

An award-winning magazine that shares LCCC's success stories.

LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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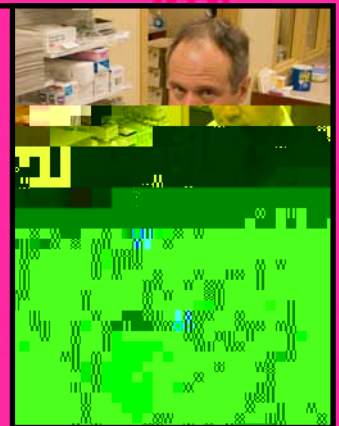
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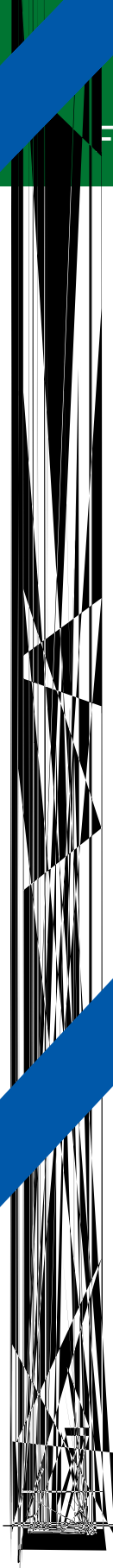
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Medicine Man

LCCC alum Bill Keenan has found success behind a pharmacy counter

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It's been 12 years since Bill Keenan set foot on the Laramie County Community College campus, but he still feels a connection.

Keenan, who is now a pharmacist and part owner of Hoy's pharmacies and NorthStar Infusion pharmacy, has come a long way since he started attending classes at LCCC and the University of Wyoming in 1980. He was an employee of Union Pacific, and he says he took classes whenever he was furloughed or had time off.

He wasn't entirely sure what he wanted to do when he "grew up." He says he changed his major several times when he was living in Laramie from '81 to '85. He started with sociology, moved on to psychology, then thought he would like computer science better. He says he took most of the computer science classes LCCC offered from the time he moved back to Cheyenne in '85 until '90, when the railroad launched a program to reduce crew sizes. He finally had the time he needed to return to school full-time.

"I returned to LCCC with the intention of getting a business degree of some sort so that I could enter railroad management," he says. But a course he took made him change his mind again.

"I took a course in human anatomy to fulfill a credit requirement and became fascinated with this course of study," he says. "I began to research careers that would utilize this type of information. I shadowed some x-ray technicians and decided not to apply for that program. Someone suggested that I take a general aptitude test, and one of the areas that the test suggested was pharmacy. I found out that LCCC had a pre-pharm program and

that UW had a Bachelor of Pharmacy Program. I spoke with as many pharmacists as I could and decided to go for it."

He left his career with the railroad and began chugging down this new track. He graduated from LCCC in '94 with an associate of science degree in biology, then from the University of Wyoming in 1997 with a bachelor of pharmacy.

He says LCCC made the transition easy. "The college had a phenomenal success rate in placing students in the highly competitive School of Pharmacy," he says. "Chemistry classes at LCCC consisted of hands-on experience with instruments that no undergrads touched at UW. With smaller class sizes and access to instructors and equipment, I felt that my training was equal or usually superior to any student entering pharmacy school from another institution."

The instruction wasn't the only benefit. Keenan met his wife in his first year at LCCC. He also says he got a lot of help financially at the community college.

"I received a scholarship from LCCC that essentially paid tuition for my first two years," he says. "And the aptitude testing and career guidance was a great help, too."

But Keenan jokes that his education might not be over yet.

"I look at the catalog every semester," he says, "but I haven't taken a class since 1997. It's about time to make another career change, so who knows?"

If Keenan's your pharmacist, don't worry. He says as long as it took him to decide on his current career, he won't be switching tracks soon. ❖

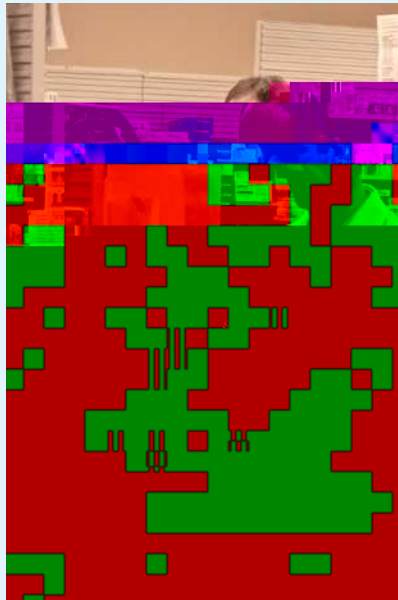


Photo by Ty Stockton

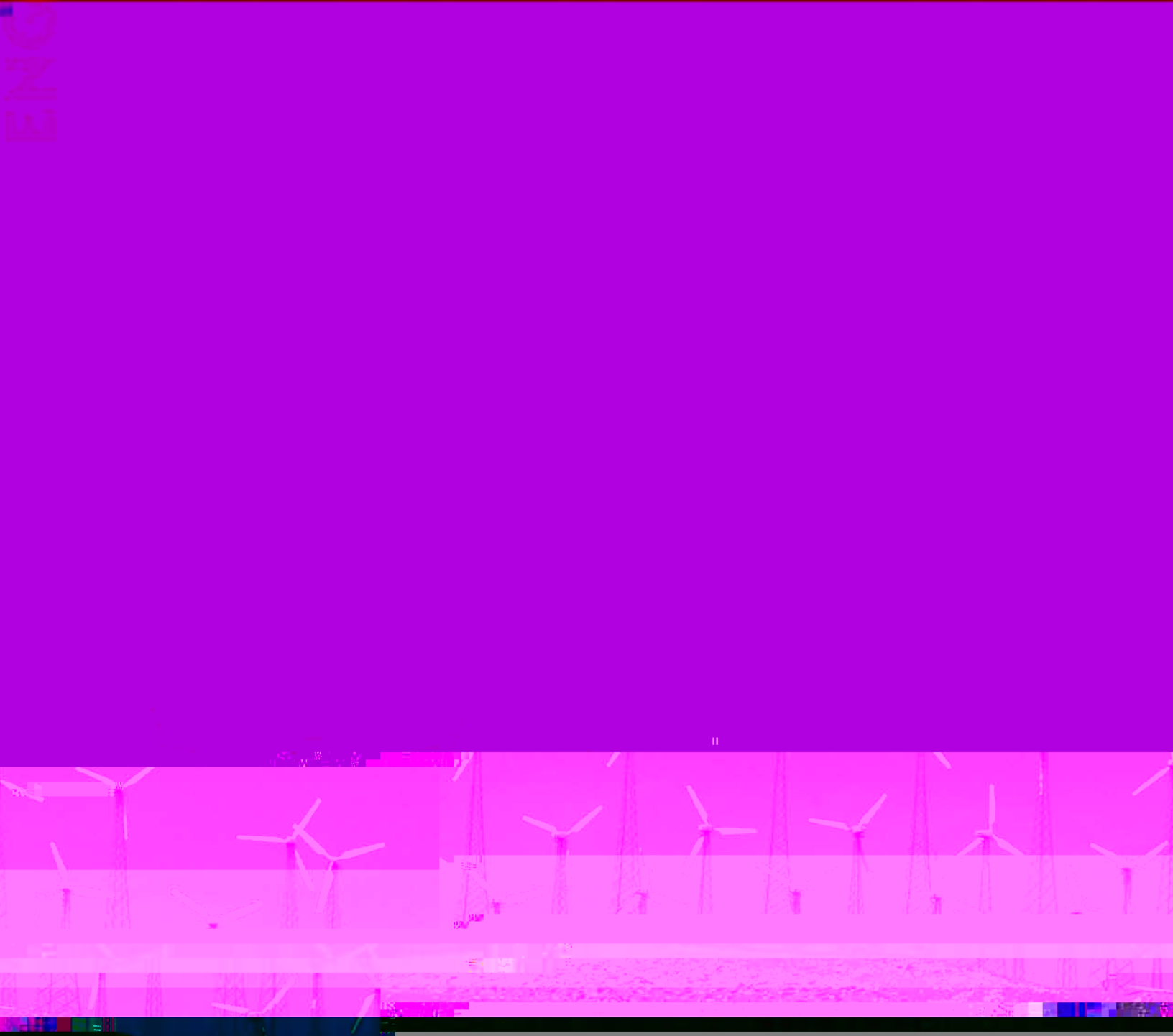
In the early 1990s, a group of volunteers and friends of LCCC shared a vision. Their dream was to see the college bring students and the community together through diverse cultural experiences, sponsored by businesses and individual donors through the LCCC Foundation.

The program began simply, with a music workshop sponsored by the Bank of the West in 1994. Since then, the generosity of community members and local businesses has brought more than 60 nationally recognized speakers, artists and musicians to Cheyenne through the LCCC Cultural and Community Enrichment Series. Several series have been endowed by businesses and individual donors, beginning with the Esther and John Clay Summer Watercolor Workshop. This February marked the naming of the 10th endowed series in the program: The Bill and Marietta Dinneen Writers' Series.

A member of the LCCC Foundation Board from 1988 - 1992, Marietta Dinneen was a part of the original team of volunteers who worked to develop the Cultural and Community Enrichment Series program. Now, two decades later, Marietta has accepted the honor of having an endowed series named for herself and her late husband, Bill.

The writers' series was developed in 2001 to sponsor lectures and workshops at LCCC by local and nationally known authors, including Robert Bly and Robert Pack. The Dinneens were among several contributors to the series, and when Bill died a year ago, Marietta wanted to honor his memory with a larger donation. The duplication of her generous gift by the

ENGINEERING A BETTER FUTURE



Alexander Mikhaylov, who is originally from Kirovo-Chepetsk, Russia, graduated this spring and received his associate degree in Economics and Finance. Next fall he'll be heading south of the Wyoming border to study economics with an international emphasis at the University of Colorado

in Boulder. While attending Laramie County Community College, Alex was an active member



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