

EP31 Transfer Beginners Guide

SPEAKERS

Brenda Hitchens, Janet Maltbie

Janet Maltbie 00:08

From the campus of Lorain County Community College this is the No Loan Zone podcast on RadioWannabe.com. My name is Janet Maltbie. I'm a career counselor and I've helped 1000s of students and adults in transition make wise career choices. I believe completing a degree, pursuing passionate work and debt free living is key to your future. I'm here to help you on your journey, and so are my guests. This week we'll be discussing a beginner's guide to transferring using the University Partnership Program. Today in our program. My special guest is Lorain County Community College student senate representative Brenda Hitchens. Brenda holds an AA degree from LCCC and is currently working on her bachelor's degree in psychology. Through our University Partnership Program, Brenda joined the Student Senate because she wanted to help students advocate for themselves and seek appropriate solutions to the challenges they face in college. Welcome to the program. Brenda,

Brenda Hitchens 01:08

thank you. It's nice being here.

Janet Maltbie 01:10

Let's go back to the time that you're in high school, you didn't want to come to college at that time.

Brenda Hitchens 01:15

No at all. Mom was like you're going to college and you're going to college period.

Janet Maltbie 01:20

Do you remember the first day of coming here?

Brenda Hitchens 01:22

Yeah, it was very overwhelming, very overwhelming. I had no idea what I was doing. I had no idea where I was going. It was it was a lot.

Janet Maltbie 01:30

So if a person is just beginning just out of high school, they're going to start here in the summer in the fall, what would you recommend for them?

Brenda Hitchens 01:38

I would say try to get familiar with the campus. Because once school starts, there's a lot of hustle and bustle. You can get lost on this campus very fast. Ask questions, talk to people.

Janet Maltbie 01:52

What about academically academically?

Brenda Hitchens 01:55

I would say stop by Enrollment Services, make sure that everything's on track for yourself. When it comes to your appointments with your counselor, try to make sure that your classes are exactly what you need to be able to graduate. They're on the curriculum program.

Janet Maltbie 02:12

So if you come to campus, and let's just say that you want to be a psychology major, you're a psychology major. Yes. Right? Yes. And you're fresh out of high school, you know that you're going to be transferring over to CSU, you're going to CSU right now. Right? So one of the first things they need to do is to start asking questions,

Brenda Hitchens 02:31

Yes, start asking questions to whom, if you want to go for a psych degree. And you know, that's what you want to do for a bachelor's, start asking questions once you start your associates degree, but ask Career Services ask enrollment, because more enrollment than career services because they know exactly what you need to be able to get to that point.

Janet Maltbie 02:54

Right. And that means meeting with your academic advisor. Yes. Okay. So number one, academic advisor with your academic advisor and ask them questions.

Brenda Hitchens 03:03

Yes. Ask all the questions to them. Because there is someone I think there's two academic advisors in particular that are assigned to the psychology career field, and they would probably know about the requirements yet CSU has correct.

Janet Maltbie 03:21

So what could happen, right? If you do not ask questions, and you don't meet with an advisor,

Brenda Hitchens 03:27

You're gonna be taking classes that you probably don't need, just like I did.

Janet Maltbie 03:31

Right. And what happens is that it starts eating into your financial aid. Correct. Tell me more about that.

Brenda Hitchens 03:38

Financial aid is super important. That's why I keep stressing to make sure you're taking the correct courses, because financial aid only lasts so long. And I learned that at the end, like once I was in the last semester, that's when I realized, yeah, okay, financial aid, it only lasts so long,

Janet Maltbie 04:00

Right. And so if you come to campus, and you just have this mentality of well, I'll just kind of take whatever classes, I'll take, maybe my general ed classes, things like that, and you don't have a clearer idea of what you are shooting for, you're probably going to end up taking classes that you either don't need or just are a waste.

Brenda Hitchens 04:23

Correct. And I did both.

Janet Maltbie 04:24

Yeah. And I wonder if that's one of the reasons why you're doing this at Student Senate.

Brenda Hitchens 04:29

Definitely one of the reasons why I want to help students that are not on track, get on track, or if they are on track, stay on track.

Janet Maltbie 04:37

And it's really important to if you are thinking about a four year degree, not everybody's thinking about a four year degree, but if you know that you want a bachelor's degree. That is what the university partnership program is all about.

Brenda Hitchens 04:49

Yes, bachelors, and they have some masters but mostly bachelors.

Janet Maltbie 04:53

Right. It's It's about saving a ton of money.

Brenda Hitchens 04:57

Oh yeah, you definitely save a lot of money. only with the University Partnership Program,

Janet Maltbie 05:02

Right. And so, the way to save money on it, though, is to have a plan. Yes. So have a plan. Right? So number one, ask questions correct. If you're going to start off here at the campus, don't be afraid to ask questions. Yes. Number two, if you know you are wanting to for your degree, you really need to meet with your academic advisor,

Brenda Hitchens 05:26

Yes, because they can connect you to the transfer coordinator at the university partnership.

Janet Maltbie 05:32

And it's important to meet with that person because...

Brenda Hitchens 05:36

that person is the one that helps you basically transfer from LCC to your university of choice successfully.

Janet Maltbie 05:46

I think what's helpful sometimes is if you know that you want to have a four year degree, you know that you're going to be transferring, and you're going to a community college, that you almost need to have a mentality that you are like, for instance for you that you are a CSU student. Yes. And you need to find out what CSU requires

Brenda Hitchens 06:09

Correct. And the person to help with that is the university partnership transfer coordinator. Her name is Billy Sirm

Janet Maltbie 06:16

and Billy will help you make those connections, right with the university or college that you want to transfer to. So that while you are here, at a community college like Lorain County Community College, that you're taking the exact classes that the four year degree is going to require, because what I see sometimes is that people come here, and they just say, well, I'll just do my AAA degree, and they assume that all those classes are going to transfer, there'll be accepted for that particular major. And that may or may not be true.

Brenda Hitchens 06:53

Yes, exactly.

Janet Maltbie 06:55

So it can be a huge drain a huge waste of time, right? And money, and money.

Brenda Hitchens 07:02

Right, exactly.

Janet Maltbie 07:03

So you're eating into the pie, and then the pie, it gets smaller and smaller. And somehow, you got to get the money to pay for now. a four year college.

Brenda Hitchens 07:12

Yes, it is much more expensive.

Janet Maltbie 07:14

Yes, than a community college to me. I think that if you had to do it all over again, what would you do differently?

Brenda Hitchens 07:22

I would make sure that I had a solid plan to be able to complete my AA degree on time. And also, I would have gotten more information about what are my options for a bachelor's degree. I didn't know that I had the opportunity to take advantage of the University Partnership Program. I didn't even know it existed.

Janet Maltbie 07:48

Anything else that you want to tell students that might be listening to this that are coming to campus for the first time,

Brenda Hitchens 07:55

You can do it, even if you feel like you can't, you can do it.

Janet Maltbie 07:58

Brenda Hitchens, thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me today. Yes,

Brenda Hitchens 08:02

Of course, no problem.

Janet Maltbie 08:12

If you're interested in transferring from a community college to a four year institution, professional or graduate school and live on the west side of Cleveland, Ohio, I urge you to reach out to our transfer center through Lorain County Community College by calling 440-366-4949 The number again is 440-366-4949. Brenda Hitchens can be reached directly through the Student Senate by calling 440-366-4036 further contact information can be found in the show notes of this podcast. Finally, if you're unsure about your career direction, and want help on completing a degree debt free, you can reach me Janet Maltbie at nolonezone.com/contact.

Janet Maltbie 08:54

I meet with students and adults in transition so they can reach their career goals. I also teach a totally online career exploration class through LCCC called Career Exploration and Life Planning: SDEV 103. You've been listening to the No Loan Zone podcast on radiowannabe.com. I'm committed to helping you complete a degree debt free. Until next time, I'm Janet maltbie. Thanks for listening.