

NETWORK



APRIL 2026



From left to right: Illinois TRIO President Mattie Payne-Mallory, OCC TRIO student Liam Ryden, WVC TRIO student Caleb Stevenson, Illinois TRIO President-Elect Rheffa Seymor, Senator Dick Durbin, FCC TRIO student Jason Nguyen, LTC TRIO student Al Crosley, WVC TRIO SSS Academic Advisor Cindy Smith, Endelee Institute TRIO EOC-EOA President-Elect Dr. Tracy Curenton

HIGHLIGHTS



LTC Process Technology students qualify for NAPTA Troubleshooting Competition.



IECC students take top honors at FBLA State Competition to qualify for national event.



Mike White named to All-American team; just fifth LTC player to earn the honor.

FROM ROBINSON TO CAPITOL HILL: CROSLLEY SHARES HIS STORY ON A NATIONAL STAGE

W

alking into the nation's capital, Al Crosley knew he carried more than just his own story.

The Lincoln Trail College student was one of four Illinois Eastern Community Colleges students selected to attend the 2026 TRIO Policy Seminar, where students from across the country met with lawmakers to advocate for continued funding for TRIO programs.

"It was really cool," Crosley said. "It was scary because it's a pretty important thing to be doing. But it made me feel like I was having a part in something."

Crosley, who is from Robinson, was chosen through a competitive application and essay process. Each IECC campus selected one student for the trip, making the opportunity both selective and meaningful.

**UPCOMING
MAY
EVENTS**

- 1 Spring Vocal & Instrumental Concert**
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 5 Music Juries**
12-8, DeMent Auditorium
- 6 Grad Fest**
10-4, Learning Commons
- AI for Small Businesses**
12 p.m., DeMent Auditorium
- 7 Grad Fest**
10-4 Learning Commons
- International Graduation Reception**
12 p.m., Miller Lake
- 8 Last Day of Classes**
- 10 Nacho Night**
6-8 p.m., Statesmen Grill
- 11-14 Final Exams**
- 15 Last Day of Spring Semester**
- Graduation Rehearsal**
10 a.m., Sports Center
- Nurse Pinning Ceremony**
4:30 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 56th Annual Commencement**
7 p.m., Sports Center
- 18 Intersession Classes Begin**
- 19 IECC Board Meeting**
6:15 p.m., Statesmen Grill
- 20 Leadership Crawford County Graduation**
5:30 p.m., DeMent Auditorium
- 25 COLLEGE CLOSED - Memorial Day**
- 26 Children's Summer Theater Begins**
- 27 Intersession Midterm**
- Eagleton Reading Circle**
6 p.m., Learning Commons
- 28 Lincoln Trail College Foundation Meeting**
12 p.m., Lincoln Room

"I worked on the essay for about a month," Crosley said. "I really wanted to go on this trip, so I put my heart into it."

That effort led him to Washington, where he joined fellow students in sharing firsthand accounts of how TRIO programs have shaped their academic journeys.

For Crosley, that story began long before college.

"TRIO really helped as sort of a guidance for me in high school," he said, referencing his experience in Upward Bound. "They gave me a place to seek out tutoring, do my schoolwork and really prepare for college."

Now enrolled at Lincoln Trail College, Crosley said that same support continues through TRIO Student Support Services, where advisors help him stay on track and prepare to transfer to Ball State University.

"I'd be pretty lost without TRIO," he said.



From left to right: WVC TRIO Upward Bound Coordinator Christy Morley, OCC TRIO Student Support Services Academic Advisor Tanara Ryden, Smith, Crosley, Nguyen, Stevenson, Liam Ryden, FCC TRIO SSS Academic Advisor Jaeda Thomason pose with the United States Capitol in the background.

That perspective became powerful testimony during meetings with lawmakers, including U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin.

"I actually got to talk to Dick Durbin, which was pretty cool," Crosley said. "He was down to earth. It felt really chill, but I knew I still had a job to do."

According to TRIO staff, students played a critical role in the seminar by sharing personal experiences to highlight the program's impact.

"Being able to actually present my story in the offices of our representatives and even Dick Durbin himself was incredible," Crosley said. "It made me feel like my voice was being heard."

While advocacy was at the heart of the trip, Crosley said the experience extended far beyond meetings on Capitol Hill.

Students toured national landmarks, including the Lincoln Memorial and the National Mall, and explored Washington's culture through food and shared experiences.

"It made me realize there's a lot more than just Robinson," Crosley said. "There are things we might take for granted that we really need to advocate for."

Still, his favorite part wasn't a monument or a meeting.

"I think my favorite part was just the time I got to spend with the other students and the advisors," he said. "Seeing all these people from TRIO across the country, it was so much bigger than me."

Since returning to campus, Crosley has already started sharing that perspective with others, especially students considering TRIO programs.

"It's cool to tell people this is something they can do, too," he said. "It was a great learning opportunity, and it didn't cost me anything."

For Crosley, the trip wasn't just about speaking to lawmakers; it was about finding his voice and helping others see what's possible.

"School is really hard, but it's really important," he said. "Having a place where you can get guidance, study and be supported, it really does wonders for you."

PROCESS TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION



Four Lincoln Trail College Process Technology students have qualified for the NAPTA Troubleshooting Skills Competition, earning the opportunity to compete against top programs from across the country.

Hannah Potts, Natalie Ramsey, Korbin Alger and Dalton Spahn will represent LTC at the national competition, which is organized by the North American Process Technology Alliance and will be held April 29-May 1 in Pasadena, Texas.

The competition challenges advanced Process Technology students to diagnose and solve real-world process issues in a team-based environment, simulating scenarios they may encounter in industry.

Process Technology Instructor Tina Lindley said qualifying for the event reflects both the students' technical ability and their preparation in the program.

"This is a great opportunity for our students to showcase what they've learned in a real-world setting," Lindley said. "They've put in the work to develop strong troubleshooting

skills, and this competition gives them a chance to apply those skills at a high level.”

Teams competing in the event must work together to analyze complex process problems and implement solutions, emphasizing communication, safety and efficiency. Lindley said those skills are critical for success in the field.

“In Process Technology, troubleshooting is everything,” she said. “Employers are looking for people who can think critically, work as a team and respond quickly when something goes wrong. That’s exactly what this competition is designed to test.”

The four students qualified through preliminary rounds, earning their place among the top teams invited to compete nationally.

Lindley said the experience goes beyond competition.

“This isn’t just about competing, it’s about preparing for their careers,” she said. “They’re gaining confidence, building teamwork and getting a glimpse of what they’ll be expected to do in the industry.”

The NAPTA Troubleshooting Skills Competition brings together leading Process Technology programs from across the United States, with teams competing for the title of national champion.

LTC STUDENTS EXTEND FOA CERTIFICATION SUCCESS STREAK



Students in the telecommunications program at Lincoln Trail College continue to demonstrate their readiness for the workforce, extending a six-year streak of passing the Fiber Optic Association (FOA) Certification Exam on their first attempt.

The FOA Certification is a widely recognized credential in the telecommunications industry, validating a technician’s knowledge and skills in fiber optics. As fiber broadband has become the backbone of modern communication systems, including internet, wireless networks, security systems, and utility infrastructure, certification has become increasingly important for those entering the field.

“Workers in all these fields are expected to understand fiber optics technology and, in many cases, be competent in fiber optic network design, installation and operation,” said Telecommunications Instructor Dennis York. “Education, training and certification for fiber optic technicians has become extremely important, and that is the focus of the FOA.”

York said the program’s consistent success reflects both the dedication of students and the structure of the program.

“This is an accomplishment within the industry for the fiber optic standards, which each student must understand and apply to work effectively,” he said. “Having passed the certification on the first try displays the level at which LTC molds and trains the students.”

Students in the program prepare for the certification throughout the year with a combination of lectures, review sessions, skills assessments and hands-on labs. York said that combination plays a key role in student success.

“Once the concept of the lesson is taught inside the classroom, it is then applied to the lab portion of the class,” he said. “It builds confidence, opens the door for more discussion, and allows students to learn in a separate format other than just visuals or PowerPoint explanation.”

By the time they sit for the exam, students have developed a wide range of technical skills. Those include reading complex wiring diagrams, understanding outside plant operations, managing fiber optic cable systems, and performing fusion splicing — all critical components of the job.

York said earning the FOA Certification gives students an advantage as they enter the workforce.

“Being FOA certified has helped them not only during the interview process, but also in real-world problem solving involved in the daily troubleshooting of a fiber optic technician,” he said.

For York, the continued success of his students is both a professional achievement and a personal reward.

“There is no better feeling than when a student has that moment when what you are teaching just clicks,” he said. “I know that when the students leave our hands into the workforce, they are not going into it blind and have the confidence to complete their daily tasks.”



IECC STUDENTS EARN TOP HONORS AT FBLA STATE COMPETITION



Students from Illinois Eastern Community Colleges continued a tradition of success at the state level, earning multiple top finishes at the Future Business Leaders of America State Competition.

Jessica Wagner led the way with first-place finishes in Accounting Case Competition and Hospitality Management. Brandy Cochran earned first place in Marketing and Sales Case Competition, while Emelyn Rivera placed first in Sports Management and Marketing and third in Business Presentation.

The results reflect a history of strong performance for the program, said Associate Professor of Business Amie Mayhall, who oversees FBLA at IECC.

“IECC’s FBLA program has a history of quality performance at the state and national level,” Mayhall said. “Our students are smart, dedicated, and work hard to achieve.” This year’s group also highlighted a unique aspect of the program’s growth. While based at Lincoln Trail College, FBLA participation is expanding across the district, bringing together students from multiple IECC colleges.

“It was fun to see students from three of our colleges come together, get to know each other, and support each other at the competition,” Mayhall said.

That shared interest in business careers and professional development helps students quickly build connections, even if they come from different communities.

“They all have like interests in the business field, a drive to be involved in professional organizations, and to experience speakers, conferences and tours,” Mayhall said. “This makes it easy to bond and create a group.”

Preparation for the state competition requires significant time and effort. Depending on the event, students may complete objective tests, deliver presentations or participate in role-playing scenarios judged on-site.

Those experiences are designed to mirror real-world situations students may encounter in their careers.

“In performance-based competitions such as role-playing and presentations, students are put into scenarios that they may encounter on the job,” Mayhall said. “They are put to the

test with judges examining their performance and providing valuable feedback.”

The competitions also align with national career readiness standards, including competencies such as critical thinking, communication, teamwork and professionalism, further reinforcing the connection between classroom learning and career preparation. Beyond the awards, Mayhall said the most meaningful outcomes are seen in student growth.

“They grow in confidence, socially, personally and professionally,” she said. “There is always a great mix of fun and work at the conferences.”

Students involved in FBLA at IECC have opportunities to tour businesses, network with peers across the state and nation, attend conferences, hear from industry speakers and develop leadership skills. The program is largely student-driven, allowing participants to shape their own experience.

“The FBLA experience can be whatever students want to make it,” Mayhall said.

The students’ success at the state level has also earned them an opportunity to compete on a national stage. They will represent IECC at the FBLA Collegiate National Leadership Conference, scheduled for June 5-8 in Las Vegas.

IECC STUDENT EXCELS AT SIU ACCOUNTING COMPETITION

Stepping outside her comfort zone paid off in a big way for Illinois Eastern Community Colleges student Jessica Wagner.

Wagner earned first place in the community college division at the Southern Illinois University Accounting Competition and helped her team to a second-place finish in the Accounting II Team Building Competition.

For Associate Professor of Business Amie Mayhall, who accompanied Wagner to the event, the performance was as impressive as it was meaningful.

“Jessica took a step out of her comfort zone when agreeing to attend the competition,” said Mayhall, Associate Professor of Business. “She remained calm, focused, and performed her best.”

The annual competition at Southern Illinois University brings together students from high schools and colleges to test their accounting knowledge and problem-solving skills in both individual and team settings.

The day begins with an academic competition, where students complete one of several accounting exams based on their experience level. Top performers in each category can earn scholarships to pursue accounting studies at SIU.



Wagner earned the top score among community college participants, securing a \$500 scholarship opportunity.

In addition to the academic portion, students also compete in a team challenge designed to test creativity, collaboration and critical thinking. Participants are placed into small groups and tasked with building a tower using limited materials, just four manila folders and six feet of masking tape, before carrying their structure across a ballroom floor without it collapsing.

Wagner's team placed second in the Accounting II division, demonstrating both ingenuity and teamwork in a fast-paced, problem-solving environment.

Preparation for the competition began in the classroom. Wagner completed Financial Accounting, which provided the foundation she needed to succeed.

"Jessica has a high level of attention to detail and strong problem-solving skills," Mayhall said. "She has a will to learn and to learn to apply what she learns."

For Mayhall, the experience was also a first, as it marked the first time she had taken students to the SIU competition.

"It was fun to be able to experience the competition and learn more about SIU's accountancy program," she said.

Beyond the awards, the experience offered Wagner an opportunity to test her skills in a new environment and gain confidence in her abilities.

Mayhall said she hopes more students will take advantage of similar opportunities in the future.

"I would love to see this opportunity grow and more students from our accounting programs attend," she said.

LTC PROVIDES FREE TAX ASSISTANCE THROUGH IRS VITA PROGRAM

For the third consecutive year, students at Lincoln Trail College are gaining real-world experience while making a tangible impact in the community through the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

The VITA program offers free tax preparation services to qualifying individuals, particularly those with low incomes and elderly residents. At Lincoln Trail College, the program is led by Associate Professor of Business Amie Mayhall and supported by students who complete





IRS training and certification.

“This program is a benefit to the community and to our students in many ways,” Mayhall said. “We just finished up year three.”

This year marked the program's most successful to date at LTC. Students and faculty prepared 60 tax returns, the highest number since the program began on campus. The site also completed a successful IRS review with no recommended changes and recorded zero rejected returns.

Through the program, the IRS provides training, certification,

software and support, while LTC students and faculty offer the service at no cost to the community.

Students play a key role in the process, working directly with clients to prepare and file returns. Five students earned certification this year and contributed to the program's success.

Among them was Summer Marks, an accounting student at Olney Central College, who took on a leadership role by managing appointment scheduling and attending weekly office hours. Her work with the program also counted toward her internship requirement.

Other students involved included Nathan Legg, Heidi Coffey, Jessica Wagner and Audrie Mayhall.

For students, the experience provides an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in a real-world setting, and often go beyond it.

“For most business students, this program actually steps out and beyond what they are learning in the classroom,” Mayhall said. “Students who are accounting majors take classes in tax accounting and apply what they have learned in the classroom to these real-life clients.”

That hands-on experience also helps students grow both personally and professionally, she said.

“Anytime students can experience authentic hands-on experience, they will benefit,” Mayhall said. “They grow in their understanding of the U.S. tax system, their confidence in preparing and understanding their own taxes, and professionalism with working with the public.”

For accounting majors in particular, the repetition of working through multiple returns builds both skill and confidence, while exposing them to a variety of real-world tax scenarios.

As the program continues to grow, Mayhall said its value remains clear, not only in the service it provides, but in the experience it gives students.

By combining education with community service, the VITA program at Lincoln Trail College continues to make a lasting impact on both students and the people they serve.

LTC HOSTS ACES COMPETITION, RECOGNIZES TOP AREA STUDENTS



LTC President and IECC Vice Chancellor of Institutional Outreach Tona Ambrose speaks with students participating in the ACES competition.

Lincoln Trail College hosted the Academic Challenge for Engineering and Science (ACES) Competition on March 2, welcoming more than 125 students from nine area high schools to campus.

The ACES Competition provides high school students the opportunity to test their knowledge in subjects related to engineering and science, including mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics. Students select subject areas and complete exams designed to challenge their understanding and problem-solving abilities.

Lincoln Trail College served as one of several regional

host sites for this year's event, continuing a long-standing tradition of academic competition that highlights student achievement in STEM-related fields.

Students who earned top finishes in their respective subject areas received special recognition from Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, including a tuition award in honor of their performance.

"These students are challenging themselves in ways that go beyond the classroom, and that's something to celebrate," said Tona Ambrose, president of Lincoln Trail College and vice chancellor of institutional outreach for IECC. "ACES gives them the opportunity to test their knowledge, build confidence and see what they're capable of achieving. We're proud to host this event and recognize their hard work."

Among the seniors recognized for their performance were:

From Edwards County High School: Jax Duncan, Jaden Evans, Audrey Greatline, Jackson Hensley and Carlin St. Ledger.

From Hutsonville High School: Gracelyn Arvin.

From Lawrenceville High School: Kenlee Dohoney, Mieke Lotter and Tucker Waldrop.

From Mount Carmel High School: Ty Hipsher and Aiden McBroom.

From Oblong High School: Sydney Drum.

From Palestine High School: Emily Rachoy.

From Richland County High School: Kylie Kocher, Seth Norwood and Xavior Zuber.

From Robinson High School: Martin Biery, Ella Bunten, Audri Green, Josiah Hatfield and Owen Steele.

The ACES Competition continues to provide students with an opportunity to showcase their academic abilities while connecting with colleges and exploring future educational pathways.

LTC HOSTS CELEBRATE ART! DAY FOR AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Lincoln Trail College welcomed high school students from across the region to campus for its annual Celebrate Art! Day, an event designed to showcase student artwork while providing an educational experience in the arts.

Students in grades 9-12 from area schools, including Robinson, Oblong, Palestine, Hutsonville, Marshall, Lawrenceville, Red Hill and Richland County, participated in the event by submitting artwork for display and competition.

As part of the day's activities, students attended a presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Markman, LCPC, ATR-BC, of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. Markman spoke about the field of art therapy, highlighting how creative expression can be used to support mental health and well-being, as well as the educational pathways available for students interested in the profession.



"Celebrate Art! Day gives students a chance to see that there are many different paths they can take with their creativity," said Angie Compton, adjunct art instructor at Lincoln Trail College. "Whether they're interested in teaching, design or fields like art therapy, this helps them start thinking about how art can be part of their future."

Following the presentation, students were recognized for their work in the annual art competition.

Hannah Miller earned Best of Show honors. Outstanding Artist awards were presented to Whitley Ralston, Fine Goslar, Carmelee Treat, Rachel Barker, Molly Fehrenbacher, Izabel Summer and Angel Hemrich.

Celebrate Art! Day is designed to encourage students to explore their creativity while gaining insight into educational and career opportunities in the arts.



LTC TO HOLD COMMUNITY CHOIR AND JAZZ BAND CONCERT MAY 1



The Lincoln Trail College Community Choir and Jazz Band will present a spring concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 1, in the Zwermann Arts Center Theater.

The concert will feature a blend of choral works and jazz standards performed by ensembles made up of community members and Lincoln Trail College students.

The Community Choir, under the direction of Yvonne Newlin with accompanist Stephen Wisely, will perform a diverse program

spanning classical, folk and musical theater selections. The choir's selections include John Leavitt's "Hodie!," Richard Robert Rossi's "It Was a Lover and His Lass," and an arrangement of the traditional American folk song "Shenandoah" by Darmon Meader.

Additional selections include "Roger's Idea," inspired by "Pennies from Heaven," featuring soloists Chris Jensen, Rebecca Trivett and Grayson Pinkston, and "Someone Like You" from Jekyll & Hyde, featuring soloist Teresa Gower.

The choir will also perform "What a Wonderful World," arranged by Mark Brymer, and a medley from West Side Story, arranged by Mac Huff. Soloists for the medley include Rudy Nichols, Dee Collins, Bella Collins, Mindi Williamson and Sandra Beals.

The Jazz Band, directed by Jena Combs, will present a program of swing, blues and jazz classics. Selections include "Blues in Hoss Flat," arranged by Mark Taylor; Cole Porter's "Too Darn Hot," arranged by Robert Woods; and "Blues Fur Elise," arranged by Eik Morales.

The ensemble will also perform "Just a Closer Walk With Thee," arranged by Chris Sharp; "Caravan," arranged by Michael Sweeney; George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," arranged by Bob Lowden; and "Cold Duck Time," arranged by Mark Taylor.



WHITE EARNS ALL-AMERICAN HONORS, WILL CONTINUE CAREER AT ULM



Mike White's two-year career at Lincoln Trail College ended with one of the program's highest honors.

White earned All-Conference, All-Region and All-American recognition following the 2025-26 season, becoming just the fifth player in program history to be named an All-American. He joins Fly Gray (1977), Chris Whitney (1991), Lincoln Glass (2000) and Bud Howard (2005) on that list.

"It means everything," White said. "The work I put in, and also me, Coach Cotten, Coach Curry and my team; I couldn't do it without them."

White capped his sophomore season as one of the top scorers in the nation, finishing 11th nationally in points per game at 21.1. He also averaged 6.4 rebounds and 4.4 assists per game, leading the Statesmen in both categories.

White said the honor reflects not only his individual effort, but the relationships and trust built within the program.

"I give credit to them for me making the All-American team," he said. "It's a great accomplishment. I'm blessed to really have that."

After arriving at Lincoln Trail unsure of what his career might become, White said his development over two seasons exceeded expectations.

"I came in here not knowing what was going to happen with my career," he said. "The growth I've had over two years is amazing."

White said that growth came through daily work and learning to embrace coaching, particularly during his freshman season.

"At first, I thought Coach Cotten was just getting on me," he said. "But I found out over time it was out of love. He cares about me a lot."

On the court, White became a central piece for the Statesmen, contributing as a scorer, rebounder and playmaker while helping lead the team through a competitive season.

"We worked every day," he said. "My teammates pushed me to be the best I can be. They trusted me all year."

White said the bond with his teammates was one of the most meaningful parts of



MAY ATHLETIC EVENTS

Baseball

1 at Southeastern Illinois College

3:00

his time at Lincoln Trail.

"I call those guys my brothers," he said. "I love those guys to death."

Head coach Junsie Cotten said White's recognition reflects both his performance and his character.

"Just really proud of him," Cotten said. "His transformation from his freshman year to his sophomore year is a testament to his hard work. He's not just an All-American player, he's an All-American person, a guy who works every day and has the right mindset."

White will continue his career at the University of Louisiana Monroe, where he said he felt a strong connection during the recruiting process.

"They really wanted me," he said. "It's good to be wanted in this business."

As he prepares for the next level, White said his time at Lincoln Trail will remain a defining chapter.

"Coach Cotten has really changed my life," he said. "On and off the court, just making me a better person and a better basketball player."

HOPKINS EARNS POSTSEASON HONORS

Khamryn Hopkins' impact on the court went far beyond the stat sheet this season for the Lincoln Trail College women's basketball team.

Now, it's being recognized across the region.

Hopkins earned All-Conference and All-Region honors following a standout season with the Lady Statesmen, recognition that head coach Daniel Shugars said reflects the work she put in long before game day.

"Honestly, I'm just proud of her," Shugars said. "You don't get All-Conference and All-Region by accident. Those honors come from showing up every single day and doing the work when nobody's watching."

Shugars said Hopkins' consistency and competitiveness set her apart throughout the season.

"Night in and night out, we knew what we were going to get from effort, toughness, and production," he said. "She impacted the game on both ends, whether that was scoring, rebounding, or taking on tough defensive assignments."

Hopkins delivered in key moments,



including a 30-point performance against Vincennes University in a tightly contested 65-62 loss. But for Shugars, it wasn't just the numbers that defined her season.

"What stands out even more is how she responded in big moments," he said. "Late-game situations, close matchups; she didn't shy away. She wanted responsibility, and she delivered."

While her production was a major factor in her postseason recognition, Shugars said Hopkins' influence extended well beyond the box score.

"She brings a level of toughness and accountability that every team needs," he said. "She's vocal, she holds her teammates to a standard, and she leads by example. In practice, she competes like it's a game, and that raises the level of everyone around her."

For Shugars, the honors are a reflection of how others now see what the program has witnessed all season.

"For her to be recognized like this means people outside our gym are seeing what we see every day," he said.

And when asked to sum up Hopkins' impact in a single sentence, Shugars didn't hesitate.

"She's a tough, driven competitor who shows up every day and makes our team better in every way."

SOFTBALL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS WITH ALUMNI RECOGNITION DAY

Lincoln Trail College will celebrate 50 years of Lady Statesmen softball with a special Alumni Recognition Day on Saturday, April 18, as LTC hosts Wabash Valley College for a doubleheader beginning at noon.

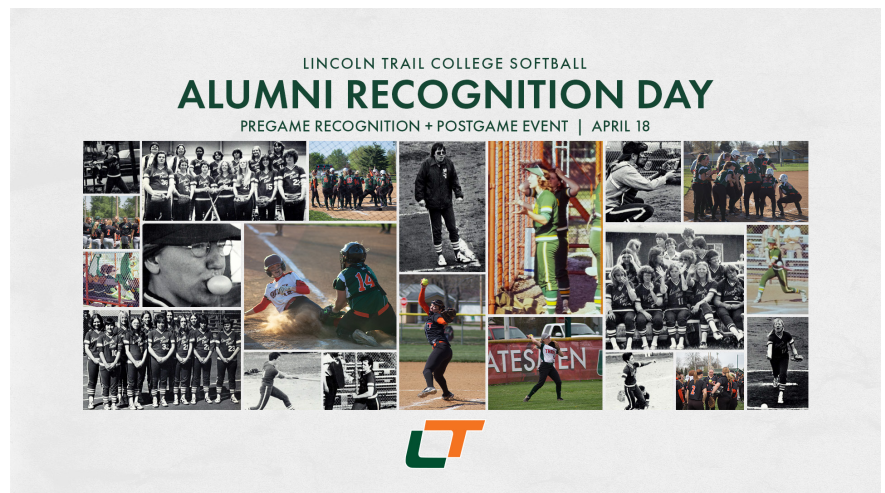
Alumni will be recognized prior to the games and invited to participate in a ceremonial first pitch. First pitch is scheduled for noon, with the second game to follow at 2 p.m. at the Lincoln Trail College softball field.

A postgame celebration dinner will be held at 5 p.m. in the Learning Commons in the Student Union.

"This is a really special opportunity to bring our alumni back together and celebrate everything they've meant to this program," said Lincoln Trail College softball coach Eva Richardson. "The success and culture we have today are because of the players who came before us. We want them to come back, reconnect and be part of this moment."

All former Lady Statesmen softball players and coaches are encouraged to attend. Alumni interested in participating in on-field recognition or the ceremonial first pitch are asked to RSVP in advance.

"This is about more than just a game," Richardson said. "It's about celebrating 50 years of memories, friendships and pride in being a Lady Statesman."



LTC IN PICTURES



Students gather to view and discuss artwork during Celebrate Art!, engaging with creative pieces and sharing perspectives while exploring the talents of their peers.



Students listen and take notes during the Young Women LEAD event, engaging with speakers and gaining insights on leadership, confidence, and future career opportunities.



Doug Robb and Alex Hamblin connect with students during SPIN and Ag Exploration Night, sharing insights about LTC's agriculture classes and hands-on opportunities.



Dennis York speaks with a prospective student during SPIN, demonstrating equipment and sharing details about LTC's Telecommunications program.



Jim Lane leads a drum circle during Yvonne Newlin's World Music class, giving students a hands-on introduction to rhythm and global music traditions.



Students smile, laugh, and find their rhythm during a lively drum circle, turning a World Music class into an energetic, hands-on experience filled with creativity and fun.



Seventh and 10th grade students attend Twin Rivers and LTC Career Day, where Tona Ambrose and industry professionals share insights and introduce a wide range of career opportunities.



Anatomy students turn learning into laughter, competing in a spirited dance-off to earn extra credit.