



▶ IECC DEGREE NAMED 2ND BEST VALUE IN THE US



▶ LTC PREPARES FOR PRODUCTION OF CINDERELLA



▶ INTERLUDE TRIO PERFORMING AT LACKEY MUSIC HALL

# LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE



## LTC CMA PROGRAM RANKED #1 IN US

A website that helps students make college decisions recognized Illinois Eastern Community Colleges for seven top programs in the United States. Intelligent.com, which is a resource for online and on-campus program rankings and higher education planning, included IECC in its programs assess for 2022. The research identifies programs in the nation based on flexibility, faculty, course strength, cost, and reputation.

Intelligent.com implemented a unique methodology that ranks each program on a scale from 0 to 100 across five categories. The scoring system compares each university according to program strength, student readiness, return on investment, cost, and student engagement. Researchers compared 704 programs from 2,900 universities and colleges across the United States.

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges offers flexible distance learning that appeals to busy adults or hybrid models that include on-campus and online formats. Experts at Intelligent.com assessed programs that help students enhance and develop advanced skills for a variety of in-demand positions.

Intelligent.com rated IECC as the top choice for Online Associate in Medical Assisting Programs and gave IECC the Intelligent Pick Award. The Human Resource Assistant program ranked 13th nationally and was named the Best for

Illinois Transfer Students. For General Studies Online, IECC was 15th and was named the Best of Tech Skills. They rated the Alternative Fuels program the best in the state. IECC ranked 18th nationally for its Accounting Program. The Medical Office Administration Program ranked 22nd and earned the Best Internship Option Award. The Pharmacy Tech program rated 35th and was named the Best for Certification Review.

“When students come to Frontier Community College, Lincoln Trail College, Olney Central College, and Wabash Valley College, they’re getting an exceptional education,” said IECC Chancellor Dr. Ryan Gower. “One of the biggest reasons for that is our faculty strive to get to know our students and help them succeed. Students can count on personalized attention when they come to any one of our colleges.”

Studies show that obtaining a degree increases income substantially, degree holders earning 84% more than those with only high school diplomas or those without a completed GED. The percentage difference in earnings continues to grow with higher learning degrees such as masters, doctoral or professional degrees, with the unemployment rate decreasing to as much as 1.1% for those with a doctorate.

Three programs available at Lincoln Trail College ranked high nationally according to intelligent.com. The Medical Assisting Program earned their #1 ranking. The Associate in General Studies ranked #15th nationally and the Pharmacy Technician program ranked #35 in the US and was named the best for certification review.



**ASSOCIATE IN MEDICAL ASSISTING**



**PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TRAINING**



**ASSOCIATE IN GENERAL STUDIES**

## IECC DEGREE NAMED 2ND BEST VALUE IN NATION



Students at Frontier Community College, Lincoln Trail College, Olney Central College, and Wabash Valley College are getting a tremendous value according to the website Best Value Schools. They ranked Illinois Eastern Community Colleges as having the second-best valued Associate Degree in Liberal Arts in the nation.

“In recent years, the cost of tuition at many colleges has skyrocketed forcing many students to take on unreasonable amounts of debt to earn a degree,” said IECC Chancellor Dr. Ryan Gower. “This once again shows that there’s a smarter way forward for students by attending one of the four colleges in our district.”

Best Value Schools used a matrix of cost, faculty to student ratio, and graduation rates to determine their rankings. The lower the cost and faculty to student ratio there is, the higher the institution ranks. The higher the graduation rate is, the higher the institution ranks.

IECC has a tuition rate of \$135 per credit hour, a faculty to student ratio of 14 to 1, and some of the highest retention and completion rates in Illinois. Best Value Schools also called attention to the online options available to students at IECC.

“Each of our colleges is filled with students that are working on foundational classes that will be used to support advanced studies at four-year institutions,” said Gower. “The quality of our programs has received recognition at the local, state, and national levels. In fact, each of our colleges is an Aspen Prize Top 150 U.S. College, which means we offer some of the best education available in the country.”

In November, FCC, LTC, OCC, and WVC awarded Success Scholarships to 254 students at 18 area high schools totaling nearly \$180,000. “Our tuition is already one of the lowest in the area,” said Gower. “When students make the decision to receive a high-quality education at IECC, they are making a financially smart choice and avoiding the burden of high amounts of college debt.”

IECC’s next Priority Deadline is February 25. Students can go to [www.iecc.edu/priority](http://www.iecc.edu/priority) to begin the application process. In addition to filling out the application, students also need to complete the FAFSA using the school code 001742, which covers each of the colleges within the district. The awards for the second Priority Deadline will be announced in mid-March.

**CINDERELLA COMING TO LTC**

Auditions for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Trail College's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella will be January 17 and 18 at 6:30 at the Zwermann Arts Center Theater.

Callbacks, if necessary, are scheduled for January 19 at 6:30. The first read-through for the musical is January 20 at 6:30 and rehearsals begin January 24.

"This is a fairy tale which requires polished, charming, and energetic characters," says Director Brennan Seth Tracy. "It will benefit you to make strong choices and focus on vocal clarity and characterization. Spend time preparing characterizations, facial expressions, and movements for your vocal excerpts to give us an idea of how you might play the character while singing."

Tracy says people that are not planning to audition for a named character and would like to be in the ensemble can pick any character to read. Audition packets are available online.

Performances for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Trail College's production of Cinderella are March 25-27 and April 1-3.

## CHILDREN'S SUMMER THEATER RETURNING IN JUNE



Lincoln Trail College Children's Summer Theater will return in 2022 with two shows. LTC will perform Winnie the Pooh Kids and Lion King Jr. in June under the direction of Mindy Evans.

Winnie the Pooh Kids will be for kids entering 1st through 4th grades. Performance dates are June 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. Rehearsals are May 31 through June 23 from 9-11 a.m.



Lion King Jr. will be for kids entering 5th through 9th grades. Performances are June 25 at 7 p.m. and June 26 at 2 p.m. Rehearsals are May 31 through June 23 from 12-2 p.m.

Registration for the Children's Summer Theater program will take place in the late spring with dates and times announced on social media. The cost of Children's Summer Theater is \$135 and is due at the time of registration.



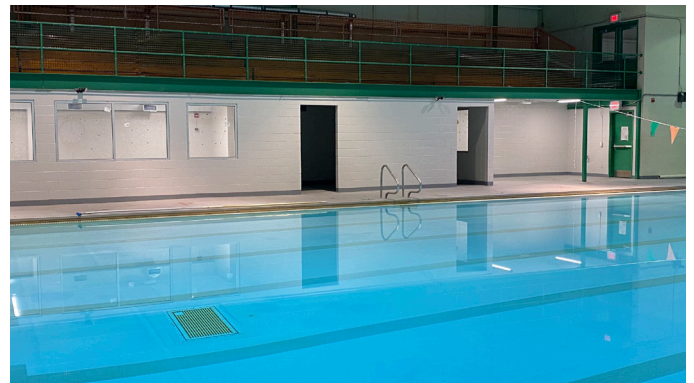
Sophie Kershaw-Patilla and Dr. Michael Patilla perform holiday music for diners in the Statesmen Grill.



Rebecca Carmack directs the Concert Choir during the Winter's Night by Candlelight Concert at the First United Methodist Church.



Surveying begins for the Crawford County Recreation Center.



Work continues on the Rowland-Nicholas Natatorium.

## INTERLUDE TRIO HOLDING FIRST CONCERT IN LACKEY MUSIC HALL



Interlude Trio will hold the first public performance in Lackey Music Hall on February 11. Lackey Music Hall is the newest addition to Lincoln Trail College. The program will feature chamber music by Johann Sebastian Bach, Niccolò Paganini, Joseph Küffner, and Johann Kaspar Mertz. Interlude Trio members are Sophie Kershaw-Patilla (flute), Tanya Reed (viola), and Michael Patilla (guitar).

Sophie Kershaw-Patilla is a flutist and piccoloist with over 20 years of experience as a regional performer and private instructor. She is a former member and board member of the Tennessee Wind Symphony in Knoxville, Tennessee. She holds a Bachelor of Instrumental Music Education degree from Mississippi State University and a Master of Arts degree in Educational Psychology from Tennessee Technological University. A member of Kappa Delta Pi, an International Honor Society in Education, she is excited to join the faculty at Lincoln Trail College teaching applied music lessons and performing with the Jazz Band.

Tanya Reed has been playing viola for over 30 years, both as a soloist and in orchestras and quartets, throughout Indianapolis, East Central Illinois, and the Chicagoland area. From 1996-2000, she was a member of the Bradley-Bourbonnais Strolling Strings Ensemble, and she performed in the Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra from 1998-2006. She has spent the last 14 years playing

in the Eastern Symphony Orchestra in Charleston, IL. Tanya has performed for weddings and many other special events. She teaches violin and viola lessons in Crawford County and is most proud of experiencing the joy music elicits from her young students.

Michael Patilla holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and has been active as a classical guitarist for over 35 years, performing throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. As a Fulbright Scholar, he served as a guest lecturer at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras, performed concerts throughout the country, made various radio and television appearances, and collaborated with Honduran composers to publish a collection of works for guitar. He created the guitar program at Mississippi State University, where he was on the faculty for 18 years, and is currently serving as Director of Fine Arts at Lincoln Trail College, where he teaches various music courses, directs the Jazz Band and Statesmen Singers, and teaches applied lessons in guitar and orchestral strings.

The concert on Feb. 11 begins at 7 p.m. There is a limit of 60 tickets, and they are \$10 each. Tickets are available online at [Showtix4u.com](https://www.showtix4u.com).



**FEBRUARY ATHLETIC EVENTS**

**Baseball**

4	at Jackson State	TBD
5	at Jackson State	TBD
11	at Georgia Highlands	12:00
12	at Georgia Highlands	11:00
25	Mississippi Delta (at Millington, TN)	3:30
25	Southeast CC (at Millington, TN)	6:00
26	Kirkwood CC (at Millington, TN)	12:30
26	Three Rivers (at Millington, TN)	TBD

**Men's Basketball**

2	at Olney Central	7:00
5	at Lewis & Clark	3:00
9	Kaskaskia	7:00
12	Southwestern	3:00
19	John A. Logan	3:00
22	at Shawnee CC	7:00
24	at Lake Land	7:30

**Softball**

12-14	Tigerfest (at Booneville, MS)	TBD
18-25	at Cocoa Beach, FL	TBD

**Women's Basketball**

2	at Olney Central	5:00
9	Kaskaskia	5:00
12	Southwestern	1:00
19	John A. Logan	1:00
22	at Shawnee CC	5:00

**STUDENT-ATHLETES COMBINE FOR 3.25 GPA**

## LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

2021 ATHLETICS FALL REPORT CARD

SPORT	TEAM GPA
WOMEN'S SOCCER	3.92
BASEBALL	3.48
GOLF	3.32
MEN'S SOCCER	3.21
SOFTBALL	3.17
VOLLEYBALL	3.02
MEN'S BASKETBALL	2.98
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	2.92
<b>LTC ATHLETICS OVERALL</b>	<b>3.25</b>

# 16

CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS WITH AN OVERALL GPA ABOVE 3.0.

# 28

STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH A 4.0 GPA

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Lincoln Trail College student-athletes combined for a GPA above 3.0 for the 16th consecutive semester. In the Fall 2021 Semester, the Athletic Department had a combined GPA of 3.25. Additionally, 28 student-athletes had 4.0 GPAs.

“I’m really proud of our student-athletes,” said Athletic Director and Baseball Coach Kevin Bowers. “We want them to succeed here, and our coaches make it a priority for them to perform not only in their sports, but also in the classroom.”

Six teams had GPAs over 3.0 led by the women’s soccer team, which had a 3.92 GPA. The baseball team had a 3.48 GPA and the golf team combined for a GPA of 3.32. The men’s soccer team had a 3.21 GPA, the softball team finished with a 3.17 GPA and the volleyball team had a 3.02 GPA. The men’s basketball team finished with a 2.98 GPA and the women’s basketball team had a 2.92 GPA.

“We’re fortunate to have a great team of people at Lincoln Trail College that want to see not only our student-athletes succeed, but all of our students,” said Bowers. “They make sure that our students have the guidance and one-on-one attention they need to be successful. Our faculty members are truly invested in the lives of our students, and it shows. On top of that, we have a strong support staff that helps our students and student-athletes succeed.”

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are excited at Lincoln Trail College by the start of a new semester, our students are back, and their contagious energy propels us forward. It is eerie to walk empty hallways during the break. LTC should be hopping all the time with students and community members. Our supporter and alumnus, Mr. Bill Sandiford, says that he wants “to make LTC the center of everything in Crawford County.” We want that, and our residents deserve it.

To achieve the above goal, we have fully aligned ourselves with the established IECC target of becoming a Guided Pathways (GP) institution. This widely researched and recognized set of best practices only enhances our contribution to our students and maximizes their chances of success. GP relies on four pillars: clear academic pathways, straightforward access to credit courses, wrap-around services, and an objective measurement of the learning that has occurred. This set of practices takes years and diligence to establish. Chancellor Gower is charging IECC colleges to work toward this end and recognizes the monumental nature of the task. For that, our all-staff presentation on January 6 focused on GP. In it, I explained the needs and the vision and shared the IECC expectations. These practices are currently considered as national benchmarks that solely require individualization to specific LTC needs. Subsequently, Dean Todd and I will work with the faculty and advising staff on milestones and timelines, which fit in the larger targets of IECC.

The outcome of adopting GP at LTC is simply removing obstacles and streamlining processes to ensure student success. One of the first steps is to lay out our processes and see where students are facing difficulties and/or quitting. Another step is to create various types of certificates that are stackable to allow for students to achieve the goals that they need for their work and life, not our common-place/cookie-cutter set of certificates and degrees that appear as immovable monoliths to our students. Moreover, we want to strengthen our partnerships with our employers to ensure that our degrees and certificates continue to meet the needs of today's ever changing workplace. These are all elements that will be addressed in our future and diligent efforts at LTC and IECC.

LTC is a partner with the community, local businesses, organizations, and institutions. And we will continue to lead through innovative education and workforce development.

Dr. Zahi Atallah  
President  
Lincoln Trail College

