



LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE *Network*

OCTOBER 2018

UPCOMING NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 1 **CNA Exam**
4 p.m., Williams Hall 108
- Nutrition Program: Freezer Meals in a Flash**
5:30 p.m., Library
- 3 **Sanitation & Safety Class**
8 a.m., Williams Hall 112
- Pearson Testing**
8 a.m., Williams Hall 119
- 6 **EIU Visit**
9-1, Williams Hall Foyer
- Archaeology Speaker**
6:30 p.m., Statesmen Grill
- 8 **CNA Exam**
4 p.m., Williams Hall 110
- Personal Finance Workshop**
6:30 p.m., Williams Hall 105
- 10 **Sanitation & Safety Class**
8 a.m., Williams Hall 112
- Fall Band Concert**
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 12 **COLLEGE CLOSED - Veterans Day**
- 13 **Orphan Train**
7 p.m., Library
- 14 **Phi Theta Kappa Cookie Sales**
10-1 Williams Hall Foyer
- 15 **LTC Foundation Meeting**
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
- 17 **Homecoming Weiner Roast**
6 p.m., Miller Lake
- 21 **Last Day to Withdraw from Classes**
- 22-23 **COLLEGE CLOSED - Thanksgiving**
- 28 **Phi Theta Kappa Cookie Sales**
10-1 Williams Hall Foyer

FOUR TELECOM STUDENTS WORK FIBER PROJECT



Four students in Lincoln Trail College's Broadband Telecom program are getting the opportunity to earn on-the-job experience this Fall by working with Illinois Fiber Connect on a project in Heartville, Ill.

The students, Chris Duncan, Brian Hake, Riley Ogle, and Levi Steury, are helping with construction and fiber-to-the-home. While they work, the students will still be able to take their classes at Lincoln Trail College. The arrangement is similar to a project done last year with Shawnee Communications in Lovington, Ill.

Broadband Telecom instructor Jesse Allen says this will give the four students valuable experience. "You can't beat hands-on experience and they're going to be working for a company, so it's like another internship. This will look great on a resume."

Allen says this will be like a second internship for these students, giving them the chance to say they've worked with two different companies while still in college. He says that's incredibly important when the students prepare to begin their careers.

Dean of Instruction Brent Todd says the students will be able to get some experiences that are difficult to get in the classroom like working with actual customers. He says opportunities like this are really what the community college experience is all about. "One of the great things about community college is that not only are our students getting theory and lecture components, but they're getting hands-on experience. Typically, that is in a laboratory setting. In this



CHRIS DUNCAN



BRIAN HAKE



RILEY OGLE



LEVI STEURY

particular case, our students are actually going out into the field and working within the well-respected industry. I can't stress enough how important that is in terms of students meeting their learning outcomes by them having this opportunity."

Allen says this is also a good demonstration of how good the ties are between the Broadband Telecom program and the industry. He says this latest partnership was forged when he was at the ITA Vendor Showcase in Peoria. He was approached about using students to help complete the project.



Allen says the strong ties with industry has proven beneficial to the program and students time and time again. "Most of the time, they'll call us before they even post jobs to see who we have available. That means our placement is great. It's always nice that they think of us first."

"At Lincoln Trail College, we pride ourselves with our partnerships with business and industry," says Todd. "Our goal at Lincoln Trail College is to prepare our students for the workforce and we cannot do that without the partnerships we have with local business and industry."

Allen says more opportunities like this could come to fruition for students. He says he's already heard about a company in Indiana that wants to develop a partnership similar to what was done with Shawnee Communications last year.

"If you do a good job, they're going to keep coming back to you," says Allen.



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

LTC STUDENTS ENJOYING NEW COLLABORATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS



Students in Cyndi Boyce and Phil Thorsen's classrooms are learning in new ways this year. They were among the faculty that won an Innovative Teaching and Technology Award and their classrooms were renovated to promote collaborative learning.

"The idea here is that we're creating engaged and active learners instead of passive learners that just sit and listen to a lecture for an hour," says Boyce. "We're preparing them by teaching them how to work together, so they're developing those teamwork skills, those communication skills and social skills of working with other people to solve problems."

Students like Syndey Kerr like the change. She says the new design has changed her perspective on coming to class. "It makes it more fun to learn than just sitting there and taking notes. We do take notes, but they're on each computer. We can pull up our own Entrata and look at the notes our self and then write them down on our own time and we can go home and look at our notes so it makes it easier to learn that way."

Thorsen says the idea behind collaborative learning is to be interactive in the classroom. "The value of collaborative learning is that you're not just sitting, you're actually doing."

Thorsen's classroom features a series of whiteboards around the perimeter of the room. He puts students together in small groups, where they do things like draw and label the things featured in that day's lesson plan. He says that doing can help students connect more to ideas than just sitting and listening to a lecture.

Olivia Bryant says she enjoys the hands-on aspect of collaborative learning as well as being able to work with her peers. "This is definitely a lot better because you're able to work with other people. Personal experience is maybe if you don't understand something at first or you're too afraid to ask a teacher, you have peers your same age who are going through the same things as you that you can talk to and understand."

Boyce and Thorsen both say they've had similar feedback from their students. Boyce says collaborative learning can be especially helpful for preparing students for the workforce because employers expect their people to be able to work together and solve problems.

In addition to collaborative desks around computers in her classroom, Boyce's classroom also features other non-traditional things like beanbags for students, which is something Hannah Reyher really enjoys. "It's like at home. It's easy to learn. You feel like you're at home so you're not as uncomfortable. You're in that state of mind like I can learn and relax here."



ILLINOIS LEADS NATION IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER STUDENTS



More students from Illinois community colleges move on to complete four-year degrees than students in any other state according to a new survey. In fact, the number of students who entered a community college and completed a bachelor's degree within six years is nearly 12 percentage points higher than the national average.

The numbers come as no surprise to Lincoln Trail College advisor Erin Volk. "One of the most important things we do is make sure that the rigor of our classes prepares the student to attend a four-year university. We're really lucky in that we actually have the master of their craft in the classroom. All of our instructors are the ones teaching their class. Everyone has a Master's Degree or higher and they are

the ones interacting with the students. The student is not sitting in the classroom with a T.A. or a graduate assistant leading the class."

Volk says when students are going through the advising process, LTC makes sure they get to know the student to help find the best fit for that student. She says LTC wants to make sure students go to universities that are the right fit and have the best program for their particular career interest.

She says advisors at LTC also make sure students are prepared to take that next step. "One of the really important things is to ensure that that student has that GPA, they know their deadlines, they know when and what they need to do as part of the transfer process."

Students in Illinois have the advantage of the Illinois Articulation Initiative, which is a master transfer agreement between 113 participating colleges and universities within the state. Students can also visit a website called "My Credits Transfer" where they can find information about the transferability of coursework and how courses apply towards a bachelor's degree.

When students from a community college get to the university level, it is not unusual for those students to outperform native university students. Volk says one of the recent examples of that is LTC's new partnership with the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine called Community Colleges Pathways to Medicine. "They are interested in working with our students because they know the quality of student they are getting is phenomenal. Those students are more likely to complete, they're more likely to be successful than native university students."

Volk says combine student success with affordability, and attending a two-year college in Lincoln Trail is a good way to start your college education. "There's nothing like the sense of community you get when attending a two-year college. At that four-year, you're one person in a sea of faces. Here we know students by name. We're able to keep a smaller caseload of students so we know what's going on in their lives. We know what they're trying to do."

LTC MARKS ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

September 23-29, 2018 marked the annual Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. The week serves as a reminder that reading, writing, and basic math remain an elusive target for 36 million adults nationwide.

According to the National Coalition for Literacy, the 36 million adults that struggle with basic academic skills also find it difficult to function effectively as workers, parents, citizens, and consumers in today's society.

Lincoln Trail College Learning Skills Center Director Rena Gower says people without a high school diploma are more than twice as likely to be unemployed, working in low-wage jobs, living in poverty, and relying on government aid programs as those with higher levels of education. She says GED graduates earn an average of \$9000 more a year than those without a high school diploma.



The National Coalition for Literacy says research shows that the children of low-literate parents are more likely to get poor grades, display behavioral problems, have high absentee rates, repeat school years or drop out. The coalition says low-literate parents who improve their own skills are more likely to have a positive impact on their children's educational achievements and have children who stay in school longer.

Lincoln Trail College offers people the opportunity to receive a GED with free classes. Day and evening classes are offered in eight-week sessions.

"Millions of people have passed the GED test and gone on to college and better jobs," says Gower. "You can be one of them, and we will help you every step of the way."

Students can register for the free GED classes by calling 618-544-8657.

LTC HELPING STUDENTS WITH FAFSA



Lincoln Trail College will offer area students some help in completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid during the College's annual FAFSA Night, October 17 from 4-7 p.m.

The Financial Aid Department will help students with the process of completing or renewing the 2019-2020 form, which is now available online.

Students will need to bring their Social Security Number, their driver's license and 2017 tax

information for themselves and their parents or guardians.



OCTOBER SPORTS CALENDAR

Men's Basketball

2	Glen Oaks at Olney Central	5:00
3	Quakerdale Prep at Olney Central	1:00
7	Gateway Prep	7:30
9	Malcolm X at Olney Central	5:00
10	Clark State at Olney Central	1:00
14	Lake Land	7:30
17	Indiana Elite Prep	3:00
20	at Rend Lake	7:30
28	Lewis & Clark	7:30

Women's Basketball

1	at Missouri Baptist	5:30
3	Olive Harvey at Vincennes	12:00
4	Indiana Tech at Vincennes	12:00
10	at Lindenwood	1:00
14	Lake Land	5:30
17	Missouri Baptist	1:00
20	at Rend Lake	5:30
28	Lindenwood	5:30

TRICK OR TREAT AT THE TRAIL RETURNS OCT. 25



Lincoln Trail College will once again give families a safe place to trick or treat this fall during the College's annual Trick or Treat at the Trail. This year's event takes place October 25 from 4:00-6:30 p.m.

Trick or Treat at the Trail is open to children and their families from around the area. The idea is to give them a fun, safe place to trick or treat. The annual event typically draws more than 2500 people to campus.

The three main buildings on campus are transformed into different themes by clubs, organizations and offices. Students, faculty and staff dress up in costumes as they pass out candy to the children. Several local businesses also participate in Trick or Treat at the Trail and have stations where they pass out candy.

Trick or Treat at the Trail is co-sponsored by the Lincoln Trail College Foundation. Local businesses also help by providing candy and donations for the annual event.

Follow the Statesmen at ltcathletics.com

