

## **Graduating Seniors of Lehigh Carbon Community College Create Conservation Video Series for Lehigh County Conservation District**

*Submitted by: Jolie Chylack, Environmental Education & Outreach Coordinator, Lehigh County Conservation District*

As many students in the Lehigh Valley Area are walking down the aisle to graduate from one of our regions notable secondary, undergraduate or graduate learning institutions, we would like to highlight a conservation video production project that several senior students from Lehigh Carbon Community College recently completed in partnership with Lehigh County Conservation District (LCCD)! In the "Conservation District World" it is well-known that there are more than 3000 conservation districts nationwide. In Pennsylvania we feel fortunate to have 66 conservation districts – one for every county except Philadelphia!

For some time, LCCD has been eager to promote these statistics to community members who might not realize that there are local conservation district resources that serve to provide important environmental support and resources. To this end, LCCD sought to form a symbiotic collaboration with Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC). Associate Professor and Media Communication Coordinator Wendy Barron was approached about the project and, as an invested champion of her "Video Field Production " students, was eager to go the extra mile to facilitate an opportunity which would provide her students with real world video experience with the district. District Manager William McFadden also looked forward to promoting an initiative that would involve local students and build a video platform for the purpose of informing Lehigh County residents about their LCCD resources. By mid-fall of 2017, three teams of LCCC students agreed to work with three program area heads at LCCD to create the educational video series which can be accessed at the District's You Tube channel: LC CD or at the LCCD website link: <http://www.lehighconservation.org/Education/Conservation-Education-Videos-By-Lehigh-Carbon-Community-College>

The "Erosion and Sedimentation" video highlights what is being done to prevent movement of soil in Lehigh County. Serving as "the client", LCCD Assistant District Manager Kevin Frederick briefed the video production team (Liam Power, Chandler Davis, and Joshua R. Brennan) regarding his wish to provide information about the permitting process that takes place when development plans are implemented in our county. Travis Miller of the PA Fish and Boat Commission, Jaindl Land Company's Howard L. Kutzler, Andrew Curtis of H and K Group, and Holly Kaplan of LCCD each participated by providing video footage that detailed the permitting and BMP implementation that is necessary when development occurs in the region. To view the video, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjAYHjG7XvM&t=213s>

LCCD Watershed Specialist Caitlin Heffner served as the client and coordinated with a second team of LCCC video production students to produce a "Watershed Conservation Education" video. Tyler Johnson, Trae Mayfield, and Mitchell Fehn formed a student production team and spent a sunny autumn Saturday obtaining video footage during a volunteer tree-planting collaboration with community volunteers, the Borough of Emmaus, and Wildlands Conservancy.

From this video project, viewers gain insight into the extensive training and collaborative efforts LCCD provides and facilitates within communities to maintain, restore, and sustain healthy riparian habitats and watersheds. To view the video, please visit:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ\\_FwTzcy2I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ_FwTzcy2I)

A third "Conservation Education" video was produced by LCCC's student production team members Alicia Durst, Zach Hunsicker, and Josh and Kyle Kibodeaux, with support from Parkland Community Librarian, Jaclyn Hoimes and Lower Macungie Librarian, Lisa Underwood. Education and Outreach Coordinator Jolie Chylack worked with the team, high school volunteer Zach Vilkauskas, and young students from both libraries. With the use of the District's resident pet corn snake and a broad winged hawk borrowed from a partner conservation organization, the participants paint a clear picture about conservation education and its importance in promoting environmental sustainability in the community. To view the video, please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDkV-I73Wb8>

The Conservation District is now engaged in promoting the "Video Field Production" students and their excellent work by presenting their video trilogy on the LCCD Website and Facebook page, on the PACD website, and at various locations in our county. We encourage all conservation districts to enjoy the productions and forward them on to anyone who may be interested.

LCCD would like to formally thank and congratulate all the Lehigh Carbon Community College graduates who worked hard to complete these videos. We also extend our sincere thanks to Professor Barron, the 10 community organizations and 37 individuals who participated in this video partnership. The generous commitment of time, patience, and dedication to this media conservation project has produced benefits for students, community members, and the Lehigh County environment at large.