

900 Royal Heights Rd., Belleville, IL 62226



# SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP)

## Our Mission:

Provide job training and placement for individuals age 55 or older with limited financial resources and to provide employers with trained, motivated workers.



# SCSEP Newsletter

August 2018

## Local College Hires SCSEP Participant to Lead Gospel Choir



Brenda Lancaster (pictured at left,) a recent SCSEP participant and Lewis and Clark Community College (LCCC) alumna, has been hired to instruct the school's first Gospel Choir, a new addition to

the Music Department's curriculum for the Fall 2018 semester.

Lancaster joined SCSEP in 2017, and was assigned to the LCCC Music Department, where she served as vocal coach for the LCCC Rock Ensemble, under the direction of Music Coordinator Louis Michael.

Caritas' SCSEP has been working with government and non-profit organizations since 1974 to help provide training and additional work experience for those 55 and older.

Prior to joining the SCSEP last year, Lancaster's experience included helping to organize the Riverbend Community Gospel Choir, where she serves as the director and vocal coach, and serving as a planning committee member for the Pie Town Music Festival. She served as the Minister of Music at the Greater St. James Baptist Church in Alton for 14 years and as a booking agent for the Music Association of St. Louis (MASL) for three years.

Lancaster graduated from LCCC with an Associate in Arts degree and went on to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Music Business at SIUE.

SCSEP gave her a foot in the door to her new position, for which she is grateful. "Students will learn to form healthy choir techniques, develop proper choir etiquette and improve current singing abilities," Lancaster said. She continued,

"The class will focus on choral performance of traditional gospel music along with inspirational, southern, contemporary and gospel blues. The class is open to everyone and can be taken for credit or just for fun."

For more information about SCSEP, contact 618-688-1180.

### From the Manager's Desk

August is National Back to School Month, and at SCSEP,



we are not only emphasizing the need to educate our children and grandchildren; but also for program participants, as well. It's not too late to get that education you have always thought about.

Baby boomers entering their retirement years are heading back to school to boost their job skills. If you're wondering where the 55+ set is going in droves, the answer is clear: community college. For many, it has breathed new life into their golden years and given them purpose that they'd been missing. Remember, it's never too late to learn!



Gary D. Woods  
SCSEP Program  
Manager

## National Senior Citizens Day is August 21, 2018



Do you have an elderly person in your life that you love and appreciate? August 21—National Senior Citizens Day—is the day to let them know how much you care about them. Senior citizens have contributed much to our communities and helped make them what they are today. Take the day to show them appreciation, support and recognition.

In 1988 Ronald Reagan declared the holiday, but prior to this many observed August 14 as Senior Citizens Day as it was the day Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act in 1935. Today, senior citizens are still very active in their communities and the workforce. They still contribute heavily to our society and for what they have achieved and continue to achieve, they deserve our thanks.

[www.caritasfamilysolutions.org/scsep](http://www.caritasfamilysolutions.org/scsep)

