



FCC Faculty and Staff Workshop

As the spring semester was nearly underway, FCC faculty and staff held a workshop on Wednesday, January 3rd, in Bob Boyles Hall. The first portion of the workshop was for faculty as Chief Academic Officer 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. Edgren also gave updates on current and future FCC additions/renovations including details on the Athletic Facility.

Athletic Director Nixie Hnetkovsky gave a brief update on all things athletics including the plans to speed up and finish out the Queen of Hearts drawings.

An Adult Education update was provided by Program Director Rodney Raney. He highlighted some of the accomplishments over the end of 2023 and a lookahead to 2024.

Director of the Learning Commons Lori Noe briefly updated the group on the change of name away from the Academic Success Center but stressed that the services provided will remain the same.

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.

Student Success Coach Jordie Higgason provided an overview of her position and expressed her desire to maintain a strong relationship with students, particularly in the medical programs, to help them during their educational journey.

Dean Paul Bruinsma gave updates on the newly implemented truck driving program as well as future campus updates such as adding lighting along the sidewalks.

Upcoming Events

January

15 Colleges Closed. MLK Jr. Day

February

19 Colleges Closed.
President's Day

March

1 Midterm

4 No Classes.
Casimir Pulaski Holiday

5-10 No Classes/Spring Break.

29 Colleges Closed.
Spring Holiday

Bobcat Den Hours

Monday-Friday

7:30AM-4:30PM

New Year, New Semester



Students are all smiles on their first day back on campus

On Monday, January 8th, students made their way back to campus and began their classes for the spring semester. Coming back from break can be tough for students, but ‘grab bags’ with snacks, supplies, and other fun items were made available to students in buildings throughout campus to make the first day back a little bit better. The Fall semester was full of student success, shown by the nearly 100 names on the honors list. For some students, this will be the final few months spent at FCC, as they along with their professors look forward to seeing what they continue to achieve in that time. “Starting a new semester is always exciting. Seeing some students back in my class that I’ve had before as well as meeting new ones. Whether the student is a few months from graduating or just starting their journey here at FCC, I always look forward to watching them grow and succeed,” said Professor Linda Monge.

FCC Student Events

- On Wednesday, January 17th there will be a pizza night at the Bobcat Den from 6pm-8pm. All FCC students are welcome to attend to grab a slice of pizza and hangout with fellow bobcats.
- Tuesday, January 23rd, First Baptist Church will be hosting a chili lunch for FCC students, faculty, and staff from 11:30am-12:30pm in the Workforce Development Center on campus.
- On Wednesday, February 14th, carnations will be handed out on campus for Valentine’s Day. Students may pay and sign up by Friday, February 2, 2024, to have their flower sent to someone of their choosing on campus, on the 14th.

Business & Industry Update

CPR and First Aid classes are continuing to be offered in the Spring. Additionally, CPR/First Aid training is being provided for all IECC employees who did not participate in a class during the fall.

New Classes/Trainings:

- There will likely be five EMT-B classes this spring taking place in Robinson, Fairfield (AM & PM), Mt. Carmel, and Flora.
- Two EMR classes
- Fire fighting fundamentals classes at North Clay and Olney.

2023 Business and Industry (B&I) highlights:

An official ribbon cutting ceremony took place after Room 104 at the Terry L. Bruce West Richland Center underwent renovations to become the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) office.

A monthly 'How to Start a Small Business in Illinois' workshop was held.

A finance workshop was hosted in partnership with the Illinois Finance Authority.

A hospitality round-table took place in partnership with Local Workforce Innovation Area 23, 26, and The Illinois Department of Employment Security.

B&I actively networked with local chambers and the SBDC was a frequent presenter at 'lunch and learns'.

Upcoming events in the spring include a workshop on financial reports as well as a CEO Summit.

A variety of new training topics were offered in Fall of 2023 including Microsoft Power BI, OSHA 300, OSHA Construction, Beginning Excel, Active Listening, and more.

Multiple new employer partnerships were formed in 2023, with a goal of increasing that number even higher in 2024. B&I continues to provide training to local businesses and strives to make any additions possible to what they offer to meet the needs of the surrounding communities.

Title III Update

2023 was a momentous year for FCC's Title III Program. Grant supported projects continued to grow and see success throughout the year. 2024 is already promising to be a banner year for the program.

Highlighting the year was the announcement that the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences had granted FCC's Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program accreditation for five years, the maximum term of initial accreditation allowed. The MLT program continues to grow in every metric measured. 2023 saw the largest freshman class yet (ten students) and applications for admission along with inquiries to entering the class for Fall 2024 indicate that record may soon be shattered. FCC graduated its second class of MLT graduates with 100% employment immediately upon graduation. Strong relationships with area hospitals flourished in 2023, as donations of key instructional equipment and supplies came in along with the recruiting of students for post-graduate employment. Already in 2024, there has been a recruiting request made from a potential employer outside of our region.

Three new Certified Peer Reviewers, ready, willing, and able to assist faculty in building high-quality online and hybrid courses were added to the roster in 2023. In the first week of January '24, two additional staff members have registered for the Quality Matters (QM) Rubric Course, the first step in the QM training programs. With the assistance of such well-qualified course designers, the fourth semester MLT courses as well as several additional Math, Science, and Certified Medical Assistant courses are ready to be rolled out in high-quality hybrid format in 2024.

The Title III Team is looking forward to key benchmarks yet to come in 2024, including a roll out of the new Degree Works and CRM Advise programs. Excitement is building over the positive impacts these programs will have in the success of our students. Additionally, the team is exploring the feasibility of expanding the faculty recording studio to include additional equipment for production and editing as well as a sound booth. The studio's outreach has grown exponentially during 2023, and the Title III Program looks forward to providing expanded high-quality service to FCC faculty in the year ahead.

