

NETWORK



MAY 2024



HIGHLIGHTS



FBLA students successful at Illinois Leadership Conference



LTC recognizes students, faculty, and staff at event.



A total eclipse of the Trail

TELECOM STUDENTS LEARN ON-THE-JOB

Lincoln Trail College Broadband Telecom students are taking the skills they've learned in the classroom and applying them on the job. They're completing an apprenticeship with the Clarksville Mutual Telephone Company by doing fiber-to-the-home installations.

LTC's students are taking the fiber from the ground and splicing it into a box on the side of the customer's house. From there, they'll take the fiber inside the home and get it ready so the customer can have high-speed internet access.

Owner Jeff Carpenter says the project started about a year ago when a construction company built their outside plant and laid fiber in the area. He says it is a big project for one person to complete and after he saw that Lincoln Trail College has worked on similar projects, he reached out and the students jumped in right away.

"From the day they came in, we started to work. The instructor worked with them and he was able to stop and teach – 'we've talked about this before in class, this is how it actually looks, this is what we're doing.'



UPCOMING JUNE EVENTS

- 3 Summer Semester Classes Begin
- 3 LTC Foundation Concert Series: Let's Hang On
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 3-6 Crochet for Youth
- 10-14 Sign Language for Youth
- 18 Culinary for Kids
Explore a Broadband Career
- 19 COLLEGE CLOSED: Juneteenth
- 20 Explore a Welding Career
- 24-28 College for Kids
- 27 LTC Foundation Meeting
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
Finding Nemo Kids
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 28 Finding Nemo Kids
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 29 Matilda the Musical, Jr.
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 30 Matilda the Musical, Jr.
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater

They get the benefits of this hands-on training.”

Carpenter says he's a big proponent of hands-on education because he feels that sometimes students need that real-life experience in the field so they can see different ways of doing things.

LTC Telecom instructor Dennis York says this is giving students a chance to take everything they've learned in the lab, in the classroom, and in books and put it to use in the field, dealing with live fiber. In addition to that, York says the students can work with real customers, something that's very difficult to simulate in the classroom.

“They're advancing their soft skills by talking with the customers, having a calm demeanor, explaining exactly what they're doing, and letting the customer know how their internet or phone service is getting to them.”

Jarod Weger is one of the students working on the apprenticeship. He says working with customers has been a great experience.

“I like just being able to share the knowledge with the customers. We're working with customers that don't have any idea what is going on outside [for their service] and we come out and have them just watch us do the installs and we share what we know with them.”

Landon Lagow says the experience in the program and working on the apprenticeship has been great.

“I'd highly recommend it. I like it a lot because I mean you get the hands-on training and everything, but there is some book work and it's nice to have the bookwork as well because they go over the bookwork with us and then they actually apply it hands-on, and it's a really good way of learning it.”

York says that apprenticeship programs like this help the program at LTC. He says they have many Broadband Telecom partners in Illinois and Indiana and every year these businesses ask for interns to work with them in the summer where they will continue to get hands-on training while they learn.

He says there are a lot of opportunities in the broadband field.

“The Lincoln Trail College Broadband Telecom program is exceptional because it is a one-year certification program. Students can get into the workforce quickly and have a career that pays well, with great benefits, and is continuously changing so you're always learning on the job.”

York says there are projects like this all over the country, so students have options when they graduate whether they want to stay local or travel. He says they hear from companies asking about how many students will be graduating from the program because they know the quality of students Lincoln Trail College puts out there.



FBLA WINS SEVEN AWARDS AT STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Vasco Bernardes and Madisyn McIntosh

Four Lincoln Trail College Future Business Leaders of American Collegiate students earned seven awards at the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Effingham. Additionally, a Lincoln Trail College alumnus was recognized at the event.

Madisyn McIntosh placed first in Foundations of Management. Vasco Bernardes placed second in Sports Management and Marketing and second in Foundations of Communications. Krista Phillips placed third in Foundations of Marketing.

Faith Shull, Bernardes, and McIntosh took first in the State of the Chapter competition. That competition asks students to describe the chapter's program of work and summarize a year of activities. It covers things like recruitment, fundraising, leadership development, career exploration and preparation, and community service.

The team of Shull, Phillips, and McIntosh took first in their Community Service Project. They used the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program as their project. LTC's FBLA chapter assisted residents with their taxes from February through April. The VITA program offers free tax assistance to low-to-moderate income, elderly, limited English-speaking taxpayers, and those with disabilities. Altogether, LTC completed 57 returns and processed more than \$54,000 in refunds.

All four students will represent LTC at the FLBA's National Leadership Competition in Orlando, Fla. this summer.

Meanwhile, Koert Mehler ('16) was named the Illinois Future Business Leaders of American Collegiate Businessperson of the Year. Mehler is a commercial lender for First Robinson Savings Bank. He is also the owner of The Woods Bar and Event Center and Your Flower Basket. LTC business students visited the Event Center in the fall where Woods talked about opening the facility with his wife Sarah in 2021 and about the importance of research before putting money into a project.

"His dedication, leadership, and entrepreneurial spirit have left quite a mark on our FBLA community," said LTC FBLA Advisor Amie Mayhall.

"Congratulations, Koert, and thank you for being a mentor to business students, opening your business for students to learn and experience, and sharing your journey with us!"

Mayhall also thanked First Robinson Savings Bank. "Your commitment to fostering young business talent is commendable. Another amazing FRSB employee, Harlei Payne, deserves recognition as well. Her expertise, experience, and time have been instrumental in helping us to set up the VITA tax program at LTC. Thank you, Harlei, for your dedication and helping to empower our students. People like Harlei and Koert truly make a difference in lives and their community."

They were not the only people from Lincoln Trail College represented at the state conference. Illinois Eastern Community College and LTC Director of Marketing and Public Information Chris Forde was one of the featured speakers at the conference. Forde talked with students across the state about the fundamentals of effective social media.



Guadalupe Amicone, Leticia Guimaraes, Madisyn McIntosh, and Amie Mayhall present Koert Mehler with his Businessperson of the Year Award

LTC RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE



Student award winners, left to right, Madison Davis, Maya Curtright, Leticia Guimaraes, Abigail Vaughn, Sean Stone, Madisyn McIntosh. Not pictured: Brenna Higginbotham

Lincoln Trail College honored seven students and seven faculty and staff members at its annual Awards Banquet.

Abigail Vaughn and Brenna Higginbotham won the Joseph C. Piland Excellence in Scholarship Award. It is presented to a full-time Lincoln Trail College student who has demonstrated outstanding academic merit and sustained excellence in the classroom. The award is given to honor Joseph C. Piland who was the first President of Lincoln Trail College. His vision and passion for education were instrumental in the development of a comprehensive community college for Crawford County.

Vaughn, who played volleyball for LTC, served as an ambassador, and was the co-Social Media Officer for FBLA-C, was recognized as a dedicated student with an amazing positive attitude. Her nomination stated, "She worked very diligently on every project she submitted and had a positive influence on the classroom culture."

Higginbotham managed to earn her Associate's Degree and high school diploma in the same year, all while battling a health condition. Her nomination praised her dedication to education through her trials. "Brenna has overcome many challenges this year regarding her health and still continues to strive for excellence in every assignment, test, and project."

Maya Curtright, Madison Davis, and Leticia Guimaraes were co-winners of the J. Rod Harmon Excellence in Service Award. It is presented to a full-time Lincoln Trail College student who has demonstrated outstanding service to the college or the community. Rod Harmon served as a faculty member at Lincoln Trail College for 27 years and has been the Executive Director of the Lincoln Trail College Foundation since 2005. He is well known for his rich sense of humor, dedication to his wife Diana, and commitment to creating opportunities for all residents of Crawford County to have access to a high-quality education.

Curtright was cited as an exceptional individual who consistently demonstrates a solid commitment to excellence in all academic and extracurricular endeavors. As a member of Student Senate, Curtright was recognized for her near-perfect attendance and work ethic for events.

Davis, who serves as a student worker in the Business Office, was cited for her work ethic and dedication to both her job and the classroom all while maintaining a busy schedule. "She is extremely active with participation in Phi Theta Kappa, the Process Tech Club, and volunteering through our local library."

Guimaraes, who won the Bev L. Turkal Excellence in Leadership Award in 2023, was recognized because she is a campus leader who volunteers for growth opportunities and is the epitome of "willingness to learn something new." She was nicknamed the mom of the soccer team, has been active in FLBA-C and Phi Theta Kappa, and worked in the LTC Marketing Office.

Madisyn McIntosh and Sean Stone were co-winners of the Bev L. Turkal Excellence in Leadership Award. It is presented to a full-time Lincoln Trail College student who has shown great Leadership qualities and skills. This award is given to honor Bev L. Turkal, a true Leader in Education, whose passion was to make a difference and change the lives of children, teens, adults, and lifelong learners. Bev believed to be a strong leader one must live life, care, and show empathy, must have high energy, and be competitive to accomplish the goals set to make things happen.

McIntosh, who served as a Student Ambassador and was active in FBLA-C, was recognized as a student who shined at LTC the last two years. "Madisyn is always willing to step up and volunteer for any event or project presented to her. Her personality and enthusiasm are a few of her great qualities. She is also a high-achieving student with great social and emotional skills."

Stone also served as a Student Ambassador, was involved in FBLA-C, and played baseball. His nomination cited his attitude. "Sean is a hardworking student who can influence others to work hard as well. Sean is always willing to help anyone who needs it and is not afraid to ask for help or ask questions as needed."

Marcia Thorsen and Dr. Phil Thorsen shared the Excellence in Teaching Award.

Marcia Thorsen was recognized for her enthusiasm. "Her enthusiasm for psychology and mental health is contagious, igniting a passion for the subject in all who have the privilege of learning from her." One student said she impacted her life more than any other teacher she has ever had.

Phil Thorsen was recognized for his innovative methods of instruction. A student nomination for Thorsen stated, "I believe he is an exceptional educator who exemplifies the highest standards of teaching excellence."

Another cited his ability to make the student a part of the class through discussion and debate.

Carrie Brown and Amie Mayhall were the co-winners of the Excellence in Online Education Award.

Brown was cited as an amazing teacher and kind person who makes sure that students understand the material. Mayhall was recognized as being hardworking, loving, and caring.



Faculty award winners, left to right, Amie Mayhall, Marcia Thorsen, Dr. Phil Thorsen. Not pictured: Carrie Brown



Staff award winners, left to right, Cyndi Boyce, Angel Kerner, Dana Goodwin

Cyndi Boyce, Dana Goodwin, and Angel Kerner were co-winners of the Staff Excellence Award.

Boyce was recognized as a trusted colleague who embraces change and challenges with professionalism. "Cyndi excels as a role model for other instructors, is a huge student advocate, and has recently led LTC during times of transition without skipping a beat."

Goodwin's roles as academic advisor, volleyball coach, and athletic director were

noted in her recommendation. "Dana goes above and beyond in all three roles, takes obstacles that are thrown at her with a smile on her face, and believes that everything is 'figureoutable'."

Kerner's nomination stated that she hit the ground running and learned her job as an academic advisor in record time and went right to work with a student-centered focus. "Kerner is also devoted to promoting LTC to the community, while also serving on IECC committees and creating opportunities for students to succeed."

The six awards are given annually. Students are nominated by faculty and staff members while faculty and staff are nominated by their peers and students. A committee selects the recipients of the awards.

LTC OFFERING COMMUNITY ED WELDING CLASSES



People wanting to learn how to weld, brush up on their welding skills, and create art from metal will have an opportunity to do that through Lincoln Trail College this summer. LTC is offering a pair of community education classes for people to experience welding.

Welding 101 will be offering Tuesday evenings in June from 5:30-7 p.m. at the McCoy Welding Center. Jackson Hemrich will lead the class that offers an introduction to the basics of welding.

Decorative Welding takes place from 7-8 p.m. on Tuesday evenings in June at the McCoy Welding Center. Jackson Hemrich will lead the class the helps people learn welding basics while creating a decorative piece.

Each class is a part of Lincoln Trail College's Community Education program which provides a variety of non-credit classes for the community. The cost of each class is \$25 and students can register by calling 618-544-8657. The registration deadline for both classes is May 30.

LTC OFFERS EVENTS FOR KIDS THIS SUMMER



Lincoln Trail College is planning a series of fun programs for children this summer.

The first class is Crochet for Youth and it runs from June 3-6 from 9 a.m. to noon each day. The class is geared for kids in grades 1-4 and is led by Betty Engel. Students will learn the basics of crocheting. They will need to bring a size I hook and one skein of acrylic yarn for the class. Crochet for Youth costs \$20 and has a May 29 registration deadline.

American Sign Language for Youth runs from June 10-14 from 9 a.m. to noon each day. Tony Austin leads the class for kids in grades 4-8. Students will learn the basics of American Sign Language, including the alphabet, counting, and basic greetings and phrases. American Sign Language for Youth costs \$20 and has a June 4 registration deadline.

June 18 features a pair of one-day classes: Culinary for Kids and Explore a Broadband Career.

Culinary for Kids is led by Jamie Tull. Students will plan and prepare a picnic lunch where they'll have an opportunity to try new foods. It runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., costs \$25, and the registration deadline is June 12.

Explore a Broadband Career is led by Dennis York and has no fee as long as students are registered by June 12. It is for kids entering 7th- 9th grades. Students will learn about careers in broadband, try hands-on experiences, and tour a Conxus/Metro site. Conxus/Metro will also provide lunch for the students.

Students interested in welding can Explore a Welding Career on June 20. Led by Jackson Hemrich, the program for students entering 7th-9th grades also has no fee as long as they register by June 15. Students will learn about careers in welding, try hands-on experiences, and tour SENC0 in the afternoon. SENC0 will also provide lunch.

College for Kids takes place June 24-28 from 9 a.m. to noon each day and is for kids in grades 1-5. College for Kids brings fun STEM activities and literature together. Students will learn through fun activities that can be taken home to share with the whole family. Each day will include fun games and snacks. The cost of College for Kids is \$40 and the registration deadline is June 17.

The classes are a part of the IECC-wide Ignite Curiosity Summer Camps. All four colleges are offering classes for children of all ages this summer. Parents can find all of the classes at iecc.edu/summer classes.

Parents can register their students by completing the registration form found on the website and returning it to the Lincoln Trail College Learning Commons.

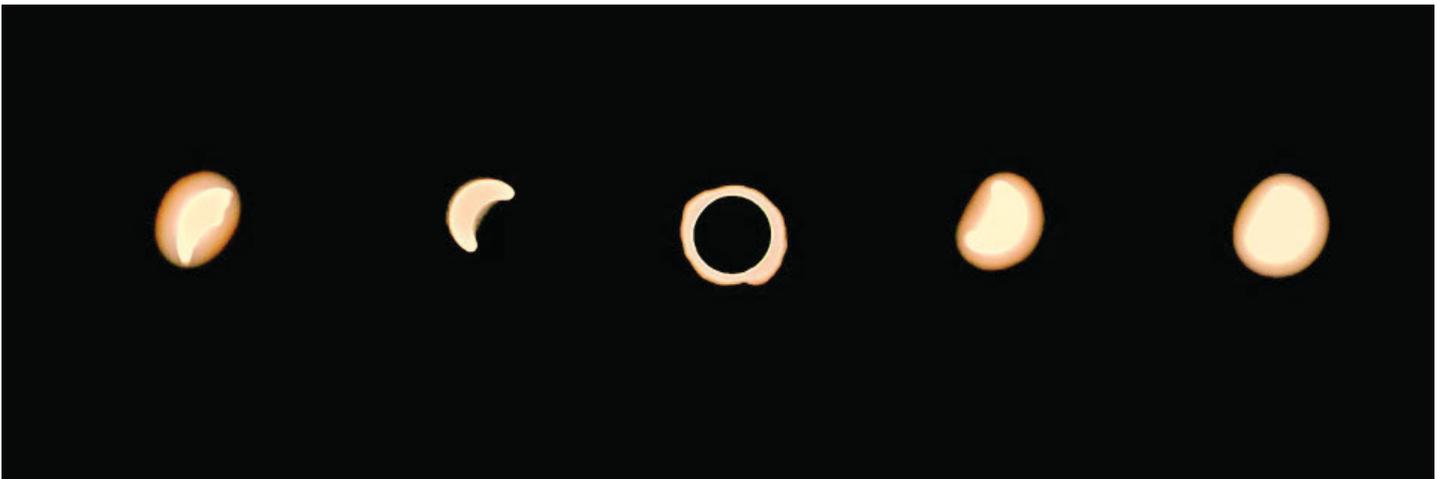
A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE TRAIL



Lincoln Trail College students and employees took part in a once-in-a-lifetime event with the April 8 total solar eclipse.

While the day was an online learning day, there was still no shortage of activity on the campus, which was in the path of totality. The Statesmen Grill offered an eclipse-themed menu. LTC offered eclipse-themed snacks during the event and also played eclipse-themed music.

Students and employees watched the phenomenon from the Triangle using eclipse glasses provided by the College. They weren't the only people enjoying the eclipse on campus. Several people from the Chicago area came to LTC, including an astrophysicist.



Before the eclipse, faculty were encouraged to include eclipse-related materials in their courses. LTC also brought WTWO meteorologist Mallory Jenkins to campus in March to help the community prepare for the eclipse.

It will be a while before the next eclipse where LTC will be in the path of totality. It won't happen again until October 17, 2153.

LTC INSTALLS SOLAR CHARGING TABLES



Students and people visiting Lincoln Trail College will have a new way to charge their devices thanks to a grant from the Illinois Green Economy Network. LTC received a \$63,695 grant to purchase solar-powered charging stations.

LTC purchased four solar-powered picnic tables and two free-standing charging stations. Each station offers a 110-volt outlet, USB A and C ports, and wireless charging pads for people to recharge and power their portable devices.

Three of the picnic tables are located in the LTC Triangle and the fourth ADA-accessible picnic table is located on a small patio outside of Williams Hall near Room 119. One charging station is located outside of the Sports Center. The second charging station will be placed outside of the Athletic Training Facility currently under construction.

LTC purchased the tables and charging stations from Enerfusion, a company that specializes in solar-powered devices.

POE HEADS TO LIMESTONE UNIVERSITY



After a remarkable two-year career at Lincoln Trail College, Graycie Poe has committed to Limestone University to continue her basketball career and academic pursuits.

"I chose Limestone because when I visited, it felt like home. Enjoying playing basketball is something important to me, and at Limestone, it brings a competitive family experience. I expect the season to go well. I expect to contribute to the team however that may be," said Poe.

During the 2023-2024 Season, Graycie was named All Region and All Conference. She also received the Sportsmanship Award. During her two years, she started in all 53 games she appeared in, has 247 rebounds, 181 assists and scored 942 points.

LTC Head Coach Zach Loll commended Graycie for her contributions to the team, stating, "The level of competition Graycie played against while at LTC has prepared her for the players she will face. Playing against tough teams provided her with the opportunity to grow as a player and gain confidence to perform at a high level." Loll emphasized Poe's invaluable qualities, adding, "Graycie provided many intangibles to the team. She led by example, never complained, and had the heart of a warrior. It was an honor to coach Graycie for 2 years."

LTC IN PICTURES



Rowan Gray, playing Toad, and Brennan Seth Tracy, playing Frog, celebrate the joy of cookies in *The Arts* at LTC's production of *A Year With Frog and Toad*.



Dr. John McCarty directs the choir during LTC's Spring Choral Concert.



Yvonne Newlin directs the LTC Pep Band during LTC's Spring Jazz Concert.



Leadership Crawford County members volunteer to help clean up LTC's performing arts production shop.



LTC's Student Ambassadors talk with area high school seniors during LTC's Senior Start event.



Krista Phillips (left) and Faith Shull (right) leap into fun during LTC's Craze Daze.



A Nuttall Middle School student listens to lung sounds during a visit to LTC. NMS visited on three separate occasions this spring to learn about different programs.



A Lawrenceville High School student uses a Process Technology simulator on a visit to LTC. LHS students also learned about Welding and Broadband Telecom.