



June 2023

The VOYAGER

The Frontier Community College Newsletter

45th Annual Commencement

Frontier Community College (FCC) held its 45th annual commencement on Friday, May 12th. Over 140 degrees and certificates were conferred for the 2022-2023 academic year. Since the first commencement in 1979, FCC has awarded over 6,500 degrees and certificates.



Graduates celebrating their achievements as some toss their caps and confetti

After the processional, the welcome was given by Dr. Jay Edgren, President of FCC. The student speaker for the evening was graduate Raechel Hnetkovsky. Dr. Paul Bruinsma, Dean of Instruction, presented the degrees and certificates. Diplomas were presented by Mr. Gary Carter, Dr. Jay Edgren. The charge to the class was presented by Dr. Edgren.

Upcoming Events

June

- 19 Juneteenth. College Closed
- 30 Midterm

July

- 4 Colleges Closed. Independence Day
- 28 Last Day of Summer Classes
- 31 Final Exams

Bobcat Den Hours

Monday-Friday
7:30AM-4:00PM

45th Annual Commencement cont.

Receiving the President's Award was Raechel Hnetkovsky of Albion, Illinois. The award is given annually to a member of the graduating class and is selected based on many criteria, including campus and community involvement, quality of character, academic rigor, and community service. Raechel graduated with an Associate Degree in Nursing and plans to work as a cardiac nurse in a hospital setting. In her time at FCC, she served as a member of Student Senate and Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. She was also elected and served as the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC) Student Trustee for the 2022-2023 academic year. The position serves as the liaison between the Board of Trustees and the student body of IECC, representing student opinions, viewpoints, and interests.



President's Award Recipient Raechel Hnetkovsky with President Edgren

ICCB Virtual Visit

On April 20th, there was a virtual visit made by The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to review some aspects of Adult Education at IECC. A virtual visit allows ICCB to ensure program compliance with rules and regulations and checks the status of student performance indicators. During a visit, ICCB Program Support reviews student files, program documentation and program performance numbers from the State of Illinois' Data and Information System.

Adult Education and Literacy programs are required to have an approved Integrated Career & Academic Preparation Systems (ICAPS) and an approved bridge program that will help students transition from pursuing their diploma to a career or college. The Career Bridge programs focus on employment skills and student options for career placement.

The virtual visit yielded no negative findings, as the administration files were in compliance with ICCB standards. New possible ICAPS programs were discussed that could be implemented at IECC in fiscal year '24. The Career Bridge courses were deemed a success, having more than 220 students taking part during the current fiscal year. ICCB found that all of the goals of Adult Education are on course to be met and thanked them for continuing to meet all the needs of adult learners.

McCue's Successful First Season as Coach

The 2022-2023 season was the first for Matt McCue as the Head Coach of Frontier's Baseball Team. The team finished 25-25 in the regular season, earning them a place in the postseason. Three program records were also set as Pitcher Zach Leduc broke the record for strikeouts in a season, Infielder Keegan Martin set the record for most stolen bases in a season, and the pitching staff as a whole had the best earned run average in program history.

Reflecting on his first season at FCC, McCue is thankful for the smooth transition he had during his arrival. "The year went well. My family and I are really getting settled. I have nothing but good things to say about my co-workers and members of the community," said McCue.



FCC Head Baseball Coach Matt McCue

Matt came to FCC at a difficult time, as a coaching change was taking place last fall during the school year. He understood the challenges ahead but remained optimistic about the opportunity. "It appeared to be a good learning experience ... I personally took it all in stride and did not let it deter me or my staff. I'm happy to have the opportunity and I knew we would handle whatever took place to the best of our ability," said McCue.

Although Matt reflects on the success of his first season, he has a vision in mind for FCC baseball moving forward. He understands that success on and off the field takes a collective effort from everyone. "We expect to be consistently one of the most competitive programs in the region. But our mission also involves 'investing'. Players investing in themselves, their teammates, and also in their community. Success on the field is a by-product of having the right people who are focused on the right things," he said.

Coach McCue hopes to see success for the student-athletes in their time at FCC but understands that their time here will help shape their future as well.

"We want to emphasize what it means to invest in personal growth, team success, and the community. We are preparing these students to move on after their time at FCC and feel that traits instilled here will serve them in all walks of life. This college does a great job at preparing students for their futures and I want the baseball program to follow that pattern," said McCue.

Summer Kids Classes



Kids class participants getting messy making slime and forming their personalized fossils

Summer kids classes started on Tuesday, June 6th at FCC. The week started with Junior Paleontology on Tuesday, Supreme Slime Making on Wednesday, and Camp CSI on Friday to end the week. There are a total of 109 students enrolled in at least one of the possible fifteen kid's classes/camps this summer, some of whom are taking multiple classes resulting in nearly 300 enrollments. Our kids camps help keep the kids engaged and entertained while providing many of them with their first look at the FCC campus.

Business & Industry Update

- A Workforce Education instructor meeting and workshop was held on May 25th. Nationally recognized Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) trainer and speaker Richard Wobby was present for the event. In addition to instructors and staff, safety personnel from area mines attended.
- Small Business Development Center (SBDC) personnel attended the State Entrepreneurship and Small Business conference in Champaign, IL. The SBDC has been busy with workshops, classes, and client consultations. Workshops and classes have been held on marketing, time management, financial decisions for small businesses, starting a small business, and customer service. An effort is being made to raise awareness of the SBDC services and presentations have been made to local chambers, with the next lunch and learn scheduled for the end of June in Flora.
- B&I is working on offering classes for education credits for Cosmetology and Nail Tech and will begin after receiving a state license. In July, an "Active Listening for Social Workers and QIDPs" training will be offered. Also, adult mental health training is being expanded to offer focused sessions for law enforcement and first responders.
- B&I attended the State Apprenticeship Conference in East Peoria and will be incorporating many of the best practices learned to collaborate with partners to expand apprenticeships.

Title III Update

During the month of May, MLT Program Director Jennifer England received official notification that the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) has awarded Frontier's MLT Program an initial accreditation period of five years, the maximum length of initial accreditation.

The accreditation status is the culmination of a multi-year process including submission of a self-study, evaluation by a review committee, a site visit by NAACLS peer reviewers, assessment by a quality assurance committee and a final evaluation by the NAACLS Board of Directors.

NAACLS accreditation gives assurance to students and their future employers that the education they will receive has been evaluated and approved by experts in the field to ensure that the program has been found to be academically rigorous and comprehensive enough to fully prepare graduates to work competently in a clinical laboratory setting. The fact that FCC has been granted the maximum term of initial accreditation signifies confidence that the MLT Program at FCC falls well within the standards and expectation of the accrediting body.

FCC graduated its second cohort of medical laboratory technicians on May 12th. The six new lab scientists were honored at the First Annual MLT Pinning Ceremony at West Hall in the afternoon prior to graduation. Grads were given pins by MLT faculty Julie Dehart and Cindy Green. The attendees of the ceremony were addressed by Program Director Jennifer England, Student Speaker and MLT Program Award Recipient Kristen Cheadle, and Keynote Speaker Debbie Bryant.



FCC MLT Class of 2023 (L-R) Abigail Whiting, Jessica Dooley, Kristen Cheadle, Madison McDaniel, Ashley Wyatt, and Felicia Winter.