



HEIGH HO - TO THE MINE WE GO

A modern mine looks nothing like the mines from “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.” There are no wooden beams supporting the ceiling or a large cave-like opening on the side of a mountain. The modern safety procedures would look out of place in an animated movie, but are a testament to the mining industry’s constant safety updates. This often misimagined career field was the exciting topic



of a tour taken by Dr. Gower, Dr. Bruisma, Sheryl Childers, Laurie Taylor, Sharmila Kakac, Dr. Edgren, and Mike Thomas.

The safety features were on full display during a mine tour at Prairie State Energy Campus, in Marissa, Illinois, taken by FCC and IECC personnel. This tour kicked off the re-homing of IECC’s Business and Industry, B&I, training to FCC. Through this department, FCC will now be offering safety courses to local mines as a part of its business training.

After donning the necessary safety equipment modeled in the above photo, the tour started with group members loading into a large vehicle that appears similar to a military humvee stretched to be wide enough to add benches that seat four people in each row. After everyone was aboard, the journey underground began.

Upcoming Events

August

- 10 Faculty Workshop
- 17 First Day of Classes

September

- 06 College Closed Labor Day
- 17 Constitution Observance Day Classes in Session

October

- 08 No Classes. Professional Development Day
- 11 College Closed Columbus Day

Frontier Community College is following Governor Pritzker's Restore Illinois reopening plan. Campus guidelines have been modified to remove restrictions for those who have been vaccinated.



HEIGH HO - TO THE MINE WE GO cont.



There is no long elevator ride that pulls you straight towards the earth's core, but rather this modified vehicle serves as your transport deep into the ground. The car drives through a tunnel at a slight downward incline, moving its passengers deeper and deeper under the surface, though the increasing depth is hardly noticeable. During this slow descent, safety features become apparent

as the ceiling consists of large metal plates screwed into the rock above.

After riding 15 minutes under countless safety plates, they arrived at the current mining location and were about 250 feet beneath the earth's surface. There is no natural light present, but the area is well-lit through lights hung above the head and through the safety spotlights featured on the front of all safety helmets.

The walls of the mine itself also aid this feeling of being well lit. The walls of the mine are unlike those commonly imagined. They do not feature dark chunks of coal ready to be harvested; instead, they are light in color as if they have been painted. This light color is from a safety process that involves coating the walls with flame retardant materials, once the coal underneath has been harvested.

The drive to make the mine safe is constantly visible during the tour. The colossal mining equipment that rips its way through the earth is not controlled through a driver's seat but rather via remote control, not unlike those used for RC-Cars. This is to help the driver keep their distance from the dangerous machinery. These seemingly odd moves to increase mine safety show why FCC's B&I program is invaluable to the mining community. Safety in a mine is vital, yet the safety procedures used are ones that instructors would not cover in a more general workplace safety demonstration.

Through this program, niche safety courses can be offered to allow the local mining industry to continue to advance its efforts to add layers of safety to mining. Understanding the importance and complexity of safety measures in the mine is vital to the B&I department, and this tour served as a reminder of this topic. It also provided IECC and FCC a fascinating glimpse into the new world of classes available through the B&I department. The lucky staff members who attended this event left with a new

HEIGH HO - TO THE MINE WE GO cont.

excitement for the training and opportunities that FCC will provide this often misimagined career field.

These safety features exposed the IECC and FCC personnel to a new world of mining and charged the B&I department with a further sense of excitement for getting to work in this fascinating field. With safety being a top priority in modern mines, the training offered through FCC's B&I courses will be invaluable to local mines.

STRENGTH THROUGH PARTNERSHIP



Fairfield Memorial Hospital (FMH) and FCC, two of Wayne County's largest employers, have demonstrated that a collaborative and supportive relationship makes both organizations stronger. Even in the midst of a global pandemic, FMH and FCC found ways to support each other and provide valuable needed resources to further each organization's mission.

As cases of COVID-19 started to surge in early 2020,

FMH proactively identified areas within their facilities that could be transitioned into patient care areas where the influx of infected individuals could receive treatment. This transition required additional hospital beds. Unable to secure additional beds in a timely manner, FMH turned to its valuable community partner for support.



FCC quickly responded by loaning Fairfield Memorial Hospital

all available hospital beds and privacy dividers from its nursing teaching lab. Knowing that personal protection equipment (PPE) was becoming both scarce and extremely expensive, FCC also provided the hospital with all available PPE to help ensure the safety of both FMH's providers and patients. Dr. Paul Bruinsma, Dean of Instruction at FCC, stated, "Frontier Community College was honored to partner

STRENGTH THROUGH PARTNERSHIP cont.



with Fairfield Memorial Hospital during times of uncertainty related to the recent pandemic. We look forward to future collaborative endeavors to support and strengthen the hospital as it completes its extraordinary expansion project that will bring new services and expand current services to the immediate and surrounding areas.”

Three weeks before the end of the spring 2021 semester, Frontier Community College’s Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) Program found itself without a faculty to finish the rest of the semester. FMH’s CEO

Katherine Bunting-Williams came to the rescue and provided a way for the students to complete the semester without missing a beat. She asked Laboratory Director Robbie Hale, MA, MT, (AAB) to work with and mentor FCC’s students as part of his hospital duties.

Robbie’s deep knowledge in the field, years of clinical experience, and fun temperament provided students with an optimal learning experience. So students could experience a real laboratory environment, Robbie arranged a tour of FMH’s laboratories. He provided much insight into the actual MLT profession from a lab manager’s perspective. In the final three weeks of the semester, and even into the summer months, he has prepared the MLT students for clinical rotations this coming fall and spring. Dr. Katherine Bunting-Williams commented on the arrangement, stating, “Fairfield Memorial Hospital is proud to be a part of the Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT), Nursing, and other programs at Frontier Community College. Programs such as these help to provide career opportunities for people in Wayne and the surrounding communities. As we continue to grow, so do our staffing needs. FCC’s commitment to helping promote careers in healthcare is a vital resource for our hospital and one we fully support.” To ensure success moving forward, Dr. Bunting-Williams has graciously offered to provide guest lecturers and tutors for MLT classes.

The collaborative partnership between Fairfield Memorial Hospital and Frontier Community College epitomizes how two organizations can strengthen and support each other. The commitment of both to the greater cause of community health and education serves as a model for collaborations between health care institutions and higher education. As FCC looks to increase access to higher education and FMH expands healthcare services, options, and opportunities for residents of Wayne County and beyond, both organizations are eagerly looking for more opportunities to work together!

ATHLETES DOMINATE ACADEMICS



Frontier Community College’s athletic teams had another great year, with the baseball team breaking school records for their post-season performance. These remarkable accomplishments in athletics are not coming at a sacrifice for classroom performance. All three of FCC’s athletic teams, baseball, softball, and volleyball, had the highest team GPA in Region 24 athletics. Nationally, they also received praise for their grade point average, with softball ranking 14th in the nation, baseball ranking 6th in the nation, and volleyball ranking 9th in the nation for team GPA.

The overall success of FCC’s athletes is in part due to our coach’s unique recruitment efforts. When trying to find a player to join the Frontier Family, coaches focus on many aspects of the player’s personality. They want someone who can excel in their sport, but they also look for an individual they feel can genuinely benefit from the college. “When it comes to prospective players, we believe that the classroom translates to the field and through all aspects of life. When we are recruiting players, we look for individuals that want to better themselves through education and continue to play ball,” says

Jimmy Brenneman, FCC head baseball coach. This focus makes FCC athletic teams not just athletic groups but support systems that encourage players to thrive in all aspects of their life.

Athletics are a fantastic addition to the Frontier Family and gives the college an amazing opportunity to recruit students who otherwise would have looked elsewhere. Yet, academics are still the heart of all campus activities. This is why FCC is elated with the teams’ honors for their classroom performance.