

# The Voyager

a Frontier Community College newsletter



October 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER

- 14 College closed  
Columbus Day
- 17 FAFSA Completion Night  
4:30PM @ Mason Hall 25
- 18 TEAS Testing  
9AM- 1PM @ Mason Hall 24
- 23 Red Cross Blood Drive  
10AM-5PM @ Bob Boyles Hall
- 25 Nursing Application Meeting  
2PM @ LRC 105
- 29 Trunk or Treat  
4-6PM @ The Bobcat Den  
  
Monster Mash Charity Game  
5PM @ FNB Field
- 31 USI Representative Visit  
9AM- 12PM @ Mason Hall

### NOVEMBER

- 6 SIU-C Representative Visit  
10AM-2PM @ Mason Hall
- 7 Bath Bombs Workshop  
6-7:30PM @ Bob Boyles Hall
- 9 Christmas Tree Skirt Workshop  
9AM-3PM @ Bob Boyles Hall
- 11 College closed  
Veterans Day
- 13 Automotive, Fire Science, &  
EDS Advisory Councils  
6-8PM @ WDC
- 14 Program Showcase  
9AM- 1PM @ WDC

## FCC RECEIVES \$2.25 MILLION GRANT FROM DEPT. OF EDUCATION

Frontier Community College has been selected to receive a grant from the U.S. Department of Education Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) for a total amount of \$2,249,961 from October 2019 through September 2024. The allocation of funds will be approximately \$450,000 for each of the five years.

The grant has two major components: convert existing healthcare curriculum to online and hybrid delivery, including the addition of a new Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) Program; and create user-friendly processes to onboard online students.

The Medical Laboratory Technician Program will be a two-year Associate in Applied Science Degree to begin in the Fall of 2020. Medical lab technicians perform tests that help physicians diagnose and treat diseases. Primary job duties may include preparing samples for analysis, monitoring tests and procedures, analyzing chemical content of fluids, matching blood for transfusions, and more. Jobs are found in hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and public health organizations. A huge turnover in the MLT field is expected over the next five to ten years, and this trend is true at several hospitals within the Southern Illinois region. Adding the MLT Program to FCC will provide several jobs in the area, with a current earning potential of \$51,000 per year.

With the grant, Frontier Community College will also begin strengthening its online opportunities to students and the public. The MLT Program will begin with entirely face-to-face classes but will eventually be offered in hybrid format (a blend of classroom instruction and online learning).

Additionally, FCC will create online and hybrid classes for the Certified Nursing Assistant certificate, Phlebotomy certificate, and Health Informatics Technology Associate in Applied Science Degree. The grant will also allow FCC to offer the following services online: tutoring, advising, intake services, degree mapping, and financial literacy instruction.

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Several additions and improvements will be made to FCC's campus to enhance the learning environment for students. To ensure sufficient capacity for science instruction, FCC will update its existing science lab that is housed in Mason Hall. The grant will also provide for a new science lab, as well as a new MLT lab. With these additions, the MLT Program and other health-based programs can offer work-based learning experiences to support several in-demand occupations.

Dr. Paul Bruinsma, Dean of Instruction at FCC, provided research and data during the grant writing process beginning in 2017. "This grant will allow us to not only add to our healthcare-related offerings, but enhance that division as a whole," says Bruinsma. "With the addition of the MLT Program, this gives students more options to meet their academic interests and prepare them for gainful employment."

"This is wonderful news for Frontier as well as our Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District," says Dr. Jay Edgren, President of FCC. "Our local healthcare providers have not been shy about expressing the need for more entry-level employees in these fields, and we are thrilled to be training students to meet this need." Edgren also noted that the SIP award process is very competitive, so FCC is "very fortunate" to be a recipient.

## 15 STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS AT FIRST-ANNUAL SPIN EVENT



Over 160 people were in attendance for Frontier's first-annual SPIN (Student Parent Information Night) on Wednesday, October 2. The event, which was held in Workforce Development Center, drew over 60 high school students across Clay, Edwards, and Wayne Counties. At the conclusion of SPIN, Frontier held a drawing to award \$500 tuition scholarships to 15 high school seniors. The scholarships may be used for the summer or fall semester in 2020.

The event began with a welcome from Dr. Jay Edgren, and then guests soon began visiting tables to learn more about transfer degrees, Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, and financial aid. Many program instructors were on hand to share in detail about their classes, as well as answer any questions. Additional tables for student clubs and campus services were also included, such as the Learning Resource Center, Student Nurses Association, and TRIO Student Support Services.

After a catered dinner, Lori Noe, Coordinator of Financial Aid, provided a short presentation regarding the FAFSA, scholarship opportunities, and more. Guests had one last chance to visit any remaining tables before the event's conclusion. Frontier then drew 15 names to award \$500 tuition scholarships (winners pictured above). At least one student from each participating high school was drawn.

The first-annual SPIN was a large success for Frontier Community College and a very convenient way to provide helpful information to both high school students and parents. Frontier plans to host SPIN again in Fall 2020.

Students who would like to learn more about Frontier's programs and meet with instructors can attend the Program Showcase on Thursday, November 14. This event, which is held on campus during the day, provides students with a firsthand look at the programs' classroom environments, student experiences, and hands-on learning and training.

# TRIO GAINS OVER 30 MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR

For many high school seniors, college can be an intimidating or scary thought, or it may even seem impossible to some. There may be obstacles out of the student's control that will prevent them from attending college or completing their education. Earning a college degree, however, is a pivotal step in life, and today it has become a central part of the American Dream.

A large number of students are successfully navigating their way towards a degree and future career, thanks to TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) on Frontier's campus. Annie Lankford, who serves as the TRIO SSS Academic Counselor, has been overwhelmed by first-year students' interest in joining the program. In the last two months, she has added over 30 new members.

TRIO SSS is specifically for underrepresented students or those from disadvantaged backgrounds. To be eligible for membership, a student must be a first-generation college student, income eligible, or have a documented learning or physical disability. The program can enroll up to 50 members, and Frontier's program is currently at 45.

In the last several years, the program has consistently averaged between 40-50 members, and nearly half are second-year members. However, Lankford saw over 30 students graduate in May, and she began the 2019-2020 academic year with only 16 members.

"I was nervous about having so many openings and being unable to recruit enough students," said Lankford. Her second-year students, though, have proven to be huge advocates for helping others succeed. "After New Student Orientation (on August 7), I was suddenly overwhelmed with requests from incoming students to join the program." Lankford had a busy schedule adding new members in August, but she credits her second-year students for their great recruiting efforts. "It's a great feeling knowing that these students have benefitted from this program and now want to share that with others."



*Annie Lankford (center) recently led TRIO members on a campus visit to USI.*

Lankford and her counterparts across the IECC district are always thinking up new ideas and events to accommodate students and help them be more successful. Currently, TRIO SSS hosts four workshops throughout the year: FAFSA completion at each campus (October), the transfer process (November), business etiquette (January), and stress management (spring). The stress management workshop, which is held at the West Richland Center, incorporates OCC's Cosmetology and Massage Therapy programs to offer free services to TRIO SSS students.

"I have loved being part of TRIO, and I have made so many friends on campus through this program," said Alexis Whitlow, a second-year member of TRIO and 2018 graduate of Wayne City High School. "The campus visits really helped narrow down my choices. I'm currently looking at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), and I would have never visited this college on my own." Whitlow plans to graduate in May 2020 and study Creative Writing.

"It has been a unique experience to come full circle and now serve as a counselor to so many students," said Lankford, a former member of TRIO SSS and a 2001 graduate of FCC. She enjoys building relationships with each student and seeing them grow at FCC and beyond. During their recent campus visit to USI, Lankford arranged for TRIO graduate Cheyanne Garrison to meet with current members. Garrison, a 2018 FCC graduate, is currently studying Graphic Design at USI.



# OCTOBER SPORTS CALENDAR

## VOLLEYBALL

- 11 @ Rend Lake / 6:30PM
- 14 @ Kaskaskia / 6:30PM
- 15 @ John Wood / 6PM
- 19 @ Vincennes Tri-Match /  
11AM & 1PM
- 21 @ Brescia Univ. / 6:15PM
- 25 @ Lincoln Trail Tri-Match /  
5PM & 7PM

## BASEBALL

- 10 Olney Central / 5PM
- 12 @ Olney Central / 12PM
- 15 @ Univ. of Southern Indiana / 5PM
- 17 Lincoln Trail / 5PM
- 19 @ Lincoln Trail / 12PM
- 22 @ McKendree / 3PM
- 26 @ Rend Lake / 12PM

## SOFTBALL

- 18 @ Arkansas State Wolf Howl /  
11AM, 3:30PM, & 5:45PM
- 19 @ Arkansas State Wolf Howl /  
9AM & 11:15AM
- 26 @ Midway University / TBA

# FCC ADDS SEVERAL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS TO CALENDAR

Frontier's Community Education Program has a lineup of holiday-themed classes planned for the months of November and December. Registration is currently open for all classes, and interested individuals may call 618-842-3711 or visit the Student Services Office for more information.

First on the list is a 1-night Bath Bombs workshop, scheduled for Thursday, November 7, from 6 to 7:30PM. Guests can create their own fizzy bath bombs, complete with gorgeous colors and intoxicating scents. The completed projects can be taken home and used right away or saved for stocking stuffers. The cost is \$35, and students will be given molds for future use. Lacey Bruinsma will be the instructor.

Later that weekend, a Christmas Tree Skirt workshop will be led by Gayla Templeman, who has been teaching quilting at FCC for two years. Students will meet from 9AM to 3PM in Bob Boyles Hall on Saturday, November 9. Students will pay \$30 for the class and receive a supply list at the time of registration. Each finished project will reflect the student's unique personality and style, and their Christmas tree will have a new decoration this season.

Students can deck the halls with a festive Barn Quilt Painting class on Saturday, November 16. Back by popular demand, the class will have a holiday twist as students paint a festive quilt pattern on a 20x20 pallet. Barn Quilt Painting will meet with Cheryl Harl from 12PM to 4PM in Room 23 of Mason Hall, and the cost is \$45 (all supplies included). The deadline to register is November 8.

Impress your friends and family this holiday season with a 3-night Pie-Making class! Led by Elizabeth Zurliene, students will learn step-by-step how to make a pie crust from scratch, as well as decorative crust and topping techniques. Each of the three nights, students will prepare an apple pie with crumb topping, a cream pie (choose from chocolate, banana, or vanilla), and a pumpkin pie. The cost is \$40, and students only need to bring a pie plate.

Wrapping up the holiday lineup is a Christmas Cupcakes workshop on Monday, December 2. Students will learn how to create six festive designs to use for parties and dinners, as well as make frosting and prepare decorating bags. The class will be held in Bob Boyles Hall from 6:30 PM to 8:30PM, and the cost is \$25 (all supplies included). Heather Gerch, a pastry school graduate and Records Clerk at Frontier, will be leading the class.

A complete schedule of Community Education classes may be found on Frontier's website at [www.iecc.edu/fcc](http://www.iecc.edu/fcc).

# FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT TO BE HELD OCT. 17

Frontier Community College is hosting a FAFSA Completion Night on Thursday, October 17, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The come-and-go event will be held in Room 25 of Mason Hall on Frontier's campus. The FAFSA Completion Night is open to anyone in the community who plans to attend college in 2020.

"Attending this event makes the financial aid process much easier for both students and parents," said Lori Noe, Coordinator of Financial Aid. "Those who complete their applications earlier may also be eligible to receive more state funding." Noe and her assistant Catherine Halterman will be available to guide individuals through the process and answer questions regarding financial aid.

Anyone who anticipates financial aid needs to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It is used to determine the amount awarded in federal and state grants and student loans. Those who plan to apply for scholarships in the spring will also need to complete the FAFSA. The application's website is [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

Students and parents should bring the following items to FAFSA Completion Night: a driver's license and Social Security card; 2018 federal tax returns and W-2 forms for students, and parents if a dependent; e-mail address for student, and parent if a dependent; and FSA IDs and passwords from previous years (if applicable).

The FAFSA Completion Nights are open to all college students, regardless of where the student plans to attend college. For additional information, contact Lori Noe at 618-842-3711.

## Frontier in a Flash

*A photographic reflection of recent happenings within the FCC community*



**1 & 2)** Two dozen painters participated in Fairfield's annual PaintOut event, which was held during the first week of October in Bob Boyles Hall. Nearly 150 pieces of art were on display Friday evening, with sales totaling just under \$15,000.

**3)** The LRC held various Constitution Day activities, including a discussion on the importance of voting from Wayne County Clerk Liz Ann Woodrow (center). She is pictured with Merna Youngblood, LRC Director (left), and Sarah Rush, Foundation President (right). **4)** EDS Instructor Gerry Kinney (second from right) and students in the program were on hand to share with high school students and parents at SPIN on October 2.

