

## THE VIEW FROM THE VALLEY

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### Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton Interviews WVC Lady Warrior Breanna Beck

April 6th marked National Student Athlete Day and, as a means of celebrating that day, Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton interviewed one of WVC's own Lady Warriors, Point Guard Breanna "Bre" Beck.

Lt. Governor Stratton invited Bre to describe her experience, and the experience of countless other NJCAA athletes, of having her season abruptly end due to the pandemic. "Honestly, it's had a huge impact on recruiting because we didn't have the opportunity to play in a national championship. That's a big deal for recruiting because we didn't have the opportunity to play in front of a bunch of Division One coaches, so that alone puts a hold on our recruitment."

Bre said the hardest part, though, was suddenly being physically cut off from her support group and not knowing what is going to happen next. "For me, it was hard because I wasn't able to spend time with my teammates. I didn't get to finish with them because of us having to go home abruptly." After hearing Bre talk about not knowing what's going to happen next, the Lt. Gov. asked her to expound on that topic.

"Talking about some of these unknowns, I think there are a lot of people feel like it's all so new and no one anticipated all of the different things we would have to deal with, but what was it like for you and the other athletes as it relates to stress? I mean, I imagine that there's not only just fear and anxiety around your future in sports but also with potential scholarships opportunities. How are you all coping with your stress?" said Stratton.



The Illinois Lt. Governor virtually chatted with WVC Women's Basketball Point Guard Bre Beck on National Student Athlete Day. Bre shared her feelings about qualifying for but not being able to participate in the NJCAA Tournament and how her life changed.

Beck told the Lt. Governor that what's been helping her deal with the stress of this ongoing situation is staying connected. "I haven't seen some of my teammates since we got sent home, so talking to them and checking up on them constantly is big. Also, I've been congratulating my teammates that are also committing during this time. It's also really important to just be around family right now, be around people that we love, and just take it all day by day."

Lt. Gov. Stratton agreed that staying connected to one's support group is incredibly important in reducing stress and in helping you through hard times. The Lt. Gov. then asked Bre about a recent

hardship that she had to walk through—her coach calling to let her know that the rest of the basketball season was cancelled. The Lady Warriors had won their regional championship and were heading toward a national championship game. Bre told Lt. Gov. Stratton that it was devastating.

"A lot of Division One events were getting cancelled, but up until that point, ours were just getting postponed, so I was holding onto a little bit of hope. Then, we got the call... It was hard on a lot of us just because, like I told you, we just won a regional championship and our team was doing really well at the time and we thought we had a good chance of winning the national

tournament. It's just sad that we didn't get to finish."

Despite not getting to finish out the season, Bre is still thinking about recruiting and the Lt. Gov. asked her how that process has changed in the wake of COVID-19. Bre noted that the biggest change is not having the ability to visit the schools and get a feel for what campus life would be like there.

"We're having to get really creative. Now, we're doing virtual tours through Facetime and Zoom and things like that. Now, we're having to really do some in depth research about each school and feel it out from there and hope you make the right decision."

Lt. Gov. Stratton agreed that sort of change would definitely require a major adjustment. The Lt. Gov. then asked Bre how she is coping with this crisis.

"I think I can speak for my teammates as well as myself when I say we're dealing with a lot of anxieties because of, as you said, all of the unknowns... we don't know where we're going to be next year. That's a lot to deal with. Also, it can be depressing just thinking about how you didn't get to finish out the season like you wanted to. We didn't know that our last practice was our last practice, that our last game was our last game. But staying connected to my teammates is helping a lot."

The Lt. Gov. thanked Bre for her time and told her that she makes all of Illinois very proud.

"Breanna, I look forward to the day when I can sit in a stadium and see you with a WNBA jersey on and I can cheer you on as you play!"

## WVC Associate Professor Interviewed by Mt. Carmel CEO



On Tuesday, March 31, Mount Carmel CEO virtually welcomed Dave Wilderman as a guest speaker. Mr. Wilderman has been the Marketing and Business Management Professor at Wabash Valley College for 20 years and also has a wealth of experience in retail sales. Mr. Wilderman talked to the students about how he sees marketing changing in this new environment and what the lasting effects of this sudden transition will be.

He then listened to the students as they shared their businesses with him and offered his thoughts on how they are going about them. He posed one very important question for these young entrepreneurs, which is: "Why will people do business with me?" "If you don't want to lose out to Amazon or Walmart," he said, "you have to have an answer to that question."

## WVC Faculty, Staff and Students—Facing Challenges Together

By Tyler A. Burr, Public Information Coordinator

This pandemic has caused us all to adapt to an incredibly dynamic situation. In the span of several days, our faculty, staff and student body changed everything about the way learning in an institution of higher education looks. Our faculty had a week to convert all of their material to an online format and our students had the same amount of time to prepare themselves for a virtualized education. Our staff members have adopted and begun utilizing new technological tools to increase staff-student contact to guarantee our students have everything they need to succeed and to ensure that none of our students fall through the cracks caused by this situation.

While the pandemic has separated our team physically, we have never been closer and more united.

Our team meets via Zoom on a tri-weekly basis to ensure that everyone has the most up-to-date information possible. During these meetings we share information, address perceived issues and encourage one another during these challenging times. However, our team's attention has never wavered from our collective purpose: the educational integrity and success of our students.

When the announcement was made that classes would be virtualized, some faculty members had justifiable concerns with their abilities to make that transition. In response to such trepidation, several members of our team volunteered to coach those faculty members through the process of curating an online class. Due to this, students are continuing to receive the high quality education

that IECC strives to provide across the four colleges. Additionally, we aren't solely concerned about our students' educational success, we also care about their well-being.

It was with great concern for the well-being of our students and our communities that led us to virtualize our classes, and it was out of that same concern for our students' wellness that WVC's FRESH food patty remained operational. We realize that we can't expect students to focus on their academics if they're worried about not having enough food for the week.

And even with the litany of business closures, work restrictions and stay-at-home orders that have swept the state and the nation, there are WVC students serving

their communities and their country as they intern for essential businesses. From agricultural industries to the news media, many of our students have elected to remain on-site to continue working with these essential services to help ensure that they remain as productive and efficient as possible.

Though our halls may not be filled with people, though we can't connect with our students and team members face-to-face right now, what is keeping us connected is a spirit of tenacity fostering a new kind of togetherness. Going forward, we will continue to adapt to this dynamic situation and all it has to bring; we will continue to provide our student with the highest quality education possible; and we will continue to face the challenges of this pandemic and every situation that arises as a team.

## WVC bass team hosts pro angler Bradley Roy

On Saturday, Feb. 29, the Wabash Valley College bass team hosted a bass fishing workshop with Major League Fishing, Bass Pro Tour angler Bradley Roy. The event was held in the Brubeck Arts Center Auditorium with around 100 anglers and fishing enthusiasts in attendance.

In the morning session, Bradley covered how to locate bass on large lakes and catch them based on various seasonal patterns and

phases. The afternoon session covered topics such as how to use various media outlets to learn the "identity of a lake," and how to utilize mapping and marine electronics to identify high value, high percentage targets for catching bass. "You can't catch what isn't there," Roy stated. "If you can't find fish, everything else is irrelevant."

The workshop raffled off several items donated by area businesses and had a flipping/pitching contest between sessions that allowed attendees an opportunity to win

various tackle items that were donated by Walmart Supercenter in Olney, Ill.

Bradley was the 2010 Bassmaster Rookie of the Year. He has qualified for the Bassmaster Classic three times with his highest finish being 7th in 2017. In 2018, he finished 3rd in points for the year on the Bass Elite Series. Bradley has 10 career top-10 tour finishes and has career earnings in excess of \$500,000.



Pro angler Bradley Roy speaks to attendees of the bass fishing workshop. Bradley Roy is from Lancaster, Ken. and has been a professional angler for 10 years.