

The Voyager

a Frontier Community College newsletter



March 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 17 FCC Foundation Meeting
11:30AM @ Bob Boyles Hall
- 17 SIU-C Representative Visit
10AM-1PM @ Mason Hall
- 23 SNA Bake Sale
@ LRC Lobby
- 25 Mobile Food Pantry
11AM-12:30PM @ West Hall
- 27 Wayne County Scholastic
Bowl Tournament @ WDC
- 28 Breakfast with the Bunny
9-10:30AM @ Bob Boyles Hall

APRIL

- 8 EIU Representative Visit
9AM-1PM @ LRC Foyer
- 8 Mobile Food Pantry
11AM-12:30PM @ West Hall
- 8 Community Job Fair
2-6PM @ WDC
- 10 College closed
Spring holiday
- 18 Lineman's Rodeo
10:30AM @ EDS Poles
- 22 Mobile Food Pantry
11AM-12:30PM @ West Hall
- 24 Kindergarten Visit Day
- 24 Community Art Show
4-7PM @ West Hall

EDS STUDENTS TO HOST LINEMAN'S RODEO NEXT MONTH



Frontier Community College (FCC) will host the annual Lineman's Rodeo on Saturday, April 18, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The event will be held just north of Workforce Development Center where the program's outdoor lab is located. Everyone of all ages is welcome to bring a lawn chair and enjoy the show.

Students in the Electrical Distribution Systems (EDS) program will demonstrate several skills they have developed over the last two semesters. A total of fourteen students will

participate in friendly competition, and at the event's conclusion one grand champion will be awarded.

The Lineman's Rodeo will begin with the singing of the National Anthem by Kara Blanton, Academic Advisor at FCC. Lead Instructor Gerry Kinney will welcome the crowd and emcee the event, providing an overview of the program as well as each judged race. Kinney has recruited several volunteers to assist with judging, and the volunteers come from electric cooperatives and municipalities throughout the Southern Illinois region.

Judged events will include hurt man rescue, cross arm changeouts, egg climb, obstacle pole, and a mystery event (to be announced at the beginning of the rodeo). The egg climb, which is a popular race at lineman rodeos across the country, will challenge a student to climb up and down a pole while holding a raw egg in their mouth - all without breaking it. Kinney says this event tests the student's agility and skill in pole climbing.

During the event, FCC will be serving free porkburgers, chips, and drinks. Lineman Rodeo T-shirts will also be available for purchase, and all proceeds benefit the EDS Club.

Kinney said his students are looking forward to the Lineman's Rodeo and have been anxiously preparing for the event. *(continued on next page)*

Students in the program have been practicing hurt man rescue on a monthly basis since last fall, and the rodeo will show just how skilled they have become. While Kinney requires them to complete the exercise in under three minutes by the end of the semester, many have already completed that requirement.

"If I've done my job right, these exercises and skills should come naturally to the students, and the crowd will be able to observe this at the rodeo," Kinney said. "This is a great group of students, and they have really become a close-knit team this past year." While the Lineman's Rodeo is a competitive event, Kinney says guests will still recognize the strong teamwork that has been shown day to day.

Electrical Distribution Systems is a one-year program that provides training in building, repairing, and maintaining overhead and underground electrical systems. Students also learn safe practices, pole climbing, hurt man rescue, equipment operation, and more. Beginning with the 2019-2020 class, EDS students will now earn flagger certification, spray applicator licensure, and a Class-A CDL prior to earning their certificates. These changes were implemented in 2019 after Frontier received a \$50,000 Career and Technical Education Leadership Grant. With these certifications, graduates will be more prepared for the workforce and have a competitive edge during the hiring process.

Individuals who are interested in the EDS program may attend the Lineman's Rodeo as a prospective student to learn more firsthand. Prospective students will have the opportunity to meet with Gerry Kinney, and they will receive a free T-shirt. To RSVP, contact Kara Blanton at 618-842-3711 or blantonk@iecc.edu.

STUDENTS NAMED TO ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

Two students of Frontier Community College were recently named to the 2020 Phi Theta Kappa All-Illinois Academic Team. Participating colleges were asked to select two Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) members who demonstrate outstanding scholarship, leadership, and campus and community involvement.

This year, students Rebecca Smith and Kourtney York were nominated to represent FCC. Both students will be recognized and presented with a medallion at the 22nd annual Phi Theta Kappa All-Illinois Academic Team ceremony, which is to be held in Springfield on April 14. Smith and York will also receive recognition at FCC's upcoming Awards Night ceremony on Friday, May 1.

Rebecca Smith is a second-year student at FCC and is currently a member of PTK, Student Senate, and TRIO Student Support Services. She has been named to the CEO's List each semester at FCC for having a 3.9-4.0 GPA. Aside from her education and campus involvement, Smith also works as a CNA at Heritage Woods in Flora. She plans to transfer to the University of Southern Indiana after graduation and earn a Bachelor's Degree in Health Professions. She then hopes to work towards a Master's Degree in Pre-Medicine and become a physician's assistant.

A native of Greenwood, Indiana, Kourtney York is a second-year student and also an athlete for Frontier Softball. York has demonstrated leadership on campus, as she is the President of Student Senate and Vice President for PTK. She also serves as a student worker at The Bobcat Den, and she has been named to the CEO's List for academic honors. After graduation, York plans to transfer to a university to pursue Elementary Education. She would eventually like to earn a Master's Degree in Child Psychology.



Rebecca Smith



Kourtney York





MARCH SPORTS CALENDAR

Baseball

- 12 @ WVC / 3PM*
- 14 vs. WVC / 12PM
- 17 vs. Illinois Central / 3PM*
- 19 vs. John A. Logan / 3PM*
- 21 @ John A. Logan / 12PM
- 24 @ LTC / 3PM*
- 25 @ Lindenwood JV / 3PM
- 26 vs. SWIC / 3PM*
- 28 @ SWIC / 12PM
- 31 vs. LTC / 12PM

Softball

- 12 vs. WVC / 4:30PM
- 14 @ SIC / 12PM
- 15 vs. Arkansas State / 11AM
- 17 vs. Rend Lake / 4:30PM
- 19 vs. OCC / 4:30PM
- 21 @ John A. Logan / 12PM
- 22 vs. MacMurray College / 12PM
- 24 vs. Kaskaskia / 4:30PM
- 26 vs. Parkland College / 4:30PM
- 28 vs. Elgin CC / 12PM
- 31 @ WVC / 2PM

All games are double headers unless otherwise noted by (*)

PROGRESS CONTINUES TO GROW FOR MLT PROGRAM, TITLE III

In order to be officially approved as the Program Director for Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT), the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) requires candidates to attend an educational conference. Jennifer England, who serves as Health Sciences Specialist for the Title III Project at FCC, recently attended the Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC) in Orlando. England says the three-day conference was "priceless" in preparing her for the program's initiation.

CLEC is an annual conference for faculty, administrators, directors, and others in medical laboratory education. The conference covered the state of education as well as the future of MLT careers. England attended several sessions that focused on NAACLS accreditation, which is what she is currently working on for the MLT program. The NAACLS team and veteran laboratory educators that led the sessions shared helpful insight on the best methods to document data and prepare for site inspectors.

A popular topic of discussion was simulation labs, which directly involves FCC's MLT program. England learned that the profession as a whole is experiencing growing pains, as the amount of lab tests in healthcare facilities increases while there is a national shortage of laboratory professionals.

Laboratories that are short staffed are less likely to take on students for clinical rotations, so several colleges across the nation have begun offering rotation sites in simulation labs. Students work a whole "shift" each day and run quality control, work with specimens, perform equipment maintenance, run tests, and report results. England noted that instructors also include random phone calls and instrument failures throughout the day to simulate a true-to-life experience for students.

"This conference shed so much light on what I need to do moving forward," England said about her trip. "The other sessions I attended gave heavy focus to MLT coursework, teaching techniques, and student engagement."

After attending the conference, as well as providing several certifications and documents, England was officially accepted by NAACLS as the Program Director. She says the next step towards accreditation will be the preliminary report, which she is currently preparing. This report ensures that the program will be properly staffed and have adequate space for classroom learning and hands-on lab projects.

Renovations are ongoing for the faculty recording studio, located in the Learning Resource Center. The project is on target to be fully completed by March 31, and instructors can soon begin utilizing the studio for their online instruction needs.

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The structural work for the studio (right) has been completed, and electrical upgrades are nearly completed. Flooring installation is scheduled for March 20, and a truss system is on order to maximize space.

Room 21 of Mason Hall (left), which has been designated as the future MLT classroom, has been prepared for a construction crew to soon begin the renovation process. Construction is expected to begin later in March.

The Title III Project's internal monitoring team recently selected an external monitor. Dr. Duane Dunn of Wamego, Kansas comes highly recommended from his experience in providing external monitoring services to Crowder College and Quincy University. In addition to a strong history in Title III grant attainment, Dunn also has extensive experience in online course development, delivery methods, and distance learning. The team is looking forward to having Dunn on board.

WHEELER RECEIVES EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



Each quarter, FCC honors an employee who goes above and beyond in their role on campus. Those who are recognized may be nominated by their coworkers for various reasons, such as excellent customer service, a positive attitude, and more.

FCC is pleased to announce that Kathy Wheeler has been recognized as this quarter's recipient. She serves as an administrative assistant on campus, and she is also a member of the Instructional Services team. Wheeler was nominated by employees for her dependability, reliability, and being "so kind to whoever comes through the doors of Mason Hall." One nomination said that she is "always ready to help someone" and "truly goes above and beyond her job duties."

Wheeler received her award at the employee's Valentine's Day luncheon held last month. She is pictured with Merna Youngblood, Director of the Learning Resource Center, who was a recipient for the last quarter.

COMMUNITY JOB FAIR

FCC will hold a job fair on Wednesday, April 8 for job seekers from the community as well as graduating students. The event will be held from 2-6PM in Workforce Development Center, and there is no cost to attend. Job seekers can visit to discover career opportunities across a variety of industries in Southern Illinois.

Employers who would like to participate in the job fair should contact Julie Bryant, Coordinator of Public Information, at bryantj@iecc.edu or 618-842-3711. There is no registration fee for participants.

As the event approaches, the list of participating employers will continue to grow. Currently, the following organizations will be at the job fair:

- Addus HomeCare
- Aflac
- AHEC
- Anchor Home Health Care
- Aperioncare
- Carmi Manor Rehab
- Clay County Hospital
- Community Care Systems
- Continental Tire
- Elastec
- Fairfield Memorial Hospital
- Illinois Dept. of Employment Security
- Meadowood Nursing Home
- ResCare
- Rides Mass Transit
- SSM Health
- Walgreens Distribution Center
- Wayne County Health Dept.