

NETWORK



NOVEMBER 2023



BEST COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE USA #8

HIGHLIGHTS



Statesmen celebrate first Region 24 Championship



LTC students hear from alumnus and visit Big Things in Casey



Amicone named Region 24 Co-Player of the Year

LTC RANKED AS #8 CC IN THE USA

Lincoln Trail College was recognized by Intelligent.com, an education research website, as one of the top colleges in Illinois and the nation. They rated LTC as number 8 on their 2024 List of Best Community Colleges in the United States and as number 6 on their Best Community Colleges in Illinois list.

Intelligent evaluates each school on academic quality, graduation rate, tuition costs, and student resources. Top picks are recognized for their exceptional reputation, affordability, and capacity to furnish students with the essential tools and resources required to excel academically and to successfully graduate.

"Being ranked nationally and in the top ten in Illinois is a positive recognition for Lincoln Trail College and affirmation that our goals, initiatives and commitment to the IECC mission are being achieved," said Lincoln Trail College President Tona Ambrose. "This ranking points to the fact that we are performing well in various aspects, such as academic excellence, student outcomes, and other relevant areas. This is

also encouraging as it can reinforce for prospective students that Lincoln Trail College is a great place to consider when choosing a postsecondary college and career path.”

Ambrose says it is no surprise why LTC stands out among other community colleges. “Lincoln Trail College is committed to providing a quality education to students, as well as support and resources so that students can be empowered to accomplish their goals and succeed. We not only want to enroll students, but see them persist, complete their degrees and graduate. LTC is also directly tied to a supportive community dedicated to ensuring students attain a well-rounded educational experience during their time on campus. Our student-centered approach and welcoming atmosphere, together with faculty, staff, and community members who care about each and every student, give evidence to LTC being such a good college.”

Ambrose believes that LTC does a great job offering something for everyone, ranging from Career and Technical Education certificate programs and two-year associate degrees to transfer courses and degrees for students going straight to a four-year institution.

She says that the College attracts students from diverse backgrounds and provides them with a variety of extracurricular opportunities such as clubs, performing arts, athletics, and activities, making the student body something to be proud of.

“Additionally, our affordable tuition costs and scholarship opportunities, many that are provided by our generous LTC Foundation, all make LTC an excellent choice for anyone,” said Ambrose.

LTC was not the only college recognized by Intelligent. They ranked Wabash Valley College 22nd in the United States. Frontier Community College and Olney Central College were second and third in Illinois respectively. 8657 to learn more about the program.

UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS

- 1 Winter Choral Concert**
 7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 2 Delta Kappa Gamma Meeting**
 9:30 a.m., Lincoln Room
- 4-5 Music Juries**
- 5 HCE Christmas Luncheon**
 11 a.m., Lincoln Room
- 7 LTC Foundation Faculty & Staff Christmas Luncheon**
 11 a.m., Lincoln Room

Paint Night
 6 p.m., Williams Hall 111
- 8 Last Day of Fall Semester Classes**

Lincoln Grade School Musical
 6 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 9 Lincoln Grade School Musical**
 6 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 10 Youth Recitals**
 12 p.m., DeMent Auditorium

Pancakes and Study Night
 6 p.m., Statesmen Grill
- 11-14 Final Exams**
- 15 Last Day of Fall Semester**
- 19-1/1 COLLEGE CLOSED - Winter Break**

**FREE
SWAG**

**FREE
LUNCH**

**FREE
GAME TICKET**

**FREE
TOUR**

NOVEMBER 18

11:30 AM CHECK-IN AT WILLIAMS HALL
 11:45 AM WELCOME & TOUR
 12:20 PM PRE-GAME PIZZA
 1:00 PM FREE ADMISSION TO GAME*
*MUST PARTICIPATE IN FULL EVENT FOR FREE ADMISSION TO GAME

JOIN US FOR STATESMEN DAY AT
LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE!

NOVEMBER 30

ZWERMANN ARTS CENTER THEATER

FOR TICKETS:
618-544-2373

STATESMEN WIN REGION 24 CHAMPIONSHIP



The Lincoln Trail College men's soccer team claimed its first Region 24 Championship in just its third year of play.

The Statesmen advanced to the Region 24 Championship game with a thrilling 2-1 overtime victory over Illinois Central at Statesmen Park on October 21. Ryosuke Miyata opened the scoring off an assist from Guilherme Melchiori. Two minutes later ICC tied the game and it stayed that way through regulation.

NJCAA overtime rules employ the Golden Goal, so the first team that scores wins. Leo Sanches drove a corner kick to the near post. ICC's goalkeeper attempted to punch the ball away, but it bounced in a way that Inchun Han was able to put the ball in the back of the net off of a header for the game-winner.

The win capped off a historic home season for the Statesmen as they were undefeated at Statesmen Park.

"The crowd support was fantastic, the energy in the park was ecstatic, and the result was everything the Statesmen could have wanted," said Coach Javi Milla. "Thank you for all of the support this season."

LTC played Lewis & Clark Community College in the Region 24 Championship game. After splitting games during the regular season, the Statesmen claimed



The Statesmen celebrate after the final whistle in the Region 24 Championship Game

the Championship with a 2-0 win. Melchiori put the Statesmen on the board in the 25th minute and Miyata scored in the 62nd minute. Gonzalo Onrubia had a clean sheet in goal with six saves.



Gonzalo Onrubia makes a save with his foot during the penalty kicks round against Iowa Western

With a Region 24 Championship, the Statesmen advanced to the Midwest District to face 11th-ranked Iowa Western. After the two teams remained tied 2-2 after double overtime, the game went to penalty kicks with the Reivers securing the win in the 13th round. For a moment in the second overtime, the Statesmen thought they had the win on what appeared to be a goal from Melchiori, but the officials ruled that Iowa Western's goalkeeper had possession of the ball when Melchiori made contact and disallowed the goal.

Benjamin Pena scored LTC's first goal in regulation with assists from Tomas Bascon and Takuto Nishide. Miyata scored his third playoff goal for the Statesmen with assists from Sergio Alvarez and Nishide.

"I'm incredibly proud of this team," said Milla. "We had a lot of new players and a brand new coaching staff, so I don't think people were expecting us to achieve what we did. This Region Championship means a lot. It shows that Lincoln Trail can achieve good things and it's not just about soccer.

Milla says one of the factors that helped the team so much this year was the support of local fans. "When people go out there and watch us play, it gives us a little bit of new air. It pushes you to keep fighting, to keep playing. Whenever you have people screaming for you or supporting you at the field or by messages it shows how much support you have, and it really helps the team and coaches."



Statesmen soccer players thank the fans after their 2-1 overtime victory over Illinois Central College.

LTC BUSINESS STUDENTS HEAR FROM ALUMNUS, VISIT BIG THINGS



Lincoln Trail College business students had the opportunity to learn about a venture that's made the Guinness Book of World Records and another that's headed by an LTC alumnus. The students took separate trips that took them to visit Casey, Ill. to learn about their Big Things in a Small Town and to The Woods Event Center located between Robinson and Oblong.

Amie Mayhall took the students on the trips. In Casey, the students got the opportunity to hear from Big Things in a Small Town creator Jim Bolin, entrepreneurs Maurah and Drew Bolin, and Economic Development Director Bailey Tait. Jim Bolin talked about the economic impact of the work while the other Bolins spoke about their entrepreneurship journey and social media marketing. Tait shared her experiences in her position and as a real estate agent.



Jim Bolin speaks with LTC students about the Big Things in Casey and the economic impact they've had.

"I have a lot of pride in my small hometown," said Mayhall. "I

wanted to share some of the amazing things that have helped bring the town back to life. I hope the students enjoyed seeing this and hearing how some of the same concepts we study in the classroom come to life and learning about the successes and challenges along the way."

Mayhall says one of the things she focuses on as an educator is experiential learning.

"You can memorize all of the concepts in a book, but if you have no idea of how they are applied it is essentially useless. I work to provide opportunities for students to get out of their seats and see what business looks like outside of our walls."



Koert Mehler ('16) talks with students about starting The Woods Event Center

Koert Mehler ('16) founded The Woods Event Center located near the Crawford County Forest Preserve with his wife Sarah in 2021. Mayhall says she loves it when Koert talks with students.

“Because he is an alumnus, it makes their journey and dreams seem more achievable. He is so down to earth and shares the struggles along with way as well as his successes.”

She says he talked about the importance of research before putting money into a project.

Mayhall says whenever she takes trips like this, she always invites students from all of her business classes. Altogether, 22 students experienced the two trips.

“I am blessed to have an amazing group of students who wants to learn everything they can and embarks on these journeys outside of class time to learn with me!”

LTC PRESENTING A PAIR OF CONCERTS

The Arts at Lincoln Trail College will stage two concerts at the Zwermann Arts Center Theater. The LTC Jazz Band and LTC Orchestra will present their concert on November 28 at 7:30 p.m. while the Statesmen Singers, Community Choir, and Singing Seniors will present their concert on December 1 at 7:00 p.m.

The LTC Orchestra will perform “Resolute” by Todd Parrish and “Music for a Night Sky” by Jorge L. Vargas. The LTC Jazz Band will perform selections from “French Quarter Funk,” “Wistful,” “Hop, Skip, and a Jump,” “Tank” (from the TV show “Cowboy Bebop”), and others.

The choral concert will include holiday favorites such as “The First Noel,” “Carol of the Bells,” “I’ll Be Home for Christmas,” and “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of Year.” The combined choir will perform the beautiful “Glow” by Eric Whitacre. Following the choral concert, there will be cookies, cocoa, carols, and conversation.

Admission to both concerts is free, but donations will be accepted.





NOVEMBER ATHLETIC EVENTS

Men's Basketball

6	Oakland City JV	7:00
9	Jefferson College	3:00
13	at Olney Central College	7:00
16	Southwestern Illinois College	3:00

Women's Basketball

5	Greenville JV	5:00
9	Jefferson College	1:00
13	at Olney Central College	5:00
16	Southwestern Illinois College	1:00
18	at Danville Area Community College	5:30

TEN SOCCER PLAYERS EARN HONORS



Guadalupe Amicone (10) celebrates in LTC's 8-0 win over Lincoln Land. She scored 2 goals and 1 assist in the win.

Ten Lincoln Trail College men's and women's soccer players earned Regional honors for their work on the field this fall.

Guadalupe Amicone was named the Region 24 Co-Player of the Year and was a First Team All-Region selection. Amicone led the Lady Statesmen with 10 goals and 23 points.

Celine Hernandez and Eduarda Queiroz were also First Team All-Region selections. Hernandez had four goals, three assists, and 11 points. She scored three game-winning goals. Queiroz finished with 19 points on five goals and a team-high nine assists.

Yuly Torres and Gabriella Chagas were Second Team All-Region selections. Torres started 15 of LTC's 16 games as a defender. Chagas scored three goals for the Lady Statesmen.

For the Statesmen, Guilherme Alves, Guilherme Melchiori, Ryosuke Miyata, and Takuto Nishide were First Team All-Region Selections. Alves had a goal and an assist from his defender position. Melchiori was second on the team with nine goals, including three game-winners, and scored 21 points. Miyata led the Statesmen with 24 points on ten goals and four assists. Nishide scored two goals and had four assists for the Statesmen.

Goalkeeper Gonzalo Onrubia was an Honorable Mention selection. In his ten games, he posted a 7-2-1 record with five shutouts and a goals-against average of 0.60. He had 14 saves and a .700 save percentage.



Celine Hernandez



Eduarda Queiroz



Yuly Torres



Gabriella Chagas



Guilherme Alves



Guilherme Melchiori



Ryosuke Miyata



Takuto Nishide



Gonzalo Onrubia

SAUCERMAN AND SHULL HONORED



Two Lincoln Trail College volleyball players earned All-Region honors. Hannah Saucerman (above, right) and Faith Shull (above, left) were Second Team All-Region 24 selections.

Saucerman, a sophomore setter from Bicknell, Ind., was 15th in the nation with 1,032 assists. Her 8.97 assists per set was 14th in the nation. She added 272 digs and 27 aces for the Lady Statesmen.

Shull, a freshman middle hitter from Hidalgo, Ill., was 9th in the country with 50 solo blocks. She had 83 total blocks for the season. She added 253 kills, 613 total attacks, and 345.5 points.

BRIGHT COMMITS TO IUPUC

Lincoln Trail College is proud to announce that softball player Olivia Bright has committed to play softball at Indiana University Purdue University Columbus (IUPUC) following her graduation from Lincoln Trail College.

Bright, who plays a utility role, expressed her enthusiasm for the upcoming spring season after being sidelined during the fall due to an injury. "I'm looking forward to being able to play again in the spring. After being out all fall due to injury, I'm happy I'll be able to take the field with my team again. I think that we are going to do really well in the spring and compete with some of the top teams in our conference."

She also expressed her gratitude towards Head Coach Erica Arnold. "Coach Arnold was dedicated in helping me not only become a better player but in finding my next school as well. I couldn't thank her enough for everything she has done for me!"

Arnold shared her excitement for Bright's commitment to IUPUC. "I am so excited for Liv! She works hard day in and day out and is very deserving of this opportunity! She is a phenomenal teammate and gives 110% at everything she does. She recently had surgery and spent the fall doing whatever she could to help the team off the field. She attended every practice and game and stepped up without having to be asked. I think that speaks volumes about her character. IUPUC got a good one!"



LTC IN PICTURES



Two couples argue during a production of Lincoln Trail College's *God of Carnage*



Sport Management Instructor Tyler Browning talks with students during a group project



Jim Lane visited Dr. John McCarty's World Music class and provided students an opportunity to join him in a drum circle



Local high school students take a group selfie as a part of a scavenger hunt during LTC's Senior Day



LTC students hand out candy and other toys during Trunk or Treat at the Trail. More than 2,000 people from the community attended the event.



Amie Mayhall checks in with students working on a group project in her Business Marketing class.



Some LTC students traveled with Dr. An Roy to Peoria to visit the Bodies World exhibit



Chris Forde took a group of students to WTWO to learn about careers and how TV stations use more and more short-form video content

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

As I pull into the LTC campus each morning, I am reminded of and thankful for the incredible opportunities that we all have on a daily basis to make a difference in the lives of our students, both inside and outside of the classrooms. The new developments and growth initiatives are creating an invigorating environment. The Crawford County Recreation Center is not just a new facility; it's a hub for community engagement, wellness, student life, and shared experiences. Breaking ground on the new Athletic Training Facility will be a testament to our dedication to excellence in athletics and the well-being of our student-athletes. The Broadband Telecom program, which continues to take root here on our main campus, is an exciting addition that reflects our responsiveness to ensure learning and optimal student outcomes. The triangle picnic area will soon be home to the Illinois Green Energy Network solar powered charging station tables that I can picture in my mind already. And then, there's the reality of the Technology Center that is just over the horizon, and as it comes closer to existence, we can anticipate a space that will foster innovation, collaboration, technological advancements, and the pursuit of knowledge. Six new Frontier Elm trees were just planted along the south side of the main entrance, thanks to our generous LTC Foundation and Operations & Maintenance crew, and let's not forget about that beautiful sidewalk that now connects the greenhouse driveway to the back of the North Campus Occupational Annex building. The list goes on and on, and although it's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day tasks and challenges, I want to encourage us all to take a moment to look around and acknowledge these positive changes and aspects of our little corner of the world that we call Lincoln Trail College and envision how we can continue to work together on our campus for the betterment of our students, faculty, staff, and community.

Thanksgiving traditionally prompts us to give thanks for our families, friends, good food, and in my house - football!, but let's not confine this practice to a single day. Gratitude can be a year-round mindset and can also be contagious. William Arthur Ward (December 17, 1921 – March 30, 1994) was an author, educator, higher education administrator, and motivational speaker who wrote over 100 poems, articles, and inspirational quotes. Dr. Ward penned this awesome saying, **"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings."** May this be true for all of us in all the days ahead. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

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



High school students get a tour of the Crawford County Recreation Center during LTC's Senior Day



Telecom Instructor Dennis York meets with prospective students about the program