

The Voyager

a Frontier Community College newsletter



April 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 10 College closed
Spring holiday
- 17 Last day to withdraw

MAY

- 1 Last day of classes
- 4-7 Final exams
- 8 Last day of the semester
- 11 Start of intersession classes
- 19 Intersession midterm
- 25 College closed
Memorial Day
- 29 Last day of intersession

All campus and community events have been canceled or postponed until further notice. Campus activities will resume once it is safe to do so.

During the state's Shelter in Place order, which is in effect until at least April 30, we encourage you to stay at home, practice social distancing, and practice good hygiene.

GRADUATION CEREMONY RESCHEDULED FOR JULY 31

Like many other college institutions across the nation, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced Frontier Community College (FCC) to postpone its annual commencement. The event was originally scheduled to be held on Friday, May 8, inside the Fairfield Community High School gymnasium.

FCC administration has made the decision to reschedule the ceremony for Friday, July 31. Commencement will begin at 7:00PM and will be held at the First Christian Church in Fairfield. Spring 2020 graduates will be honored, and they are welcome to invite friends and family to attend the event.

While the ceremony will be held later in the year than normal, commencement will still include the usual program agenda: the processional, presentation of degrees and certificates, charge to the class, and more. Dr. Jay Edgren, President of FCC, will also present the President's Award to a student graduate, who will then share a short message with the audience.

The decision to postpone commencement came after receiving feedback from student graduates. At the beginning of the month, Edgren collaborated with Brandon Weger, who serves as the Program Director for Institutional Assessment and Effectiveness for Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. Together, they created and distributed a short survey to all FCC graduates seeking their opinion on graduation. The response was heavily in favor of rescheduling the ceremony rather than hosting a virtual ceremony.

Prior to cancellations due to the pandemic, FCC was also planning to host an Awards Night ceremony on Friday, May 1. The event would have recognized all students on the Fall 2020 Honors List, as well as high-achieving students from each program of FCC. Instead, names of the students will be presented on screen prior to the start of the graduation ceremony.

Spring 2020 graduates will be contacted directly with all updates and changes regarding commencement. Practice for the ceremony will also be scheduled by Jan Wiles, who serves as Assistant Dean of Student Services.

DIGITAL SIGN BEING INSTALLED ON FCC CAMPUS

A digital sign is in the process of being installed at the front of Frontier Community College's campus. Administration believes the project will be finished by the time employees and students return to campus for normal business hours.

Poles for the digital sign were set at the beginning of the month and had to stay in place for one week before further work could be completed. The digital screen and remaining pieces will be installed soon, and brick work will eventually be scheduled to complete the original design. All design and construction has been handled by T Ham Sign of Opdyke.

The digital sign is finally coming to fruition after more than two years of designing and fundraising. The FCC Foundation held a Fall Fashion Show in 2018 and 2019 at Venue 720 in Flora, raising over \$10,000 between both years.

The public can see photos of the project by following Frontier Community College on Facebook and Instagram.



EMPLOYEES FOCUS ON BRIGHT FUTURE WITH #FRONTIERFORWARD CAMPAIGN

Although life is a little different right now, FCC wants everyone to know its faculty and staff are working hard to serve the community and its students. Employees are working from home, but they are still moving #FrontierForward. Beginning the first full week of April, a social media campaign began on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Each day, a photo will be shared featuring a Frontier employee and a glimpse into their lives. Staff and faculty may show their new workspace, coworkers, or how they are still enjoying the spring weather. The goal of this social media campaign is to show that, in spite of the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, FCC is still focused on helping current, graduating, and incoming students achieve their educational and career goals. Be sure to follow FCC on their social media platforms to see future #FrontierForward posts.



Mary Morris



Angel Maguire



Gerry Kinney



Mary Johnston



Jennifer England



Mike Dreith



Jessica Barbre



Kara Blanton



SUMMER AND FALL REGISTRATION UNDERWAY

Registration for the Summer and Fall 2020 semesters officially began on Tuesday, March 31. Classes for the summer semester will begin on Tuesday, June 7. The Fall 2020 semester will begin on Thursday, August 20.

High school students or community individuals who are interested in taking a class or two for either semester may begin the registration process by calling FCC at 618-842-3711. Current students who are interested in a class to apply towards their degree should contact their academic advisor.

Individuals who want to enroll in a Career and Technical Education program should contact Kara Blanton, who serves as Academic Advisor for all CTE programs. Blanton may be reached by email at blantonk@iecc.edu or by phone at 618-847-9130. All transfer degree-seeking and pre-Nursing individuals will be advised by Academic Advisor Eric Resor. To contact Resor, email resore@iecc.edu or call 618-847-9129.

Due to the Shelter in Place order, all advising appointments will be conducted via phone or a Zoom meeting. No in-person meetings will be held until government officials have confirmed it is safe to do so.

Several courses planned for the Summer 2020 semester are in the process of being moved to an online or hybrid delivery format, mainly in part to the social distancing guidelines. Lecture-only courses will be offered exclusively online across the IECC district. Classes with a lab component, such as General Biology or Introductory Chemistry, will include online lecture and in-person labs and experiments.

NURSING STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS



Two students in the Nursing Program were recently awarded the Clemence Elizabeth Cox Scholarship for the Spring 2020 semester. The scholarship semi-annually awards \$500 to second-level Nursing students of FCC. This semester, the scholarship has been awarded to McKenzi Blair of Louisville and Morgan Gregory of Fairfield. Both Blair and Gregory are on track to complete the Associate Degree in Nursing in May.

The Clemence Elizabeth Cox Scholarship is funded by the Jerry L. Cox Foundation Trust. The Jerry L. Cox Foundation Trust was organized in 2018 for the primary purpose of funding the Clemence Elizabeth Cox Scholarship at Frontier Community College. The scholarship is a perpetual award and provides financial assistance to second-level Nursing students for tuition, books, and other direct educational expenses.

Clemence Elizabeth Cox, a 1933 graduate of Fairfield Community High School, was an active member of the First Christian Church as well as civic organizations and the business community. She and her husband, James H. Cox, owned and operated the Western Auto Store for many years and were also instrumental in building and operating the Uptown Motel in Fairfield.

The Clemence Elizabeth Cox Scholarship was established by Jerry L. Cox in 2009. Since its establishment, a total of \$23,000 has been awarded to 46 students in the Associate Degree in Nursing Program.

A total of 28 individuals have been accepted to begin the Associate Degree in Nursing Program in the Fall 2020 semester. The Nursing Program is offered on FCC's campus through Olney Central College and Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. To learn more, visit iecc.edu/nursing or call Frontier Community College at 618-842-3711.