



LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE *Network*

DECEMBER 2016

UPCOMING JANUARY EVENTS

- 2 COLLEGE CLOSED - WINTER BREAK
- 3 College Reopens
- 4 Faculty/Staff Workshop
Accuplacer Testing
9 a.m., Williams Hall 119
- 5 Faculty/Staff Workshop
- 9 Spring Semester Begins
Tuition & Fees Due
- 11 Phi Theta Kappa Cookie Sales
10-1, Williams Hall Foyer
Accuplacer Testing
1 p.m., Williams Hall 108
- 14 Pearson VUE Testing
9 a.m., Williams Hall 117/118
- 16 COLLEGE CLOSED - MLK Holiday
- 19 Safety Council Meeting
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
- 23 Last Day to Register for Spring Semester
Last Day for Refund of Tuition/Fees
Auditions for *The Music Man*
6 p.m, Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 24 Auditions for *The Music Man*
6 p.m, Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 25 Phi Theta Kappa Cookie Sales
10-1, Williams Hall Foyer
- 26 LTC Foundation Meeting
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
- 28 A Winter Day in the Garden
7:30 a.m., Student Union
Pearson VUE Testing
9 a.m., Williams Hall 117/118

FOOD DRIVE COLLECTS NEARLY 6000 ITEMS



The Lincoln Trail College Student Senate collected nearly 6,000 items of non-perishable food during a month-long food drive. The food will be divided between food pantries in Robinson and Palestine, the Oblong Children’s Christian Home and a new program being started at Lincoln Trail College that will help students in need.

“I couldn’t be more proud of the efforts of our students,” said Student Senate advisor Cyndi Boyce. “They worked hard on this project because they know there’s a need in the community and they wanted to help.”

The Student Senate collected the items during the month of November. There were drop-off points at Lincoln Trail College and at County Market in Robinson.



Student Senate members Connor Smothers and Carlee McFarland along with advisor Cyndi Boyce donate items to the Robinson Food Pantry.

“We got the idea because it is around the holidays and people are struggling with their incomes and getting enough to eat,” said LTC Student Senate president Connor Smothers. “We wanted to give our students a chance to give back to the community.”

“We really want to thank everybody that made donations to our food drive,” said Boyce. “This is a very giving community and the generosity of the people that donated will help many people in need.”

LTC President Dr. Ryan Gower says when students take on tasks like this, they grow as individuals. “We talk a lot about what we want our students to learn at Lincoln Trail College. We want our students to know how important it is to support the community and to help those that need a helping hand.”

There was also a competition as a part of the food drive. LTC competed against Wabash Valley College to see which college could collect the most food. LTC collected a total of 5,921 items while WVC collected 1,047. LTC’s Welding Program made a trophy that LTC can display as victors.



Gower wants the friendly competition to not only continue, but to expand to include Frontier Community College and Olney Central College. He says a new report released by the Community College Assessment Lab at San Diego State University shows that food insecurity is on the rise among community college students across the nation.

“This was a friendly competition, and winning is nice,” said Gower. “But the best news of all is that both colleges will be making major contributions to local food pantries and making large strides in addressing food insecurity for members of our community.”

LTC FOUNDATION THANKS DONORS



The Lincoln Trail College Foundation hosted its first donor appreciation banquet Nov. 17. “It is important for us to thank those who give and to share with them how their gifts are being used to make a difference in our community,” said LTC Foundation Executive Director Rod Harmon.

“This is a season of thanksgiving and generosity. We want to acknowledge those who support Lincoln Trail College,” said Harmon. “Their partnership allows a college degree to be accessible for anyone who seeks the opportunity to grown and learn. Their support of the Lincoln Trail College Foundation has

made a difference in the lives of hundreds of local students.”

There were 120 people in attendance at the banquet which was held at Quail Creek Country Club. Several current and former students who have received support from the Foundation were on hand to share with donors how scholarships assisted them in meeting their educational goals.....*continues on Page 3...*

“The Lincoln Trail College Foundation has made significant contributions to our students and to our campus,” said LTC President Dr. Ryan Gower. “This Fall alone the Foundation has provided \$106,000 in scholarship funds and another \$25,000 to help with our enrollment management efforts.”

Gower said the LTC Foundation plays a key role in making sure that the college has the resources it needs to succeed. Gower said that’s in large part because the community has come together to support Lincoln Trail College. He believes that the importance of community support will grow as institutions of higher education continue to face budget uncertainty.

“The challenges we are facing are real and will likely persist for several years. Our responsibility is to continue to meet our educational mission while also laying the groundwork for future growth and the development of our campus. The Lincoln Trail College Foundation has been and will continue to be a vital partner in this process.”

Despite the uncertainty of the state budget, Gower remains optimistic about the future of Lincoln Trail College. The college is consistently ranked as one of the best community colleges in the nation. This reputation helps to build strong relationships with four-year colleges and lends credibility to LTC graduates who seek to enter the workforce.

At the conclusion of the banquet, Gower thanked the supporters of the Lincoln Trail College Foundation for their generosity and shared with them his vision for enhancing the excellence of the programs at Lincoln Trail College.

THE NEED FOR STRATEGIC GOALS

BY DR. RYAN GOWER

Lincoln Trail College (LTC) is a vital contributor to the health and well-being of the communities it serves. Since its inception in 1969, LTC has offered a wide variety of certifications, career and technical opportunities, and two-year degree programs allowing residents to realize their educational and professional goals. The quality of the educational experience afforded to LTC students has been recognized by the Aspen Group (2011, 2013, 2017) and by *USA Today Colleges*. While Lincoln Trail College is justified in being pleased with its accomplishments, it recognizes the need to continue to look for new and innovative ways to put “[Students First](#).”

Toward these ends, Lincoln Trail College has been actively revisiting the manner in which it will achieve its educational mandate. Institutions of higher education increasingly find themselves operating in a challenging and often unforgiving environment. State regulations, demands of accrediting bodies, and a public that is increasingly skeptical of the return on investment they will realize, all place enormous pressure on institutions of higher education to deliver more. At the same time, the level of state financial support has fallen to a record low and the number of traditional college-aged students available to enroll continues to decline. Without change, internal to LTC or in our external environment, current conditions are sure to lead to suboptimization.

In the midst of these uncertainties, Lincoln Trail College must have a clear sense of purpose and a vision for our future.

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This understanding will guide us in the wise allocation of our current resources, and allow us to understand where strategic cuts could be made so we can allocate new or existing funds toward initiatives that will enable us to impact more students in meaningful ways. As such, our strategic goals include:

Goal 1 – Deliver Exceptional Education

Putting students first has always been the hallmark of IECC and Lincoln Trail College. Recognizing that exceptional education is more than job training or providing opportunities for students to learn, LTC will seek to provide courses and experiences that develop men and women of high character and capacity.

Goal 2 – Foster Excellence in Faculty

Lincoln Trail College must recruit and retain faculty who are both experts in their fields and capable of meeting the needs of a highly diverse student body. Our faculty must be committed to on-going professional development and prepared to leverage emerging technologies to enhance student learning experiences.

Goal 3 – Cultivate and Steward Resources for Strategic Growth

Institutions of higher education are entering into an era of unprecedented uncertainty. Lincoln Trail College must have clearly a defined sense of purpose and trajectory if we are to be able to continue to meet our mission. Just as it will be necessary to steward our current resources, Lincoln Trail College must expand philanthropic support to invest in key strategic initiatives.

Goal 4 – Impact our Local Communities

Lincoln Trail College will play a tangible role in improving the quality of life for residents of our local communities. We will continue to provide a well-trained workforce and will seek to strengthen ties with regional partners with the goal of contributing to increased physical and social health as well as the economic development of surrounding counties.

In the months ahead, the faculty and staff of Lincoln Trail College will corporately identify the **initiatives and metrics** we will use to gauge our effectiveness in meeting our strategic goals. Our plan will be finalized in May 2017. This will be a three-year strategic plan designed to guide our efforts through the end of 2020. While it is understood that specific details of the plan may need to be adapted to internal or external realities that may emerge, it will serve as a framework that communicates our purpose, values, and priorities.

Our First Initiative - The Statesmen Blueprint.

In the Fall of 2016 members of the LTC Executive Committee began working on the first initiative supporting our first goal. ***The Statesmen Blueprint process is intended to help LTC identify institutional-level priorities and learning outcomes appropriate for students who are and will be engaging complex social, cultural, and economic problems.***

The Blueprint process has two initial steps. The **first step** is to develop a collective understanding and agreement of what the end result of our labors should be. The Executive Committee set out to have broad and open-ended conversations about institutional learning outcomes and goals for student experiences at Lincoln Trail College.

With the shared perspective that the student is our “product”, and with the understanding that education can and should be more than “training”, members of the Executive Committee began to develop an aspirational vision of the ideal LTC graduate. It was determined that all graduates of Lincoln Trail College should:

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KNOW	BE ABLE TO	VALUE
Themselves	Demonstrate Professional Behaviors	Integrity
Opportunities (career/educational)	Communicate	Personal Responsibility
Organizational Resources	Establish & Achieve Goals	Hard Work
Community/Regional Resources	Lead & Motivate	Life-Long Learning
Professional and Business Skills	Access & Use Information	Respect
Individual Value	Collaborate	Themselves
Information Literacy	Think Critically	Community
Digital Literacy	Secure Gainful Employment	Service/Giving Back
Financial Literacy	Pursue Continuing Education	Diverse Perspectives
Cultural Literacy	Apply Knowledge/Problem Solving	Lincoln Trail College
	Self-Aware/Self-Reliant	
	Rebound From Failure	

Through the course of group discussion, it became clear that these attributes are not ones that can be transmitted in a single course or experience, but are ones that will need to be integrated into a series of sustained and repeated curricular/co-curricular activities over the duration of the student experience with LTC. There was a general consensus in the group that the programs at LTC were providing opportunities for students to acquire some – but not all – of the desirable attributes. It was noted that our most engaged students are finding ways to develop many of these characteristics through their involvement in activities like Phi Theta Kappa, Student Senate, Internships, or Work Study experiences, but that it is altogether too easy for other students to revert to doing the bare minimum to complete degree requirements. As such, it will fall to faculty and staff to develop and coordinate initiatives that permeate all aspects of the LTC student experience. The group additionally recognized that any institutional learning outcomes developed would be unproductive if campus failed to also identify ways we could assess our progress toward achieving them.

The **second step** in the Blueprint process seeks to uncover the institutional values or characteristics of Lincoln Trail College that should be maintained (if not enhanced) in the midst of change. Members of the Executive Committee developed a list of material characteristics and conditions for which we are, or aspire to be, known to possess. The following areas have preliminarily been identified as hallmarks of the Lincoln Trail experience:

1. **Exceptional Faculty.**
 - a. Faculty members who are experts in their fields.
 - b. Faculty who embrace technology and bring best practices into the classroom.
 - c. Faculty who provide individualized instruction.
2. **Access & Affordability.**
 - a. Affordable tuition.
 - b. Financial Aid/Scholarships.
3. **Experiential Education.**
 - a. Learning through doing in transfer & CTE.
 - b. Labs, clinics, & domestic study.

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4. **Family Atmosphere.**
 - a. Students are known by name.
 - b. Integrated faculty and student service units.

5. **Community Involvement.**
 - a. Responsive to the needs of the region.
 - i. Industry/Job Training
 - ii. Community/Enrichment
 - iii. Citizenship & Giving Back

The Statesmen Blueprint will be revisited in the Spring 2017 Faculty and Staff workshop. All faculty and staff will have an opportunity to review and contribute to the first two steps. We will collectively seek to identify both gaps and opportunities to create stronger learning opportunities for our students. Diverse working groups will then be formed and each group will be tasked with developing goals and assessment strategies for the Statesmen Blueprint. The Executive Committee will review and compile these reports into a single document complete with a process and timeline for adoption and implementation. At the completion of the Statesmen Blueprint process, faculty and staff will have developed a collective and shared vision of “A Statesmen” and will have advanced a plan to guide the campus in realizing its goal of providing an [exceptional education](#).

Next Steps

Over the course of the next five months, the faculty and staff at Lincoln Trail will continue to flesh out initiatives for all four of our strategic goals. We will also identify the metrics we will use to evaluate our performance. Beyond the more obvious benefits of having a strategic plan (clearly defined goals & purpose, continuous improvement, etc.) it is hoped that our *process* will allow for enhanced communication and will allow for a shared understanding of our efforts and increase the collective ownership in meeting our stated goals. These are exciting times to be a Statesmen!



SHIMKUS SPEAKS AT LTC

Congressman John Shimkus spoke to Lincoln Trail College students and International students about what he does, how to get elected to Congress, and how Congress works. Shimkus also answered questions from students on a variety of topics.



WELDING PROGRAM DONATES BASKETBALL HOLDER

The Welding Program at Lincoln Trail College made this basketball holder for Oblong High School. It holds about 30 basketballs and is designed to automatically feed the balls from top to bottom.

LTC OFFERING FREE GED CLASSES IN JANUARY

Lincoln Trail College will offer classes this fall that will help you earn your GED.

The classes meet in the evening beginning Jan. 9 at 4 p.m. You can preregister by calling 618-544-8657 and asking for either extension 1134 or 1020.

The classes have no tuition and there is no cost for books for students.

LTC OFFERING SPRING MARTIAL ARTS CLASSES



Lincoln Trail College will offer martial arts classes for adults and children this spring.

The college will once again offer Karate for Kids I and II this spring. Karate for Kids is open to area youth ages five-and-up. Karate for Kids I meets Mondays from 6-6:50 p.m. in the Activity Annex beginning Jan. 9 while Karate for Kids II meets from 7-8:50 p.m. Mondays beginning Jan. 9.

Karate for Kids covers basic martial arts concepts, self-defense and movement in a program that will provide students improved confidence and self-esteem. The instructor brings many years of instruction to the classroom and will provide a fun atmosphere for the kids.

Tae Kwon Do classes begin Jan 9. The classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-8:50 p.m. The cost is \$90.

For more information, or to register for any of the martial arts courses, call (618) 544-8657, ext. 1427.

2016
Happy Holidays
Wishing you a Happy Holiday and a joyful New Year.
Best wishes from the faculty and staff at
LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE



JANUARY SPORTS CALENDAR

Men's Basketball

7	at Kaskaskia	3:00
11	Rend Lake	7:30
14	at Vincennes	6:00
18	John A. Logan	7:30
21	at Lewis & Clark	3:00
25	Olney Central	7:30
28	Wabash Valley	7:30

Women's Basketball

7	at Kaskaskia	1:00
11	Rend Lake	5:30
14	at Vincennes	4:00
18	John A. Logan	5:30
21	at MacMurray	5:30
25	Olney Central	7:30
28	Wabash Valley	7:30

WITTY SIGNS WITH GREYHOUNDS



A third member of the Statesmen baseball team signed a commitment in November. Left handed pitcher Myc Witty (Indianapolis Lawrence North) committed to the University of Indianapolis.

Statesmen coach Kevin Bowers says that Witty truly earned his opportunity. "Myc has earned everything he has gotten in life and this scholarship is a testament to all the hard work and effort he has put in on the field and the classroom. To receive a scholarship of this size speaks to the type of student-athlete he is."

Witty's freshman season was cut short due to a forearm injury, but Bowers says they expect Witty to be a big time contributor on the mound for the Statesmen this spring.

Witty joins pitchers Jared Wilson and Brad Busald in making early commitments for the Statesmen. Wilson will transfer to Western Kentucky after finishing at LTC while Busald because the third Statesmen pitcher to commit to a Big Ten university by choosing to play at Indiana University next year.

Bowers says LTC is fortunate to have players like Witty, Wilson and Busald. "The program has been spoiled with kids like these. They are outstanding students as well as good baseball players. I have been fortunate to have guys like them that can handle themselves both on the field and in the classroom."

He says their success also helps the LTC baseball program. "This opens doors for us in recruiting and that helps us tremendously. We are lucky to have that caliber of kids in our program and it speaks volumes for what is going on in our program."

Bowers says he expects more players to sign with four-year programs in the spring.

Follow the Statesmen at
ltcathletics.com