



### FCC Recognized as One of the Top Community Colleges in State

Education research website Intelligent.com ranked Frontier Community College second on their list of best community colleges in the state of Illinois. The rankings are based on an evaluation of a school’s academic quality, graduation rate, tuition costs, and student resources. The top picks are recognized for their exceptional reputation, affordability, and ability to



Intelligent.com Award Badge

provide students with the tools and resources necessary to succeed in the classroom and successfully graduate. FCC President and IECC Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs Dr. Jay Edgren believes the small class sizes and ability for faculty to easily connect with students is part of what makes Frontier and it’s students so successful. “We are fortunate at Frontier to be a smaller college with a hometown, family feel and I believe that is appealing to students. With smaller faculty/student and advisor/student ratios, we are able to provide students the time needed to answer their questions, and overall help meet their needs. We strive to keep students engaged in and out of the classroom and help them have a positive experience on campus. These aspects of FCC certainly contribute to our excellent retention and completion metrics and have contributed significantly to our ability to consistently receive national recognition such as this,” said Edgren. Receiving recognition such as this is an indicator of the hard work that our students, faculty, and staff continue to put forth to make Frontier Community College one of the most successful and desirable community colleges in the state.

### Upcoming Events

#### November

- 22 Last day to withdraw from courses
- 23-24 Colleges closed for Thanksgiving

#### December

- 8 Last day of classes
- 11-14 Final exams
- 15 Last day of semester

#### Bobcat Den Hours

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

# Private Schools and Home-School Group Visits FCC



EDS Instructor Dustin Wiggins showing student how to be properly harnessed before operating the bucket truck



Students analyzing and learning about positive and negative charges



A race between two future mechanics to see who can change a tire the fastest



Wiggins demonstrating how his students prepare to climb the poles

On Friday, October 27th, local home-school students in addition to students from Full Armor Christian Academy, Mission III Academy, and The Nuc visited campus to learn more about the Automotive Technology and Electrical Distribution Systems (EDS) programs. Automotive Instructor Rodney Maxey taught the group about positive and negative charges and had them perform some hands-on work. They also got a tour of the automotive lab and were able to race one another to see who could change a tire the quickest. Following that portion of the morning, EDS Instructor Dustin Wiggins shared what the EDS program encompasses and had the students volunteer for demonstrations. Wiggins showed them how to operate the bucket truck, how to have all the necessary gear and safety equipment before climbing, and answered any questions they had. The group had a lot of fun taking in the information and many of whom shared potential interest in one day entering one of the programs. College Admission Representative Carrie Halbert, who organized the event, spoke about why visits such as this are important. “Having these students on campus and letting them get exposed to our programs, seeing how hands-on some of them are is always a fun way for them to learn more about FCC. They enjoy it, we enjoy it, and we just hope one day they come back to a Bobcat,” said Halbert.

# Transitions Academy Cohort Session Takes Place

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On Thursday, October 26th, Adult Education Program Director Rodney Raney attending the Cohort Convos Application: A 2023 Transitions Academy Event. The Transitions Academy is designed to assist programs and their partnerships in developing, strengthening, and updating Bridge and Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System (ICAPS) programs by increasing awareness between Adult Education and Technical Education as it relates to the ICAPS models, Illinois Bridge programs, and Illinois programs of study, according to the ICAPS web page. The Academy itself convenes each fall and persists throughout the year by way of virtual learning communities, mentoring, professional learning opportunities, and communication.

IECC currently has an ICAPS in Welding. Based on discussions, there are plans to pursue additional ICAPS in CNA, Phlebotomy, and potentially an Agriculture area. An additional ICAPS 2 program in an Information Technology certificate area is also being researched.

Raney spoke about what he took away from the event. “It was an informative day and the ICCB staff and the state professional development networks did an excellent job of explaining how to better serve students through the ICAPS programs. It was also good to hear the challenges that many other colleges are facing in implementing these programs so we had some insight into what solutions they have in place moving forward,” said Raney.

## TimelyCare Receives Recognition

Virtual care provider, TimelyCare, has been recognized as the ‘Gold winner’ in the Merit Awards for Healthcare and named the “Best Mental Health Tech Solution” for the second consecutive year.

In February, IECC partnered with TimelyCare to provide mental health services on all IECC campuses through at least 2026. TimelyCare offers students access to on-demand assistance from scheduling appointments, to peer-guided community resources they can use anytime, anywhere.

IECC continues to expand the ways in which support is offered for students as they navigate through their college experience.

Chief Academic Officer Paul Bruinsma spoke about the importance of offering such a resource for students.

“College can be a stressful time for students. Having a resource like TimelyCare at the tip of their finger to provide counseling, health coaching, community resources, etc., is invaluable. Knowing that students have access to the help they may need at any time is comforting and I look forward to exploring future ways we can continue to address student needs,” said Bruinsma.

# EDS Scholarship Recipients

Three FCC EDS students have been awarded scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year. Caleb Stevens received a Wayne-White Scholarship, an Earl Pottorff Memorial Scholarship, as well as the Steve Rafferty Memorial Scholarship. Virgil Jansen received a Wayne-White Scholarship in addition to an Earl Pottorff Memorial Scholarship and Lane Brummer also received a Wayne-White Scholarship. These three hard-working students are part of a thriving EDS program at FCC. Instructor Dustin Wiggins continuously guides the students to successful training in the program, leading to job placement shortly thereafter.



Gerry Kinney, Recipients Virgil Jansen, Lane Brummer, Caleb Stevens, and EDS Instructor Dustin Wiggins

Chief Academic Office Paul Bruinsma spoke about the students as well as the community effort in supporting the college. “We are thankful that the Pottorff family, Rafferty family, and Wayne-White continue to support our program and our college. We have a great group of students who we’re proud to see recognized by receiving these awards,” said Bruinsma.

## What’s Happening at FCC

- Friday, November 10th the FCC Foundation Kickoff Fundraiser Dinner will place. Athletes and head coaches will work the event serving food to the attendees.
- Tuesday, November 14th, Student Senate will host a cornhole tournament in the Workforce Development Center from 6pm-9pm.
- Thursday, November 16th, the FCC Cultural Diversity class will be selling \$5 Portillo-style Chicago dogs as well as an opportunity to pie your favorite Bobcat. Various athletes, faculty, and staff will be in attendance to get a pie to the face when \$50 is donated in their name. The hot dog sale will take place from 11am-1pm in the Workforce Development Center with the “pie-ing” taking place at noon. All proceeds from both events will go towards the Cultural Diversity class cultural trip to Chicago.
- The next Queen of Hearts drawing will be on Friday, November 17th. The jackpot is currently almost \$20,000!
- Keep an eye out for updates following these events in future Voyager editions!

# Business & Industry Update

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**Mining & Industrial Training (MIT):** Workforce Education Instructor Wendy Coles has received her OSHA instructor certification for construction. The first OSHA construction classes were held at the Terry L. Bruce West Richland Center on November 1st and 2nd.

The final items are being removed from the John A. Logan campus to be transferred or disposed of. The process should be complete by the end of November.

MIT is participating in the CTE Spotlight Day at Southeastern Illinois College on Thursday, November 16th for local high school students.

**EP:** Program Director of Emergency Preparedness Brent Maguire completed the ALICE Active Shooter training. He presented breakout sessions at the recent district workshop and will be providing scenario-based training throughout the district beginning in November.

EP recently attended a college and career fair at Lawrenceville High School and Fairfield Community High School. EP also participated in the Healthcare Expo in Robinson on November 8th.

**SBDC:** On Thursday, October 5th the Small Business Development Center hosted a business financing workshop in partnership with Illinois Finance Authority. SBDC also presented a workshop on how to start a small business in the Robinson at the Chamber office. The November workshop on starting a small business will take place in Salem.

SBDC has been actively networking with local chambers and attended monthly chamber meetings at Robinson, Olney, and Lawrenceville where SBDC services were presented.

A 'Social Media for Small Businesses' workshop will be held at the Lawrence County Chamber Office on Wednesday, November 15th.

**General Workforce Training:** Business and Industry (B&I) provided forklift training for the City of Fairfield in October. The city is a new client, and will be receiving several OSHA topic trainings through the remainder of the fiscal year.

Within the last month, B&I met with several local employers to continue talks about training. Some of the employers included Baldwin, BraunAbility, Crawford Memorial Hospital, Wayne-White Counties Electrical Co-op, and Dana. Motorad has committed to additional leadership training as well as CDL training for the new semi and OSHA training necessary for team leads. These are scheduled to begin in December.

# Title III Update

**Cell Bowl:** It is Cell Bowl time again! Every year, the American Society for Clinical Pathology hosts the National Cell Bowl, a competition between college Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) and Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) programs from across the nation in a challenge of their knowledge of blood cell morphology. The students have one minute to correctly identify up to 30 different cells. Among the students receiving a perfect score identifying all 30 cells, ranking is determined by the elapsed time.



2023 MLT Bobcats Cell Bowl Team

As of the official standings for the fourth week of competition, FCC's MLT Bobcat Team is currently ranked 13th in the west bracket with a perfect score and best time of 47.4445 seconds. Among in-state institutions, FCC tops all other Illinois MLT programs, only trailing Loyola University and University of Illinois-Springfield, which are both four-year MLS programs.

MLT Instructors Julie Dehart and Cindy Green note the consistent improvements of the team since the beginning of the season from last year's scores. Dehart spoke on the success of the team thus far. "As a team, we have had perfect scores for the last three weeks. This week's score is 39 seconds which is phenomenal. The top score in the nation is approximately 23 seconds. Last year no one accomplished a perfect score," said Dehart.

**Quality Matters:** This month two additional IECC staff members completed the Quality Matters (QM) rubric course. Director for IECC's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Michael Conn and Distance Learning Specialist Amanda Kotch both completed the rigorous course.

The QM course is an introduction to the eight general standards and 44 specific review standards used to evaluate the design of online and hybrid courses. Conn and Kotch are each now registered to begin the second level of training, peer review, to begin in November. This brings the number of faculty and staff who have completed the course through the Title III Grant to ten. The dividends for this investment are clear from the continual increase in the quality of Frontier's hybrid and online courses.