



March 2023

# The VOYAGER

The Frontier Community College Newsletter

## Truck Driving Program Underway at FCC



**Back row (L-R) Dean Paul Bruinsma, Kyle Bowers, Caleb Caldwell, Jody Merrick, Tom Barton, and President Jay Edgren.  
Front row (L-R) Jamon Vaughan, Josh Vaughan, Carroll Howard, Justin Weber, and Ricky Dye.**

Frontier Community College (FCC) is excited to announce that Truck Driver Training is now available on campus for anyone with their Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP). Students completing this practical training will be prepared to complete the skills test of the State of Illinois Class A CDL exam!

A major component of the IECC mission is to meet the educational needs of our immediate communities, and this was certainly demonstrated throughout the implementation of this program. Early on, community leaders Doug Anderson of the Illinois Farm Bureau, CEO of Frey Farms Sarah Frey, and local ag leader Matt Rush, approached FCC with concerns about meeting the local dearth of truck drivers. This was the impetus to convene an advisory committee that comprised of business leaders, trucking companies, marketing professionals, and government officials, to ascertain if there is truly a need for local training. The overwhelming response at this meeting was a resounding YES! Members of the advisory committee even went as far as to pledge both monetary support and equipment to get the program started.

## Upcoming Events

### March

- 14 Summer/Fall registration begins
- 14 Mini barn quilt paint class @ WDC 6PM-8PM
- 15 Pizza party for students @ Bobcat Den 6PM-8PM
- 25 Breakfast w/ Easter Bunny @ Mason Hall 24 9AM-1030AM

### April

- 5 Cornhole tournament @ WDC 630PM
- 7 Colleges closed. Spring holiday.
- 15 Lineman Rodeo 9AM

### Bobcat Den Hours

Monday-Friday  
7:30AM-4:00PM

# Truck Driving Program Underway at FCC (cont.)

In addition, obtaining a Class A CDL is a graduation requirement for Electrical Distribution Systems (EDS) students. In order to meet this stipulation, many enroll in the spring sections of TRK 1201, which is taught at the West Richland Center in Noble, IL. This has recently recreated a backlog, and students were concerned about being able to graduate on time. Again, these student concerns “bubbled to the surface” and were another factor in offering this training at the FCC campus.

One of the biggest hurdles to starting the program at FCC was finding the funds to procure a semi-truck to fit the needs of the program. Through an Innovative Bridge and Transitions (IBT) grant made available through the Illinois Community College Board, FCC was able to secure funding to make this large purchase. Josh Vaughan of Vaughan Equipment in Fairfield, IL, submitted the winning bid for a 2019 International LT semi-truck with four air-ride chairs; the truck was delivered to campus on February 28th.

Jeremy Carter, advisory committee member and owner of Carter Trucking, generously donated a 53’ box trailer to the program. The trailer will soon be wrapped with Truck Driver Training marketing and informational material. An enclosed area to perform backing maneuvers was secured at the north parking lot of the buildings that formerly housed Airtex Products. This area will be striped to simulate different backing and driving situations.

A program without instructors is not possible. Three experienced part-time instructors answered the call to provide local instruction and were hired to bring this program to life:

- Doug Collins: A former Airtex manager with over 40 years’ experience driving tractor-trailers for companies such as Hoosier Wheel and Stamping, Grainergy Farms, Aydtt Farms, and Airtex Products.
- Ed Foley: Owner of Foley and Son Trucking with 37 years of experience behind the wheel.
- Robert Reed: Driver and trainer for JB Hunt with seven years of experience.

The first Truck Driver Training classes offered at FCC were held the week of March 6th. The current class schedules are tailored to fit the needs of students in the EDS program. Two EDS students are driving on Mondays and Fridays from 8am to 12pm with Robert Reed and Ed Foley, and three EDS students are driving on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30pm to 8pm (after EDS classes) with Doug Collins. Another cohort of EDS students will start in five weeks and will drive on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. All EDS students will complete Class A CDL training before graduation.



*Two EDS students with Truck Driving Instructor Robert Reed*

# Truck Driving Program Underway at FCC (cont.)

Looking ahead, FCC will offer classes for local businesses, municipalities, current students, and the public starting this summer. In addition, FCC looks to acquire a flat-bed trailer for additional training opportunities: safe loading and unloading of cargo, proper tie-down techniques to secure loads, backing and maneuvering a semi with a secured load, etc. Creating a dedicated, on-campus training space for trailer back up drills, as well as storage, is the next (and probably last) major component that still needs to be addressed. FCC Administration is diligently researching grant opportunities as well as other means to raise capital for this last phase of the project.

Bringing Truck Driver Training to Frontier Community College to meet identified local need was a collaborative effort between community businesses and organizations, the State of Illinois, and the College. We are excited to offer this new training and extremely thankful to everyone who helped bring this offering to fruition. For more information about the truck driving program at FCC, please call (618)842-3711 or visit the website at IECC.edu.

## Home-schooled Students Visit FCC



*Home-schooled students visiting FCC's science classrooms, checking out blood under the microscope and learning about the Anatomage virtual dissection table*

On Thursday, February 16th, FCC invited area home-school groups to discover FCC's Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program. They were shown how to draw blood with the assistance of current MLT students. The participants looked through a microscope and compared a healthy person's blood and a sick person's blood. Health Sciences Specialist Julie Dehart explained the many occupations that are available after completing the MLT program. Life Science Associate Professor Nixie Hnetkovsky allowed students to have a hands-on experience with the Anatomage virtual dissection table exploring the human body in a 3D platform which is fully interactive. "Having home-school students on FCC campus allows them to explore careers in the medical field in an interactive manner. We anticipate having more events like this in the future," said College Admission Representative Carrie Halbert, who organized the event.

# Library BINGO Competition

The libraries of IECC recently held a BINGO competition among the four colleges. Patrons had cards to complete when they read a book from a particular genre. Each college pulled a winner from the completed cards and FCC's winner was Debbie Bryant. The college who had the most cards turned in was Lincoln Trail. The four library administrators across the district were appreciative of the excitement and support from across campus. They plan to continue to work together on reading challenges in the future.


**IECC Libraries Present...**

**Winter Reading**

<i>B</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>O</i>
Psychological Thriller	Graphic Novel	From the "New Books" Shelf	A Classic Novel	Set in a place you'd like to visit
Written by Multiple Authors	Part of a Series	Read Any Book	Published the year you were born	One Word Title
A Book of Poetry	A Banned Book		Turned into a Movie	Recommended by a Friend or Library Staff
A Memoir/ Biography	True Crime	A Romance	A Horror	Science Fiction
Dystopian	Book from the 900 section	Murder Mystery	From Your Childhood	On display in the library

For each Bingo you get in any direction, you'll be entered that many times into our **Grand Prize drawing!!**

Runs Dec. 1, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023  
Drawing will be held March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023



**IECC library BINGO card and the gift basket for the winner of the drawing**

## Student Spotlight

Katherine Hibbitt is a freshman first baseman and outfielder for the FCC softball team. Hibbitt is from Reynolds Station, Kentucky and played basketball in addition to softball in high school. Aside from sports, Katherine enjoys horse back riding, hunting, and hanging out with friends and family. She was on the All-District, All-Season, and All A teams in high school, along with being named a nominee for Kentucky State Player of the Year and Owensboro Times Player of the Week. Katherine is happy to be at FCC and looks forward to all that she will accomplish in her time here. "I'm very excited to play in college and to earn my education at FCC. I'll be happy to do my part to contribute to the team this season and beyond," said Hibbitt.



**FCC 1B/OF Katherine Hibbitt**

# Spring Break Fun!

While the students were away on Spring Break, the FCC staff enjoyed a variety of food-themed days throughout the week. Breakfast pizza and donuts were available on Monday morning and everyone was told to wear their favorite color from head to toe. Tuesday was taco-in-a-bag day, Wednesday was ice cream sundae and wear a hat day, Thursday was pie day, and last but not least, Potluck Friday with a little bit of everything to eat for lunch. Administrative Assistant to the President Tara Farleigh organized the week and even made all the pies!



*A Variety of Homemade Pies*

## Title III Update

- The Faculty Recording Studio is now host to the new “Bobcat Buzz” Podcast show. Educational Technology Specialist Derek Dunn envisioned a podcast as far back as a year ago, as a way to showcase FCC’s programs and people, and to keep the Bobcat community up to date on current events and exciting new developments. The pilot podcast posted Friday, February 10th, featured FCC Life Science Associate Professor Nixie Hnetkovsky and the Anatomage Virtual Dissection Table. Hnetkovsky explained why the table has been such a valuable resource for her and her students. The second podcast, posted on Wednesday, March 1st, featured Brent Maguire, Program Director of Emergency Preparedness (EP), as he discussed trainings, certificates, and all things EP. In future episodes, Derek hopes to involve students and to “take it on the road,” leaving the studio and meeting FCC’s great people where they are. The “Bobcat Buzz” Podcast can be found on FCC’s Facebook and YouTube pages.
- FCC’s English Instructor Kim Wellen completed the Quality Matters (QM) rubric course. The course covers eight general standards and 42 specific review standards used to evaluate the design of online and hybrid courses. This was a significant commitment as the course consists of an intensive two-week program which Kim completed while teaching 21 credit hours and being a mom to 11-year-old twins. FCC and Title III are proud of the work she has done and will continue to do. Wellen intends to further her training in QM through the Peer Review, and Master Review levels, helping as a mentor to other FCC faculty. “The Quality Matters courses are rigorous and very time-consuming, but I believe they are worth it! I hope others will join us in pursuing more quality instruction through Quality Matters,” said Wellen.
- As the second cohort of Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) students approaches graduation, the Title III team helped conduct mock interviews for the MLT students. The exercise was part of the Employment Skills course, taught by FCC Adjunct Cindy Green. Green draws from over 40 years of experience as a Medical Laboratory Scientist to teach her students what it takes to start a great career. A mock interview is a great preparation for the real thing, learning interview strategies and how to answer difficult questions, improving communication skills, and lowering the amount of inherent stress that comes from the interview process. An interviewer noted how well the students were prepared for the mock interviews. “They fielded some tough questions and really impressed me,” said the interviewer. Frontier Community College is committed to providing students with an exceptional education and the skills needed to be successful right out of the gate.

**Upcoming home  
baseball games**

- 3/18 vs. Rend Lake College  
12PM & 2PM
- 3/23 vs. Southeastern Illinois College  
1PM
- 3/30 vs. Vincennes University  
6PM
- 4/3 vs. Oakland City  
3PM
- 4/4 vs. Southwestern Illinois College  
1PM & 3PM

**Upcoming home  
softball games**

- 3/25 vs. Lake Land College  
12PM & 2PM
- 4/11 vs. Wabash Valley College  
2PM & 4PM

**Business & Industry Update**

- Business and Industry (B&I) recently held their first drone class in February. The class was designed for law enforcement and first responders and was led by Instructor Morgan Henton with the Unmanned Aerial Specialist Title III Program. The first evening focused on the benefits of using drones for law enforcement and others in public service. Students reviewed the different types of equipment and their benefits to their departments. The class also covered the rules, regulations, and documentation required to fly drones.



*Class participants flying the drone*

- On the second evening of the class, Instructor Henton did a skills review and the participants were able use a simulator to practice their skills. The students also trained by flying drones in the daylight as well as after dark. The class was full and was well received. B&I has received requests for additional offerings.
- B&I hosted an Economic Development Workshop on Friday, March 17th. A panel of speakers was present to talk about TIF, business districts, enterprise and opportunity zones, main street/ tourism, and strategic planning.
  - The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at IECC is live on the state network. A news release has been sent to local media outlets to inform the public that IECC has received grant funding to host a center. The main SBDC office will be at the West Richland Center in Noble along with maintaining hours at all four colleges to increase accessibility. The SBDC has advertised for the director’s position, but in the meantime are providing services through their part-time advisor. Once the director’s position is filled, SBDC will expand their services to reach more people in and around the district.
  - B&I has an agreement with Dana Corporation in Robinson to provide training. Two electrical classes, a leadership series, and a workplace safety training will be provided in the coming months.