



2026

56TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

MAY 15 • 7 PM • SPORTS CENTER

ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Gary Carter, Chairman
Ms. Sonja Holtz, Secretary to the Board
Mr. Ryan Hawkins, Treasurer to the Board
Dr. Susan Batchelor, Trustee
Mr. Roger Browning, Trustee
Ms. Brenda Culver, Trustee
Mr. John McLaughlin, Trustee
Mr. Jan Ridgely, Trustee
Ms. Barbara Shimer, Trustee
Ms. Samantha Coomer, Student Trustee

ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES LEADERSHIP

Dr. Ryan K. Gower, Chancellor
Dr. Cathy Robb, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs
Dr. Sharmila Kakac, Vice Chancellor of Business & Industry
Mr. Chris Simpson, Vice Chancellor of Business Operations
Ms. Tona Ambrose, Vice Chancellor of Institutional Outreach
Dr. Matt Fowler, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
Mr. Ryan Hawkins, Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Andrea McDowell, Executive Director of Human Resources
Mr. Paul Tait, Chief Information Officer

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

Ms. Tona Ambrose, President
Ms. Cyndi Richards, Dean of Instruction, Arts & Social Sciences and
Public Service

**LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES**

May 15, 2026

Ms. Tona Ambrose, Presiding

THE PROCESSIONAL.....	Brassmasters
WELCOME	Tona Ambrose President, Lincoln Trail College
INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER.....	Tona Ambrose President, Lincoln Trail College
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Rebecca Trivett Lincoln Trail College Class of '26
INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER.....	Cyndi Richards Dean of Instruction, Lincoln Trail College
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Josh Silva Lincoln Trail College Class of '26
STUDENT AWARDS	Tona Ambrose, Cyndi Richards
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES/CERTIFICATES.....	Cyndi Richards Dean of Instruction, Lincoln Trail College
THE AWARDING OF DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES ANNOUNCING THE GRADUATES	Chris Forde Director of Marketing & Communication, Lincoln Trail College
CONFERRING OF DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES.....	Barb Shimer Board of Trustees, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges
CLOSING REFLECTIONS	Cyndi Richards Dean of Instruction, Lincoln Trail College
THE RECESSIONAL	Brass Quintet <i>Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 in D</i> by Edward Elgar

CLASS OF 2026

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE & ARTS

Luke Matuguina Anderson	Alexandria Osborne
James Attwood	Peyton Ella Osteen
Tyler Marie Bailey	Elahna Rose Perry
Curtis Trent Benson	Jaycee Elizabeth Phillips
Bryce Apollo Brabender	Judson Robert Pinkston
Andrew Oliver Brandenburger	Timothy James Pringle
Leigh Kathrine Carnes	Lyndee Lou Pusey
Sajjen Caywood Chester	Oseghale Kabosh Okpebholo Ray
Cole Francis Christopher	Sally Jane Shelton
Alex Jacob Conrad	Cassidy Rose Shew
Brenna Marie Coonce	Joshua Robert Silva
Kaitlyn Nicole Cooper	Gabriel P. Skelton
Lanee Cooper	Michael T. Smith
Samantha M. Craig	Samuel Pruitt Stacy
Grace Kaylan Davidson	Stryker Matthews Swenson
Kaitlyn Ann Didion	Tatiana Harmony Taylor
Jayda Leann Fisher	MacKade Shawn Tislow
Matthew R. Fortner	Faith Elizabeth Tooloose
Eliot Boyd Gallaher	Rebecca Lynn Trivett
Logan Wyatt Gibbs	Isaac Harper Waggner
Alexis Jo Grindstaff	Colin A. Walls
Jared Bryce Jackson	Gracie Nichole Weger
Nicholas Lee Johnson	Michael A. White
James Arthur Lockhart	Pernell Whitsett III
Claira Lynn McGee	Gabriel Adam Wilke
Ryan Hunter Miezin	Katie Jo Winterrowd
Joshua Aamir Morris	Elizabeth Christine Womble
Adam Ray Newell	Kline David Woodward
Emma Nicole Newlin	Mackenzie Lee York
Bella Kathryn Nottger	

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS

Catlynn Laura Underwood	Caitlyn Jade Wilson
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ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

Alina Renee Alford	Benjamin Elliott Kearns
Claire Nichole Boehm	Nathan Gregory Rich
Rhyland Shea Brady	Bianca Grace Wyatt
Alexander Isaac Calvert	Melanie Hope Wyatt
Garrett James Clark	

ASSOCIATE IN GENERAL STUDIES

Krystal Dawn Boone
Chase Taylor Jenkins
Charles Legg
Alexis I. Ramsey

GINNA LEANN RUSSELL
Brandi Stephenson
Leslie Paige Zachary

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Kaley Dawn Flynn
Bridgette Lynn Montgomery

Allison Marie Neikirk

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE NURSING

Steven Aiden Birchfield
Marie Elizabeth Galyen
Victoria Jill Goodwin
Kyleigh Breann Johnson
Zoe Jean Elizabeth Martin

Emily Cristine McColpin
Cheyanne Nicole McDonald
Amada Sue Pringle
Tiann Marie Shipman
Amanda Dawn Wineinger

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE OFFICE MANAGEMENT

Colin A. Walls

Tonya Williams

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE PROCESS TECHNOLOGY

Korbin Charles Alger
Dylan Lee Cravens
Skylar Kade Harmon
Lance Aaron Jerkins
Alexander David Lankston
Caleb Andrew McNary
Hannah R. Potts

Natalie Alysse Ramsey
Dalton James Shipman
Dalton Gregory Spahn
Duke Matthew Thompson
Donavahn Lebron Tillman
Cole Mathew Weber

CERTIFICATE BASIC NURSE ASSISTANT

Jasmine Escobedo

CERTIFICATE BROADBAND TECHNICIAN

Sawyer Clement Dusenberry
Caleb Joseph Gehlhausen
Caleb Gephart
Braxton Scott Huddleston
Arron Thomas Johnson
Jarred Poindexter

John William Rich
Sheldon Dane Rose
Corey Schroeder
Kaiden Matthew Simons
Aiden Keane Worstell
Dominic J. Yarber

CERTIFICATE COMBO TECHNICIAN

Chase Allan Jones

CERTIFICATE COSMETOLOGY

Alexa Beard

Rorie Nicole Courtney

CERTIFICATE MEDICAL ASSISTANT

McKinnon Lorene Anderson

Kasidy Johnson

Kiara Nicole Fralicker

Kelsey L. Meeks

Amber Mae Greenwell

Mackenzie Marie Neal

Breanna Lynn Heath

Khyiema Poole

CERTIFICATE OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Kendra Rene King

CERTIFICATE OSP TECHNICIAN

James Isaac Ayres

Cole Allen Littlejohn

Austin Wayne Carter

Ethan Jeremy Miller

Benjamin Mason Coonce

Cale Logan Neeley

Wyatt Alan Cooper

Evan Cayle Riggle

Greyson Dane Holscher

Owen Luke Rodgers

Chase Allan Jones

Ryder Bryan Vaughn

CERTIFICATE PRACTICAL NURSING

Whittney Nicole Agan

Madalyn Leigh Myers

Marissa Marie Daugherty

Jacqueline Nicole Reel

Jeanie Marie Easley

Christina Marie Ricketts

Briana Lee Higgins

Olivia Kay Riggle

Elizabeth M. Kocher

Brooke Taylor Shipman

Jaedyn KJ Legg

Kylie Jo Spencer

Rachel Ann Livesay

Charysa Jillayne West

Madalyn Marie Miller

Carla Jo Wilson

CERTIFICATE PROCESS TECHNOLOGY

Kollin Ashley Ramos

CERTIFICATE QUICKBOOKS

Haley Nicole Bricker

CERTIFICATE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Joshua C. Crouse

Jacob R. Meese

CERTIFICATE WELDING

Owen Richard Griffin
Korbin Maddox Bonesteel
Blaine Cottrill
Caden Goodwin
Reese Johnson

Andrew Lane Kirchhoff
Gage Lee Lockhart
Colton Shipman
Thane Wheeler

STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

THE JOSEPH C. PILAND EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD JONNA TANNEUR

The Joseph C. Piland Excellence in Scholarship Award is presented to a full-time Lincoln Trail College student who has demonstrated outstanding academic merit and sustained excellence in the classroom. The award is given to honor Joseph C. Piland who was the first President of Lincoln Trail College. His vision and passion for education were instrumental in the development of a comprehensive community college for Crawford County.

THE J. ROD HARMON EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD GRAYSON PINKSTON

The J. Rod Harmon Excellence in Service Award is presented to a full-time Lincoln Trail College student who has demonstrated outstanding service to the college or the community. Rod Harmon served as a faculty member at Lincoln Trail College for 27 years and has been the Executive Director of the Lincoln Trail College Foundation since 2005. He is well known for his rich sense of humor, dedication to his wife Diana, and commitment to creating opportunities for all residents of Crawford County to have access to a high-quality education.

THE BEV L. TURKAL EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD JARED JACKSON

The Bev L. Turkal Excellence in Leadership Award is presented to a full-time Lincoln Trail College student who has shown great Leadership qualities and skills. This award is given to honor Bev L. Turkal, a true Leader in Education, whose passion was to make a difference and change the lives of children, teens, adults and lifelong learners. Bev believed to be a strong Leader one must live life, care, and show empathy, must have high energy and be competitive to accomplish the goals set to make things happen!

HONORS RECIPIENTS

HIGHEST HONORS

Students with a GPA 4.0

Luke Matuguina Anderson
Alexa Beard
Joshua C. Crouse
Sawyer Clement Dusenberry
Jasmine Escobedo
Matthew R. Fortner
Caleb Joseph Gehlhausen

Jacob R. Meese
Emma Nicole Newlin
Peyton Ella Osteen
Jarred Poindexter
Kollin Ashley Ramos
Kaiden Matthew Simons
Samuel Pruitt Stacy

HIGH HONORS

Students with a GPA 3.75-3.99

Alina Renee Alford
McKinnon Lorene Anderson
James Attwood
Tyler Marie Bailey
Curtis Trent Benson
Leigh Kathrine Carnes
Sajjen Caywood Chester
Garrett James Clark
Kaley Dawn Flynn
Eliot Boyd Gallaher
Caleb Gephart
Adam Ray Newell

Bella Kathryn Nottger
Alexandria Osborne
Jaycee Elizabeth Phillips
Khyiema Poole
Oseghale Kabosh Okpebholo Ray
Joshua Robert Silva
Gracie Nichole Weger
Thane Wheeler
Bianca Grace Wyatt
Melanie Hope Wyatt
Dominic J. Yarber

HONORS

Students with a GPA 3.50-3.74

Steven Aiden Birchfield
Claire Nichole Boehm
Andrew Oliver Brandenburger
Alexander Isaac Calvert
Lanee Cooper
Rorie Nicole Courtney
Grace Kaylan Davidson
Kaitlyn Ann Didion
Braxton Scott Huddlestun
Kasidy Johnson
Chase Allan Jones
Benjamin Elliott Kearns
Jaedyn KJ Legg
Rachel Ann Livesay
Gage Lee Lockhart

Kelsey L. Meeks
Madalyn Marie Miller
Elahna Rose Perry
Nathan Gregory Rich
Sheldon Dane Rose
Sally Jane Shelton
Dalton Gregory Spahn
Brandi Stephenson
Duke Matthew Thompson
Faith Elizabeth Tooloose
Rebecca Lynn Trivett
Isaac Harper Waggner
Caitlyn Jade Wilson
Kline David Woodward

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for two-year colleges, recognizing academic excellence and providing leadership, scholarship, and service opportunities for high-achieving students. To qualify, students must have completed at least 12 credit hours of college-level coursework and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5.

Curtis Trent Benson
Claire Nichole Boehm
Leigh Katherine Carnes
Sajjen Caywood Chester
Kaitlyn Nicole Cooper
Eliot Boyd Gallaher
Rachel Ann Livesay
Zoe Jean Elizabeth Martin
Cheyanne Nicole McDonald
Claira Lynn McGee
Adam Ray Newell
Emma Nicole Newlin
Bella Kathryn Nottger
Peyton Ella Osteen
Elahna Rose Perry

Jaycee Elizabeth Phillips
Kollin Ashley Ramos
Oseghale Kabosh Okepebholo Ray
Jacqueline Nicole Reel
Olivia Kay Riggle
Joshua Robert Silva
Faith Elizabeth Tooloose
Isaac Harper Waggner
Gracie Nichole Weger
Kline David Woodward
Bianca Grace Wyatt
Melanie Hope Wyatt
Dominic J. Yarber

IECC STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

The IECC Student Advisory Board is comprised of students from each of the IECC campuses. The ISAB serves as a liaison between the collective student body and the IECC's Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty in order to maintain the best learning environment for all students and ensure productive and quality programs and activities within the IECC.

Claire Boehm

Sally Shelton

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Government serves as the official voice of the student body at Lincoln Trail College. Members represent student interests and promote campus involvement.

Alina Alford
Luke Anderson
James Attwood
Andrew Brandenburger
Leigh Carnes
Kaitlyn Didion
Alexis Grandstaff

Claira McGee
Peyton Osteen
Jaycee Phillips
Nathan Rich
Catlynn Underwood
Gracie Weger
Katie Winterrowd

TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

TRIO Student Support Services is a federally funded program designed to help eligible college students succeed through academic support, mentoring, and personal development resources.

Claire Boehm
Garrett Clark
Kaitlyn Cooper
Jayda Fisher
Joshua Morris

Tatiana Taylor
Colin Walls
Bianca Wyatt
Melanie Wyatt

GRADUATION TRADITIONS

GONFALON

The gonfalon carrier is responsible for carrying Lincoln Trail College's official flag during the graduation ceremony. It is considered an honor to be selected as the gonfalon carrier because it represents the highest level of academic achievement and leadership within the school community. The gonfalon carrier leads the procession of graduates and symbolizes the unity and pride of the graduating class. This year's gonfalon carrier is Yvonne Newlin.

HONOR CORDS

An honor cord is a token consisting of twisted cords with tassels on either end awarded to members of honor societies or for other academic and non-academic achievements, awards, or honors.

Gold Cords and Gold Tassel: Highest Honors

Silver Cords: High Honors

Bronze Cords: Honors

Red, White, and Blue Cords: Veteran of the Armed Forces

Red, Black, and White Cords: TRIO Student Support Services

GRADUATION MARSHALS

Lucrezia Becchi
Cameron Dennis

Ana Lopes
Aidan Willis

BRASS QUINTET

Cartha Gustafson
Tim McCormick
Brent Ritter

Heather Setzer
Andy Whittington

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE PERSONNEL

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Austin Alexander
Will Bookhout
Carrie Brown
Tyler Browning
Jena Combs
Jared Gullett

Elaine Hasty
Abigail Holdrieth
Laurie Jenkins
Tina Lindley
Travis Matthews
Amie Mayhall

Kimberley Schucker
Philip Thorsen
Kathleen White
Angelia Williams
Connor York
Dennis York

PART-TIME FACULTY

Xhyla Abazi
Kimberly Ahlert
Angela Compton
David Forbes
Andrew Gaines
Teresa Hoecherl

Dillon Honn
Adalyn McMurray
Autumn Meadows
Monte Newlin
Yvonne Newlin
Kenneth Pierson

Roselene Quick
Julia Randolph
Marcia Thorsen
Aaron White
Jodi Wiman
Wyatt Zumbahlen

FULL-TIME STAFF

Samantha Adams
Jesus Gonzalez Allones
Tona Ambrose
Danyelle Ayres
Jamie Carman
Junsie Cotten
Julie Courtney
Jandi Cravens
Taylor Dahlberg
Danelle Davis
Rachel Dollahan
Christopher Ellington
Christopher Forde

Rena Gower
Rachel Greenwood
Jamie Henry
Cameron Ireland
Krystle Jahn
Collyn Jewell
Caleb Kamplain
Angela Kerner
Amber Malone
Collin Maynard
David Mullins
Kelly Mullins
Taylor Newlin

Cynthia Richards
Eva Richardson
Jacquelyn Shamhart
Daniel Shugars
Lora Smith
Erin Volk
Michael Wagaman
Heather Watts
Brandon Weger
Candice Young
Robin Zachary

PART-TIME STAFF

Michael Bach
Zachary Bennett
McKenna Blevins
James Chapman
Tori Courtney
Ryan Curry
Grace Dudley

Douglas Edwards
Rebecca Geffs
Brenda Harris
Colby Knutzen
Ashley McDonald
Amanda Miller
Jay Prindable

Jennifer Saad
Mark Shea
Rhoda Shugars
Harry Smith
Kristi Weidner-Rawlings



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