Kim Karim Library Services Specialist Snowden Library, Lycoming College

In November of 2024, I was lucky enough to be awarded \$400 from the Associated College Libraries of Central Pennsylvania (ACLCP) Research and Publication Grant. This money was used to implement a Care Corner in Snowden Library on the campus of Lycoming College, which is where I work as the Library Services Specialist, specifically in the area of Access Services. I directly supervise student employees and also interact with the student body on multiple occasions throughout the day.

Because of my frequent interaction with students, it became apparent that there was a need for some additional resources for our student body that weren't already available through other services on campus. While students come into the library to use the many services we offer – such as research help and book borrowing – I wanted additional resources available for students who might not fall into the categories mentioned above.

The idea of the Care Corner stemmed from our own library's mission. Snowden Library is an active advocate for students' educational needs, as students from all backgrounds have the right to an education without restrictions or barriers. In an effort to meet the needs of our students, we are committed to providing educational resources as well as supplies required for proper hygiene and wellness. The lack of these critical resources and the shame associated with asking for help can prevent students from wanting to go to class or participate in programming geared toward building community. By keeping an inventory of basic hygiene supplies, we wanted to support our student body by helping to eliminate a potential obstacle for anyone struggling with their basic needs.

Part of Snowden Library's mission is to contribute to the cultural and intellectual life of the student body as well as collaborating with faculty to provide instruction and support to students. Through our services in the classroom and this program, we hope to continue to provide a solid foundation for all students.

Because of the generosity of the ACLCP's grant, I was able to make my vision a reality. I am beyond thrilled to have had the opportunity to work on this program design and see it come to life. From building an initial inventory list, to purchasing the items and building the space in the library, it was a labor of love that I am proud to say I had a part in bringing to our library.

I am excited for the students to use the resources we have provided to them and hope the future of the program will be as bright as its beginning. Thank you again to ACLCP for the opportunity!