



SPORT MANAGEMENT  
STUDENTS LEARN FROM MIAMI  
HEAT



SANTA COMING TO LINCOLN  
TRAIL COLLEGE



LTC SIGNS FIRST MEN'S SOCCER  
PLAYER

# LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

## Network



## ASPEN PRIZE TOP 150 U.S. COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2011  
TOP 120

2013  
TOP 120

2017  
TOP 150

2019  
TOP 150

2021  
TOP 150

### LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE NAMED TOP 150 US COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Lincoln Trail College as one of 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. Based on strong and improving in student outcomes—including in learning, completion rates, employment rates, and earnings, and equity—15 percent of community colleges nationwide have been invited to apply for the Aspen Prize.

“People need to understand that the Aspen Prize is not about shiny buildings or fancy residence halls, it's really about the heart and soul of what a community college exists to do and that's to transform lives,” says Lincoln Trail College President Dr. Ryan Gower. “The Aspen Award is about graduation, the Aspen Award is about retention, the Aspen Award is about placing students after their time with us. The fact that we have been in the top 150 five times in recent history really is a great accomplishment for the college.”



See more about Lincoln Trail College's fifth Aspen Prize nomination. Watch the LTTV video:  
<http://www.youtube.com/LincolnTrailCollege>


**UPCOMING  
DECEMBER  
EVENTS**

- 2** **TEAS Test**  
9 a.m., Williams Hall 119
- 5** **CNA Exams**  
4 p.m., Williams Hall 119
- 6** **Last Day of Fall Semester Classes**
- Winter's Night by Candlelight Concert**  
7 p.m., Robinson FUMC
- 7** **Breakfast/Brunch with Santa**  
8:30 a.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 8** **Youth Recitals**  
1:30 & 3 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center
- 9-12** **Fall Semester Final Exams**
- 10** **IECC Board of Trustees Meeting**  
7 p.m., Statesmen Grill
- 11** **Phi Theta Kappa Cookie Sales**  
10 a.m., Williams Hall Foyer
- 12** **CNA Exams**  
4 p.m., Williams Hall 119
- 13** **Last Day of Fall Semester**
- TEAS Test**  
9 a.m., Williams Hall 119
- 19-1/1** **COLLEGE CLOSED: Winter Break**

The 150 community colleges named November 5 as eligible to compete for the 2021 Aspen Prize were selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide using publicly available data on student outcomes. Located in 39 states in urban, rural, and suburban areas, serving as few as 500 students and as many as 75,000 students, these colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector.

Data show that over the last two years, student retention, graduation rates, and degree completion have improved at the top tier of 150 Aspen Prize-eligible colleges.

“Community colleges play a vital role in developing talent and enabling social mobility across the country, and it’s critical for them to get better at what they do,” said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program.

“We’re pleased to see evidence that these institutions are improving, that more are delivering on their promise. We’re also pleased to play a role in honoring outstanding community colleges and sharing what works to ensure great outcomes for students—through graduation and beyond.”

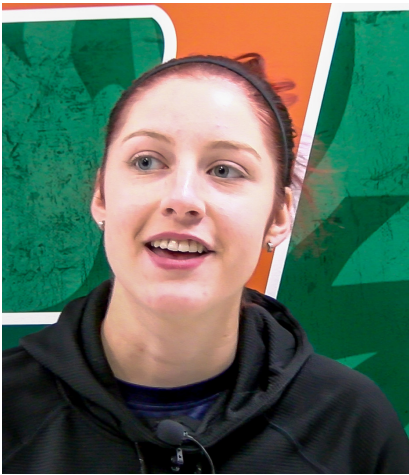
Instructor Cyndi Boyce says the honor is rewarding. She says one of the reasons why Lincoln Trail has sustained excellence is because the college makes personalized education a priority. “I think that here at LTC, our students get a lot of one-on-one attention. Students know that they can come to us at any time if they have a question or if there’s anything they need help with or if they’re not understanding something. They’re not just a number that gets pushed on to the next chapter or the next topic, instead, we do spend that time sitting down with them and make sure they truly understand that. In a lot of our classes, students get a lot of hands-on work that really helps them grasp the knowledge they need of that topic.”

Gower says it is a real honor to be selected for the fifth time. “This is a small, rural community college and the fact that we are among the top 150 community colleges in the nation is really humbling. It really reinforces the fact that we have an excellent team. We have people here who are not just working jobs, they’re here because they have a calling and they’re passionate about what they do and that’s changing people’s lives.”

The success of Lincoln Trail College and the passion of LTC faculty and staff is not lost on students like Corey Hall and Winter Harmsen. Hall is a sophomore,



*“I take a lot of pride being here at Lincoln Trail College.”*  
-Corey Hall, student



*"We have amazing opportunities and programs here."*

*-Winter Harmsen, student*

plays baseball at LTC and currently serves as the Student Trustee on the Board of Trustees while Harmsen is a first-year soccer player and is the president of Student Senate.

"I take a lot of pride being here at Lincoln Trail College," says Hall. "I think this really shows the excellence that's been carried on throughout the years here and shows the success that students have here at Lincoln Trail not just when they're here, but also after they leave here."

Harmsen says hearing about the Aspen Prize helps validate her decision to come to LTC and she says she'd recommend the College to others. "I'd tell them that the staff is the most caring and even the people in this community are so supportive of everything that we do here. They show up, they help us. JUCOs are usually seen as a lesser entity as a four-year university, but it's really not. We have small class sizes where it's really individualized education and you can get all the help you need. We have amazing opportunities and programs here. We have student jobs. We have everything you can get at a four-year university, just much more individualized and much more personalized."

## SPORT MANAGEMENT STUDENTS LEARN FROM MIAMI HEAT



Two representatives from the Miami Heat spoke to Lincoln Trail College's Sport Management program by a teleconference. Payal Doshi (left) serves as a Mobile Content Manager for the Heat while Kristen Figarola (right) is the team's Interactive Marketing Coordinator.

The two talked to the class about their jobs, how they got started in sports, and they offered Lincoln Trail College students tips for getting their careers started.

"They gave our students valuable information on how the Miami Heat use their social media content

and their mobile app to successfully market their organization and reach their fan base," says instructor Tyler Browning. "They also gave our students advice on how to utilize sport internships and networking opportunities to reach their goals as future Sport Management professionals."

Doshi and Figarola both emphasized the importance of internships to the students. They both told students to fully take advantage of the opportunities they get in the internships and how the people they network with can help them find employment in the future. They also talked about the importance of persistence in trying for internships and careers and how students can work to make their own opportunities to get their breaks in the industry.

The online visit by Doshi and Figarola was set up through networking. Coordinator of Marketing and Public Information Chris Forde met a representative from the Heat while attending the Adobe Summit in March. Through a series of emails, they were able to set up the event with Doshi and Figarola.

Browning says he looks forward to continuing to build the program's relationship with the Heat and their marketing team, which is one of the largest marketing teams in the NBA.

## SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO LTC



Lincoln Trail College will usher in the holidays with its annual Breakfast with Santa event on December 7, but the program is expanding this year. Instead of just breakfast, the program will also offer brunch and a magic show.

“We saw how popular Breakfast with Santa was last year,” says Coordinator of Marketing and Public Information Chris Forde. “We wanted to make sure that we could include more people this year and give them a very fun and memorable experience.”

Participants will choose either breakfast or brunch, which will be catered by JC Fresh Start Café. Professional photos with Santa are available before breakfast and after brunch. Families will also be able to take their own pictures.

Adding magic and whimsy to this year’s event is the TheaterWorksUSA Production of The Balsters Magic Productions: Seasons’ Greetings. The festive program features a magic elf, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, upbeat music, toy soldiers, and magically appearing snow-white doves. In the production, Tim helps a mischievous elf learn the importance of respecting the property, feelings, and beliefs of others. The family show also features audience participation.

“We’re really excited about the magic show,” says Forde. “The holidays are a magical time of year where many memories are made, and this is a chance for families to create some wonderful memories.”

The events on December 7 begin at 8:30 when families coming for breakfast can start taking pictures with Santa. The magic show begins at 10:00 and brunch and more pictures with Santa follow at 11:00.

Tickets for breakfast or brunch for adults are \$10. They’re \$7 for children while kids three-and-under are free. People that want to just see the magic show can get tickets for \$5. Last year’s event sold out and the expectation is this year’s event will sell out too.

First Robinson Savings Bank is helping the College put on this year’s Breakfast and Brunch with Santa event.

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT PREPARES FOR FALL CONCERTS



Performing Arts Coordinator Rebecca Carmack announces a number of events to close out the fall semester and celebrate the holidays.

The Lincoln Trail College Jazz Band will present a Fall Concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 19th in the Zwermann Arts Theater. The band is under the direction of Blake Reynolds, and the concert will feature a wide variety of pieces from the fun and familiar to the seasonal and sacred. General admission tickets are \$5 for adults and free for students.

Rebecca Carmack will direct our choral ensembles Friday, December 6th at 7 p.m. as they present their annual holiday concert, *Winter's Night by Candlelight*. This year's concert is an exciting collaboration between LTC's Concert Choir, Statesmen Singers, and Camerata Illiana and LTC's newest ensemble, the LTC Handbell Ensemble under the direction of Jay Regennitter. Please join them, as they celebrate the holiday season in joyous song and music. You will enjoy beautifully arranged familiar carols, such as *Silent Night*, alongside music that will be fresh to your ears, such as the gospel tune, *And Suddenly* by Michael Engelhardt. The concert will be held at the Robinson First United Methodist Church (201 W. Walnut St.). Admission is free to the public. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Finally, on Sunday, December 8th, our youngest musicians will take the stage in a pair of recitals at 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Students from LTC's community applied lesson program will showcase their hard work on piano and voice. Canned food donations will be accepted in lieu of admission.

Tickets for all Music Department events can be purchased in advance by calling the Performing Arts Office at (618) 544-8657, ext. 1433. Tickets are also available at the door the evening of the concert.



## DECEMBER ATHLETIC EVENTS

### Men's Basketball

4	Kaskaskia	7:30
7	Rend Lake	3:00
11	at Vincennes	6:00
14	Southwestern	3:00

### Women's Basketball

4	Kaskaskia	5:30
7	Rend Lake	1:00
11	at Vincennes	4:00
14	Southwestern	1:00

## MEN'S SOCCER TEAM SIGNS FIRST PLAYER



The Lincoln Trail College men's soccer program is up and running with the signing of its first player, Evan Parker, a goalkeeper from Belleville, Illinois.

"I'm very excited about it," says Parker. "I think it's going to be a pretty amazing experience."

LTC Soccer Coach Shawn Hall says he's also excited about Parker joining the team, especially because he believes he'll be a great leader. "He's definitely going to be able to bring leadership to the field. He's going to be someone who has the size and wingspan with the ability to move the ball around and command from the back. I think he's going to be able to be a general back there and get that backline organized and keep it that way."

Hall says he also thinks that Parker will be good academically at LTC. Parker says he plans to pursue either kinesiology or physics after he earns his degree at LTC.

Hall says this is the first step for the program. He plans to build the team from the back line up before he moves into filling out the midfield and forwards.

"I'm getting very, very excited about this," says Hall. "Recruiting is one of the things I like doing the most. I like going out and meeting different players and getting to know them. I like getting to know what's going on with them and figuring out how they would fit into our program. Having the girls already and having to go back to the boys and start from the back with a goalkeeper with a strong, good goalkeeper gets me very, very excited for the boys' season."

The Statesmen soccer program begins play in the Fall of 2020.