



LTC STUDENT BENEFITING THROUGH CEFS PROGRAM



LTC HOSTS PHI THETA KAPPA REGIONAL LEADERSHIP EVENT



MUNDY VOLUNTEERS TO HELP NEW RHS SOCCER PROGRAM

# LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

## Network



### COLOR BLIND LTC STUDENT RECEIVES ENCHROMA GLASSES

Imagine being color blind. Now imagine trying to work with color-coded wires. That was the struggle of Lincoln Trail College Broadband Telecom student Alexis Perry. That all changed thanks to the help of TRIO Student Support Services, the Palestine Lions Club, and Lincoln Trail College, who donated a pair of EnChroma glasses to her.

Perry received the glasses at a ceremony with Broadband Telecom instructors Travis Matthews and Dennis York, Palestine Lions Club Treasurer and LTC employee Carol Mehler, TRIO Student Support Services Director Wain Davis, and TRIO SSS Counselor Linda Ryan-Catt, who helped organize the donation. Perry looked at a colorful flower arrangement when she tried on the glasses for the first time.

“Well, I’ve always really loved flowers, but now they look a lot cooler. It’s almost like they were glowing, like I didn’t know they could do that. My husband, he compares my color blindness to like having a dull filter on everything.”

The EnChroma Safety Glasses Perry received are designed to help people with red-green color blindness overcome daily frustrations and obstacles at work related to correctly identifying and interpreting colors. Perry says that her husband has been helping her identify colored wires, but she knew that was going to have to come to an end soon.

Broadband Telecom Lead Instructor Travis Matthews has known Perry for years and says the new glasses will help her be successful. “This is a big deal because I’ve actually known her for six years and actually get to see all of this come to fruition and helping her to get and obtain her degree.”



Linda Ryan-Catt serves as the TRIO SSS Counselor at Lincoln Trail College. Perry is in the program and Catt says that she wanted to do something to help her. “I knew Lions Club International helps students with glasses, so I contacted Carol Mehler and asked if this might be a possibility. She contacted EnChroma and asked for their help. This is the culmination of a lot of effort. It’s what community colleges are about.”

Mehler says it was very emotional watching Perry put on the EnChroma safety glasses for the first time. “I’m just glad we could help her. That’s what we are here for, the community. We’re a community organization. We are a community college. So, if there’s anybody out there that needs our help, we sure hope that they reach out to us so we can help them as well.”

EnChroma says color blindness is extremely rare in women, with only about one in 200 affected. They released a survey over the summer that found that nine in ten people with color vision deficiency stated that identifying colors correctly plays a role in their job and three-quarters report that being color blind slows them down at work. Nearly two-thirds have trouble interpreting color-coded materials.

Perry says she was overwhelmed with the support of the people that came together to help her. “I know that I wouldn’t be able to do this on our own. You know, we’re not in the best situation financially. That’s why we’re in school. And so, the training would have been very difficult. I would have had to wait till a good while with the career before I could even afford these on my own. It means everything. It means that I’m very proud to come back to my community that’s very small and close knit.”



See a video version of this story on YouTube.  
Watch the LTTV video:  
<http://www.youtube.com/LincolnTrailCollege>

## BADGER RECEIVES HELP WITH LTC EDUCATION THROUGH CEFS PROGRAM



Eric Badger came to Lincoln Trail College late in life. He found himself out of a job after the company he was working for was bought out by another company. He turned to Maureen Hays and the CEFS organization to begin a new career and enrolled in classes at LTC in September of 2019.

“It was a lot of work at the beginning,” says Badger. “There was a lot of paperwork that I had to fill out, but it went quickly thanks to the help of Maureen.”

Badger says part of that work was researching different degrees and career options. In addition to that, Badger had to call companies in the area to find out about things like career availabilities and pay scale. “There’s a lot of legwork that has to be done. You really have to earn it.”

Ultimately, he chose LTC’s Industrial Management program because he likes management and is familiar with working in that setting. Before he could get started, he needed to get final approval. “I was on pins and needles and was super excited when I got approved.” At that point, he met with Erin Volk and started picking out classes.

The CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation manages the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Dislocated Worker Program. It helps dislocated workers with education so that they can relaunch their careers. Badger says that the program has paid for his classes, books, supplies, and even mileage. He says he’s also qualified for financial aid and he’s been able to use that money to help take care of rent and utilities and it has allowed him to not have to work while attending classes.

“This has been fantastic, and I’ve loved it. Sure, there’s been a few times when I’ve wanted to pull out my hair, but Maureen has always been there to help me along the way. You couldn’t ask for a better person because she goes above and beyond and is there to help you in every way she can.”

Badger says when he initially started taking classes it was a little intimidating because he was with kids that were half of his age. “I have three kids that are older than the kids I’m going to classes with, but I’ve learned to deal with it and I’ve loved every minute of it at LTC.”

He says one of his favorite programs at LTC has been welding. He says he’s been welding since he was 18-years-old, but it was more “garage” welding. He says Reno Bemont has taken what he already knew and showed him so much more. In addition to his degree in Industrial Management, Badger is on track to receive a welding certificate, which he considers a bonus.

Badger says there are a couple of things that are driving him as he pursues his degree, which he’s on pace to finish in December. “I’ve worked with my back my whole life. I talked with my dad before he passed away and he was proud that I was going to work with my mind and not my back. It is bittersweet that he’s gone and won’t get to see me receive my diploma, but he would have been very proud.”

One of the things that excites Badger is how this is changing his life. “I’m looking to double how much money I was making and that’s opening so many doors in my life. I’ve always rented and for the first time in my life, I’m going to be a homeowner in another year or two. It’s fun watching my 11-year-old son get excited about that.”

Moreover, Badger is proud of what he’s been able to accomplish at LTC. “I can be really hard on myself, and I strive to be the best I can be. My first semester I got a 3.36 GPA and I was disappointed I didn’t get a 3.5. Now I’ve pushed myself to get a 3.56 and then a 4.0.”

Badger admits that it is hard work, but he’d encourage anyone to put forth the effort to go through the program if they find themselves in a similar spot that he was in. “There are so many people that want to help you. Maureen has been amazing through this and there are so many people at the college that want to see you succeed. All of my instructors seem to really like me and have taken me under their wing. I’ve even had one of my online instructors email me out of the blue to ask about my other classes. It was really neat that he did that.”

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## PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS URGED TO APPLY BY PRIORITY DEADLINE

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Chancellor Ryan Gower is urging prospective students to apply before the October 29 priority deadline to be the first in line for Student Success Scholarships.

“A college education continues to be one of the best vehicles to improve an individual’s quality of life,” Gower said. “Students who graduate with a two-year degree from IECC will — on average — earn \$300,000 more in lifetime earnings than high school graduates. If they go on to earn a bachelor’s degree, they will earn approximately \$750,000 more in lifetime earnings than high school graduates.”

With these increased earning potentials, Gower says it is not surprising more students are attending college now than in past years. Unfortunately, far too many students and their parents are taking on unnecessary levels of student debt in the process, with the average student debt in the United States just over \$30,000.

“We are encouraging area students to apply to IECC early because we want them to make informed decisions about how they can approach their college education differently,” Gower said. “When a student starts at Lincoln Trail College, they not only receive a high-quality education, they save about \$40,000 over their first two years of college. No matter how you look at it, attending LTC is a smart financial decision.”

Make Lincoln Trail College your priority! Take the first step toward a high-quality, nationally recognized education and apply for free at [www.iecc.edu/priority](http://www.iecc.edu/priority). Submit your application and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the October 29 priority deadline to maximize your financial award. Students will receive an estimated cost of attendance by mid-November.

Students that want additional help filling out their FAFSA can attend IECC’s Virtual FAFSA Night on October 13 from 4-7 p.m. Financial aid experts can help students and their families fill out the FAFSA and answer other financial aid questions they have. Students can visit <https://www.iecc.edu/fafsa> to register for the event and get additional tips on how to fill out the FAFSA. The FAFSA opens October 1.

## LTC HOSTS PHI THETA KAPPA REGIONAL EVENT



Lincoln Trail College served as a host side for the Phi Theta Kappa Illinois Region Regional Leadership Conference on October 8 and 9. LTC, along with McHenry County College, served as the two host sites for the conference, which focused on leadership and chapter development.

Mallory Mundy, who serves as the Chapter President at Lincoln Trail College and Vice President of the Southern Region for the Illinois Region, says hosting the event is something that she and the advisors knew they wanted to do. “Not only does it allow our chapter to make those in person connections, but it brings a sense of life to our college and community. Our LT family has come together to prepare for this event. Our President Dr. Zahi Atallah has been a huge supporter in this process.”

The event started October 8 with online forums, a chapter advisor meeting, PTK leadership development studies, and fellowship activities. On the 9th, keynote speaker Christopher Carter put on a program on the power of listening. Chapters also got to hear a presentation on successfully collaborating with college administration for college projects.

“This meeting gives all Phi Theta Kappa members across Illinois the opportunity to get to know the regional officer team better, Adonia Fulk, Ava Austin, and me. This conference includes Ed Forums which this year my team and I dove into scholarships and how to not only prepare for them but write essays, ask for reference letters, and how to navigate the PTK website to find the right scholarships for you. We also had keynote speakers: Christopher Carter who taught us about effective communication in leadership roles and Susan Edwards PTK Associate Vice President of Honors Programming and Undergraduate Research who spoke regarding leadership.”

Mundy says there was a lot of planning for the event both at the local and state level. She’s been meeting with the regional officer team to prepare for the event to make sure that it is welcoming and beneficial to every member of Phi Theta Kappa. She says one of the big goals they had was to make sure that at least half of the chapters in Illinois attend the event, a goal that hasn’t been met in previous years.



“This is so exciting! A few days before the conference our regional officer team received news that half of the chapters did in fact register. To make this happen we cracked down on marketing, specifically social media and really tried to put ourselves out there to chapters across the Illinois region.”

She says they also have another goal for the year. “Another big goal is to raise \$10,000 for an organization called Charity Clear Water. We set our goal at \$10,000 because this is enough to provide a water well to a community that is without safe and clean water right now. A big part of our mission is giving back to our communities and trying to help grow others. Our regional officer team is so uniquely driven.”

For Mundy, serving as a Regional Vice President has been a rewarding experience so far. “It has been a learning process that is slowly making me not only a better leader but person too. Being recognized feels good but the real reward is when I make those connections with other PTK members across Illinois, and they know I’m not only their regional officer but also a lifetime friend and motivator. My advisors at LT Kimberley Schucker and Carrie Brown have shown me so much support and I can’t thank them

enough for being my backbone throughout this amazing experience.”



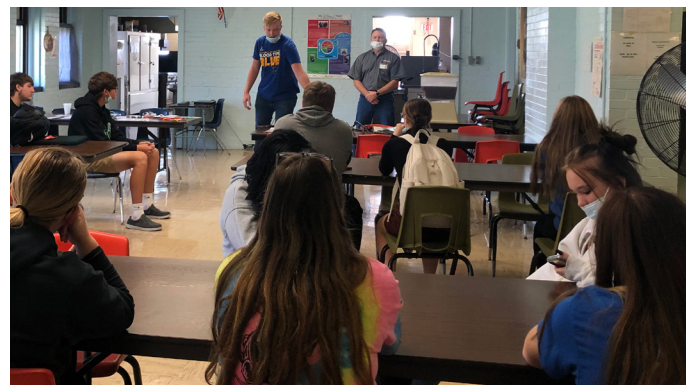
Signage is up for Lackey Music Hall.



LTC volleyball players celebrate after scoring a point against Southwestern on Orange Out Night.



Christian Hernandez handles the ball in Lincoln Trail College’s 10-0 win over Fairhaven Baptist College.



Telecom student Caleb Black speaks to Oblong High School students about the program. Black is a graduate of OHS.



## NOVEMBER ATHLETIC EVENTS

### Men's Basketball

8	Harcum	7:00
16	at Three Rivers	7:00
23	at Wabash Valley	7:00
26	Des Moines Area CC (at West Burlington, IA)	5:00
27	at Southeastern Iowa	4:00

### Women's Basketball

1	at Spoon River	5:00
5	Kirkwood*	1:30
6	Southeastern Iowa* *State Fair Classic at Sedalia, MO	1:30
8	at Danville Area CC	5:30
13	Lincoln Land	1:00
16	at Three Rivers	5:00
19	at Lincoln Land	6:30
23	at Wabash Valley	5:00



### MUNDY VOLUNTEERS WITH RHS SOCCER TEAM

Mallory Mundy came to Lincoln Trail College to play soccer, but that hasn't worked out like she initially planned. Despite that, she's still finding a way to use soccer to help others. This year, the sophomore is volunteering as a goalkeeper coach with the new soccer team at Robinson High School.

"Tona Ambrose had mentioned RHS had started a soccer program and I immediately knew this was a program I needed to get involved with," says Mundy. "I just wasn't sure if it was possible. After reaching out to RHS they welcomed me in with open arms."

Mundy has been a goalkeeper for ten years and has been using her experience to help run practices for the Maroons' keepers. She's used skills she's learned over that time to help develop drills to improve the skills of the players.

"Serving as a coach has been incredible. You learn a lot about yourself, both good and bad. At LTC I major in Sport Management, so it was a great feeling using what Tyler Browning taught me in the classroom out on the field coaching the sport I love. It also means that I have an opportunity to not only educate a young athlete but inspire them as well."

Mundy says giving back to the community and helping young athletes is something every athlete at LTC should embrace because they were all that young athlete at one point. "Showing young athletes the bigger picture in sports and higher education can be life changing."

Mundy says she also wanted to do something to help the Crawford County community because it has helped her develop. "This community has been full of the most kind, genuine, and hard-working people. Leaving my home state of Ohio and venturing over to LT was scary but this community has made that transition easy and even pushed me to get more out of my comfort zone. I will always give back to this community, that doesn't stop after I leave Lincoln Trail College."

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Lincoln Trail is experiencing an excellent semester. For example, the consolidation of tutoring, testing, and library services has created new synergies that are bringing new students to seek services that they were not using prior. Subsequently, the use of tutoring and library services has grown significantly. A student who spends more time engaged in her/his education tends to complete and succeed at a higher rate, compared to a student who does not engage. Ms. Rena Gower's student engagement efforts also include a book reading club, which counts for literature credit. Participation in this book club makes students eligible to receive the highly coveted Eagleton Award from the LTC Foundation.

This semester is also seeing the final touches to our new addition to the theater, the start of renovations to the pool, and preparation for the Crawford County Recreation Center. The energy of these projects and the conversation about the upcoming technology building in the next few years is surely exciting for our faculty and staff. Similarly, the integration of IECC district staff on campus is being felt like bringing the District Office closer to where students and faculty engage in education and growth.

One of the approaches that could bring more engagement of all students, and possibly more students to LTC is Universal Design for Learning (UDL). This framework is intended to accommodate the individual learning styles, needs, and differences of various students. It recommends flexible learning environments and learning spaces that make it welcoming to students regardless of their ability. This includes assistive technologies, varied methods of instruction, or multiple types of teaching materials. At LTC we have examples of such amazing inclusion of UDL as flipped classrooms, or our Humanities classroom was designed by our instructor Ms. Cyndi Boyce to be a relaxed workgroup environment. Moreover, on Tuesday, October 12, our Broadband Technology instructors (Mr. Travis Matthews and Mr. Dennis York) and Ms. Linda Ryan Catt (TRIO Student Support Services) present a student with a set of color vision correction glasses that will enable that student to operate effectively and safely.

Over the last few weeks, I continued working with local businesses on workforce preparation. These efforts are being conducted in conjunction with the Crawford County Development Association (CCDA). Moreover, this week we will meet with local K-12 districts to discuss possible alignments that create pathways into the workforce. LTC is perhaps the biggest cog in that very big mechanism that sustains the economy and jobs in Crawford County.

LTC is a partner with the community, local businesses, organizations, and institutions. And we will continue to lead through innovative education and workforce development.

Dr. Zahi Atallah  
President  
Lincoln Trail College