the "Yes LHS" Campaign Committee Chair in 2010. He also has served on the Valley Air Quality Commission Board of Directors, and the Rural Cellular Association Board of Directors. Chip has coached the Lewiston High School freshmen baseball team, and youth soccer and baseball.

Chip began working with Inland Cellular in 1993. He helped grow the company from ground zero into a thriving business that has over 34,000 subscribers. As Director of Business, he supports countless LCSC and community events and encourages his employees to volunteer and to give back to their communities. Because of his commitment to pay it forward, Inland Cellular was recognized as the Lewiston Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year from 2005 to 2009, and the Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year in 2009.

Chip, you are an inspiration and we thank you for making a difference - congratulations!

*This year we are proud to present two **Rising Star - Young Alumni Awards** which recognize significant contributions by an individual in their field of endeavor, whether through professional achievement or community service. The recipient is aged 40 or under, and sets an inspirational example for future young alumni.*

Rising Star - Young Alumna Award Laynie McClain



We are proud to recognize Laynie McClain as our rising star young alumna of the year. In 2005, Laynie started the Gina Quesenberry Foundation, in honor of her mother, who died of breast cancer in 2005. Their mission is to provide financial assistance to area breast cancer patients in need. On the foundation website, Laynie shares, "Treatment for this disease affects the entire family, and is emotionally and financially draining. Our hope is that this foundation will bring a measure of comfort to people suffering from this devastating disease and to allow them to focus on their treatment." In 2006, she partnered with the Lewiston Roundup Association to start "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" during the Friday's portion of the rodeo. The foundation also raises funds through an annual golf tournament and a new fun run event that will take place on May 7. In her spare time, Laynie is employed with Cherry Creek Mortgage in Clarkston. She also is very involved with the Pink Ribbon Luncheon, which benefits breast cancer research. Laynie and her husband recently welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Lillian Gina, into their family.

Laynie, you are an inspiration and we thank you for making a difference. Congratulations!!

Rising Star - Young Alumnus Award Richard Sampson



Richard Sampson excelled as a student at L-C in the Justice Studies Program; which has influenced his life and career. He was a foundation scholar while attending L-C and maintained a 4.0 gpa, with working a 40 hour work week. Since graduating in 2002, Rich has completed the Idaho Post Academy, where he was recognized with the Outstanding Student award. Rich is a Master Patrolman with the Pocatello Police Department, where he has completed an Instructor Development Course. During one of his Instructor Course sessions on Criminal Law, the Captain of the Pocatello Police was so impressed with Rich's knowledge of the subject that he recommended he be his replacement at the Idaho State University Law Enforcement Program. Rich was hired 2.5 years ago to teach Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure to first year Law Enforcement students enrolled in ISU's Program. In this role, he goes out of his way to help students succeed, whether by providing extra assistance after class or by working on his own time with individual students on arrest techniques and firearms. Rich incorporates a practical scenario segment in his Criminal Law and Procedure class to expose students to the realities of completing vehicle searches and how to properly handle situations involving officer safety. His natural leadership skills have lead to him receiving certifications to instruct his fellow officers, as well as his role as a SWAT Team Leader with Pocatello Police. Rich's dedication to getting drugs, methamphetamine in particular, off the streets, has gained him special recognition from the U.S. Marshal's Pocatello District Office to serve on a special Multi-Agency Fugitive Taskforce. Rich is truly a rising star!!

We are proud to recognize Richard Sampson as our Rising Star Young Alumnus award recipient for 2011. Congratulations!!

This year the Alumni Board of Directors is proud to present two Spirit Awards for Extraordinary Service. This award is presented to individuals that build pride and spirit on campus and who consistently demonstrates extraordinary loyalty, commitment, dedication and service to Lewis-Clark State College and their community.

Ella-Mae Keatts



Ella-Mae Keatts is an associate professor in Nursing and Health Sciences. Ella-Mae has taught in the nursing programs (first the associate degree then later the BSN) at LCSC since 1992. She is one of the most favored faculty members. She is viewed as passionate about nursing and consistently is ranked extraordinarily high on student course evaluations. Ella-Mae's excellence and enthusiasm reach outside the college as well. She continues to work part-time at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in the critical/intensive care units and most recently, in the emergency department. Even in her "non-LCSC" hours, she can't help but be a teacher. She loves showing new nurses the ropes and seeks opportunities to work with students from other nursing programs.

Ella-Mae makes other contributions in our community. She has served as the auctioneer for the NW Children's Home Christmas Tea and Winter Bash and an inspirational speaker at the Juvenile Detention center for boys in Lewiston. She frequently gives presentations to nurses at SJRMC. She volunteers at the Snake River Community Clinic and has served as both a

History and Science Fair judge.

In everything she does, Ella-Mae is a "friend of L-C." She is deeply committed to this institution. Her colleagues stated that "they couldn't think of a better nominee for an award that has the word "spirit" in it. She is one of a kind and it is an honor to work with her."

Ken Sanman



Ken Sanman truly represents the Spirit Award for Extraordinary Service. He is a true credit to our institution and is well known for his continued and dedicated involvement with L-C and the Alumni Association. When the Inland Northwest Chapter was formed five years ago, Ken was one of the first people to volunteer to get involved and immediately accepted the role of chapter co-chair. Under his leadership, the chapter has seen significant growth in visibility and involvement. Ken was also one of the three individuals responsible for establishing the Inland Northwest Chapter Scholarship fund, which benefits an LCSC-Coeur d'Alene student.

Ken's professional career as a highly respected accountant speaks well for the LCSC Business Division. He has held high level positions for most of his professional career - currently he serves as the Controller at The Golf Club at Black Rock at Rockford.

Excellence in Education Award recognizes superior achievement in the field of education. The recipient serves as a role model and sets standards of excellence to which

others can aspire.

Greg Godwin



This year our Excellence in Education Award goes to Greg Godwin. Greg received his Bachelors Degree in speech and English from L-C in 1973, went on to receive his Masters in Educational Administration from the University of Idaho in 1980 and his Educational Specialist degree from UI in 1988. Greg began teaching in 1973 in Rathdrum, Idaho. In 1980, he became the Junior/Senior High School Principal and in 1985 he joined the Kellogg School District. He was the Middle School Principal until 1996, when he was named Superintendent of Schools. Greg has been Superintendent of Schools for the Asotin School District since 2006.

In 2005, Greg was named the State of Idaho's Superintendent of the Year. He also has been recognized with the Region 1 Middle Level Educator of the Year in 1996, Asotin FFA Pride Award in 2009, the Kellogg Chamber of Commerce Citizenship Award in 2005, and the John N. Mattmiller Civic Achievement Award in 2004.

He also believes in the power of community service. He currently is involved with the Asotin Chamber of Commerce, the Asotin County Storm Water Task Force, the Asotin County Substance Abuse Task Force, the Asotin County Disaster Services Advisory Council and the Asotin County Youth Alcohol Coalition.

We are proud to recognize Greg as this year's Educator of the Year award recipient.

Our next award, the **Aletha Pabst Award** pays tribute to someone who is not an alumnus, but has made significant contributions to Lewis-Clark State College and their community.

Mike Thomason



This year's Aletha Pabst Award recipient is a great supporter of Lewis-Clark State College and our local community. Mike Thomason served on the LCSC Foundation Board of Directors, and he served on the recent presidential search steering committee. He currently serves on several boards in the L-C region: Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage and Education Center, Northwest Children's Home, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, and Valley Vision. His past board involvement includes: Inland Northwest Partners, Inland Northwest Economic Alliance, South East Washington Economic Development Association, Clarkston Chamber of Commerce, Clearwater Economic Development Association, and Avista Foundation. Mike is also a former Moscow City Councilman.

Mike recently retired after 33 years of service at Washington Water Power/Avista. He started as a meter reader in Grangeville. He then worked in operations, customer service and in regional business manager positions in Grangeville, Moscow and Lewiston.

Thank you, Mike, for making a difference! We are so proud to have you as part of our L-C family!! Congratulations.

The **Marion Shinn Lifelong Achievement Award** recognizes outstanding contributions of an alumnus who has shown long-term dedication and service to the College and their community. This year the board chose to honor Mr. Dick Hilding for his distinguished record of service and achievement.

Dick Hilding



This year's recipient loved his time at Northern Idaho College of Education. He established the men's basketball scoring record during the 1947-48 season and was also senior class president in 1950 – which set a class record of 100 graduates.

As a retired teacher and principal, Dick continues to be heavily involved in various aspects of the Moreland (California) School District in San Jose, California, serving on committees such as the Strategic Plan Committee, the Communications Committee, the Community Board Advisory Committee, and the Bond Committee. Dick has worked as a tireless booster for local elementary and middle schools. Glen Ishiwatea, Superintendent for the Moreland School District shared the following, "His leadership through the Moreland West Neighborhood Association and his effort in interacting with District staff have supported improvement throughout the Moreland community. Staff members have continuously expressed gratitude for his input and support, because his role as a volunteer is a pillar in the Moreland culture." Recently,

Dick was recognized by the Moreland School District as their Volunteer of the Year.

Dick always finds ways to give back to his alma mater and believes in supporting students and the alumni association.

In addition, he has coordinated campaigns to raise revenue for schools and has been a driving force behind his neighborhood association, serving as vice president and was outspoken and instrumental in saving the neighborhood garden that was important to the local community. Dick's friend and neighbor, Keith Franksen, said it best "Dick is a tireless and selfless supporter of his school, his family, his friends, and his community. The way Dick has conducted himself and his life is truly a shining example for us all. He inspires me every day!"

With his enthusiasm, Dick serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and is a dynamic ambassador for the college in all he does and we are proud to recognize him with this year's Marion Shinn Lifetime Achievement Award.

Outstanding Coeur d'Alene Alumni Award

The Outstanding Coeur d'Alene Alumni Award is presented to an alumnus of LCSC-Coeur d'Alene who has enriched the lives of others through their generous gifts of time and talent, their involvement with civic, charitable and social causes and their ability to inspire.

The recipient of the 2011 Lewis-Clark State College Coeur d'Alene believes spending time with children, grandchildren, siblings, and close friends is one of life's greatest pleasures.

Dr. Ellen Jaeger earned a bachelor's degree in Business from LCSC and went on to earn a University of Idaho Master's degree in Counseling and

Human Services, a Specialist Degree in School Psychology and a Doctorate in Counseling and Human Services.

She was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Society and Phi Delta Kappa International Scholastic Honor Society and served on various boards including the Kootenai Medical Center foundation, the Coeur d'Alene Library Foundation, Rotary Club of Coeur d'Alene, and the Coeur d'Alene Education Committee. Ellen was a member of the Governor's Task Force on School Safety as well as the Governor's Task Force on Child Immunizations, was a member of the Region 1 Child Care Panel, and a panel member for the State of Idaho Pre-Litigation Panel. She is an expert instructor in Love and Logic Parenting and in the counseling-related topics of Bullies and Victims. She also has hospital privileges at Kootenai Medical Center. She, along with her husband, Jerry, continually and consistently dedicate time, talent, and treasures to help others. "Dr. Ellen"—as her clients like to call her—was a former school counselor at Sorensen Elementary and is now an accomplished and respected licensed psychologist who specializes in adolescent young adults, and family therapy at Innercept Academy.



It is our pleasure to recognize Dr. Ellen Jaeger as the 2011 LC-CDA Alumni of the Year.