



COURSE RECEIVES CERTIFICATION FOR DESIGN QUALITY

Frontier Community College’s General Biology I class earned the Quality Matters (QM) Certification Mark following a rigorous review process. The QM Certification Mark is the internationally



Nixie Hnetkovsky teaching a Biology Class

recognized symbol of online and hybrid course design quality. It represents Frontier Community College’s (FCC) ongoing commitment to creating learning environments that provide students with a clear pathway to success.

FCC’s QM certification efforts are part of the college’s Title III grant. Title III Grant director, Carol Dreith, says, “The overall goal of the Title III Grant is to increase student accessibility to Health Science courses through the establishment of online/hybrid content. FCC is committed to developing online/hybrid courses that are learner-friendly, organized, and follow best practices. The research-based Quality Matters program is internationally recognized as the premiere system for assuring quality in online courses and was selected [by Title III] to ensure the FCC courses were developed to meet stringent quality standards. Nixie Hnetkovsky’s online Biology course is the first course at Frontier and the entire IECC district to earn the coveted QM certification.”

Nixie Hnetkovsky, Life Science Associate Professor and Athletic Director, was thrilled with receiving this honor, saying, “I believe our students deserve the best [and the QM certification guarantees] excellence for online instruction. In addition to improving the course, this process improves me as an instructor. It requires me to be current in online teaching methods [including] current

Upcoming Events

February

21 President’s Day

March

04 Midterm

07 Casimir Pulaski Holiday

08 Start of Spring Break

14 Classes Resume

April

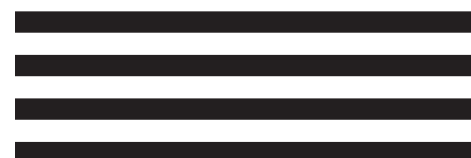
15 Spring Holiday

May

06 Last Day of Classes

09 Start of Final Exams

13 Last Day of Semester/Graduation



COURSE RECEIVES CERTIFICATION (continued)

curriculum planning, implementation, and content presentation for learners of all types. I have improved as an instructor throughout this process, not only in online instruction but also in traditional face-to-face instruction. [QM] is a student-centered approach. Because I care about helping our students, I need to push myself to improve in my teaching constantly.”

The QM certification mark is sure to serve as a badge of honor for Nixie, showing the world her desire and success in working to help FCC students. Nixie worked diligently to receive this certification. According to Debbie Bryant, distance learning specialist at FCC and certified QM master reviewer, “The process for a course to become QM Certified is a very overwhelming process. There are 42 standards by which the course content is measured and scored. After the initial review, a [QM] report is provided for the instructor, and they are given 14 weeks to amend their course content. It takes months to complete the entire cycle.”

Currently, one other course at FCC is under review for QM certification. After completing this review, the Title III team intends to apply the QM methods to other FCC courses that are migrating to a hybrid model. The future of education is increasingly digital. While FCC still has a robust offering of in-person classes, this addition of premier-quality hybrid courses will allow more students in the region to access the college’s top-notch education.



Students in Mason Hall Biology lab, before renovation

TITLE III UPDATES

The following updates are from the Title III Project Director, Carol Dreith.

- Ruth Wilkinson will begin as an adjunct instructor for the MLT program in Spring 2022 semester. She earned a MSL from the University of Evansville and a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Evansville. With a wealth of experience in the medical and laboratory fields, Ruth will be an incredible asset to our MLT students.
- The remainder of new student seating and faculty workstations have finally arrived and are being installed in Mason Hall Rooms 22 and 23.



Students in the recently finished Mason Hall room 23

CHERISHED FCC EMPLOYEE JUANITA RAE MEDLER PASSES

On December 17, FCC lost a member of its family, Juanita (Rae) Medler. Read below as Sharis Wilson, Coordinator of the Literacy Development Center, remembers her friend and co-worker.

“Words cannot express the anguish that follows with the passing of Juanita Medler. She was cherished by many and adored by all. Juanita (Rae) lived to help people. She was the voice for those who didn’t have one. She radiated positivity and inspired students from all over to become their best selves.

Rae began her journey at FCC as an Adult Education Receptionist in July of 2008. Her status changed from part-time to full-time in August of 2010. After her six years of service in the Adult Education Program, Rae retired on July 1, 2016.

She remained close to the Adult Ed family over the years, coming into the office just to visit and hear the success stories of the students she had been close to. In November of 2020, she had expressed interest in working with the Adult Volunteer Literacy team to help with outreach to our ELL (English Language Learners) community.

By November 16, 2020, she was hired as a Literacy Development Technician. In no time, the AVL program doubled in size. Not only did she recruit ELL learners throughout the IECC district, but she also taught volunteers how to help these learners. After all, Rae had been a literacy volunteer since March 30, 2009 and continued to volunteer in the AVL program until her passing. She was a pillar of strength throughout our community and a beacon of hope in the eyes of many. Though she is gone, she will forever remain in our hearts. Her kind words and positive outlook on life will remain in our memories. Even though it seems impossible, we will find a way to carry on and strive to be our best selves, like she would have wanted. Rest in peace, dear friend, you will be missed.”



Juanita (Rae) Medler

SPRINGING INTO ENROLLMENT

Spring enrollment opportunities are expanding at FCC with the changes to the Certified Medical Assistant(CMA) program. Curricular changes were made, allowing new students to enroll in either the fall or spring semester. Previously, if a student became interested in joining the CMA program after the Fall 10-day class change period, they would have to wait until August to enroll. The new reduced wait time allows students to start the program more conveniently and join their chosen career field sooner.

The new enrollment period for CMA is already shared with FCC's Automotive program, which has previously allowed students to enroll in fall and spring. Dean Paul Bruinsma is excited for Spring enrollment opportunities saying, "Having multiple entry and exit points for our career and technical programs gives students greater flexibility when it comes to deciding on a career path."

Sometimes this flexibility can be a deciding factor when potential students choose where to go to school. With this and FCC's efforts to offer classes in various formats, finding time to take courses is easier than ever. Accommodating student needs gives even more people the chance to receive a college education and expands FCC's reach to previously untapped markets.



CMA Student working at an internship

B&I UPDATES

The following updates are from the Dean of Business and Industry, Sharmila Kakac.

- Provided online training to FRAM Filtration in Greenville, OH. Fram is a company related to Champion Labs, where we have provided training for many years. Our instructor Wendy Coles traveled to the facility in early December to assess and is creating content specific to their needs. This training will be for a fee and not for reimbursement.
- Started training at Motorad the 3rd week of December. They are now on schedule to receive monthly training.
- Actively working on bringing Small Business Development Center(SBDC) services to our district. Currently, SIC has graciously offered to fund these services in our district through September, with their surplus CARES act funding. Later this year, B&I will write for the SBDC grant to support these efforts after September.