

NETWORK



OCTOBER 2023



HIGHLIGHTS



IECC launches Steps to Success scholarship campaign



IECC awarded grant to improve access to education



LTC's popular Trunk or Treat at the Trail Community event returning Oct. 26

LTC NURSING ACHIEVES 100% PASS RATE

Lincoln Trail College's 2023 nursing class achieved a 100% RN pass rate for the National Council Licensure Exam. The Associate Degree Nursing program is designed to prepare students to take the NCLEX-RN exam to achieve licensure as a registered nurse.

"Achieving a 100% RN pass rate is a significant accomplishment for both the program and our students and community we serve," said Angie Williams, LTC's Department Head of Nursing and Associate Professor. "It reflects the program's dedication to producing highly competent/confident nurses and demonstrates our commitment to students' success."

Williams says that in order to make sure students are successful, the program employs a rigorous curriculum, hands-on clinical training, and individualized support. "Continuous assessment and feedback are crucial for improvement."

She says that the achievement speaks volumes about the nursing programs' quality. "It signifies that it effectively equips students with the knowledge and skills needed for



LTC Nursing Instructor Pauletta Gullett demonstrates to the class how to assess a patient.

the nursing profession.”

Lincoln Trail College has a pair of nursing information sessions this fall where people can learn more about how they can join the program. The first is October 30 from 3-4 p.m. and the second is November 28 from 9-10 a.m. Williams says people can also visit iecc.edu to learn about the admission process for the nursing program and view its curriculum. She says people can also contact LTC's Nursing Program Advisor Kyrrah Buchanan at 618-544-8657 to learn more about the program.

 **UPCOMING
NOVEMBER
EVENTS**

- 3 **God of Carnage**
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 4 **God of Carnage**
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 5 **God of Carnage**
2 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 8 **Health Career Expo**
12-2 p.m. & 4-6 p.m., Robinson Civic Center
- 10 **COLLEGE CLOSED - Veterans Day (Obs.)**
- 17 **Future Statesmen Day**
8:30-11:30, Campus-wide
- 18 **LTC Statesmen Day**
11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Campus-wide
- 22-23 **COLLEGE CLOSED - Thanksgiving**
- 28 **Jazz Band & Orchestra Concert**
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 30 **LTC Foundation Concert Series: The Lettermen**
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater



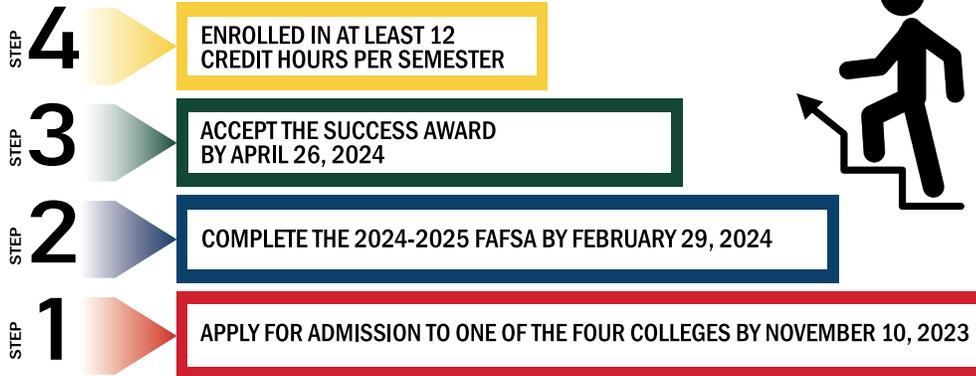
TRUNK OR TREAT
AT THE
TRAIL
OCTOBER 26
4-6 PM


IECC LAUNCHES STEPS TO SUCCESS CAMPAIGN



STEPS TO SUCCESS

WITH ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES | IECC.EDU



Frontier Community, Lincoln Trail, Olney Central and Wabash Valley colleges are simplifying scholarship awards for incoming high school students with Steps to Success.

“We are streamlining the process to make it as easy as possible for parents and students, so it is less daunting for everyone involved,” said Krystle Riggle, Illinois

Eastern Community Colleges Director of Financial Aid. “This is something we have all been working toward that will be a great benefit to our students.”

With Steps to Success, students follow a simple four-action process to qualify and receive the monetary awards:

- Step 1 — Apply to one of the four colleges by November 10, 2023.
- Step 2 — Complete the 2024-2025 FAFSA by February 29, 2024.
- Step 3 — Accept the Success Award by April 26, 2024.
- Step 4 — Enroll in at least 12 credit hours per semester.

Students can go to <https://iecc.edu/success> to begin the process. Awards will be announced in mid-March and funds applied directly to the student's account once all steps are finalized.

In 2023-2024, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges awarded more than \$216,000 in tuition scholarships to incoming students. Riggle hopes the changes will increase student eligibility in the coming year, enabling IECC to assist even more families.

“This is a great opportunity to help students on the path they have decided upon,” Riggle said. “These institutional funding awards will make it even more affordable for students to go to school closer to home.”

Riggle also emphasized that IECC is prepared to support students and families in navigating the significant changes slated for the 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

“We want students to be prepared for these changes that are going to affect them through no fault of their own,” she said. “If they go to our website (www.iecc.edu/financial), we have a list of all the changes we know are coming and we will continue to update it.”

Riggle recommends students review the changes and return to the site periodically.

“The Department of Education is still making changes,” she added. “Nothing is set in stone, and we could still see changes up until the release of the FAFSA.”

Although an exact date has not been set, Riggle said the FAFSA is tentatively scheduled to open in December. Once the Department of Education makes that determination, IECC will notify students.

"We appreciate everyone's patience," she said. "We know people are anxious. As soon as we know more, we will get that information out as quickly as possible. We are dedicated to helping students get through the process and in the future, it should be much smoother."

The forthcoming FAFSA form will contain fewer questions, reducing complexity for students and families. Additionally, there will be a shift in the formula used to calculate the federal aid students receive.

Starting in the 2024-2025 academic year, financial aid determination will be based on the Student Aid Index (SAI) instead of the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The SAI considers both parent and student incomes, as well as assets, to determine the eligible amount of financial aid. Riggle pointed out that family farms and small businesses must now be reported as assets, affecting the calculation for financial assistance.

"We know the FAFSA is a bit overwhelming and a lot to take in," she said. "We don't want students to get overwhelmed with the process. If they have questions, they can always reach out to us. We are 100-percent available to help parents and students understand the process. We don't want them to get frustrated and give up."

If families have questions regarding the FAFSA or Steps to Success, Riggle encourages them to contact FCC, LTC, OCC and WVC Financial Aid.

"Our department is always available to assist students and their families," she stressed. "We know 2024-2025 Financial Aid will be different for everyone and we are committed to making this a successful year for our students."

IECC RECEIVES GRANT TO EXPAND ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC) is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$719,381 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, aimed at enhancing educational opportunities for students across its multi-college system. The grant will fund the creation of 12 state-of-the-art Synchronous Lecture Halls, designed to connect students to faculty members and educational programs at different geographic locations. As the enrollment trends in higher education continue to change, IECC views this initiative as part of its commitment to provide access to a high-quality education at any of its four college locations.

The Synchronous Lecture Halls use high-quality video conferencing technology to enable two-way communication between instructors and students. Instructors can share their lecture and interact with students in multiple locations in real time. They also have the capability to record the materials to allow their students to revisit them again as they prepare for future examinations. By leveraging this cutting-edge technology, IECC is tearing down geographical divides and providing students at all four college locations with direct access to exceptional faculty members who are experts in their fields. "The original purpose of community colleges was to make sure that residents had convenient access to a high quality post-secondary education without the need to relocate or travel long-distances," says IECC Chancellor, Dr. Ryan Gower. "This initiative is in line with that vision. It opens access to faculty, classes, and programs that students would otherwise have to drive an hour or more to engage." The benefits of Synchronous Lecture Halls extend beyond geographical accessibility. They foster student engagement, promote interactive learning experiences, and provide flexibility for both faculty and students.



Spanish Instructor Elaine Hasty teaches a class in Lincoln Trail College's synchronous lecture hall.

Beyond the advantage to the students at IECC's four colleges, another benefit of this grant is the impact on local high schools. In this round of development, IECC is collaborating with Robinson High School, Richland County High School, and Clay City High School, which will also install synchronous lecture halls on their campuses. These rooms will enable their students to access dual credit opportunities they might otherwise not have. These opportunities empower students to earn college credits while still in high school, saving them money and giving them a head start on their journey toward a college degree. Fifteen of the sixteen high schools in IECC's district participated in an earlier opportunity.

"The higher-education landscape is changing," says Gower. "If we are truly committed to access, stewardship, and excellence, we have to pursue new ways to provide quality education. This grant and the classroom spaces it will create demonstrates our commitment to our students, our four colleges, and the communities we serve. By expanding access to education through Synchronous Lecture Halls, we are breaking down barriers and creating pathways to success for everyone." Despite the impressive technology these rooms will contain, Gower points out that they will be just one of many tools IECC uses to teach students. "The power of face-to-face teaching should not be minimized. While technology opens up many avenues for learning, it needs to be part of a comprehensive approach to teaching and learning. These rooms will be just one of many instruments in our teaching toolbox."

LTC PARTNERS WITH HOSPITAL FOR HEALTH CAREER EXPO



LTC Health Careers instructor Dr. Jared Gullett teaches a student how to take a blood pressure. Gullett's program is one of the programs that will be featured at the Health Careers Expo.

A Health Career Expo on November 8 at the Robinson Civic Center will give people a chance to learn about careers in health care and how they can get an education to start those careers. Lincoln Trail College is teaming up with Crawford Memorial Hospital for the event.

Illinois Eastern Community College Director of Enrollment Management Andrea Loll says the event is designed with two audiences in mind. There's a session that runs from 12-2 p.m. that is geared toward high school students. A second session runs from 4-6 p.m. and is for adults and non-traditional students.

Crawford Memorial Hospital will set up booths to showcase different careers available at the hospital. Lincoln Trail College along with the other colleges within IECC will also have booths to show people their educational options.

"We really want to make this a very hands-on event," said Loll. "We want people attending the event to see the kind of jobs out there, and there are a lot, and see exactly what kind of education they can expect from LTC and IECC."

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE PLANS SENIOR DAY EVENT



Lincoln Trail College will welcome high school seniors to the College on October 25. The Senior Day event will give seniors more information about LTC.

“We want to make this a fun and engaging event for our area seniors,” says Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Director of Enrollment Management Andrea Loll. “We’re planning some unique activities to showcase how Lincoln Trail College is a great choice for area students.”

Loll says there's a lot of important information high school seniors need as they make a college choice and she wants to make sure that LTC presents that information in an engaging way.

“We don't want this to be a day where we're talking at seniors. We want this to be a memorable day where they not only get important information about topics like admissions, resources, and financial aid, but they also have a fun experience.”

The seniors will have a chance to see one of the newest features of LTC. Part of the day includes a tour of the Crawford County Recreation Center. They'll also have a scavenger hunt on campus that's designed to introduce them to some of the resources available to students at LTC. A College Knowledge trivia game will help further reinforce those concepts.

Seniors will get a chance to learn about LTC's programs, clubs and organizations at an LTC-specific college fair. They'll also hear from current LTC students about their experiences during a student panel.

The day will be capped off with a free lunch featuring food trucks and a free ice cream sundae bar at The Statesmen Grill.

UPCOMING RECRUITING EVENTS

Oct. 25	LTC Senior Day
Nov. 8	Health Career Expo
Nov. 17	Future Statesmen Day
Nov. 18	LTC Statesmen Day
Jan. 20	LTC Statesmen Day
April 19	LTC Junior Experience

TRUNK OR TREAT AT THE TRAIL RETURNS OCTOBER 26



One of Lincoln Trail College's most popular community events is returning this year. Trunk or Treat at the Trail takes place from 4-6 p.m. on October 26 in the large parking lot at the College.

"This is a really fun event for everybody," says Lincoln Trail College Coordinator of Marketing and Public Information Chris Forde. "We really enjoy providing the community a safe and fun place where families can trick or treat."

College clubs and organizations along with community businesses and organizations will set up stations for trick-or-treating in the parking lot.

"Our college students have a lot of fun doing this," says Forde. "They dress up in themed costumes and make really creative trick or treat stations. We have faculty and staff that also get in the Halloween spirit. We all enjoy seeing the families come through with their kids in costumes and sometimes everyone in the family dresses up for the event."

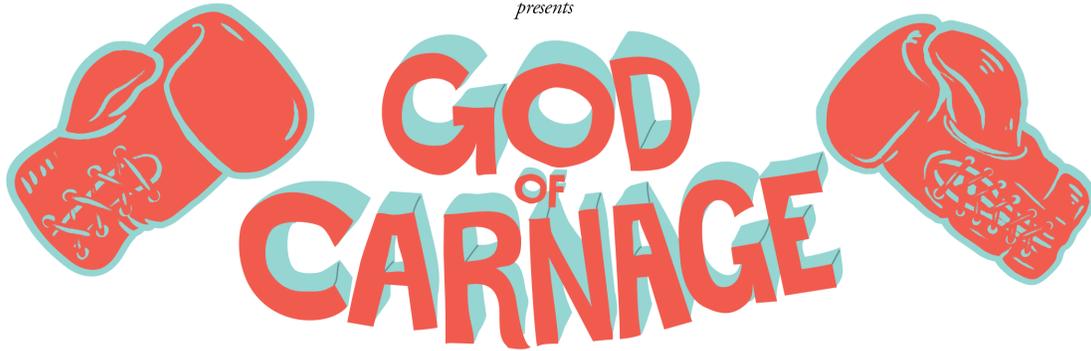
Trunk or Treat at the Trail is a free event for the community. "We usually see more than 2000 people attend this event," said Forde. "Our parking lot does fill up quickly, so we encourage people to have patience."

Although it is an outdoor event, LTC is asking people to leave their pets at home. The College is also asking people not to park in the grass when they visit Trunk or Treat at the Trail.

CAST NAMED FOR LTC'S PRODUCTION OF GOD OF CARNAGE

 *The Arts at*
LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE
presents

GOD OF CARNAGE



by Yasmina Reza
Translated by Christopher Hampton
Under the Direction of Taylor Dahlberg

October 27 • 7 PM | October 29 • 2 PM
November 3 & 4 • 7 PM | November 5 • 2 PM
Zvermann Arts Center Theater at Lincoln Trail College



Scan to
Purchase
Tickets

God of Carnage contains mature language and may not be suitable for all audiences

Lincoln Trail College Theater Director Taylor Dahlberg has named the cast for The Arts at Lincoln Trail College's production of God of Carnage.

The part of Alan Raleigh will be played by Lincoln "Jake" Wright while Annette Raleigh will be played by Grae Drake. Brennan Tracy plays the part of Michael Novak and Rachel Carter plays Veronica Novak.

Dahlberg said everyone who auditioned was awesome, which made casting difficult. She's encouraging people who did not get cast to try again in the future. In the meantime, she's encouraging people to get involved in the theater in other ways at LTC like helping with ushering and concession sales.

God of Carnage, written by Yasmina Reza, is the winner of the 2009 Tony Award for Best Play. The story follows two couples who meet to discuss a playground altercation between their children. However, as the night goes on, what starts as a civilized conversation turns into a boxing match, and as everyone's true colors begin to show, chaos ensues.

Performances of the Arts at Lincoln Trail College's production of God of Carnage are October 27 and 29 and November 3-5. God of Carnage does contain some mature language that may not be suitable for everyone.



NOVEMBER ATHLETIC EVENTS

Men's Basketball

1	at Kankakee Community College	8:00
4	Brescia	4:00
8	at Three Rivers Community College	7:00
11	Greenville University	3:00
14	at Mineral Area College	7:00
18	Missouri Baptist JV	3:00
21	Danville Area Community College	7:00
24	Spoon River College (at Burlington, IA)	5:00
25	at Southeastern Community College	3:00

Women's Basketball

4	vs. Mineral Area College (at Moberly Area Community College Classic)	1:00
5	Moberly Area Community College Classic	TBA
8	at Three Rivers Community College	5:00
10	at Wabash Valley College Classic	TBA
11	at Wabash Valley College Classic	TBA
14	at Mineral Area College	5:00
17	Danville Area CC (Region 24 Shootout)	5:00
18	Lake Land College (Region 24 Shootout)	1:00
21	Brescia JV	5:00
29	Missouri Baptist JV	TBA

VAUGHN COMMITS TO OAKLAND CITY



Lincoln Trail College right side hitter Abigail Vaughn will continue her volleyball career at Oakland City University.

Vaughn came to LTC as a freshman in the Fall of 2022 from Lawrenceville High School. Head coach Dana Goodwin says Vaughn puts up a big block." Abbie has grown so much as an athlete, and I have loved watching her gain the confidence she needed to be such a weapon for us this season."

Vaughn and Goodwin have a unique history together. "I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to coach her through junior high and again for two seasons at LTC. It really has come full circle as I was the one who taught her how to pass, and now I am the one passing her off to Oakland City."

During her time at LTC, Abigail was awarded NJCAA Academic All-American 1st Team and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Future Business Leaders of America, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She was also selected as a student ambassador her sophomore year. Vaughn will be majoring in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Special Education.

FRAASMAN COMMITS TO NORTH CAROLINA STATE



Lincoln Trail College outfielder Brayden Fraasman will continue his college career on the East Coast after graduating from LTC. Fraasman committed to North Carolina State.

"I am very blessed and excited to commit to North Carolina State University!" Fraasman posted to X, formerly known as Twitter. "I want to thank my family, coaches, and everyone who has helped me along the way. Thank you to my coaches at LTC and the coaches at NC State! Go Wolfpack!!!"

"It's very exciting for us to see Brayden commit to NC State," said Statesmen Coach Collin Maynard. "He has worked his tail off since the day he stepped foot on our campus and now all that hard work is paying off for him. I couldn't be more proud of Brayden and I fully expect the best is yet to come."

In his freshman season with the Statesmen, Fraasman led LTC in batting average, slugging percentage, hits, doubles, home runs, runs, and RBI. In 190 at-bats, Fraasman hit .353 with 16 doubles, 11 home runs, and 57 RBI. He scored 58 runs to go with his slugging percentage of .658.

"He's an outstanding young man," said Maynard. "He has stepped up as a leader for our team this year and is always willing to go the extra mile, whether that be on the field or in the community. He'll bring a number of skills to NC State. He is an exceptional hitter, having the ability to hit for both power and average. He has also become a top level outfielder with good speed and an extremely strong arm, consistently reaching over 90 MPH on his throws."

LTC IN PICTURES



Nursing Professor Angie Williams works with a student learning how to properly inject medications.



Nuttall Middle School Principal Craig Beals talks with students in LTC's Intro to Education class about getting started in a career in education



Kim Schucker works one-on-one with a student in one of her classes.



Nearly 80 students attended the LTC Arts Day event to learn about opportunities available in the arts at Lincoln Trail College.



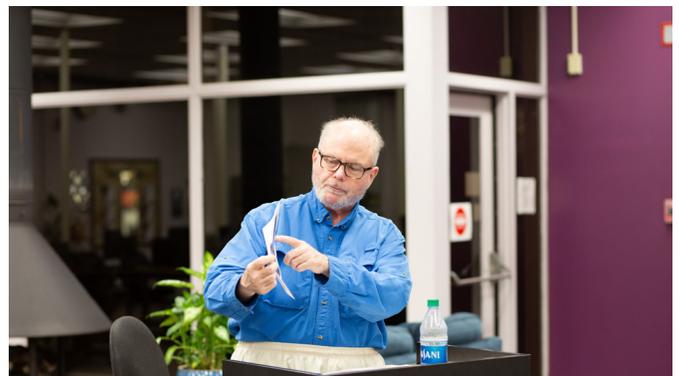
LTC students enjoy free pancakes at Student Senate's pancake night.



Students paint pumpkins during Fall Fun Day.



Men's Soccer players celebrate after scoring a goal. The Statesmen earned a 17th ranking, the first time the program has ever been ranked.



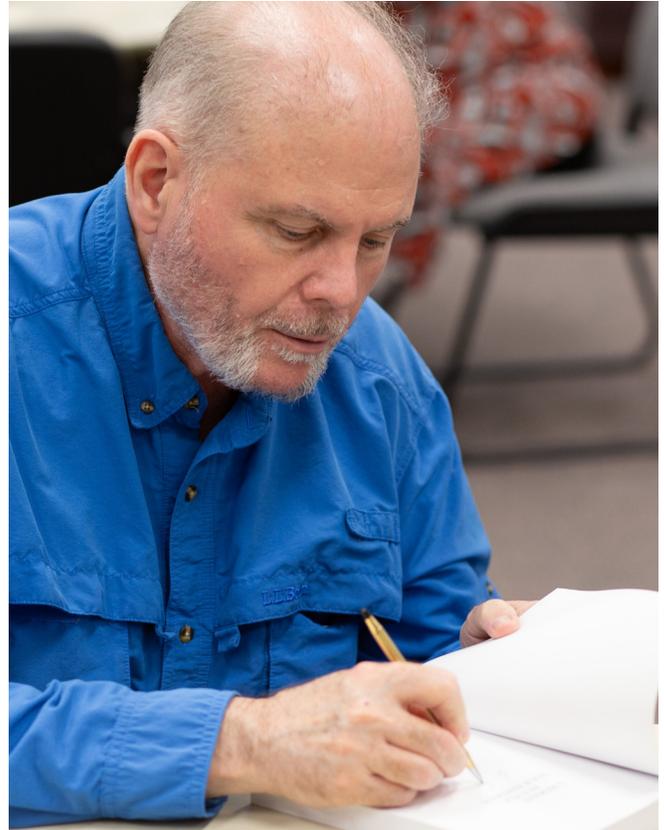
Kim C. Cox ('75) talks about his book "I Remain, As Ever, Your Kinsman" at a book signing at Eagleton Library.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

LTCs Past, Present, and Future

“Never stop looking through the new student's eyes” has long been my inspirational motto, encapsulating an ideal that I believe should continually guide those of us working in higher education. Last week, Lincoln Trail College (LTC) had the honor of hosting a distinguished alumnus, Mr. Kim C. Cox, who graduated from LTC in 1975, went on to earn a law degree from the University of Illinois, had a stellar career as an attorney, and recently authored a book – all milestones that LTC proudly celebrates. Because Kim was in the area for his Robinson High School class reunion, LTC held a book signing event in which we welcomed nearly 20 members from the community who were able to get signed copies of Mr. Cox's book and had the opportunity to hear him share his experiences and insights.

Before the event, I had the privilege of giving Mr. Cox a tour of our campus. As we strolled through Williams Hall and the Student Union, it was apparent by the permanent smile on Kim's face, as well as his reminiscent stories, that he had fond memories from his time at LTC. For the first time ever, I was truly “looking through the eyes of a former student” who had attended our institution nearly 50 years ago. This was a moment I will never forget.



Mr. Cox's time at LTC extended beyond the classroom as he served as a student editor for the Lincoln Trail Blazer, the official LTC newspaper that complemented the Robinson Daily News. During his visit, Kim gifted me with an old copy of the newspaper, dated Monday, October 28, 1974. This eight-page newspaper was full of exciting happenings, pictures of student groups, announcements for new programs, and even sign-up information for a GIRLS intramural flag football team! That same evening, Rena Gower, our LTC Director of Instructional Support Services, gave me a book titled “A History of Lincoln Trail College and Lincoln Trail College Foundation” by Ivan R. Miller. Reading this book has given me a deeper understanding of the origin, vision, and early roots of our college, and all of this has prompted me to ask this question: What do we want our current “new students” to say about their LTC experience 50 years from now? Mr. Cox's recollections of his time at LTC and the experiences he cherished have reinforced a commitment to ensure that every student who attends LTC is equipped with the knowledge, experiences, and skills they need to succeed, as well as memories to last a lifetime. Finally, this reflection underscores the critical significance of moving forward with a shared vision for successfully accomplishing our Strategic Engagement Plan and the importance of fulfilling the IECC mission, which is to deliver exceptional education and services to improve the lives of our students and strengthen our local communities.

Here's to celebrating our past, embracing our present, and dreaming big for our future!

Tona Ambrose, M. Ed
President and Vice-Chancellor of Institutional Outreach