

# Lewis & Clark **NEWS**

Community College

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **U OF I COLLEGE OF ACES CREATES FIRST EVER TRANSFER PROGRAM WITH L&C**

**GODFREY** – Lewis and Clark Community College students studying natural resources and environmental sciences will now find their credits automatically accepted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The guaranteed transfer agreement with the University’s College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) is the first of its kind for U of I.

“We are extremely proud to be a part of the first transfer agreement with University of Illinois’ College of ACES,” Lewis and Clark President Dale Chapman said. “It speaks highly of our faculty and our students to have such a rigorous and advanced curriculum that makes this transfer agreement possible. We have been partnering with the University of Illinois on so many important endeavors, such as the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, so this agreement is a natural extension of those educational benefits that will continue to impact Lewis and Clark students for years to come.”

The transfer agreement allows students who have met the necessary transfer admission requirements at Lewis and Clark to automatically transfer with junior standing to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to complete their bachelor’s degree in natural resources and environmental sciences (NRES). The agreement between the two institutions guarantees acceptance to the Lewis and Clark student upon completion of their first two years.

Robert Easter, University of Illinois Dean of the College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences said he is pleased that the College of ACES first transfer agreement is with L&C. “Lewis and Clark has proven to be a very progressive institution, with a focus on quality and student assessment. The faculty and staff are extremely concerned about the success of their students, and their graduates will be an asset to the U of I program.”

With a four-year degree in NRES from the U of I, students have multiple career opportunities available to them, such as wildlife biologist, restoration ecologist, soil scientist, field biologist, extension educator, environmental consultant and conservation biologist.

“A degree in natural resources and environmental sciences or in horticulture can maximize the student’s contribution to our world and ensure a long and satisfying career,” University of Illinois’ Head of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Wes Jarrell said. “Our alumni are employed by government agencies, universities, private industry and nonprofit organizations and are even self-employed entrepreneurs. We are extremely pleased to be able to extend these career opportunities to the students of the Lewis and Clark district.”

George Banziger, Lewis and Clark’s dean of math, science and technology, said the guaranteed transfer program is an excellent transition opportunity for students. “For the past two summers our students have been working alongside U of I students during the summer internship program through the National Great Rivers Resource and Education Center,” Banziger said. “Our students have always excelled in their environmental science studies, and this agreement will not only enhance their training, but it will also open up new education and career opportunities for them. It is our mission to encourage our students to seek advanced degrees upon graduating from Lewis and Clark, and agreements such as this one with the University of

Illinois enable us to achieve our mission and enable our students to continue to achieve their individual goals.”

Robert McClellan, president of Hortica in Edwardsville, which provides insurance services for nurseries and agricultural related businesses, says he sees great value in the transfer agreement. “Many people don’t realize the important role that environmental sciences play in Illinois’ economy. Graduates will contribute to numerous endeavors in the state related to the green industry, sustainability of our plant life and care for our watershed areas,” McClellan said.

President Chapman added that the future addition of the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, which will be located near Lock and Dam 26 in Alton, will further enhance the environmental science offerings of the College and the University. “We look to continue our partnership with U of I to maximize the educational offerings to students of both institutions. We are constantly looking for new endeavors that will provide the best resources and training to our students, and the completion of the Center will further our commitment to the students and to the partnership.”

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