

# NETWORK



AUGUST 2024



## HIGHLIGHTS



LTC prepares for the beginning of the new year with New Student Orientation



Meet new LTC Music Instructor Jena Combs



NJCAA recognizes 57 student-athletes, 7 teams for academic excellence

## DUAL CREDIT SAVES STUDENTS \$2M

Local students are seeing a big impact from dual credit classes taken at Lincoln Trail College. Dual credit classes allow for high school students to take college-level classes and earn college credit while still in high school.

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges put together a report reviewing the last six academic years of dual credit students at each high school within the District. The report provides an overview of student demographics, enrollment, and course information.

In Crawford County, students saved more than \$2,000,000 in college expenses through dual credit classes.

### Hutsonville

Hutsonville High School saw 125 students participate in dual credit classes. Students saved \$273,886.97 in college expenses with an average savings per student of \$2,191.10 per student. The average amount of credit per student was 16.07. Of the students taking dual credit classes, 27 percent were first-generation college students.



## UPCOMING SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 2 COLLEGE CLOSED: Labor Day
- 5 American Sign Language Class Begins  
6 p.m., Thursdays in Sept., Learning Commons
- 12 LTC Arts Day  
  
Communication & Boundaries in Romantic Relationships  
6 p.m., DeMent Auditorium
- 13 University of Illinois Extension: Eat, Save, Move  
9:30-2, Williams Hall
- 17 Constitution Day Observance
- 19 Communication & Boundaries in Romantic Relationships  
6 p.m., DeMent Auditorium
- 21 Scouts STEM & Merit Badge Fair
- 25 Eagleton Book Club  
5:30 p.m., Learning Commons
- 26 LTC Foundation Meeting  
12 p.m., Lincoln Room

### Oblong

Oblong High School saw 161 students participate in dual credit classes. Students saved \$213,901.77 in college expenses with an average savings per student of \$1,328.58 per student. The average amount of credit per student was 9.75. Of the students taking dual credit classes, 23 percent were first-generation college students.

### Palestine

Palestine High School saw 91 students participate in dual credit classes. Students saved \$194,542.91 in college expenses with an average savings per student of \$2,137.83 per student. The average amount of credit per student was 15.68. Of the students taking dual credit classes, 19 percent were first-generation college students.

### Robinson

Robinson High School saw 509 students participate in dual credit classes. Students saved

\$1,407,334.59 in college expenses with an average savings per student of \$2,764.90 per student. The average amount of credit per student was 20.28. Of the students taking dual credit classes, 31 percent were first-generation college students.

“Dual credit coursework has been incredibly valuable to local high schools providing students with an opportunity to get a jumpstart on earning college credit while still enrolled in high school,” said Megan Black, IECC Director of Dual Credit. “Dual credit students and families experience significant tuition savings by taking dual credit classes. Dual credit students also have access to the same academic resources as students enrolled in courses on an IECC campus.” Lincoln Trail College President and Vice Chancellor of Institutional Outreach Tona Ambrose says dual credit students see other benefits from taking college-level classes besides cost savings. Students are exposed to college-level work and academic rigor and dual credit puts students on an accelerated path to degree or certificate completion.

“Taking dual credit classes can provide a strong foundation for future success in higher education and beyond, making them a valuable option for motivated students. These dual credit experiences can also improve college and career readiness, increase a student’s confidence in their academic abilities, and allow students an opportunity to explore various career fields that will help them make more informed decisions about their future academic and career paths.”

Dual credit classes are available to students planning to pursue an associate degree and transfer to a four-year university or students planning on pursuing a degree or certification in career and technical education. Students intending to complete an associate degree and transfer to a four-year university can take advantage of IECC’s Three-to-Your Degree program, which can shorten the time to degree completion. Some CTE programs at IECC allow students to get a head start in their programs or complete a certificate program while still in high school.

IECC Director of Dual Credit Erin Volk says that dual credit classes can be very advantageous to first-generation college students. “Taking dual credit classes can give students, especially first-generation students, a stronger support system and the guidance necessary to determine whether college is the right choice for them.”

Students should begin thinking about dual credit classes as they begin planning for their junior year of high school. Black and Volk say that students should start by talking with their school counselor to discuss course planning and the selection of courses. Students wanting to enroll in a dual credit or dual enrollment course can speak with an advisor at any of the four colleges in IECC. Advisors can help guide students on course selection to lead to an academic program of study.

Students at Lincoln Trail College have seen their dual credit fees covered by the United Way, something United Way of Crawford County Community Resource Representative Barbara Shimer is proud of.

“United Way feels strongly that paying the Dual Credit fee enables ALL Crawford County students to pursue a college education, many who would not be able to if not helped. We want to reduce the future needs for food pantries and financial emergency help and feel the best way is by encouraging a college education and good jobs.”

Ambrose says overall, dual credit offers lots of benefits to families. “Through our Three-to-Your Degree program, students and their families can easily navigate and understand the list of general education college course offerings that are intentionally mapped out and to be taken during a student’s junior and senior year in high school, combined with one more year at an IECC school after graduation, which culminates into an associate’s degree or certificate. Again, this allows for significant savings and a seamless academic process. Additionally, our IECC dual credit programs create a strong relationship between our high schools and our IECC schools, leading to a smoother post-secondary transition.”

---

## ***DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS START THE YEAR WITH ORIENTATION***

---

High school students taking dual credit classes at Frontier Community College, Lincoln Trail College, Olney Central College, and Wabash Valley College will get the chance to prepare with dual credit orientations. LTC and OCC will host in-person sessions and there will also be a virtual session.

“Dual Credit Orientation is an introduction to what college classes are like,” says IECC Director of Dual Credit Erin Volk. “College classes are a change for high school students, and we want them to be prepared so they can be successful.”

IECC personnel who work with dual credit students will be in attendance during in-person orientations to present important information to the students and their parents and guardians.

“We want students to get prepared to start the year off right,” says IECC Director of Dual Credit Megan Black. “The dual credit orientation sessions will help students learn how to be successful, understand important details of dual credit, and get an opportunity to visit campus ahead of starting classes.”

The first Dual Credit Orientation takes place on August 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the Zwermann Arts Center Theater at Lincoln Trail College. Olney Central College will hold an in-person session on August 8 at 2:00 p.m. at the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center Theater. An online session will be available on-demand at [iecc.edu/dc](http://iecc.edu/dc) beginning on August 9.



## ORIENTATION KICKS OFF BACK-TO-COLLEGE EVENTS AT LTC



Lincoln Trail College is thrilled to announce its New Student Orientation, a comprehensive and engaging program designed to kick off the academic year with a warm welcome and essential information for incoming students.

The day will begin with a breakfast where new students will have the opportunity to meet their peers and start building connections. Following breakfast, LTC President Tona Ambrose and Dean Cyndi Boyce will extend a personal welcome to the new students, setting a positive tone for the day ahead.

Students will then embark on a tour of the campus, getting acquainted with their new environment and learning about the various resources available to them. The orientation will include valuable sessions on using Entrata, Canvas, and Getting Started, ensuring students are well-prepared for their academic journey.

Throughout the day, students will receive important information about key services and support systems at LTC, including TRIO, the Learning Commons, the Business Office, and Financial Aid. These sessions are designed to equip students with the knowledge they need to navigate college life successfully.

A highlight of the day will be a fun and social ice cream sundae event, where students can relax and continue getting to know one another in a casual setting. The orientation will conclude with a student panel, providing new students with practical advice and insights from current LTC students.

"We are excited to welcome our new students and provide them with all the tools they need to start their college experience on the right foot," said President Tona Ambrose. "Orientation is a crucial step in helping students feel connected and informed, and we look forward to a day of learning, exploration, and fun."

The day wraps up with another social event. New and returning students will enjoy a foam party in the LTC Visitor Parking Lot. The party will feature live music from a DJ, pool noodles, and lots of foam.

Fall Semester classes begin August 15.

## LTC ANNOUNCES 2024-25 PRODUCTIONS



Get ready for a thrilling celebration of the arts as Lincoln Trail College marks 50 years of captivating theater in 2025! The College is excited to announce its Fall and Spring productions, promising a season brimming with drama, excitement, and unforgettable performances.

The season opens with a spine-chilling classic, *Dracula*, set to cast its spell at the Zwermann Arts Center Theater on October 31 and November 1-3. In this timeless tale, Lucy Seward, whose father is the doctor in charge of an English sanatorium, has been attacked by some mysterious illness. Dr. Van Helsing, a specialist, believes that the girl is the victim of a vampire, a sort of ghost that goes about at night sucking blood from its victims. The vampire is at last found to be a certain Count Dracula, whose ghost is finally laid to rest in a striking and novel manner. The show does contain some frightening sequences that may not be suitable for all audience members. Parental discretion is advised.

Auditions for *Dracula* are August 22

and 23 at 6:00 p.m. at the Zwermann Arts Center Theater. Auditioners should prepare a 30-45-second monologue of their choice. The monologue should be similar to the character they are auditioning for, but not from the script. The monologue can be from theatre or film, but should not be sung as *Dracula* is not a musical. Additionally, auditioners should familiarize themselves with the sides for each role. Audition materials can be found online at <https://iecc.edu/ltc/student-life/arts-culture/auditions>.

As the season progresses, get ready to cut loose with the high-energy musical *Footloose*, hitting the stage April 4-6 and April 11-13. When Ren and his mother move from Chicago to a small farming town, he is prepared for the inevitable adjustment period at his new high school. But he's not prepared for the rigorous local edicts, including a ban on dancing instituted by the local preacher, who is determined to exercise control over the town's youth. When the reverend's rebellious daughter sets her sights on Ren, her roughneck boyfriend tries to sabotage Ren's reputation, with many of the locals eager to believe the worst about the new kid. The heartfelt story that emerges pins a father longing for the son he lost against a young man aching for the father who walked out on him. To the rockin' rhythm of its Oscar and Tony-nominated Top 40 score, augmented with dynamic new songs, *Footloose* celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people while guiding them with a warm heart and open mind.

Auditions for *Footloose* will take place on January 30 and 31.



## **JENA COMBS JOINS LTC AS MUSIC INSTRUCTOR**

---

Jena Combs has joined Lincoln Trail College as a Music/Instrumental Instructor and will lead the jazz band and pep band. She also teaches general education music classes, instrumental lessons, and classes geared toward music majors like music theory.

Combs earned an Associate in Science and Arts from Olney Central College in 2011 and then transferred to Eastern Illinois University. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Music with teacher's certification. Combs obtained a Master of Arts in Music with a concentration in Music Education from EIU in 2021.

Combs started her career in education as a paraprofessional in a special education classroom at Richland County Middle School. From there, she transitioned into her first teaching role as the district music teacher at Selmaville CCSD #10, where she taught K-8th grade general music, 5th-8th grade choir, and 4th-8th grade band. After one year, she moved to her hometown, Flora, Illinois, to become the Elementary Band Director at Flora CUSD #35. There, she taught 4th and 5th-grade beginning band for four years before taking on a high school position within the district. At Flora High School, she expanded the music program to include choir, drama, guitar/ukulele, rock band, and dual credit music appreciation. Jena served as the music director at Flora High School for three years before joining LTC.



Her passion for music education has led to several accolades. In 2021, Combs received the Illinois School Board of Education's Early Career Educator Award of Meritorious Service. In 2024, she was honored with the Eastern Illinois University Music Education Distinguished Alumni Award and named a Yamaha 40 Under 40 Educator. Her high school concert band was selected to perform at the 2024 Illinois Music Education Conference, where she also presented a session titled "Innovative Approaches to Secondary General Music Education: Starting and Sustaining Non-Traditional Classes."

A native of Flora, Combs has been involved in band since 4th grade and has known from an early age that she wanted to pursue a career in education. Although she briefly considered agriculture education, her passion for music ultimately guided her career path.

Outside of her professional life, Combs enjoys spending time with her family. Her husband, Eric, was a music educator before transitioning to his current role as an Instructional Designer for Hershey Corporate and works at the Robinson Hershey plant. The couple has three children, ages 2, 12, and 14, who are active in band, choir, and musicals. Her family shares her love for the outdoors, and they often spend their free time hiking, camping, and scuba diving. Combs also enjoys researching, learning, and reading.

## LTC ANNOUNCES FALL COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

---

Art, sign language, relationships, and serial killers highlight this fall's schedule of community education classes at Lincoln Trail College.

American Sign Language will be offered from 6-8 p.m. on September 5, 12, 19, and 26. Led by Tony Austin, this class is intended for beginners who want to learn sign language. Students will learn the foundations of American Sign Language from the alphabet and counting to days of the week, basic greetings, and everyday phrases. The cost for American Sign Language is \$45, and the registration deadline is September 2.

Effective communication and healthy boundaries are the cornerstones of a thriving relationship, and Communication and Boundaries in Romantic Relationships will help strengthen both. Marcia and Phil Thorsen will lead the lecture series which will explore the essential skills and strategies for fostering open, honest, and respectful dialogue between partners. It will delve into the importance of setting and maintaining personal boundaries to ensure mutual respect and understanding. By examining common challenges and providing practical tools, this lecture aims to help couples strengthen their connection, resolve conflicts, and create a more fulfilling and harmonious relationship. The lecture series takes place September 12 and 19 from 6-8 p.m. The cost for Communication and Boundaries in Romantic Relationships is \$40, and the registration deadline is September 7.



Led by Vickie Becker, Pastel Art takes place on October 2, 9, and 16 from 6-8 p.m. The class is designed for beginner to experienced artists and will let them use pastels to create their own artwork. The cost for Pastel Art is \$35, and the registration deadline is September 27.

The fall slate of community education classes will cap off with the popular Psychology of a Serial Killer lecture series on October 10 and 17 from 6-8 p.m. Marcia Thorsen leads the lectures, which delve into the complex and unsettling psychological makeup of serial killers. The lectures examine case studies and psychological theories to look at the motivations, thought processes, and behavioral patterns that characterize serial killers. Psychology of a Serial Killer costs \$40, and the registration deadline is October 7.

Lincoln Trail College's Community Education program is designed to provide a variety of classes to enrich and enhance lives of local community members. People interested in registering for a class can visit the Learning Commons or call 618-544-8657, ext. 1425.





## AUGUST ATHLETIC EVENTS

### Baseball

7	at Vincennes University	3:00
13	at PUMA Classic	TBD
20	Vincennes University (at SIU Carbondale)	9:00
	John Wood CC (at Mtn Dew Park)	2:30
24	Frontier CC (at SIU Edwardsville)	3:00
27	Lake Land College (at Lincoln Land CC)	10:00
	Olney Central (at U of I Springfield)	4:30

### Men's Soccer

3	at Rose Hulman JV	7:00
4	at St. Louis CC	4:00
14	Illinois Central College	3:30
21	Lewis & Clark CC	1:00
23	at Southwestern Illinois College	3:00
25	Parkland College	4:00
28	at Lewis & Clark CC	3:00
30	Heartland CC	3:00

### Volleyball

3	Southwestern Illinois College	6:30
4	at Southeastern Illinois College	6:30
9	Wabash Valley College	6:30
11	at Rend Lake College	6:30
13	at Vincennes University	6:00
16	John A. Logan College	6:30
23	at Lake Land College	6:30
26	at Rend Lake College	6:30
28	at Kaskaskia College	11:00
	at Shawnee Community College	1:00
30	Frontier Community College	6:30

## NJCAA HONORS 57 ATHLETES, 7 TEAMS



The NJCAA recognized 57 Lincoln Trail College student-athletes for their work in the classroom by naming them to their All-Academic Team. Seven LTC teams earned Academic Team of the Year honors.

The Men's Soccer team finished tied for second in the nation with a 3.61 GPA. The Volleyball team had a 3.69 GPA, the Softball team had a 3.56 GPA and the Women's Soccer team had a 3.54 GPA. The Golf team had a team GPA of 3.37, the Men's Basketball team had a 3.26, and the Baseball team had a 3.21.

There were 57 individual student-athletes named to NJCAA All-Academic teams. To earn first-team honors, student-athletes need a GPA of 4.0. Second-Team honors go to those with 3.8-3.99 GPA's and those with 3.6-3.79 GPA's earn Third-Team honors.

LTC had 26 student-athletes named to the NJCAA All-Academic First Team. They were: Guadalupe Amicone (Women's Soccer); Zoe Angot (Women's Soccer); Tomas Bascon (Men's Soccer); Caeden Bennett (Softball);

Antonio Bilancieri (Men's Soccer); Lydia Copenhaver (Softball); Bailey Duke (Softball); Erika Garrard (Volleyball); Isabella Granja (Women's Soccer); Ana Guedes (Women's Soccer); Leticia Guimaraes (Women's Soccer); Kylee Hosman (Volleyball); Macy Knight (Volleyball); Campbell McBride (Volleyball); Sara Mills (Women's Basketball); Chance Moscardelli (Baseball); Mateus Moura (Men's Soccer); Paul Osting (Baseball); Krista Phillips (Volleyball); Jackson Pittman (Baseball); Graycie Poe (Women's Basketball); Hannah Saucerman (Volleyball); Delainey Shorter (Softball); Gracie Stallings (Softball); Sean Stone (Baseball); Abigail Vaughn (Volleyball).

LTC student-athletes named to the NJCAA All-Academic Second Team were: Sergio Alvarez (Men's Soccer); Louison Beaumont (Men's Soccer); Devin Belle (Men's Basketball); Addison Braiser (Softball); Emily Cissell (Women's Basketball); Amin Garcia (Men's Soccer) Andrew Gilliam (Baseball); Owen Harpe (Golf); Autumn Kelly (Softball); Diego Olguin (Men's Soccer); Gonzalo Onrubia (Men's Soccer); Benjamin Pena (Men's Soccer); Eduarda Queiroz (Women's Soccer); Leonardo Sanches (Men's Soccer); Faith Shull (Volleyball); David Smothers (Golf); Yuly Torres (Women's Soccer).

LTC student-athletes named to the NJCAA All-Academic Third Team were: Vasco Bernardes (Men's Soccer); Kaitlyn Boerngen (Softball); Cole Bonds (Baseball); Kendal Edmonson (Softball); Whitney Garcia (Women's Soccer); Awa Jawara (Women's Basketball); Benjamin Meier (Baseball); Curtus Moak (Baseball); Kearsty Nielson (Women's Soccer); Kambry Price (Volleyball); Landon Radlein (Men's Basketball); Hayden Slate (Baseball); Aiden VanDeHatert (Baseball); Kaydence Woodsmall (Softball).



## HUTTENLOCKER TO INDIANA STATE



Lincoln Trail College is proud to announce that Caden Huttenlocker has committed to play basketball at Indiana State University.

Huttenlocker attributes much of his success to his time at Lincoln Trail and the guidance of Coach Cotten. "I will always be thankful to Lincoln Trail and Coach Cotten for giving me a platform and opportunity to continue chasing my dreams. The biggest challenge that Lincoln Trail has helped me face is just being able to persevere through hard times. I believe coming from a junior college will always keep me grateful for what I have in the future, since nothing was handed to me and it took a different path for me to get to where I will be."

The decision to join Indiana State University holds special significance for Huttenlocker. "I chose this school because it has been a dream school of mine while growing up in Indiana. Indiana State has a very historic program and I couldn't be more excited to be a part of it now. I expect a new level of hard work and struggles that I will be prepared for. Where I will do whatever I can to benefit the team and program."

Coach Cotten praised Huttenlocker's dedication and growth during his time at Lincoln Trail. "Caden is an everyday guy who was a pleasure to coach the last two years. To see his growth from his freshman to sophomore year is a testament to who he is as a person. During his sophomore year, he led our team in scoring and was by far our hardest worker. His toughness and competitive spirit have been the foundation for his success. Playing in Region 24 has prepared him for this opportunity, and he is ready for the challenge. Indiana State is getting a young man who has a huge desire to be the best basketball player he can be. I am excited to see his next chapter."

## MORILLO COMMITS TO UHV

Lincoln Trail College Baseball announces Derick Morillo has committed to the University of Houston-Victoria to continue his athletic and academic career.

During his time at Lincoln Trail, Derick faced and overcame significant challenges, demonstrating remarkable resilience and determination. Head Coach Collin Maynard praised Derick's journey, saying, "Derick made great strides during his time at LTC. He came in after a knee surgery and worked extremely hard to rehab and get back on the field. Once healthy, he continued that work ethic to get back to 100% with his fielding and hitting."



Derick's commitment to his recovery and development was evident in his performance and contributions to the team. Coach Maynard noted, "I believe that Derick's time at LTC has prepared him for success at UH Victoria both on and off the field."

Looking ahead, Coach Maynard expressed confidence in Derick's future at the University of Houston-Victoria. "I believe Derick has the opportunity to become an impact player at UH Victoria. I know he will continue the hard work and dedication that he showed during his time at LTC," he said.



# LTC IN PICTURES



Lincoln Trail College soccer players pose for a picture with high school soccer camp participants.



Lincoln Trail College soccer players also worked with younger students who participated in a soccer camp.



Lincoln Trail College faculty and staff members joined their peers from across IECC at the District's annual workshop.



Chris Forde talks with a group about the importance of branding. He also provided advice on making the most of social media.



Dean Cyndi Boyce explains the rules of a getting to know you trivia game featuring faculty and staff members.



Faculty and staff members use their best poker faces while others try to guess who they are based on trivia questions.



A group of faculty and staff members work together to try to identify their peers based on trivia questions at LTC's workshop.



A new plaque marks Rod Harmon's Tree on Lincoln Trail College's campus.