

## THE VIEW FROM THE VALLEY

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### WVC Seeks Grant for Virtual Reality Simulator

Wabash Valley College (WVC) proposes creating and supporting an Early Childhood Education competency-based education (CBE) program in the Eastern Community Colleges District #529 (IECC).

WVC, a Gateways entitled institution, was founded in 1960 by the Community Unit School District #348 in Mt. Carmel. IECC colleges offer more than 40 career and technical degree programs and 35 certificate programs. WVC proposes building a high-quality CBE program with membership in C-BEN, purchase of Mursion Technologies, and developing learning activities and assessments aligned to the Gateways to Opportunity competencies and credentials.

WVC will utilize Mursion virtual reality (VR) simulations and develop scripts aligned to the

Gateways to Opportunity competencies and credentials. WVC's intention is to create relevant and professional interactions between learners and avatars in VR simulations that are sustainable and socially inclusive. WVC will develop scripts, activities, and scenarios based on Level 2 competencies using Mursion VR in the first year, and Level 3 and Level 4 competencies the following years. WVC will develop assessments designed for the technology and assess the effectiveness and replicability potential of both the technology and script and scenario development. The outcomes of the pilots will be reported to ICCB and made available to INCCRRA for recommendation to Gateways entitled institutions.

To implement the high-quality CBE program, WVC proposes becoming a member of C-BEN, a



Mursion's mixed reality platform employs a combination of artificial intelligence and live actors to deliver powerful simulations that mimic the most challenging interactions that teachers face on the job.

non-profit organization committed to growing demand, building capacity, and removing barriers. WVC will participate in the learning community facilitated by the ICCB and its partners to provide comprehensive sup-

port and determine efficacy and state replicability. WVC will build the foundation for the development of a CBE philosophy and commitment as it relates to the IECC mission.

### WVC Summer Enrollment Up Nearly 20%

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Wabash Valley College's summer enrollment numbers are up nearly 20 percent! As the summer semester reaches the halfway mark, WVC anticipates this upward trend in enrollment to continue into the fall semester.

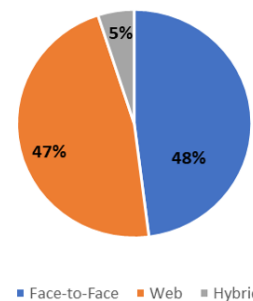
Assistant Dean of Student Services Steve Patberg reported the increased enrollment was most notable in the math, science and communications classes.

"Wabash Valley College had a significant increase of students picking up courses online this summer," said Patberg. "This is a testament to our quality online instruction along with the affordability that a community college provides."

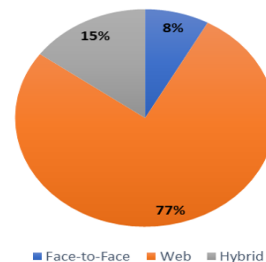
While traditional face-to-face numbers are down substantially, online class registration has nearly doubled. In 2019, there were 193 students enrolled in online classes during the summer semester; in 2020, that number jumped to 375.

WVC also saw an increase in hybrid class (a style of class that blends online and face-to-face learning modalities) numbers. In 2019, only 20 students were enrolled in hybrid classes for the summer semester; however, in 2020, 74 students have enrolled in hybrid classes—that's a 370 percent increase in student engagement in WVC's hybrid classes!

#### 2019 Summer Headcount Enrollment



#### 2020 Summer Headcount Enrollment



## WVC Awards Freshman Scholarships

### Claire Sherwood Spencer

The 2020-2021 Claire Sherwood Spencer Scholarship has been awarded to **Brieanna Cline** of St. Francisville, IL. Brieanna graduated from Lawrenceville High School and is pursuing an Associate in General Studies degree at WVC.

The Claire Sherwood Spencer Scholarship was established by the late Dr. James S. Spencer and his late wife, Claire, as a tribute to the dedication and support Mrs. Spencer provided during those productive years which Dr. Spencer spent as the Chancellor of the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District.

This scholarship recognizes outstanding academic achievement and leadership in high school and is awarded to students who demonstrate a potential to excel in their area of study. It helps provide assistance with tuition costs for fall and spring semesters for one year as long as the student remains enrolled full time. Total value of this award is estimated at \$2,400.

### Presidential

The 2020-2021 Presidential Scholarship has been awarded to **Brett Carwile** of Mt. Carmel, IL and **Katie Reid** of Albion, IL. Brett graduated from Mt. Carmel High School and is pursuing an Associate in Science and Arts degree at WVC. Katie graduated from Edwards County High School and is pursuing an Associate in Science and Arts degree at WVC.

This prestigious award is based on predicted performance which includes high school grade point average, composite of ACT Score, and rank in class. Total value of this award is estimated at \$2,000.

### WVC Foundation

The 2020-2021 Foundation Scholarship has been awarded to **Ali Andrews** of Sumner, IL. Ali graduated from Red Hill High School and is pursuing an Associate in General Studies degree at WVC.

The WVC Foundation Scholarship recognizes outstanding academic achievement and leadership in

high school and is awarded to students who demonstrate a potential to excel in their area of study. It has been established by the Wabash Valley College Foundation to assist students pursuing an Associate Degree at Wabash Valley College.

This one-year award will help offset the cost of tuition for Fall and Spring semesters for one year as long as the student remains enrolled full time. Total value of this award is estimated at \$2,000.

### Eliza C. & C.S. Young

The 2020-2021 Eliza C. & C.S. Young Scholarship has been awarded to **Paige McFarland** of Allendale, IL. Paige is a home-school student who is pursuing an Associate in Science degree at WVC.

This scholarship recognizes outstanding academic achievement in high school and is awarded to students who demonstrate a potential to excel in their area of study. It has been established to assist students pursuing an Associate

Degree at Wabash Valley College. This award helps provide assistance with tuition costs for Fall and Spring Semesters of 2018-19 at WVC as long as the student remains enrolled full time. Total value of this award is estimated at \$2,000.

### Lucille Batson Memorial

The 2020-2021 Lucille Batson Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to **Ethan Pittman**, of Clay City, IL. Ethan graduated from Clay City High School and is pursuing a degree in Agriculture Technology/Business at WVC.

The Lucille Batson Memorial Scholarship has been established to assist students pursuing an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Career and Technical Education programs. This is an award of \$500 to help offset the cost of tuition. This scholarship is awarded to applicants based on high school grade point average and letter of recommendation submitted by a vocational instructor or high school counselor.

## Gassman Legacy Continues at WVC

Emmert and Leola Gassman were WVC faculty members during the early years (1960s) of the College. Their legacy includes a generous endowment established through the WVC Foundation to fund faculty requests. This year, \$1,600 of classroom improvements requested by the faculty were supported by the Foundation's Gassman Endowment Fund.

Chemistry Instructor Dr. Chelsea Gemeinhardt requested an assessment tool, the iClicker2 Instructor Kit, which is used by over 1,000 institutions to promote active learning in the classroom. Using this tool, both Dr. Gemeinhardt and her students will receive meaningful, real-time feedback on their performance daily. This information is especially important for instructors, as this data can be used to improve and modify given explanations and help accurately



Leola Gassman  
A.B., M.S.  
HEALTH

gauge the students' progression throughout the course. In addition, responses are recorded for attendance purposes and all data can be seamlessly integrated into our Learning Management System.



EMMERT GASSMAN  
A.B., A.M., Adv. Cert.

Biology Assistant Professor Rich Poskin requested a Corning hotplate with a digital LED temperature display in degrees C, a 10 x 10-inch glass-ceramic plate surface, a microprocessor-based temperature control unit, and a three-prong plug that works with a

120V/60Hz power source. This hotplate is used by researchers, professionals, and hobbyists to heat a variety of liquids and solutions in chemistry, food and beverage, biology, lab, and home applications.

Radio/TV and Digital Media Assistant Professor Kyle Peach requested a system that will allow the department to greatly expand their ability to broadcast local events and games. As an example, we could put an additional camera into our broadcasts that could roam the sidelines of a basketball game. This would also potentially increase the content we can deliver on the new scoreboards, greatly impacting student opportunities and our service to the community.