# NETWORK UNE 2024



## HIGHLIGHTS



LTC Phi Theta Kappa chapter recognized for excellence.



LTC student-athletes combine for 3.39 GPA.



Children's Summer Theater thespians prepare to take the stage.

## **LTC CELEBRATES GRADUATES**

incoln Trail College's 54th Annual Commencement Ceremony took place May 10 at 7 p.m. at the Sports Center and Zwermann Arts Center Theater. The event was also streamed live on YouTube to more than 350 people, including people in Brazil, Chile, and Bolivia.

"Graduates, we are here now to celebrate you, to acknowledge all of your hard work and accomplishments, and to say 'congratulations - you did it' - as you cross the finish line," said President Tona Ambrose in her welcome address. "When I say 'we' are here now to celebrate with you, of course, I'm talking about your loved ones, family and friends, and your teachers, coaches, mentors, community members, and all of the LTC faculty and support staff who have cared for you along this journey."

"Graduates, as you leave here later, I want you to know that we are proud of each one of you. Your accomplishments at this college have proven to us, to your family and friends, and hopefully to you, that you have what it takes to succeed and that you are champions," said Ambrose.



The ceremony featured two student speakers, Guadalupe Amicone and Krista Phillips.

"I'll miss the people here!" said Amicone. "My wise mother always says, 'Hija, no llores porque paso, alégrate porque sucedió.' "Don't cry because it finished, be happy because it happened." LTC has not just been a place for education; it's been our second home and a family. Whether you traveled a few miles or from across the world, congratulations – you made the right choice. The heart of LTC lies not just in its academic offerings but in the extraordinary energy, kindness, and support of its dedicated employees. It's a unique environment that has shaped us all."

"However, as we turn the page, it is important to remember who we are, StatesMEN," said Phillips. "We aren't one StatesMAN single-handedly fighting our battles. We are a

GROUP of people working together to achieve big goals. It's not about just one of us, it's about all of us. Together we have shaped Lincoln Trail within a few short years, just as this place has shaped us."

Dean of Instruction Cyndi Boyce presented the candidates, and Coordinator of Marketing and Public Information Chris Forde announced the names of the graduates. Trustee John Brooks conferred the degrees. Boyce also provided the closing reflections for the ceremony.

"As you walk through the next chapter of your life, do as Robert Frost suggests, take the road less traveled. Let your curiosity guide you. Follow it and seek out more. Be kind. Aspire to be more. Pursue excellence. Show integrity. Your path may not always be easy. But that's okay. It is in adversity that we find our true strength. As you leave Lincoln Trail College, I have no doubts that you will work to make the world a better place for all of us. You are not alone. You are part of a family that is immeasurably proud of you. A family that is confident in you. Never forget that!"

The procession of faculty, staff, and graduates was led by Dr. An Roy. She was selected as the gonfalon, who carries the College's official flag during the ceremony. The gonfalon carrier leads the procession of graduates and symbolizes the unity and pride of the graduating class.

Brassmasters, made up of Cartha Gustafson, Tim McCormick, Brent Ritter, Heather Setzer, and Andy Whittington, provided the music for the ceremony. First-year students Erika Garrard, Kylee Hosman, Gracie Lemmon, and Zoe Martin were selected to serve as the graduation marshals.



## LTC PHI THETA KAPPA CHAPTER RECOGNIZED



Lincoln Trail College's Alpha lota Epsilon chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was recognized with some Illinois Regional Awards. LTC's chapter was recognized as an Outstanding Chapter and earned an Honors in Action Project Award. Chapter President Guadalupe Amicone was named a 2023-2024 Outstanding Officer.

The Honors in Action Project combines an Honors Study Topic from Phi Theta Kappa, problemsolving, and action-oriented service to address real-world challenges in the community. LTC chose the theme "Play It Forward" from the Art and Science of Play. LTC researched role-playing and how it impacts students' abilities to handle stressful situations. As a part of the project, they gave a presentation on how role-playing can be used in the classroom at a faculty workshop. At that workshop, some faculty members shared their classroom role-play activities with the students.

"Our whole class participated in the initial research," said chapter co-advisor Kim Schucker. "A smaller group of students developed the presentation to the faculty and wrote the entry to submit to Phi Theta Kappa. I am continually amazed at how our students are willing to put in the extra time and work to produce a great end product that makes a difference in their college community. It is a testament to the quality of students we have at LTC and to the great programs offered through Phi Theta Kappa that inspire the members. The project was relevant to our college, allowed the students to develop leadership skills and presentation skills, and developed a spirit of cooperation and fellowship within the PTK members in our class."

The Outstanding Chapter award is based on a cumulative score from the Honors in Action project and the College Project.

"These awards demonstrate the level of hard work and drive the students have," said chapter co-advisor Carrie Brown. "Students put in hours of research and writing, editing, and collaborative work, both with each other and with administration, to bring about these projects. We are super proud of our chapter for all their hard work!"

Amicone served as LTC's Chapter President during the 2023-24 academic year. Her award recognized her hard work in that role.

"This recognition is a testament to the dedication and hard work invested in serving our community and upholding the values of Phi Theta Kappa," said Amicone. "I am incredibly grateful for the support and collaboration of my fellow officers, members, and advisors, who have been essential to this achievement. I want to give special thanks to Ana Guedes, who has been my right hand throughout this process. She has worked just as hard as I have, and this recognition is also for her. This award inspires me to continue striving for excellence and making a positive impact."

## **STUDENT-ATHLETES COMBINE FOR 3.39 GPA**

	LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE 2023-24 ATHLETICS REPORT CARD		
	SPORT	SPRING '24	OVERALL
	VOLLEYBALL	3.67	3.67
	SOFTBALL	3.52	3.61
	WOMEN'S SOCCER	3.49	3.52
	MEN'S SOCCER	3.41	3.46
	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	3.76	3.31
	MEN'S BASKETBALL	3.16	3.26
	BASEBALL	3.13	3.20
	GOLF	2.95	3.10
	LTC ATHLETICS OVERALL	3.39	3.39
21 CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS WITH AN OVERALL GPA ABOVE 3.0.			
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Lincoln Trail College student-athletes continued to put a focus on classroom excellence in the 2023-24 academic year. In the Spring 2024 semester, LTC's student-athletes combined for a 3.39 GPA. Overall for the 2023-24 academic year, they combined for a 3.39 GPA.

"I'm incredibly proud of what our student-athletes accomplish in the classroom," said Athletic Director and Volleyball Coach Dana Goodwin. "Our student-athletes work hard not only in their sports but also in the classroom and the results show."

LTC has marked 21 consecutive semesters where the combined GPA for the Athletic Department has been at least 3.0.

In the Spring semester, seven of the eight teams at LTC had a combined GPA of 3.0, led by the women's basketball team with a 3.67 GPA. The volleyball team finished with a 3.67 GPA. The softball team finished with a 3.52 GPA followed by the women's soccer team with a 3.49 GPA and the men's soccer team with a 3.41 GPA. The men's basketball team had a 3.16 GPA and the baseball team had a 3.13 GPA. The golf team had a GPA of 2.95.

For the year, all eight teams boasted GPAs of at least 3.0, led by the volleyball team's 3.67 GPA. Softball had a 3.61 GPA; women's soccer had a 3.52 GPA; men's soccer had a 3.46 GPA. The women's basketball team had a 3.31 GPA, the men's basketball team had a 3.20 GPA, and the golf team had a 3.10 GPA.

"Getting GPAs like this is remarkable and is a team effort," said Goodwin. "Our coaches work hard to make sure our student-athletes are reaching their academic goals and we have a tremendous faculty and staff to help our students be successful. They are dedicated to making sure that all of our students have the guidance and support they need to be successful. There's no question that our faculty and staff are invested in the lives of our students."

## LTC SPRING ACADEMIC HONORS

Lincoln Trail College has released its academic honor lists for the Spring 2024 Semester. Three lists have been established by Illinois Eastern Community Colleges to indicate students who have achieved academic excellence. They are the Chancellor's Honors List, the President's Academic Honors List, and the Dean's Academic Honors List.

To qualify for any of the honor lists, a student must be enrolled full-time (12 hours or more) and must be taking college-level classes.



To be named to the Chancellor's Academic Honors List, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.90 or greater on a 4.0 scale; between 3.75 and 3.89 for the President's Academic Honors List; and between 3.50 and 3.74 for the Dean's Academic Honor's List.

The following students have earned Spring 2024 academic honors:

#### CHANCELLOR'S ACADEMIC HONORS LIST

Guadalupe Amicone, Zoe Angot, Tomas Bascon, Devin Belle, Caeden Bennett, Antonio Bilancieri, Jacie Bradbury, Treyton Brown, Gabriela Chagas, Angela Christine, Melvin Christine III, Emily Cissell, Kelliann Clapp, Sandra Cooper, Lydia Copenhaver, Marissa Daugherty, Madison Davis, Bailey Duke, Erika Garrard, Isabella Granja, Ana Guedes, Leticia Guimaraes, Morgan Hargrave, Austin Hargrave, Gary Higginbotham, Kylee Hosman, Awa Jawara, Macy Knight, Cameo Langley, Campbell McBride, Cheyanne McDonald, Sara Mills, Chance Moscardelli, Mateus Moura, Rebecca Newlin, Gonzalo Onrubia, Paul Osting, Pedro Palhares, Krista Phillips, Jackson Pittman, Graycie Poe, Tucker Pruitt, Kollin Ramos, Levi Richardson, Hannah Saucerman, Katharine Schrader, Kassey Shipman, Delainey Shorter, Gracie Stallings, Zharina Stephens, Autumn Stevenson, Stacie Stewart, Sean Stone, Abigail Vaughn, Brittany Wilson, David Wilson, Megan Young.

#### PRESIDENT'S ACADEMIC HONORS LIST

Amin Ahssaingarcia, Sergio Alvarez, Louison Beaumont, Kaitlyn Boerngen, Addison Brasier, Lauren Clark, Barbara Golish, Owen Harpe, Dawn Holmes, Autumn Kelly, Gracie Lemmon, Madisyn McIntosh, Brooke Miller, Diego Olguin, Kambry Price, Samuel Rickman, Leonardo Sanchez, David Smothers, Cole Tingley, Yuly Torres, Amelia Winters, Kaydence Woodsmall.

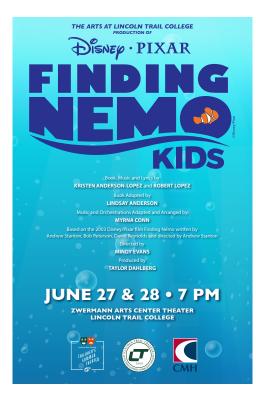
#### DEAN'S ACADEMIC HONORS LIST

Amonye Allen, Marlon Bennett, Vasco Bernardes, Maya Curtright, Kendal Edmondson, Andrew Gilliam, Victoria Goodman, Caitlin Hendrickson, Whitney Hernandez, Michael Johnston, Jabrea Lacaze, Landon Lagow, Jonathan Littlejohn, Benjamin Meier, Curtus Moak, Kearsty Nielson, Gabriel Omoregie, Jazmin Osborn, Owen Payne, Eduarda Queiroz, Faith Shull, Hayden Slate, Maci Smith, Neo Trim, Aiden Vandehatert, Amanda Wineinger.

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## **CHILDREN'S SUMMER THEATER PREPARES TO TAKE THE STAGE**

Lincoln Trail College is thrilled to announce its exciting lineup of Children's Summer Theater productions, promising a summer filled with enchantment and entertainment for the whole family.



On June 27th and 28th at 7 PM, audiences will dive into the depths of the ocean with the magical underwater adventure of Disney and Pixar's Finding Nemo KIDS. Featuring a talented cast of children entering 1st through 5th grades, this captivating production promises to bring the beloved characters of Nemo, Dory, and Marlin to life on stage.

This musical, designed for elementary school-aged performers, is a 30-minute adaptation of the beloved 2003 Pixar movie Finding Nemo, with new music by award-winning songwriting team Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez. Marlin, an anxious and over-protective clownfish, lives in the Great Barrier Reef with his kid Nemo, who longs to explore the world beyond their anemone home. But when Nemo is captured and taken to Sydney, Marlin faces his fears and sets off on an epic adventure across the ocean. With the help of lovable characters such as optimistic Dory, laid-back sea turtle Crush, and the supportive Tank Gang, Marlin and Nemo both overcome challenges on their journey to find each other and themselves. Featuring memorable songs such as "Just Keep Swimming," "Fish Are Friends Not Food," and "Go With the Flow," Finding Nemo KIDS brings a vibrant underwater world

to life on stage in a story full of family, friendship, and adventure.

Following this aquatic adventure, Lincoln Trail College invites you to join them on June 29th at 7 PM and June 30th at 2 PM for a spellbinding performance of Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical JR. It features children entering 6th through 9th grades.

Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical JR. is adapted from the fulllength musical which was based on the book by Roald Dahl, and features a book by Dennis Kelly and music and lyrics by Tim Minchin. The show opened on the West End in 2011 and made its Broadway premiere in 2013. The musical earned seven Olivier Awards, including "Best New Musical," and five Tony awards, including The Tony for "Best Book of a Musical." Matilda, a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers, lives with cruel parents who find her to be a nuisance, a lousy little worm, and a bore. When Matilda enters her first term at school, she captures the attention of Miss Honey, a kind teacher, and the two form a wonderful friendship. Unfortunately, the school is ruled by a tempestuous and mean headmistress named Miss Trunchbull, who hates children and delivers cruel and unjust punishments to all her charges. Matilda is determined to change her story, but will her cleverness and courage be enough to withstand the reign of Miss Trunchbull?



Tickets for both shows are available through ShowTix4U.com.

## WALK-IN WEDNESDAYS RETURN



Lincoln Trail College is once again making it easy for students to prepare for the Fall 2024 Semester. LTC is offering Walk-In Wednesdays on four Wednesdays in June and July for people to take care of a variety of things to help them get ready for the Fall.

"The beauty of Walk-In Wednesdays is that you don't need an appointment," said Lincoln Trail College Coordinator of Marketing and Public Information Chris Forde. "You can come in and our experts will help you."

Walk-In Wednesdays help students with advising, class registration, financial aid, and testing. LTC advisors and financial aid representatives will be available during each event. Testing services will also be available in the LTC Learning Commons. LTC experts can also answer other college-related questions students may have.

No appointments are necessary for Walk-In Wednesdays, but students will need to bring some things with them. They'll need transcripts, a driver's license or state ID, and your Social Security Number or card.

Walk-In Wednesdays are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 26, July 10, July 17, and July 24. Free gifts and snacks are available for students attending one of the events. Fall Semester classes at Lincoln Trail College begin August 15.

"We've always prided ourselves with the one-on-one attention students get at Lincoln Trail College and that's exactly what we want to bring with Walk-In Wednesdays," said Forde. "We're here to help students through every step of the process of registering for classes. Even if you haven't filled out our free online application, you can come to a Walk-In Wednesday and we'll help you with that. We're excited about the start of the Fall Semester on August 15 and we want to help people get registered so they're all ready to go."

### **LTC IN PICTURES**



Angie Williams introduces this year's Alpha Delta Nu members. Their project this year focused on the mental health of nursing students.



Telecom instructor Travis Matthews shows students a splice during Nuttall Middle School's CTE Day. They also heard about Process Technology and Welding.



International students spend time with friends, staff and instructors at the annual LTC International End of Year party.



Ana Geudes pickes up her cap and gown during LTC's Grad Fest.



Lincoln Trail College Class of '24 nursing students recite the Nightingale Pledge during their pinning ceremony.



Theater Director Taylor Dahlberg puts Nuttall Middle School students through an exercise during their Fine Arts Day. Students also learned about visual arts and vocals.



Leticia Guimaraes, Eimy Gallegos, and Ana Guedes hold up a cake prior to the International End of Year Party.



Leticia Guimaraes celebrates a donation of finals goodie bags filled with snacks. The bags were donated by the Highland Church of Christ.