

# NETWORK



JANUARY 2026



## HIGHLIGHTS



Broadband Telecom program receive donation of equipment through alumnus.



LTC volunteers offering merit badge sessions as Scout Day returns to campus.



High school jazz musicians from the area coming to LTC for IECC Jazz Fest.

## WELDING RETURNS WITH STRONG SUPPORT

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elding is back at Lincoln Trail College, and early momentum shows the program's return is being met with enthusiasm from students, industry partners and the community.

January 8's Welding Open House at the Red McCoy Welding Center drew strong attendance, giving prospective students an opportunity to tour the welding lab, meet instructors, learn about career pathways and receive help enrolling for Spring Semester classes. The event marked an important step in rebuilding the program after welding courses were paused during the fall semester.

"The response to the open house was incredibly encouraging," said LTC President Tona Ambrose. "It showed us that there is real interest in welding and real excitement about what this program can be. Welding is an essential career field for our region, and we're committed to offering strong, hands-on training for our students."

Leading the relaunch of the program are LTC welding instructors Will Bookhout, Kenneth Pierson and Dennis York.

## UPCOMING FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 2-13 **Children's Art Show**  
Learning Commons
- 3 **Health & Wellness Coach Virtual Information Session**  
5:30 p.m., Zoom
- Children's Art Show Reception**  
6 p.m., Learning Commons
- 10 **Nursing Information Session**  
2 p.m., Williams Hall 110
- LTC Jazz Festival**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 12 **LTC Foundation Concert Series: Terry Lee Ridley**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 16 **CAMPUS CLOSED - Presidents Day**
- 24 **Future Educators Summit**  
9 a.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 25 **Eagleton Reading Circle**  
6 p.m., Learning Commons
- 26 **Lincoln Trail College Foundation Meeting**  
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
- Virtual Nursing Information Session**  
2 p.m., Zoom

and, most importantly, helps our students graduate better prepared for the workforce."

The cooperative approach also supports students who may take classes or interact with instructors across campuses. By aligning expectations and instruction, LTC and OCC are working to ensure a seamless experience for welding students throughout the district.

The return of welding at LTC also aligns with the college's long-term vision for career and technical education. Plans for the new Career and Technical Training Center underscore the institution's commitment to modern, workforce-focused programs. The facility will support updated equipment and training environments designed to mirror real-world job settings.

"The Career and Technical Training Center represents our investment in the future," Ambrose said. "We're not just bringing welding back, we're building it the right way. This facility will allow us to train students using industry-relevant equipment in spaces designed specifically for technical education."

For students, welding offers a direct pathway to high-demand careers in manufacturing, construction and skilled trades. During the open house, attendees learned about job opportunities, wages and

They were joined at the open house by Maverick Fisher, a welding instructor from Olney Central College, highlighting an intentional partnership between the two colleges.

That collaboration between Lincoln Trail College and Olney Central College is a cornerstone of the welding program's future. Faculty from both campuses are working together to align curriculum, share instructional strategies and ensure students receive consistent, high-quality training that meets industry standards.

"Welding is a highly technical field, and it's important that our programs are aligned and responsive to workforce needs," Ambrose said. "By working together across campuses, our instructors can share expertise and make sure students at both locations are learning the skills employers expect."

The partnership allows instructors to collaborate on best practices, safety standards and emerging techniques, helping both programs remain current in a rapidly evolving industry. It also strengthens the overall welding pathway within Illinois Eastern Community Colleges by creating a more unified approach to instruction and student outcomes.

"This collaboration benefits everyone involved," Ambrose said. "It strengthens our programs, supports our instructors



Welding Instructors Dennis York, Kenneth Pierson, Maverick Fisher, and Will Bookhout.



Dr. Cathy Robb and Tona Ambrose talk with representatives from Evapco about industry partnerships.

at the open house is just the beginning.

"This is an exciting time for welding at LTC," Ambrose said. "We're building momentum, rebuilding trust in the program and creating opportunities that will benefit students and our community for years to come."

## **DONATION STRENGTHENS HANDS-ON TRAINING IN BROADBAND TELECOM**

Lincoln Trail College's Broadband Telecom program has received a significant equipment donation from Metro Communications, made possible through program alumnus Collin Alger, a 2025 graduate now employed by the company. The contribution provides critical Outside Plant Construction tools that will expand hands-on learning opportunities and strengthen workforce preparation for future students.

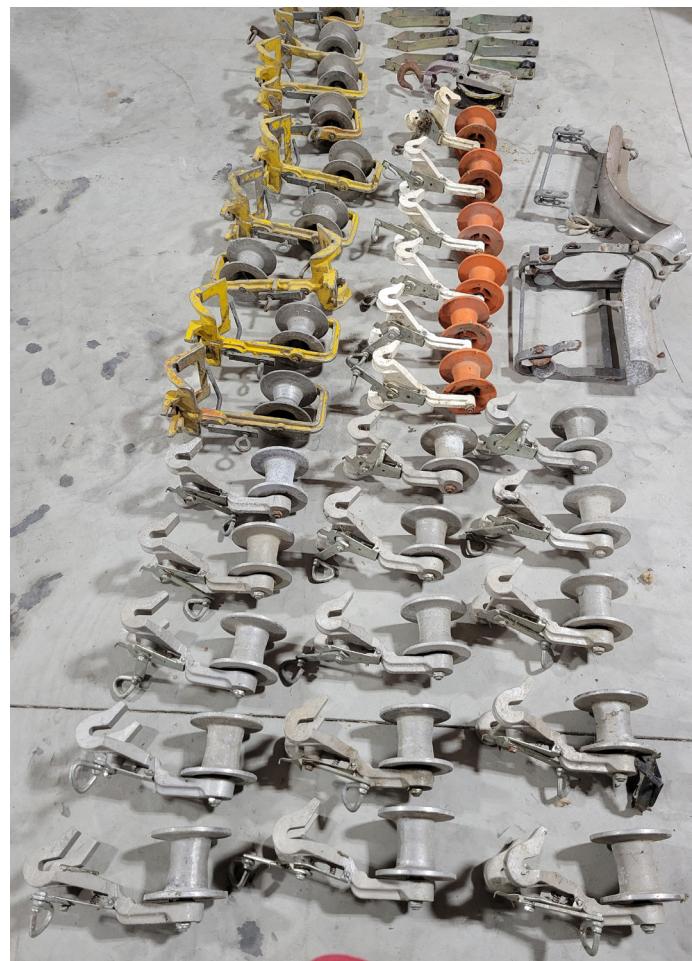
The donated equipment includes cable rollers, cable blocks and over-lash guides used to cradle fiber and copper cables during aerial installation on pole lines. The tools hold cable in place and prevent damage before it is permanently lashed to supporting strand lines — a key process in building and maintaining broadband infrastructure.

"The Broadband Telecom program focuses on three vital career paths: IT and Networking, Combination Technician, and Outside Plant Operations," said Dennis York, lead instructor of LTC's Broadband Telecom program. "This donated equipment is essential for setting aerial cable on pole spans. It allows students to train with the same tools they'll use in the field while preventing damage to cable during installation."

the role welding plays in regional industries, while also seeing firsthand the hands-on nature of the training.

"Our goal is to prepare students to walk into the workforce with confidence," Ambrose said. "Welding is a skill that opens doors, and we want our students to graduate ready to succeed on day one."

With renewed interest, collaborative instruction and a forward-looking investment in facilities, Lincoln Trail College is positioning its welding program for long-term success. College officials say the strong turnout



Prior to the donation, the program had only a limited number of light-duty rollers, restricting the distance and cable weight students could work with during lab exercises. The new equipment will allow heavier cable installations and longer pole spans, expanding the realism and depth of hands-on training.

York said training that mirrors real-world conditions is critical in an industry where safety and precision are essential.

"Once students graduate, they are leaving with skills and knowledge of Outside Plant Construction because we require them to complete real career duties before they leave," York said. "Training in class as the work applies to the career field is essential. This profession involves dangerous situations, and improperly trained technicians can be injured. Hands-on preparation is vital."

The donation came through Alger, whose career success now comes full circle back to the program where he began.

"Having an alum reach out with a donation means something special," York said. "They began a career and can now give back to it. In part, they've helped prepare future alumni for their careers. It humbles me knowing they are now the new generation of technicians connecting America."

York also credited Metro Communications for its continued partnership with the program.

"Partner companies like Metro Communications believe in this program and return every year seeking our graduates," he said. "Their support shows they recognize LTC is producing skilled, motivated employees. It also strengthens industry partnerships that keep our curriculum current."

As alumni continue to return with support, York said it reflects both community investment and pride.

"It's humbling and a huge sense of pride seeing our alumni succeed, bring vital services to their communities and give back to the program that helped launch their careers."

## **LTC PREPARING TO HOST SCOUT DAY**

Lincoln Trail College will welcome Scouts from across the region to campus Jan. 31 for Scout Day, marking the second time the college has hosted the event and continuing its commitment to community engagement and early outreach to future students.

Scout Day brings Scouts to campus for a full day of merit badge classes led by Lincoln Trail College faculty and staff who volunteer as certified Merit Badge Counselors. The event gives Scouts hands-on learning experiences while introducing them to a college environment at an early age.



Tona Ambrose, president of Lincoln Trail College, said hosting Scout Day aligns closely with the college's mission to serve the region and invest in its future.

"This event allows us to give back to our community in a meaningful way while also welcoming young people onto our campus," Ambrose said. "It's important for students

to see a college campus as a place where they belong, even at a young age."

Ambrose said Scout Day also plays an important role in recruitment by helping students begin to picture themselves in higher education.

"When Scouts walk through our labs, classrooms and facilities, they start to imagine what learning could look like after high school," she said. "That early exposure matters. It plants a seed and helps students see Lincoln Trail College as an option for their future."

Throughout the day, Scouts rotate through a variety of merit badge sessions that emphasize skill development, critical thinking and real-world applications. College employees volunteer their time to guide Scouts through badge requirements while sharing their own academic and career experiences.

"Our faculty and staff are passionate about mentoring," Ambrose said. "Serving as Merit Badge Counselors allows them to connect with students in a different way and show how education, careers and community service are all connected."

After hosting Scout Day for the first time last year, Ambrose said the college saw firsthand the value of opening campus doors to local youth organizations.

"Bringing Scout Day back for a second year reflects how strongly we believe in the impact of this event," she said. "It strengthens our relationship with the community and helps us build a pipeline of students who feel comfortable and confident stepping onto a college campus."

Scout Day will take place Jan. 31, with activities running throughout the day across Lincoln Trail College's campus.

## LTC OFFERS SPRING COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

Lincoln Trail College is inviting area residents to explore new interests, build skills and connect with others through its spring Community Education classes.

This season's offerings include four popular programs at Lincoln Trail College. The Community Choir meets Mondays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Lackey Music Hall and is free to join. Open to singers of all experience levels, the choir welcomes students and community members alike.

Music enthusiasts can also take part in the Jazz Band, which meets Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. in Lackey Music Hall. The group rehearses weekly and prepares for upcoming performances. Participation is free.

For readers, the Eagleton Reading Circle meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Learning Commons. The group selects a new book to discuss each month, and participation is free.

Drivers can sharpen road safety skills through the Defensive Driving class, offered on the first Monday of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Broadband Building. The cost is \$87.

In addition to on-campus courses, Community Education classes are available throughout Illinois Eastern Community Colleges and include a variety of online options.

For a full list of classes and registration information, visit [iecc.edu/communityed](http://iecc.edu/communityed).



### FRONTIER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FCC Book Club • Every Other Thursday • 10 a.m.  
Basketball • Wednesdays • 7-9 p.m.  
FCC Fine Arts • Various Times and Dates  
\$8-\$150 • Bicentennial  
What Will I Wear? • Mondays, February 2-23 • 6-8 p.m.  
\$30 • Mason Hall 24  
The Golden Age of the Airwaves • March 18 & 25 • 6-8 p.m.  
Painting Studio • Mondays, March 2-30 • 6-7 p.m.  
\$30 • Mason Hall 22

### MONTEZUMA CENTRAL COLLEGE

Woodworking • Wednesdays • 6-8 p.m.  
\$220 • Montezuma Center  
Concert Band • Thursdays • 6-8 p.m.  
FREE • Montezuma Center  
Jazz Band • Tuesdays and Thursdays • 2-3:15 p.m.  
FREE • Wolfenborth 116  
Art Classes • Various Times and Dates  
\$10-\$150 • Various Times and Dates  
Teen Driving • Various Times and Dates  
\$400 • Montezuma Center  
Small Business Development Center • Various Times and Dates  
FREE • Wolfenborth Center 180C

### LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

Eagleton Reading Circle • 4th Wednesdays • 6-8 p.m.  
Defensive Driving • 1st Mondays • 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Jazz Band • Tuesdays • 6-8 p.m.  
Community Choir • Mondays • 6-8:30 p.m.  
FREE • Lackey Music Hall  
COCR Fitness • Various Times and Dates  
\$5-\$170 • Crawford Co. Recreation Center

### FEATURED ONLINE CLASSES

Discover Digital Photography • Self-Guided or with Instructor  
\$130 • [www.iecc.edu/communityed](http://iecc.edu/communityed)  
Computer Fundamentals • Self-Guided or with Instructor  
\$140 • [www.iecc.edu/communityed](http://iecc.edu/communityed)  
Video Game Development • Self-Guided or with Instructor  
\$140 • [www.iecc.edu/communityed](http://iecc.edu/communityed)  
Stocks, Bonds, and Investing • Self-Guided or with Instructor  
\$140 • [www.iecc.edu/communityed](http://iecc.edu/communityed)  
Spanish • Self-Guided or with Instructor  
\$140 • [www.iecc.edu/communityed](http://iecc.edu/communityed)  
Japanese • Self-Guided or with Instructor  
\$130 • [www.iecc.edu/communityed](http://iecc.edu/communityed)

### IECC.EDU/COMMUNITYED

Progressive Stretch • Mondays and Wednesdays • 4:30 or 5:30 p.m.  
Concealed Carry Certification • Various Times and Dates  
\$70 for 16 Hour Certification • \$50 for 3 hour Re-certification  
Community Choir • Wednesdays • 6-8 p.m.  
FREE • Broadband Arts Center Room 100

## **DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM SAVES CRAWFORD COUNTY STUDENTS THOUSANDS IN FALL 2025**

Dual credit courses at Lincoln Trail College continued to provide significant financial and academic benefits for area high school students during the Fall 2025 semester, with more than 170 students earning college credit and saving thousands of dollars in tuition and fees.

Students from four Crawford County high schools enrolled in dual credit classes through Lincoln Trail College, allowing them to earn college credit while still in high school. In total, students completed 366 dual credit classes during the semester.

Robinson High School had the largest participation, with 127 students taking 257 classes and saving a combined \$30,135 in tuition and fees. Palestine High School saw 18 students enroll in 30 classes, resulting in \$5,434 in savings. Hutsonville High School had 17 students take 43 classes, saving \$4,505, while 14 students from Oblong High School completed 36 classes and saved \$7,192.

Those savings were made possible through support from the United Way of Crawford County and Hershey, who covers the cost of tuition and fees for local dual credit students.



**176** **366** **\$47,266**

DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS      CLASSES      TUITION & FEE SAVINGS

“Because of the United Way and Hershey’s generosity, students are able to focus on learning without worrying about the financial burden that often comes with college courses,” said Erin Volk, director of dual credit at Lincoln Trail College. “This support makes a real difference for families and helps students get a head start on their college education.”

Dual credit courses allow high school students to experience college-level coursework, build confidence, and shorten the time it takes to complete a degree after graduation. Volk said the program also helps students explore career pathways earlier and make more informed decisions about their futures.

"Dual credit gives students momentum before they ever step onto a college campus," Volk said. "They gain college experience and earn transferable credit that makes the transition to college smoother and more affordable."

Lincoln Trail College continues to work closely with area high schools to expand dual credit opportunities and ensure courses align with both high school graduation requirements and college degree pathways. Volk says partnerships like the one with the United Way are critical to keeping the program accessible and impactful for local students.

## NEWSIES COMING TO LTC STAGE

Lincoln Trail College will hold auditions for its spring production of Disney's *Newsies*, the Tony Award-winning musical based on the 1992 Disney film, on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026, and Friday, Jan. 30, 2026, both at 6 p.m. in the Zwermann Arts Center Theater.

*Newsies* tells the story of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy who leads a band of young newspaper sellers in a historic strike for justice in turn-of-the-century New York City. Featuring an energetic score by Alan

Menken and Jack Feldman and a book by Harvey Fierstein, the musical includes well-known songs such as "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day" and "Santa Fe."

The production features a large ensemble cast with roles for performers of many ages and experience levels. Leading youth roles include Jack Kelly; Crutchie, Jack's loyal best friend; Davey, an emerging leader among the newsies; Les, Davey's younger brother; Spot Conlon, the proud leader of the Brooklyn newsies; and Katherine Plumber, an ambitious young reporter. Additional youth roles include Darcy and Bill.

The newsies ensemble includes Race, Albert, Specs, Henry, Finch, Romeo, Elmer, Mush Buttons, Splasher, Tommy Boy, Jo Jo, Mike, Ike and three Scabs.

Adult roles include Joseph Pulitzer; Wiesel, the World's distribution manager; Morris and Oscar Delancey; Seitz; Bunsen; Hannah; Nunzio; Snyder; Medda Larkin; and Governor Teddy Roosevelt. Additional ensemble roles include Bowery Beauties, a Stage Manager, three Nuns, a Newspaper Customer, Mr. Jacobi, Policemen, a Guard, Goons, the Mayor and other townspeople.

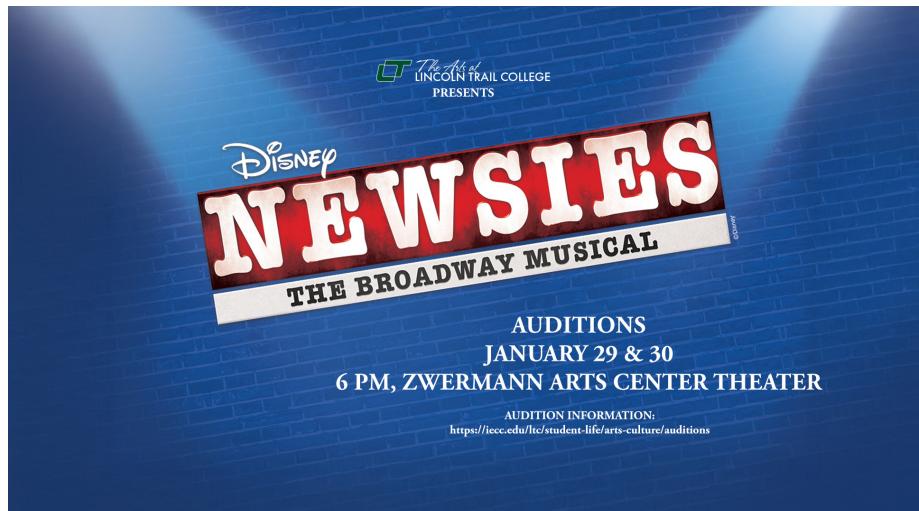
Auditioners should prepare a 30- to 45-second monologue that reflects the spirit of their desired role, without using material from *Newsies*. Acting choices, movement and character work are encouraged.

For the vocal audition, performers must prepare a 32-bar cut from a musical theater song that showcases their voice and storytelling ability. Songs from *Newsies* may not be used. An accompanist will be provided, and auditioners must bring clearly marked sheet music.

Dance calls will follow the monologue and vocal auditions. Newsie roles require participation in the dance call, while adult roles do not.

"We're thrilled to bring *Newsies* to the Lincoln Trail College stage," said Taylor Dahlberg, theater director at Lincoln Trail College. "It's a high-energy show packed with unforgettable music, dynamic choreography and powerful storytelling. Whether you're a seasoned performer or stepping onstage for the first time, we encourage you to come audition and be part of something special."

More information about auditions is available at [iecc.edu/ltc/student-life/arts-culture/auditions](https://iecc.edu/ltc/student-life/arts-culture/auditions). First rehearsal is scheduled for Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. Performances will run April 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 7 p.m., with matinees April 12 and 19 at 2 p.m. in the Zwermann Arts Center Theater.



## JAZZ FESTIVAL BRINGS HIGH SCHOOL MUSICIANS TO LTC



High school musicians from across the region will gather at Lincoln Trail College on Feb. 10 for the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Jazz Festival, a one-day immersive event designed to give students a collegiate-style jazz experience.

The festival brings together select high school students who were nominated by their band directors and chosen to participate based on musicianship and interest in jazz. Throughout the day, students will rehearse in large ensembles, work with experienced directors and local musicians, and explore jazz style, improvisation and ensemble performance. The event concludes with a public concert featuring the student ensembles alongside IECC jazz bands.

"This is a one-day immersive jazz experience for high school musicians from across the region," said Jena Combs, who is coordinating the event. "They get to rehearse, learn and perform in a setting that really mirrors what a collegiate jazz experience feels like."

The festival marks the return of a jazz-focused event at IECC after many years. Combs said renewed interest in jazz and a growing need for access helped make this the right time to bring it back.

"There's a strong enthusiasm from both students and directors for opportunities like this," she said. "Not every school has the resources to offer a jazz band, and our programs at IECC have grown to a point where we're ready to reconnect and restore opportunities that had faded over time."

Combs said events like Jazz Fest are especially important for students who may not otherwise have the chance to experience jazz in a full ensemble setting.

"Jazz really emphasizes listening and working together in a way that's different from other musical settings," she said. "Students have the freedom to take risks, react to what they're hearing around them and make their own musical decisions while still being part of a group. That balance between structure and freedom helps them grow not just as musicians, but as people."

The day-long festival also strengthens ties between IECC and area high school music programs by creating direct collaboration between students, directors and college musicians.

"Often students choose a college or a music program because of a positive experience they had on campus," Combs said. "Opportunities like this help students see IECC as a welcoming, creative place where they can continue making music after graduation." Combs said one of the most rewarding parts of the festival is watching students gain confidence as the day progresses.

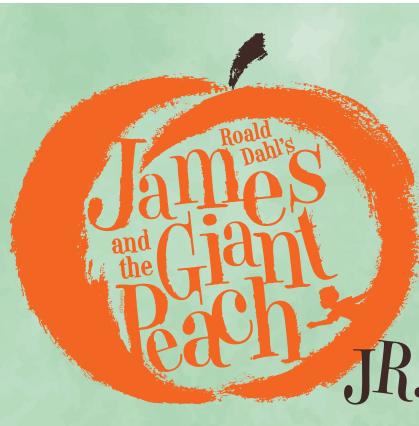
"When the groove settles in and they realize how powerful a full jazz ensemble can be, it really clicks," she said. "Those moments renew my passion for creating new experiences for students and pushing them to open up musically."

She hopes students leave the festival inspired and confident, knowing they belong in music and have opportunities to keep growing.

"This Jazz Festival is really about the community," Combs said. "It's about celebrating music, supporting young musicians and showing that meaningful artistic experiences can thrive right here in our region."

The festival concert begins at 6 p.m. and is open to the public.

## CHILDREN'S SUMMER THEATER, YOUNG ADULTS THEATER SHOWS ANNOUNCED



Lincoln Trail College will bring two popular productions to the stage in summer 2026 as part of its Children's Summer Theater and Young Adults Theater programs. This year's lineup features *Magic Tree House: The Knight at Dawn KIDS* for elementary-aged performers, *James and the Giant Peach JR.* for middle-school-aged children, and *Beetlejuice JR.* for teens, offering students opportunities to learn performance skills, build confidence, and collaborate in a creative environment.

Registration for the program will open in spring 2026. The cost is \$150 per student, and enrollment will be limited.

The Children's Summer Theater season begins with *Magic Tree House: The Knight at Dawn KIDS* for students entering first through fifth grades.

Rehearsals will take place Monday through Friday from 9–11 a.m. beginning May 26. Performances are scheduled for June 25–26 at 7 p.m.

The second Children's Summer Theater production, designed for students entering sixth through ninth grades, is *James and the Giant Peach JR.*

Rehearsals will take place Monday through Friday from 12–2 p.m. beginning May 26. Performances are scheduled for June 27 at 7 p.m. and June 28 at 2 p.m.

The Young Adults Theater program will return in July with *Beetlejuice JR.*, designed for students ages 13–18.

Rehearsals will run Monday through Friday from 5–9 p.m. beginning July 13. Performances will be held July 31 and Aug. 1 at 7 p.m.

Lincoln Trail College Theater Director Taylor Dahlberg said the selection of shows was intentional and centered on giving students meaningful material that sparks imagination and creativity.

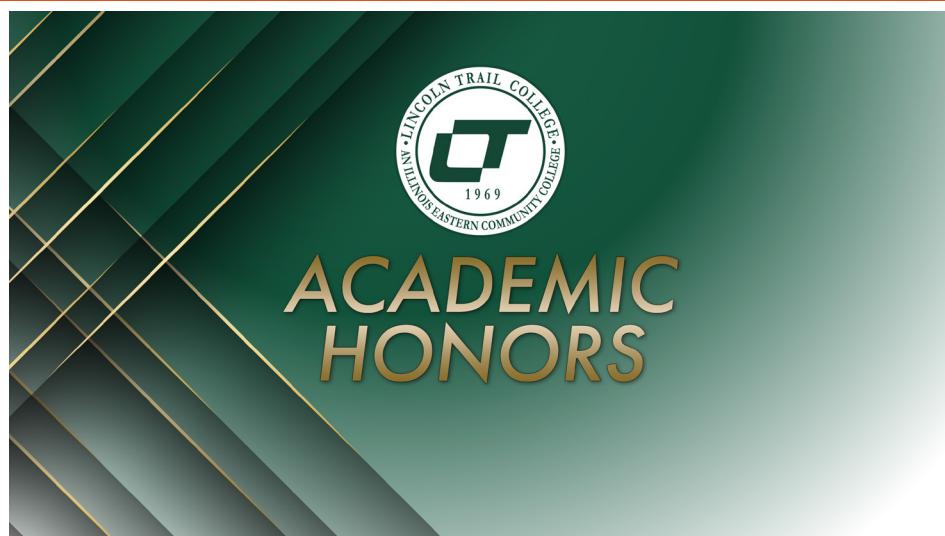
"We are gearing up for an awesome summer! I remember reading the Magic Treehouse and Roald Dahl books as a kid, and I believe these stories still resonate with young people today. We wanted to pick titles that opened up even more educational avenues and that might help our students fall in love with reading. For our older students, I wanted to pick something that had a little more emotional depth. We all know the *Beetlejuice* movie, but the musical has a really lovely message about choosing hope in a time when things seem dark (plus all of the characters that we know and love), and it seemed like a great choice for our oldest students."

Additional program details, including registration dates, will be announced in the spring.

## LTC RELEASES FALL ACADEMIC HONORS RECIPIENTS

Lincoln Trail College has released its academic honor lists for the Fall 2025 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 Honors List.

The following students have earned Fall 2025 academic honors:

### CHANCELLOR'S ACADEMIC HONORS LIST

Javen Sweitzer, Luke Anderson, McKinnon Anderson, Lucrezia Benelli Becchi, Andrew Brandenburger, Lauren Burzynski, Raphaella Camargo, Bryce Cox, Hugo Cuesta, Sawyer Dusenberry, Asher Evans, Kaley Flynn, Matthew Forther, Eliot Gallaher, Caleb Gehlhausen, Khamryn Hopkins, Noah Hout, Mollie Kennedy, Shelby Lewis, Maria Mero, Kabosh Okpebholoray, Peyton Osteen, Jaycee Phillips, Judson Pinkston, Jarred Poindexter, Kamryn Redman, Kyndall Redman, Mersadees Sassman, Joshua Silva, Kaiden Simons, Samuel Stacy, Javen Sweitzer, Grace Taylor, Cade Tracy, Brynndalyn Varner, Kalli Ware, Cole Weber, Aidan Willis, Jonathon Woodard.

### PRESIDENT'S ACADEMIC HONORS LIST

James Attwood, Cameron Baker, Leigh Carnes, Facundo Casero, Sajjen Chester, Jonathan Darst, Lucas Davids, Grace Davidson, Kristen Dunlap, Caleb Gephart, Nina Hoppe, Daleek Hutchinson, Gracie Inboden, Kasidy Johnson, Alissa Lankston, Gavin Leloup, Chase Luebbe, Mothekgi Mpaketsane, Adam Newell, Bella Nottger, Lyndee Pusey, Alexis Ramsey, Nicholas Sedam, Faith Tooloose, Brayden Tresner, Eli Vennard, Isaac Waggoner, Colin Walls, Kline Woodward, Dominic Yarber, Aseel Zubayen.

### DEAN'S ACADEMIC HONORS LIST

Jocelynn Bachelor, Claire Boehm, Lanee Cooper, Kaitlyn Didion, Nevaeh Elliott, Joseph Goetz, Anthony Gundler, Skylar Harmon, Fabian Hernandez, Chase Jenkins, Lexington Jenkins, Ivy Murray, Cristobal Navarrete, Jarrett Nidey, Khyiema Poole, Hannah Potts, Natalie Ramsey, John Rich, Nathan Rich, Brooke Robinson, Sheldon Rose, Corey Schroeder, Hazel Sekhwela, Landen Smith, Molly Stanton, Duke Thompson, Catlynn Underwood, Gracie Weger, Kaely Weiscope, Bianca Wyatt, Melanie Wyatt.



## FEBRUARY ATHLETIC EVENTS

### Baseball

6	at Northwest-Shoals Community College (DH)	12:00
7	at Northwest-Shoals Community College (DH)	12:00
13	at Georgia Highlands College (DH)	12:00
14	at Georgia Highlands College (DH)	11:00
20	Alpena CC (at Calhoun CC)	8:00
	at Calhoun Community College	12:00
21	Alpena CC (at Calhoun CC)	8:00
	at Calhoun Community College	2:30
27	North Iowa Area CC (at Vincennes)	2:00
28	at Vincennes University	12:00
	Kellogg CC (at Vincennes)	3:30

### Men's Basketball

4	Vincennes University	7:00
7	Olney Central College	3:00
14	at Wabash Valley College	3:00
18	Kaskaskia College	7:00
21	Shawnee Community College	3:00
25	at Southwestern Illinois College	7:00
28	at John A. Logan College	3:00

### Softball

7	Miami Dad College	11:30
19	at Lake Land College	2:00
20	at Gulf Coast State College (DH)	12:00
21	at Northwest Florida State College	2:00

### Women's Basketball

4	Vincennes University	5:00
7	Olney Central College	1:00
14	at Wabash Valley College	1:00
21	Shawnee Community College	1:00
25	at Southwestern Illinois College	5:00
28	at John A. Logan College	1:00

## CARNES, KELSEY EARN ALL-GRAC HONORS



Two Lincoln Trail College volleyball players were recognized for standout seasons as Opposite Hitter Leigh Carnes (left) and Libero Lidia Kelsey (right) earned 2025 Great Rivers Athletic Conference All-Conference honors.

Carnes and Kelsey played key roles in anchoring the Statesmen throughout the season, delivering consistent production and leadership on the court. Their all-conference selections reflect both individual performance and the continued growth of the LTC volleyball program.

Carnes led the team in multiple offensive categories, finishing the season with 326 kills on 779 total attacks. She averaged 3.08 kills per set across 106 sets played. Carnes also contributed 361 assists, 366 total points and 31 service aces, while adding 274 digs defensively.

"Leigh was the heartbeat of our offense," LTC volleyball coach Dana Goodwin said. "When we needed a big swing or a key point, she stepped up time and time again. Her versatility and court awareness made her a constant challenge for opposing defenses."

Kelsey anchored the back row for the Statesmen and proved to be one of the conference's top defensive players. She recorded a team-leading 494 digs, averaging 6.77 digs per set over 73 sets played. Kelsey also led the team with 474 receptions

and 48 service aces, while adding 84 assists and 50 points.

"Lidia's defensive presence changed matches for us," Goodwin said. "Her ability to read hitters, control the serve receive and extend rallies gave our team confidence. She brought energy and consistency every time she stepped on the court."

Goodwin said the recognition is a testament not only to the athletes, but also to the culture the program continues to build.

"These awards reflect the work Leigh and Lidia put in every day, but they also represent the progress of our program," she said. "They set a standard for effort, accountability and passion for the game."

## LTC IN PICTURES



The Lincoln Trail College Jazz Band fills the theater with music during its winter concert, bringing students and community members together through live performance.



A special holiday moment unfolds as the Singing Seniors and Youth Choir perform "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" during the Winter Choral Concert.



Students connect over food and conversation during the Bingo and a Movie event, a student-led project from President Tona Ambrose's Pathways to Success class.



Students enjoy a hands-on activity and time together during the Student Senate-sponsored Cookie Decorating Night.



Jay Chiles drives to the basket during Lincoln Trail College's game against Lake Land. Chiles scored 11 points in the Statesmen's 83-73 victory.



Khamryn Hopkins drives to the rim during Lincoln Trail College's win over Kaskaskia. She recorded 13 points in the Lady Statesmen's 73-52 victory.



Dr. Jared Gullett reviews anatomical structures with students using the Anatomage Table in a Lincoln Trail College anatomy class.



Lackey Music Hall stands against a snowy backdrop as winter settles across the Lincoln Trail College campus.