



LTC LAUNCHING NEW DUAL  
CREDIT ORIENTATION



JENKINS HONORED FOR  
CAREER HELPING THEATER



BASEBALL TEAM RETURNING TO  
BUSCH STADIUM

# LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

# Network



## LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE LAUNCHES NEW YEAR

Lincoln Trail College is preparing for the beginning of the 2019-20 academic year. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Lincoln Trail College

The College begins the new academic year with three days of orientation on August 12-14. The first two days are reserved for Athletic Orientation and New Student Orientation is on the 14th.

This is the second year LTC has conducted an orientation session just for athletes. LTC's student-athletes will learn about topics like making the most of the classroom experience, stress management, conflict resolution, healthy relationships, and how to effectively use social media. The student-athletes will also hear from a panel of faculty members about what they can expect in the classroom. Dr. Ryan Gower will talk with the student-athletes about what it means to be a Statesmen. The student-athletes will also learn about current issues in the NJCAA and about the College's study tables.

"We want to set up our student-athletes for success," says Advisor Erin Volk. "Athletic Orientation gives them information on a variety of different subjects, all designed to give them the tools they need for success."

New Student Orientation also covers a wide variety of subjects. College personnel will introduce themselves to

**UPCOMING  
SEPTEMBER  
EVENTS**

- 2 COLLEGE CLOSED - Labor Day**
- 4 Phi Theta Kappa Cookie Sales**  
10 a.m., Williams Hall Foyer
- 5 CNA Exams**  
4 p.m., Williams Hall 119
- 10 Nutrition Series: Cooking for 1 or 2**  
5:30 p.m., Library
- 12 CNA Exams**  
4 p.m., Williams Hall 119
- 13 IDPH CNA Evaluator Skills Refresher Course**  
8:30 a.m., Professional Annex 403/413
- 17 Paranormal Investigation Class**  
7 p.m., Student Union 207
- 18 Phi Theta Kappa Cookie Sales**  
10 a.m., Williams Hall Foyer
- 24 Paranormal Investigation Class**  
7 p.m., Student Union 207
- 26 LTC Foundation Meeting**  
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
- LTC Foundation Concert Series: Tapestry**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater



*Students check in during 2018 New Student Orientation*

the students and they'll receive a welcome from President Gower and Dean Brent Todd. Students will get an introduction to Entrata and they'll learn about campus safety. A panel of sophomore students will talk with the new students as well. The new students will also get a chance to explore different aspects of college life during New Student Orientation and tours of the College will also be available.



*Above: Amber Malone guides students during New Student Orientation. Below left: Dr. Ryan Gower talks with students at New Student Orientation. Below right: Brent Todd addresses New Student Orientation.*



## LTC LAUNCHES NEW DUAL CREDIT ORIENTATION

**JOIN US**

**AUGUST 13**  
5:45 PM - 7:15 PM  
ZWERMANN ARTS CENTER THEATER

- 5:45 STUDENT SIGN-IN
- TOUR CAMPUS TOURS AT 7:15
- BOOKSTORE WILL BE OPEN 5:30-8:00 PM
- RSVP BY CALLING 618-544-8657

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE  
**ORIENTATION**  
FOR DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS

**LT**  
LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

Lincoln Trail College is launching a new orientation for students taking dual credit classes this year. Dual Credit Orientation is slated for August 13 from 5:45-7:15 PM.

Lincoln Trail Advisor Erin Volk says the idea behind the event is to make sure students taking dual credit classes are fully prepared for the college experience. “In talking with the Dean and Assistant Dean, we saw a need to make sure we connect with these students to make sure they are prepared for the difference between high school classes and college-level classes.”

Volk says the students will get a chance to learn about how dual credit classes

can help prepare students with general studies classes and with classes to help kickstart a career. One of the career paths that will be highlighted is in welding, where students can nearly complete a welding certificate while still in high school.

The orientation will also help students better understand the terminology used at Lincoln Trail and the expectations students will have for study time. The program also covers transcripts and how students can make financially smart decisions for college by taking dual credit classes.

“Dual credit has continued to grow,” says Volk. “Many parents are seeing dual credit classes as a way for students to get a jump start on a college education. We want to make sure that students understand all of this. Many of these topics are covered at our New Student Orientation, but many dual credit students start taking classes before ever attending that.”

Volk says one of the reasons this is so important for students is because there can be consequences if they make mistakes in dual credit classes. She says since these are college-level courses, they will follow students, whether that is as they apply for jobs and need a college transcript or if they are entering college as a full-time student.

“There have been students that don’t take dual credit classes seriously and we’ve seen students start college on academic probation or they have issues with financial aid. We’re don’t want students to see barriers when they start college, so this event will help them understand what these classes can do for them.”

Volk says that LTC has a great working relationship with the local high school guidance counselors, and she says they do a great job helping prepare students for the college experience, but at the same time, Volk says dual credit orientation is about making sure Lincoln Trail does its share in educating students.

## FACULTY AND STAFF PREPARE FOR NEW YEAR WITH WORKSHOP

Lincoln Trail College faculty and staff prepared for the upcoming academic year with the annual Faculty and Staff Workshop on August 8.

The event opened with remarks from President Dr. Ryan Gower, LTC Foundation Executive Director Rod Harmon, United Way Community Resource Representative Barbara Shimer, and Dean of Instruction Brent Todd.

Retention Coordinator Jamie Carman talked with personnel about the retention office and the importance that faculty stay on top of filing progress reports. She also told employees that everyone has a part in retention, whether or not they are an instructor.

Carman and Learning Skills Center Director Rena Gower spoke about changes in the LSC for athletes. The changes will improve how the LSC and athletes interact and study throughout the year. Athletes that are struggling in the classroom will have additional study time and study seminars to help them improve in the classroom.

Coordinator of Marketing and Public Information talked about the College's brand guidelines and social media, specifically about the importance of employees sharing the College's social content to increase its reach.

The afternoon session was a poverty simulation put on by the University of Illinois Extension. Employees role played based on information they were given. Each scenario was based off real-life events, designed to help people understand the challenges faced by people living in poverty.

"The Extension's poverty simulation is an activity I've wanted to offer at LTC since I started with the College," says Todd. "We have a diverse student body in terms of socioeconomics. When we provide support, make recommendations, or attempt to assist our students in the various circumstances they face, we tend to frame our solutions from our socioeconomic backgrounds. Unfortunately, there is not a one-size-fits-all solution to our students' challenges. This activity was important because it allowed us to walk in someone else's shoes and made us realize that the solutions we offer and the advice we give to our students may need to come from a different frame of mind."

Faculty and staff had additional workshop seminars open to them as well. A CPR class was available to all employees and there was a faculty meeting to discuss the upcoming year. Faculty and staff also had the chance to meet new Bookstore Manager Cristina Siegel.

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## PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR THEATER GALA



Fundraising for the Theater Renaissance project at Lincoln Trail College continues and the committee working on plans for the College's 50th Anniversary is planning an event this spring to raise money. The Close the Gap event will take place March 7, 2020 at the Stoney Ridge Event Center.

The gala event is still in the final planning stages, but it will feature dinner, entertainment, and a fundraiser for the final phase of the Theater Renaissance project.

## LTC ANNOUNCES 2019-20 PRODUCTIONS

The Performing Arts Department at Lincoln Trail College, has announced the productions for the 2019-2020 season. The madcap murder mystery *Clue: On Stage* will be presented in the fall, and the spring production will be Roald Dahls' *Matilda, The Musical* with its high-energy dance numbers and catchy songs.

Tara Gallion, Children's Summer Theater Director with numerous memorable performances of her own including most recently the title role in *AIDA* and the Witch in *Into the Woods*, takes over directorial duties from Barbara Shimer who recently announced her retirement.

*Clue: On Stage* is based on the Paramount Pictures film and the popular Hasbro board game. Adapted for the stage by Jonathan Lynn, Hunter Foster, Eric Price, Sandy Rustin, it brings the audience into a very unusual dinner party. The guests all have aliases. The butler has an assortment of weapons, but the host is dead. Can Scarlet, Plum, White, Green, Mustard and Peacock find the murderer before the bodies stack any higher? Five male and five females and ensemble performers make up the cast. Auditions are August 27 and 28 at 6 p.m. Audition materials will be available in early August. Performances are set for October 18-20 and 24-25.

In the spring of 2020 the Tony Award-winning Roald Dahl's *Matilda The Musical* will delight audiences of all ages. It's the story of an extraordinary girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny. The stage version includes all of the Alan Menken and Howard Ashman songs from the Disney film plus new ones by Menken and lyricist Tim Rice. This "tale as old as time" represents the best in family theater.

Roles are available for four women and six men. There are also several roles for school age children, plus ensemble roles for actors in a range of ages. Auditions will be January 13 and 14, 2020. Packets will be available after Christmas break. Performances will be at 7 p.m. on March 20-22 and March 27-28.

## JENKINS GIVEN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Steve Jenkins was honored with a Lincoln Trail College Theater Lifetime Achievement Award at the biannual Barbi Awards Ceremony on July 27 at the Stoney Ridge Event Center.

Jenkins was honored for his years and dedication building sets for the many productions in the Zwermann Arts Center Theater. Jenkins uses the set construction to give students in his Building Trades class at Robinson High School the chance to get real-world construction experience.

He's worked with several different directors at Lincoln Trail College. Barb Shimer, who recently retired as a director, praised Jenkins for his hard work and dedication and his ability to bring to life her ideas for sets.

Most recently, Jenkins helped design and build a rotating stage for the College's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Shimer praised his ingenuity for the set, which required the second rotating stage to be built on top of the main stage in the Zwermann Arts Center Theater.



**SEPTEMBER ATHLETIC EVENTS**

**Baseball**

4	Vincennes	3:00
8	at Murray State	TBA
13-14	at PUMA Classic	TBA
18	at Vincennes	4:00
21-22	at Region XXIV Tournament	TBA
28	at UI Springfield Tournament	TBA
29	Lewis & Clark (at Busch Stadium, St. Louis)	7:00

**Golf**

7-8	at Vincennes Invitational	TBA
28	at Lewis & Clark	TBA

**Softball**

7	at Mt. Carmel	10:00
8	at Terre Haute	12:00
21	at Booneville Juco Classic	TBA
22	at Lincoln Land	TBA
28	at Owensboro	3:00

**Volleyball**

3	at Illinois College	6:00
4	Rend Lake	6:30
7-8	at Joliet Tournament	TBA
9	at Wabash Valley	6:30
13	at ICC Tri-Match	12:00
16	Southwestern	6:30
18	at Kaskaskia	6:30
22	LTC Tri-Match	12:00
23	at Shawnee	6:30
25	John A. Logan	6:30
30	at Lake Land	6:30

**Women's Soccer**

4	Lewis & Clark	4:00
11	Illinois Central	4:00
14	at Parkland	12:00
17	St. Charles	4:30
21	Kaskaskia	12:00
22	Shawnee State University	1:00
25	Wabash Valley	4:00
28	at Heartland	12:00

**BASEBALL TEAM RETURNING TO BUSCH STADIUM**



The Lincoln Trail College baseball team will take the field at Busch Stadium after one of baseball's greatest rivalries. The Statesmen face Lewis and Clark in a fall exhibition game after the St. Louis Cardinals host the Chicago Cubs on September 29.

The rivalry between the Cardinals and Cubs is a storied tradition and the Statesmen are forging a tradition of their own at Busch Stadium. This year marks the fifth consecutive season the Statesmen face Lewis and Clark after the Cardinals' home finale of the regular season. The Cardinals and Cubs play at 2:15 and the Statesmen take the field at approximately 7:00.

"This is a great day for our fans and our players," says Statesmen coach Kevin Bowers. "We try to make sure that all of our healthy players can play in the game and fans will get the chance to get some great seats for this rivalry game."

Tickets for the Baseball at Busch game are available now. Fans get a ticket to the Cardinals' game against the Cubs in the afternoon and that ticket also grants admission to watch the Statesmen play.

Since it is the final homestand of the regular season, the team has some promotions available during their Fan Appreciation Weekend. Fans receive a ticket voucher for a game during the 2020 season. Fans will also get a 2020 magnet schedule. The game is also a part of the Prairie Farms Ice Cream Sundays promotion where fans can get free frozen treats at the Ford Plaza.

Bowers says his players always look forward to this event. He says the Cardinals also make the game very special for the players and fans.

Tickets for the game are available by contacting Bowers at 618-546-2269 or by emailing [bowersk@iecc.edu](mailto:bowersk@iecc.edu).

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"I'm **just** going to Lincoln Trail College."

I've heard those words uttered by many high school seniors over the past three years. The inclusion of the word "just" in the sentence above clearly illustrates that **the stigma often associated with attending a community college is alive and well**. From my perspective, if we are intent in using the word "just" in concerning the decision to attend Lincoln Trail College, we should help current and prospective students use any of the following statements instead:

- I'm "just" going to the second-highest-rated community college in Illinois.
- I'm "just" going to a community college that consistently ranks in the top 25% in the nation.
- I'm "just" going to a school where student learning is the only priority for faculty.
- I'm "just" going to a college that has better graduation rates than other area schools.
- I'm "just" going to a place where faculty and staff take the time to know me as a person, not just a number.
- I'm "just" going to a college that has highly engaged industry partners and proven pathways to employment.
- I'm "just" going to save \$35,000 by starting my 4-year degree at Lincoln Trail College.

**Our goal is to help Lincoln Trail College be seen as the obvious first choice for their college education, not a back-up plan.** Having spent most of my professional career at a land-grant university, the benefits of a community college are obvious.

**Our mission.** The mission of Lincoln Trail College is simple and straightforward – *to deliver exceptional education and strengthen our local communities*. Large four-year schools strive to do the same, but faculty at those institutions are also supposed to publish in peer-reviewed journals and secure external funding to support their research activities. Up to 60% of their time and effort is expected to be directed toward those activities. As a result, undergraduate instruction is often the activity that receives the least amount of attention. *At Lincoln Trail College, helping our students master course material is our highest priority.*

**Our classrooms.** The classroom experience at Lincoln Trail College is very different from the experience students are likely to encounter at large four-year universities. We pride ourselves on the size of our class sections – typically 25 students or fewer – to allow for more personalized instruction. While the stereotype of four-year institutions filling large lecture halls with hundreds of freshmen is often an exaggeration, there is no question that most freshman and sophomore general education classes will be much larger than what a student from a rural high school would be accustomed to. My own undergraduate experiences were filled with classes taught by teaching assistants and sometimes faculty who seemed disinterested in helping students learn. Students won't find either of those things in the classrooms at Lincoln Trail College.

**Our approach.** It is not uncommon to hear of four-year colleges using some of their foundational courses as "weed-out" experiences for competitive programs of study. At Lincoln Trail, the success of our students is our top priority. This requires our faculty to build learning experiences that account for different learning styles and different levels of ability and preparation. This approach is much more time and labor-intensive than developing lectures and standardized assessments but it ensures that every student in our classroom has multiple ways to engage and hopefully master the essential learning outcomes.

**Unfortunately, lingering stereotypes about a community college education are often self-inflicted wounds.** Because we frequently serve as a gateway for students to transfer to larger state institutions, we sometimes frame ourselves as an inferior educational good. Nothing could be further from the truth. Because of our size and



mission, Lincoln Trail College is better positioned to adapt and innovate than larger four-year schools. The needs and level of preparation of our student population are far more diverse than our four-year peers, requiring a higher level of student support and a more dedicated faculty. Beyond this, we understand that it is our responsibility to stay in-tune with the needs of our local employers and our goal is to equip students with the skills employers need today while simultaneously cultivating in them a mindset that will allow them to adapt to whatever jobs emerge in the future. Because of these connections, we are uniquely positioned to play a critical role in the economic development of the rural communities that support us with their tax dollars. Beyond the annual influx of new students, vibrant and robust community colleges should play a role in attracting new residents and enriching the quality of life of residents. Our work is complex, and our constituents are diverse. This is the work that Lincoln Trail College “just” does every day. I’m “just” proud to be associated with a group of people who make such a difference.

Forward Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Gower'.

Dr. Ryan Gower  
 President, Lincoln Trail College

