

NETWORK



AUGUST 2023



HIGHLIGHTS



Forging success: the impact of mentorship in Levi Beard's education



7 teams and 51 student-athletes were honored by the NJCAA



LTC's Jeron Williams ('21) selected in the 9th round of the MLB Draft

AMBROSE NAMED LTC PRESIDENT & VCIO

Tona Ambrose has been named the new President at Lincoln Trail College. She will also serve as the Vice Chancellor of Institutional Outreach (VCIO) for Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC). Ambrose is the 12th President in Lincoln Trail College's history.

"Simply put, I am very humbled, grateful, honored, and extremely excited about being named the President of LTC and the VCIO," said Ambrose. "I'd like to say thank you to everyone at IECC, to the Board of Trustees, and to the community members who I've had the pleasure of working with already, for this amazing opportunity and to my family, friends, and former students for their inspiration and encouragement."

Ambrose had been serving as the Director for the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at IECC for the last two years. Before that, she was the Director of College Access at LTC as well as an adjunct instructor. Before coming to Robinson, Ambrose worked at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich., where she served as the Project Manager for College Access and

Co-Director of Pre-College Summer Camp Programming. She also served as a class instructor and facilitator/academic counselor in GVSU's Freshmen Athlete Scholarship Track program.

"My 16 years of diverse experiences in higher education, both in two- and four-year institutions, have provided me with a solid foundation that will now serve as the launching point for this new chapter of leadership at IECC," said Ambrose. "I'm grateful to have had many respectable role-models along the way and will apply what I've learned from these leaders, together with my educational background, for a strong start that fosters a culture of collaboration, continuous improvement, growth and innovation, all with a student-centered approach."

Ambrose will assume the LTC Presidency at a time when changes are taking place across the IECC system. The Presidents of Frontier, Olney Central, Wabash Valley, and Lincoln Trail are assuming duties that span and connect the four colleges. "IECC is a system of colleges, and we recognized the need for better internal collaboration and sharing of resources in order to continue to serve our students well" said Dr. Ryan Gower, Chancellor of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. "President Ambrose brings a proven track-record of project management and relationship building that are exactly what the College and our District needs at this critical juncture."

In her role as the Vice Chancellor of Institutional Outreach, Ambrose will lead all four colleges efforts in dual credit, enrollment management, marketing, adult education, and TRIO Upward Bound. "I'm thrilled that this position now consists of both the LTC Presidential responsibilities, as well as the new VCIO work across the district, and am eager to continue building strong relationships both inside and outside of IECC."



UPCOMING SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 4 COLLEGE CLOSED - Labor Day**
- 7 Basic Sign Language Class Begins**
6 p.m., Eagleton Library
- 12 Get Out of the Ditch: Quilting on Your Home Machine Class Begins**
5 p.m., Eagleton Library
- Beginning Crochet Class Begins**
6 p.m., Eagleton Library
- 15 LTC Arts Day**
8:30 a.m.-11:10 a.m., Campus-wide
- 16 United Way Children's Art Show**
9 a.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater Hallway
- 21 Staff Recital**
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 28 LTC Foundation Meeting**
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
- LTC Foundation Concert Series: Rockin' Terry Lee**
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater

Ambrose will begin her new position on August 7 and she's looking forward to getting started. "My top priorities in this new position will be to connect with all of the faculty and staff who serve LTC, as well as the leadership teams who are under the IECC Institutional Outreach umbrella, to begin bridge-building with the community, and to get to know all of our Fall 2023 students."

FORGING SUCCESS: THE IMPACT OF MENTORSHIP IN LEVI BEARD'S EDUCATION



Levi Beard ('20) is a welder who has successfully made a career out of his passion for metalworking. However, his journey to become a skilled welder was not a straightforward one. He credits his success to the welding program at LTC and the exceptional instructors who pushed him to be his best.

Jackson Hemrich, one of the welding instructors at LTC, believes that welding is an excellent trade for students who don't like bookwork and are good with their hands. He notes that each student has their own pace, and it is crucial to work with them individually. "It's important for each kid to go whichever direction they want to go. I think that welding is a little bit different than other programs because each kid's in their own individual area we get to work with them individually."

Hemrich says he takes pride in his one-on-one relationship with their students. "It makes me feel good because I feel like we're family here. Like once I have each student, they're like one of my kids and they will be until the day I die."

Beard's experience in the welding program at LTC was a testament to the power of that personal touch in education. He found welding to be hard and complicated in the first week. However, with the help of Hemrich and Reno Bemont, he decided to stick with it for another two years. "Reno and Jackson saw something in me that I couldn't say any of my other teachers saw in me. They pushed me and let me know that I had a bright future in this line of work. It was kind of like a dad to some level. They just kept pushing me and wouldn't let me be late to class the next morning. They'd make sure I was here every day," Levi shared.

Beard found the welding program at LTC to be particularly useful in preparing him for his career. The blueprints class at LTC helped him understand blueprints better at Hobart. "We did blueprints





class at LTC. It got me through Hobart and out on my very first job. If I wouldn't have been able to do that here, I wouldn't be able to understand it better at Hobart, and I definitely wouldn't be able to do it for a job," Levi said.

Beard's experience in the welding program at LTC was a turning point in his life. "Within the first month, this is something that I knew I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I wanted to make a career out of it. So, when I found that out, when I found out I want to do this rest of my life, I started going home and I was practicing at home, watching videos on welding, looking for jobs, looking for other schools to better my education in it. And so, it just meant a lot to me because it's something that I knew I was going to do the rest of my life," Levi shared.

For those who are unsure about college or who are looking for a hands-on career, Beard strongly recommends giving welding a try. "There are so many possibilities in this field to make money, and there's endless kinds of work. If you're kind of stuck and you don't know what you're going to do in college, I would really, really strongly consider giving welding a try,"

Hemrich also believes that welding is a good opening for one's future. "There's a lot of money to be made out there. There's a lot of jobs available and there's a lot of kids that are not only good with their hands, they don't like book work and stuff. And this is a good field for you."

Beard says his young career has been very rewarding financially and personally. "It's been nothing but great. Great money for my age and I've gotten to go all over the country, making good money and meeting some very good people that I like to stay in contact with."

He says he really wants to keep giving back to the program at LTC. "I come here as much as I can. I still come in here to practice, and I like talking with the kids. I'll ask them about the program and what their next steps are going to be." Hemrich has regularly invited Beard to come to classes to share his experiences with the program with the students and to share his welding knowledge.

Beard says as a welder, he's always trying to continue to grow and he's constantly pushing himself and a lot of that is because of Lincoln Trail College.

"I would have never thought of welding to be in my future if it wasn't for this class."

7 LTC ATHLETIC TEAMS, 51 STUDENT-ATHLETES HONORED BY NJCAA



The NJCAA recognized 51 Lincoln Trail College athletes for their work in the classroom by naming them to their All-Academic Team. Seven LTC teams earned Academic Team of the Year honors.

"We are so proud of our student-athletes and all of the hard work they put into their academics this year," said Interim Athletic Director and Head Volleyball Coach Dana Goodwin. "Their efforts in the classroom do not go unnoticed. The Lincoln Trail College athletic department has always made academic success a top priority. It is an honor for our student athletes to be recognized and awarded for their academic accomplishments."

LTC's baseball team finished eighth overall in the nation with its 3.54 GPA. The volleyball and women's soccer teams both had team GPAs of 3.41. The softball team had a 3.39 GPA, the men's soccer team had a GPA of 3.14, the golf team had a 3.11 GPA, and the women's basketball team had a team GPA of 3.01.

There were 51 individual student-athletes named to NJCAA All-Academic teams. To earn first-team honors, student-athletes need a GPA of 4.0. Second-Team honors go to those with 3.8-3.99 GPA's and those with 3.6-3.79 GPA's earn Third-Team honors.

LTC had 19 athletes named to the NJCAA All-Academic First Team. They were Guadalupe Amicone (Women's Soccer), Tomas Bascon (Men's Soccer), Romain Belleannee (Men's Soccer), Jack Beverly (Baseball), Ana Guedes (Women's Soccer), Sammy Kestranek (Baseball), Macy Knight (Volleyball), Cole McMichael (Baseball), Curtus Moak (Baseball), Colby Morse (Baseball), Chance Moscardelli (Baseball) Krista Phillips (Volleyball), Jackson Pittman (Baseball), Jon Popp (Baseball), Hannah Saucerman (Volleyball), Delainey Shorter (Softball), Juan Solivellas (Men's Soccer), Sean Stone (Baseball), Abigail Vaughn (Volleyball).

LTC student-athletes named to the NJCAA All-Academic Second Team were: Kaitlyn Boerngen (Softball), Addie Brasier (Softball), Kaden Carter (Golf), Drew Fieger (Baseball),

Lilly Foster (Softball), Alexia Heafner (Softball), Carter Jewell (Baseball), Tyler Larginho (Baseball), Campbell McBride (Volleyball), Madison McKenzie (Women's Soccer), Matt McMahan (Baseball), Sara Mills (Women's Basketball), Mateus Moura (Men's Soccer), Faith O'Handley (Women's Basketball), Diego Olguin (Men's Soccer), Kambry Price (Volleyball), Trey Reed (Baseball), Nathan Wieber (Baseball), Noah Wolfe (Baseball).

LTC student-athletes named to the NJCAA All-Academic Third Team were: Olivia Bright (Softball), Autumn Kelly (Softball), Caeden Bennett (Softball), Cole Bonds (Baseball), Felipe Da Silva (Men's Soccer), Grant Palmer (Baseball), Haleigh Clayton (Softball), Hannah Rodgers (Volleyball), Jackson Lorenz (Baseball), Jake Lynch (Baseball), KaCee Fulkerson (Golf), Leticia Guimaraes (Women's Soccer), McKenzie Love (Women's Soccer).

BASEBALL TEAM HONORED BY ABCA



Lincoln Trail College's baseball team has been honored by the American Baseball Coaches Association for its work in the classroom. The Statesmen were recognized as a 2022-23 ABCA Team Excellence Award Winner. The award highlights programs coached by ABCA members that posted a GPA of 3.0 or above.

"Academics is a top priority for our teams at Lincoln Trail College," said head coach Collin Maynard. "I'm extremely proud of the accomplishments that we had in the classroom and on the field this season."

Teams were honored at every level of college and high school baseball with this year's award. In order to be recognized, the team's head coach must be a member of ABCA and the team must have a GPA of at least 3.0. The Statesmen had a team GPA of 3.54.

This year's team was also recognized by the NJCAA as one of its Academic Teams of the Year. The team had 19 players individually honored as All-Academic Team members. In the spring semester, 18 players on the team earned 4.0 GPAs.

"We want to continue our success in the classroom and on the field in the upcoming year," said Maynard.

UPCOMING LTC EVENTS & CLASSES

EAGLETON BOOK CLUB

4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
6-7:30 PM



If you enjoy reading, the Eagleton Book Club is perfect for you! Each month, the group selects the next book to discuss. Call the Library at 618-546-2294 and ask what is being read this month. Grab a copy, read it, and come join us for a pleasant evening of discussion in the Eagleton Library.



Do you love singing?

JOIN THE

Community Choir

REHEARSALS ON MONDAY EVENINGS AT 6 PM
CONTACT DR. JOHN MCCARTY FOR DETAILS

BASIC SIGN LANGUAGE

THURSDAYS • SEPTEMBER 7-28
6-8 PM
INSTRUCTOR: TONY AUSTIN
\$45
REGISTER BY: AUGUST 30

Unlock the World of American Sign Language! Immerse yourself in our enriching beginner's class, where you'll delve into the foundations of ASL, Master the essentials, from the alphabet and counting to days of the week, basic greetings, and everyday phrases. Through dynamic instruction and hands-on practice, gain the confidence to communicate effectively in this captivating visual language.

TO REGISTER, CALL:
618-544-8657



Find your groove.

JOIN THE

Jazz Band

REHEARSALS TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 6 PM
CONTACT DR. MICHAEL PATILLA FOR DETAILS

GET OUT OF THE DITCH: QUILTING ON YOUR HOME MACHINE

TUESDAYS • SEPTEMBER 12-26
5-8 PM
INSTRUCTOR: BECKY MILLER
\$50
REGISTER BY: SEPTEMBER 7

Bring your own sewing machine with a free foot and learn this quilting technique.

TO REGISTER, CALL:
618-544-8657



WELCOME BLAST

AUGUST 15 • 12-2:30 PM
FREE FOOD • FUN & GAMES

BEGINNING CROCHET

TUESDAYS • SEPT. 12 - OCT. 17
6-8 PM
INSTRUCTOR: RACHEL CARTER
\$45
REGISTER BY: SEPTEMBER 7

Unravel the Art of Crochet! Join our Beginning Crochet class, perfect for both newcomers and those seeking to brush up on the basics. Learn essential techniques and stitches under the guidance of Instructor Rachel Carter. All you need is a size H or I hook and Red Heart yarn in a solid color, and you'll be ready to create beautiful, handcrafted wonders. Embrace the joy of crocheting and weave your way into a world of creativity and relaxation!

TO REGISTER, CALL:
618-544-8657



Rockin' Terry Lee

1950s Honky Tonkin' Rock-N-Roll

SEPT. 28

FOR TICKETS:
618-544-2373



SEPTEMBER ATHLETIC EVENTS

Baseball

3	vs. Lincoln Land (at Busch Stadium)	TBA
12	Danville Area Community College	3:00
16	at Puma Classic (Westfield, IN)	TBA
19	at Danville Area Community College	3:00
24	Volunteer State CC (at Carbondale, IL)	11:00
24	John Wood CC (at Carbondale, IL)	1:30
26	at Vincennes University	3:00
27	Frontier Community College	3:00
29	Olney Central College	3:00

Men's Soccer

2	at East Central College	4:00
5	at Parkland College	4:00
9	Lewis & Clark Community College	1:00
13	at St. Louis Community College	4:00
23	at Lewis & Clark Community College	1:00
27	at Carl Sandburg College	2:00
30	Indian Hills Community College	11:00

Women's Soccer

2	at East Central College	2:00
5	at Parkland College	4:00
9	Lewis & Clark Community College	3:00
13	at St. Louis Community College	2:00
16	Lincoln Land Community College	1:00
20	Wabash Valley College	4:00
23	at Lewis & Clark Community College	3:30

Volleyball

6	at Lake Land College	6:30
8	Rend Lake College	6:30
11	Shawnee Community College	6:30
13	at Vincennes University	6:00
18	at Wabash Valley College	6:30
20	Kaskaskia College	6:30
22	at Southeastern Illinois College	7:30
25	at Southwestern Illinois College	7:30
27	John A. Logan College	6:30

WILLIAMS ('21) DRAFTED BY ASTROS



Lincoln Trail College's Jeron Williams ('21) was selected in the 9th round of the Major League Baseball Draft. Williams was selected with the 284th pick overall by the Houston Astros.

Williams was the 2023 MAC Player of the Year and a Collegiate Baseball All-American at the University of Toledo, where he transferred after graduating from LTC. He started all 55 games for the Rockets in the 2023 season and led the NCAA in steals with 49. He hit .403 with 14 home runs, 48 RBIs, 16 doubles, and four triples.

In his sophomore season at LTC, Williams played in 53 games, hitting .276 with two home runs, 32 RBIs, and 19 stolen bases. He was a second-team preseason Prep Baseball Report JUCO All-American in 2021.

Williams will join another former Statesmen in the Astros organization. Jordan Brewer ('18) currently plays for the Astros' AA Affiliate Corpus Christi. He was drafted by the Astros in the third round of the 2019 Draft after playing a single season with the University of Michigan where he was the Big Ten Player of the Year.