



# LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE *Network*

JANUARY 2016

## UPCOMING FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 1 **Compass Testing**  
7:30 a.m., Williams Hall 119
- Children's Art Show Reception**  
4:30 p.m., Library
- 3 **Compass Testing**  
7:30 a.m., Williams Hall 119
- Phi Theta Kappa Cookie Sales**  
11-1, Williams Hall Foyer
- 4 **Homecoming Skit Night**  
6 p.m., Theater
- 5 **Compass Testing**  
7:30 a.m., Williams Hall 119
- Homecoming Pep Rally**  
7 p.m., Sports Center
- 6 **Pearson VUE Testing**  
8 a.m., Williams Hall 117/118
- Cheer Clinic**  
8 a.m., Sports Center
- Homecoming Dance**  
10 p.m., Activity Annex
- 9 **Health Awareness Fair**  
8 a.m., Gym
- FAFSA Completion Night**  
4 p.m., Williams Hall
- 10 **Phi Theta Kappa Cookie Sales**  
11-1, Williams Hall Foyer
- 15 **College Closed: President's Day**
- 17 **Phi Theta Kappa Cookie Sales**  
11-1, Williams Hall Foyer
- 18 **Safety Council Meeting**  
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
- 19 **Brown Bag Lunch: Phi Theta Kappa**  
12 p.m., Cafeteria
- 20 **Pearson VUE Testing**  
8 a.m., Williams Hall 117-118
- 24 **Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony**  
6 p.m., Cafeteria
- 25 **LTC Foundation Meeting**  
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
- Vegetarian Diet Program**  
6 p.m., Library

## HARRIS REFLECTS ON WHAT LTC MEANS TO HER AND WHAT IT SHOULD MEAN TO YOU



For those of you who may not know me please let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Kathryn Harris and for the last 35 years I have been employed by Illinois Eastern Community Colleges and in particular Lincoln Trail College. I was hired in 1981, as a full-time instructor and the Women's Basketball and Softball Coach. It was a very demanding schedule but I fell in love with the teaching aspects of my profession. I gave up the coaching part of my job to focus on my class schedule and to help improve the pool offerings. That is when the idea to offer swim lessons to the

community school children took flight. We started off small by offering the fourth graders in Robinson a chance to come to the college and receive 8 swim lessons. It truly was a win-win situation as my students in my Education classes would help me instruct and the elementary school children would be learning a lifesaving and life-long fitness experience. Well 35 years later, I am happy to say for the past several years every child in Crawford County has had the opportunity to have this same experience.

Over the years I have had the chance to have many of you in my classes, or if not you someone in your family. For more than 28 years I taught an average 5 classes a semester with a typical class enrollment of 20 students. That comes out to well over 6000 students in my life time. I believe I have fulfilled the IECC mission; to deliver exceptional education and services to improve the lives of our students and to strengthen our community.

Lincoln Trail College continues to mean to me family, knowledge and leadership. One of the really wonderful experiences of living in Crawford County is the way the community comes together to support each other in times of trials and tribulations. As most of you know the state is dealing with a budget crisis. Unfortunately YOUR local community college is in the crosshairs. My last semester before retiring as YOUR College President at LT should be filled with opportunity and promise. Without a state budget in which we receive 42% of our operating budget I am forced to find ways to offer the same high quality programs with less and less revenue to do the work. This is why I am reaching out to YOU.

When I first arrived to LTC there was so much community support and don't get me wrong there still is but are you really aware of what YOUR community college can and does do for YOU? Are you aware that... *(continued on page 2)*

...the instructors that we have teaching transfer level courses are experts in their fields? They choose to teach at this level for the joy of sharing their knowledge and for the opportunity to know their students by name and not just by a number. Are you aware that our Career and Technology programs are taught by industry experts and most have a direct line to full-time employment? Just because we have the lowest tuition in the state does not mean you will not get a quality education. It just means that the education that you get from any of the IECC colleges will leave YOU with less debt and the knowledge and skills to be eligible for full-time employment. Are you aware of our world class Performing Arts department? That even in a small community such as ours, you or your children can explore theater, music lessons, karate, swimming and other athletic clinics. Are you aware that our athletic teams play in one of the most competitive leagues in the nation? If you want to spend a fun exciting night out at the Trail we have several activities for you and your family to try. Have you had a chance to play Frisbee Golf on our Disc Golf Course? Or fish and walk the Trail around Miller Lake? Have you been out to attend one of our Foundation concerts? How about coming out and having breakfast or lunch in our cafeteria. You do not need to be a student to enjoy Judy's wonderful home cooked meals!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! How can you help? Take a class, have your family members take a class, let us do your industry training. We are always looking for tutors or volunteers. Last but not least if you are able to make a monetary donation you now have the ability to go to our website [iecc.edu/ltc/donate](http://iecc.edu/ltc/donate) and choose an area you are interested in supporting. These donations go directly into the LTC accounts.

I am often asked if there is anything the college needs. We need your support. No we are not closing but as a community we can and should assist in keeping our college progressing so we can continue to offer quality programs and activities for the citizens of Crawford County, especially when the state can't or won't support Higher Education. With a strong community effort we can make OUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE strong. If you have ideas or thoughts on how to help or if you are one of the many students that I had in class, drop me a line I would love to hear from you!

## HEALTH AWARENESS DAY



Lincoln Trail College will host a Health Awareness Day on February 9 at the Sports Center.

The event is open to the public and will give people the chance to learn about different health services available in the community. People will also be able to get simple health checks like weight and blood sugar.

Lincoln Trail College programs will have booths at the event to talk about safety topics like energy drink safety, eye protection, pesticide safety and hearing protection. They'll also have information available on patient rights.

Others from the community will be there to provide information on topics like tobacco cessation, counseling, organ donation, sports safety, cyber safety and carbon monoxide. Crawford Memorial Hospital will have a demonstration for people to see the dangers of impaired driving.

The American Red Cross will also conduct a blood drive during Health Awareness Day.

The event runs from 9-1 on February 9.

## LTC EXPANDS COMMUNITY TESTING OPTIONS

More businesses and industries are taking advantage of testing services available at Lincoln Trail College.

LTC Learning Skills Center Director Rena Gower says that the Learning Skills Center offers services that go beyond helping current students at the college. "I've become certified in several different areas so I can proctor tests for our community."

Gower says it started with Pearson VUE a few years ago. She says that it started with changes to the GED test, but it goes well beyond that. Pearson VUE offers computer-based testing in a number of fields. Gower says they've had teachers and computer professionals use Pearson VUE to get their certifications at LTC.

The testing hasn't stopped with Pearson VUE. Gower says LTC has become a location for the Crane Institute so people can get certified for crane work. LTC has recently become a location for the Illinois State Police to test candidates. Gower says LTC also offers testing for the National Council for Machinery and Lubrication certification. Most recently, LTC became authorized for testing for the Professional Evaluation and Certification Board.

LTC alumnus Les Shaffer ('77) recently took an exam to become ISO 22301 certified. Shaffer works for Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance as an auditor. He visits businesses, industries and government installations to assess their standards.

The certification exam at Lincoln Trail College meant that Shaffer, who lives in Robinson, didn't have to travel elsewhere to take the test.

Gower says that one of the goals of the testing programs at LTC. She says businesses or individuals that have testing needs can call her to make arrangements.

## LTC PRESENTING TO ROBINSON CHAMBER

Lincoln Trail College will make a presentation to the Robinson Chamber of Commerce during its February meeting.

Lincoln Trail College will showcase some of its programs to members of the Chamber and also remind them of the classes and training the college can offer to businesses and organizations.



*Use a QR scanner  
to view the videos.*

The program will be similar to one made to the Safety Council in the fall. Coordinator of Marketing and Public Information Chris Forde shot and edited 60 second videos for the Broadband Telecom, Construction, Health Careers, Horticulture, Petroleum Drilling, Process Technology and Welding programs.

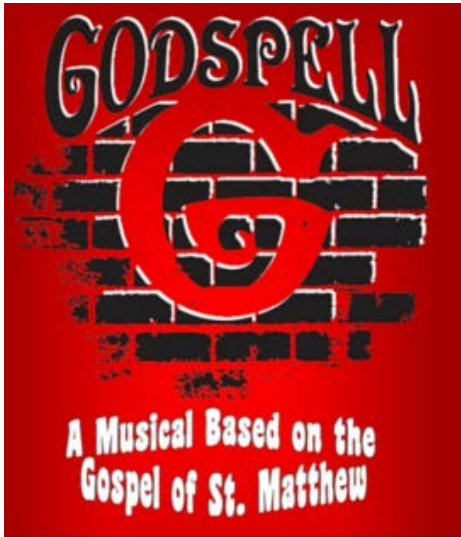
Each of the videos showcases Lincoln Trail College students in action as they learn in the classroom and get hands-on experience in each of the programs.

The presentation also includes a video of a virtual tour of Lincoln Trail College, which shows off the campus, classrooms and activities prospective students can expect when they come to LTC.

In addition to the videos, members of the Chamber will also get a cost comparison that shows the value of an education at Lincoln Trail College.

The presentation will take place during the February 11 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. They meet at noon at the Tuscany Grill in Robinson.

## LTC PREPARING FOR *GODSPELL* AUDITIONS



Lincoln Trail College will hold auditions for the Spring production of *Godspell* January 25 and 26 from 7:30-9:30 each night.

LTC Director of Theater Rusty Ruth says on each day, there will be two, hour-long sessions and people planning to audition will need to be there during the full hour of the time slot they choose.

The audition will consist of learning a part in the show from Lincoln Trail College's Music Director and a prepared piece. Ruth says those auditioning will sing approximately 32 bars of music from one of four songs from the show of their choosing. Song packets will be available at the theater office Jan. 13.

Ruth says there are ten main characters in the show, but there is a possibility more characters could be added as a part of a chorus. He says they're looking for actors high school age and older.

For a complete list of parts available, visit [lctperformingarts.org](http://lctperformingarts.org).

Performances of *Godspell* are April 1-2 and 8-9 at 7:00 p.m. and April 3 and 10 at 2 p.m.

## IMPRESSARIA WINDS PERFORMING AT LTC



The Lincoln Trail College Music Department is pleased to announce that special guest artists Impressaria Winds woodwind quintet will perform at 3 p.m., Jan. 23, 2016, as part of LTC's Winter Band Fest.

Formed in 2014,

Impressaria Winds is comprised of top level female freelance musicians residing in Indianapolis. Each member maintains an active career as performers and teachers working regionally, nationally, and internationally. The Impressarias hold contracted positions with regional orchestras throughout Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky as well as performing frequently with the Indianapolis Symphony and Chamber Orchestra.

The afternoon concert is open to the public. Tickets are \$5 for adults, free for students and children, and can be purchased at the door or by contacting the Performing Arts Office at (618) 544-8657 ext. 1433.

## WINTER BAND FEST

The Lincoln Trail College Music Department is pleased to announce its Winter Band Fest Jan. 23, 2016, co-sponsored by Hershey and Crawford County Arts.

Approximately 150 middle school and high school students from 14 schools throughout the Wabash Valley were nominated by their directors to participate in the festival honor bands.

During the day students will get the opportunity to sit under the direction of Dr. Roby George from Indiana State University and Dr. Vu Nguyen from the University of Indianapolis.

At 7:00 p.m. the bands will present a concert in the Lincoln Trail College Zwermann Arts Center. The evening concert is open to the public. Tickets are \$10 for adults, free for students and children, and can be purchased at the door or by contacting the Performing Arts Office at (618) 544-8657 ext. 1433.

## LTC HOSTING FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT

Lincoln Trail College will hosts its eighth annual FAFSA Completion Night from 4-6:30 p.m. Feb. 9 in Williams Hall.

The free event gives parents and students the chance to prepare for college in a single night. Participants can complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form online during the open house event.

“This is a great chance for students and parents to come in and talk about financial aid for college. There can be a lot of questions and we’ll have people that can answer those questions and make sure the FAFSA form is properly filled out and submitted,” says Lincoln Trail College Coordinator of Financial Aid Aaron White.

In addition to information on Financial Aid, students can get their questions about college answered at the event. Lincoln Trail College instructors will be on hand to talk about the academic and technical programs available at the college. Students can also learn about a variety of different scholarship opportunities and get answers to other college-related questions.

“You’ll get a good feel for what to expect from college at the event. You can talk with our faculty to learn about programs and courses and you can meet with our admissions staff to learn about what you need to do in the college application process and how you can enroll at Lincoln Trail College,” says LTC Director of Academic Advising and Recruitment Tyler Browning.

There are a few things participants will need to have when they attend the FAFSA Night. They will need their Social Security Number, 2015 federal tax returns, W-2s, records of any untaxed income and a FAFSA pin or FSA ID.

There will also be refreshments and door prizes available at the event.

For more information, call 618-544-8657, ext. 1150 or 1122.

## McNEIL TO PILOT AVIATORS



Lincoln Trail College alumna Brent McNeil ('09) has been named as the Lafayette Aviators' first manager.

McNeil was an all-conference pitcher for the Statesmen during his sophomore season. He finished his collegiate career at Eastern Illinois University. He was named their 2011 Pitcher of the Year.

He started his coaching career in 2013, when he served as the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator at Hesston College. He held the same position in 2014 at Lake Land College. McNeil currently serves as the Director of Baseball Operations at Indiana State University.

He was named the first manager of the Aviators December 10. The team will begin playing in the summer of 2016 in the Prospect League. The league is made up of a dozen teams in the Midwest. It features players that still have college eligibility.

Managing the Aviators will be a homecoming for McNeil. He's a 2007 graduate of Lafayette Jefferson High School and the Aviators will play on the same field where he played his high school ball.

McNeil won't be the only former Statesmen involved with the Aviators. Chris Ulrey ('08) will serve as one of the team's assistant coaches.



**FEBRUARY SPORTS CALENDAR**

**Men's Basketball**

3	at Southwestern	7:30
6	Olney Central	7:30
10	at Wabash Valley	7:30
13	Vincennes University	7:30
17	Shawnee College	7:30
20	at Lewis & Clark	4:00
23	Kaskaskia	7:30
26	John A. Logan	7:00

**Women's Basketball**

3	at Southwestern	5:30
6	Olney Central	5:30
10	at Wabash Valley	5:30
13	Vincennes University	5:30
17	Shawnee College	5:30
20	at Lewis & Clark	2:00
23	Kaskaskia	5:30
26	John A. Logan	5:00

**Baseball**

12	Dyersburg State	12:15
	Three Rivers (at Millington, TN)	
13	at Northwest Mississippi	1:00
19	Spring Swing at Atlanta, GA	TBA
20	Spring Swing at Atlanta, GA	TBA
26	Copiah-Lincoln (at Wesson, MS)	12:00
27	at Southwest Mississippi	12:00

**Softball**

12	at Jackson State	2:00
13	at Jackson State	12:00
19	Tiger Fest (at Booneville MS)	TBA
20	Tiger Fest (at Booneville MS)	TBA
27	at Gadsden State	12:00
28	at Snead State	12:00

Follow the Statesmen at [ltcathletics.com](http://ltcathletics.com)

**LTC ATHLETES EARN 3.29 GPA**



**2015 Fall Report Card**

<b>Softball</b>	<b>3.65</b>
<b>Volleyball</b>	<b>3.46</b>
<b>Baseball</b>	<b>3.37</b>
<b>Golf</b>	<b>3.11</b>
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	<b>3.03</b>
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	<b>2.96</b>
<b>Athletics Overall</b>	<b>3.29</b>

Student athletes at Lincoln Trail College had a cumulative grade point average of 3.29 on a 4.0 scale during the Fall 2015 Semester.

"As an athletic director, I couldn't be happier," says Athletic Director Kevin Bowers. "This is the true definition of student athletes."

The softball team finished with a 3.65 GPA. "I am so proud of this group. Their academic progress has just been outstanding," says coach Gary Rodgers. "When you're around this group, you can tell that they have personal goals. One of those goals is to do the best they can academically and to graduate. What I also like is that they help each other a lot."

The volleyball team carried a GPA of 3.46, baseball had a 3.37, golf finished with a 3.11, men's basketball had a 3.03 and women's basketball had a 2.96. Individually, 13 student athletes had 4.0 GPAs.

"I will tip our hats to our coaches, to our Learning Skills Center and Rena Gower, to our faculty and to all of the people that make this happen. This is the true definition of team success. It's not only the athletic department, but the whole college," says Bowers.

This is the fourth consecutive semester where the athletic department has had a cumulative GPA over 3.0.

