

The VOYAGER



OCTOBER 2024



MLT IN 2ND PLACE

The MLT program is currently in second place in a national competition.



TITLE III GRANT WRAPS UP

The Title III grant focused on establishing health careers pathways for students.



BOOK CHAT COMES TO FCC

Book Chat is no ordinary book club, incorporating fun with discussions.



IECC, MILLIKIN ENTER PARTNERSHIP

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC) and Millikin University have announced a new partnership designed to make earning a four-year degree more accessible, affordable, and achievable for students across the region. This agreement, outlined in a newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), establishes a clear pathway for IECC students to seamlessly transfer into Millikin's baccalaureate programs, saving students time and money while providing a high-quality education that prepares them for successful careers.

IECC's four colleges — Frontier Community College, Lincoln Trail College, Olney Central College, and Wabash Valley College — serve as exceptional starting points for students pursuing a four-year degree. With small class sizes, dedicated faculty, and a supportive environment, IECC provides students with the foundational coursework and skills needed to succeed at a four-year institution like Millikin.

"Starting your educational journey at IECC is not only a smart academic decision but also a financially savvy one," says IECC President Tona Ambrose, who oversees IECC's enrollment management processes. "Our partnership with Millikin University offers students the opportunity to earn a quality education at a fraction of the cost they would face if they began at a four-year

institution. Together, we're helping students reach their educational goals without breaking the bank."

Significant Savings for Students

One of the key benefits of this partnership is the potential for significant cost savings. By beginning their education at IECC and then transferring to Millikin, students can save thousands of dollars in tuition and fees.

"College affordability is a critical concern for many families today," said Ambrose, "With this agreement, students can reduce their overall educational expenses by

completing their first two years at IECC and then transferring to Millikin, where they can take advantage of our shared commitment to providing high-quality education at an affordable price."

This strategic approach allows students to complete their general education and foundational courses at IECC at a lower cost before transitioning to Millikin to finish their bachelor's degrees.

"As part of our Strategic Plan's commitment to 'The Millikin Difference,' we have pledged to expand access to Millikin's distinctive Performance Learning education through

new affordability initiatives," said Millikin President Dr. Jim Reynolds. "Last fall, we introduced the Millikin Tuition Promise and the Big Blue Pledge: Illinois Free Tuition Program to enhance transparency in our tuition rates and support Illinois students who face financial barriers to higher education. These programs are designed to make a Millikin education accessible to more students by removing actual and perceived obstacles while advancing our mission to prepare students for professional success, democratic citizenship, and meaningful personal life."

"This partnership strengthens our shared commitment to preparing students for success in their chosen fields, whether in the health professions, the arts, or beyond."

A Timely Partnership in a Changing Educational Landscape

This partnership comes at a pivotal moment in higher education, as colleges and universities nationwide are seeking new ways to address shifting demographic, social, and economic trends. With declining high school graduation rates and an evolving job market, four-year institutions are increasingly eager to develop pipelines

and transfer agreements with community colleges to ensure they remain accessible and attractive to prospective students.

"IECC is thrilled to partner with Millikin University to provide students with a seamless transition to earning their bachelor's degrees," said Dr. Ryan Gower, Chancellor of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. "In today's educational landscape, collaborations like ours are

more important than ever. We are committed to creating pathways that make higher education more attainable and responsive to the needs of our students." Specifically, the MOU provides for guaranteed admission for IECC students who apply to Millikin, guaranteed transfer of IECC credits, and a two-year (four semester) timeline to earning their bachelor's degree upon transfer.

The agreement covered 19 programs of study, including Art, Business Communication, Elementary Education, Sports & Recreation Management, Criminal Justice, History, Political Science, and Theater & Performance Studies.

Shared Values and Commitment to Student Success

IECC and Millikin share many core values, making this partnership a natural fit. Both institutions are known for their student-centered approaches to teaching and learning, strong emphasis on health professions, performing arts, and intercollegiate athletics.

“Our institutions are alike in many ways—we’re both small to mid-sized, and we pride ourselves on offering personalized education experiences that put students first,” added Dr. Jay Edgren, IECC Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. “This partnership strengthens our shared commitment to preparing students for success in their chosen fields, whether in the health professions, the arts, or beyond.”

“This partnership between Illinois Eastern Community Colleges and Millikin University reflects our shared dedication to student success,” said Jodi Silotto, Vice President

of Enrollment, Marketing, and Communications at Millikin. “By joining forces, we’re creating a streamlined, affordable pathway that enhances access to higher education, which is essential to helping students achieve their educational and career goals.”

Additionally, Millikin’s recent changes to its tuition and fee structure underscore its dedication to making a high-quality education accessible to all students, including those transferring from IECC.

“This is a wonderful partnership that truly reflects our shared values,” said Dr. Gower. “Millikin’s commitment to keeping education affordable aligns perfectly with our mission at IECC, and together, we’re ensuring that students have a clear and supportive path to achieving their academic and career goals.”





MLT HOLDING 2ND IN CELL BOWL

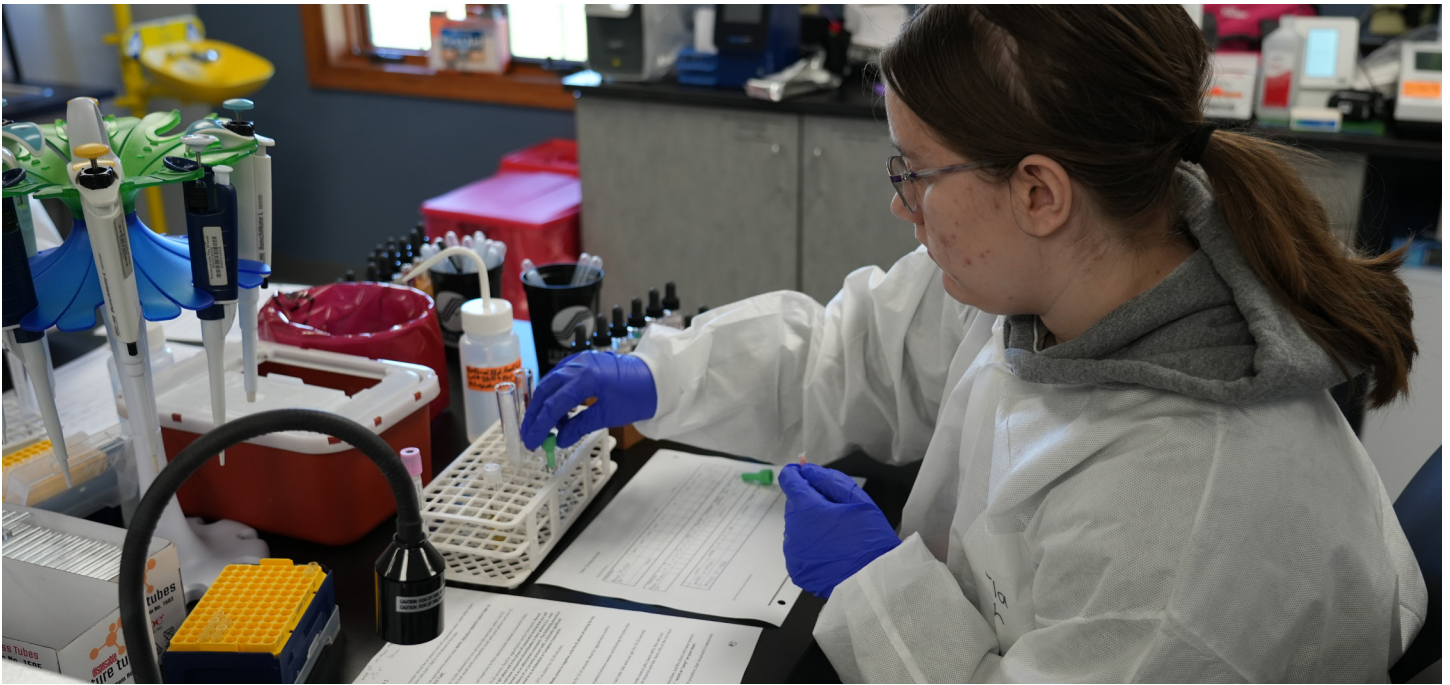
Second-year students in the Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program at Frontier Community College are competing in this year's Cell Bowl.

After the first week, Frontier is leading the West Region with a perfect score and a time of 0.47 seconds. Nationally, Frontier holds second place, trailing the University of Connecticut by just one second. During the first week, MLT and Medical Lab Scientist (MLS) students were tasked with identifying 30 blood cells in under one minute.

This year's Cell Bowl features 36 teams from 26 states. Of these, 14 are MLT teams, 20 are MLS teams, and two teams consist of both MLS and MLT students. Frontier competes in the West Division, which includes 10 teams from 8 states, while the East Division has 26 teams from 18 states.

Throughout the first three weeks, scores are averaged, and the top three teams from each region advance to week four. In week four, the top two teams from each region move on to the semi-finals. Week five will determine the finalists, with the top two programs advancing to the Super Cell Bowl. The Super Cell Bowl, held in week six, will crown the overall Champion.

State	School	Program Type	Time
1. CT	University of Connecticut	MLS Program only	46
2. IL	Frontier Community College	MLT Program only	47
3. DE	Delaware Technical Community College	MLT Program only	49
4. NJ	Mercer County Community College	MLT Program only	50
5. NC	Western Piedmont Community College	MLT Program only	51
5. WI	Moraine Park Technical College	MLT Program only	51
6. WI	Marquette University	MLS Program only	52
7. DC	George Washington University	MLS Program only	53
8. IL	University of Illinois Springfield	MLS Program only	57
8. PA	AHN Saint Vincent School of MLS	MLS Program only	57
9. MO	Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City	MLS Program only	58
10. IN	Ivy Tech Community College	MLT Program only	59



TITLE III GRANT CONCLUDES

The Title III grant program at Frontier Community College entitled “Promoting Health Science Pathways” has now come to an end. The ultimate goal of the grant was to open up new careers within the medical field to students encumbered by employment and family obligations, allowing them to attend classes in a hybrid format.

The grant funded the development of a new Medical Laboratory Technology Program at FCC including a state-of-the-art medical laboratory. Two additional labs in Mason Hall were refurbished. Once established, the new MLT Program was converted to a hybrid format with faculty and staff being trained in best practices in online education and supported with new education technology. A Faculty Recording Studio was developed to assist instructors

in the creation of high-quality online educational content.

To further support the hybrid health science programs, the grant funded the development of expanded online student services including online tutoring, an online student orientation program with a virtual tour and financial literacy course, online degree mapping, and an early alert program.

The results have been phenomenal. Students are now able to study to become Medical Laboratory Technicians, Certified Medical Assistants, Certified Nursing Assistants, and Phlebotomists with reduced seat time on campus, allowing them to do so while still fulfilling their commitments to employment and family. The MLT Program continues to grow each year and in this Fall 2024 Semester boasts an enrollment of 19. The Program is supported by well-

equipped laboratories and dedicated and passionate Instructors. The gains provided by the Title III Grant will have a broad effect on the district as a whole, as IECC enjoys the resources made available by grant funding.

The Title III Team wishes to thank everyone who helped make the grant so immensely successful. FCC faculty implemented new methods and technologies to build quality and to create a system of continual improvement. Institutional Research, District Office staff, and the FCC Advising staff have been faithful to providing data required by our accountability partners as well as advice and direction. Our Internal Monitoring Team provided much guidance and assistance throughout the grant performance. Of course, the Team would also thank the U.S. Department of Education for its generous funding.

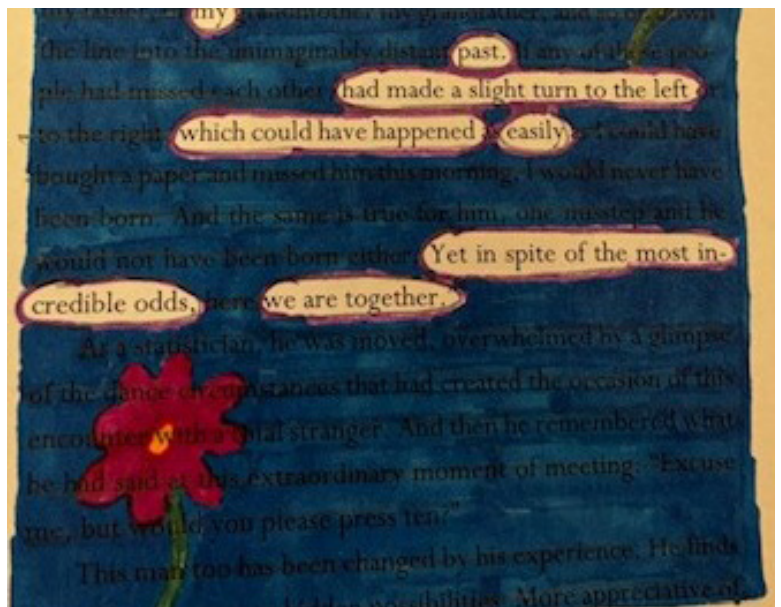
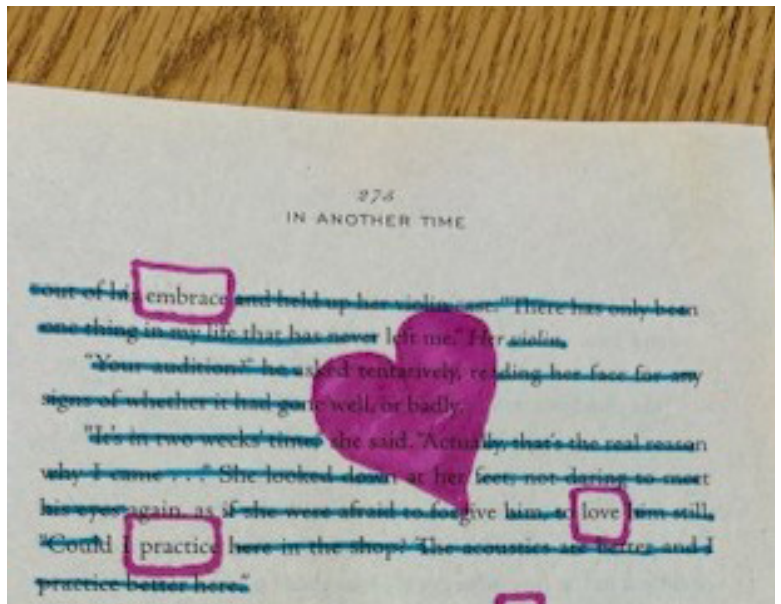
NOT YOUR ORDINARY BOOK CLUB

Lori Noe, Director of Learning Commons, is piloting a new activity this semester for students based on feedback from last year. "Book Chat" meets every other week in the library for book reviews, discussions, games, or anything related to books.

"It is not a Book Club in the traditional sense" states Lori, "because we do not all read the same book at the same time. We come together to share our love of all things book-related, and to learn from one another."

One week the group focused on BookTok trends and their influence on their reading choices. Another time the group discussed cover art. Last week they tried their hand at "blackout poetry" – the process of focusing on words in an existing piece of writing to create a poem (see examples below).

"I'm thrilled to host these student events. My role is to facilitate the discussion or activity, and the students are quick to join in" states Lori. She plans to continue the Book Chat gathering into next semester and to end the year with a trip to a local independent bookstore.





ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

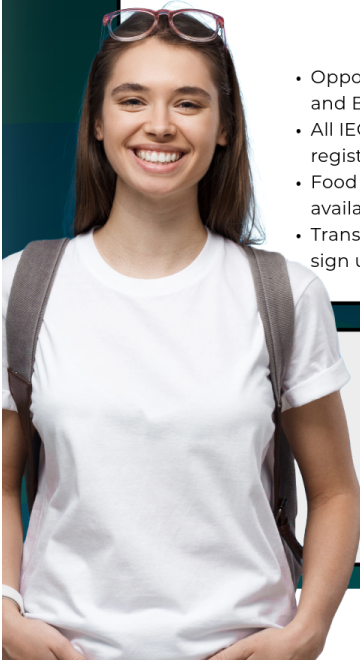
College & Career Fair 2024

- Opportunities to connect with over 45 Universities and Businesses!
- All IECC and High School students attending will be registered for a chance to win a Nintendo Switch
- Food trucks by Beer Bones BBQ & Lit Bit of Asia available for purchase
- Transportation is available from each IECC campus; sign up in Student Services for transportation



scan QR code to register

For More Information, Contact: Cassandra Goldman
IECC Dean of Students
goldmanc@iecc.edu or
618-262-8641 ext. 3510



FRI, OCT 18 | 9AM-1PM

Wabash Valley College
2200 College Drive, Mount Carmel, IL 62863



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Ill. Prizes-Governor



ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY



IECC
Adult Education

FRONTIER COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS INVITED TO IECC COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR

Frontier Community College students will have an exciting opportunity to explore college and career options at the annual Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC) College and Career Fair, hosted this year by Wabash Valley College. The event is scheduled for October 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To make the event more accessible, FCC is providing transportation for its students. Dean of Students Cassandra Goldman has confirmed that Derek Dunn will accompany the students to Wabash Valley College for the fair.

The event will feature representatives from over 45 colleges, universities, and employers from across the tri-state area, offering students the chance to explore transfer pathways and career opportunities. "This fair is a fantastic opportunity for students to network, discuss potential jobs, and start building their career plans," said Goldman.

In addition to IECC students, local high school students have been invited to attend, expanding the networking possibilities for everyone involved.

Students attending the event will also have the chance to win a Nintendo Switch. Food trucks will be available, offering a variety of options for purchase throughout the day.

Fran Carter

Memorial Scholarship

Carnaby Square FASHION SHOW

November 3, 2024

2:30 p.m.

Doors: 2:00 p.m.

First Christian Church

Fairfield, IL

Reserved Seating:

Table of 8 - \$100

Individual - \$15

*All proceeds to benefit
Fran Carter Memorial Scholarship*



FRONTIER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

Carnaby Square
Fashion Boutique

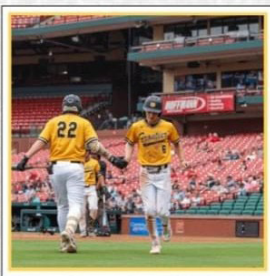




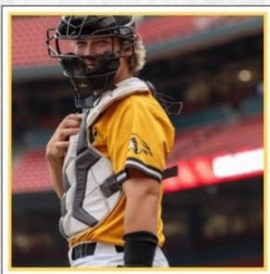
October 12th, 2024

Bobcat Baseball Fun Fest

Frontier Baseball will be hosting a Black vs Gold intersquad scrimmage. There will be activities for the kids. Ages 6-12 will be invited onto the field to watch batting practice, run the bases, and play catch with a Bobcat baseball player before the game! Show up in gold or black and support your Bobcats!



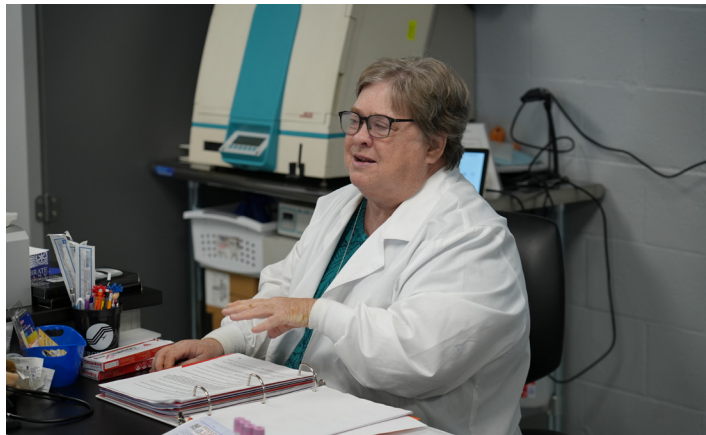
We will be having a 50/50 raffle! The winner will be announced after the 5th inning. Concession stand will be open during the game, along with BobcatNation shirts available for purchase. Donations will be accepted for "Feeding Kids of Wayne County".



Itinerary:

- 11:20-12:10: Batting practice, meet players, and autographs!
- 12:10-12:20: Kids run the bases
- 12:20-12:30: Play catch with a Bobcat player
- 1:00pm First pitch

FCC IN PICTURES



1 Frontier Community College Electrical Distribution Systems students gain hands-on experience working aloft

3 Humanities Instructor Catherine Singleton talks about the latest news with her students.

5 Keyonte listens attentively to a song in music class.

2 Jule DeHart covers some concepts with her students.

4 Alek stays focused during an ethics class lecture.

6 Laela balances volleyball and academics while studying in the Learning Commons.