



### FCC Nursing Student Chosen as Panelist at Forum for Excellence

On Thursday, September 21st and Friday, September 22nd, the Forum for excellence was hosted in East Peoria, Illinois. The event is sponsored by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and is Illinois' premier professional development event. The conference highlighted the continuing partnership of Career, Technical, and Adult Education in Illinois.



*Chief Academic Officer Paul Bruinsma with Taylor Gregory and family*

The ICCB chose FCC Nursing student Taylor Gregory to serve as a student panelist after reviewing her story of success that was submitted for the Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce Program (PATH) Grant. Gregory wanted to follow in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother who were nurses, so she chose to enroll in the nursing program at FCC after hearing great reviews from family and friends who attended the college.

Prior to graduating from the program, Taylor was diagnosed with anaplastic large cell lymphoma of the pelvis and metastasis to the brain. The life changing event occurred just four months before graduation.

The PATH program provided Taylor with encouragement and practical academic skills to support her during this difficult time in her life. Gregory met with Success Coach Jordie Higgason to develop a study schedule, as her goal was to identify times to study both old and new materials as she prepared to eventually take the National Council Licensure Examination(NCLEX).

### Upcoming Events

#### October

- 9 Colleges closed. Columbus Day
- 10 No classes. District Workshop
- 12 Midterm
- 30 Trunk or Treat
- 31 Transfer Workshop

#### November

- 10. Colleges closed. Veteran's Day observed
- 22 Last day to withdraw from courses
- 23-24 Colleges closed. Thanksgiving

#### Bobcat Den Hours

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

# FCC Nursing Student Chosen as Panelist at Forum for Excellence cont.

The study schedule that was implemented prioritized a work-life balance and allowed Gregory to meet her academic goals while still focusing on her priorities outside of the classroom, like spending time with her husband and other family members.

As she continued to battle self-doubt in her ability to pass the NCLEX she was able to utilize UWorld, a test prep service provided by the PATH Program, that helps students master content. After sticking to the schedule and continuing to use any and every resource available, she was able to pass the NCLEX. Gregory shared how thankful she was for the support during the entire process. “The program assisted me by always offering support and encouragement, even when I felt like I was going to fail. Jordie is the first person I shared that I passed the NCLEX with,” she said.

Her long-term goal is to work as an oncology nurse to help others battling cancer. As much as her devotion has paid off in achieving her academic goals, she stressed how important it is to allow yourself to enjoy life outside of the classroom. “Always allow personal time to yourself, every day. Don’t drown yourself in homework and studying,” she said.

She has obtained her Associate Degree in Nursing and holds a registered nursing license as she works in the skilled care unit at Fairfield Memorial Hospital. Gregory will be attending Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing this spring to obtain her BSN.

## FCC Awarded Funds through IGEN Grant

Frontier Community College has been awarded \$41,500 through the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN) Grant. IGEN is a consortium open to all 39 Illinois community college districts, designed to provide a platform for the colleges and their partners to drive growth of the clean energy and green workforce. FCC’s proposal for the grant included a plan to purchase and install solar-powered bollard lighting for the sidewalks on the east side of campus, which are unlit. In addition, FCC will upgrade wired/LED lighting on campus to solar-powered bollard lighting. The upgrade will reduce the college’s carbon footprint by 37.5 lbs of carbon dioxide, per bollard each year.



*Sidewalk in front of Mason Hall where new lighting will be installed*

# FCC Awarded Funds through IGEN Grant cont.

With funds from FCC's 2022-2023 IGEN grant, a solar charging picnic table was recently installed on campus that complements the existing solar array. With funding from a Voss Lighting grant, fluorescent lighting in classrooms and offices on campus is being upgraded to energy-efficient LED lighting. The new lights, paired with the array and picnic table are examples of the effort made by FCC to continue to focus on green energy. "We are committed to continuing to do any and everything we can to increase our green energy initiative and this is yet another step in that direction," said Chief Academic Officer Paul Bruinsma.

## New Flatbed Trailer For Truck Driving Program



*Flatbed trailer purchased from Vaughan's Equipment*



*Chief Academic Officer Paul Bruinsma, Josh Vaughan, Jaylee Thompson (Vaughan), and Jamon Vaughan*

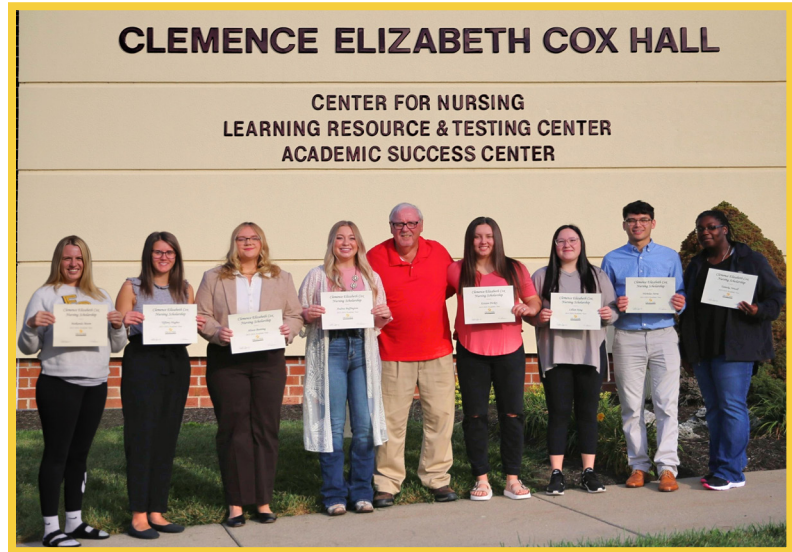
Josh Vaughan and Vaughan Equipment of Fairfield have delivered a flatbed trailer to be used at FCC by Truck Driver Training students. Using funds set aside by IECC specifically for career and technical education, the trailer was purchased from Vaughan Equipment and will be used by students to practice driving maneuvers and load securement. The original bid specification released by FCC were for a used trailer. Unfortunately, after the bid was awarded to Vaughan Equipment, the used trailer became unable to be sold to FCC. Josh Vaughan, being a huge supporter of FCC and Truck Driver Training offered up a brand-new trailer with the same requested specifications for the same price as the used one, with the cost difference being a generous donation to the college.

Vaughan Equipment and Frontier Community College have continued to build a strong partnership. Throughout the bid process, they provided the college with a semi tractor at the time FCC started offering Truck Driver Training in the spring of 2023 They continue to offer quality and timely service to FCC vehicles whenever necessary.

There has been a continued effort to expand Truck Driver Training and meet the needs of local businesses, municipalities, current students, and the public. None of this would be possible without the involvement and investment from strong community partners such as Vaughan Equipment.

# Eight Nursing Students Awarded Scholarship

The most recent Clemence Elizabeth Cox Scholarships have been awarded to eight deserving students enrolled in their first and second year of the nursing program at Frontier Community College. Applicants must show achievement in academics, but also a qualifying financial need. Students were recognized on Tuesday, September 26th, 2023 in Cox Hall on the campus of Frontier Community College. Since 2009, through Jerry Cox's generosity, his dedication to the education of nurses in our community has resulted in awarding over 80 scholarships to nursing students in their second year at Frontier. He has recently increased his gift to include awards for first-year students as well.



*(L-R) MaRanda Moore, Tiffany Hughes, Alison Bunting, Andrea Buffington, Jerry Cox, Kristen Dicke, Lillian King, Nicholas Sursa, and Temieka Newell.*

“Jerry’s gifts to the Foundation ensure that students will benefit from his generosity for many years to come. It is his hope that local students will attend Frontier and find employment in our community in the healthcare field,” said Sarah Rush, President of Frontier Community College Foundation.

## What’s Happening at FCC

- Friday, October 20th, campus tour for Fairfield High School careers class.
- Friday, October 27th, there will be an event for local home-school and private school students to come to FCC’s campus to learn more about the Automotive Technology and Electrical Distribution Systems programs.
- Friday, October 27th, Monster Mash will be played at FNB Field. FCC athletes will be dressed in halloween costumes and split up for a fun exhibition softball game.
- Tuesday, October 31st, a transfer workshop will take place at Frontier. Students will be able to learn about our dual credit programs and how to use our classes to start their college career plan early.
- Monday, November 6th, Edwards County High School is visiting FCC in the morning for a ‘programs tour’ to learn more about what they might be interested in at Frontier.

# Business & Industry Update

**SBDC:** The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) had a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house in conjunction with the building dedication on Friday, September 29th.

Business & Industry along with the SBDC hosted an employer workshop. Attendees learned about new laws affecting employers and about resources available for recruitment and retention. Additionally, there were networking opportunities available during the event.



*Attendees at the Employer Workshop hosted by B&I and the SBDC*

**EP:** Emergency Preparedness (EP) has been traveling to various high schools in the district to conduct CPR training for students. CPR classes have also been available to IECC employees within the last month.

**MIT:** The Mining and Industrial Training office's move from John A. Logan College will be complete by the first week of October. Several instructors will be attending the Annual Training Resources Applied to Mining Conference in West Virginia.

**Upcoming Training:** How to Start a Small Business in Robinson, IL and Salem, IL.

**Other notes:** A new partnership has been formed with the City of Fairfield. Workplace safety training will be beginning in October.

Possible trainings are currently being discussed with both Crawford Memorial Hospital and North American Lighting.

For more information regarding Business & Industry, the SBDC, and more check out the web page using the QR code below.



*IECC SBDC Webpage QR Code*

# Title III Update

**New Title III member:** The Title III team is excited to welcome its newest member, Amanda Kotch. Kotch will serve as the new distance learning specialist, replacing Debbie Bryant who retired earlier this year. Kotch is transitioning into this new role after spending over two years as the coordinator of international students, athletes, and student activities at FCC.

Prior to her time at FCC, Kotch worked as a patient advocate at several hospitals in Illinois, Iowa, and New York where she worked to design, implement, and evaluate various programs in the medical community to improve the patient experience. This involved data collection and analysis, grant management, and strategic development and planning of policy, education, and professional development.

Her role on the grant team, in part, includes acting as an advocate for our distance learners during the course development process. She will anticipate issues students may encounter as they navigate a course, and work with the instructor to make the course as accessible as possible through best practices. So far, the Title III team has found Kotch's energy, passion, and enthusiasm to be contagious.

**New Title III grant year:** The Title III team rang in the new grant year this month. October 1st marked the beginning of the fifth and final year of Frontier's Title III Grant Project. During the fifth year, the team will be busy piloting the last of the targeted new hybrid courses in the Medical Laboratory Technology and Certified Medical Assistant programs. Additionally, several new online student services will be rolled out, including Degree Works and CRM Advise, both produced by Ellucian.

Degree Works is an advising tool and degree audit program which allows a student and advisor to view up-to-date information about a student's progress towards graduation. The student and advisor can see which degree requirements have already been fulfilled and which ones still need to be completed.

CRM Advise will help students, advisors, and faculty work together to improve the student's success by identifying specific risk factors impacting the student and connecting them with available resources to overcome the obstacles.

The Title III team is encouraged by an incredibly productive fourth year, and is excited about the developments to come in year five.