

New Heights

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November

15: Fall Campus Day Visit

28-December 1:
Thanksgiving break.
Students may return to
campus on Sunday
after 4 pm

December

2: Classes resume

9-13: Final exams week

12: Portfolio Day - TBD

12: Parent Meeting TBD

12: Winter break begins-
after 4 pm

January

13-23: Winterim times TBD

27: classes start for second
semester. Students may
return to campus on
Sunday, January 26 after
4 pm

Latest information from Bethesda College students and faculty

Meet the Bethesda College Staff:

Kristine Leonard



Hello, I am Kristine Leonard and am the Senior Director of Transition Services for Bethesda Lutheran Communities and the Director of Bethesda College. I have been with Bethesda for 3.5 years after spending 33 years in the education world. My background in teaching covers teaching elementary, middle school, high school, 18-21 and transition all in the special education field covering the intellectual and developmental disabilities area. I also specialized in the fields of autism,

assistive technology and transition. Since coming to Bethesda, I oversee all nonresidential services working with educational, employment and day services. I am extremely passionate about giving individuals the tools to become independent in both living and working in the community of their choice. I would love to talk about my hobbies but honestly work tends to be my hobby too. I am always available to help individuals and families as best as I can.

Sam Bear



Hi everyone, my name is Samantha Bear! I was born and raised about 10 minutes from CUW in Fox Point and went to a local high school. I had the pleasure of attending Marquette University my freshman year of college, then transferring to UW-Milwaukee where I received my B.A. in Cross-Categorical education for individuals with disabilities ages 12-21+. Along with that I received a special certification for Autism Spectrum Disorders. After working in MPS, living

and teaching in Israel, and moving back stateside, I started my masters with Loyola University of Chicago. While working as the lead transition teacher for Menomonee Falls High School, I completed my M.A. in International Higher

Education with a sub focus of disabilities in higher education globally. Here at Bethesda my main focuses include independent living skills and the campus and community life aspect! In my spare time I love to hang out with my guy Aidan (below) when I am doing respite care for him, volunteer a ton with a local food pantry, work with individuals stuck in the street life due to homelessness or human trafficking, travel-as much as possible, and hang out with my cats in my recently purchased home in Bayview! Fun fact about me, I speak 6 languages!

Gail Kochelek



Hello, my name is Gail Kochelek. I obtained my teaching degree from Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. I also have accrued 48 credits of continued education in various special education fields. I have 30 years of teaching experience, all in the field of special education. Most of my experience has been at the high school level in the area of transition. I have been with the Bethesda College of Applied Learning since the start of the program in 2014. My role had been to teach the career preparation portion of the curriculum and to develop and manage the internship program. Internships are considered the lab for the career preparation class. I recently have dropped down to part time. I will

continue to teach, but Peggy Dooley will take over the internship portion of my job duties. Working part time will allow my more time on the home front with my young grandchildren. I also will be able to enjoy my hobbies of downhill skiing, gourmet cooking, gardening, hiking, and boating. I am an authentic “Yoooper “and certainly will enjoy visiting the U.P. as much as I can.

Peggy Dooley



I am the newest member of the Bethesda College of Applied Education team, Peggy Dooley. I’m so pleased to join the dedicated staff and students who learn and work together so effectively each and every day in this program. My contribution to the team will be on the vocational side, by assisting students in securing internships within the Concordia University (during their first year in program) and securing internships off campus -in the community- (during their second year in program). I’ve worked for Goodwill and Easter Seals in this capacity and have experienced many different scenarios of what successful community employment can look like. Previously working in state, federal and local

government I was able to travel a great deal and throughout those travels one thing became clear, Wisconsin and the Midwest in generally known for having a tremendous work ethic. Having been born and raised in Wisconsin, (living in Madison, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Clinton and Greenfield) I know this is true. My goal is to develop and perpetuate that sentiment while working with each individual students’ innate talents and learned skill sets. So, by the time graduation comes around, I hope to hear ... “I learned so much from the Bethesda College experience and the value of hard and meaningful work.” Please look for me in the hallways at Concordia and don’t hesitate to stop me and ask any questions you might have about community – vocational opportunities.

Kira Collins



Nice to meet you! My name is Kira Collins and I am the director of admissions for Bethesda College! I started with Bethesda College in July 2019! I grew up in Kaukauna, Wisconsin and worked on a dairy farm in high school and competed in dance. After high school, I attended UW-Eau Claire for my Bachelor of Education, with a double major in special education and followed up with a Masters of Psychology from the University of Minnesota. Upon graduating I taught special education at the elementary level for 7 years, and then moved to the high school level for two years. During that time I received my Doctorate in

Educational Administration and was an administrator for two years in Milwaukee Public Schools, and then transferred into the private sector. I served as the Director of Special Education and Director of Student Services for two years before moving to Bethesda College and Higher Education. I loved working in the private sector and being able to incorporate Christ into daily lessons and in working with students and parents. My focus here at Bethesda College is recruitment for new students and the on-site day to day administrator on campus at Concordia University. I also am lucky enough to be teaching courses as well! I am married to my husband Ryan, and we are expecting our first baby in the spring! In my spare time I enjoy traveling, being outside in nature, Wisconsin sports, judging competitive dance competitions around Wisconsin on the weekends, and spending time with my family in Wisconsin, Indiana and Oregon.

From Dreams to Opportunities: Internships



Lauren
(2nd year student)

Lauren is working at Newcastle Place as a dietary aid. Her responsibilities include folding napkins, polishing silverware, bussing and resetting tables, greeting

residents as they enter the dining room, and giving them water and menus.



Marlea
(2nd year student)

Marlea is working in the Academic Resource Center where she is an office assistant. Her responsibilities include folding pamphlets, making copies, shredding

documents, cleaning the private cubicles, and delivering tests.



Sabrina
(2nd year student)

Sabrina is working at Children's Hospital of Mequon as an office assistant and housekeeper. She helps the office staff with all the stickers that go on patient

paperwork. She also turns over the rooms after patient appointment are done.



Emma
(2nd year)

Emma is working as an aid at First Immanuel Lutheran Preschool. She helps to guide the children with activities,

supervise playground activities, helps with snack and cleanup.

First Year Students

Most first year students are working on campus in various setting with the food service company, Sodexo. Students are working on improving their employability skills at their internship sites. We have students learning how to be a barista, smoothie making, table bussing, working with bakery, and stocking the convenience store, and running a retail snack cart. In career preparation class we are working on work ethics and the importance of being a good and valuable worker. In class we also stress, communication, teamwork, and problem solving.



A Place to Grow: Campus Life and Activities News

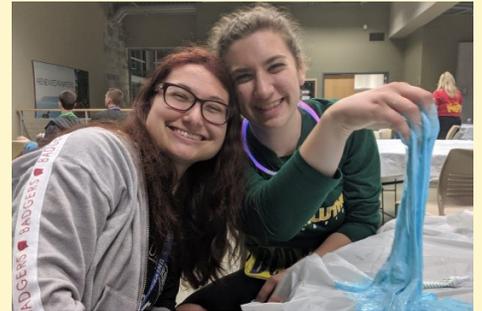
Ten weeks of school have already flown by. Falcon Frenzy was a huge success with having an activity almost every day for eight weeks of school. While our students got into the groove of campus, they were able to participate in so many activities. Now that Fall Break has come and gone, students were able to rest for the long weekend and come back fresh for another month of school until Thanksgiving break. After Thanksgiving break there will only be two weeks left of the first semester! Before you know it, the semester will be over!



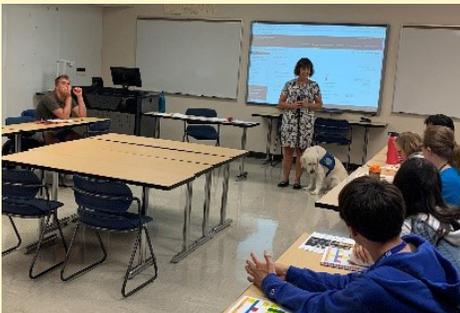
1st year student Zach Pfile enjoying Stomp the Courtyard event!



2nd year students Emma Leonhard and Lauren Buchanan twinning at Stomp the Courtyard (Community Coach Megan Wirtz decided to photo bomb)!



1st year student Jordan Poirier and BCRA Kelsey Koepeke enjoying some slime on campus during an evening activity!



1st and 2nd year students in their Courage and Social Leadership Seminar meeting Sage the Comfort Dog with Dr. Harrison. Learning how to serve others in various capacities, including comfort!



Life skills work is full throttle on campus. Here you can see 1st year student Samantha Levine folding her laundry! Students on campus have support from life skills coaches during the week but are also expected to do the work themselves!



Getting off campus! BCRA Emma Gaffney accompanied students Kathryn Mauer (1st year), Evan SearVogel (1st year), Marlea Joa (2nd year), and Emma Leonhard (2nd year) to Madison, WI as the Campus Activities Board led a day trip there!



Corn maze and fall fun! BCRA Gabrielle Nelsen joined Emma Leonhard (2nd year), Lauren Buchanan (2nd year), and Kathryn Mauer (1st year) for some fall festivities over the weekend!



Every week, Chemnitz staff hosts a "just pop in" meet up to all students living in Chemnitz Residence Hall (BC and CUW). A few weeks ago BCRAs hosted with sweets and board games! BCRA Jack and Jack (1st year) loved it!



Crotoberfest may have been breezy but it did not keep students away! BCRAs Gabrielle Nelsen and Emma Gaffney joined BC students Marlea Joa (2nd year), Emma Leonhard (2nd year), Lauren Buchanan (2nd year), Kathryn Mauer (1st year), and Samantha Levine (1st year) at the annual, Chemnitz staff led, campus event!

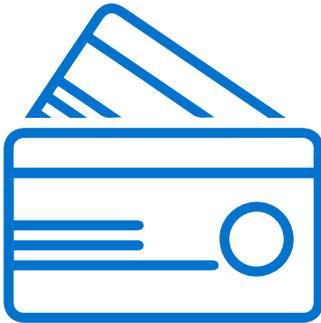
Volunteering



Every semester the students strive to complete twelve hours of service dedicated to others in and around their community. Thus far, there have been twelve hours and forty-five minutes'

worth of opportunities available! These have varied in activities from working at pet fest, creating cards for veterans, Feeding America, creating blankets for individuals in nursing homes, and more! There are still many more volunteer opportunities to come this semester. We have one student who independently volunteers every week and she is taking the lead with fifteen hours completed to date!

New banking with debit cards



This year we are implementing a new course for second year students with a brand-new student centered, curriculum which focuses on financial literacy! Partnering with professional

relationship banker, Kristin Ritley of BMO Harris Bank Cedarburg, we have been able to individualize our curriculum to meet the specific needs of our students. Kristin comes to campus and joins over 50% of our classes to team teach topics such as money safety, debit versus credit use, online banking, budgeting, income versus expense, and so much more. The last third of the semester, the second-year students will be headed out into the community to put their skills to use and practicing in a safe environment with Kristin and Professor Bear. While the second-year students are learning more hands-on financial literacy, we have our first-year students practicing at a very basic level utilizing a debit card independently.

Working with Cedarburg Fire Department

We have had tons of fun this semester in both our STEPS program and also our mixed first- and second-year class Living Well! We were fortunate enough to partner with Mr. Greg Holz, a retired Greenfield Firefighter/Paramedic. Greg was able to come to campus for two of our 8:00am Living Well classes with his partner in crime, Halligan. Both Greg and Halligan spoke about fire safety in the dorms, basic first aid, and what to do in various emergency situations. Greg also met with STEPS participants in the community. First time at Cedarburg's Student Union for a general safety class for individuals who live on their own. The fun really picked up when Cedarburg's Fire Department let us use their practice area to work on our fire extinguisher skills! It was fun to practice those skills in a less stressful environment but with real fire!



STEPS

Bethesda College is in its first pilot year of our new Steps (Successful transition exiting post-secondary) program! We have found that our students were naturally transitioning into the community surrounding CUW but still needed supports in various areas. We currently have six Bethesda College alumni who are officially enrolled with STEPS and an additional seven alumni that live locally and attend many of the STEPS seminars and social gatherings. Along with that we have hired some of our alumni Bethesda College staff to work in the community as community coaches, at this time we currently have five community coaches! These are seasoned staff members that have had experience working with the same students in the college setting and they themselves are also transitioning as college students into the community! The areas the students can receive support, a la cart style, includes but is not limited to employment, education/enrichment, community life and engagement, in home safety and supports, daily living skills non-live in, and church membership and engagement.



STEPS staff, community coaches, and participants at Summer Sounds in Cedarburg!



Liam Grady (STEPS participant) out and about in the community having fun!



Professor Bear and Professor Kochelek off to meet students for a STEPS seminar!



Featured in the CUW Concordian, Dakota Purnell (STEPS Participant), Kalindi Drewry (STEPS participant), and Megan Wirtz (CUW Student and STEPS community coach) in front of their home in Cedarburg.



STEPS staff, community coaches, participants, and friends joined for a pot luck BBQ this summer!



Caroline Lyons (STEPS Participant), Kalindi Drewry (STEPS Participant), Dakota Purnell (STEPS Participant), and Tessa Pfortmiller (CUW student and STEPS community coach) out and about in the community enjoying the beautiful summer weather!

2019 Self-Determination Conference



The last two years we have been able to have our 2nd year students attend the Self Determination Conference in WI. The goal of the overall conference is The Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference empowers people with disabilities to have more control over their lives. Each year, people with disabilities, their families and people who support them participate in the conference to learn more about self-determination and self-directed supports so they can more live



independently, actively participate in their communities, and use public funds efficiently.

Our students were able to choose sessions that met their wants and needs while learning how to independently navigate the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. A great time was had by all and many wonderful responses from our students about all that they learned with shared with our staff.



Aiming for Excellence: Academics

Speech collaboration

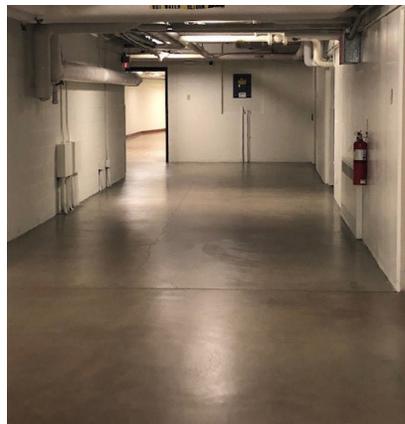


The Concordia University of Wisconsin Department of Speech-Language Pathology is happy to be working with students in the Bethesda College Program in the new Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic on campus! This semester, three graduate students from the speech-language pathology program have partnered with the Bethesda College at Concordia University program to provide social skills services to four students in the form of the PEERS program. The PEERS program is a social skills group used to help young adults develop and maintain close, meaningful relationships including friendships and romantic relationships. Throughout the 50-minute bi-weekly meetings, students experience meaningful content and role-plays within a fun atmosphere. While the lessons are taught explicitly

in the group session, students then have the opportunity to practice these skills in their everyday lives. Two students in the Bethesda Program are also receiving individual speech-language therapy sessions. Following fall semester, a new group of Bethesda College students will start with the PEERS program for the spring semester!

Campus safety

Worried about sending your students to college and how they will stay safe? Bethesda College is set within the campus of Concordia University-Wisconsin which has been rated at the #1 safest college campus in Wisconsin and 4th safest college campus in the nation! In addition to the safety ratings of Concordia's campus, Bethesda College at



Concordia University- Wisconsin is surrounded by the 1st, 3rd and 5th safest cities in Wisconsin! One thing unique to the campus of Concordia University-Wisconsin is that the entire campus is connected through a system of underground tunnels! You know what that means.... students can attend class in the winter in shorts and flip flops! Within the tunnels are signs and cameras to help students navigate campus, and if a student were to get lost, they can pick up one of the phones in the tunnels and be found and redirected by the Concordia University-Wisconsin campus safety crew!

Admission Update

Please spread the word! There are multiple opportunities to get new families and perspective students involved with Bethesda College at Concordia University! Bethesda College at Concordia is offering campus visit days for families of interested students! We have filled up two of our campus visit days and have two more left with spots still available! Our available dates are November 22nd and March 6th. Bethesda College is also offering a summer, college experience for high school and transition age students for one week in the summer: BC101! This is an awesome experience for students interested in getting a taste of living in the dorms and being in Bethesda College, for one week in the summer! Dates for BC101 are June 15-19 and June 22-26. Our applications for Bethesda College are now live and available online at: BethesdaLC.org/college. For more information and to register for a campus visit day or BC 101, email Kira Collins at Kira.Collins@bethesda.com

Stay Connected

Website: BethesdaLC.org/College or CUW.edu/about/offices/bethesda.html

Instagram: [Bethesda.CollegeCUW](https://www.instagram.com/Bethesda.CollegeCUW)

Email: Bethesda.College@CUW.edu

Facebook Username: [@BethesdaCollegeCUW](https://www.facebook.com/BethesdaCollegeCUW)

Facebook messenger: m.me/BethesdaCollegeCUW