
Jennifer Billman - Indiana University

Jennifer Billman is a student in Indiana University's Administration and Leadership Studies, PhD program at Dixon University Center. This year and last year, Jennifer presented or will be presenting at a total of 5 conferences - 2 local, 1 national, and 2 international. Participation at these conferences was in part supported by IUP's graduate student funding for conference presentation.

Title: Sport for Development and Peace: Reframing the Conversation (presented at 2 conferences)

- Central Pennsylvania Consortium Symposium, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA. (September 2018)
- Sports Africa Conference, Dakar, Senegal (June 2019)

Title: Ontological and Epistemological Implications of the Made in Africa Evaluation Framework

- 9th African Evaluation Association International Conference, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (March 2019) "At this conference I had the opportunity to meet evaluation expert Dr. Bagele Chilisa."

Title: Learning to Lead, Leading to Learn; Co-presenters Julie Ambrose and Pamela Heffner, fellow ALS Ph.D. students

- 2nd Annual Pennsylvania Leadership Conference, Harrisburg, PA (May 2019)

This fall Jennifer will be making two presentations at the American Evaluation Association's annual conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. "I will be presenting an expert lecture entitled, Tackling Wicked Problems in the Field of Evaluation: Whose Ontology? Whose Epistemology? and a paper entitled, Evaluation Theory: Does it Exist and Does it Matter? (November 2019)"

Julie Ambrose - Indiana University

Julie Ambrose is a student in Indiana University's Administration and Leadership Studies, PhD program at Dixon University Center. In June she participated in an interview with WHYY news reporter Avi Wolfman-Arent for a story that [aired on Keystone Crossroads](#). "The title of the piece, *Who benefits from Pa's EITC and OSTC scholarships?* is a primary research question in my doctoral dissertation work I'm doing through the Administration and Leadership Studies PhD program. The interview was timely as the PA House had passed a bill, HB800, that would have dramatically increased funding for one of the scholarship components of the program - the one with the least regulation and oversight. After the interview, the Senate also passed HB800; then Governor Wolf vetoed the legislation. The legislature did pass another version of the law with a smaller increase to the program. The reporter identified me after an [OpEd](#) I wrote appeared in The Morning Call."

"One of the primary findings of the research, a policy analysis of the Educational Improvement and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program, is that the program lacks transparency and accountability. There is no mechanism connected to the policy to measure or report academic achievement for students receiving scholarships; indeed, there is no way to track who even receives the money. The lack of accountability and transparency in education programs is a serious concern in Pennsylvania, because it creates an environment that facilitates fraudulent practices and diverts resources from education, particularly from public education. My findings regarding the EITC and OSTC mirror the concerns cited by Governor Wolf and reported by [The Washington Post](#) this week regarding Charter School funding in PA."

Congratulations and many thanks for the contributions of all the talented students taking classes at Dixon University Center!



Jennifer Billman with Dr. Bagele Chilisa



FALL 2019
Review

The Official Publication of Dixon University Center

Featured Programs at Dixon University Center

Lebanon Valley College's STEM Education Program

Lebanon Valley College's Master's Degree in STEM Education is designed to produce leaders in science, technology, engineering, and math pedagogy. Immediately implement new, standards-based teaching methods in your classroom and provide your students with the real-life application skills they need for future success. No matter what stage you're at in your teaching career, you will learn to implement new approaches for teaching STEM, improve the STEM literacy of your students, and ready your students for the 21st-century workplace.

This growing program employs a collaborative learning approach with classes designed to apply to any age range, from K-12. High school teachers work alongside middle school and elementary teachers to understand the "big

ideas" in science education and how to integrate core concepts. Get the tools you need to work across STEM disciplines to prepare your students for the challenges they'll face in the real world. Engage your students while adhering to Next Generation Science Standards, develop exciting co-teaching opportunities within your department, and compete for available STEM teaching positions in your district.

Flexible course offerings help you take courses at your own pace and work around your teaching schedule. Courses at the Dixon University Center (DUC) are run through a hybrid model, where classes will alternate between face to face meetings and online sessions. This model was designed with the working professional in mind. Courses start at DUC in October, 2019. In addition,

fully online courses are available if that works best with your schedule.

Educators will be eligible to add the STEM Endorsement to their Pennsylvania teaching certificate after successful completion of the program and/or continue on to earn a Master's Degree in STEM Education.

For more information about LVC's STEM program and offerings please contact Dr. Kathleen Blouch at STEM@lvc.edu or 717-867-6089.



Dixon University Center Student/Faculty Spotlight

Holly Sellers - Lebanon Valley College

Holly Sellers is a student in Lebanon Valley College's Integrative STEM Education Certificate program at Dixon University Center (DUC). She has also taught Chemistry at Cedar Cliff High School for 15 years. She states, "Through my STEM courses at LVC, I have learned the importance of the integration of STEM topics across various courses. In particular, this includes incorporating more Technology and Engineering Content into Science and Math courses." Holly received a grant for a STEM cart at her school through the West Shore Foundation's Educator Innovation Grant. "The funds from this grant are allowing us to purchase a STEM cart to be used by Science and Math Teachers to promote more hands-on learning in the classroom," says Holly.

Holly adds that LVC's STEM certificate program has influenced her career goals, because she is learning to integrate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics throughout her own course curriculum.

When asked about how taking the STEM courses at Dixon University Center has assisted in her academic and career goals, she notes, "Taking classes at DUC has been very beneficial. First, it is a very convenient location to where I live and teach. Second, the facilities are very well equipped, and the staff is always very helpful- specifically those who work in preparing the rooms and providing campus security."

J. Bernard Schmidt Scholarship

Spring 2018 Recipients:

Tara Byers
Shippensburg University,
Counselor Education and Supervision
(EdD)

After graduation from Shippensburg's Doctoral program in Counselor Education and Supervision Tara plans to continue to work within the mental health system and within the larger community providing consultation, supervision and training to support the well-being of children and families in need.

Jenna Davis

Indiana University,
Nursing (PhD)
With an anticipated graduation of August 2021, Jenna plans to develop in her role as instructor of nursing students. She is thankful the doctoral degree in nursing, with a focus on education, is so conveniently offered at the DUC.

Summer 2018 Recipients:

Amelia Combs
Elizabethtown College,
Information Systems (BS)
After graduation, Amelia plans to use her Bachelors Degree in Computer Information Systems with her current employer, BAE Systems, to advance her career. She is grateful and appreciative to receive the J. Bernard Schmidt Scholarship. "Many thanks to DUC and the wonderful class facilitators that have shared their knowledge and guided me through this process."

Applications for Fall 2019 are
now available:
[www.dixonuniversitycenter.org/
scholarship-
opportunities](http://www.dixonuniversitycenter.org/scholarship-opportunities)

Deadline: November 15, 2019

About the Scholarship The Board of Directors of the University Center at Harrisburg, Inc., is a nonprofit group that funds five scholarships each year to students attending classes at Dixon University Center. The late J. Bernard Schmidt served as the president of this board, and the scholarship was renamed in his honor.

Any student who is receiving less than 50% tuition reimbursement from another source is eligible for the scholarship in the sum of \$1000. To be eligible, students must be matriculated in a degree program at DUC and also have a grade point average of at least 3.0 with 12 credits completed for undergraduate students or 3.5 with 6 credits completed for graduate students.

Congratulations Tara, Jenna, and Amelia!

Millersville University RN-BSN Student Wins Pennsylvania Nightingale Scholarship

Millersville University's senior RN-BSN student Regina Reep, RN is the winner of the 2019 Nightingale of Pennsylvania Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree Completion Scholarship. Regina will be awarded her scholarship at The Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence Gala in November. As an award recipient, Regina represents the values of the Millersville University Department of Nursing and the State System.

Applicants were chosen based on evidence of strong academic achievement, community service, leadership potential, and personal commitment to the profession. Regina had to submit an application plus two letters of recommendation, one of which had to be from a nursing faculty member. There is only one scholarship recipient for each scholarship category.

The Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania notes the following about their scholarship recipients. "These exceptional students have already distinguished themselves by demonstrating deep levels of caring, compassion, community service, and academic achievement. They have earned a place of honor along with 190 past scholarship recipients since 1991. Recruiting and retaining nurses of this caliber will help to ensure the future of excellent health care in Pennsylvania."

Millersville University RN-BSN Student Creates a Community Health Fair (Volunteers Needed)

Millersville
University

Millersville University senior RN-BSN student Patrycja "Anna" Showers, RN is passionate about serving the citizens of the local community. Anna combined the results of an in-depth community study that she conducted in NURS 421 (Population Based Nursing) with an assignment in NURS 478 (Transforming Healthcare through Leadership in Nursing) to create an ideal healthcare entity. The ideal healthcare entity project could be a theoretical entity, but must be supported with well researched data as to the need, the patient population, funding, and sustainability.

Anna chose to take her project to the highest level by creating a community health fair titled "Inspire Highspire" to be held October 19, 2019 from 10am-2pm at the Highspire Fire Hall. She partnered with many community agencies including the mayor of Highspire, local fire, police, and emergency staff, a graphic artist, and many leaders of local healthcare and service agencies. The fair will provide health and wellness information as well as screenings, information on various community support agencies for housing, food, addiction, mental health, transportation, and fun for all ages!! Please plan on attending or volunteering at Inspire Highspire in October! You may contact Anna at pas21@pm.me for details.



Dixon University Center Student/Faculty Spotlight Continued

Marcelle Giovannetti - Shippensburg University

Marcelle Giovannetti is a student in Shippensburg University's Counselor Education and Supervision (EdD) program at Dixon University Center. Marcelle was recently involved in the Common Ground Project, a community based non-profit dedicated to teaching the history of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. Marcelle states, "One of the primary ways this mission is achieved is through the annual Returning to the Roots of Civil Rights Tour. I participated in a Civil Rights bus tour with Colleagues and students at Messiah College during the Summer of 2018. It is one of the oldest running civil rights bus tours in the nation and organized by Dr. Todd Allen. It was such a transformative learning opportunity for me, that gave voice to many narratives that aren't evidenced in history books. As a professional counselor, it helped me gain a deeper empathy and understanding of generational race based trauma and how the freedom struggle of the civil rights era continues to manifest in current social justice and equity issues across the nation from a systemic to an individual level."



Marcelle Giovannetti

"When I started the Counselor Education and Supervision doctoral program at DUC I was already a practicing clinician for about 14 years but this program has helped me establish a new identity as an educator and contributor to the scholarship and literature of my profession. My career goals have now shifted beyond just clinical practice to include the role of clinical supervisor, educator and advocate in the counseling profession, especially as I am a woman of color in a profession that has historically ignored the voices of underrepresented people but is now looking to improve in this regard."

"I very much appreciate the convenience of location at Dixon University Center, which has been the location of all my classes. It has made the necessity of attending classes every Saturday more manageable for me personally. Time is a precious commodity when I am juggling the roles of working full time as a counselor, teaching as an adjunct and taking 9 credits as a student not to mention being a mother, wife, daughter etc. The convenience of the location means less time commuting and more time with family and will allow me to complete Doctoral course work in approximately 3 years plus dissertation time."

Marcelle works full time as a counselor at Messiah College specializing in substance use disorders, trauma and multicultural issues. "I currently serve on the board of directors for the PA certification board. This year I am looking forward to co-presenting with Shippensburg faculty at two national conferences: Association for Counselor Education and Supervision in Seattle and the American Counseling Association in San Diego. Our presentation topic is on the benefits of service learning as a pedagogical approach to teaching multicultural competencies."



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