



LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE *Network*

SEPTEMBER 2018

UPCOMING OCTOBER EVENTS

- 2 NO CLASSES - District Workshop
- 4 **CNA Exam**
4 p.m., Williams Hall 108
Nutrition Program: Dining Out Without Filling Out
7 p.m., Library
- 6 **SAT Exam**
8 a.m., Williams Hall 108
- 10 **Phi Theta Kappa Cookie Sales**
10-1 Williams Hall Foyer
- 11 **CNA Exam**
4 p.m., Williams Hall 110
- 12 **You Can't Take It With You**
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 13 **Pearson Testing**
8 a.m., Williams Hall 119
You Can't Take It With You
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 14 **You Can't Take It With You**
2 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 16 **EIU Visit**
9-1, Williams Hall Foyer
True Life Assembly
11 a.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 18 **You Can't Take It With You**
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 20 **You Can't Take It With You**
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 23 **Political Forum**
5 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 24 **Phi Theta Kappa Cookie Sales**
10-1, Williams Hall Foyer
- 25 **LTC Foundation Meeting**
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
Trick or Treat at the Trail
4-6:30 p.m., Campus-wide
- 27 **ACT Testing**
8 a.m., Williams Hall 108
Beekeeping Basics
8 a.m., Student Union 207
- 30 **Spring Registration Begins**
- 31 **Blood Drive**
10-2, Sports Center

Network is a joint project of Lincoln Trail College & Lincoln Trail College Foundation

LTC RANKED AS #2 COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Lincoln Trail College has earned high scores from three different websites that rank colleges in Illinois for current and prospective students. Schools.com, TheBestColleges.org, and the State of Illinois' Illinois College 2 Career sites all provide students with information to help them make a college decision. All three give Lincoln Trail College high marks.

The high rankings come as no surprise to LTC President Dr. Ryan Gower. "To me it's really a reflection of what our faculty and staff here do every day. We work hard to put our students first and the data and rankings from these sites are showing that our team is making an impact."

Schools.com ranked Lincoln Trail College as the second-best community college in Illinois. The ranking is the second top-three ranking LTC has received in the last month.

Schools.com pointed out LTC's degree and certificate programs in the health, construction, petroleum, engineering and telecommunications fields in its summary on the college. They also pointed out LTC's commitment to athletics and performing arts.

Schools.com ranked the 48 community colleges in the state on factors like educational opportunity, student performance, and student services. They ranked each school on a ten-point scale using data from the National Center for Education Statistics. Data they looked at included the percentage of students enrolled in distance education, the cost of attendance, student-to-faculty ratio, the graduation rate and the transfer-out rate. "We do an excellent job of helping our students achieve their goals," says Chris Forde, Coordinator of Public Information and Marketing. "When students come to Lincoln Trail, they can expect one-on-one attention and we find out about their aspirations. Our faculty and staff work hard to make sure we can put our students on that trail to success."

Earlier, TheBestColleges.org rated Lincoln Trail College as the third-best community college for online study in Illinois.

"We have online courses that appeal to many different types of students," says Brent Todd, Dean of Instruction. "These courses are taken by people who want to learn at their own pace or by people who have work or family commitments that prevent them from taking traditional face-to-face classes. We even have a

number of students who take summer classes to transfer back to four-year schools.”

Expanding online courses is a top priority at Lincoln Trail College. “Online courses give us the opportunity to reach different markets,” says Gower. “Our tuition is reasonable and attractive to students who live in other parts of the state or country. Bringing students from other areas into online environments with students from Crawford County enriches the educational atmosphere for everyone.”

The state of Illinois recently unveiled a new website www.ilcollege2career.com, that is intended to help students find Illinois colleges that best fit their educational priorities and career goals. It gave Lincoln Trail high grades for its advancement rate of 84.2%, its tuition and fees of \$3810, and its low student debt of \$4500. As far as jobs go, the site found the average salary for graduates of LTC working in Illinois is \$38,428 with an earnings growth rate of 11.6% and job stability of 78%.

The site shows the top industries for graduates entering the job market from Lincoln Trail are Manufacturing, Health Care and Social Assistance, and Information. The site says students entering the Manufacturing and Information sectors are both averaging more than \$50,000 per year in salary with the latter earning close to \$60,000.

“When you look at the metrics in most of these surveys are evaluating us based on it’s about the return on investment for the students,” says Gower. “Are we keeping the cost of tuition low? We absolutely are. Are our students graduating? We have one of the highest graduation rates in the state of Illinois. Are they earning a good wage when they complete? Out of all of the area community colleges, on average Lincoln Trail’s graduates have the highest wage upon graduation. These are the things community colleges should be doing well. We are, and it is good to see it be recognized.”

Gower says Lincoln Trail is fortunate that the K-12 schools in the area do a very good job preparing students to come to the college. From there, Gower says the College’s faculty work hard to work with students to make sure that they are understanding the curriculum.

Cameron Ireland is a sophomore studying business at Lincoln Trail. He says he’s excited to know he’s attending such a highly-rated college. “It’s a really cool feeling knowing that you’re going to one of the best community colleges in the state and I’m glad I’m able to get an education here.”

To maintain quality, Gower says Lincoln Trail is investing in the College’s people and infrastructure. “Our Dean of Instruction Brent Todd has put together a Professional Development Committee and we’re sending our people on to get training to learn how to reach millennials, how to use new technology to reach them using the media they’re used to. We’re also investing in our physical infrastructure and making sure our classrooms have the technology that students expect to see. We are modernizing spaces, reinvesting in our STEM facilities and making sure that Lincoln Trail is going to be a great place for students to learn for the next 50 years.”

One thing the surveys don’t measure is what kind of quality of life students can expect when they attend Lincoln Trail. “One of the things that’s really hard to put down on a piece of paper is the intangibles. Our campus just has a really nice culture and ‘feel’ about it,” says Gower. “When students come here, they immediately feel like they’re part of a family. It’s really clear that when you sit in a class of 20, 25 students, you’re not just a face in the crowd. You’re somebody that our faculty is going to get to know.”



\$38,428
AVERAGE SALARY



LTC LAUNCHES PARTNERSHIP WITH SIU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



SIU MEDICINE

CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

Lincoln Trail College is partnering with the SIU School of Medicine for a series to prepare students for careers in medicine. The Community College Pathways to Medicine will be conducted in four parts this fall and in the spring of 2019.

Lincoln Trail College Dean of Instruction Brent Todd says while SIUSM has similar programs with other community colleges, the Community College Pathways of Medicine is the first of its kind for SIUSM. “What makes this program different is that students will interact with medical school students, faculty, and staff to learn about the unexpected aspects of medical school.”

The unique program is open to community college students and high school juniors and seniors interested in healthcare professions. The program is designed to help students prepare for what to expect for applying to medical school and what they can expect when they are in med school.

“Students who are unaware of the unique processes of preparing and applying for medical school are at an unfair disadvantage,” says Todd. “The Community College Pathways to Medicine program will give LTC students an edge when considering medical careers.”

Medical school students along with faculty and staff will provide students information on the application process and registration process for medical school. Students will hear about typical schedules and expectations for med school and the commitment that it takes. The students will also get a glimpse into the day in a life of a med school student.

Todd says he also wants the program to bring awareness to people of how successful community college graduates can be. “Community college graduates frequently matriculate through higher education to earn Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctorate degrees and do so with better outcomes than native university students. We want our students to know that they can be successful and that, in this case, becoming a medical doctor is an attainable goal.”

Community College Pathways to Medicine begins October 1 at Lincoln Trail College. The first seminar runs from 6-8 p.m. and will serve as an introduction to health professions. The seminar will feature staff from the SIU Center for Rural Health of the SIU School of Medicine. The program meets again November 6 when students will have the chance to have a virtual meeting with a panel from SIUSM. The third night of the CCPM is February 5 and the free program culminates in April when students will visit the SIU School of Medicine in Springfield.

Students enrolled in Community College Pathways to Medicine will earn a half-credit Health Careers credit at Lincoln Trail College. Students that want to participate should call LTC at 618-544-8657.

CARMAN JOINS LTC AS RETENTION COORDINATOR

Jamie Carman has joined Lincoln Trail College as the College's Retention Coordinator and Advisor.

Carman earned an Associate of Science and Arts degree from Lincoln Trail College in 2006 and then a degree in Paraprofessional Education from LTC in 2010. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from St. Mary of the Woods College in 2016, graduating Magna Cum Laude.

"I've always wanted to work in advising and retention, so now I have my dream job," says Carman. "I had great advisors throughout my entire academic career and I love helping others, so this is a great fit for me."

Prior to coming to Lincoln Trail, Carman worked at Robinson High School for six years as a paraprofessional. She decided to go back to school to earn her Bachelor's Degree at the age of 31. While at SMWC, she served as a student mentor.

Lincoln Trail College President Dr. Ryan Gower says Carman will provide a valuable service to students at the College. "Our retention coordinator is in place to build relationships with these students - to learn what their aspirations are and to help them identify obstacles that may prevent them from reaching those goals. Every student is different. Some students will struggle to balance school and family obligations. Others need to refine their study or time management skills. Some of these students don't have support at home, so they just need extra accountability. Whatever the obstacle might be, the job of the retention coordinator is to help the student navigate the institution and continue to help the student make progress toward degree."

LTC Assistant Dean of Student Services Julie Higginbotham says one reason why the retention coordinator is so important is because the college has many first-generation students. Since they are the first member of their family to attend college, Higginbotham says they don't always know how the system works or what resources are available to them. "I think we don't realize how many barriers our first generation students encounter - from navigating financial aid, adding and dropping classes, and learning how to use our learning management systems. We don't want these to be issues that prevent a student from earning a degree."

As the retention coordinator, Carman will provide support for Lincoln Trail students to improve student success. She'll work closely with instructors and staff to make sure students have the resources available to them that they need to succeed. As an advisor, Carman will specialize in working with students in the College's career and technical programs.

Outside of work, Carman enjoys reading and spending time with her friends and family. She also enjoys cooking, baking and road trips. She married her husband Cody in January 2018 and has two daughters and two dogs.



YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU CAST ANNOUNCED

Barbara Shimer, director of theater at Lincoln Trail College, has announced the cast for the 2018 fall production, George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart's timeless comedy, *You Can't Take It With You*.

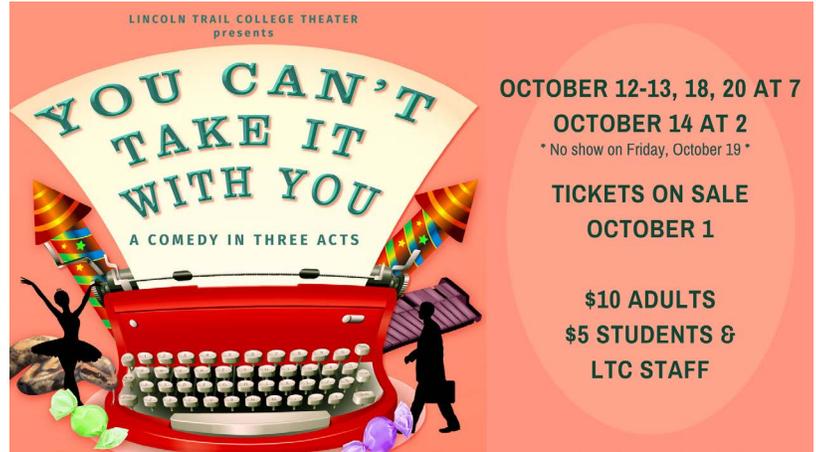
Mindy Evans, as Penelope Sycamore, leads a cast of familiar faces and LTC students in this madcap comedy. Although Evans's most recent role was in the ensemble for *Aida*, audiences may remember her comedic talents from *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Gil T. Wilson, after debuting on the LTC stage in this summer's

Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon plays her father Martin Vanderhof. Dennis Steckley is Penny's husband Paul. Amy Drake plays their aspiring ballerina and candy-making daughter, Essie. LTC student Jordan Rutan is her husband, Ed. Hannah Reid returns to the LTC stage as their younger daughter, Alice. Rachel Carter as Rheba, Brian Manhart as Donald, and Chris Forde as Mr. DePinna round out the Sycamore household.

Brennan Seth Tracy is Tony Kirby, the banker's son, who is engaged to Alice Sycamore. Dave Parker and Mary Arabatgis play his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kirby. Isaac Wilson is Henderson, the IRS agent trying to collect back taxes from Martin. Alan Wiseman is ballet instructor Boris Kohlenkhov, Mikaila Graham is actress Gay Wellington, and Abigail Metheny is Olga, the Grand Duchess. Tom Compton, John Arabatgis and Tom Miller are Mac, Jim, and The Man.

Performances are at 7 p.m. on October 12-13, 18 and 20, and at 2 p.m. on October 14. Note there is no performance on Friday, October 19.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and go on sale to on October 1. Performing Arts Angels can reserve tickets beginning September 24 by contacting the Performing Arts Office at 618-544-8657 ext 1433. The office is open in the afternoons. Angels are also invited to a reception beginning thirty minutes before showtime in the Lincoln Room.



CROFTON NAMED BAND DIRECTOR

Max Crofton joined the Lincoln Trail College staff as the College's Concert Band Director.

Crofton is a native of Murray, Kent, and earned his undergraduate degree in Music Education at Murray State University, graduating Summa Cum Laude. He's currently a second-year Master's student at Indiana University, where he's pursuing a degree in tuba performance.

He spent the summer of 2018 performing as the principal tuba for the Disneyland All-American College Band, where he performed big band and street tunes for 11 weeks in Anaheim, Calif. He was the only tuba player selected to be a part of the U.S. Air Force Concert Band's Collegiate Symposium in February 2018. Crofton was the principal tubist in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Band in 2017 and was also selected to perform in the National Intercollegiate Band in that same year.



OCTOBER SPORTS CALENDAR

Baseball

5-6	GRAC Tournament at Frontier CC	TBA
13	St. Louis Pirates	12:00
14	Southern Indiana Spikes	12:00

Golf

12-13	Oakland City Univ. Open	TBA
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Softball

7	at Kentucky Wesleyan	1:00
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Volleyball

1	Southwestern	6:30
2	Vincennes	6:00
3	John A. Logan	6:30
9	at Lewis & Clark	6:30
12-13	at Illinois Central Tournament	TBA
15	Kaskaskia	6:30
17	at Lake Land	6:30
22	at Lindenwood Belleville	6:00
24	at Rend Lake	6:30

Follow the Statesmen at
ltcathletics.com

LTC ADDING WOMEN'S SOCCER



Lincoln Trail College is adding a women's soccer program to the Athletics Department in the Fall of 2019.

"Soccer is the fastest growing sport in popularity in the United States, and our local communities have seen a tremendous increase in participation rates in youth soccer programs," says

LTC Athletic Director Kevin Bowers.

The addition of women's soccer will add 30 students to the college and LTC President Dr. Ryan Gower says he hopes it will have a positive impact on the soccer leagues and clubs in the area. "My intent is for our athletes to get active in the community based soccer programs – whether that is refereeing, coaching, or just hosting camps and clinics over the summer."

To prepare for the new sport, the College is going to make some improvements to the soccer field. When the field was built, it was constructed to the precise dimensions of the mandatory playing surface. The College will bring in additional soil to extend the width of the field to meet NJCAA guidelines allowing for enough space for throw-ins, a scorer's table, officials, and team seating. The College will also add spectator seating and will sod the expanded portion of the field so it will be in playing condition by August 2019.

LINCOLN
TRAIL
COLLEGE.

STATESMEN
SPOTLIGHT
NIGHT

10.04.18 - 6:30PM

THREE POINT CONTEST
DUNK CONTEST
SCRIMMAGE
TEAM AUTOGRAPHS