

# SIUE, LCCC – an everlasting partnership

Segue • SIUE

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The power of collaboration between higher education institutions is at the forefront of this week's episode of Segue, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's premier radio show highlighting the ideas and issues at the University and beyond. This week, SIUE Chancellor Dr. Randy Pembroke sits down with Lewis & Clark Community College (L&C) President Dr. Dale Chapman to discuss their institutions' ongoing partnerships through various projects between the schools and much more.

Chapman kicked off his academic career by receiving his associate's degree from Northern Community College. He earned a bachelor's from the University of Kentucky and a master's from Michigan State University. He went on to study at Harvard University and achieved an EdD. His tenure at L&C extends 24 years and under his leadership, the College has experienced enrollment increases in 19 of the last 20 years.

L&C currently enrolls approximately 14,000 students. Chapman has also overseen over \$200 million in construction and capital projects.

Pembroke kick started his own educational journey at L&C, earning an associate's degree before achieving both bachelor's and master's from SIUE.

Students attending L&C are encouraged to look into one of its 21 2+2 programs. The College collaborates with SIUE and several other institutions to allow students to follow specific curriculum, while attending the first two years at L&C and then transferring to study their intended major at SIUE.

"Once students find their path at L&C, our full-time advisors on campus work tirelessly to ensure that students can seamlessly transition to four-year institutions," Chapman says.

"For me, the seamless transition was exactly why I went there in the first place," Pembroke says. "There was a respect between the two institutions, and it was the natural, next step for me in my education."

"For some, it's an economic issue, but in my case, had it not been for community college, I would have not been ready for the dominant university scene that we have here," Chapman says, "We advantage students by getting them ready to head on to larger schools and toward baccalaureate and doctoral degrees."

Recently, SIUE and L&C established a reverse transfer agreement. This allows students studying at the four-year institution to transfer credits back to the community college to assist students by counting their credits earned at SIUE to an associate's degree at L&C. All the while, the credits they received at SIUE will apply toward their baccalaureate degree.

"With the reverse transfer program, you can count the courses you have taken at SIUE toward an associate's, and you count the same credits toward the degree you've been working toward all along," Pembroke says. "It can truly benefit a student, who will receive an associate's degree while working and pursuing a bachelor's in that field."

"The program is also beneficial for students, who already have a bachelor's degree and want to work toward a technical degree," Chapman says. "Within the agreement, you can count those credit hours from the previous bachelor's, and with the additional technical credit hours, they can complete a new associate's degree in just around 30 credit hours."

The SIUE Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Research, Education and Outreach continued its partnership with L&C with its contribution to the Swarovski Waterschool in Southwestern Illinois. The Waterschool is located at L&C's National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC) along the Mississippi River. The institutions are working to develop courses for middle school students to educate and create an appreciation for water use, sanitation and hygiene based around the Mississippi River.

The Swarovski Waterschool has worked in regions around the world, including Austria's Hohe Tauern national park, the Ganges River in India, the Yangtze River in China, the Nile in Uganda and Amazon in Brazil.

"They realized they did not have any programs operating in North America and with the third or fourth largest watershed in the world, the Mississippi River seemed to be the best place to start," Chapman says. "They contacted us and said they would like to frame the Mississippi River Swarovski Waterschool project here."

Students from SIUE and L&C work together at the center through paid internship programs. In one of the organization's first projects, they sent out 150 backpacks to flood-torn schools in Baton Rouge, La., containing notes of encouragement to middle school students with educational materials pertaining to the organization.

"Students were working in an abandoned community college simply because it was on high ground and most students were living in motels," Chapman remembers, "The children wrote messages back and reminded us that we were all connected by the Mississippi, and were thankful for the words of encouragement. We're extremely proud of the work we do."

SIUE and L&C's collaboration does not stop there. The SIU School of Dental Medicine (SDM) students work closely with L&C's dental hygienist and assistant students for a more fulfilled academic and practical experience.

"Our students at L&C are extremely advantaged by having your top-notch Dental School in the Alton area," Chapman says. "The dentists you are training are working directly with our hygienists and assistants in situations like Give a Kid a Smile Day, which is a wonderful event for the students and a great service to the community."

Another L&C initiative is the endowed Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities, located in the historic Lincoln School in Edwardsville. According to Chapman, the Center's mission is "to become the premier interdisciplinary global research and education center where scholars, leaders and learners from SIUE, L&C and other institutions use the humanities as a lens to see issues like food and water shortages, and communicate the urgent need for change."

On Thursday, March 30, the Center will welcome legendary UCLA and Los Angeles Lakers' player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to speak at its fundraiser in SIUE's Meridian Ballroom. Tickets are \$200 and can be purchased by visiting the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities website.

As president and chancellor, respectively, Chapman and Pembroke believe that their roles in higher education have been some of the most fulfilling positions they have served in throughout their careers.

"The people in this area have historically valued intellectual development and saw that it could change lives, as it changed yours and mine," Chapman says, "It is our job to think strategically, and sometimes tactically, about how we can position our institutions for the greater good of the people we serve."

*Tune in to Segue at 9 a.m. to WSIU 88.7 FM The Sound to hear the conversation between these two dynamic leaders in its entirety.*

*SIUE Marketing & Communications*