



AYERS RECOGNIZED AS IACEA
TEACHER OF THE YEAR



PROCESS TECHNOLOGY TEAM
FINISHES 3RD IN NATIONAL
COMPETITION



PHI THETA KAPPA
EARNS INTERNATIONAL
RECOGNITION

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

Network



Left to right, Nicholas Brown, Mallory Mundy, Ike Book, and Chanyoung "Cy" Yun

LTC ANNOUNCES STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

Lincoln Trail College announced the winners of this year's student awards. Chanyoung "Cy" Yun was awarded the Joseph C. Piland Excellence in Scholarship Award. Ike Book and Nicholas Brown were awarded the J. Rod Harmon Excellence in Service Award and Mallory Mundy was awarded the Bev L. Turkal Excellence in Leadership Award.

The Piland Award is given to a full-time Lincoln Trail College student who has demonstrated outstanding academic merit and sustained excellence in the classroom. The award is given to honor Joseph C. Piland who was the first President of Lincoln Trail College. His vision and passion for education were instrumental in the development of a comprehensive community college for Crawford County.

Yun came to Lincoln Trail College from Seoul, South Korea. He's a Sport Management major at LTC and will transfer to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign upon graduation. One instructor nominating Yun for the award described him by stating, "just imagine every characteristic you would want in a model student – that is what you get with Yun." He was also described as prepared, engaged, participatory, and dedicated.

The Harmon Award is given to a full-time Lincoln Trail College student who has demonstrated outstanding service to

the college or the community. Rod Harmon served as a faculty member at Lincoln Trail College for 27 years and has been the Executive Director of the Lincoln Trail College Foundation since 2005. He is well known for his rich sense of humor, dedication to his wife Diana, and commitment to creating opportunities for all residents of Crawford County to have access to a high-quality education.

Book was described as humble, caring, giving, pure, and genuinely nice and is lauded for always doing what is right and for trying to make his community better. Book has been a volunteer for the local Big Brothers Big Sisters program and is a youth group leader at his church.

Brown was described as ambitious, calm, conscientious, dependable, humble, generous, hard-working, patient, persistent, resilient, and service-oriented. Brown has served as a student worker in Information Services at LTC and helped bridge the gap between IS Technicians. Brown will transfer to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale to study Computer Science upon graduating from LTC.

The Turkal Award is given to a full-time Lincoln Trail College student who has shown great leadership qualities and skills. This award is given to honor Bev L. Turkal, a true leader in education, whose passion was to make a difference and change the lives of children, teens, adults, and lifelong learners. Bev believed to be a strong leader one must Live Life, Care and Show Empathy, must have High Energy, and be Competitive to Accomplish the Goals set to Make Things Happen!

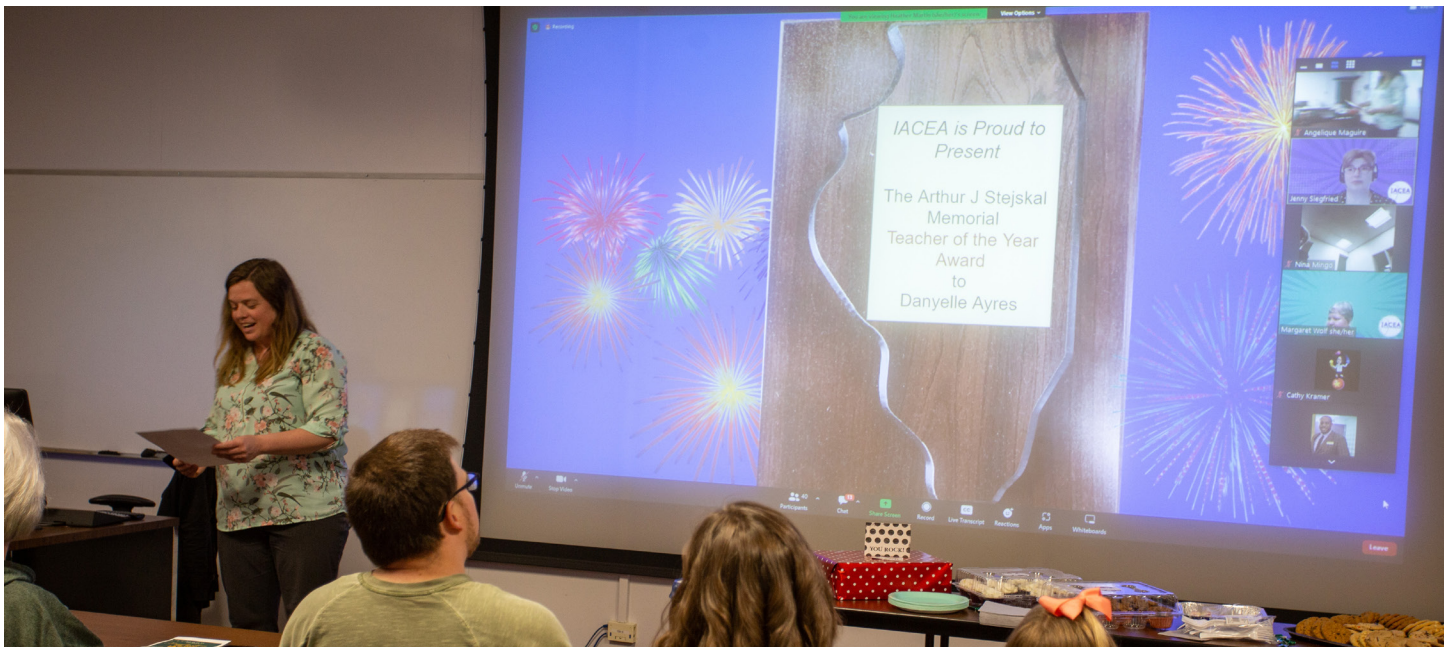
Mundy, who won last year's Harmon Award, serves as the president of both Phi Theta Kappa and Student Senate at LTC and is also the Vice President for the Southern District of Illinois for Phi Theta Kappa. Additionally, she plays soccer, is a TRIO mentor, and works in LTC's Office of Public Relations and Marketing. One employee said of Munday, "it is rare to meet a student with as much compassion and awareness and this young woman. Not only is she an excellent and hard-working student, but she has also dedicated herself to enriching the lives of students, faculty, and staff around her. She is truly special for her care and commitment to helping others." Upon graduation, Mundy will transfer to DePauw University where she will major in Communications and play soccer.

The three awards are given annually, and students are nominated by faculty and staff members. A committee selects the recipients of the awards.



Faculty and staff awards were also given out at the annual awards ceremony. Mathematics Assistant Professor Kim Schucker was awarded this year's faculty award. Administrative Assistant to the President and Dean Jackie Shamhart and Performing Arts Assistant Kristi Weidner-Rawlings were awarded the staff award. Like the student awards, faculty and staff members are nominated by their peers and a committee selects the award recipients.

The awards ceremony also recognizes employees for their years of service to the institution. Among those recognized this year was Life Science Professor An Roy for her 35 years of service as an instructor at LTC.



AYERS NAMED IACEA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association recognized Lincoln Trail College instructor Danyelle Ayers as the 2022 Arthur J. Stejskal Teacher of the Year. She received the award at a virtual ceremony on May 5, which is Teachers Appreciation Day.

The Teacher of the Year Award recognizes a teacher who demonstrates a commitment to adult and continuing education and recognizes and understands the physical, psychological, social, and cognitive characteristics of adult learners. The Teacher of the Year also provides a supportive atmosphere for learning and assists learners in formulating personal learning objectives and assessing progress towards those objectives.

Ayers started teaching LTC's morning adult education class in 2018. In her nomination letter, she was described as someone that goes above and beyond for her students, her work peers, the program, and her community. She was described as a genuine and dedicated instructor who shares not only her knowledge and expertise but puts her heart into all she does.

One of Ayers' students, John Evans, who completed the program in 2019, wrote a letter of support for her. "If it wasn't for Danyelle encouraging me to keep going even when I was ready to give up, I wouldn't have the job I have now. If anyone deserves a teacher's award it's her. This woman won't let you give up and she won't give up on her students!"

Ayers is LTC's Adult Basic and Secondary Education instructor for morning and evening classes. She is also the Adult Education Academic Support at LTC and also teaches the support class for the Integrated and Education (IET) Welding program along with remedial classes. She says she wanted to become an instructor for Adult Education to help people.

"I enjoy helping people achieve their goals. I like motivating and encouraging them to keep striving for what they want. I like to see the sense of accomplishment they have as they progress through the stages of our program."

Before teaching at LTC, she served as a teacher in Villa Grove and Hutsonville. She earned an Associate of Science from LTC and then a Bachelor's in Education from Eastern Illinois University.



PTEC FINISHES 3RD IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Lincoln Trail College Process Technology students took third place in the North American Process Technology Alliance's Troubleshooting Skills Competition in Pasadena, Texas. LTC's team consisted of Sheldon Myers, Travis Selby, Brandon Blackwell, and Levi Dennison.

"I am very lucky to have a talented array of students," said LTC Process Technology instructor Tina Lindley. "First of all, it was a great opportunity for my students to be able to compete with other colleges. They were able to talk to the other competitors and coaches to learn about the other Process Technology programs in North America. The students were also able to network with some Process Industries while at the competition. Placing third in the competition was just the icing on the cake for my students and myself. I'm very proud of my students."

The competition features advanced Process Technology students from across the nation. Students use simulation software provided by Simtronics Corporation to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. Teams of four work together to troubleshoot a process upset. To qualify for the event, students must currently be enrolled in a Process Technology program on a full or part-time basis. They cannot be employed now or in the past in the industry as an operator.

"This is the epitome of what a workforce development event needs to be for industry," said Adam Ali, Manager of Workforce Development for the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers. "These are the best and brightest that are eventually going to get jobs in this important industry that contributes so much the nation's economy to everyone's daily lives."

"I believe we have an excellent Process Technology program at Lincoln Trail College," said Lindley. "This is the second year we've competed in the competition, and it is the second year we've placed in the top three. One of the reasons is because my adjunct instructor Mike Bachelor and I have a total of 66 years in the Process Industry."

According to NAPTA, enhanced problem-solving/troubleshooting skills help with student understanding of the process, help them to be safer employees, and help them to be better team players. All these traits are high on the list for employers in their search for entry-level employees.

"This competition is definitely an opportunity for these students to allow their competitive juices to flow and to really see how serious it is to be behind a console and operate billions of dollars of equipment efficiently and safely, said David Esquibel, who serves on the NAPTA Board of Directors. "If they're able to sharpen their troubleshooting skills, we believe that it also will help create a safer environment."

Lindley says the fact that LTC students can compete successfully against larger schools shows how talented they are and that they can do the job required of a process technician.



LTC PTK CHAPTER EARNS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Lincoln Trail College's Alpha Iota Epsilon Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society earned international recognition at the PTK Catalyst event. LTC was named a Top 100 Chapter and received a Distinguished Honors in Action Project Hallmark Award.

Phi Theta Kappa chooses its Top 100 chapters based on equally-weighted Honors in Action and College Project scores. The organization has nearly 1,300 chapters in 10 countries with approximately 240,000 active members.

"Being a top 100 chapter means that the work was put in is being recognized and appreciated," said LTC chapter president Mallory Mundy. "To say it's an honor to be in the top 100 out of roughly 1,300 of chapters is an understatement. I think this really gives the next group of leaders an opportunity to go ever farther."

"Being a Top 100 chapter means a lot," said LTC vice president of scholarship Abiodun Soneye. "This shows me that our team is one of the best chapters in the country. We really work hard and I'm proud of this team!"

The Honors in Action Project incorporate academic research and analysis, action, collaboration, and impact. Chapters choose a theme from the 2020-2021 Honors Study Topic, To the Seventh Generation: Inheritance and Legacy. Lincoln Trail College's project was titled Progression of Mental Health in Collegiate Athletes.

"Receiving an award for our honors in action project feels great," said Soneye. "As the VP of scholarship, I was very involved in the research process for our topic. I think this award shows our team that we are on the right track, and I really hope it doesn't stop here. This project has the capability of making big change."

"Receiving a distinguished hallmark award for our honors in action project was incredible," said Mundy. "We knew going into this project it was something we were passionate about, and I really think that showed through. I also can't forget the guidance from our advisors, Kim Schucker and Carrie Brown, without their support and encouragement we wouldn't have been successful."

Lincoln Trail College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter is no stranger to success. The chapter has repeatedly been named a Five Star Chapter, which is the highest level of recognition a chapter can earn.



PHI BETA LAMBDA STUDENTS EARN EIGHT STATE FINISHES

The Lincoln Trail College Phi Beta Lambda brought home eight state finishes at the recent State Conference in Effingham.

Ezequiel Fernandez Carunchio took first place in the Marketing Concepts category. Nicholas Harness was second in Macroeconomics and Juan Solivellas Garcia was third in Macroeconomics.

Mackenzi McIntosh finished fourth in both Organizational Behavior and Leadership and Personal Finance and Garcia was fourth in Microeconomics.

Carson Musgrave earned sixth-place finishes in Computer Concepts and Personal Finance.

Four LTC students qualified for the PBL National Conference that will be held in Chicago from June 24-27.

Phi Beta Lambda is a student business organization that just started this Spring at LTC. The organization is open to all students enrolled in at least one business course. It provides leadership, competitive, and learning opportunities for students. For more information about Phi Beta Lambda or business courses at LTC, contact Amie Mayhall at mayhalla@iecc.edu.



LTC PLANS 52ND ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Lincoln Trail College will conduct its 52nd annual Commencement Exercises on May 13 at 7 p.m. in the LTC Sports Center.

Lincoln Trail College President Dr. Zahi Atallah will preside over the ceremony and provide the opening remarks. Adjunct instructor Jay Regennitter will provide the inspirational reading.

There are two student speakers representing the Class of '22. Resa Shaner will talk about her perspectives as a student that returned to school later in life, while Mallory Mundy represents traditional students. Trustee Barbara Shimer will introduce Shaner, while LTC Coordinator of Marketing and Public Information Chris Forde will introduce Mundy.

Dean of Instruction Brent Todd will present the candidates for degrees and certificates and Forde will announce the graduates as they cross the stage. Shimer will confer the degrees. After receiving degrees, Becca Geffs ('22) and Taylor Gray ('22) will lead everyone in the singing of the Lincoln Trail College Alma Mater.

Lincoln Trail College Foundation Executive Director Rod Harmon will provide the closing reflections for the ceremony.

The Interlude Trio, consisting of Sophie Kershaw-Patilla, Tanya Reed, and Michael Patilla, will provide music for the processional, the Star-Spangled Banner, Pomp and Circumstance, and the recessional.

In addition to the in-person ceremony in the LTC Sports Center, the commencement exercises will be live-streamed on LTC's YouTube channel, youtube.com/lincolntrailcollege.



About 200 high school seniors from the area visited Lincoln Trail College for Senior Blitz '22. They learned about LTC and college life in general.



LTC students talk with high school students at Senior Blitz. They shared their stories about why they chose LTC and offered advice to the students.



Author and Emmy nominee Julie Carter talks with area students during the Young Women Lead Conference at LTC.



Actress Ashley Eckstein, who portrayed Ashoka Tano in Star Wars: The Clone Wars, speaks to students at the Young Women Lead Conference.



Mallory Mundy, Paige Hensley, and Krista Hemrich were recognized as Phi Theta Kappa All-Academic Team members.



Lincoln Trail College hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive in April.



Chris Forde emcees the dedication ceremony for Lackey Music Hall.



Yvonne Newlin speaks during the dedication ceremony of Lackey Music Hall.



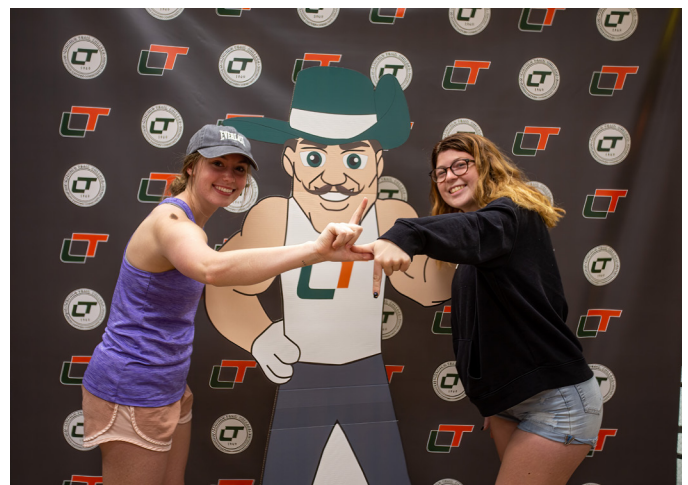
A group of Lincoln Trail College students enjoys Craze Daze, which featured numerous games, giveaways, and food.



Heather Watts speaks to junior high students about her experience in LTC's Health Careers programs.



LTC students check in at Grad Fest before receiving their caps and gowns and other giveaways.

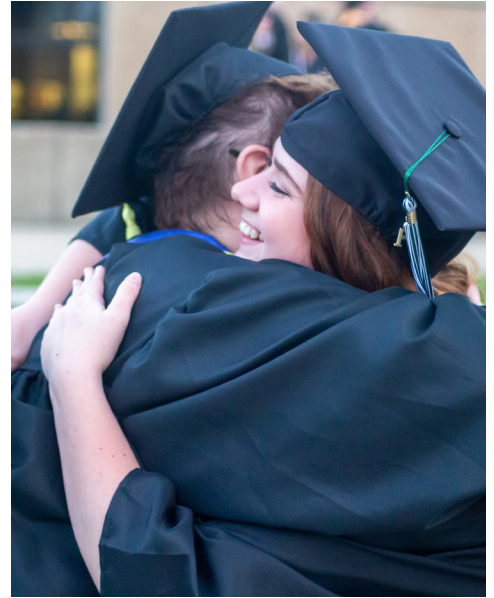


Kinley Block and Paige Hensley pose for a picture at LTC's Grad Fest.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The academic year is drawing to its end this week. Hundreds of students will be leaving us to other institutions to further their education, whereas others join the workforce. LTC was the conduit for their future successes, and it is time to celebrate these students. Many institutions take their students for granted, but we don't. We are committed to continuous improvement to provide our students, employers, and community, the best education that fits individual needs and provides for success.

Employers can't figure out what an 'A' or an 'F' mean when they see a job applicant. We assign the grade based on our criteria and our exams. Employers and students need to know what they have learned and what they can do. For that reason, the future at LTC will revolve around the assessment of learning outcomes. This approach provides the teacher the feedback that they need to optimize the instruction, rather than rely on their hunch. It is an evaluation for us to learn from our students. Similarly, across the multiple courses of a program, we can map the development of skills and knowledge of our students. This, in turn, is extremely valuable to employers because then they get a glimpse of what the student is in effect capable of contributing to their enterprise. Additionally, this approach provides critical data to us in administration on faculty development, equipment, and even facilities needs. It also speaks to the curricular and instructional changes that may be needed in the course. We can tie in employability skills, citizenry values, in addition to course learning.



In late April, Crawford County hosted a consultant and a series of meetings to build a plan to address the dire need for daycare providers and facilities. If we consider that 45.5% of the women in Crawford County are not in the workforce, and we remember all the requests by employers (large and small) for a workforce, this puts into perspective some of our current concerns. We have daycare needs for at least 500 kids under the age of 5. Our business plan will look at in-home and center-based daycare options that focus on educational needs and services to disabled children. Various employers have contributed financially to this study and are eager to fill the current (historical too) gaps that we see. The whole nation is grappling with the same concern.

Crawford County and the City of Robinson are also working toward the development of additional housing options around the city. These are sorely needed given that the large employers in our area are having difficulty hiring and retaining talents because of housing (and daycare). These steps are also critical to reverse the population decline of our county. Moreover, they allow us to attract new talents to our area, which will further enhance the range of interests and backgrounds, hence creating new business and entertainment opportunities.

On behalf of LTC, I am immersed in all the above-mentioned activities. Furthermore, I am leading the effort to identify the current and future workforce needs in our county. This information is of utmost importance to LTC to plan educational offerings that meet the preparation demands of employment. This exercise is also needed to provide actual numbers on future housing and daycare needs in this region.

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