

Lock Haven University

Official Release

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Release Date: 6 October 2011

Meeting the need for blood LHU fraternities respond to the call



Photo caption: Donors preparing to give blood are (left to right) Shelley Schenck, APSCUF office manager; Denise Shoemaker, assistant to the provost and vice president for academic affairs; Stefan Armstrong, member of Alpha Chi Rho; and Anthony Joy, LHU student.

By the end of September, blood supplies in Central Pennsylvania were at an all-time low. The widespread flooding in September had caused many blood drives to be postponed or cancelled, and the need for blood was critical.

On October 6 the American Red Cross held a successful emergency blood drive at Lock Haven University, thanks to the LHU fraternities who came together to make it happen.

Marge Smith, Representative for Donor Recruitment, called and asked if there would be a chance that LHU would support a Self Contained Unit on campus. A Self-Contained Unit is a large blood donor bus that allows 4 donors in at one time. The proposed donation target of 24 units was smaller than the normal LHU target of 150 units.

Wendy Walsh, Interfraternity Council (IFC) adviser, asked the IFC Board if they could host the emergency drive and help get donors. The students of IFC were more than happy to help out.

Dr. Linda Koch, vice president for student affairs, sent an email to all students about signing up for an appointment. Over 100 student, faculty and staff responded. Many had to be turned down as there were only 30 appointments.

The Blood Donor Bus came early in the morning, parking outside of the Student Recreation Center. Walsh commented, "We were able to collect 26 good units of blood in a 5 hour time span, with the nurses working nonstop." She added, "We had to turn so many students away on email and many more students and community members came to see if they could donate without an appointment." Stefan Armstrong, member of Alpha Chi Rho fraternity and IFC secretary, said, "It was fun and so rewarding to help out with the blood drive."

Walsh praised LHU fraternities Alpha Chi Rho, Alpha Sigma Phi, Kappa Delta Rho, Phi Mu Delta and Pi Lambda Phi for "pitching in to make it all happen."

Lock Haven University is a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), the largest provider of higher education in the commonwealth. Its 14 universities offer more than 250 degree and certificate programs in more than 120 areas of study. Nearly 405,000 system alumni live and work in Pennsylvania.