



September 2024

The VOYAGER

The Frontier Community College Newsletter

New Student Orientation Welcomes the Next Group of Bobcats



AUGUST 13 • 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

On Tuesday, August 13th, FCC hosted incoming students for New Student Orientation (NSO). The day started with students gathering in the Workforce Development Center for registration, breakfast, and a chance to introduce themselves to other new students.

The students were given an overview of NSO from Director of Learning Commons Lori Noe, and watched Title IX and Timely Care videos, before splitting into groups to begin their campus tours.

Students were split into four groups and made their way around campus to various presentations, where they learned about Student Services, Academic Support, Entrata/Canvas, and what all is offered at the Bobcat Den.

During the tour, as they made their way from one presentation to the next, the guides would point out classrooms, lounges, and other areas of student interest while answering any questions they may have.

Upcoming Events

September

17 Constitution Observance Day.
Classes in Session.

October

9 Midterm

14 Campus Closed.
Columbus Day

Bobcat Den Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30AM - 4:30PM

New Student Orientation Welcomes the Next Group of Bobcats cont.

Feedback from prior orientations had shown that students feel more comfortable starting the school year with a more in-depth knowledge of where their classes, labs, and resources are and preferred seeing them all in person rather than on a map or walking around on their own.

Having a “tour style” orientation allowed the groups to stay on track to get to their assigned areas while also getting more comfortable on campus and becoming more informed through their guide.

At the conclusion of NSO, each student was asked to fill out a survey containing questions about their experience and provided an opportunity to give feedback. The NSO committee will look at the results to continue their effort to provide the most informative, enjoyable orientation moving forward.

Greeting Future Bocats



A Group of Bobcats Greeting New Hope Students

College Admission Representative Carrie Halbert and FCC students often visit local schools on Fridays for “High Five Friday”. Most recently, they visited New Hope School and greeted the young students as they entered the building. From hosting kids’ classes in the summer to visiting schools during the year, FCC faculty, staff, and students all continuously make an effort to strengthen the relationship with the community while providing a fun way for the children to learn, meet some of the FCC students, and possibly get a glimpse into their future as Bobcats.

Mental Health Initiatives at IECC

Mental Health Specialist Holly O'Brien has led the charge to provide students with an increasing amount of mental health resources as a new academic year is underway.

O'Brien recently hired multiple peer support leaders, including two at FCC, to serve as a resource for their fellow classmates.

The peer support leaders are current students who will be in the Learning Commons during designated days and times, where students can stop by if they need guidance or just want to chat.

Additionally, an active minds group has been formed to promote mental health awareness and promote student success at FCC.

O'Brien is hoping the initiatives make an impact throughout the district, addressing a growing issue.

"Statistics show at least 39% of students in college experience a mental health issue and one in five adults have a diagnosable mental illness. Mental health is an important piece to a student's success in college and in life. Mental health support at IECC will foster success of all students. Mental health support on campus will break down barriers for students needing help and make it more convenient and accessible. The hope is to also decrease the stigma often associated with seeking help for mental health challenges," said O'Brien.

FCC Faculty and Staff Workshop

On Thursday, August 8th, FCC faculty and staff gathered for a workshop before the beginning of another academic year.

The first portion of the day was designated for faculty, as updates were given by CAO Paul Bruinsma, Director of CETL Michael Conn, English Instructor Kim Wellen, and Title III Project Director Morris Nead.



FCC Faculty and Staff

Following the faculty session, the FCC staff and administration joined for the annual campus "family" photo (see above). We regrouped at Bob Boyles Hall for campus and Academic Affairs updates provided by President Edgren. Other presenters included Sharmila Kakac, Rodney Ranes, Lori Noe, Paul Bruinsma, and Jordie Higgason.

Title III Update

It was with great sadness the Title III Team received the resignation of Jennifer England at Program Director and Adjunct Instructor of the Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program. England first became the MLT Program Director in December of 2019. She worked tirelessly to help establish the program, writing curricula and syllabi, along with the student handbook, and obtained initial approval from the Illinois Community College Board and the Higher Learning Commission and forged new relationships with area hospitals and clinical sites needed for student clinical experience.

England also assisted in the planning, development, and final construction of the new MLT lab, researching equipment and supplies needed to set up the new lab, and the legwork which ultimately led to the accreditation of the program by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

England has accepted a position with the University of Illinois-Springfield where she will be a full-time professor in their Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) program, teaching Immunology, Laboratory Operations, Clinical Chemistry, and Forensics. She will also be working to convert their MLS program to a fully online format. The Title III team thanks her for the time and commitment she put towards the success of the MLT program and wish her well in her new adventure.

Business & Industry Update

B&I will be hosting a career fair on October 18th at Wabash Valley College. The event was organized in partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), and Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA) 23 and 26. This event is directed at students and job seekers to connect with local employers, explore career opportunities, and gain valuable insights into the current job market.

On October 17th, the Small Business Development Center and B&I will be hosting an employer workshop at the Terry L. Bruce West Richland Center. The workshop is designed to help employers understand the latest workforce trends and laws, network with peers, and learn strategies for talent acquisition and retention in today's evolving market.

A new Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class will be starting at Mt. Carmel on September 17th. This class is in partnership with Wabash General Hospital.

New training contracts were signed with Elastec and the City of Mt. Carmel for various services, including safety policy training, on-boarding videos, forklift training, blueprint reading, and OSHA-10 classes.