



LTC IS ONE OF FOUR
COMMUNITY COLLEGES
IN ILLINOIS WITH FALL '20
ENROLLMENT GAIN



NEW FACES JOIN LINCOLN
TRAIL COLLEGE FOR THE FALL



LTC COMMUNITY EDUCATION
CLASSES RESUME

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE



Network



ROGER EDDY NAMED INTERIM PRESIDENT

Roger Eddy will take the role as the Interim President at Lincoln Trail College on October 1. He takes over for Dr. Ryan Gower who was selected as the Chancellor for Illinois Eastern Community Colleges in May.

Eddy has spent his career in education as a teacher and administrator. This is his first foray into higher education. “I think it’s a continuum of the foundation work that I’ve done in education, obviously at a different level. But the community college level especially kind of combines all of the educational institutions that exist in an area and lead it to a fruition, a conclusion. Whether you’re a traditional student who’s looking to transfer to a four-year or you’re a community member who is looking to improve their status, maybe for job purposes, whatever the reason a community college offers something for everyone. I’m really excited about the little nuances from the high school level where I spent the primary part of my career.”

Eddy was the Superintendent of the Hutsonville Unit 1 School District from 1996 to 2012. From 2003 to 2012 he served as State Representative for the 109th Legislative District. After that, Eddy was the Executive Director of the Illinois Association of School Boards from 2012 to 2018. Most recently, Eddy was the developer and facilitator of Mentoring and Induction for New Teachers for the Regional Office of Education.

He says there’s a lot that excites him about his new position. “I know how high-quality Lincoln Trail is for this community and it excites me. There are also two building projects coming up. The theater project will obviously be an

enhancement to a high quality long-standing excellent department and then the technology grant offers a tremendous opportunity. So those things alone would excite someone about this position. Add to that the faculty and staff and the fact that Dr. Gower is beginning his tenure at IECC as Chancellor and that leadership may bring about some exciting things for all four campuses.”

“I’m very pleased that Mr. Eddy has agreed to serve in this capacity” says Gower. “We are fortunate to have someone with such a passion for Lincoln Trail College, much less someone with his impressive administrative background, come to campus to help us in this time of transition.” Gower says the search for the next LTC President will open in November, and is optimistic that a finalist will be selected by early March of 2021.

Eddy says continuing the foundation of excellence laid down by Dr. Gower is his top priority. He also wants to make sure that the new construction projects are handled properly and in a way that will make the community proud. Eddy says LTC has a reputation of quality not just locally, but also statewide and nationally and he wants to continue to see that LTC remains a prestigious community college.

LTC ONE OF FOUR COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO SEE ENROLLMENT GAINS



There were only four community colleges in the State of Illinois that saw positive enrollment growth for the Fall 2020 semester. Lincoln Trail College was one of the four colleges with a three percent growth in enrollment.

“In Crawford County, I think the Lincoln Trail Experience is highly valued and respected. Those two qualities seem to remain in-demand even during a pandemic,” says Amber Malone, who serves on LTC’s Enrollment Management team. “We are elated that we are able to deliver this high-quality education to as many students as possible, but we also know there are many more students out there who could benefit from additional training to advance in their job as well as maybe some recently graduated seniors who didn’t quite feel ready to begin. We would like to encourage both of these groups to call us now to explore opportunities and financial aid for their program.”

Tona Ambrose serves as LTC’s Director of College Access and she says the seeds for growth were planted well before the start of the Fall Semester. “Two years ago, we put a focus on intentionally reaching out to our local high school guidance counselors to offer support, relevant professional development workshops on our campus and to come alongside them in any way that we could. As a community college, building these relationships and assisting in all the hard work that they do to ensure their students are successful only makes sense. Additionally, we were focused on

making sure that high schoolers knew specifically about all the affordable programs and degrees that LTC offers, as well as the amazing dual enrollment opportunities and we set out to visit schools as often as possible. Various faculty and staff visited schools to purposefully engage with students and to answer their questions about the entire college going process, as well as their career/technical field options. I believe that these bridgebuilding efforts made it easier for even more students to enroll at LTC this fall and to trust that we are committed to helping them attain their educational and personal goals, as well as delivering an exceptional education to each of them.”

The COVID-19 pandemic brought enrollment concerns to colleges across the country, but LTC’s Enrollment Management team responded by finding ways to keep students and prospective students engaged throughout the spring and summer. LTC offered a variety of virtual events for students, including an online version of the college’s biggest on-campus recruiting event Senior Blitz as well as events like Adulthood 101 and a series of Zoom panels on a variety of college-related topics. The college also turned to YouTube with a series called Two Minute Tuesdays featuring LTC students talking about their experiences and Faculty Friday where LTC faculty talked about their programs and classes. Ambrose says the goal of all of these programs was to make students feel welcome, ease the pressure of transitioning to college, and to make students feel totally connected to Lincoln Trail even before starting classes in the Fall.

Malone says another part of this is personal attention. “Individual attention begins from the first moment students apply to Lincoln Trail. I think that personal touch found in our communications and virtual interactions with students has helped us to maintain an ongoing relationship with our students. We focus on each student and meeting the needs they have for a successful and enjoyable college experience. We match students with programs and activities that are engaging and challenge them. Our goal is for all of these experiences to assist them in securing their first job or advancing in their current line of work.”

Internally, Lincoln Trail College has placed an emphasis on Strategic Enrollment Management. The idea is to line up different departments to work collaboratively to come up with strategies to build enrollment.

“Together, as Recruitment, Admissions, Records, Financial Aid, Advising, and the Business Office, we have been able to stand in student shoes and identify barriers or “bumps in the road” which might hinder a first year freshman or returning non-traditional student during their time at the Trail. By evaluating our processes, we have paved an educational road that is more convenient, more cost effective, and overall creates a smoother student path to success,” says Malone.

Ambrose says the teamwork from the Enrollment Management team has been very important. “Teamwork is imperative and really has been the key component to our success. Most importantly, our continued focus on teamwork remains the catalyst that ensures we are helping our students in the best and most wholistic way possible. Our interdisciplinary team consists of professionals who work in admissions/records, recruiting, marketing, advising, retention, college access, and so on. This collective and collaborative effort is essential, and we all look forward to watching our students grow personally and academically and succeed.”

Malone says work is already underway to find students for the Fall 2021 Semester. “We are already building relationships for next year’s freshman and hope to do as much as possible in this increasingly virtual environment, which has its own challenges. We hope parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and employers like our Facebook page to see the many updates as LTC expands both physically with new buildings and virtually to accommodate the current situation. If you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew or cousin who maybe lives hours away but is looking for a personalized educational experience, we hope they will take a virtual tour and see what LTC has to offer them.”

RIGGLE JOINS LTC AS FINANCIAL AID COORDINATOR



Krystle Riggle joined Lincoln Trail College as the new Coordinator of Financial Aid. Riggle brings 15 years of financial, human resources, and payroll experience to LTC.

As the Coordinator of Financial Aid, Riggle will provide financial aid counseling to students and help advise students and their families about the process of financial aid as well as eligibility and programs available. She will also help ensure compliance with federal, state, and college regulations.

Riggle started college right after high school but left school to become a 911 dispatcher, a position she held for a decade. She then transitioned to a EMT-B and worked on an ambulance. She returned to college and continued in the healthcare field, but this time on the financial side.

Riggle is completing her Bachelor's Degree in Business this fall. "I was one semester away from my Bachelor's Degree in 2019 when my college closed and they lost all accreditation. After four years, I had to restart my degree. I was so upset, but I was determined that nothing was standing in my way of completing my degree."

Outside of work, Riggle is married to her husband, who is a paramedic. They have five children ranging from 13-to-16-years old. Riggle says her family is a big football and baseball family. The Riggle Family is also an autism family and she says that they are strong advocates for their son's and other's education rights.

NEWLIN TAKES OVER STATESMEN GRILL

Lincoln Trail College alumna Taylor Newlin has been named the new Manager of Food Services at Lincoln Trail College. Newlin comes to LTC from Brookstone Estates, where she served as the facility's Director of Programming.

As the Manager of Food Services, Newlin will be responsible for the operation of Statesmen Grill, including ordering and preparing food and managing the staff.

Newlin is originally from West York and graduated from Hutsonville High School before moving to Robinson and attending Lincoln Trail College. In addition to her experience at Brookstone Estates, Newlin is also an event planner and says that creativity follows her into the kitchen.

Outside of work, Newlin enjoys spending time with her family, her boyfriend, and her pets. She also enjoys painting and cooking.



LOGSDON JOINS LTC AS PHYSICAL SCIENCES INSTRUCTOR



Dr. Bradley Logsdon joins Lincoln Trail College as a Physical Sciences instructor.

Dr. Logsdon received his Ph.D. in physical chemistry under the supervision of Robert Jacobson at Iowa State University. His research area was in small molecule crystallography. He solved several structures while developing software to make the process more automated. After graduate school, Logsdon accepted a position as a postdoctoral fellow for a structural biology group under the supervision of Ladislau Kovari. While working with Dr. Kovari, he predicted HIV protease-inhibitor complexes using molecular modeling, and also solved three structures via protein crystallography.

Logsdon has significant experience teaching introductory, general, physical, and environmental chemistry, both overseas and in the United States. He says he's worked with students from a variety of ethnic backgrounds where English was their second or third language.

“While computers have become integral to everyday life, I also believe in exposing the students to some of the old techniques that I learned such as solving problems on the chalkboard/whiteboard and graphing by hand,” says Logsdon. “Technology is important, but I also believe there is merit in occasionally revisiting pre-computer techniques. My personal teaching style is somewhat Socratic. I tend to ask students questions individually and encourage questions while I'm lecturing. However, unlike Professor Kingsfield from The Paper Chase, I am less intimidating and more approachable.”

Outside of work, Logsdon enjoys gardening and spending time with family and friends. He has a son who works as a chemical engineer.

LTC CANCELS TRICK OR TREAT AT THE TRAIL



A longstanding Lincoln Trail College tradition will be put on hold this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The College canceled this year's edition of Trick or Treat at the Trail.

“The safety of our campus and our community is our top priority,” says LTC Director of Marketing Chris Forde. “We explored other options to keep it going this year but couldn't find something that would have made sure that we had a safe event for everyone.”

Trick or Treat at the Trail annually brings close to 2400 people to campus over a two-hour period on the final Thursday of October.

“It was an extremely difficult decision to cancel Trick or Treat at the Trail this year,” says Forde. “We know it means a lot to our community and brings a lot of joy to local children. Our students, faculty, and staff enjoy participating in the event too. We'll bring it back next year.”

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES RESUME



Community Education classes at Lincoln Trail College have resumed after pausing because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The classes resumed September 3 with a webinar with the University of Illinois Extension about inflammation and arthritis. The webinar gave people the chance to learn about the three most common types of arthritis and how certain lifestyle choices can help prevent, relieve, and manage symptoms.

Advanced Painting began Sept. 8 and runs through October 13 on Tuesday nights. Advanced Painting features a survey of painting techniques in all media with particular demonstrations of landscape in watercolor and acrylic and portrait in acrylic and oils.

Decorating Cookies and Cupcakes for Kids started Sept. 9 and is on Wednesday nights through Sept. 30. The class, which takes place at the Robinson Community Center, teaches kids how to create fancy cookies and fabulous cupcakes.

A CNA Instructor Course for RNs is meeting online Sept. 14 through Oct. 23. The class is designed for nurses who are eager to teach in a Basic Nursing Assistant Training Program and want to learn how to teach in a classroom and in the clinical setting. It is conducted in compliance with Illinois Department of Public Health Regulations.

LTC is offering a trio of Chalk Couture classes beginning Sept. 22. The first class will serve as an introduction to Chalk Couture. The second class is October 5 and will focus on pumpkin projects and students can make a farmhouse sign in the final class on Oct. 19. Each class runs from 6:30-8:30 at LTC.

The College will once again offer Spanish for Kids Thursday nights from Sept. 24 through Oct. 15. Spanish for Kids is designed for children and parents to experience together. The class will teach Spanish through interactive games, activities, and short songs. There will also be resources available to continue learning outside of class.

Babysitter Training will be offered Sept. 26 from 9-3. It is open to kids 11-to-15-years-old and features curriculum from the American Academy of Pediatrics' BLAST! Program. The exciting and interactive program provides extensive training in pediatric first aid, household safety and the fundamentals of childcare.

People can register for Community Education classes by calling 618-544-8657. LTC's Community Education program offers classes in the arts, health and recreation, professional skills, personal growth, and programs for kids.

NEW ASSISTANTS JOIN ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT



Four new assistant coaches have joined Lincoln Trail College this Fall.

A former player for the Statesmen, Nicholas McCormick returns to Lincoln Trail College as assistant baseball coach serving as the hitting and infield coach for the 2021 season. McCormick spent the 2015 season at LTC on the left-side of the infield and after one year transferred to Eastern Illinois University.

McCormick was a medical redshirt in his first year at EIU and in his second year appeared in 32 games for the Panthers, getting starts at 1B, 2B, and 3B. At the conclusion of the 2017 season he spent the summer training at Driveline Baseball under Jason Ochart, who now serves as the Minor League Hitting Coordinator for the Philadelphia Phillies and Director of Hitting for Driveline Baseball.

At the conclusion of the 2017 summer, McCormick decided to transfer out of EIU and attend Arizona Christian University. Battling injuries, he appeared in 31 games for the Firestorm at SS. McCormick graduated from ACU in the winter of 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with

a minor in Biblical Studies.

After graduation, McCormick accepted an internship at Driveline Baseball and worked in the hitting department as a hitting and position player throwing intern. During this time McCormick was certified in both the Foundations of Hitting and Pitching through Driveline's certification.

Former Colorado State/Southern Illinois University standout Dantiel Daniels joins the Men's Basketball staff as Assistant Coach. Dantiel Daniels joins the Lincoln Trail Statesmen men's basketball team as a first-year assistant coach out of Colorado State University, where he received his Master's Degree in Education and Human Resource Studies and served as a graduate assistant for the men's basketball program.

Daniels started his athletic career at Wentzville Holt High School in Missouri. He earned a scholarship to play at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where he was named to the all-freshman team and led the Missouri Valley Conference in blocked shots as a true freshman. After the 2012-13 season, Daniels transferred to Colorado State University, where he sat out the 2013-14 season due to transfer rules. He then helped the team to a record-breaking season of 27 wins and 7 losses in 2014-15.

After Daniels graduated with a degree in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts, he played professionally in Salo, Finland, then returned to Colorado State as a graduate assistant for the men's basketball program. In that role, he assisted with day-to-day management and program operations as well as organization, recruitment, and evaluation of student-athletes. Additionally, Daniels assisted in conducting and supervising practices for player conditioning, prepared and implemented game strategies and analytics, provided leadership and supervision



of player academic progress and personal development, and participated in promotions and public-relations events to advance the program.

He returned to playing professional basketball in Montevideo, Uruguay. Daniels finished his professional career playing two years in China.



Ty O'Connor has joined Lincoln Trail College as the Assistant Coach for the Men's Soccer team. O'Connor comes from Salt Lake City Community College, where he served as an assistant to both the men's and women's teams.

O'Connor won a club national championship with West Coast FC at the age of 17. He earned freshman honors at BYU-Hawaii and then transferred to Orange Coast College where he was All-Conference, Defensive Player of the Year, and was recognized by the mayor for his soccer accomplishments. He finished his collegiate playing career at Concordia University of Irvine where he was again an All-Conference player.

In addition to coaching at SLCC, O'Connor has coached at the club level with Pateadores Academy in California, with Salt Lake City FC, and with Illinois Fire Juniors.

"I want to help build a championship culture and program," says O'Connor. "I also want to help develop and guide young men through the game of soccer to win championships on the field and off."

As the assistant coach, O'Connor will aid Head Coach Shawn Hall in planning, managing, and evaluating all aspects of the women's soccer team. He will also help in recruiting, scouting, fundraising, and academic monitoring.

Alex Delgado has joined Lincoln Trail College as the Assistant Coach of the Women's Soccer team.

Delgado, a graduate of Louisiana State University, has served as an assistant coach for Saint Joseph's Academy of Baton Rouge, La. for the last seven years before joining LTC. In addition to that, he served as an assistant coach for the Baton Rouge Soccer Club. He worked as a goalkeeper coach with both teams. He's also a certified soccer referee and has assisted organizing and instructing at summer soccer camps in Louisiana.

"I want to provide leadership to the team," says Delgado. "I want them to be leaders on the field and in the classroom."

As the assistant coach, Delgado will aid Head Coach Shawn Hall in planning, managing, and evaluating all aspects of the women's soccer team. He will also help in recruiting, scouting, fundraising, and academic monitoring.

