

The Voyager

a Frontier Community College newsletter



December 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 7 Breakfast with Santa
9AM @ Bob Boyles Hall
- 7 Kiwanis Christmas Parade
4:30PM in Downtown Fairfield
- 8 Coin Club Meeting
10AM @ West Hall 104/105
- 10 Foundation Meeting
11AM @ Bob Boyles Hall
- 11 Nursing Application Meeting
2PM @ LRC 105
- 12 CNA Orientation
8:30AM @ Bob Boyles Hall
- 18 Employee Christmas Party
11:30AM @ Bob Boyles Hall

The college will be closed from December 19 through January 1, 2020. We will reopen on January 2, 2020.

JANUARY

- 2 College reopens
- 2 Staff & faculty workshop
- 3 Registration & testing
- 6 First day of classes
- 7 TEAS Testing
9AM @ Mason Hall 25
- 10 Nursing Application Meeting
2PM @ LRC 105
- 20 College closed
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

TWO NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE TITLE III GRANT TEAM



Frontier Community College recently hired two individuals to join the team for the Title III grant. The new employees are Jennifer England (left) and Carol Dreith (right).

In September, FCC was selected to receive a grant from the U.S. Department of Education Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) for a total amount of \$2,249,961. The grant will be in place through September 2024. The five-year project will provide two major changes: 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.

Carol Dreith was hired as Project Director for Title III and began her duties on November 25. Prior to joining FCC, Dreith spent eleven years working as an occupational therapist. She is an FCC alum and obtained her Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy from University of Southern Indiana in 2008. Dreith also has teaching experience in higher education, as she was an adjunct instructor for continuing education at Western Texas College and FCC.

Dreith's main role will be overseeing the day-to-day operations of the grant, including budget management, compliance, and supervising the Title III team. Dreith will also oversee changing the education delivery system from

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a face-to-face to hybrid format for several programs, including Phlebotomy, Health Informatics, and Basic Nurse Assistant (CNA). Many classes will transition to an online setting while maintaining a combination of flexibility and rigor.

"While earning my Master's Degree, I had several online classes myself," says Dreith. "My goal will be to maintain the connectedness between instructors and students throughout this process. Online classes will definitely make programs more flexible, but students still need the interpersonal communication that comes with education." Dreith is also committed to maintaining a level of expertise throughout the process, including pass rates for certification exams in each of the programs.

"I am really looking forward to working with highly trained professionals in this role," Dreith said. "We have a lot to accomplish within the next year to get the grant up and running, but I am excited to be moving forward with it."

Also joining the team is Jennifer England, who will serve as the Health Sciences Specialist. Her primary role will be to build the Medical Laboratory Technician program from the ground up. Her first project will include preparing the program to be in alignment with National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences standards. Additionally, she will be developing MLT-specific courses and syllabi to begin the program's first cohort in Fall 2020.

The MLT program is a two-year Associate in Applied Science Degree. 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.

England brings a great level of expertise to the grant, as she has worked as a Medical Laboratory Scientist for over fifteen years. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) from Illinois State University, and she earned a Master of Science in Forensic Science from the University of Florida. England is certified by the American Society for Clinical Pathology, and she began her MLT career in the Molecular Hepatitis and HIV Laboratory at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

During her time in the field, England realized there will soon be a shortage of qualified laboratory workers. With that in mind, she has set a goal to fill the voids in hospital labs and independent labs with qualified technicians. "I want to ensure our program offers the best training with potential to step into a position immediately following graduation," England said. "I also want our graduates to feel empowered to continue their education to become a certified medical laboratory scientist."

England has also served in higher education since 2009. Today, she is an adjunct instructor for FCC, Parkland College, and Illinois State University (ISU). "Joining the Title III team finally gives me the opportunity to combine lab work and training with education into one position."

Beginning her role on December 5, England has already conducted extensive research to implement the MLT program. As an alum, she has been in contact with ISU to learn more about their MLT/MLS bridge program. "ISU is excited that we have gained the MLT program, because it provides new opportunities for our students to advance their education with them," says England. She notes that she would like to work on an articulation agreement that would serve to build programs at both institutions.



FCC NURSING STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS



Clemence Elizabeth Cox Scholarship



Vicky Lemons Scholarship



Debra Jean Withrow Scholarship

Several students in the Nursing Program on Frontier's campus recently received academic scholarships for the Fall 2019 semester. The three scholarships awarded include the Clemence Elizabeth Cox Scholarship, the Vicky Lemons Memorial Scholarship, and the Debra Jean Withrow Scholarship. Each scholarship awards \$500 to a student currently enrolled in the Nursing Program.

The Clemence Elizabeth Cox Scholarship is awarded semi-annually to second-level students in the Nursing Program. This semester, the scholarship has been awarded to Sara Williams and Alechia Roosevelt, both of Flora. Williams and Roosevelt are on track to complete the Associate Degree in Nursing in May 2020.

The Clemence Elizabeth Cox Scholarship is funded by the Jerry L. Cox Foundation Trust. The Jerry L. Cox Foundation Trust was organized in 2018 for the primary purpose of funding the Clemence Elizabeth Cox Scholarship at Frontier Community College. The scholarship provides financial assistance to second-level Nursing students for tuition, books, and other direct educational expenses.

Marla Xanders of Fairfield was awarded the Vicky Lemons Memorial Scholarship, and she is a first-level student in the Nursing Program. Vicky Lemons was well-known and loved at FCC and in the community. Serving as a member of FCC's nursing faculty from 2006 until her passing in March 2015, Vicky played an important part not only in the education of her students, but also in their everyday lives. A lifetime learner, Vicky was working towards a Master's in Nursing at the time of her passing, and she was awarded the degree posthumously in May 2015. The Vicky Lemons Memorial Scholarship was established by Vicky's family and friends in an effort to give back to the students she loved helping so much. Even in passing, Vicky continues to help students achieve their nursing goals through this scholarship award.

The two recipients of the Debra Jean Withrow Scholarship for the Fall 2019 semester are Whitley Verble and Sarah Benton, both of Fairfield. Verble and Benton are on track to complete the Associate Degree in Nursing in May 2020. This scholarship was established in January 2007 in memory of Debra Jean Withrow, a surgical nurse who worked at Fairfield Memorial Hospital at the time of her death in 2005. She was involved in teaching students and served as the President of the local chapter of The Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses. At the end of 2012, the scholarship fund raised by the Scholarship Trustees and members of the Surgical Services Department of Fairfield Memorial Hospital was transferred to the FCC Foundation to be issued annually as the Debra Jean Withrow Scholarship.

The Nursing Program is offered on FCC's campus through Olney Central College. To learn more, visit iecc.edu or call Frontier Community College at 618-842-3711.

FCC RANKED ONE OF TOP 50 MOST AFFORDABLE COLLEGES FOR 2020

According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, outstanding student debt reached \$1.46 billion at the end of 2018. In an effort to provide financially sound choices for education, EDsmart recently published a study naming the top fifty most affordable colleges and universities for 2020. Frontier Community College is pleased to be ranked 17th on the report with an overall score of 88.2.

EDsmart assessed colleges and universities based on data that covered four main areas: cost (average net price), academic quality (graduation rate), student satisfaction (retention rate), and salary after attending (median earnings of former students who received federal financial aid). All data was gathered from the U.S. Department of Education's websites College Scorecard and College Navigator. Only schools with an average net price of less than \$3,500 were considered for EDsmart's report.

"At Frontier, we are very proud of our excellent student retention and graduation rates," said Dr. Jay Edgren, President of FCC. "I believe it's a direct reflection of the outstanding customer service and educational experiences we strive to provide."

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges was well represented in the report, as all four campuses were named by EDsmart. Lincoln Trail ranked 11th, Wabash Valley ranked 19th, and Olney Central ranked 25th.

"Community colleges are generally known for providing low-cost, quality education," Edgren stated. "In particular, the colleges of IECC have always been a low-cost leader, even among other Illinois districts."

Along with Carl Sandburg College, the IECC institutions were the only Illinois community colleges to be named in the report.

YOUNGBLOOD RECEIVES EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Each quarter, FCC honors an employee who has demonstrated excellent customer service and dedication to their work. Frontier is pleased to announce that Merna Youngblood has been

recognized as this quarter's recipient. She serves as Director of the Learning Resource Center on campus, and she is also a member of the Community Education committee. Youngblood was nominated by employees for her positive attitude and dedication to serving students as well as the community. One nomination stated that "the Learning Resource Center is a warm, welcoming, and productive environment because of Merna!"

OVER 100 ATTEND ANNUAL PROGRAM SHOWCASE

FCC held its annual Program Showcase for over one hundred high school students on Thursday, November 14. The event was planned and organized by Carrie Halbert, Coordinator of Retention and Recruitment.

The event began with a discussion about financial aid and scholarship opportunities from Lori Noe, Coordinator of Financial Aid. Students then split into several groups to attend breakout sessions. Topics included: Automotive Technology; Electrical Distribution Systems; Graphic Design; Student Clubs; Nursing and CNA; Phlebotomy and Health Informatics; Campus Tour; Sport Management and Information Systems Technology and Transfer Degrees. The Program Showcase closed with a student panel led by Annie Lankford, Academic Counselor for TRIO Student Support Services.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FOR STUDENTS IN ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS PROGRAM

Frontier Community College recently awarded scholarships to three students currently enrolled in the Electrical Distribution Systems (EDS) program. The students are Mason Barrett of Fairfield, Brandon Hawkey of Kinmundy, and Nathan Selby of Bridgeport. FCC awarded the Wayne-White Scholarship, Steve Rafferty Memorial Scholarship, and Earl R. Pottorff Memorial Scholarship. All three scholarships are reserved specifically for students in the EDS program and are awarded annually during the fall semester.



Dr. Paul Bruinsma, Dean of Instruction; student Nathan Selby; and Kara Blanton, Academic Advisor.

Steve Rafferty Memorial Scholarship

Nathan Selby received \$250 through the Steve Rafferty Memorial Scholarship. Steve Rafferty served as the Lead Instructor for the Electrical Distribution Systems program at FCC from 2008 until his passing in March 2014. Selby is a 2019 graduate of Red Hill High School.

Earl R. Pottorff Memorial Scholarship

Brandon Hawkey received the Earl R. Pottorff Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,000 cash scholarship. Hawkey is a 2019 graduate of South Central High School in Farina. The late Earl Pottorff was born in Fairfield but built a 37-year career with Commonwealth Edison Company, the largest electric utility in Illinois serving Chicago and Northern Illinois. Earl and his wife Lorraine settled in Fairfield after his retirement, where he lived until his passing in 2012. Lorraine established the scholarship in December 2012 to honor Earl and help another young man begin a career in the public utility field. It is the first donation presented to the FCC Foundation specifically for a Career and Technical program that will last in perpetuity.



Gerry Kinney, EDS Lead Instructor; and student Mason Barrett

Wayne-White Scholarship

Mason Barrett of Fairfield was awarded the Wayne-White Scholarship, which was established in 2016 in honor of Gerry Kinney. Wayne-White awards the scholarship to a recipient who plans to learn the trade and skills to begin a lineman career, just like Kinney enjoyed for 17 years.

Gerry Kinney's career was cut short after he came into contact with a 7,200 volt power line which severely burned him and forced the removal of both hands and forearms. Overcoming great obstacles, Kinney is now a positive influence and inspiration to many. He enjoys sharing with those who wish to pursue the career that he enjoyed as a lineman, and he reinforces the importance of safety in the electrical field. Today, Kinney currently serves as the Lead Instructor for the EDS Program.



Dr. Paul Bruinsma, Dean of Instruction; student Brandon Hawkey; and Kara Blanton, Academic Advisor.

The Electrical Distribution Systems program is a one-year certificate that provides training in building, repairing, and maintaining overhead and underground electrical distribution systems. Students also learn safe practices, pole climbing, hurt man rescue, and bucket truck operation. Upon graduation, students receive training to earn a Class-A CDL. For more information, visit www.iecc.edu or call Frontier Community College at 618-842-3711.

KAKAC HIRED AS NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR ADULT EDUCATION

Frontier Community College is pleased to announce the newest addition to the Adult Education program for Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. Sharmila Kakac has been hired as the Program Director for Adult Education, and she began her duties on November 21.

As the Program Director of Adult Education, Kakac will lead the development and improvement of adult education offerings across the district. Currently, the department provides GED test preparation, transition skills classes, adult literacy tutoring, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

Kakac brings a passion for education to the table, and she is looking forward to seeing the program grow throughout each community in the district. She had previously helped the department before joining FCC, as she was a volunteer literacy tutor for two years in the Flora community.



"I have a deep appreciation for the district literacy efforts, because it truly ties in to our mission of strengthening our communities," said Kakac. "If you have an educated community, you have a stronger community."

Kakac remarked how beneficial the Adult Education services are to individuals who have moved to the United States in pursuit of a better life, like she did when traveling from India to attend college and earn her Bachelor's Degree. "If you can't speak the language where you are living, imagine how difficult it could be to live in your community?" Several individuals have benefited from ESL classes and literacy tutoring, which provide assistance with reading, writing, comprehension, and speaking.

Prior to joining FCC, Kakac spent many years working in international business. She built her career at Airtex for over fifteen years, serving as the Director of International Business Development. She was responsible for building up the exporting department for Airtex, and she worked frequently with overseas locations and adapting to changes in time zones, languages, working environments, and cultures.

Kakac is currently working towards a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Illinois, and she plans to graduate in 2020. While taking her classes, Kakac realized she enjoyed the higher education environment.

"Education is one factor that can greatly impact your life, whether you are earning your GED or working towards a Master's Degree," she said. "When I applied for this position, I knew it could be a great opportunity to give back to the community and emphasize the importance of education for all."

Kakac is excited to take on her new role of Program Director and work with her Adult Education team across the IECC district.

For those who are interested in serving as a volunteer literacy tutor or want to learn more about opportunities within Adult Education, call Frontier Community College at 618-842-3711.

FCC STUDENT RECEIVES ESPORTS SCHOLARSHIP

The founding member of FCC's Esports club has received a \$48,000 scholarship to continue his involvement in the activity at King University in Bristol, Tennessee. Logan Yarnell is a second-year student in the Information Systems Technology program, and he plans to graduate in May 2020.



Yarnell helped to establish the Esports club last fall after discussing its growing popularity across college institutions with Dr. Jay Edgren, President at FCC. The club began with five members, but they gained three students this fall. Eric Resor, the club's advisor, noted that Yarnell has provided an exciting, competitive opportunity for fellow FCC students who otherwise would not be able to be involved on campus. The club meets weekly to develop their strategies and mechanics for League of Legends, which is a multiplayer online battle video game.

While Esports is still relatively new to FCC and the IECC district, it is on the rise in Illinois and abroad. Additionally, it is becoming a recognized sport by the NJCAA and NCAA. The University of Illinois' club recently became recognized by the NCAA, and approximately 12 Illinois colleges have the Esports club and offer scholarships to students. Nationally, over 150 colleges offer Esports and are even recruiting prospective students.

"I started the Esports club with the hope that it would provide opportunities for other students beyond FCC," said Yarnell. "I've spent over four years coaching others in this game, and I've enjoyed working with and helping my teammates develop their skills."

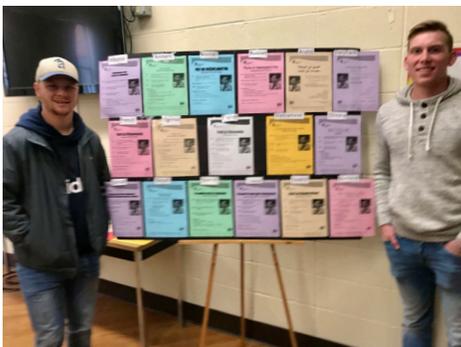
Resor said he expects to see the club continue to develop and grow as Esports becomes more widely recognized both locally and on other college campuses.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY STUDENTS VISIT ST. LOUIS



Students in the Cultural Diversity class recently took a field trip to the International Institute of St. Louis. The trip was organized by Linda Monge, Associate Professor of Mathematics.

Prior to visiting the institute, the group visited the Holocaust Museum and sat in on a book discussion of *Death March Escape: The Remarkable Story of a Man Who Twice Escaped the Nazi Holocaust*. They then arrived at the institute and took a tour of the facility to learn about the available services and offerings to new immigrants. The International Institute assists individuals with cultural and economic integration services, such as English classes, employment, citizenship preparation, and more.



After the tour, students visited the Delmar Loop neighborhood and tried different ethnic foods for lunch. They concluded the trip with a short visit at the Gateway Arch of St. Louis.

"The students in this class have learned so much about diverse cultures, including age, religion, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomics," said Monge. "After studying all kinds of cultures, the students now appreciate Maya Angelou's famous quote, 'we are all more alike than unlike.'"