

# VIEW FROM THE VALLEY

VOLUME 20- ISSUE 4 | MAGAZINE

- 
- TRUNK OR TREAT
  - WVC TURNS 65
  - AG DAY
  - AND MORE!

NOVEMBER 2025

"Keep your face  
always toward the  
**sunshine**—and  
shadows will fall  
behind you."

WALT WHITMAN



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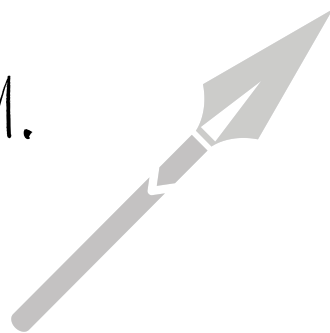
# EDITOR'S NOTE

As we move into November, it's the perfect time to pause and reflect on what we're thankful for here at Wabash Valley College. From the hard work of our students and faculty to the ongoing support of our community and alumni, there's so much that makes WVC a special place to learn, grow, and belong.

In this issue of View From the Valley, we highlight stories that capture that spirit—students finding their passions, faculty inspiring others, and events that bring our campus and community together. Each story is a reminder of the Warrior Way: working hard, helping others, and celebrating success together.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we hope you take a moment to reflect on the people and opportunities that make your own journey meaningful.

*Quianna M.*





# STUDENTS FLIP FOR PANCAKE NIGHT AT THE GRILL

Wabash Valley College students traded their late-night study snacks for syrup and smiles during Pancakes for Breakfast Night at the Warrior Grill. The special event gave students a chance to relax, enjoy a warm meal, and connect with friends.

Campus staff served up stacks of fluffy pancakes along with breakfast favorites, filling the Warrior Grill with laughter and the smell of maple syrup. For many students, the event was a welcome break and a reminder of the supportive campus community that defines WVC.

"Events like this are such a great way to bring everyone together," one student said. "It makes campus feel like home."

With full plates and full hearts, students left Pancake Night ready to finish the semester strong—the true Warrior Way. 🔥





# TRUNK OR TREAT SERVES THE COMMUNITY

Wabash Valley College once again welcomed families from across the community for its annual Trunk or Treat event on campus. The parking lot near the Bookstore, Lounge, and Café came alive with decorated car trunks, creative costumes, and plenty of Halloween spirit.

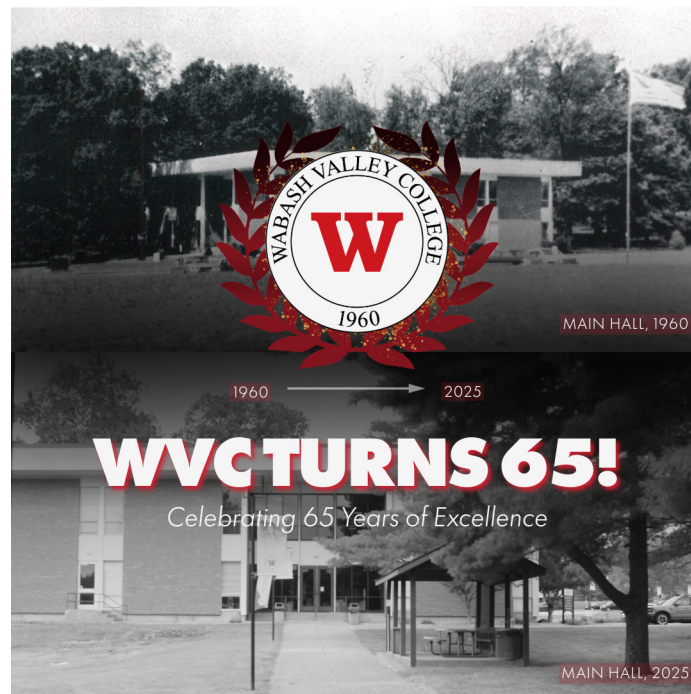
Students, staff, and campus organizations handed out candy and treats to local children, while the WVC Student Senate helped organize the lineup and flow of traffic. Even the Small World Preschool students joined in the fun earlier in the day, trick-or-treating across campus and visiting various departments in costume.

As the sun set, families enjoyed a safe, festive evening filled with laughter, community, and creativity. The event continues to be one of WVC's favorite fall traditions—bringing together students and the community in a true celebration of the Warrior Way. 🍁





# WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE CELEBRATES 65 YEARS OF IMPACT



On December 10, Wabash Valley College will celebrate a remarkable milestone—65 years of education, opportunity, and community connection. Since its founding in 1960, WVC has been a cornerstone of higher education in the region, empowering generations of students to achieve their goals close to home.

To mark this special occasion, the WVC Foundation is launching the “\$65 for 65” campaign, inviting alumni, community members, and friends of the college to help continue that legacy. The idea is simple: give \$65 in honor of WVC’s 65th anniversary—or any amount that fits your budget—and make a direct impact on students’ lives.

“Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference,” said a Foundation representative. “Your donation supports scholarships, program development, and campus improvements that help our students and community thrive.”

Funds raised through the WVC Foundation are used to:  
Provide scholarships that make college more affordable

for students.

Support academic programs with new technology, classroom materials, and learning experiences.

Enhance campus life through facility upgrades and student engagement opportunities.

All donations to the WVC Foundation are tax deductible, meaning your generosity not only supports local education but may also benefit you at tax time.

Over the past six and a half decades, Wabash Valley College has grown from a small community institution into a dynamic part of the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC) system, serving thousands of students each year. The “\$65 for 65” campaign is a celebration of that progress—and an investment in the next generation of Warriors.

To join the celebration or make your contribution, visit [iecc.edu/wvcfoundation](http://iecc.edu/wvcfoundation) and be part of WVC’s next 65 years of success. 🍁

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



For Wabash Valley College student Noah Alka, creativity takes center stage—whether he’s behind a microphone, on stage in a musical, or preparing to sing the national anthem at graduation.

A lifelong resident of Mt. Carmel, Noah has found a second home at WVC. Thanks to both music and archery scholarships, he’s been able to pursue his education nearly tuition-free. “It’s an amazing deal,” Noah said. “Especially since I get to study exactly what I want—the Radio and TV program. It was too good to pass up.”

Noah’s connection to the arts runs deep. He was the first recipient of WVC’s new Music Scholarship, awarded last year after his high school graduation. Since then, he’s become a familiar face in the college’s music and theater departments, assisting with productions and performances throughout the year.

“I help out with whatever’s needed,” he explained. “I’ve worked the tech booth for visiting bluegrass bands and helped with the musical productions. It’s a great experience.”

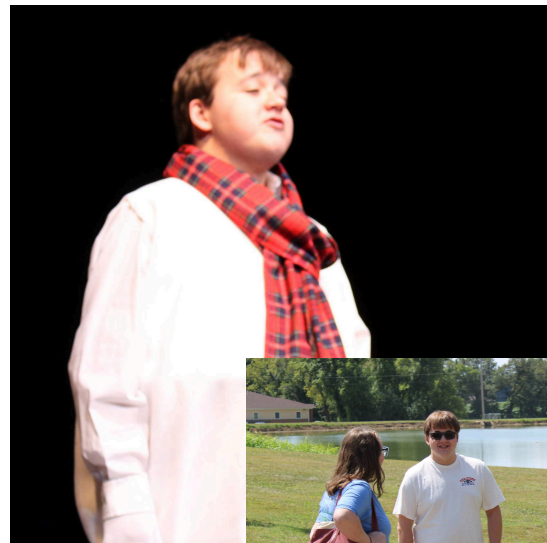
His stage credits last year include “Rudolph Jr.,” where he played Sam the Snowman—the show’s warm and witty narrator—and “Matilda,” where he returned to his love of dance. “I didn’t get to dance much in high school,” he said. “So being in Matilda was a blast. I met a bunch of really cool people and got back on the horse.”

While Noah describes himself primarily as a vocalist, his enthusiasm for performing in all its forms is clear. That passion took the spotlight once again when he performed the Star-Spangled Banner at WVC’s 2025 commencement ceremony.

“It’s a huge honor to be chosen,” he said. “There’s a lot of trust that comes with singing something that important in front of everyone. I just want to do it justice.”

Looking ahead, Noah plans to complete a Radio and TV internship this summer—a required step toward his degree—and explore new opportunities in voice acting. He recently joined an online platform for auditioning and is eager to gain experience in the field. “Voice acting is what I’d really like to do after I graduate,” he shared. “I’m trying to get in on the ground floor while I have time.”

Whether it’s on stage, on air, or behind a microphone, Noah Alka’s voice is one that Wabash Valley College is proud to help amplify. 🎤

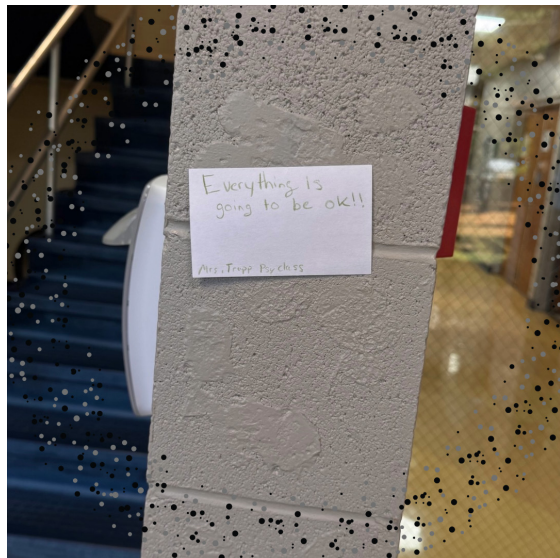




# SPREADING POSITIVITY, ONE NOTE AT A TIME

Sometimes, the smallest gestures can have the biggest impact. That's the idea behind a special project in Wabash Valley College's Human and Behavioral Health Psychology classes, led by instructor Danielle Trapp.

Each semester, Trapp's students take part in Positive Affirmation Day—a simple yet meaningful activity that encourages kindness across campus. Students decorate six notecards with uplifting messages and place them around WVC for others to find. The notes, marked as part of "Mrs. Trapp's Psychology Course," can be spotted on bulletin boards, tables, and even tucked into office spaces.



The tradition began last year after Trapp's class had a series of deep and sometimes difficult discussions. "I thought we needed to just have a positive day," she explained. "It's a chance to remind everyone that they matter and that even small acts of kindness can go a long way."

The message certainly resonated. During this year's activity, Trapp received a phone call from a UPS

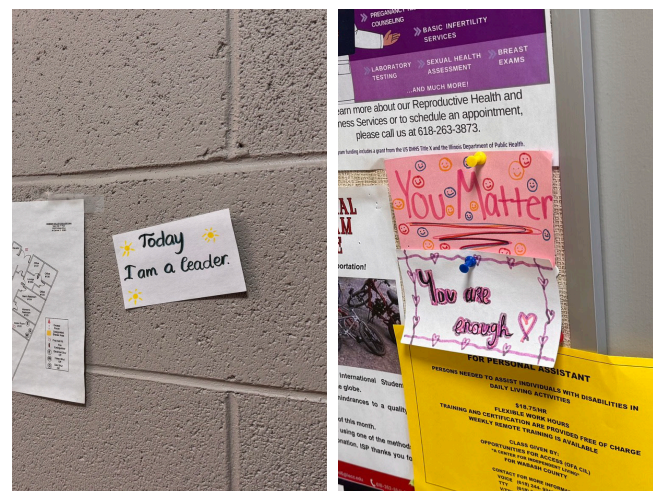
delivery driver who had found one of the notes. "He said he really appreciated it," she shared. "He wasn't sure what it was at first, but once I explained the assignment, he said it truly made his day."

That moment helped her class understand the real-world impact of their project. "We never know what's going on in someone's life," Trapp told her students. "Something as simple as a positive phrase can change someone's entire day."

The assignment, repeated each fall, ties directly into classroom discussions about mental health awareness and the importance of compassion. Students say the project helps them see how psychology applies beyond textbooks—into everyday life.

Anyone on campus is welcome to join in spreading positivity. Trapp keeps colored pencils, notecards, and positive affirmation sheets in her classroom for anyone who wants to participate.

As one student noted, "It's such a small thing, but it really reminds people that they're not alone—and that's what matters most." 🌟



# WVC WELCOMES STUDENTS FOR DIESEL DAY

Wabash Valley College recently hosted Diesel Day, welcoming more than 150 students from 19 regional high schools to campus. The event gave visitors an inside look at what it's like to train and work in the fast-paced world of Diesel Technology.

Participants toured the college's state-of-the-art facilities, met with instructors and current students, and explored hands-on demonstrations that highlighted real-world diesel careers.

A big thank you goes out to all the students, faculty, and guests who helped make the day a success and showcased the opportunities available through WVC's Diesel Technology program. 🇺🇸





# UPCOMING EVENTS



*Mark Your Calendars!*

## November 11, 2025

- Campus Closed - Veteran's Day

## November 14, 2025

- FAFSA Friday

## November 18, 2025

- PTA Info Session

## November 26, 2025

- Last Day to Withdraw from Fall Classes

## November 27-28, 2025

- Campus Closed - Thanksgiving Break

## December 12, 2025

- Last Day of Fall Classes

Wabash Valley College and the Wabash Valley Arts Council present



The Community Theatre Production  
Charles Dickens'  
**A Christmas Carol**  
By John Jakes  
Directed by Mikayla Beck

**November 20, 21 & 23, various times**  
Brubeck Arts Center, Wabash Valley College - Mt Carmel, IL  
Contact Donna: (618) 263-5164 or siglerd@iecc.edu  
[iecc.edu/wvc](http://iecc.edu/wvc)

**Tickets are \$13.00/\$5 Children**  
- Patron Passes will be honored -

This performance is being funded, in part, by a grant from the  
WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE FOUNDATION KOGER FUND FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
AND THE ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL



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# VIEW FROM THE VALLEY



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