



LTC GATHERS 5400 ITEMS
DURING FOOD DRIVE



IECC AWARDS \$180K DURING
FALL PRIORITY DEADLINE



STUDENTS WORK TO ENGAGE
FANS WITH THEME NIGHTS

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

Network



IECC, CRAWFORD COUNTY RECREATION CENTER FINALIZE REC CENTER PLANS

The Crawford County Recreation Center and Illinois Eastern Community College finalized the terms for the transfer of funds to start construction on a new recreation center on the campus of Lincoln Trail College. Construction work on the new facility will begin in the early spring and is expected to be completed by late 2022.

“This is very exciting,” said CCRC president Bill Sandiford. “This has been a grassroots effort for several years and now we’re moving forward with the project.”

IECC has contracted with CDI as the design-build firm for the project. “We are fortunate to have the opportunity to work with CDI on this project,” said Dr. Ryan Gower, IECC Chancellor. “Rick, Kyle and Evan [Harruff] have a proven track record and have built amazing facilities in our area.” The Terre Haute, Ind.-based firm is no stranger to projects on college campuses. Their work includes buildings at Rose Hulman Institute of Technology and Indiana State University. They’ve also worked on other commercial, municipal, and industrial projects throughout Eastern Illinois and Central Indiana.

“This is the largest construction project on Lincoln Trail College’s campus since 1975,” said Dr. Zahi Atallah, LTC President. “There is no question this project will enhance the quality of life for residents of our local communities and

greatly enhance LTC's campus."

The new recreation center will connect with the Roland-Nicholas Natatorium, which is currently being renovated to include things like a climate-controlled party room, restrooms, and a changing area. The rec center will tie in on the west side of the building. Once complete, the indoor pool will be a part of the new facility, which will be operated independently of the college itself.

"This facility is going to be much more than just a gym," said Sandiford. "This is going to be a place for people of all ages to come and enjoy. We're going to offer recreational programming that fits the needs of our members from children to senior citizens."



The recreation center will offer a community atmosphere for members where they will be able to enjoy innovative fitness and recreation programs. "We plan to offer programs like dance, yoga, spinning, aerobics, water aerobics, youth sports, adult sports leagues, SilverSneakers, and healthy eating courses, just to name a few," said Sandiford.

The recreation center will also include a large space for free weights and strength equipment, a cycling studio, and cardio equipment such as bikes, treadmills, and rowers. In addition, there will be a child watch area for members where they can safely leave their children while they exercise or take classes. That area can also be used for summer camps and before and after-school programming. There will also be a multisport court that can be used for basketball, tennis, pickleball, and volleyball.

"One of the things we're very excited about is the indoor track," said Sandiford. "This will give people a place to go to walk and jog all year long, no matter what the weather is like outside."

"Once construction begins, this project will move quickly," said Atallah. "We're planning to break ground in the early spring of 2022 and CDI says the project will be complete late in the year. We could start occupying the building by December of next year."

The CCRC has been raising funds for the project, which will be turned over to IECC for the construction. "There is still some fundraising to do," said John Brooks, who serves on the CCRC Board. "We've raised funds to cover about 80-to-85 percent of the project. We're excited that we're at the point where we can move into the construction phase of the project."

Sandiford said that the CCRC has received tremendous support from the community as well as local businesses and industries. "When we started this project, we wanted to do something to enhance the quality of life in Crawford County. This is a great place to live already, but we have heard from businesses and industries that they've had trouble recruiting and retaining employees. We believe that the recreation center will be a cornerstone piece to help attract and keep people here."

LTC COLLECTS 5400 FOOD ITEMS DURING FOOD DRIVE



Lincoln Trail College students, faculty, and staff collected more than 5000 items during a food drive in November. In addition to providing food for the LTCares food pantry, food from the drive will go to local food pantries and the Oblong Children's Home.

The food drive is organized by Student Senate. Mallory Mundy serves as Student Senate President and says it means a lot to her to be able to give back. "Personally, I pride myself in helping others so these large donations LT has been able to make means a ton to me. The community helps our college so much and this is a way for us to really show how much in return LTC also cares for our community. This isn't just your average college experience it's so much more than that."

She says it is important for LTC students, faculty, and staff to give back to the community because the community makes the college a family. "When you leave campus your LT family is still at Walmart or Back Porch or other places around the community. The level of care and appreciation is what truly makes this community such a special place to not only get your education but to also live."

The LTCares Food Pantry is a recent addition to campus to help students with food insecurity. It is open on weekdays and students can get food with no questions asked.

"The LTCares food pantry has been incredibly important to the students. It's been something we take pride in. Anytime I'm giving a college tour I take a moment to highlight the food pantry and how it helps our students thrive in numerous ways. The food pantry is a great example of an idea that LT took in with open arms and helped flourish into what it is today."

The LTCares food pantry takes donations around the year. People that want to give can reach out to Cyndi Boyce.

It wasn't just LTC that had a food drive. Student Senates from each IECC school held food drives in November. In addition to gathering donations for the community, the food drives serve as a friendly competition among the colleges. The college that has the most donations earns a traveling trophy that they can display for a year. LTC is the 2021 winner with 5340 items collected. Wabash Valley College collected 4551 items, Frontier Community College collected 2082 items and Olney Central College collected 2000 items.

IECC AWARDS \$180,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO AREA STUDENTS



Frontier Community, Lincoln Trail, Olney Central and Wabash Valley colleges awarded nearly \$180,000 to area high school students in the first round of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges’ Priority Deadline Success Scholarships.

IECC Director of Financial Aid Andrea Puckett said the tuition awards demonstrate IECC’s commitment to seeing area students successfully achieve their higher education goals. The scholarships are renewable for up to four semesters — Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023 and Spring 2024, not including summer courses.

Initiated last year, the Success Scholarships are tuition awards made available to Community College District 529 high school graduates who have committed to attend the IECC colleges by completing the admissions application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid by the Priority Deadline dates. The FAFSA must have school code 001742 – Illinois Eastern Community Colleges listed.

“With the Priority Deadline, we wanted to strengthen our relationships with the area high schools and our communities,” said Andrea Loll, IECC Director of Enrollment Management. “We want our area high school students to think of IECC as their first choice. At all four colleges, students can earn an associate’s degree, transfer to complete a bachelor’s degree or take a CTE program and go back into the community workforce. The Success Scholarships demonstrate that IECC has the resources to help our area students be successful.”

First-round recipients were notified just prior to Thanksgiving, with 254 students from 18 area high schools receiving Success Scholarships.

“We are seeing good numbers and we’re excited about that,” Puckett said. “As students begin receiving financial aid packets from various institutions, we want to show before the holidays how affordable the IECC colleges can be for families. The Priority Deadline gives us the opportunity to show them just how much money they can save by attending FCC, LTC, OCC or WVC. These are scholarship dollars going to students in our communities and we are hoping to award more aid in the second round.”

STUDENT AWARDS BY COUNTY		
CLAY	33	\$24,300
CRAWFORD	49	\$28,500
EDWARDS	34	\$23,550
JASPER	12	\$9,450
LAWRENCE	18	\$12,150
RICHLAND	72	\$51,750
WABASH	20	\$12,900
WAYNE	9	\$9,450
WHITE	7	\$6,900

The next Priority Deadline is February 25. Students can go to www.iecc.edu/priority to begin the application process. Awards will be announced in mid-March.

Students or parents with questions regarding the Success Scholarships or the FAFSA, should contact FCC, LTC, OCC and WVC Financial Aid, or visit www.iecc.edu/financial.

WINTER COMMUNITY EDUCATION CATALOG AVAILABLE



Lincoln Trail College is rolling out several community education classes for January, February and March. The Winter edition of the Community Education catalog has been published and people can start registering for the classes.

The classes start January 4 with CPR Certification Training taught by Janice Aikman from 8-11:30 a.m. The class is geared toward providing CPR training for health care providers.

LTC will once again work with the University of Illinois Extension for a class called New Year, New You. The class will focus on how to build skills for healthy living and takes place on January 11 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Andy Bradbury will continue to teach Karate for Kids and Tae Kwon Do. Karate I takes place Mondays from January 10 to May 2 from 6-7 p.m. while Karate II runs Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. beginning January 10. Tae Kwon Do also runs on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. January 10 through May 4.

The Eagleton Library Book Club returns January 24. The selection for this class is “Where the Wind Leads: A Refugee Family’s Miraculous Story of Loss, Rescue, and Redemption” by Dr. Vinh Chung with Tim Downs. Rena Gower leads the book club, which takes place Mondays 4:30-5:30 p.m. through April 25.

Rachel Carter follows up with beginning crochet class with Crochet 102. The intermediate level class runs on Thursdays February 3 through March 3 from 6-8 p.m. Students will learn to create beyond the basic stitches, patterns, how to read diagrams, and joining techniques.

LTC will offer Online Instructor for CNA’s class February 28-April 9. The Train the Trainer and Alzheimer’s portions of the class consist of five weeks of online instruction.

Kristi Weidner-Rawlins will lead a class called Growing You Garden from Seed class. The hands-on class covers the basics of how to grow your garden vegetables or flowers from seed. It runs on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 March 1 through April 26.

Three classes begin March 3. Donna Milam will teach a Beginning Knitting class that runs on Thursdays through March 31 from 6-8 p.m. Students will learn to design and knit a scarf in the class. Angie Compton will teach Chalk Pastel Basics and Texture. Students will cover the basics of chalk pastels on one project and another will emphasize the texture of fur or features. It runs Thursdays through March 31 from 6:30-8 p.m. Beginning Stained Glass taught by Dale Milam will cover the basics of stained-glass work like cutting, grinding, foiling, and soldering. The class runs from 6-8 p.m. on Thursdays through March 31.

Kim Tohill leads a Chalk Couture class on March 21 from 6-8 p.m. Students will learn how to create DIY home décor.

The full community education catalog is available under the Community tab on Lincoln Trail College’s website. Students that want to register for one of the classes can call 618-544-8657, ext. 1425 or by visiting the Eagleton Library at Lincoln Trail College. Early registration is recommended because class sizes are limited.

STUDENTS ORGANIZE GAME DAY THEMES



A group of students is working to bring more excitement and passion to Lincoln Trail College sporting events. Kinley Block, Paige Hensley, and Mallory Mundy started the concept of theme nights for games in a Sport Management class taught by Tyler Browning.

“The theme nights came about as we were thinking of ideas for our class project with Tyler Browning,” said Block. “We started thinking about a spirit week to hype everyone up for a game on a weekend and started to think about throwing some themes together for the rest of the season, which ended up as themes for most of our home conference

games.”

Hensley says originally, they wanted to do something for Homecoming, but when that didn't work out as planned, they thought it would be fun to do something with the other games on the schedule.

“After COVID, I think a lot of people are still trying to figure out what is and is not allowed,” said Hensley. “I think since all of us sophomores missed last year's season as well as our senior year, it's giving us that feeling of what it used to be like. I think it is important to get the word out, even if they don't participate in the theme. They will still show up knowing it's taking place.

The themes started in the Fall with the volleyball and soccer seasons. From there, the students looked at the men's and women's basketball schedules and started thinking about different ideas. The group wanted to come up with fun theme ideas where people could easily participate without having to spend a lot of money in order to participate.

“We didn't want anyone to feel like they had to go buy things for the theme nights,” said Hensley. “Instead of going all out, we stuck with easier ones to ensure that everyone could get involved.”

All three are athletes at LTC and they know how important it is to have an engaged home crowd. “Having an engaged crowd brings so much more to your side of the competition,” said Block. “When everyone is cheering and dressed for a theme, you know you have a lot of support behind you which makes playing even more fun.”

Hensley says another idea behind the themes is to bring a different atmosphere to games. “I think the student body needs to realize that we aren't just doing this for us; it's to help make the experience as college-like as possible for everyone. DI schools do themes for football and basketball games. It's not for us; it's for everyone to feel welcome and join in. We share it to everyone because it makes the experience better.”



LASSEN COMMITS TO INDIANA STATE



Lincoln Trail College infielder Kade Lassen will continue his baseball career at Indiana State University after he graduates from Lincoln Trail College.

“He’s gritty and tough with an advanced skillset,” said Statesmen coach Kevin Bowers. “He’s a glue guy that comes in and keeps his mouth shut and just works.”

Bowers said Lassen provided the team a spark last year when they put him in the lineup in the leadoff spot and he immediately responded with a part of hits.

“I think he’ll do the same when he gets to ISU,” said Bowers. “I think he’ll continue to impress the coaches with his effort and he’ll take advantage of every opportunity he gets.”

As a freshman, Lassen batted .317 in 48 games for the Statesmen. He added 30 RBI and four home runs to go with 43 runs scored and ten steals.

JONES BECOMES A BUCKEYE



Another Lincoln Trail College baseball player is heading to the Big Ten. Pitcher Logan Jones committed to Ohio State. He’s the sixth Statesman in the last eight years to commit to a Big Ten university.

Jones spent his freshman season at Ohio University before coming to LTC, but coach Kevin Bowers says he fit in right away and is a great teammate. “He’s a great kid and fit into the program in a short span. On the mound, he has an overpowering fastball, but he can really pitch and throw strikes.”

Bowers says that Jones has starter stuff but is mentally tough enough to come in as a reliever.

At Ohio as a freshman, Jones had a 3-2 record with a 4.98 ERA in nine appearances. He struck out 41 batters.

YOON TO ONU



A Lincoln Trail College baseball player that started his journey in South Korea will continue his playing career at Olivet Nazarene University. Catcher Geon Yoon committed there in late November.

“We’re pretty excited,” said Statesmen coach Kevin Bowers. “He’s our first player from South Korea and he’s worked really hard and deserves to go on.”

Bowers was on a scouting trip to South Korea when he discovered Yoon. “He’s had an awesome transformation here. He’s been able to adjust to United States baseball and the culture here.”

Bowers says Yoon is a very skilled catcher. “He’s an outstanding receiver with an above average arm. He’s also developed some power in his bat this year. With his skillset, I think he’ll make an immediate impact because it’s really hard to keep someone like him out of the lineup.”

Yoon appeared in 16 games as a freshman for LTC. He hit one home run, had three RBI, and four stolen bases. Behind the plate, he had 99 putouts and caught seven runners stealing.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

At the end of my first semester at LTC, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to everyone at IECC, LTC, and Crawford County for welcoming me. It is a wonderful place to call home, and an amazing community to contribute to. I am honored to be a member of this family.



Homelessness and food insecurity are national problems that affect millions in our nation. Almost 20% of students in community colleges are homeless, and about 40% of students reported in surveys that they do not know where their next meal would be coming from. For that reason, we are proud to support the food pantry initiative at LTC, as it provides the basics without asking questions or having to reveal any personal information. We are also proud of having donated more items to the food drive than the other colleges in IECC. We take our role as an institution of empowerment to heart, and we will continue to strive to ensure that our students can focus on their education, and less on the other necessities of life.

To thank the faculty and staff of LTC for their amazing work for our students, Dean Todd and I have set up a faculty appreciation day on December 6, with a breakfast that was served to them. Similarly, the two of us will be cooking breakfast for our staff on December 16, to thank them for their hard work on behalf of our institution. Moreover, on December 15 we are holding a Holiday celebration at the Fife Opera House in Palestine at 6 PM. This event will include a painting activity that is led by our faculty colleague, Ms. Carrie Brown. We will also have a gag gift exchange, in addition to food and beverage. You are all invited to join us in celebrating our LTC family.



In complement to our efforts to enhance the quality of and access to career technical education, we are participating in an IECC effort to secure a grant from the US Economic Development Agency. The first phase will include requests for equipment, simulators, and instructional modules. In contrast, the second phase, which will take place in February, will include facilities updates. LTC will be requesting instructional equipment for healthcare, industrial skills, and process technology. It is imperative that we provide our students real-world experiences that mirror what happens at worksites, include technology that is current, and challenge their critical thinking skills. Furthermore, employers will directly benefit from a better-prepared workforce that is steeped with the knowledge of newer technologies and working safely. This effort is coordinated by the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission.

In my name and on behalf of my family, I would like to wish you all the happiest of holidays and that the new year brings you health, warmth, and joy. It surely is the highlight of my professional life. Additionally, I am grateful for all of my colleagues at LTC and IECC because they make my day every day.

Dr. Zahi Atallah
President
Lincoln Trail College