

# View from the Valley

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**OUR MISSION IS TO DELIVER EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS AND TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES.**

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**“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”**

**Dr. Martin Luther King Junior**

# Valley Briefs



**Student Lounge Begins Construction/Renovation**

The new Student Lounge at WVC has begun renovation. The materials being stored in the space have been moved out and painting/remodeling has started. They hope to have the lounge completed by April 1.



**WVC Warriors Basketball Plays Last Home Game**

The Warrior's Basketball (Men's) team competed in their last regular season home game February 25th. The Warriors fought hard but lost a tight game 67-69 in overtime.



**AirLife Flight Crew Visits WVC Nursing Students**

The AirLife Medical Team flew to Wabash Valley College Feb. 28th to speak with Nursing students and provide a tour of their helicopter. Students learned the duties of a flight nurse and spoke with the flight crew.



**Solar Savings Update**

WVC's new solar array produced 4MWh in January and has saved nearly 93K pounds of CO2 emissions. This reduction is the equivalent of over 700 trees being planted!

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**“No man should escape our universities without knowing how little he knows.”**

**—J. Robert Oppenheimer**

## Baseball Coach Rob Fournier Inducted into Hall of Fame



Wabash Valley College (WVC) Baseball Coach Rob Fournier will be inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Hall of Fame. When he first heard he would be inducted into the hall of fame, Fournier recalls feeling shocked and surprised. "I wasn't able to go to the American Baseball Coaches Association coaching clinic, and that's where they announced [my induction]," Fournier stated. "I was at the dinner table with my wife, and I got a text from one of the coaches at the meeting saying, 'Congratulations!' It was a total surprise. I didn't know for sure if [the announcement] was a real deal or not. It was pretty cool."

Fournier has been coaching at WVC for 23 years. As he continues to develop his philosophy—a mixture of recruiting, working hard, and doing things right—Fournier knows that he loves to learn and applies all his gathered knowledge/personality toward baseball. His coaching is influenced by several coaches of many sports he played in the past. "I have taken a little bit from everything to just basically form my own

philosophy that fits my personality and the things I like to do. It's been a combination of failure, experience, and what works well."

Baseball, Fournier admits, was not his favorite sport when he was younger, but as opportunities arose within the field of baseball Fournier found himself loving the sport. Fournier believes that competing is a powerful element not only with baseball, but also with coaching. He implements competition in his baseball team's fundraising, academics, transferring, practice, and more. A major factor that drew Fournier into baseball was how the sport affects the mind. "The mental part of this game is so crucial," Fournier detailed. "The ability to really, really compete daily, to understand you're going to fail every single day, is such a challenge mentally. Coaches and players, to really make it in [baseball], must be strong. This game is set up on failure. I've learned you have to learn everything that relates to our program [to find success]."

One of Fournier's favorite memories coaching at WVC was when the baseball field was named after him. "It was pretty surreal," Fournier shared. "It's pretty cool because you know that it's everybody involved, and you can reflect on all of the little things like raking leaves, fundraising, all the community work that we do. The community service is important because, after you do it, you feel good about it."

Fournier also expressed gratitude for the opportunity to enjoy his ongoing dedication with an institution like WVC. "I am thankful for previous athletic director Paul Schnarre giving me this job," Fournier expressed. "I'm thankful to the administration for letting me do the things I do. The junior college is such a wonderful level of athletics—it's so much fun to be able to mold young players and see them move on. Baseball is not fair—life is not fair—but you do it because you love to improve kids' lives."

Besides baseball, Fournier loves animals, the outdoors, and spending time with his family, friends, and wife. His favorite major league baseball teams include the Dodgers and his father's favorite team, the Red Sox. He is also a fan of the University of Southern California Trojans' football team. He hopes to open an animal shelter one day after retiring from baseball. As he expressed, Fournier is proud of his team being consistently good every year and will continue to volunteer, assist the community, and work with the WVC baseball team. We asked him if he has ever lost his temper while coaching; he chuckled and admitted he has broken many helmets, bats, and at least three fungos (coaching bats).

## WVC Radio/TV & Digital Media Department Breaks School Record



Individual Intercollegiate Broadcasting System nominations. From top left to right: TQ Johnson and Branton Beard. From bottom left to right: Kyler Gammon and Maggee Bleyer.

Including local news channel News Channel 15 being the sole nomination for "National Community College TV Station of the Year," the Wabash Valley College (WVC) Radio/TV and Digital Media Department has recently reached a school-record of seven nominations for national awards by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System. Those nominations include two nominations for the 30-minute-long sports segment at News Channel 15 called "Sports Cubed," anchored by second-year students Branton Beard, Kyler Gammon, and Eli Grimes. "Sports Cubed" was nominated "Best Use of Graphics" (Beard) and "Best Sports Program" (Beard, Gammon, and Grimes). Other nominations include "Best Program Promotion" (TQ Johnson for WVC basketball), "Best Sports Play by Play" (Beard), "Best Sports Report" (Gammon and his interview with Luke McCown) and "Best Radio Newscast" (Maggee Bleyer). The virtual award ceremony will announce all the award winners in early March.

You can listen to the award winning program and students at <https://nkstreaming.com/WVJC-RIS/>

## WVC vs. VU Game Packed Full of Action



Wabash Valley College Basketball (men's and women's) defeated the Vincennes University (VU) trailblazers on Wednesday, February 16th. Both games created an exciting environment as the Warriors' Basketball teams fought to victory. The Lady Warriors game ended with a score of 83-40, while the men's ended with a close score of 66-59. Although the men's game became incredibly tight at some points, the Warriors prevailed in the last few minutes.

During the games people who came through the lobby were presented with several opportunities to learn more about various visiting organizations. Different WVC sports teams sold concessions as well as merchandise. Toyota Motor Corporation held a

pop-up event that detailed many opportunities and career paths for college students. Free promotional items and informational papers were available for everyone. This pop-up event aimed to hype and advertise for the later Toyota event that occurred on Saturday, February 19th at the Brubeck's Art Center.

The Wabash Rally Against Cancer (WRAC) also held a dessert auction and bake sale at the game. There were many baked goods donations including a box of Parlor Doughnuts, pies, cheesecakes, cakes, and more. The winners of the desserts were announced during halftime of the men's game. The bake sale was donation-based and allowed WRAC to raise a total of \$640.00!

## New Student Lounge Coming to David L Hart Building



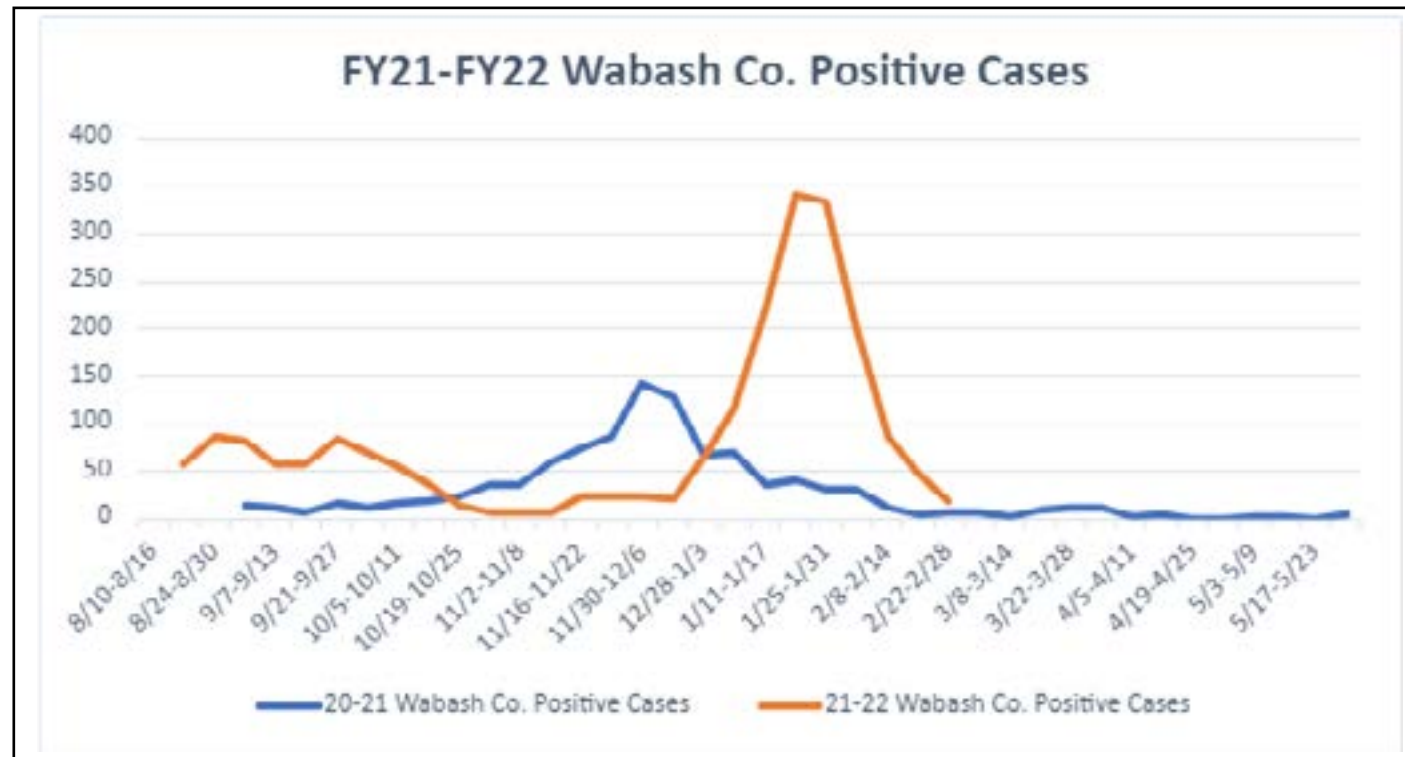
A subcommittee of the Wabash Valley College (WVC) Student Senate is currently in the process of creating a student lounge for all students to enjoy. The student lounge will be located in the space

that previously housed the fitness center, located in the same building that contains the Red Café, Café 82:3, and the bookstore. After the fitness room closed, the room was used briefly for a COVID-19 testing center. Now, it is used mainly for storage. Fortunately, the lounge subcommittee is eager to turn the room into a space where students can study, work on homework, play games, watch television, partake in other activities, and relax.

As planning for the lounge moves forward, the project has proven to be a great responsibility. Although lots of work, designing, logistics, and collective thinking have been invested in this project already, the subcommittee is enjoying expressing their creative minds through the lounge renovation.

The lounge subcommittee hopes to have the student lounge open by April 1.

# COVID-19 Restrictions Beginning to Ease



With many upcoming spring events being planned in December and January, WVC faculty and staff have been concerned for some time that cancellations will begin popping up. The winter positivity spike in Wabash County (largely attributed to the emergence of the Omicron Variant of the Coronavirus) saw the largest positivity rate in Wabash County since the pandemic began. One week in January saw an average of 64 new cases per day. WVC faculty and staff were ecstatic when the numbers for the last few weeks were released. The positivity rate is again approaching zero!

It has been almost impossible to have a full-length conversation without someone's opinions of current legislation or social practices making their way into the dialogue. It is still too early to know what is in store for the rest of the semester, but with great joy WVC faculty and staff are having opportunities to gather, recruit, and collaborate that have been largely unavailable for the past two years. As we approach the two year mark of when this virus first ransacked the US, it is important to look for the few positives Covid19 has afforded. Online learning has been reinvented and streamlined, for all intensive purposes. Hygiene standards, pathology, vaccination practices, and much more are forever changed for the better.

The requirement of masks within all WVC facilities has softened. We continue to cautiously await the coming summer, when, with a little luck, we might just return to a semblance of normality. Until then, make smart decisions, and be considerate of your fellow man, regardless of your personal opinions.

# Monthly Faculty Bio

Brian Wick, Master Gunsmith/Lead Gunsmithing Instructor



The Gunsmithing Program teaches students the art of firearm building, metalworking, woodworking, machining, artisanship, and general repairs. The program is a great opportunity to learn more about how gunsmithing integrates into prospective careers and be in touch with the artisanship behind guns.

Instructor, self-taught machinist, and Master Gunsmith Brian Wick teaches the Gunsmithing Program. Wick was born and raised in Albion, IL. Throughout his youth, Wick worked on motors and mechanics, eventually landing a job working for John Deere. Wick opened his own shop in 1981 and worked on farm equipment, cars, trucks, and more.

As a way to fund his shooting hobby, Wick began gunsmithing. He soon saw himself making connections and developing bonds with expert gunsmithing mentors. Among his many interests, gunsmithing stuck out to Wick as something worth pursuing.

Before becoming a WVC instructor, Wick taught automotive repair at Olney Central College. After finding the inspiration to have his own program and using resources at WVC, the Gunsmithing Program was born. "This is something I have a real passion for," Wick stated when asked about his dedication to teaching. "And I just want to share it with everybody."

When entering the Gunsmithing Program, Wick reminds his students that the workload is heavy yet rewarding. The program is real-world and is widely open to future career opportunities. Students are expected to be in class every day on time and make themselves busy. During the program, students have the chance to visit gun shops owned by previous graduates and test the firearms they build at the Albion shooting range. "This is very much like a job," Wick noted. "That is how I treat it." Wick consistently helps his students with their projects and gives them the information they need to make their time within the gunsmithing program valuable. Projects include a 1911 handgun, a sporting rifle build, and a bolt action rifle build. "At the end of the year, the students look back at what they have done and feel proud of themselves," Wick added. "I've seen it over and over—the students [will hold their projects] and say, 'I did this.' I think the students feel rewarded when [they complete their projects]."

One student Wick recalls graduated from the gunsmithing program and took the opportunity to work at CZ-USA, a Czechoslovakia-based firearm manufacturing subsidiary located in Kansas City, MO. The student, who started as a warranty gunsmith, moved himself up in the company and now flies to Czechoslovakia twice a year to the home facility. "[The student] has come here and spoke to my students," Wick recalled. "He gives me a lot of credit—probably more than I deserve—but it is the students who make their success. And what I'm giving them hopefully helps them, but it's up to the students to succeed."

Wick's favorite firearms include a savage Anschutz 54 sporter and a Sako rifle. However, two favorites he has built are a Buffalo C-Sharps rifle and a Winchester High Wall Buffalo Rifle. Besides his association with gunsmithing, Wick is the proud owner of eight pairs of overalls; some say he doesn't own a pair of pants, just overalls.

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Celebrating 60 years of excellence in education



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**We would like you to partner with us in that endeavor. We are inviting people to donate \$60 in honor of WVC's 60 years of excellence. Call the college at 618-262-8641 to learn more about donating.**

As boundaries that have separated nations, cultures, and individuals continue to dissolve, the role of education has become vital in equipping students for the changes and challenges that lie ahead.

We at Wabash Valley College understand that building a firm educational foundation which meets the demands of our world requires the support of our community.

We would like you to partner with us in that endeavor. Call the college at 618-262-8641 or scan the QR code to learn more about donating to WVC.

