



The VOYAGER

The Frontier Community College Newsletter

January 2023

Staff & Faculty Workshop Held Jan. 4

As the spring semester was nearly underway, FCC faculty and staff held a workshop on Wednesday, January 4th, in Bob Boyles Hall. The first portion of the workshop was for faculty as Dean Paul Bruinsma began by providing some updates. Various speakers gave their respective updates including English Instructor Kim Wellen and Title III Project Director Morris Nead, among others.

The campus as a whole gathered for the second portion of the workshop in the late morning. President Jay Edgren gave the welcome and highlighted the employees that have been hired between the last gathering and now. Athletic Director Nixie Hnetkovsky gave a brief update on all things athletics before new FCC Head Baseball Coach, Matt McCue, took the podium. Coach McCue shared how excited he is to be at Frontier and shared his plans for the program moving forward. Coach understands the challenges the team and college have faced within the last year and laid out his plan to build a strong baseball program full of student-athletes who contribute on the field, in the classroom, and out in the community.

Amanda Kotch gave an update on the international program and provided some district wide goals that have been put in place moving forward.

Dean of Business & Industry (B&I) Sharmila Kakac shared how B&I have continued to expand what they offer and maintain the desire add to the diverse services that are already provided.

Dean Paul Bruinsma gave instructional updates including plans for the truck driving program that will be underway in the spring. Dean Bruinsma shared a variety of other notes including the continued effort made by FCC to be more environmentally conscious as we are adding a solar picnic table on campus.

Upcoming Events

February

20 *Colleges Closed/President's Day*

March

3 *Midterm*

6 *No classes/Casimir Pulaski Holiday Observed*

7-12 *No classes/Spring Holiday*

Over 90 Students Receive Honors

Frontier Community College continues to be very proud of how hard and diligently our students work inside and outside of the classroom to achieve their academic goals. Honors are based upon high student GPA, with the Chancellor's list requiring a 3.90 or above GPA, the President's List requiring a 3.75-3.89, and the Dean's List requiring a 3.50-3.74. For the Fall 2022 semester, there were 49 students on the Chancellor's list, 24 on the President's List and 21 on the Dean's list, totaling 94 students who received honors.



Just a few of our hard-working students



Student Spotlight

Carter Ruffner of Madison, Kentucky, is enjoying his second year at FCC after spending his first year as a red-shirt freshman. Carter signed with FCC to play in the outfield and looks forward to being able to contribute on the field this upcoming season. During high school, in addition to baseball, Carter liked to play basketball as well as lift weights. He graduated with distinction, was a member of the National Honor Society, and was a pre-season all-region player during his junior and senior years. Carter is looking forward to this year at FCC and is eager to accomplish his goals and see what his future holds on and off the field. "I'm very, very excited to continue this journey at Frontier," said Ruffner.



Red-shirt Freshman Carter Ruffner

Title III Update

Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) Update

- During the month of December, the Title III team was saddened by the departure of MLT Program Director Ruth Wilkinson. Ruth was instrumental in the ongoing accreditation process and she will be missed by her peers and students, alike. We wish Ruth the best as she returns to her clinical practice. FCC students are fortunate enough to be taught the most up to date techniques by well qualified clinicians, like Ruth, with real world clinical experience and a deep commitment to the patient and the healthcare industry as a whole.
- The new year also brings in some change for the MLT program. Jennifer England returns to FCC as its MLT Program Director. Jennifer worked tirelessly in the early days of the MLT program, designing curricula, planning and organizing the laboratory and laying the groundwork for accreditation with the National Accreditation Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). We are excited to have Jennifer at the helm once again.
- The Mason Hall MLT Lab is now a distance learning classroom. The ceiling mounted camera tracks movement and automatically zooms and focuses allowing the instructor to freely and naturally move around the classroom. A sound bar, two large television monitors and microphones placed around the classroom allow students from every corner of the room and across the world to be fully engaged in class discussions.

Faculty Studio Update

Santa Claus paid a personal visit to the FCC Faculty Recording Studio on December 10th, for the Breakfast with Santa event. He met with children one-on-one and Education Technology Specialist Derek Dunn took a keepsake photo of each of the children with Santa to remember the special event.

In addition to Santa's photo shoot, Derek has been busy throughout December, filming and editing promotional and educational videos for TutorMe, FCC's online tutor program available free to students. He also has been a part of the production of several lecture videos making their debut this semester in Frontier online and hybrid courses. Derek also shot some video at the open house displaying the nursing department's new 'sim-mom'.



FCC Nursing Department's New 'Sim-Mom'

Business & Industry Update

- Workforce Education will participate in the Missouri MSHA Conference from January 18-20. This conference focuses on aggregate mining. One of our instructors, Wes Taylor, is a presenter at the conference.
- The Emergency Preparedness Department is hosting two one-day training sessions on adult mental health. The first one is on January 25th at the West Richland Center, followed by one on February 7th at FCC.
- Other trainings being offered in January include Drone Operation and OSHA classes.

Faculty Spotlight

Educational Technology Specialist Derek Dunn primarily shoots and edits video in his position, but his skills reach far beyond just that. Dunn, who received a degree in Mass Communication from Eastern Illinois University, spent time diversifying his capabilities at his job before joining FCC. Derek worked at WFIW/WOKZ radio in Fairfield where he was somewhat of a “swiss army knife”, as he had a variety of duties, such as on-air announcing, sales, announcing sports, audio production and social media management. He has been at FCC for about a year and has expressed how great his time here has been. “The faculty, staff, administration have all been very helpful and supportive ... I cannot thank them enough,” said Dunn.



**Educational Technology
Specialist Derek Dunn**

Derek is thrilled to be able to contribute to the goals and mission of Frontier Community College and recommends FCC to anyone looking to further their education. “I’m proud to be employed at one of the best community colleges in Illinois. It thrills me to hear success story after success story involving our students. We have great instructors that provide top-notch, high-quality education to our students. I’m proud to be a Bobcat!” said Dunn.

