



DEAN EMBARKS ON MAGICAL  
INTERNSHIP IN DISNEY  
COLLEGE PROGRAM



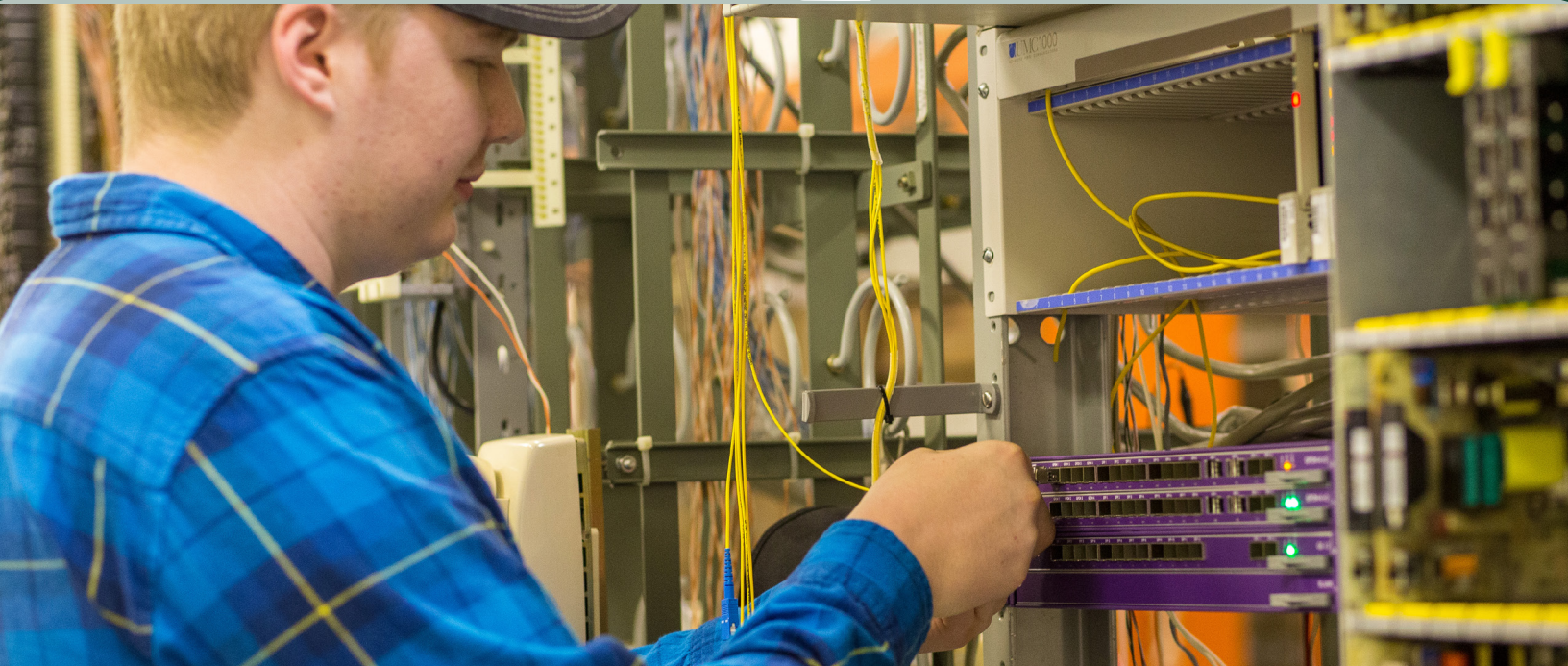
LTC RECOGNIZES CRAWFORD  
COUNTY'S TOP ACADEMIC  
PERFORMERS



CAST ANNOUNCED FOR  
SPRING PRODUCTION OF  
MATILDA

# LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

## CT Network



### LTC CELEBRATES CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

Career and Technical Education (CTE) prepares individuals for high-skill, in-demand employment that furthers Illinois' global competitiveness. Last year, roughly two-thirds of all Illinois community college graduates earned a CTE degree or certificate. CTE programs offer flexible scheduling, work-based learning, and stackable credentials that provide a pathway from education to employment not only for recent high school graduates, but also for returning adults, veterans, and workers wanting to update their skills. To ensure that students acquire the skills and knowledge they need to be successful, programs contextualize instruction to the application of skills in the workplace and offer access to state-of-the-art technology. Student success in CTE programming is amplified by academic support services, work-based learning opportunities, and business engagement. CTE's reach in Illinois' workforce continues to be expansive; currently, there are over 4,200 different CTE program offerings across the community college system.

Lincoln Trail College joins with community colleges throughout the state to celebrate Career and Technical Education Month. "Career and Technical Education is a really important part of our mission here at Lincoln Trail College and frankly it's an important part of the community college mission all across the country," says LTC President Dr. Ryan Gower. "We are very blessed in our region to have excellent base and manufacturing jobs and these are employers like Lincoln Land Agri-Energy, Marathon, Dana, Hershey, the hospital and a significant number of jobs that these employers are looking for are skilled or trade labor positions. Not long ago I was reading a report that said south of Interstate 70 about 80 percent of the jobs only require a two-year skilled and technical trade degree."


**UPCOMING  
MARCH  
EVENTS**

- 2-6 NO CLASSES - Spring Break**
- 4 Twin Rivers Career Day**
- 5 Celebrate Art! Day**  
9 a.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 10 Nutrition Series: Super Foods**  
5:30 p.m., Library
- Family Caregiver Series: Alzheimer's**  
6:30 p.m., Student Union 207
- 11 Chicken Basics**  
6 p.m., Williams Hall 111
- 12 Spanish for Kids Class Begins**  
6 p.m., Williams Hall 102
- Understanding Essential Oils**  
6:30 p.m., Student Union 207
- 14 SAT Testing**  
8 a.m., Williams Hall 105 & 108
- CPR Class**  
8 a.m., Professional Annex 403
- 17 International Cuisine: Filipino Desserts**  
6 p.m., Robinson Community Center
- Family Caregiver Series: Post-Surgery Care**  
6:30 p.m., Student Union 207
- 18 Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony**  
6 p.m., Statesmen Grill
- 20-21 Matilda**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 22 Matilda**  
2 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 23 Chalk Couture**  
6:30 p.m., Williams Hall 111
- 24 Quilting Class Begins**  
6 p.m., Williams Hall
- Advanced Painting Class Begins**  
6:30 p.m., Williams Hall 111
- Family Caregiver Series: Household Safety for Seniors and Stroke Survivors**  
6:30 p.m., Student Union 207
- 25 Cake Decorating Class Begins**  
6 p.m., Robinson Community Center
- 27-28 Matilda**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 30 Be Money Smart: Mortgages**  
7 p.m., Student Union 207
- 31 Improv Workshop Begins**  
6:30 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- Be Money Smart: Buying a Car**  
7 p.m., Student Union 207



Erin Volk is an advisor at LTC. She says the College's career and technical programs are designed so that graduates can get a degree or certificate and begin a career immediately. Volk says students entering a CTE program at LTC can expect one-on-one attention and hands-on education.

“Most CTE classes include some kind of lab or hands-on component. Take Construction, for example; they're building things. They're putting together a finished project that can be used on campus or to help give them a demonstration so they can have a wall with wiring behind it. Our Broadband Telecom program is another great one. They're out there learning how to climb safely and do pole climbing. Students in our Certified Medical Assistant program are learning how to draw blood, check blood pressures, and assist the patient. It's important that they have that aspect where they're physically interacting with it. A lot of your standard college classes have some interaction, but they're a lot more lecture-based. We like to tie the two together so that they're getting theory and background, but they're also getting experience.”

One of the ways LTC CTE students are gaining experience is through internships and apprenticeships. Students have the opportunity to get on-the-job training. Gower says the internships are extremely valuable not only because the students get that experience working, but they're also getting soft skills employers value like conflict resolution, interpersonal communication, and a strong work ethic.

Gower says right now, there's a high demand for people in the trades. “It's one of the fastest-growing opportunities for employment in the United States. When you look at the Occupational Outlook Handbook, the majority of fields that are growing faster or much faster than average are in the trades.”

He says many of these jobs pay well and do not require a bachelor's degree. “I think in years past, some people tended to marginalize career and technical education and say that it was only for people who didn't have an academic



aptitude to go on to earn a bachelor's degree and that is fundamentally untrue. We see students in our career and technical education programs that would be right at home in engineering programs at the University of Illinois. The reason they're in those trades is that the salary and the job outlook is really quite strong."

Gower says one of the advantages of earning a degree or certificate from Lincoln Trail is that you can complete that in a year or two and immediately begin a career that can pay well right away. He says students also gain valuable experience at LTC.

Volk says LTC works hard to make sure what's taught at the College aligns with the needs of business and industry. LTC's CTE programs use advisory councils made up of business and industry leaders. They look through the curriculum and make recommendations on how to keep the College on the leading edge of what's trending in the industry.

She says another advantage LTC has is extremely knowledgeable faculty teaching CTE programs. "Our faculty has a wealth of experience. They've had full careers in the areas where they teach. They know and understand the industry and they can pass along a tremendous amount of first-hand knowledge to our students."

Gower says there are many advantages for students to pursue a CTE path. "We want them to see the salaries they can earn and we want them to know how strong the job outlook is. We want to help them understand that pursuing a CTE degree or certificate is not a plan B, but it's actually a very viable first choice."



**LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE**  
**SCHOLARSHIP AUDITION DAY**  
**FEBRUARY 22, 2020 | 9 AM - 1 PM**

Each year Lincoln Trail College and the Lincoln Trail College Foundation award over \$25,000 in scholarships and tuition waivers to deserving students in the performing arts.

To schedule an audition, contact Rebecca Carmack  
 618-544-8657 ext. 1430 or [carmackr@iecc.edu](mailto:carmackr@iecc.edu)



**CHICKEN BASICS**  
**MARCH 11 | 6-8 PM | \$25**

Are you curious about raising chickens? Join us for this basic introduction. Topics to be covered include: building your own brooder, purchasing or incubating your eggs/chicks, raising chicks, diseases, and feeding your flock.

**TO REGISTER, CALL:**  
**618-544-8657**



**BEGINNING QUILTING**  
**TUESDAYS, MARCH 24-APRIL 28 | 6-9 PM | \$60+SUPPLIES**

Introduction to Beginning Piecing for quilts. Students should know basic sewing skills. The project is a lap quilt. Students will learn proper cutting techniques, proper pressing techniques, and to perfect sewing a 1/4" seam. Students will bring their own sewing machine. A supply list will be provided at the first class meeting. Class size is limited to 10.

**TO REGISTER, CALL:**  
**618-544-8657**



**CPR TRAINING**  
**MARCH 14 | 8-12**

Learn the proper techniques of CPR for adults, youth, and infants. Successful completers receive a CPR card through the American Heart Association.

**TO REGISTER, CALL:**  
**618-544-8657**





# LTC WELCOMES IN STUDENTS FOR ADMITTED STUDENT DAY



Students browse the different booths to learn about programs and activities available at Lincoln Trail College.



Dean of Instruction Brent Todd welcomes students and families to Admitted Student Day.



Process Technology Instructor Tina Lindley explains the program to a prospective student.



Director of College Access Tona Ambrose guides students and their families on a tour of Lincoln Trail College.



A panel of current students talks to prospective students about their experiences at Lincoln Trail College.



Erin Volk, Jamie Carman, and Brent Todd talk with families about what to expect when their children attend Lincoln Trail College.



## DEAN ENJOYS MAGICAL DISNEY EXPERIENCE



Hannah Dean says one day, she would like to recruit for the program she's doing right now. Dean is participating in the Disney College Program in Florida. Though she's only been in the program for a few weeks, she says it is already one of the most incredible experiences she's ever had.

Dean, who is in Lincoln Trail College's Associate of Science and Arts program, is currently working in a food and beverage program at Disney's Animal Kingdom. Once the weather is warmer, she'll transfer to Lottawatta Lodge at Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Park.

Her internship is very similar to a regular job. She says she's working about 40 hours a week at her job, which gives her a lot of time to interact with guests at the park. "One of my favorite parts of the job is getting to make magical moments with the guests. Getting to see their faces light up really makes it worth it."

Dean says the first thing students in the program do is take a class on Disney's traditions. The class talks about Disney's history and values and stresses the importance of those traditions. She says hospitality plays a huge role in those traditions. "We're taught to individualize every guest's experience and adjust to their wants and needs."

She says that the program offers many learning experiences like behind-the-scenes tours and classes similar to what you would take on a college campus. Classes cover topics like guest relations, attractions operations, food and beverage operations, and event operations. Students can also take career readiness classes covering topics like networking, resumes, and interviewing.

Dean says getting into the Disney College Program is rigorous. The initial application covers the basics about who you are and your education and also has you rank the areas where you're interested in working. She says after they review your application, they'll set up a web-based interview and after that, you get a phone interview.

"I was very relieved when I found out I got in the program," says Dean. "I had applied once before and I didn't get into the program. When I found out I was accepted this time, it was a huge relief."

Dean says she sees this opportunity to be very important for her future. "Having Disney on your resume is amazing. I know I'm getting a lot of experience that I'll be able to share with future employers. I'm also getting so much guest interaction and making their experiences individual ones. That's something I can take away from here and use in the future."

Within the resort, Dean says she'd love to be able to work with Disney PhotoPass. They stage photographers throughout the resort and near attractions. They take pictures of guests that they can later download.

In the long term, Dean says she'd love to serve as a recruiter for the Disney College Program. "There are so many college students out there that could have a great experience doing this program. I'd love to be able to connect with them."

She says there's no question that this program is worth doing. "If someone is debating it, go for it and do it. This is one of the most incredible experiences I've ever done. Waiting to find out if you're in can be stressful, but it is one-hundred percent worth it. Getting that nametag is so amazing."



## LTC RECOGNIZES CRAWFORD COUNTY'S TOP SCHOLARS

Lincoln Trail College recognized the top scholars in Crawford County at the 2020 Crawford County Award for Excellence reception on January 30. The students and their families were invited to Lincoln Trail College to receive the CCAE Scholarship, which is awarded to the top ten percent of the graduating class at each Crawford County high school. The award is LTC's highest-level award that is given to prospective students.

"We want to encourage these students to come to Lincoln Trail College," says Coordinator of Marketing and Public Information Chris Forde. "We know that high-achieving students enrich the educational environment, especially as LTC embraces collaborative and peer-to-peer learning activities in the classroom."

This is the third year Lincoln Trail College is offering the CCAE Scholarship. Part of the reason LTC started offering the scholarship is that the county's top students were not always looking at the College as a potential choice. "In some cases, the top students weren't even applying to LTC," says Forde. "We want to make sure that they know that we are an excellent choice as they begin working toward a college degree."

Jayce Fielder is a past recipient of the CCAE Scholarship who attended Lincoln Trail College. Initially, he was weighing other college options and had been admitted to the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. "Being awarded the Crawford County Award for Excellence Scholarship was by far the leading reason I decided to come to LTC," says Fielder. "I'm sure glad that I did."

Students heard about the advantages offered by Lincoln Trail College during the event, including small class sizes and individual attention. They also heard about the successes of LTC graduates and how they can transfer their credits to other universities after graduation. One of the biggest benefits of the CCAE Scholarship is that it covers tuition, fees, and books for LTC classes so recipients will be able to save money on their college expenses.

"Lincoln Trail College can be a great start for these students or any student for that matter," says Forde. "College can be expensive, but Lincoln Trail College is a financially smart decision. Not only has LTC been continually recognized as one of the top colleges in the nation, but we've also been recognized as the 11th most affordable college in the nation."

Past CCAE Scholarship recipients have been among LTC's top students. Already this year, nine of this year's CCAE recipients have committed to attending Lincoln Trail College full-time in the fall while three others plan to take summer classes at LTC.

### 2020 CCAE RECIPIENTS

#### Robinson High School

Alysha Clements  
Ella Dorfmueller  
Jeffrey Hermann  
Matthew Jenkins  
Kaitlyn Powell  
Ashton Roberts  
Josh Rosborough  
Charlee Stewart  
Stevee Walker  
Spencer Roe-Weaver

#### Palestine High School

Sheltann Waller  
Abbey McCord  
Kendra Biggs  
Seth Bailey

#### Oblong High School

Katie Cheek  
Mackenzi McIntosh  
Alyssa Potts  
Micah Janes

#### Hutsonville High School

Ashlyn Matthews  
Paige Matthews  
KT Nessly  
Marah Matthews



## CAST ANNOUNCED FOR LTC PRODUCTION OF MATILDA



Tara Gallion has announced the cast for Lincoln Trail College's 2020 spring production, *Matilda*. Inspired by the twisted genius of author Roald Dahl, the Tony Award-winning musical "revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination, and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life."

Sixth-grade student, Mallory Mosbey, leads the cast in the title role of Matilda Wormwood. Newcomer to the LTC stage, Mike Clark, makes his debut as Mr. Woodwood, a used car salesman and Matilda's dishonest and stupid father. Last seen on the LTC stage in the 2004 production of *Smokey Joe's Café*, Paige Layman returns playing Mrs. Wormwood, Matilda's shallow and obnoxious mother. Another new face to the LTC stage is former LTC baseball player, Tyler Rehmel, in the role of Rudolpho, Mrs. Wormwood's flamboyant Latin dance partner. Newton Community High School student, Riley Hart, rounds out the Wormwood family as Michael, Matilda's television-obsessed teenage brother.

Matilda fulfills her thirst for knowledge and imagination during her frequent trips to the library, where she tells stories to an eccentric librarian, Mrs. Phelps, played by LTC stage veteran Kathleen Moore. An escapologist, played by Robinson High School student Colby McGahey, and an acrobat, played by seventh-grader, Callie Reid, are the characters created in Matilda's imagination.

Ms. Honey, Matilda's timid yet compassionate classroom teacher, is played by Robinson High school senior Nyah Shulte. Several area youths will appear on stage as Matilda's classmates, including Kate Rehmel (Lavender), Sicily Rawlings (Amanda), Ashtyn Reid (Alice), Lyla Stewart (Hortensia), Jasleen Sharma (Erica), Cole Rehmel (Nigel), and Baylor Forman (Tommy). Joining the cast from Marshall North Elementary School in the role of Bruce, Matilda's classmate who is forced to eat an entire chocolate cake as a punishment is sixth-grade student Simon Wood. Additional classmates are played by Madisyn Redman, Isabelle Sutfin, Carlie Bradbury, Morgan Graupmann, Alexa Rank, Tessa Branson, Shelby Branson, and Ella Buntin. Sam Mikeworth, Robinson native and fourth-grade teacher in Lawrenceville, holds down the comedic role of Ms. Agatha Trunchbull, former Olympic hammer thrower and headmistress who detests and mistreats the children in her school.

Returning to the stage is John Sutfin, playing the role of the Russian mob boss, Sergei, who hunts down Mr. Wormwood for odometer fraud. He is accompanied by two Russian henchmen, played by LTC college students Jordon Rutan and Braeton Davis.

Additional cast members include Abigail Metheny (Children's Entertainer), Braden Hook (Doctor/Dance Competition Judge), Vickie Becker (Nurse/Salsa Dancer), Tom Moore (Parent/Salsa Dancer), Trey Reid (Parent/Salsa Dancer), Cyndi Rehmel (Parent/Nurse/Salsa Dancer), Ryan Pinkston (Parent/Nurse/Dance Competition Judge), Jamie Cox (Parent/Nurse/Salsa Dancer), Becky Miller (Parent/Nurse/Dance Competition Judge), and Christy Stewart (Salsa Dancer).

The show will be under the direction of Tara Gallion and music director Sandra Nichols. Bringing the show to life behind the scenes will be Cary Schiller (costumer), Larry Quick (scenic projection operator), Chris Blair (lighting designer), Nichole Logan (assistant lighting designer), Paige Layman (choreographer), Tom Cooper (sound operator), Spencer Roe-Weaver (sound operator), Lori McMillen (costumer/seamstress), Laurel Preston (stage manager), Allison Day (running crew), Summer Agan (costume/makeup crew), Bethany Dunlap (costume/makeup crew), Mindy Evans (costume/makeup crew), Alaina Harp (running crew), Jacob Servison (running crew), Olivia Teska (running crew), Michael Johnston (tech booth assistant), Marty Kirk (Russian language coach).

Performances are at 7 p.m. on March 20th, 21st, 27th, and 28th, and at 2 p.m. on March 22nd. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for students and go on sale on March 9th. Performing Arts Angels can reserve tickets beginning February 26th by contacting the Performing Arts Office at 618-544-8657 ext. 1433.

## GOWER TO BE RECOGNIZED WITH PARAGON AWARD



Lincoln Trail College President Dr. Ryan Gower is one of just 28 college presidents that will be recognized with Phi Theta Kappa's Paragon Award for New Presidents. Gower will be presented with the award during PTK Catalyst, the honor society's annual convention, April 2-4 in the Greater Dallas Area in Texas.

The Paragon Award is given to new college presidents who have shown strong support for student success by recognizing academic achievement, leadership, and service among high-achieving students at their college. Each of the 28 recipients was nominated for the award by students on their campus. More than 500 college presidents were eligible to receive the award.

"We're very proud and grateful Dr. Gower won this award," says Kim Schucker, one of the advisors for LTC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter. "We're so grateful for what he does for students at LTC in terms of leadership development and scholarship development. He also gives them opportunities to go to places they've never been when they attend conventions like PTK Catalyst."

Schucker says Gower has been very supportive of Phi Theta Kappa at LTC. She says he's worked hard to raise awareness of the honor society and he encourages students to join. "He also wants them to get the most out of it. He knows that students will get much more out of their experience if they are active members. He wants them to get involved in the college and research projects."

Participation in Phi Theta Kappa is strong at Lincoln Trail College. The College's chapter was recently honored with an award because the number of students that accept joining the honor society is higher than both the Illinois regional and national averages. LTC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter has also been recognized as a Five Star Chapter, which is the highest honor a chapter can receive.

Phi Theta Kappa students have a 91 percent student success rate, and research has shown that strong presidential leadership and support of PTK increases member success and the depth of their college experience.

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The Society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations, with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation's colleges. Learn more at [ptk.org](http://ptk.org).





**MARCH ATHLETIC EVENTS**

**Baseball**

5	John A. Logan	2:00
7	at John A. Logan	12:00
11	Danville Area CC	2:00
14	Ivy Tech (at Grand Park)	12:00
15	Ivy Tech (at Grand Park)	12:00
19	at Southwestern	3:00
21	Southwestern	12:00
23	at McKendree	1:00
24	Frontier CC	3:00
26	at Kaskaskia	3:00
28	Kaskaskia	12:00
31	at Frontier CC	1:00

**Golf**

1-7	at Myrtle Beach, SC	TBD
10	at Tuscola Open	TBD

**Softball**

1-8	at Melbourne, FL	TBD
10	at Lake Land	2:00
11	Kankakee	1:00
12	Olney Central	2:00
14	at John A. Logan	12:00
17	at Southeastern	2:00
19	at Kaskaskia	1:00
22	Sinclair	11:00
24	at Southwestern	2:00
28	Wabash Valley	12:00
29	Elgin	11:00
31	at Shawnee	2:00



Lincoln Trail College Process Technology alumnus Nathan Ladson ('18) talks to current LTC students about his experiences working for the Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery. He told the students their education will put them ahead when they go out to begin a career. He also told the students that Phillips 66 has a great deal of respect for Lincoln Trail College's program. "You learn so much in class, but it all makes sense when you get out there."



Thirteen Middle/High School Counselors and Social Workers from four different counties (Crawford, Clay, Clark and Lawrence) participated in a six-hour Professional Development Workshop at Lincoln Trail College that included in depth collaboration and sharing best practices with fellow counselors, guest speakers discussing Mental Health topics, as well as strategies for Creating a College Going Culture and Career Readiness.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

My news feed is filled with depressing headlines. It doesn't matter if I am reading the Wall Street Journal, US News and World Report, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Bloomberg, or the Washington Post, the headlines are all trying to make me worry about the future of higher education. They point to colleges and universities that have declining enrollment, deficit budgets, and aging infrastructure that they can't afford to maintain. If you have had a career in higher education you probably remember a time when enrollments were climbing, buildings were being built, and budgets were healthy. So, what is happening? Last month I touched on the fact that traditional-aged college students are losing confidence in the value of a college education. As concerning as this is, there is a more immediate challenge colleges across the nation are grappling with. It is called the "**enrollment cliff**" and it is something that all of us at Lincoln Trail College need to pay attention to. But ignore the headlines. This isn't something to be feared, it is something to get excited about.

The Great Recession of 2008 will prove to have an enormous impact on all institutions of higher education. It is well known that this economic downturn contributed to a sharp decrease in state funding for many community colleges. Those who weathered this storm must now brace for an unexpected outcome of the recession - **decreased birth rates**. The local news told us about lost jobs and underwater mortgages but rarely mentioned that the recession also prompted people to delay or forgo having children. **In the State of Illinois, the number of high school graduates will fall by 15% between 2019 and 2032.** Over the next 13 years, one of the greatest challenges colleges and universities will face will be to maintain enrollment and revenue despite a much smaller pool of traditional-aged prospective students. There is no question these demographic changes will reshape institutions of higher education across the country.

Four-year colleges are already beginning to more actively recruit minorities, international students, first-generation students, veterans, low-income students, older adults, and students with a lower level of academic preparation as the pool of traditional college-aged students gets smaller. Programs like "Illinois Promise" and "EIU Promise" are just the first examples of initiatives that will make it harder for community colleges to compete for enrollment in the future. Change is ahead and it is something we have talked about for several years. Change is not something to fear, it is something to embrace. The colleges who fail to embrace change are sure to go the way of Blockbuster Video or America Online. This won't happen to Lincoln Trail College, and here are a few reasons why I am sure:

1. We are small. There are many times when I've been frustrated by the size of our institution. As you know, I strongly believe that we need to push aggressively for growth in our student body and our full-time faculty. Right now, our small size is an advantage in several ways. I'm confident that many colleges will be forced to downsize in the years ahead. As we know first-hand, downsizing is painful and has a way of distracting us from serving our students and our communities. At Lincoln Trail College, we are already lean, hungry, and willing to find new ways to fulfill our mission. We are ahead of many of our peers in this regard.
2. We are nimble. Our size and structure allows us to be far more nimble than our peers. It is true that our small size means tight financial margins, but it also means we can quickly adapt and create programs that match the interests and needs of students and industry. This is an enormous advantage in a world where the rate of change seems to be constantly accelerating. In the next decade, I believe that the most successful institutions of higher education will be the ones who make small, quick, and intelligent moves. Lincoln Trail College is well-positioned to do this.
3. Our local communities support us. Over the past fifty years, we have established good relationships with the members of our local community. They were among the first to take our classes when we were still teaching in temporary buildings. They sent their children and grandchildren to take classes in Williams Hall. They have watched our choral and theatrical performances in the Zwermann Arts Center and have been entertained by our athletes in the Sports Center. They have supported us by giving their time, expertise and finances. They believe in Lincoln Trail College and are steadfast partners with us in making sure that access to affordable education will persist well into the future.

The number of traditional-aged college students **will** decline over the next decade. That is a fact, but it is hardly a reason to throw up our hands and shutter the doors. There are other opportunities to explore. What about the students who started college, but never earned their degree? They **far** outnumber traditional-aged college students in our area. Are there ways we can remove the barriers – real or perceived – for the student who started but never finished their degree? What about the student who entered the workforce directly after high school who will undoubtedly need to be reskilled or upskilled? Can we deliver this training using e-learning or on-site delivery? Are there ways we can use our low cost of attendance to penetrate new markets with degrees or certificates that are fully online? Can we develop a program of study, one that is uncommonly good and highly unique, that allows us to draw students in from regions beyond District 529? The answer to ALL these questions is yes. This work will not be easy. This work will not be convenient. Easy and convenient are not our mission. Using exceptional education to transform lives is our mission. Yes, change is coming, and I couldn't be more excited to get to work!