

# The Voyager

a Frontier Community College newsletter



September 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- 17 Self Defense for Women  
Bob Boyles Hall / 6:30-8:30PM
- 23 SIU-E Representative Visit  
Mason Hall Foyer / 10AM-2PM
- 24 Millikin Representative Visit  
Mason Hall Foyer / 8:30AM- 1PM
- 25 USI Representative Visit  
Mason Hall Foyer / 9AM- 12PM
- 26 Nursing Application Meeting  
LRC Rm 105 / 2-3PM
- 27 TEAS Testing  
Mason Hall 24 / 9AM- 1PM

### OCTOBER

- 1-5 Fairfield Paint Out  
Bob Boyles Hall
- 1 College closed  
District Workshop @ WVC
- 2 SPIN Recruitment Event  
6-8PM @ Workforce Dev. Ctr.
- 2 Foundation Meeting  
6-8PM @ Bob Boyles Hall
- 14 College closed  
Columbus Day
- 17 FAFSA Completion Night  
4:30PM @ Mason Hall 25
- 23 Red Cross Blood Drive  
10AM-5PM @ Nursing Lab
- 25 Nursing Application Meeting  
2PM @ LRC 105

## FRONTIER REPORTS HIGHEST ON-TIME GRADUATION RATES



Among two-year schools across the nation, Frontier Community College (FCC) has been reported as having the highest “on time” graduation rate in the State of Illinois. Of the 876 public institutions included in the report, FCC was ranked 11th highest in the nation with a 62% completion rate.

The Chronicle of Higher Education is a newspaper and website that reports on college and university affairs. They recently published a report titled “2-Year Colleges With the Best 3-Year Graduation Rates.” To determine on-time graduation rates, the Chronicle compared the adjusted student cohort with those who completed their degree within 150% of the expected time. The report utilized data from 2017.

“Completion rate, or graduation rate, is a very important metric in higher education,” said Dr. Jay Edgren, President of FCC. “In some ways, it’s a general indicator of the overall health of the institution. If we’re doing things right, our students will want to complete their degree or certificate with us. Being recognized by The Chronicle, which is one of the most highly regarded publications in higher education, is a testament that we’re meeting some of these goals.”

This is the second consecutive year that Frontier has reported the highest

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on-time graduation rate in Illinois. In a report published by SE Illinois News, 2016 data from the Department of Education indicated a 61% on-time graduation rate for FCC.

“We are very proud to be ranked first in Illinois and 11th in the nation for on-time graduation rates,” said Dr. Paul Bruinsma, Dean of Instruction. “This accomplishment shows our staff and faculty’s commitment to helping students reach their educational goals.”

The Southern Illinois region had strong representation in The Chronicle’s recent report. Joining FCC in the top 25 institutions were Olney Central College (#14, 58.5%), Rend Lake College (#16, 57.8%), and Wabash Valley College (#21, 54.7%).

“This year, our focus is on campus beautification,” said Edgren. “We are targeting our landscaping and signage, because the appearance of our campus needs to mirror the same quality that students receive in the classroom and in interactions with staff and faculty. We want our communities to be proud of all aspects of our college environment.”

## FIRST ANNUAL STUDENT PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT SET FOR OCTOBER 2

Frontier has planned a special evening exclusively for high school students and parents or guardians this fall. The event is titled SPIN, which stands for Student Parent Information Night, and invitations have been extended to students in Clay, Edwards, and Wayne County high schools. All students are welcome to attend, but the evening will be especially beneficial for seniors as they begin to make post-secondary plans. The highlight of the evening will feature the presentation of several scholarships to seniors in attendance.

SPIN will be held on Wednesday, October 2, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. in Workforce Development Center on Frontier's campus. After checking in, students and parents can visit a variety of informational booths to learn firsthand about Frontier's programs and degrees. Academic advisors and faculty members will be available to speak with students and provide information for the 2020-2021 academic year. Guests will find SPIN especially helpful for navigating financial aid, as the department will discuss the FAFSA, upcoming scholarship opportunities, and paying for college.

In addition to the information booths, Frontier will also provide a catered dinner, as well as door prizes and special giveaways. At the event's conclusion, several lucky students will receive a \$500 tuition scholarship to be used for the 2020-2021 academic year. There will be at least one winner from each high school across Clay, Edwards, and Wayne County.

Carrie Halbert, Coordinator of Recruitment and Retention, encourages students and parents to attend SPIN, even if they are still unsure of their college plans. "This event is designed to address the varying conversation topics, questions and concerns we receive from both prospective students and their parents," says Halbert. "It's a perfect opportunity to learn all about what Frontier offers, as well as the financial savings you can obtain by attending here."

Students who plan to attend are encouraged to RSVP via a Google Form, which may be obtained from school guidance counselors or the FCC website or Facebook page. Those who RSVP will be also entered to win a special giveaway.

For more information about SPIN, students and parents may contact Carrie Halbert by calling 618-842-3711 or by e-mail at [halbertc@iecc.edu](mailto:halbertc@iecc.edu).



# EDS PROGRAM RECEIVES NEW BUCKET TRUCK



*Students in the EDS Program are pictured with Gerry Kinney, Lead Instructor, and Dr. Paul Bruinsma, Dean of Instruction (bottom middle).*

Altec is a leading equipment and service provider for the electric and telecommunications industries, and students will find similar trucks and equipment when they enter the workforce. The truck also has a 60-foot working height.

“Students are working with controls and operations that are seen in over 80% of trucks used by today’s cooperatives and municipalities,” said Gerry Kinney, Lead Instructor for the EDS Program. “This is one of many ways we’re moving the program forward and growing each student’s knowledge of the industry.”

Kinney was quick to comment that training for bucket truck operation is not only necessary for the individual, but it will benefit his or her coworkers in the future. Because linemen typically work in groups or with a partner, they need to rely on the individual operating the truck from below while working in the bucket above.

Training for bucket truck operation is introduced toward the beginning of the program after students gain experience pole climbing. Just weeks into the fall semester, each of the fifteen students has become comfortable climbing thirty feet or higher.

“These students quickly learn that operating a bucket truck isn’t as easy as one might think,” said Kinney. “It can actually be more complex and require more training than pole climbing.” During a storm, linemen have to navigate around trees, power lines, and debris to get the bucket in place. Pole climbing, on the other hand, typically involves far less obstacles.

In addition to the bucket truck, Frontier has also added three certifications to the program to enhance students’ career readiness and employability. Over the program’s two semesters, students will now earn flagger certification as well as a spray applicator licensure. After graduation, students can earn a Class-A Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) through Wabash Valley College.

The EDS Program is a one-year certificate that prepares individuals to build, repair, and maintain overhead and underground electrical distribution systems while using safe practices. The program combines classroom lecture with outdoor training that features pole climbing, operating a bucket truck, setting poles with a digger truck, constructing cross arms, hanging lines, building transformers, and hurt man rescue. Many graduates of this program go on to become linemen or tree trimmers.



# ADULT EDUCATION WEEK TO BE RECOGNIZED

Frontier's Adult Education Program is preparing to celebrate the upcoming Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, which is observed September 22-28. During this time, the Adult Education Program will highlight its services to the public as well as success stories from multiple GED graduates.

Frontier currently offers GED Test Preparation on its campus and at off-site locations in Albion, Bridgeport, Flora, Lawrenceville, and Newton. Online courses are also available to qualifying students. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, IECC enrolled 298 students in the Adult Education Program and 74 graduated with their GED.

Angel Maguire, Director of Adult Education for Frontier, notes how critical the program is to the IECC district. "Part of our mission is to strengthen our communities, and Adult Education does just that," she says. "This program offers individuals the chance to achieve academic success and obtain job skills that lead to a desirable career with a sustainable wage to provide for their families." Maguire believes the success of the program is largely due to the support that Adult Education instructors provide to students.

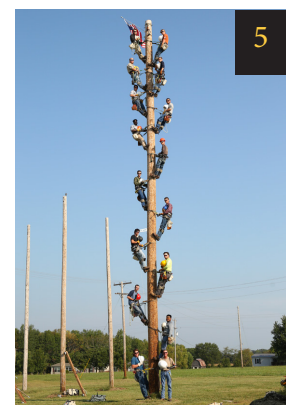
"While life happens and obstacles get in the way of their educational path, these students continue to make education one of their top priorities," says Adult Education instructor Annie Garner.

In addition to GED Test Preparation classes, Adult Education also provides transition skills classes, career bridge classes, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and literacy tutoring. All classes and services are free of charge.

## Frontier in a Flash


### *A photographic reflection of recent happenings within the FCC community*

**1 & 2)** A cookout to kick off the fall semester was held for students on August 21. Employees were set up outside the LRC to serve, including Cheryl Harl and Hayden McDuffee. **2)** President Edgren & Dean Bruinsma were on grilling duty during the cookout. **3)** Students in the Electrical Distribution Systems (EDS) Program have quickly developed their pole climbing skills, as they began training outdoors just two days into the semester. **4)** The LRC's annual Game-A-Palooza was held on September 11 to give students an entertaining break from classes. The day included a taco bar, inflatable obstacle course, ice cream sundaes, and plenty of games. **5)** EDS students put the flag on display in remembrance of the 9/11 tragedy.





# The Bobcat Beat

 @FCCBobcatsAthletics

 @FrontierBobcats

## HNETKOVSKY COACHING INAUGURAL VOLLEYBALL SEASON

### SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

#### VOLLEYBALL

- 13 vs. Kaskaskia / 3:30PM  
w/ Ancilla Univ. (Tri-Match)
- 17 vs. Vincennes University / 6PM
- 18 vs. Illinois CC / 6PM
- 20 @ John A. Logan Tournament
- 22 @ Lincoln Trail / 12PM  
w/ Parkland (Tri-Match)
- 24 @ St. Louis CC / TBA
- 27 vs. Wabash Valley / 6:30PM
- 28 @ Shawnee / 10AM

#### BASEBALL

- 13 @ Puma Classic (Grand Park, IN)
- 20 @ Region 24 Fall Classic (Mattoon)
- 28 @ Vincennes Univ. / 12:30PM (EST)

#### SOFTBALL

- 21 @ Boonville Showcase / TBA
- 29 @ Murray State / 12PM (DH)



After several years of coaching volleyball at the high school level, Coach Nixie Hnetkovsky is in the thick of her first season at the college level. The new endeavor has handed her many challenges, but she has enjoyed working through them.

"The transition from high school volleyball to college play is significant for both the players and myself as a coach," said Hnetkovsky. "While high school athletes work hard to compete, college requires a faster pace and a great deal of stamina to play through 3 to 5 sets, or even more if they're competing in a tri-match." Hnetkovsky noted that the competitors this season have been quite good, so she has been giving special focus to strategy and adjusting the game physically.

Because she didn't join the volleyball program until January, Hnetkovsky was limited on time in establishing a team. "The biggest challenge was building a cohesive team consisting of players from very different programs and locations," she said. "But they are dedicated players, and it's a well-balanced team that gives me several options when making a lineup."

Hnetkovsky is looking forward to eight more weeks of competition and seeing what her first-ever college team can achieve. "The team atmosphere and mindset with which we have been blessed is the support we need to keep moving forward."