



LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE *Network*

NOVEMBER 2017

UPCOMING DECEMBER

EVENTS

- 1 **Accuplacer Testing**
12 p.m., Williams Hall 119
- CNA Exam**
4 p.m., Williams Hall 108
- 2 **Santa Day**
1-4 p.m., Student Union
- Merry Tuba Christmas Concert**
3 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 3 **Youth Recitals**
1:30 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 7 **CNA Exam**
4 p.m., Williams Hall 108
- 8 **Last Day of Classes**
- 10 **Winter Choir Concert**
3 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 11-14 **Finals**
- 15 **Last Day of Semester**
- 19-1/1 **COLLEGE CLOSED - Winter Break**

LTC NAMED ASPEN TOP 150 COLLEGE



Lincoln Trail College was named one of 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance in America's community colleges. Lincoln Trail College was selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize.

"There is no question we feel an enormous amount of pride in being selected by the Aspen Institute as one of the top 150 Community Colleges in the nation," says LTC President Ryan Gower. "It is a validation of the hard work of both our students and faculty and staff. The fact that we are able to achieve this level of achievement and do it with such efficiency in our system is all the more impressive. I think it is also a statement on the quality of the educational system in Crawford County as a whole. The teachers and administrators in our area schools do a great job preparing students to be college ready and instilling in them a work ethic that I have not seen in other parts of the state."

Awarded every two years since 2011, the Aspen Prize recognizes institutions with outstanding achievements in four areas: learning; certificate and degree completion; employment and earnings; and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students. This is the fourth time LTC has been nominated for the award. The college also earned nominations in 2011, 2013, and 2017.

"We are ecstatic to be nominated for such an honor," says LTC Dean of Instruction Brent Todd. "I believe that this is a testament to the commitment of our faculty and staff in terms of getting students not only into the classroom but getting them to complete. We have many opportunities at Lincoln Trail College to assist our students in the learning process. Our faculty does an exceptional job not only teaching and educating our students, but also getting them to the resources outside of the classroom to be successful."

Gower says it should come as no surprise that Lincoln Trail College and Illinois Eastern Community Colleges consistently win such recognition. "Students First. It is a motto you will find printed on pens, t-shirts, and pads of paper across the

District. It is a constant reminder to us to put the best interest of our students first and to do anything we can to help them persist in their studies, graduate, and move on to realize their academic or professional goals. It is more than a motto. We constantly set goals, evaluate our performance, and make changes in areas where we feel our excellence could be enhanced.”

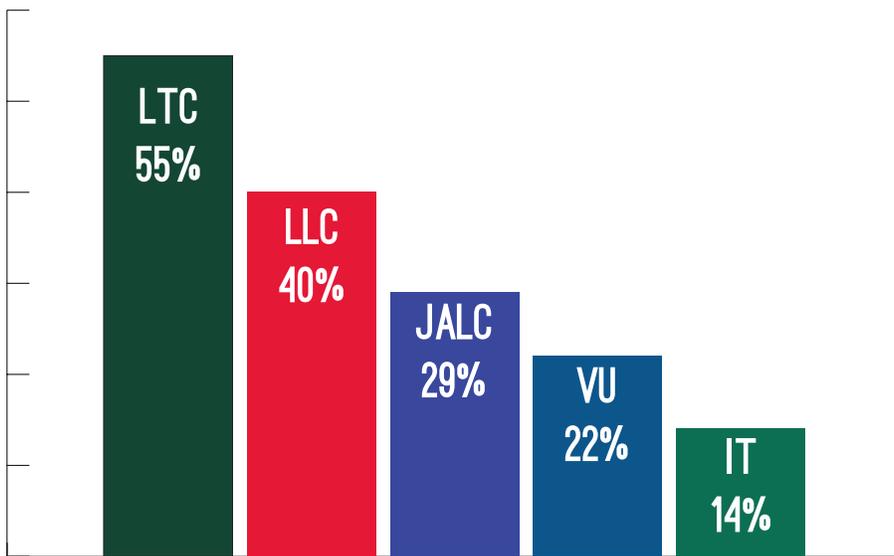


Students like sophomore Shyloh Hearn (left) say that they really appreciate how close instructors work with their students. “I get to know my teachers really well and they all know me on a first-name basis. Because of that, I feel more involved and liked because they actually know who I am. My teachers actually come up to me outside of class and have conversations and really get to know me. I don’t feel like I’m just a random person here because I feel like the teachers really know me.”

Jackson Niehaus (right) is a sophomore and he tells people that coming to Lincoln Trail College is the best decision he’s ever made. He says he’s proud to know that LTC is once again being recognized for its excellence. When he talks with friends and prospective students, he tells them that LTC has a great environment and there are great instructors.



Instructor Phil Thorsen says he sees his fellow instructors putting students first on a daily basis when they check in on them or talk with them outside of class. He says he regularly checks on students if they miss a class to make sure there aren’t any problems. “That’s part of the reason I became an instructor; to affect students’ lives in a personal way. From the perspective of a community college, and where the Aspen Award fits in, is this whole idea of making people’s lives better.”



One of the areas where Lincoln Trail College excels is graduation rate, especially when compared to other area community colleges. The graduation rate at LTC is 55%. It’s 40% at Lake Land College, 29% at John A. Logan College, 22% at Vincennes University and 14% at Ivy Tech. Gower says the Student Services team at Lincoln Trail College also plays a very important role. This team, which includes recruiters, advisors, financial aid staff, and retention specialists, helps students find programs that are a good fit and

direct them to resources they need to succeed.

“Not only are students not achieving their educational or professional goals at these other institutions, they are leaving them burdened with debt that is actually making it harder for them to move forward,” says Gower. “We underestimate the importance of the Lincoln Trail College Foundation in supporting our students with scholarships that do not need to be repaid is a real asset to our communities. Students at other schools have loans available, but our Foundation does

an excellent job addressing legitimate financial hardship with scholarships that do not need to be paid back.”

The success of Lincoln Trail College isn't going unnoticed in the community. Alex Pleasant is the executive director of the Crawford County Development Association. The organization serves as the county's economic development agency. He says he's not surprised that LTC is earning national recognition. In fact, he says that kind of excellence has become expected because of the standard that Lincoln Trail has lived up to year after year. He believes that excellence is a major boon for the local economy.



See a video of this story at:
youtube.com/LincolnTrailCollege

“The quality is such a critical factor because your education, especially your community college partners, is where you're developing your workforce. That's where you're providing resources and opportunities for your small businesses. It's where you have opportunities for incredible partnerships, as Lincoln Trail does, with larger employers. That's really how your community and your economy interface with one another.”

Lincoln Trail College will move forward to the next round of the competition for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence by submitting an application to be reviewed through a rigorous evaluation for a spot on the top ten Aspen Prize finalists list. Top ten finalists will be named in May 2018. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data. A distinguished Prize Jury will select a grand prize winner, finalist(s) with distinction, and rising star(s) in spring 2019.

SPORT MANAGEMENT STUDENTS LEARN FROM ESPN FOUNDER



Students in Lincoln Trail College's Sport Management program had the opportunity to learn from the founder of ESPN, Bill Rasmussen.

The students traveled to DePauw University, where Rasmussen spoke as a part of the university's Ubben Lecture series.

During his lecture, Rasmussen went through how ESPN was founded in 1979. At the time, there were no 24-hour sports networks and most television stations did not broadcast 24 hours a day.

He talked about some of the early struggles encountered while building the now multi-billion-dollar company.



He encouraged students to persevere in their own ventures. ‘You can’t be discouraged by the first no. It’s not easy to go into uncharted waters, but it’s not impossible.’”

Rasmussen’s lecture went beyond the early years of ESPN. He also talked with the students about the importance of developing their curiosity and following their passion. “Never think that all of the ideas have been taken. It isn’t so.”

He talked about a new venture he’s currently working on, which creates hyperlocal broadcast channels that allow small communities to develop their own programming to highlight school and youth sports teams. He punctuated that by talking about his ABC and NBC philosophy. “I don’t mean the networks. ABC means Always Be Curious and NBC means Never Be Complacent.” He told the students that’s the philosophy that he lives by.

“It was a unique and exciting opportunity for our students to hear from someone who has been very successful in an industry that some of our students have an interest in pursuing,” said LTC Sport Management instructor Tyler Browning. “His passion for sports was palpable and inspiring for our students.”

Browning says he’s working on planning other field trips for the Sport Management program to give students opportunities to learn other aspects of the business of sport.

LTC Coordinator of Marketing and Public Information Chris Forde helped plan the trip to DePauw. He’s a 1999 graduate of DePauw University.

LTC LAUNCHES THEATER RENAISSANCE CAMPAIGN



Lincoln Trail College has launched the Theater Renaissance campaign which aims to modernize and possibly expand the Zwermann Arts Center.

From the beginning, the performing arts have been an important part of the educational mission of the college. “The Zwermann Arts Center has had a dramatic impact on the lives of countless residents,” says LTC President Ryan Gower. “It is a hub for musicians, dancers, thespians, and artists. More than two thousand people of all ages attend the Lincoln Trail College Foundation concerts every year. Thousands more engage in our community theater, children’s summer theater productions, or take voice and instrument lessons.”

Over the summer, a steering committee was formed to identify the critical needs and to prioritize the work necessary to modernize the Zwermann Arts Center to ensure that future generations of students and community members would be able to benefit from its continued operation.

Led by Jim Rodgers, this committee held several meetings, consulted with area production companies, and sought input from various LTC staff and community members who are knowledgeable about the theater. The needs were found to be many and wide-ranging – from modernizing curtains, risers, dressing rooms and the stage lighting to making the choral room a space that is conducive to both practices and instruction. Unsurprisingly, the need for additional space that could be used for production and storage of sets, props, music stands, and risers was identified as the most urgent need. It became clear that the college could address some of these needs through normal budget processes, but that many of the projects would only be realized with the generous support of our local community. The steering committee has set a goal and a target date for achieving it. In just two short years, Lincoln Trail College will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. Over the next two years, the Theater Renaissance campaign will seek to raise sufficient funds to address both the immediate and long-term needs of our cultural arts program.

Gower says there's no question why a vibrant cultural arts program at Lincoln Trail College is so important. "Decades of research indicates that those who play an active role in the arts demonstrate superior levels of creative thinking, problem-solving, self-expression, risk-taking, self-esteem, and cooperation. For these reasons, the arts continue to be an important part of our mission and the Zwermann Arts Center is a place where the arts come alive for Crawford County."

Performers like Dan Dix are talking about how the arts at Lincoln Trail College have impacted them personally. "I can honestly say I wouldn't be where I am in my professional career without that confidence and talent that LTC has instilled in me over the years. Nothing beats entertaining this community and allowing the people you love to relax and forget about their troubles just for a little while, all while continuing on an amazing tradition of Crawford County arts."



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youtube.com/LincolnTrailCollege

LTC STAGING WINTER CONCERTS

Performing Arts Coordinator Rebecca Carmack announces a number of events to close out the fall semester and celebrate the holidays. The Lincoln Trail College Concert Band and Jazz Band will present a Fall Concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 30, in the Zwermann Arts Theater.

Both bands are under the direction of Wade Baker, and the concert will feature a wide variety of pieces from the fun and familiar to the seasonal and sacred. General admission tickets are \$5 for adults and free for students.

On December 3, our youngest musicians will take the stage in a pair of recitals at 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Finally, Rebecca Carmack will direct our vocal ensembles December 10 at 3 p.m. as they present their holiday concert, Christmas Night by Candlelight, in a program filled with familiar seasonal favorites like "Winter Wonderland" and choral standards including Dan Forrest's "Carol of Joy." General admission tickets are \$5 for adults and free for students.



DECEMBER SPORTS CALENDAR

Men's Basketball

2	at Olney Central	7:30
6	Ivy Tech	6:00
9	at Shawnee	3:00

Women's Basketball

2	at Olney Central	5:30
4	at Lindenwood	6:00
6	Lewis & Clark	4:00
9	at Shawnee	1:00

Follow the Statesmen at
ltcathletics.com

THREE STATESMEN SIGN



Three Lincoln Trail College baseball players will continue their college careers at four-year universities. Thomas Cessna signed with Western Kentucky University, Nate Beavers signed with Eastern Kentucky University, and Kaleb Huxford signed with St. Leo University.

Cessna signed to pitch with WKU, but Bowers says he is a very versatile player that can also play in the outfield or at first base. He says Cessna is a very dangerous batter that has a lot of power.

"I'm really excited because I'm about an hour from home," says Cessna. "The facilities are unbelievably nice, the field is awesome, the campus is awesome, and I'm really looking forward to it."

Beavers served as both a starting pitcher and a reliever for the Statesmen in his freshman year. Bowers says Beavers' velocity is continuing to improve and he believes that he'll be topping out at 90 or better come spring. "When you throw his pitch command in there and you're flipping up three pitches for strikes and have an above average fastball, it's going to provide you a lot of opportunities. He's another kid that's big and physical and he may draw some attention beyond the four-years."

Beavers says he's excited about playing at EKU, in part because it is close to home. He says he was also impressed with their new facilities and the fact that they're really turning their program around.

Huxford will join the pitching rotation at St. Leo.

"I really like their coaching," says Huxford. "They really seem very hands-on and active with their players on and off the field, which is nice."

Huxford says he also likes that St. Leo plays in a very good conference and they play high-caliber baseball.

Statesmen coach Kevin Bowers says Huxford has a very high ceiling. "I think he has the ability to go in and be a frontline starter for them. He's certainly shown that he has the ability to do it here and he keeps getting better and better. I have no doubt that he'll have a chance to compete to be there one or two (starter)."