



### FCC Celebrates CTE Month

February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month and FCC along with other community colleges has been celebrating and recognizing their CTE programs.

IECC Chief Academic Officer Paul Bruinsma shared that CTE programs often offer unique flexibility that is not provided by most other programs.

“These programs allow students to gain the knowledge and experience necessary in a short amount of time to be able to begin their career. They can continue their education, of course, but these programs prepare them to meet all the qualifications necessary to be employed after completion,” said Bruinsma.

As CTE programs thrive, state funding continues to help sustain and build upon that success, as over \$50 million in Perkins Grant Award money was provided to Illinois CTE programs in FY23, according to the Association for Career and Technical Education.

FCC’s Medical Laboratory Technician program is one of the newer CTE programs on campus but has shown quick success with the number of student enrollments rapidly increasing year-to-year. A collection of MLT students competed in the 2023 National Cell Bowl and FCC’s team finished ahead of all other Illinois MLT programs, trailing only two Illinois institutions, both of which are four-year Medical Laboratory Science programs.

A strength of CTE programs, such as MLT, is the flexibility for students to enter the workforce, continue their education, or both.

After successful completion of the program, students may also further their education from our two-year MLT program to a four-year program using online curriculum, often which may be partially or completely paid for by an employer. The MLT program is helping alleviate current staffing shortages in our health care system and promotes future education endeavors for laboratory professions,” said Health Sciences Specialist Julie Dehart.

### Upcoming Events

#### February

19 Colleges Closed.  
President's Day

#### March

1 Midterm

4 No Classes.  
Casimir Pulaski Holiday

5-10 No Classes/Spring Break.

29 Colleges Closed.  
Spring Holiday

#### Bobcat Den Hours

Monday-Friday

7:30AM-4:30PM

# FCC Celebrates CTE Month cont.

Automotive Technology Lead Instructor Rodney Maxey spoke about how valuable CTE programs are to the workforce. “The CTE programs are the backbone of the system to fill job vacancies and place graduates in good, high-paying jobs. Most graduates have little issue finding employment and it’s fair to say the FCC CTE programs are the beginning of what could be a rewarding and in-demand career for many students,” said Maxey.

Additionally, FCC’s CTE programs provide a diverse range of skills to help them continue their success following graduation.

“FCC’s CTE instructors have years of experience in their respective fields and teach their students what it takes to be successful in those industries. Through their teaching and their time in the well-equipped labs, the students get the hands-on experience but also gain skills in the classroom such as how to effectively communicate with customers, patients, employers, etc.,” said FCC Academic Advisor Kara Blanton.

## 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. 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 award for first-year students as well. “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.



(Back L-R) Angelica Dinwiddie, Kathryn Lewis, Jerry Cox, Kristen Dickey, and Andrea Buffington.

(Front L-R) Meadow Campbell, Lillian King, MaRanda Moore, and Kylar Slover.

## Student Spotlight

Beginning this spring, Quenten Hallam has began his duties as a student ambassador at FCC. Hallam is a Fairfield native who is working to obtain his Associates in Science & Arts, and plans to continue his education pursuing a degree in computer science. Part of his desire to become an ambassador was the ability to get out and become more social among his peers, while trying to work with them to make a difference. “My experience at FCC has led to significant growth in my self-discipline and character. By being an ambassador, I have also learned the importance of responsibility and working with others,” said Hallam.



## Title III Update

The new year saw much-anticipated roll-out of Degree Works. This new degree mapping program developed through FCC’s Title III Grant will be a game changer for students. Director of Academic Advising & Academic Records Jamie Carman has worked diligently through 2023 to make this idea a reality. Carman said, “Degree Works allows more efficient advising appointments since it has mostly become a ‘one-stop shop’ for degree audit purposes. In turn, this allows academic advisors to utilize more appreciative advising techniques with students to track completion of their educational progress as well. There are a number of tools that can be used for both students and advisors in Degree Works, like seeing in-progress classes, a list of past courses with terms, creating degree plans, and seeing when courses are offered at each campus.”

IECC advisors have been testing the new system, running degree audits/evaluations to check for accuracy and allow for time to re-evaluate any fixes that need to be made prior to registration opening for summer and fall. A few minor issues have been found, which Carman, together with the Ellucian Representative, quickly corrected. It is anticipated that Degree Works will become available for student use in March.

So far, the experience with Degree Works has been very positive. FCC Advisor Kara Blanton stated, “I think it is very user-friendly and is much easier to read than CAPP which is what we were previously using to run degree audits from Banner. I think students will find the Degree Works system and audits much easier to use and understand than CAPP.” Blanton noted the ‘what-if’ option is extremely useful and allows advisors to see how a student’s previous and in-progress credits can apply to any other degree or certificate beyond the program in which they are currently enrolled. This will be very helpful if a student is contemplating switching programs.

# Business & Industry Update

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**Business & Industry (B&I):** B&I submitted an application for the Job Training and Economic Development Program (JTED) grant. The request is \$650,000 to purchase Amatrol equipment for the purpose of creating a training lab for electrical, mechanical, and automation for under-employed, unemployed, and incumbent workers.

B&I began their first monthly training with Baldwin Visions and BraunAbility. Both trainings were met with great enthusiasm by the participants. The trainings were well-attended and the follow-up survey of the workshop received excellent feedback for the speakers, subjects, and facilities.

**Small Business Development Center (SBDC):** The SBDC hosted the monthly 'How to Start a Small Business in Illinois'. They also hosted a finance workshop for small business, which was well received. The SBDC will host CEO programs from around the district to learn about different subjects when starting your business.

**EP:** The Emergency Preparedness Department started the new semester with new classes of Emergency Responder training at Frontier and at the North Clay Fire Department. There is an Emergency Medical Technician class scheduled to take place in Robinson as well.

The Fire Science classes began this semester, with Firefighting Fundamentals at Allendale, Olney, and North Clay Fire Departments.

During January, Emergency Preparedness training approximately 100 faculty and staff at the Newton Elementary School and Newton High School. Additionally, CPR and First Aid training for IECC employees was provided at the Terry L. Bruce West Richland Center.

**Mining & Industrial Training (MIT):** Associate Dean of Business & Industry Laurie Taylor was accepted as one of nineteen participants in the 2024 Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers Emerging Leaders Program.

MIT staff also attended the Missouri MHSA conference where Instructor Todd Byerline was one of the presenters at the event.