

The Voyager

a Frontier Community College newsletter



November 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 14 Program Showcase
9AM- 1PM @ WDC
- 15 Professional Development:
Mental Health Awareness
2PM @ Mason Hall 21
- 15 Nursing Application Meeting
3PM @ LRC 105
- 16 Barn Quilt Painting (Poinsettia)
12-4PM @ Mason Hall 23
- 19 SNA Bake Sale @ LRC Lobby
- 19 IECC Board Meeting
6PM @ Bob Boyles Hall
- 22 TEAS Testing
1PM @ Mason Hall 25
- 28 College closed
Thanksgiving Break
- 29 College closed
Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

- 7 Breakfast with Santa
9AM @ Bob Boyles Hall
- 8 Coin Club Meeting
10AM @ West Hall 104/105
- 11 Nursing Application Meeting
2PM @ LRC 105
- 12 CNA Orientation
8:30AM @ Bob Boyles Hall

AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAM AWARDED MASTER ASE ACCREDITATION

Frontier Community College recently received word from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) that its Automotive Technology program continues to meet the requirements for Master Automobile Service Technology accreditation. This is the highest level of program accreditation recognized by the institute.

Frontier's Automotive Technology program has been Master-level certified for ten years now, and the program undergoes an evaluation every five years. To be Master-level certified, the program must be certified in all eight areas of ASE, which includes Engine Repair, Suspension and Steering, and Electrical Systems.

"Achieving this level of accreditation confirms that we are successfully teaching our students to be automotive technicians," said Rodney Maxey, who is the Assistant Professor and Lead Instructor for the program. "Not only are our students receiving Master-certified knowledge in the classroom, but they also have the opportunity to become ASE certified before entering the workforce."

While enrolled in the program, students will take entry-level ASE exams for each of the eight categories. If a student scores high enough on the entry-level ASE exams in class, FCC pays for the student to take the professional ASE test. In the spring, the program travels to Vincennes, Indiana to sit for one of the professional ASE exams. Students will become ASE certified for that specific category if they pass the exam. Professionals must retest every five years to keep up with the ever-advancing automotive technology.

"Being an ASE-certified technician is a huge advantage when building your career," says Maxey, who has led the Automotive Technology program since it began in 2003. "Many dealerships and automotive shops require their technicians to be ASE-certified. Having these certifications under your belt will greatly enhance your employability and is critical to your success in the industry."

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In addition to being Master ASE accredited, the Automotive Technology program also serves as a Snap-on Multimeter certification center. The program received approval from the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) to begin offering training certification in November 2017. The test is available to second-year students during the spring semester, and FCC provides the test for free.

The Snap-on Multimeter certification, which is widely recognized in the industry, provides rigorous training on the advanced capabilities of Snap-on digital multimeters – the very same technology used by professionals in the workplace. Training is focused on subjects from basic and advanced applications to troubleshooting. With the Snap-on Multimeter certification, all Automotive Technology students receive a significant discount on tools purchased through Snap-on during their enrollment in the program.

The Automotive Technology program is a two-year Associate in Applied Science Degree, which will transfer to four-year universities. Students receive a blend of classroom learning and hands-on training in a state-of-the-art lab, complete with diagnostic simulators, engine repair equipment, a Snap-on alignment machine, several vehicles, and more. As automotive technology and equipment become more innovative, students will learn to use computerized shop equipment and electrical components while consistently working with hand tools.

HEALTH INFORMATICS VISITS LOCAL HEALTH CENTER AND RECORDS DEPARTMENT

First and second-year students in the Health Informatics program recently took a field trip to the Fairfield Community Health Center on October 29. The group was led by instructor Jodi Peach, and they had the opportunity to observe the medical records department as well as take a tour of the facility.

Employees in the records department shared with the students about their typical duties at work and the process of working closely with physicians, nurses, and other healthcare organizations. One employee emphasized the importance of developing strong communication skills while enrolled in the Health Informatics program. "I am constantly making phone calls or sending e-mails and faxes, whether they are with other local clinics and hospitals or as far as Hawaii," the employee said.

Although students will complete two internships before graduating from the program, instructor Jodi Peach was excited to bring all students to Fairfield Community Health Center. While the office uses electronic medical records for current patients, they are unique in having a multicolored folder system for older files. "This system allows records to be found more quickly and conveniently instead of looking through endless rows of manila folders," said Peach. "Showing this system to our students gives them a more broad perspective of medical records."



In addition to visiting the medical records department, students also got to hear from program alumni that now work at the Fairfield Community Health Center. The three alumni are Beth Frazier (2018), Cathy Henry (2017), and Genny Williams (2019). All three women received job offers in their field before graduating from FCC.

"I am speaking with medical professionals every day in this job, and I can do so confidently because of the Health Informatics program," said Frazier. "The wonderful thing about this program and the healthcare field is that if you want a job, you will find a job."





ASPEN INSTITUTE NAMES FCC A TOP 150 U.S. COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program has named Frontier Community College as one of 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. This is the nation’s signature recognition of high achievement, and just 15 percent of community colleges nationwide have been invited to apply for the Aspen Prize. The Aspen Prize was established in 2010 and has since awarded six institutions. FCC was previously recognized as a Top 150 U.S. Community College in 2017.

The 150 community colleges named as eligible to compete for the 2021 Aspen Prize were selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide using publicly available data on student outcomes. The makeup of colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector, as they are located across 39 states in urban, rural, and suburban areas, serving as few as 500 students and as many as 75,000 students.

“We are so honored to once again be selected to receive this recognition from the Aspen Institute,” said Dr. Jay Edgren, President of FCC. “At Frontier, we pride ourselves in providing our students with engaging classrooms, coupled with superior customer service. It makes me extremely happy to see Frontier acknowledged as a national leader in community college education.”

With a singular focus on student success, the Aspen Institute highlights institutions with outstanding achievements in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and high-levels of access and success for minority and low-income students. The \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence is awarded every two years, with the next prize to be awarded in the spring of 2021. The top ten finalists for the prize will be named in May 2020. Throughout the process, Aspen looks extensively at data, engages community college leaders, and solicits guidance from experts in higher education.

The Aspen Institute is a community-serving organization with global reach whose vision is a free, just, and equitable society. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Institute has offices in Aspen, Colorado; New York, New York; and additional international locations. For a full list of the top 150 eligible institutions and to read more on the selection process, visit www.highered.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize.

BREAKFAST WITH Santa

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
BOB BOYLES HALL
9-10:30 A.M.

Ages 2-8 • \$10 per child • 618-842-3711

SPRING 2020
Registration is now open!

Don't forget to make an appointment with an academic advisor to plan for the next semester!

Find the complete schedule on our website!

Just looking to take a class or two?
Visit our Student Services office or give us a call at 618-842-3711.

FCC GAINS 4 AMBASSADORS FOR 2019-2020



The 2019-2020 student ambassadors pictured are, from left to right: Mackenzie Conrad, Brody Tisdale, Caleb Rush, and Dane Horton.

Four students at Frontier have been selected to serve as student ambassadors for the 2019-2020 academic year. Student ambassadors represent the college and its student body in the public and at special events, such as campus functions and community outreach events. In exchange for their service, ambassadors receive 12 credit hours of tuition and a \$200 textbook scholarship for both the fall and spring semester.

Mackenzie Conrad

Mackenzie Conrad is a 2019 graduate of Fairfield Community High School and a first-year student at Frontier. Thanks to several dual credit classes, Conrad plans to complete her Associate's Degree by May 2020. Afterwards, she plans to transfer into a Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) program and earning a PTA license. Eventually Conrad would like to work with pediatric patients in a home health setting. She is thankful for her time as an ambassador, because it has allowed her to become more involved with campus activities and speak with prospective students. "At Frontier, you aren't just another number," Conrad says. "They care that you do well and are always willing to help." Conrad also works part-time at Carter Trucking in Fairfield.

Dane Horton

A 2019 graduate of Wayne City High School, Dane Horton is a first-year student at Frontier. He is currently working towards an Associate in Science and Arts Degree, and he hopes to transfer and study Psychology after graduating from Frontier. Horton applied to be an ambassador because he thought it was an exciting opportunity and would allow him to better interact with fellow students and faculty. Reflecting on his time at Frontier so far this semester, Horton pointed out how helpful all of the instructors have been. "I feel like each of them really care about me and want me to be successful here at Frontier and beyond," says Horton.

Caleb Rush

Hailing from Fortville, Indiana, Caleb Rush is a 2018 graduate of Mount Vernon High School. A second-year student at Frontier, Rush plans to graduate in May 2020 with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Sport Management. "This role has helped me push myself to a higher standard," Rush said about his time so far as an ambassador. "Not only am I working hard to have good grades in my classes, but I have also been able to develop great relationships with the faculty and staff on campus." Rush is also involved in Student Senate and Phi Theta Kappa, and he is a pitcher for Frontier Baseball.

Brody Tisdale

Brody Tisdale is a second-year student at Frontier and is working towards an Associate in Science and Arts Degree. After graduating in May 2020, Tisdale plans to either study Communications or Physical Therapy, with an ultimate goal of working for the Pittsburgh Pirates organization in Indianapolis. Tisdale decided to apply to be an ambassador because he felt it was an easy way to help others and serve on campus and in the local community. He is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and is a second baseman for the baseball team.



FORMER LINEMAN FINDS CAREER TEACHING NEW SKILLS AND SAFE PRACTICES

The below story was featured in the November edition of "The Cooperative Connection", a monthly newsletter from Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative. "The Cooperative Connection" is distributed to over 13,000 members across 11 counties.

Below is an excerpt from the story, written by Randy Olson, that features EDS Lead Instructor Gerry Kinney.

Over four years ago, Gerry Kinney would have said "you're crazy" if someone told him he would end up leading Frontier's Electrical Distribution (EDS) program. At that time, Gerry was enjoying a successful lineman career with Wayne-White, and it had been a passion for over fifteen years. But life turned upside down for him on July 16, 2015, when he came into contact with a 7,200 volt power line. He should've lost his life that day, and he almost did. The incident caused Gerry to lose both limbs below the elbow, and it took several months of surgeries, therapy, and determination to reach a point of recovery to be fitted for prosthetics.



"I wasn't sure at the time why God spared my life," said Gerry. "He evidently had more plans for me than I could comprehend." Gerry's perseverance and true resilience has proven to be inspiring and motivational for thousands. Because he can no longer work as a lineman, Gerry travels across the country to share his story and message of safety to those in the electrical field.



When the position of Lead Instructor for the EDS program became available, Gerry decided to apply for the job. "I feel blessed that I was called for an interview, because I know they had multiple applicants," said Gerry. "I am thankful they hired me, and everyone at the college has been very supportive and helpful."

While there are other linemen schools and distribution programs around the nation, Frontier has some distinct advantages, which Gerry explained to [Randy Olson]. "We invite interested students to come visit the college, see the facilities, and talk to us," said Gerry. "One of the benefits of this program is that Frontier provides the equipment, tools, and belts. That is saving them around \$3,000 right off the bat." Gerry also noted the recent addition of a new-to-them bucket truck to the program.

As I watched the students each take their turn at climbing the pole with their heavy gear, I talked to some of them about the class activity thus far. "I love this program, and it's definitely what I want to do," said Mason Barrett, a local student from Fairfield. "I have learned that teamwork is everything, and he preaches that to us each day. I feel like I am learning from the best."

Christian Waterstradt said the training has helped him overcome fear. "I was definitely afraid of the 60-foot pole when we started, but now I have confidence," he said. "Everything here is about safety, and I am learning how to do it the right way."

The program attracts students from a widespread area, including Nathan Selby, who hails from Bridgeport. "When I came and visited the college, I met Gerry and he told me his story, which really inspired me," said Nathan. "I felt that if I was going to learn this trade from somebody, it would be best to learn it from him."

Brandon Hawkey, a student from Kinmundy, echoed the same consistent message that many EDS students shared with me.

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“I was looking at different lineman schools and I hadn’t made up my mind where to go, but when I met Gerry, I felt confident that I could learn a lot and be successful here,” said Brandon. “I get along so well with my classmates, and it's truly all about teamwork and safety.”

The President of Frontier Community College, Dr. Jay Edgren, had glowing things to say when asked about Gerry overseeing the EDS program. “We are very excited about the passion, experience, and vast knowledge that Gerry exhibits,” said Edgren. “We appreciate his emphasis on safety, but we also know that he is teaching life skills, discipline, and steps to maturity that will guide them to be productive adults. I have heard him say that being to class early is on-time, and being on-time is actually late.”

Some people reading this story might wonder where the jobs are located for this type of work. “I tell the students not to restrict themselves to a certain geographic area,” said Gerry. “To get that entry-level apprenticeship job, they need to be willing to relocate. There will soon be a nationwide shortage of linemen due to heavy retirements, so I encourage our graduates to apply to as many places as possible. There is a need for skilled, young linemen.”

Even though this is his first year as the Lead Instructor, I asked Gerry if he had established some goals for the program. “My goal is to see this program excel,” he said. “It’s always been a reputable program, but I just want to help make it even better. I have a lot of contacts in the industry that can benefit these students if they have the right attitude, discipline, and skill sets.” From what I was able to observe both in the classroom and outdoors in the lab that day, this crop of students are well on their way to success.

A FRIGHTFUL FRONTIER!

Employees and students dressed up in their silliest, spookiest, and most original costumes for a Halloween celebration. Students in Adjunct Instructor Catherine Singleton's Pathways to Success class judged employee costumes, and awards were presented to the winners.



OUR PARTICIPANTS

- 1) Administrative Office
- 2) Student Services
- 3) Adult Education
- 4) LRC Director Merna Youngblood
- 5) Assistant Professor Mary Morris
- 6) Student worker Kay Arnold
- 7) Nursing Advisor Julie Bullard