

VIEW FROM THE VALLEY

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- STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
- NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR AG
- SPIN NIGHT
- AND MORE!

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This month at Wabash Valley College feels especially full of momentum. Everywhere you look, there are students stepping up, instructors being recognized for the impact they make, and programs coming alive through creativity and collaboration.

You'll read about students being recognized for their hard work and the many ways they are making a difference in the community. We also take time to celebrate our Instructors of the Year, whose dedication continues to shape the experiences and futures of our students. Another exciting highlight is the renewed energy in our Music and Theatre programs, where students are leading the way and bringing new life to the arts at WVC.

With graduation just a month away, lots are sharing a sense of reflection and anticipation.

Thanks for reading with us. We hope these stories leave you as encouraged and inspired.

Quiana

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: AIDEN KARCHER

By Max Gerlach



This month's Student Spotlight is Aiden Karcher. Aiden is a Radio/TV major from Dahlgren, Illinois, where he attended Hamilton County High School. During his time on campus, Aiden has stayed busy as a Marketing Intern and as part of the newscast every Monday night for News Channel 15.

Aiden is also wrapping up his second year at Wabash and will be graduating this upcoming May.

Outside of The Bash, Aiden has a variety of hobbies, including golfing, running, lifting weights, and spending time with friends. He has been working hard toward his goal of eventually running a marathon. Beyond campus life, Aiden also works at his local hospital in the business office, where he has quickly moved up the ranks and became a manager at just 19 years old.

Some fun facts about Aiden: his favorite food is pizza, his current favorite band is Sublime, and his favorite movie is Dazed and Confused. After Wabash, Aiden plans to continue working in the public eye, using the communication skills he has gained from his major, while also leading others with the management skills he has developed through his professional experience. 🔥

SPIN NIGHT AT WVC

On March 18th, WVC hosted a SPIN Night: Student Parent Information Night where individuals showed up to the Spencer Sports Center and were able to ask questions about WVC specific programs and talk with financial and academic advisors. The night was a success. 🔥



WVC STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL HONORS AT PAS CONFERENCE IN MISSOURI

By Delaney Williams

Nine students from Wabash Valley College recently traveled to Branson, Missouri, to compete in the 2026 National Professional Agriculture Students (PAS) Conference, earning multiple top finishes in both team and individual events.

WVC agriculture program students competed in four team-based career development events, including Farm Business Management, Beef Specialist, Poultry Specialist and College Bowl. In addition, six students participated in individual competitions spanning agricultural marketing and communications, agribusiness systems, animal systems, plant systems, agricultural education and employment interview events focused on agronomic services and agricultural sales.

The PAS Conference provides opportunities for students to apply classroom and experiential knowledge in competitive settings while developing career-ready skills in agriculture. Participants engage in real-world scenarios designed to prepare them for future roles in the industry.

Several WVC students earned national recognition for their performances.

Kelby Ochs of Newton, Ill., placed first in Employment Interview Agronomic Systems. Delaney Williams of Olney earned first place in Career Progress Plant Systems. The Poultry Specialist team of Victoria Rudolphi, Olney, Ill., Cali Bunting, Albion, Ill., and Rockell Allen, Flora, Ill. also secured a first-place finish.

Individually, Rudolphi earned first place in Poultry, while Bunting placed second, and Allen placed third in the same category.

Students said the experience extended beyond competition, providing meaningful personal and professional growth.



"I learned how important the agricultural community is, not only in my community but across the nation," said Rockell Allen. "I was also able to gain experiences that will be valuable towards my future goals."

Cali Bunting highlighted the team dynamic built during the trip.

"My favorite part of the contest was working together with my fellow team members competing in the poultry competition," Bunting said.

Aaron Hatfield of Robinson, Ill. emphasized the connections and memories made at the national level.

"My experience at the national PAS conference was a blast," Hatfield said. "Getting the chance to meet new people and compete with my classmates is something I will never forget."

"We are proud of their hard work and dedication," the WVC Agriculture program said in a statement. "These experiences help prepare our students for successful futures in agriculture." 🌟

MUSIC + THEATER REVIVED AT WVC

The 2025–26 WVC–WVAC Performing Arts Series at The Brubeck may have come to an end, but there’s still one more chance to enjoy a great night of local talent at Wabash Valley College.

WVC Theatre students are busy rehearsing and getting ready for Sunday, May 4 at 7 p.m., when they’ll present a brand-new production alongside the WVC Choir Spring Performance. This special evening will feature the first-ever student-led, student-produced, and student-acted play at WVC.

The show is a comedy-drama with a murder-mystery twist titled *Death of a Dead Guy*. It’s a lighthearted, laugh-out-loud performance designed to keep folks entertained from start to finish. If you enjoy a good mystery with plenty of humor mixed in, this one’s for you.

What makes this production extra special is that it’s being put on by WVC’s Music-Theatre Scholarship students, including the first two students to ever receive that scholarship. With graduation coming up in May, they wanted to leave their mark and bring this idea to life before moving on. While most of the cast and crew are current WVC students, there’s also a small touch of community involvement — including the sister of one of the student performers — making it truly a local effort.

The evening will begin with a performance by the WVC Choir, followed by the play. Admission is free, and donations will be accepted. Any money collected will go right back into supporting WVC scholarships, helping future students continue music and theatre programs at the college.

It’s a great chance to support local students, enjoy a few laughs, and spend an evening out with friends and neighbors.

Event Details:

What: *Death of a Dead Guy* & WVC Choir Spring Performance

When: Sunday, May 4, at 7 p.m.

Where: Wabash Valley College

Cost: Free (donations welcome)

Proceeds Benefit: WVC Music-Theatre Scholarships

Bring a friend, bring the family, and come see what these students have been working so hard on — you won’t want to miss it. 🎭



WVC INSTRUCTORS RECOGNIZED BY STUDENT SENATE

Wabash Valley College is proud to recognize three instructors who were selected by students to receive this year's Student Senate instructor awards. The honors are based on student nominations and reflect the strong connections instructors build with students inside and outside the classroom.

From the student body nominations, Student Senate selected the following instructors for this year's awards:

- Transfer Instructor of the Year – Rich Poskin
- Career and Technical Education Instructor of the Year – Megan Bunnage
- Adjunct Instructor of the Year – Terrance McGee

"This recognition reflects an outstanding commitment to student success, excellence in teaching, and meaningful contributions to the WVC academic community," said Dr. Cathy Rob, IECC Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Rob added that, "These instructors support IECC's mission, values, and standards for excellence by inspiring enthusiasm for learning and student engagement in their classes."

The award recipients are known for their dedication to helping students succeed, whether they are preparing to transfer, enter the workforce, or balance school with work and family responsibilities.

These instructors will be recognized at the WVC graduation ceremony. Wabash Valley College also extends appreciation to all instructors who serve students every day. To all the WVC instructors, thank you for your dedication to teach, motivate and inspire your students on a daily basis! 🌟

PTA'S HOSTS EASTER EGG HUNT WITH SMALL WORLD

On April 1st before rain began, the PTA Department hosted a small Easter egg hunt for the kids at Small World, with faculty and students joining in the fun. Photos were taken by Radio/TV student Max Gerlach. 🌟



WVC STUDENTS ENJOY LAST FIST BUMP FRIDAY OF THE YEAR

The smiles says it all! On March 20th, WVC Students traveled to another local grade school for their final Fist Bump Friday of the Year. Coincidentally, their scheduled trip landed on International Day of Happiness. As each student arrived early morning to school, they were met with WVC students and red fists and had the option to fist bump for a boost of morale. 🎉



AMBASSADOR STUDENTS ARE TOUR GUIDES TO 8TH GRADERS

On March 20th, we were excited to host 8th graders from Owensville, IN, and the South Gibson School District at WVC! Our Student Ambassadors led campus tours and gave students a firsthand look at what college life is all about. 🎉



CALENDAR

April

- 2 - BSB vs. Southeastern Illinois College
- 3 - Campus Closed - Spring Holiday
- 3 - SOF vs Olney Central College
- 7 - SOF vs Lake Land College
- 9 - SOF vs John A Logan
- 9 - BSB vs Southwestern Illinois College
- 14 - BSB vs John A Logan
- 16 - SOF vs Rend Lake College
- 18 - BSB vs Lincoln Trail College
- 21 - SOF vs Kaskaskia College
- 23 - BSB vs Olney Central College
- 24 - Last Day to Withdraw from Class
- 28 - BSB vs Mineral Area College
- 28 - SOF vs Shawnee Community College

May

- 1 - BSB vs Rend Lake College
- 6-7 - GradFest
- 8 - Last day of Spring Classes
- 15 - Graduation, 7pm
- 25 - Campus Closed - Memorial Day



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