

VIEW FROM THE VALLEY

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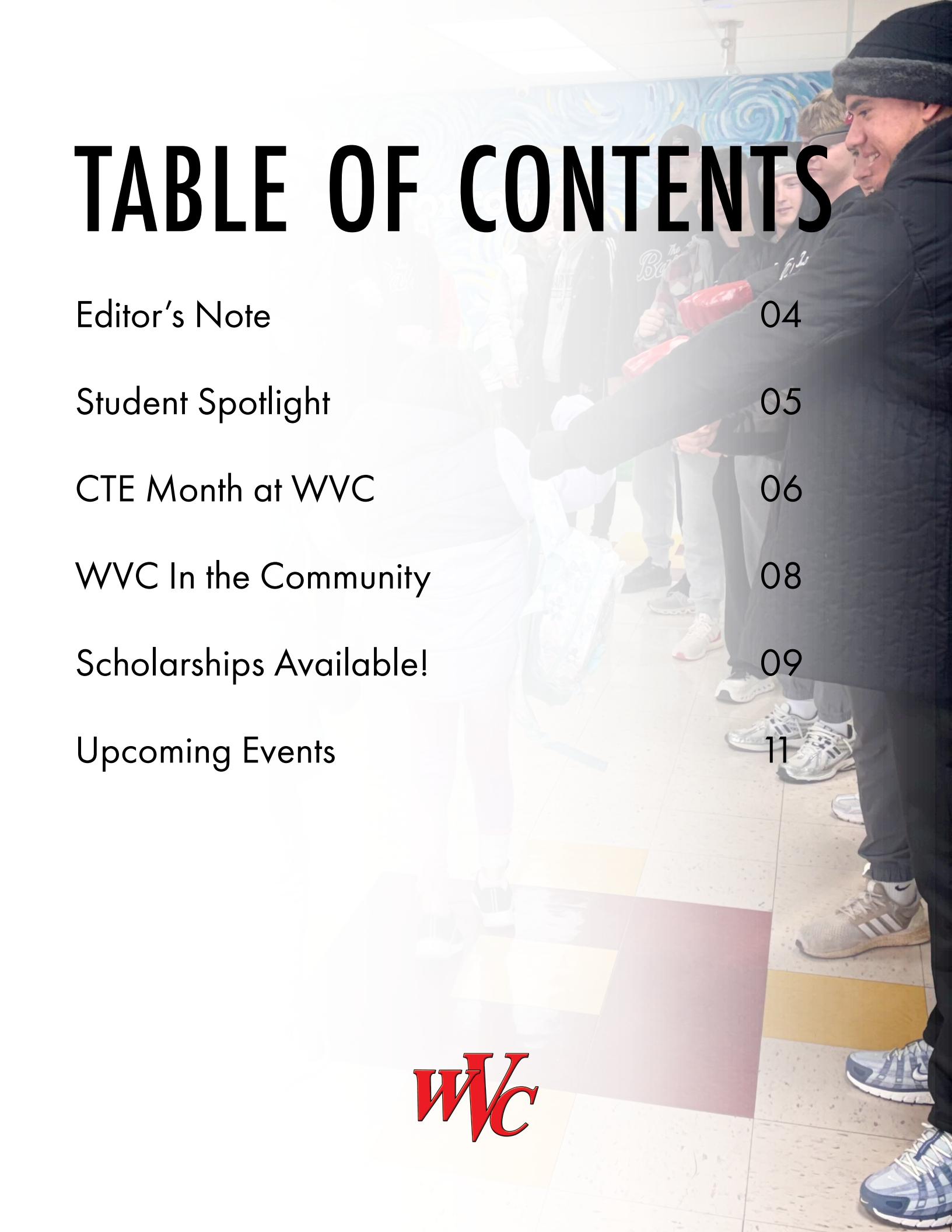


- SPOTLIGHTING CTE MONTH
- PTA CEU SUMMIT
- AG AQUAINTANCE DAY
- AND MORE!

FEBRUARY 2026

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EDITOR'S NOTE

There's always something new happening at WVC, and this month's VFTV newsletter is packed with highlights you won't want to miss. From program spotlights to campus events and student success stories, we're excited to share the momentum building across campus. Thanks for reading—and for being part of WVC's ongoing growth.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MAX GERLACH



Max representing WVC at local radio station WSJD. Catch him on air the first Monday of each month at 8:30 a.m. CST through May 2026.

My name is Max Gerlach, and I'm from a small town about 20 minutes from Wabash—Albion, Illinois. I'm 19 years old and a Radio/TV major here at WVC. Through this major, I've discovered just how much I enjoy writing and journalism, and thanks to an internship opportunity, I've started writing for the monthly newsletter.

A few of my biggest interests in life are sports, working out, and history. I grew up spending most of my time in a gym, which led to my love of playing and watching basketball and football.

My goal is to highlight the awesome opportunities we have at WVC and continue growing my skills as a writer. I'm excited to share stories, learn from the experience, and hopefully bring attention to the great things happening on our campus! 🔥

SPOTLIGHT ON THE RADIO/TV PROGRAM AT WVC

By Max Gerlach

The Radio/TV program is one of the many CTE options here at WVC. Now, you might be wondering—what exactly is a CTE? CTE stands for Career Technical Education, which refers to specialized high school or postsecondary programs that give students real hands-on experience. The Radio/TV program at Wabash Valley College does exactly that.

The program gives students opportunities like broadcasting local events and even running its own radio station, 89.1 The Bash. Getting to learn in a real studio environment is what makes this program so great. When students finish the program, they leave with actual experience and skills they can take straight into a job or transfer to a university—already equipped to step in and succeed.

Our instructor, Kyle Peach, does an amazing job of giving students ownership of their work. He makes sure we get the experience we need and keeps everything we do interesting and relevant. Also on staff is Eli Grimes, who is incredible. He's always there to help when something challenges us, and he explains all the equipment in a way that just makes sense. Both Eli and Kyle are also great to talk to outside of class. Over time, we've all become so close that being on a first-name basis feels natural—this program really is that tight knit.

The Radio/TV program is just one of the many standout CTE pathways at WVC, and I hope this article helps shine a light on the great opportunities it offers. 🔥



CELEBRATING CTE MONTH AT WVC

February marks Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, and Wabash Valley College is celebrating with a month-long social media campaign highlighting the strength and impact of our CTE programs. Throughout the month, WVC is sharing authentic stories from the students and instructors who bring these programs to life.

Students from across WVC's CTE pathways are sharing why they chose their field, what hands-on learning means to them, and how the college has helped them grow. Their perspectives offer an inside look at the confidence, skills, and career readiness that come from real-world training.

WVC instructors are also sharing their expertise—discussing workforce needs, industry-aligned curriculum, and the supportive environment that helps students succeed. Their input highlights how WVC prepares graduates for meaningful, in-demand careers.

By combining student experiences with instructor viewpoints, WVC's CTE Month campaign showcases the value and impact of career-focused education.

To dive deeper into these stories, you can hear the extended interviews on our YouTube page: youtube.com/@wabashvalleycollege. 



A HUGE THANK YOU FROM THE AG DEPARTMENT

By Max Gerlach

The Ag Department at WVC wanted to send out a massive thank you to everyone who helped make the 2026 South-eastern Ag Acquaintance Day a success! They hosted 130 local high school FFA members on campus on February 3rd, and they're incredibly grateful for everything people did—big or small—to help make the event run smoothly.

They also wanted to give a very special shoutout to Dr. Fowler for welcoming the students to campus, and to Ernie and the entire WVC O&M team for all of their assistance throughout the day. Another big thanks goes to Luke and Dennis in the Brubeck Theatre for their help as well.

As the department put it,
"We are truly thankful to have such a great community of people to work with."

Thank you all again for everything! 

Local high school FFA members were on campus for Ag Day hosted by the WVC Ag Department.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE PTA PROGRAM AT WVC



The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Department celebrated a successful third annual CEU Event on Saturday, January 31st, bringing together professionals from across Southern Illinois and Southern Indiana for a day of learning, connection, and professional growth.

The summit provided an engaging environment for continuing education while showcasing the excellence and collaboration that define the program. Despite a few cancellations due to illness, weather, and scheduling conflicts, the event welcomed around 40 participants, representing a wide range of regional healthcare agencies. One attendee even traveled over an hour to be part of the summit.

The department extends its gratitude to all who contributed their time, expertise, and support—helping make this year's CEU Event another outstanding achievement.



WVC PTA CLUB FUNDRAISING FOR 2027 APTA CONFERENCE



The WVC PTA Club is currently fundraising for an incredible opportunity coming in 2027: the American Physical Therapist Association Combined Sections Meeting in Philadelphia—the City of Brotherly Love. This trip will last 4 days and 3 nights and includes expenses like airfare, transportation, hotel, food, and conference admission.

This is a huge opportunity for PTA students. Many professionals never get the chance to attend a conference like this due to cost, scheduling, or travel limitations. Being able to experience it as a student is something that will genuinely set them apart as they move into their careers.



This experience allows our students to:

- ✓ Evidence-Based Practices
- ✓ Professional Networking
- ✓ Leadership Skills

FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$1,000 per student

Donations help cover:

- Conference Fees
- Travel and lodging
- Professional development
- Educational resources

Contact Info: Ella Clark, President
clarke@iecc.edu
Kinsey Whitaker, Sponsor
whitaker@iecc.edu

ONLINE DONATION @ WVC

Foundation Donation Page:

<https://app.autobooks.co/pay/wab-college-found>

Donations go through a 501c3



Scan the QR code to donate!

NOTE ON DONATION

"APTA PTA PROGRAM TRIP"

WHY WE'RE FUNDRAISING

The Wabash Valley College Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Club is raising funds to attend the APTA Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) 2027, the largest physical therapy conference in the nation.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your generosity supports the education, growth, and future success of Wabash Valley College PTA students.

To make this trip possible, the PTA Club has two fundraisers still underway, with most donations being collected through the WVC Foundation's online donation link.

March – Butter Braid Bread Sale

Ongoing – Online Fundraising Campaign

Donate here: iecc.edu/wvc/foundation

The current PTA cohort represents students from counties across the Illinois region, including: Clay County, Crawford County, Edwards County, Hamilton County, Jackson County, Richland County, and Wabash County.

The club appreciates every donation and all the support from the community. Every contribution—big or small—helps these students get one step closer to an experience they'll carry with them long into their careers.

WVC IN THE COMMUNITY

WVC STUDENTS VENTURE BACK TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WVC students recently kicked off the morning at a local elementary school by participating in Fist Bump Friday, greeting students with smiles, encouragement, and—of course—plenty of fist bumps. The goal of the event is simple: create a positive start to the school day and remind young students that their community is cheering them on.



The WVC Women's Soccer team proudly visited the Mount Carmel Grade School today, making a difference by helping with math and engaging in PE, lunch, and recess activities.

FACEBOOK STORIES

These segments came from the Wabash Valley College Facebook page or its affiliate

The Wabash Valley Arts Council is proud to help kick off a fundraising effort for new chimes for the Edwards County High School and Albion Grade School music programs. The ECHS and AGS music programs are in need to replace decades old chimes. If you would like to also contribute to this fund, please contact ECHS/AGS at 618-445-2325 and ask to donate to the Music Department Chimes Fund. In our effort to support area music programs, we hope to see new chimes being used at the 2026 ECHS/AGS Spring Concerts! Pictured are ECHS/AGS band director Sarah Swardstrom and WVC Brubeck Theatre and WVAC Executive Director Dennis Stroughmatt.



Picture taken from Wabash Valley Arts Council's Facebook Page facebook.com/wabashvalley-arts council



What a fantastic night it has been at our third annual Bass Bingo. A great crowd, fantastic food, and a lot of laughter, smiles and great prizes. Thank you to everyone who came out and to all the companies locally and beyond that donated items for this evening. Your generosity literally fuels our team, the #4 ranked Wabash Valley College Bass Warriors, to travel all over the country competing at the national level.

Photos taken from Wabash Valley College Bass Team's Facebook Page facebook.com/wvcbassteam

BATTER UP!

The Baseball and Softball seasons have officially started!

To stay updated with schedules, roster and more, visit the WVC Athletics website at wabashvalleywarriorathletic.com



WVC SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

Scholarship season is officially here at Wabash Valley College, and now is the perfect time for both incoming and current students to explore the wide range of financial opportunities available for the 2026–2027 academic year. WVC offers numerous scholarships designed to support students in every major, every pathway, and every stage of their college journey.

With scholarship deadlines quickly approaching, students are encouraged to act soon. Applications are simple, fully online, and take less time than many people think. Even better: one application can put you in the running for multiple scholarships.

To apply, visit iecc.edu/wvc/scholarships. There you'll find the full list of available scholarships, eligibility details, and the online application portal. Whether you need help covering tuition, books, program costs, or simply want to lighten your financial load, this is the perfect time to apply.

Scholarships make a real difference—and your opportunity is waiting. Don't wait until the deadline sneaks up on you. Visit the website, fill out your application, and take the next step toward your future at WVC. 🔥



PANCAKES FOR DINNER

On Monday, February 9th the Student Life group hosted a Pancake Night in the Warrior Grill coupled with Karaoke in the Student Lounge. With a promising turn out, it was indeed a sweet way to end the day.



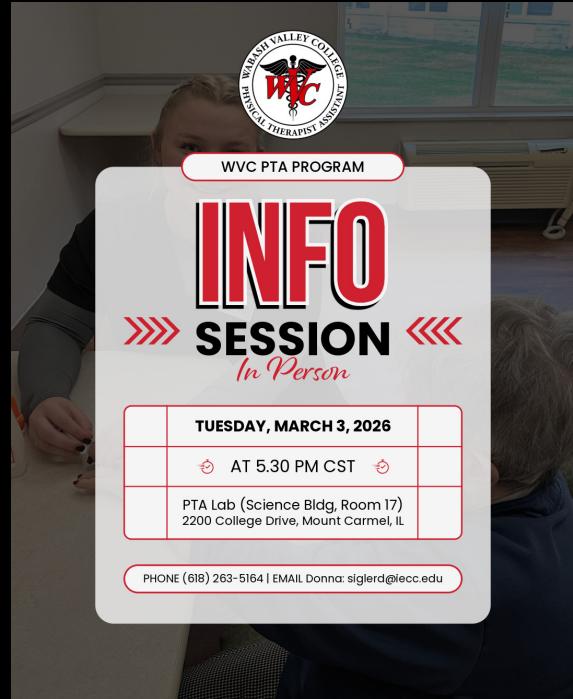
CALENDAR

February

- 13-14 WVC Originators present Andy Griffith TV Trivia Dinner
- 14 - WBB vs Lincoln Trail
- 14 - MBB vs Lincoln Trail
- 16 - Campus Closed (President's Day)
- 18 - College Fair at Olney Central College
- 28 - BSB vs Vincennes University
- 25 - WBB vs. Rend Lake College
- 28 - WVC Homecoming
- 28 - WBB vs Vincennes University
- 28 - MBB vs Vincennes University

March

- 7 - BSB vs Kaskaskia College
- 8 - Daylight Savings Time
- 9 - Campus Closed (Casimir Pulaski Day)
- 10-15 - Spring Break
- 10 - BSB vs Frontier Community College
- 12 - BSB vs Lake Land College
- 17 - Summer Fall Registration Begins
- 17- SOF vs Frontier Community College
- 19 - SOF vs Southeastern Illinois College
- 24 - BSB vs Frontier Community College
- 24 - SOF vs Lincoln Trail College
- 28 - BSB vs Shawnee Community College
- 28- SOF vs Spoon River College
- 31 - SOF vs Southwestern Illinois College



WVC

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iecc.edu/wvc