



LTC CELEBRATES CTE MONTH



CAST ANNOUNCE FOR
CULTURE IN A CORNFIELD



STATESMEN SINGERS TAKE
MUSICAL VALENTINES VIRTUAL

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE
Network



AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGES PARTNER TO STRENGTHEN MANUFACTURING

Last October, Governor JB Pritzker announced his intention to construct two community college-based manufacturing training academies in southern Illinois. “We’re investing directly in communities and in companies with programs that will allow businesses to grow, retain and attract new talent for higher paying jobs of the future,” Pritzker said. “Through this program, we will bring investments where they are most needed, specifically for downstate communities, where these cutting-edge training opportunities have not been as widely available.” The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity says that 15 million dollars will be available to fund two centers.

The decision to house these new manufacturing training academies at community colleges makes sense. “As Illinois’ largest workforce training provider, community colleges statewide have the expertise to partner with local communities to help guide our residents on the path to meaningful careers through these new facilities,” said Brian Durham, Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board.

At least two area community college districts are working collaboratively to bring the manufacturing academy to our part of the state. Last week, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (District 529) and Lake Land College (District 517) submitted a joint proposal to the DCEO which they believe will close the regional skills gap by providing employers with access to a highly trained workforce. The partnership is something that the leadership of both districts says makes sense. “Manufacturing is one of the most important employment sectors in this part of the state,” said Dr. Ryan Gower, Chancellor of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. “Addressing outmigration of talent, closing the skills gaps, and developing strategies to recruit both industry and laborers to this part of the state will require a regional strategy and then strong local buy-in. President [Josh] Bullock and I believe our institutions can play key leadership roles in this initiative.”

Gower says that manufacturing jobs are quite strong across both community college districts, but despite high wages, employers continue to struggle to find skilled labor to fill open positions. “We believe the first step has to be creating a better understanding of manufacturing jobs and the opportunities available for local residents.” If funded, IECC and Lake Land will develop a joint dual credit curriculum in manufacturing designed to interest area high-school students in manufacturing jobs. These dual credit courses could then be transferred to manufacturing programs at Lake Land College, Lincoln Trail College, Olney Central College, or Wabash Valley College. Gower indicates that efforts will not be limited to high school students. “We are re-aligning our programs and our facilities to serve traditional and non-traditional students as well as incumbent workers.”

Through the Re-Build Illinois Bill enacted last year, Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Ill. recently received an 8.37-million-dollar award for a Technology Center and had already planned to house several manufacturing programs there.

The grant also calls for Lake Land College to construct a 20,000 square foot Manufacturing Technology Center in Effingham, Illinois. This 5.6-million-dollar project will feature open lab space and cutting-edge technology dedicated to manufacturing. Lake Land College will offer CNC Machining, Industrial Maintenance, Welding and Manufacturing skills. “The timing is very good,” said Dr. Josh Bullock, President of Lake Land College. “Both districts have a strong employment base, particularly along our shared border. With IECC’s new center in Robinson, our planned center in Effingham, and the willingness of both institutions to collaborate, this grant would have a tremendous impact on manufacturing in our region.”

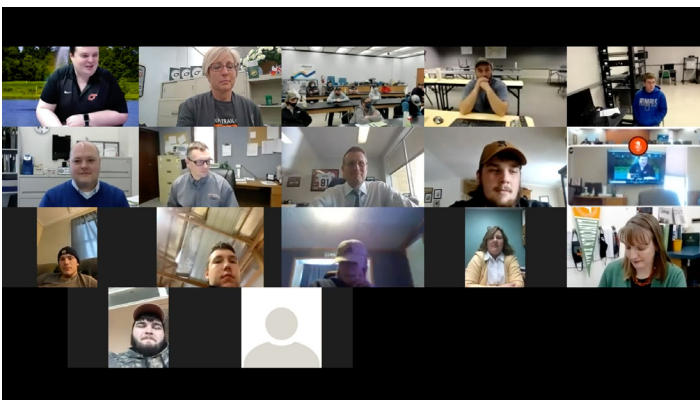
The grant calls for 5.6 million dollars to be used for the construction of Lake Land’s Manufacturing Technology Center and about 1.5 million dollars for IECC to use for teaching technology and equipment. Only nine community colleges (Illinois Eastern, John A. Logan, Kaskaskia, Lake Land, Lewis and Clark, Rend Lake, Shawnee, Southeastern, and Southwestern) in the Southern Region were eligible to apply for the funding.



Progress continues on the Theater Renaissance project. Workers have started building the frame and the roof of the new addition to the Zwermann Arts Center.



Rebecca Carmack (left), Sandra Walk (center), and Roger Eddy (right) look over plans for the Theater Renaissance project.



A gallery view of Lincoln Trail College’s Virtual Visit for Broadband Telecom and Process Technology.



A February snow covers the campus of Lincoln Trail College.

LTC CELEBRATES CTE MONTH



Career and Technical Education (CTE) prepares individuals for high-skill, in-demand employment that furthers Illinois' global competitiveness. Last year, about half of all Illinois community college graduates earned a CTE degree or certificate. CTE programs offer flexible scheduling, work-based learning, and stackable credentials that provide a pathway from education to employment not only for recent high school graduates, but also for returning adults, veterans, and workers wanting to update their skills. To ensure that students acquire the skills and knowledge they need to be successful, programs contextualize instruction to the application of skills in the workplace and offer access to state-of-the-art technology. Student success in CTE programming is amplified by academic support services, work-based learning opportunities, and business engagement. CTE's reach in Illinois' workforce continues to be expansive; currently, there are over 4,000 different CTE program offerings across the community college system.

While some industries have struggled during the pandemic, others need more employees. Lincoln Trail College Dean of Instruction Brent Todd says hospitals can't hire trained and qualified healthcare workers fast enough to meet the demands of the ongoing health crisis. "This need is only going to continue to grow over the next decade. There are some projections showing a nursing shortfall of nearly 20,000 by the year 2030."

Todd says Lincoln Trail College offers people a few ways to get into the healthcare field. The Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Nursing program is available at Lincoln Trail College along with Frontier Community College, Olney Central College, and Wabash Valley College. LTC also offers a Certified Medical Assistant





Program, an Electronic Medical Records Program, and a Pharmacy Technician Program.

“Healthcare is just one of our fields covered by our career and technical programs,” says Todd. “We also offer programs like Broadband Telecom, Process Technology, and Welding. In addition to that, we have new microcertificates that cover topics like customer service, public service, and special event planning.”

He says that Career and Technical Education Month is a great way to highlight the benefits of those degrees and certificates. “We’re preparing people for high-skill, in-demand jobs. Our CTE programs are a fast and affordable way to start a meaningful career.”

LTC’s CTE programs allow for students to get a hands-on education from highly-skilled instructors that have decades of industry experience. Todd says the College also uses advisory councils made up of industry leaders to make sure LTC meets the needs of business and industry.

“If you’re looking for a way to better your life, the CTE programs at Lincoln Trail College are a great first step. We can help you train for high demand, well-paying careers. We’re also a financially smart choice for your education,” says Todd.

Lincoln Trail College is taking applications for the Fall 2021 semester. Students that fill out a FAFSA and complete their application by Feb. 26 are eligible for scholarships. The Lincoln Trail College Foundation also has scholarships available and their deadline is also Feb. 26. Students can visit iecc.edu/ltc to find information about the FAFSA, scholarships, and apply for free online.

PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

INDUCTION
3.31.21
6 PM
ZWERMANN
ARTS CENTER
THEATER

SELF-DEFENSE FOR WOMEN

FEB. 24 • 6-7 PM • \$10

Instructor Andy Bradbury will teach 3-4 techniques you can use to protect yourself from danger.

CALL 618-544-8657 TO REGISTER

iecc.edu/ltc [LincolnTrailCollege](https://www.facebook.com/LincolnTrailCollege) [@LTC_IL](https://twitter.com/LTC_IL) [@LTC_IL](https://www.instagram.com/LTC_IL) [Lincolntail](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCincoltrail) [LincolnTrailCollege](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCincoltrail)

LTC ANNOUNCES CAST FOR CULTURE IN A CORNFIELD



Tara Gallion has announced the cast for the Lincoln Trail College Spring 2021 production of “Culture in a Cornfield.” The production is a collection of short comedy skits and features both LTC students and members of the community.

In “Best Actress,” Tom Moore serves as the host, Jamie Cox is Camille, Ken Martin is the stage manager, and Abigail Metheny plays Emily. In “Driving Lesson,” Colby McGahey plays Chris, Sam Mikeworth is the Dad, Jenny Schrum is the Mom, and Elizabeth Boyd is Scottie. Schrum also plays Sylvia in “Delayed” along with Keeley Johnson as Whitney and Ricky Shelton as Charles.

Cox also plays the role of Beth in “Strange Addictions.” She’s joined by Gil T. Wilson as Earl, John Sutfin as Mike, and Vicky Becker as Sue. Moore also plays a host in “Phone-Free Zone” along with Ryan Corn as the waiter. Brennan Seth Tracy plays Chris in “Free Advice” along with Chris Forde as Joe, Allison Nichols as Olivia, Shawn Mitchell as Bert, and Summer Agan as Jewel. Agan also plays the receptionist in “The Eye Exam” along with McGahey as Dylan, Becker as the doctor, and Bailey Hartrich as Alex.

Students in LTC’s Acting 1 class will perform four skits as a part of “Culture in a Cornfield.” In “Pop Quiz,” Katie Elder plays Mrs. Moore, Xavier Brown is Ethan, Brynna Hale is Lauren, TJ Baker is Justin, Macy Sutfin is Alexis, and Malika Khadka is Luis. In “Confession Air,” Lucy List plays Lisa, Levi Middleton is Blake, Makenzee Legg is Kim, and Ella Florkowski is Carol. Thomas Brown plays Prince Charming in “Prince Charming” along with Mallory Clark as Sleeping Beauty and the Constable, Parker Middleton as the inspector, Kaleigh Walin as the doctor, Bella Sage as the nurse, and Bailey Strauch as the security guard. In “Family Separation,” Hunter Inboden is Andrew, Devin Hartman is Andrea, Brian Conner is Francis, and Cassie Morehead is Fran.

One of the differences with “Culture in a Cornfield” is that all of the skits will be recorded in advance. People that want to be able to watch the final production will be able to purchase an online ticket that will give them an access code to watch the show. “Additionally, we intend to offer in-person tickets for watch parties at the Theater if COVID guidelines allow for that,” says Gallion. Dates for when the show is available for viewing online will be announced at a later date.

STATESMEN SINGERS OFFER VIRTUAL MUSICAL VALENTINES



The Lincoln Trail College Statesmen Singers are giving people a chance to share some love virtually this Valentine's Day by offering musical virtual valentines.

"We're very excited about this," says Statesmen Singers Director Rebecca Carmack. "This is a great way for people to share their friendship and love in a very fun way."

People can choose between two songs, "Can't Help Falling in Love" and "Thank You For Being A Friend." There's a form people can fill out when they choose their song where they can add a personalized message that will be recorded by a member of the Statesmen Singers. A video with the personalized message and the song will be emailed to the recipient on Valentine's Day. The cost of the musical virtual valentine is \$30. The valentines serve as a fundraiser for the Statesmen Singers.

"One of the things I'm excited about this year is that the recipients of our singing valentines will have something they can watch again and again," says Carmack.

People that want to purchase a musical virtual valentine can visit www.iecc.edu/LTCValentine to fill out the form and pick which song they want.



FEBRUARY ATHLETIC EVENTS

Men's Basketball

1	at Lake Land	6:00
3	at John A. Logan	6:00
8	Vincennes University	7:30
10	at Shawnee	7:30
17	Lewis & Clark	7:30
20	at Kaskaskia	3:00
24	at Southwestern	7:30
27	Wabash Valley	3:00

Women's Basketball

3	at John A. Logan	4:00
8	Vincennes	5:30
10	at Shawnee	5:30
16	Lincoln Land	5:00
20	at Kaskaskia	1:00
24	at Southwestern	5:30
27	Wabash Valley	1:00

Volleyball

6	at Lincoln Land Tri-Match	1:00
9	at Lake Land	6:30
11	at John A. Logan	6:30
13	LTC Tri-Match	1:00
18	at Kaskaskia	6:30
19	at Lewis & Clark	6:00
23	Southwestern	6:30
25	at Wabash Valley	6:30
27	at Spoon River	1:00

Baseball

12	at Georgia Highlands	3:00
13	at Georgia Highlands	12:00
27	Flag City Classic - Memphis	12:00
28	Flag City Classic - Memphis	12:00

Softball

12	Northwest Mississippi*	9:00
12	St. Charles*	11:15
13	Mineral Area*	11:15
13	Jefferson*	6:00
14	Three Rivers*	12:00
14	Northeast Mississippi*	2:15

*Tigerfest at Booneville, Mississippi



Lincoln Trail College RHP Cade Carlson committed to East Tennessee State University.



Lincoln Trail College RHP Austin Taylor committed to Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.



Lincoln Trail College C/UTL Julia Smith committed to Saint Mary of the Woods College.



Lincoln Trail College G Kelsey Mitchell committed to Lincoln University of Missouri.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are about a month into the new semester and it is great to see students back on campus. The last few weeks of the fall semester, the campus was not as alive, and it is so good to see students and faculty actively engaged again. Of course, things are not yet quite back to "normal," but we are on our way. The men's and women's basketball team, along with volleyball, have competed in several contests, both home and away, without any issues. A limited number of fans will now be allowed to attend contests as well. Mitigations will continue as fans return, in small numbers at first, and then, gradually, we might see some increased numbers allowed. In the meantime, arrangements have been made for fans to view the games via the Internet. All of this is due to the hard work of coaches and custodians, and the discipline demonstrated by our student-athletes.

As you enter the campus, it is easy to see that the landscape has definitely changed. The steel frame, along with much of the ceiling structure, has been added to the footprint of the addition to the Performing Arts Center. Another meeting of the committee to choose interior color features has taken place and it appears that, so far, the crews have been able to keep the project on schedule. In just a few months, if progress remains consistent, the new space will be ready for use to enhance an already strong performing arts program.

More good news, the LTC Pool successfully reopened on February 1st after some much-needed repair work. The pool is a popular feature in the community and several classes are now meeting. Additional upgrades that will further improve the Natatorium are scheduled in the future. More about those in the coming months.

Our Enrollment Management Team, led by Tona Ambrose, is meeting regularly to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to enrollment at LTC. The group is working with Dr. Boyd Bradshaw to develop a comprehensive plan and strategies to address declining enrollment. The initial meeting with Dr. Bradshaw took place recently and the Team followed up with a very productive meeting last week. More meetings are planned and the working group is very energized by the opportunity to address this critical issue.

With all of the changes in personnel and job duties here at LTC related to the retirements of individuals with decades of service to our community and students, and some departmental consolidations with the District Office, I am thrilled to report that the reorganizations and assignments are going very well. Change is often difficult, especially when there are retirements of individuals who have dedicated many years of service to an institution. Besides a few minor hiccups, the staff assuming new or additional duties related to these changes have done an outstanding job.

Finally, LTC recently lost two men that have had a great impact on the college in Dr. Donald "Doc" Runyan and Jerry Devonshire.

Dr. Runyan came to Robinson in 1987 to lead the Music and Theater Departments at LTC, a position he held until 1993. After he retired, he continued to teach as an adjunct professor until 2015. While with the College, he founded the highly popular Children's Summer Theater Workshop. Additionally, he performed in many LTC productions and was active in the LTC Choir until he was 89-years-old. Dr. Runyan died on January 24 from complications from spinal surgery. Our thoughts are with his wife Millie, and his family.

Devonshire was a great supporter and dear friend of the College. He died on February 6 due to COVID-related complications. Jerry has been a long-time fervent supporter of all things LTC. His work and dedication to the LTC Foundation was unsurpassed. His passing leaves us with a huge hole to fill and a heavy heart. Our thoughts are with his wife, Gloria, and his family.

Roger Eddy
Interim President

