



LTC CREATES VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES TO INCREASE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



FREE LIGHTING UPGRADES AMONG COLLEGE PROJECTS



LTC ATHLETES LOG 13TH CONSECUTIVE SEMESTER WITH A GPA OVER 3.0

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE



Xavier Roberson was honored with the J. Rod Harmon Excellence in Service Award.



Sarah Kennedy was honored with the Bev L. Turkal Excellence in Leadership Award.

LTC HONORS STUDENTS AND STAFF

Lincoln Trail College honored two members of the Class of 2020 along with three staff members with awards.

Xavier Roberson was awarded the J. Rod Harmon Excellence in Service Award. The award is given to a student who has demonstrated outstanding service to the college or the community. Rod Harmon served as a faculty member at Lincoln Trail College for 27 years and has been the Executive Director of the Lincoln Trail College Foundation since 2005. He is well known for his rich sense of humor, dedication to his wife Diana, and commitment to creating opportunities for all residents of Crawford County to have access to a high-quality education.

Roberson was recognized for his work in the College's TRIO SSS program. He's served as a mentor to first-year students in TRIO SSS in addition to working in the TRIO office. Roberson helped serve as a liaison between Lincoln Trail College and the program's director during a transition in personnel at LTC. Roberson has also helped at the Crawford County Humane Society, reads to preschool students, has volunteered with the Hutsonville Baptist Church, and is a member of the Men's Basketball Team.

Sarah Kennedy was awarded the Bev L. Turkal Excellence in Leadership Award. The award is given to a student who has shown great leadership qualities and skills. This award is given to honor Bev L. Turkal, a true leader in education, whose passion was to make a difference and change the lives of children, teens, adults and lifelong learners. Bev

believed to be a strong leader one must live life, care and show empathy, must have high energy and be competitive to accomplish the goals set to make things happen.

Kennedy has served as a mentor for first-year students in the TRIO SSS program. In addition to helping with events like orientation, workshops, trips, and recruiting events with TRIO, Kennedy helped form a study group to help students succeed in a chemistry class they were taking. Kennedy also served as the Vice President of Scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa and is the Recording Secretary for Student Senate.

Deanna Chrysler, Julie Higginbotham, and John Watson were each awarded with Staff Excellence Awards.



Deanna Chrysler



Julie Higginbotham



John Watson

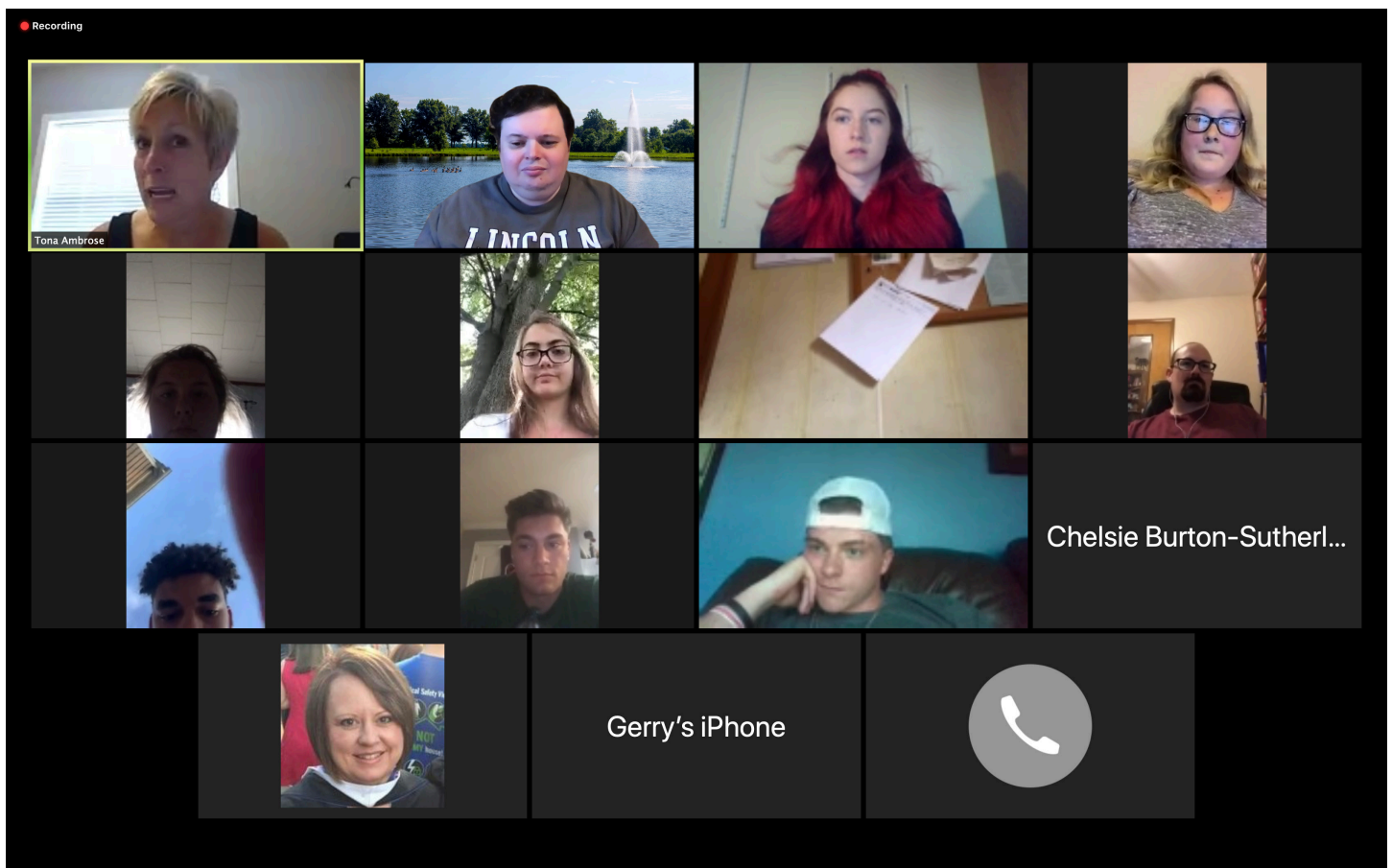
Chrysler, who serves as the Administrative Assistant to the President, has been with LTC for more than 30 years. She was recognized for her work there along with helping with numerous committees such as the Professional Assistants Group, the Professional Development Committee, and the Special Events Committee. Chrysler has been the lead for Santa Day and Breakfast with Santa for 18 years and has also managed Trick or Treat at the Trail and was the founder of LTC's Celebrate Art! event.

Higginbotham is LTC's Assistant Dean of Student Services and has also been with the College for more than 30 years. She was recognized for how much she deeply cares about students, especially those away from home for the first time that need someone to talk to. Her nomination pointed out instances where she organized a trip to Moonshine to help student-athletes bond and a time when she worked with a student on a portfolio life experience course the student needed to graduate. Higginbotham also serves as LTC's planner for graduation ceremonies.

Watson is a Custodian at LTC and has been with the College for 12 years. He was recognized for his big heart. Watson is known for doing the little extras to help faculty and staff and that he's always happy to help and prides himself in doing a job well. He was also recognized for always doing a great job representing LTC and what the College stands for.

In addition, the College also recognized faculty and staff for their years of service. Rena Gower and Sharon McElyea were recognized for ten years of service to LTC. Chris Forde, Laurie Jenkins, and Robin Zachary were recognized for five years of service and Amber Malone, Kelly Mullins, Adam Rotar, Mark Shea, and Brent Todd were recognized for three years of service.

LTC LAUNCHES NEW DIGITAL INITIATIVES TO AID IN ENGAGEMENT



COVID-19 and the State of Illinois' stay-at-home order have changed the way that colleges recruit and interact with new students. Since March, Lincoln Trail College has not been able to bring new students to campus for things like events or tours. The College has moved to online experiences to help new students prepare for their LTC experience.

LTC has launched three new initiatives this summer to help students prepare for the Fall Semester. Two Minute Tuesdays is a series on the College's YouTube channel that features current students and recent graduates talking about their time at LTC and offering students tips on ways to get the most out of their college experience. Faculty Friday is another YouTube series designed to help students get to know faculty members at LTC. The College has also launched a series of virtual panel discussions. The biweekly events give new students a chance to interact with current students and faculty and staff on topics like clubs and organizations, how to make the most of your college experience, and things the panel members wish they would have known before starting college.

“Our goals are to make the students feel welcome,” says Director of College Access Tona Ambrose. “We want to ease the pressure of transitioning to college and to make students feel totally connected to Lincoln Trail even before starting in the fall.”

Ambrose says right now, it is very important to help students feel engaged with LTC. “The current COVID-19 crisis has caused so many sudden changes in how we do almost everything, therefore it is critical that we work to keep students on track with their educational goals, offer them a sense of hope amid uncertainty and remind them to look forward to the start of a normal college semester. Offering synchronous opportunities to not only teach students about relevant topics but where other new classmates make up the virtual small groups, allows for peer-to-peer

interaction which is imperative.”

Coordinator of Marketing and Public Information Chris Forde has helped create the content for the new virtual experiences and serves as the co-host of the virtual panels. He also created the content for two other social media series: one to highlight members of the LTC Class of 2020 and another to welcome new students to LTC. “The current generation of students craves authenticity and now they’re getting a chance to interact with current students about topics that matter to them. They’re also getting to hear from other students close to their age talking about their own experiences and that’s something that will resonate with them.”



Allyssa Adams ('20) talks about her experiences in Phi Theta Kappa and the Statesmen Singers in her Two Minute Tuesday segment.

It isn't just students that are participating. In the College's first virtual panel, an out-of-state student registered but was unable to make it to the event. His parents joined the conversation and they were able to get questions answered about off-campus housing, roommates, and what kinds of things they should make sure to bring when he arrives on campus this fall.

Ambrose says she sees the College continuing events like this even after COVID-19 passes. “With an increasing enrollment that consists of students from all over the United States, as well as other countries, these virtual offerings provide an ongoing way for incoming students to engage with each other regardless of geographical boundaries. We also have local students who work full time in the summer and that often makes it difficult for them to get to campus for events and appointments during the workweek, therefore these virtual sessions, as well as social media posts, make valuable information much more accessible to everyone.”



An example of a “Welcome to LTC” graphic found on LTC social media channels. Incoming students provided information to participate in the series.

College's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/LincolnTrailCollege.

She says the feedback from the virtual events has been good so far, both from LTC students and faculty members that have participated and from incoming students. “One of our incoming students reached out to us about these events,” says Forde. “She’s participated in some of our virtual panels and she’s been reading about other new LTC students on our social media. She told us that she feels like she already knows many of our new students. That’s exactly the kind of connection we are hoping to build with these new initiatives.”

The Two Minute Tuesday and Faculty Friday series along with archives of LTC virtual panels can be found on the

FREE LIGHTING IN WILLIAMS HALL AMONG LTC UPGRADES



A contractor from Central State Construction works on replacing lights in Williams Hall. Labor was donated through the PPP loan program.



Approximately 2000 lights in Williams Hall were upgraded to new LED fixtures at no charge. O&M Team Leader Chris Ellington found the deal for the labor and materials for the project.



Restroom fixtures were upgraded in Williams Hall.



New counter tops were installed in the Anatomy Lab in Williams Hall. The new counters match student work stations installed last year.



A contractor digs trenches as work gets underway to install irrigation at Statesmen Park.



Once the irrigation work is completed field work will begin to build the competition field and the practice field to prepare them for the fall season.

LTC STUDENT-ATHLETES COMBINE FOR 3.11 GPA FOR 19-20 ACADEMIC YEAR



Volleyball player Macie Weidner examines a slide under the microscope in An Roy's Anatomy class.

Lincoln Trail College student-athletes have combined for a GPA above 3.0 for the 13th consecutive semester. In the Spring 2020 Semester, the department had a combined GPA of 3.08.

"I'm very proud of the work of the administration at LTC, the coaches, and our student-athletes," says Baseball Coach and Athletic Director Kevin Bowers. "In light of this spring's events, to stay consistent with effort and outcome is very commendable."

The volleyball team had the highest GPA among LTC's seven teams with a 3.43. The golf team was close behind with a 3.4 GPA. The softball team had a 3.15 GPA in the Spring Semester while the baseball and women's soccer teams both earned 3.1 GPAs. The men's basketball team had a 2.82 GPA and the women's basketball team had a 2.67 GPA.

For the 2019-20 Academic Year, the golf team had a 3.5 GPA and the volleyball team had a 3.38 GPA. The baseball team had a 3.18 and the women's soccer team had a 3.15 GPA. The softball team had a 3.09 GPA, the women's basketball team had a 2.89 GPA and the men's basketball team had a 2.73 GPA. As a whole, the athletic department reported a 3.11 GPA.

"Academics is very important to the coaching staff at LTC," says Bowers. "We work hard to prepare our student-athletes for the future and academics is a big part of that. We're very fortunate that we have so many ways the College works to make sure all of our students have the guidance they need to succeed. Our faculty is invested in the lives of our students and on top of that, we have a great support staff to make sure our students can get the resources they need to succeed."



LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE 2019-20 ATHLETICS REPORT CARD

SPORT	FALL '19	SPRING '20	OVERALL
GOLF	3.60	3.40	3.50
VOLLEYBALL	3.33	3.43	3.38
BASEBALL	3.24	3.10	3.18
WOMEN'S SOCCER	3.19	3.10	3.15
SOFTBALL	3.03	3.15	3.09
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	3.04	2.67	2.89
MEN'S BASKETBALL	2.63	2.82	2.73
LTC ATHLETICS OVERALL	3.13	3.08	3.11

13 CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS WITH
AN OVERALL GPA ABOVE 3.0.



Lathan Falls committed to IU-East



Tad Kapek committed to Salem University



Eric Moenkhaus committed to the University of Denver



Rutger Poiry committed to Eastern Kentucky University



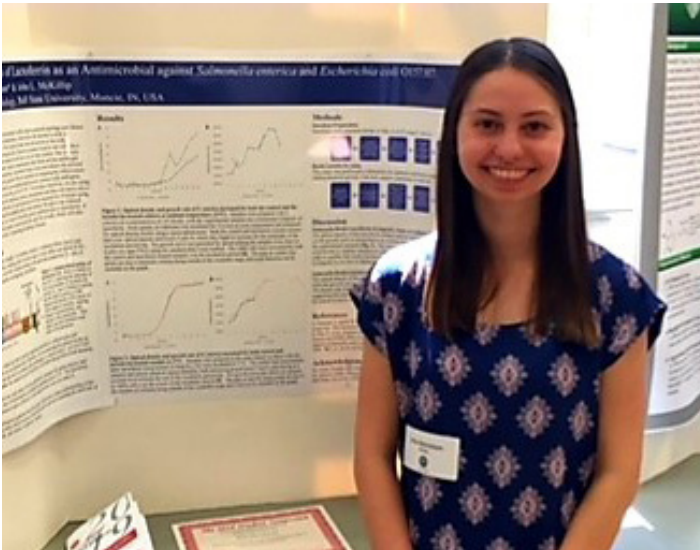
Kendall Williams committed to Cumberland University



Construction work is ongoing to build a new press box at Parker Field. The project is one of several recent projects at LTC's baseball facility.



LTC alumnus Drew Halter was recently elected as a 3L Representative at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. Halter was one of three representatives elected for his class during this year's Student Bar Association Election. Halter, who served as the IECC Student Representative during his sophomore year at LTC, is interested in public interest law and has already completed internships in both a prosecutor's office and a public defender's office.



LTC alumna Erika Biernbaum was awarded with Ball State University's Carl Warnes Award for Outstanding Teaching as a Graduate Student. Biernbaum recently earned her master's degree in biology and a graduate certificate in biotechnology. She plans to continue her career in STEM conducting microbiological and disease research.



Lincoln Trail College's 50th Annual Commencement will be held August 1 at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony will be held virtually and will be available on LTC's YouTube Chanel, www.youtube.com/LincolnTrailCollege.