

The Voyager

a Frontier Community College newsletter



January 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

- 11 Food Sanitation & Safety
8AM-6PM / Mason Hall 23
- 11 Karaoke & Dance Night
7-11PM / Carter Athletic Academy
- 15 IECC Board Meeting
- 18 Nursing Application Meeting
2-3PM / LRN 105
- 21 College closed
MLK Day
- 21 Kids Winter Baseball Camp
8AM- 12PM
- 23 Mobile Food Pantry
1 1AM - 12:30PM / West Hall

February

- 13 Mobile Food Pantry
1 1AM - 12:30PM / West Hall
- 18 Nursing Application Meeting
2-3PM / LRN 105
- 18 No classes - President's Day
- 19 IECC Board Meeting
- 27 Mobile Food Pantry
1 1AM - 12:30PM / West Hall
- 27 Student Nurses Association
Blood Drive / 12:30-4:30PM

Frontier Faculty Receive Innovation in Technology Awards

Four faculty members of Frontier Community College (FCC) recently received Innovation in Technology Teaching Awards from Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC) for the 2019 year. The awards will provide financial support for projects that lead to the development of innovative teaching strategies.

The four members receiving funding were: Rodney Maxey, Assistant Professor of Automotive Technology; Linda Monge, Mathematics Assistant Professor; Mary Morris, English Assistant Professor; and Jodi Peach, Health Informatics Instructor.

Faculty applied for the awards last fall and were encouraged to research cutting-edge strategies that would not only enhance student learning but also their program as a whole. As the grant states, "innovation involves taking risks and thinking outside the box."

The Innovation in Technology Teaching Award specifically targets aspects of pedagogy (i.e. the teaching talents, methods and abilities of the instructor) and provides funding for strategies that would not typically be available through normal budgeting. The awards are issued once per year, and a maximum amount of \$40,000 is spread across several applications.

Rodney Maxey will be purchasing sixteen laptops and headphones with his funding to integrate computer-based resources into his program. As the automotive industry is increasingly utilizing technology in their products and services, Maxey wants to maintain the modernization of his program.

In order to make lectures more readily available to all students enrolled in her mathematics classes, Linda Monge will be acquiring video capture equipment. She will be able to record classroom lectures and make them accessible to students via Desire2Learn.

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Mary Morris will incorporate a SurfacePro and portable projector into her classroom, and both she and her students will be taking advantage of this technology. Morris explained to employees during the district workshop that this award will allow her to lecture throughout the room, rather than being confined to one specific area.

Jodi Peach received adequate funding to purchase a HoverCam Pilot for her Health Informatics Program. The HoverCam is an electronic podium that allows the instructor to record, project, and connect additional technology to the device (i.e. laptop, tablet, or mobile device). The rolling podium is portable, giving instructors the freedom to position themselves in the classroom where they see fit.

“I am very excited about the HoverCam Pilot, because it is going to change the dynamics of my classroom,” says Peach. “I no longer have to write on the board and teach with my back to the students. Using the HoverCam, I can share my computer screen while looking directly at students and seeing their reactions. This will enable me to provide instant feedback to the class.”

Dr. Paul Bruinsma, Dean of Instruction, was very proud of the awards FCC received. “The Innovations in Technology Teaching Award program has been a great addition to IECC,” he said. “It has allowed us to invest in our programs and our people in order to deliver an exceptional education and superior services. To be attractive to future students and employers, we must continue to evolve and prepare our students for the changes technology will bring to the future of our work and our lives.”

FCC previously received an award in 2018, when the Fire Science Program received funding for infrared cameras.

Health Informatics Students Receive Scholarships

Two students of Frontier Community College have been awarded scholarships from the Illinois Rural Health Association for the Spring 2019 semester. The scholarships were each worth one thousand dollars. The recipients are Mikki Robertson of Sims and Genny Williams of Fairfield.

Robertson and Williams are currently enrolled in the Health Informatics Technology (HIT) Program at FCC. Robertson is a first-year student in the program, and Williams is on track to graduate with an associate’s degree in May 2019.

First organized in 1989, the Illinois Rural Health Association is comprised of over 800 members including hospitals, rural health clinics, public health departments, practitioners, students, and consumers. Its mission is to strengthen health systems for rural residents and communities through advocacy, education, networking, and leadership. The IRHA awarded \$12,000 in scholarships for 2018 to students who presented a strong interest and intent in working in a rural area in Illinois.



Pictured, from left to right: Dr. Paul Bruinsma, Dean of Instruction; Genny Williams; Mikki Robertson; and Jodi Peach, Health Informatics Instructor.

The Health Informatics Program is a two-year Associate’s Degree at Frontier Community College. Students in this program gain valuable experience through classroom instruction and hands-on internships to organize and evaluate health information and perform medical coding. Graduates can start careers in hospitals, insurance agencies, doctor’s offices, and more.

Executive Office Alum Finds Career in Healthcare

“Never, never, never give up.”

The famous saying was coined by Winston Churchill, and it is a philosophy that FCC alum Alicia Thompson has lived. Not only has Thompson persevered in her educational studies and career, but those are her first words of advice for others working toward their goals of earning a college degree while balancing a family and job.

“Returning to college later in life can definitely be a challenge,” says Thompson, “but one of the best luxuries about FCC is that you can work towards a degree at your own pace.” She reminds students that even if you must take smaller steps towards your goal, “never give up.”

Alicia Thompson graduated from Frontier Community College in 2015 with an Associate in Applied Science degree for Executive Office Professional (EOP). She also simultaneously earned an Associate in General Studies degree. Today, she works at Carmi Manor Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Carmi, Illinois. Prior to beginning the EOP Program, Thompson had been working as a Certified Nurse Assistant. She knew that she enjoyed the healthcare industry, but she was looking for a career change that no longer involved direct patient care. That’s when she discovered the EOP Program, which could allow her to work in administrative healthcare.

While enrolled in the program, Thompson learned accounting, Microsoft Office, and management, among other concepts. She said that the program instructors were extremely supportive. “I dreaded taking an accounting class, because I never enjoyed math,” said Thompson. “The instructor helped me to realize my talents, though. I now love accounting and have become very skilled in this area of my job.” Shortly before graduation, Thompson received the Most Outstanding Student award for the EOP Program.

One quality of FCC that Thompson found very beneficial were the small class sizes. “This program became a support system in my life,” she said. “My instructors were very encouraging, and I enjoyed working towards my degrees alongside the other students in the EOP Program.” Thompson noted that small class sizes allow the instructor to engage with each individual student.

After graduation, Thompson was promoted to Human Resources & Payroll Coordinator for the organization with whom she was currently employed. She has since begun working at Carmi Manor and serves as the Business Office & Human Resources Manager. In her position, she handles billing and employee staffing. She is very happy at Carmi Manor and is grateful to be in management and lead a department. Her current career has allowed for a more structured schedule, giving her time to spend with her family.

If you are considering returning to college and working towards a degree, Thompson would encourage you to take the leap. “I have recommended FCC as well as the EOP Program to many individuals, and I will continue to do so,” she said. “Instructors care for each of their students and put forth the effort to ensure every individual has what they need to learn.”

While Thompson has since graduated from FCC and has assumed a management role in her organization, she continues to work toward new goals. Her future plans include returning to college and completing a Bachelor’s Degree from Franklin University, which has a partnership with FCC.

Thompson resides in Fairfield with her husband and two children.

Employees Receive First Aid & CPR Training



In an effort to increase safety and emergency preparedness on campus, all FCC employees received CPR, first aid, and opioid addiction training in December prior to Winter Break. The two training dates were led by Carrie Dagg, who has taught CPR and first aid throughout the district for several years.

Employees had the option to attend one of the two available training sessions. During the first session, Mark Elliott served as a guest speaker and presented on the nationwide opioid epidemic. Elliott previously shared on this subject at the IECC District Workshop in October 2018, which was held at Olney Central College.

Book Club to Begin January 10

A weekly book club will be held during the Spring 2019 semester, with the first meeting scheduled for January 10. The book club will meet every other Thursday from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. through March 21 and will be led by Merna Youngblood, Director of the Learning Resource Center (LRC).

Club members will read five books over the course of 10 weeks. Book genres will include a mixture of fiction, suspense, and historical fiction. Titles chosen for the club include: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate; *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Ann Burns; *Murder in Little Egypt* by Darcy O'Brien; *Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood; and *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah.

To sign up, call FCC at 618-842-3711.

BREAKING NEWS

FCC's Electrical Distribution Systems Program was the recipient of a \$50,000 CTE Leadership Grant! Stay tuned for more information!

Frontier in a Flash

A photographic reflection of recent happenings within the FCC community



- 1) Tara Farleigh, Administrative Assistant to the President, celebrated her 20 years of service on Friday, January 4.
- 2) Community individuals enjoyed an evening of sweet decoration during the Christmas Cupcakes class, held at the beginning of December. The class was led by Records Assistant Heather Nelson, a pastry school graduate.
- 3) Student Senate members take a quick snapshot with St. Nicholas during Breakfast with Santa, held December 1.
- 4) As the fall semester came to a close, adjunct instructor Cheryl Harl explains a lesson to a Graphic Design student during the Design Fundamentals II class.



The Bobcat Beat

 @FCCBobcatsAthletics

 @FrontierBobcats

Hnetkovsky Hired as Assistant Volleyball Coach

SPORTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Baseball

- 8 @ Mississippi Delta / 12PM
- 9 @ Coahoma CC / 12PM
- 16 @ Southwest Mississippi / 12PM
- 17 @ Copiah-Lincoln / 1PM
- 20 Lindenwood Belleville JV / 1PM
- 23 @ Hinds CC / 12PM (single)
vs. Panola College / 2PM (single)
- 27 @ Lindenwood Belleville JV / 1PM

Softball

- 16 @ Northeast Mississippi / TBA
- 17 @ Jackson State / 1PM
- 23 @ Volunteer State / 1PM

All games are double-headers unless otherwise noted



FCC's Associate Professor for Life Science, Nixie Hnetkovsky, was recently hired as the Assistant Coach for Bobcats Volleyball. Hnetkovsky (pictured right) will support Head Coach Marjorie Jordan (pictured left) in the areas of recruiting, spring training, fundraising, camps, and more.

"I am excited to join this growing volleyball program at Frontier, where young women are encouraged to grow in their character, as well as their academic and athletic ability," said Hnetkovsky. "I want these students to realize what they are truly capable of achieving."

As Coach Jordan recruits new students to join the volleyball program for the upcoming 2019 season, Hnetkovsky will be utilizing her experience with the sport to amplify the recruiting efforts. "I look forward to reaching out to quality players and sharing with them our initiative and vision for this program," said Hnetkovsky.

Prior to accepting the role, Hnetkovsky served as Head Volleyball Coach at Edwards County High School from 2015-2018. She also spent several years serving as an Assistant Coach to the late Linda Oxby, who ranked as one of the winningest coaches in IHSA girls volleyball history.

"I am thrilled to bring Nixie on board," said Jordan, who has served as Frontier's Head Volleyball Coach since 2016. "She brings wonderful coaching experience to the table, and her coaching philosophy is exactly what we need for this program."

Athletic Director Jan Wiles believes the hiring decision will be very beneficial to Frontier Bobcats Athletics. "The model student-athlete exemplifies character, academic performance, and athletic ability – in that order," said Wiles. "We encourage our coaching staff to instill this belief into our student-athletes on campus, and Nixie absolutely follows this coaching philosophy."