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LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE
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BOYCE ELECTED CHAIR OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAUCUS FOR IBHE FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Lincoln Trail College Assistant Professor of History Cyndi Boyce has been elected as the Chair of the Community College Caucus of the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Faculty Advisory Council.

The IBHE's Faculty Advisory Council is made up of 36 representatives from across the state. There are 12 representatives each from Illinois' public universities, private and proprietary institutions, and public community colleges. The group serves in an advisory role to the IBHE. Each of the different groups of colleges is formed into caucuses to focus on issues specific to those institutions.

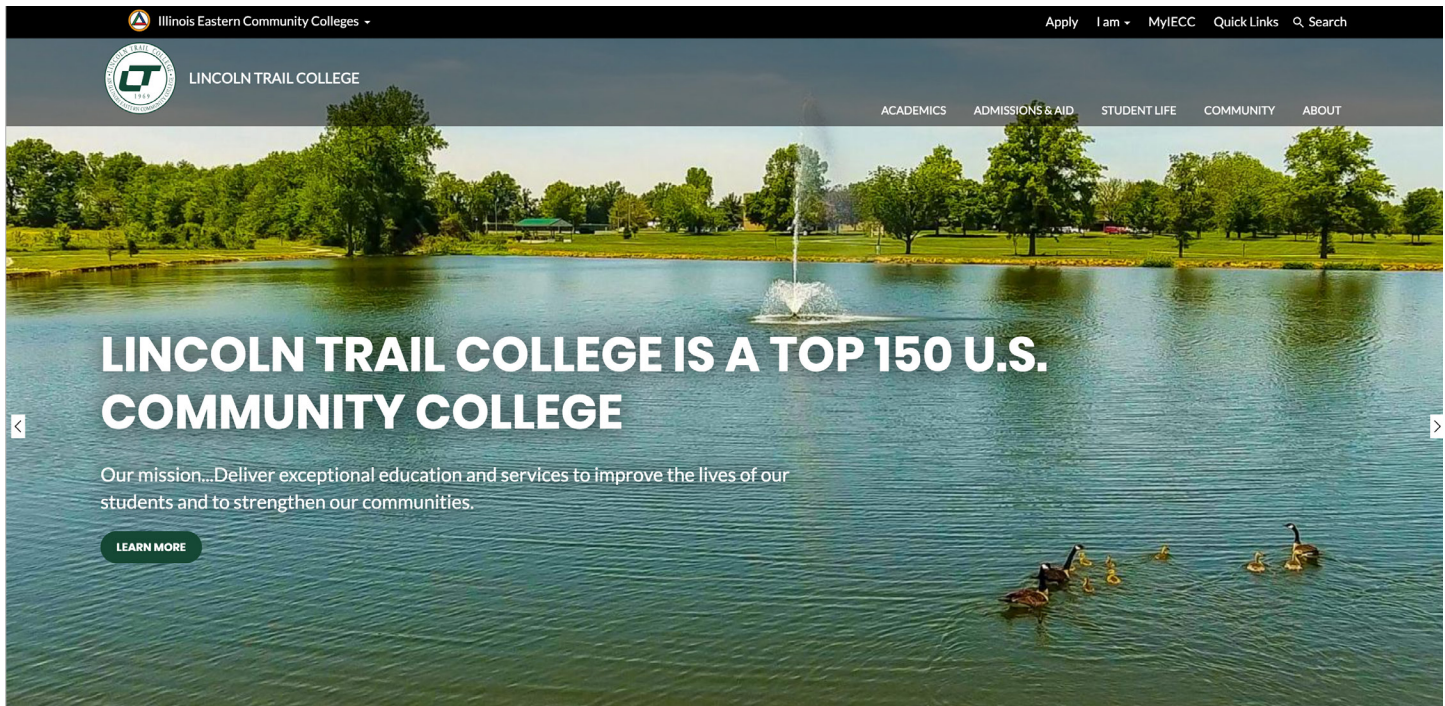
"It is an honor to serve as Chair of the Community College Caucus," says Boyce. "Serving on the FAC, during the past three years, has given me the opportunity to be a part of positively influencing higher education in the State of Illinois. I look forward to the coming academic year and working with a highly talented and influential group of educators from across the state. Due to COVID-19, the upcoming year will bring new challenges to higher education meaning the work of the FAC will be extremely important as colleges and universities attempt to fashion a new normal."

Boyce says the FAC serves as a liaison between the different institutions and the IBHE and raises and addresses issues of concern to the higher education community. She says in the past, those issues have included productivity, teacher

preparation, accountability, accessibility, legislation, performance-based funding, and budget.

In her role as the Chair of the Community College Caucus, Boyce will serve on the executive committee of the FAC along with the chairs of the other two caucuses. They will be joined by the Chair of the Executive Committee Shawn Schumacher of DeVry University, Vice Chair Julie Clemens of Illinois Central College, and Secretary Sue Wiediger of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Prior to serving as the Chair, Boyce has also served as the Secretary of the Community College Caucus and served on the Dual Credit Working Group. She currently serves on the Mental Health Working Group.

IECC, LTC LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE



As Lincoln Trail College begins recruiting for the 2021-22 academic year, prospective students have a new website to explore. Illinois Eastern Community Colleges launched a new website on July 1.

LTC's Chris Forde served as a co-chair of the Web Committee that spent over a year working on the new site. "We wanted to make sure that the target audience for our site is prospective students since that's one of the primary ways they make college choices. We knew that we needed to make sure the new site is visually bold, easy to navigate, and mobile-friendly."

Imagery and information help drive the new website, which continues on the iecc.edu domain. The District and each college has its own landing site with similar looks. When visitors arrive at the site, they'll find large images that scroll. With each image, there's the opportunity to add text and a call to action. The main pages also have flip cards as a quick navigation point for important information. News and social media are on each main page as well as a cinemagraph, which is a looping video. A new calendar feature offers a robust way to share information on upcoming events.

The site also offers a simplified menu structure that is consistent throughout the site. "We divided up what we do and put them in logical areas," says Forde. "In addition to that, we've built some new platforms like the I Am menu designed to help different populations find things they need. The new Quick Links section will be a dynamic menu

that over time will change to offer the most popular links on the site.”

The new site offers an improved search section that breaks down information based on what’s found on pages, what’s found in programs, and what’s found in the employee directory.

“One of the things I’m most excited about is our new Areas of Study page,” says Forde. “First, people will find a visual representation of our programs. We’ve also broken down the programs based on categories, degree type, and location making it easy for prospective students to see what programs are available at all four colleges in IECC.”

The Web Committee has already started working on the second phase of the project, which will build out each program even more. “Right now, people can get basic information about the programs, similar to what’s available in the catalog. The new program pages will help tell the story of the programs in a way that prospective students are expecting to learn about programs. We’ll also be able to use more pictures and videos to showcase our programs and we’ll easily be able to highlight one of our best assets, the experience of our instructors.”

Forde says he’s excited about the new site not only because of what it looks like now but because of the future possibilities it offers. “This is a project that will always be ongoing. There’s always an opportunity to be innovative online and we have a new platform that will allow us to do some great things with our website.”

GED PROGRAM DONATES BOOKS TO INMATES



The GED program at Lincoln Trail College donated books to the Crawford County Jail to help inmates prepare to earn a GED.

“There’s a significant positive impact on the community when someone earns their high school equivalency,” says LTC Academic Success Center Director Rena Gower. “The donation of these books will help give inmates without a high school diploma a chance to start preparing to earn a GED.”

Gower says people without a high school diploma are more than twice as likely to be unemployed, working in low-wage jobs, living in poverty, and relying on government aid programs as those with higher levels of education. She says

the GED graduates earn an average of \$9000 more a year than those without a high school diploma.

“When people earn a GED, there are many impacts to the community,” says Gower. “They’re less likely to be on government support, which saves states and the federal government money. It also helps their children because the mother’s reading skill level is the greatest determinant of her children’s future academic success. It can also mean higher salaries, better job opportunities, and more economic mobility for people. That translates to increased tax revenues, business productivity, and a decrease in public assistance.”

Meanwhile, Lincoln Trail College is getting ready to offer free GED classes this fall to anyone that does not have a high school diploma. Classes are available Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-9 p.m. The classes help students prepare for the GED exam and cover reading and language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

LTC is also offering a new Bridge Manufacturing class with the GED program. In addition to help students prepare for the GED, students will also learn manufacturing and workplace skills and learn about different programs available at LTC. The class is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon and is also free.

Fall semester classes at Lincoln Trail College begin August 20 and will be offered face-to-face this fall. Gower says students interested in learning more about the GED program can call her at 618-546-2306 to set up an advising and registration appointment.

32 STUDENT-ATHLETES, FIVE TEAMS HONORED BY NJCAA

The NJCAA honored 32 Lincoln Trail College student-athletes for their work in the classroom during the 2019-20 academic year. They also recognized five LTC teams for their academic achievements.

Four student-athletes earned NJCAA All-Academic First Team honors. Volleyball player Sydni Bailey, golfer Jordan Hosick, baseball player Joey Perkins, and volleyball player Emily Yocom all achieved a 4.0 GPA to earn first-team honors.

LTC had nine student-athletes earn NJCAA All-Academic Second Team honors. To be named to the second team, they had to have a GPA between 3.8 and 3.99. LTC’s second team recipients were softball player Taylor Bayer, baseball player Michael Hall, women’s soccer player Winter Harmsen, women’s basketball player Kelsey Mitchell, men’s basketball player Eric Moenkhaus, volleyball players Mackenzie Rinehart, softball player Julia Smith, and Myriah Warner, and baseball player Andrew Washburn.

Nineteen LTC players earned NJCAA All-Academic Third Team honors by having a GPA of 3.6-3.79. Women’s soccer player Ava Aguirre, baseball player Blake Barrett, women’s soccer player Jordyn Besserman, volleyball players Jordan Christy and Tori Combs, women’s soccer player Giovana Garcia, baseball player Corey Hall, women’s basketball player Amber Hixon, baseball player Dalton Huffman, volleyball player J’Amy Jackson, baseball player JP Kehoe, golfer Seth Kestranek, baseball player Adam Kopff, softball player Morgan Manning, golfer Wade Ruth, women’s soccer player Leah Schnell, softball player Breann Smith, volleyball player Macie Weidner, and Ashton Wesley all earned third-team honors.

Meanwhile, five LTC teams earned Academic Team of the Year honors for having combined team GPAs over 3.0. The golf team finished with a 3.51 GPA and the volleyball team had a 3.47 GPA. The Statesmen baseball team finished with a 3.21 GPA while the Lady Statesmen softball team had a 3.18 GPA. The women’s soccer team had a 3.08 GPA in its inaugural season.

The entire athletic department finished the 2019-20 academic year with a 3.11 GPA. The department as a whole has had 13 consecutive semesters with an overall GPA above 3.0.



Ava Aguirre



Sydni Bailey



Blake Barrett



Taylor Bayer



Jordyn Besserman



Jordan Christy



Tori Combs



Giovanna Garcia



Corey Hall



Michael Hall



Winter Harmsen



Amber Hixon



Jordan Hosick



Dalton Huffman



J'Amey Jackson



JP Kehoe



Seth Kestranek



Adam Kopff



Morgan Manning



Kellsey Mitchell



Eric Moenkhaus



Joey Perkins



Mackenzie Rinehart



Wade Ruth



Leah Schnell



Breann Smith



Julia Smith



Myriah Warner



Andrew Washburn



Macie Weidner



Ashton Wesley



Emily Yocom

PARKER FIELD UNDERGOES RENOVATIONS



The next time Lincoln Trail College baseball players step on to Parker Field, they will enjoy a facility that has seen several renovations since their last game. Upgrades this spring and summer have included a new locker room, a new press box, as well as improvements to the fence and infield.

“We have everything we need to get better,” says Baseball Coach Kevin Bowers. “We won a lot without a locker room. We sent a lot of players to Division One schools without a press box, but now we’re in a new world. The players and the people that have come before this helped lay the groundwork for where we are today and now, we want to continue and grow that success.”

The new locker room is located in the new metal building that was recently built near Parker Field. The inside of the building was split in half with part of it being used for the locker room and the remaining part of the building used for storage.

“I really wanted to make sure that the team had a place of its own,” says Bowers. “Before this, our players really didn’t have a good place to change or store their equipment. Now they have a place for all of that where they can also unwind, hang out before and after practice and games, and where we can build team chemistry.”



The new press box gives Parker Field more of a stadium feel says Bowers. It will provide a place for the media and some fans to get out of the weather while watching Statesmen baseball. Bowers says some of the functions that were being



handled in the dugout like running the scoreboard and playing music will now be moved to the press box.

In addition to those projects, the slatting in the fence was replaced this summer and as well as the cap on the fence. This is in addition to other recent projects like updating the backstop, the renovation of the bullpen, and new protective netting.

“Having a facility like this really helps in recruiting,” says Bowers. “We have a facility that we can be incredibly proud of and something that can make recruits even more excited about coming to LTC.”

Bowers says he’s had several donations to help make these projects possible. Bowers says last year’s team also helped leave a legacy by working fundraisers to help raise money for these projects. “They didn’t get to leave their legacy on the field last season, but they can look back and see that they’ve left a legacy in a new facility for future teams to enjoy.”

He’s also very grateful for the leadership of Dr. Ryan Gower. “All of this would not be possible without his vision and hustle. I thought these projects would go on the backburner with the COVID-19 situation, but he did not let it die. More than that, he’s doing so many other things for this campus that will help us grow like the Theater Renaissance, Statesmen Park, and the Crawford County Recreation Center.”

Bowers, who also serves as LTC’s Athletic Director, says it’s been awesome to oversee the growth of the athletic department. “We strive to represent the school’s mission and what’s expected of us from the administration and Foundation and I think we’re putting that out there consistently. Now we want to work toward the All-Sports Trophy, and I believe we’ll get there. We have the right pieces in place with our staff and our players.”

Bowers says the new facilities at Parker Field, as well as Statesmen Park, will help all sports attract a better prospect because they’ll see the growth on campus. “We already have one of the best basketball facilities in all of junior college, our golfers play on one of the best courses in the Midwest, our new facilities are on par with anybody else in the country. Athletes in other programs see that and they want to be a part of that growth and move forward together.”

As for the upgrades to Parker Field, he says players should feel a lot of pride when they arrive to campus. “I want them to understand how we got to where we are today. They should take pride in the fact that past teams have performed well in the classroom, on the field, and in public and that’s gotten enough attention that people want to stand behind them and give to projects like this. Now they have to work to continue and maintain that tradition.”

LTC ALUM CONTINUE CHARITY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



Brady Clampet and Cameron Ireland were talking one day while working in LTC's Marketing Office about things they could do to benefit the community. They wanted to do something charitable involving basketball. That led to the Randy's Court 3V3 Tournament.

"Brady and I were talking about it one time in your [Chris Forde's] office," says Ireland (LTC '19). "We were just trying to find a way we could make a positive impact in the community and set up a tradition that would bring the community together through basketball."

Ireland, who is now studying Sport Management at the University of Illinois, says they learned a lot while working in the Marketing Office. "We saw the business concepts that LTC was using, we saw how LTC did marketing, and we learned a lot about making good business connections."

Clampet (LTC '19) is now studying Sport Management at Indiana State. He says once they had the concept of the three-on-three tournament at Randy's Court, an outdoor basketball court located near Nuttall Middle School, they formed a non-profit. The first year of the tournament raised money to help with the local soup kitchen.

"It was an interesting first year," says Clampet. "In some ways, I was just a nervous kid, but we went around to different businesses and asked for donations and sponsorships. It was really successful."

This year, they are planning to give away two \$1000 scholarships to high school seniors. "So far Randy's Court has been growing every month," says Ireland. "Our website traffic is really good. I think it's a really great thing for our community."

They're planning to play the tournament on July 18. You can learn more about the Randy's Court 3V3 Tournament on their website, randyscourt3v3.org.