

VIEW FROM THE VALLEY

VOLUME 20 - ISSUE 10 | MAGAZINE



- SPRING FEST  iecc.edu/wvc
- 2026 GRADUATION
- SUMMER CAMPS
- AND MORE!

MAY 2026



COLLEGE
DECISION
DAY *May 7*

#WVCBestDecisionEver

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EDITOR'S NOTE

May has arrived, bringing with it a season of reflection, celebration, and new beginnings at Wabash Valley College. Graduation is just around the corner, and with it comes a sense of pride for all that our students have accomplished and anticipation for the paths they are about to take.

This month's newsletter highlights the heart of our campus community — student achievements, meaningful involvement beyond the classroom, dedicated instructors, and programs that continue to grow and evolve through student leadership. Each story is a reminder of the passion, resilience, and creativity that define WVC.

As the academic year draws to a close, May invites us to pause and recognize how far our students, faculty, and staff have come together. Commencement is not just a milestone for graduates, but a celebration shared by families, friends, and the community that has supported them every step of the way.

Thank you for reading, supporting, and celebrating Wabash Valley College. It has been a privilege to help share these stories, and we look forward to all that lies ahead for our graduates and our campus community.

Quiana

WVC SPRING FEST 2026

With the semester winding down and finals approaching, Wabash Valley College students, faculty, and staff gathered for a well-earned break during the annual Spring Fest, hosted by the Student Senate.

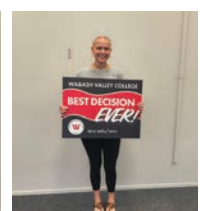
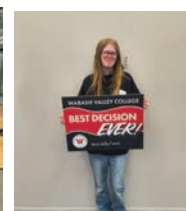
Spring Fest offered a relaxed opportunity for the campus community to come together, recharge, and enjoy the warm weather. The event featured classic cookout favorites, including hot dogs and burgers, along with a small fire pit where attendees roasted s'mores. One of the highlights of the day was homemade ice cream prepared by students in WVC's Diesel Technology program.

In addition to food, Spring Fest included a variety of games and activities, giving students and employees a chance to unwind and connect outside of the classroom. Laughter and conversation filled the space as participants took advantage of the break before the final stretch of the semester. Student Senate members organized the event as a way to support campus morale and celebrate the sense of community at WVC. Spring Fest continues to be a favorite tradition, reminding everyone of the importance of balance, connection, and enjoying the moment during a busy academic year. 🔥



WELCOME FUTURE WARRIORS!

May 1, 2026 was College Decision Day, the traditional deadline for high school seniors to submit their enrollment deposits and commit to a college or university for the fall 2026 semester. Wabash Valley College is proud to welcome those who have chosen to take the next step in their academic journey with us. We look forward to the energy, ambition, and excellence our newest class will bring. 🔥



GETTING READY FOR COMMENCEMENT

GRAD FEST

On May 6 and 7, graduating students visited the Learning Commons to pick up a piece of attire symbolizing one of their most meaningful accomplishments thus far – their graduation cap and gown. Before receiving their regalia, students completed a brief survey reflecting on their journey at Wabash Valley College. Upon completion, students received their cap and gown, along with honor cords when applicable.

The pickup event offered a festive atmosphere, complete with cookies, popcorn, and donuts. Students also had the opportunity to take photos with friends in front of the WVC backdrop, marking the moment and celebrating the milestone together.

With cap and gown pickup complete, graduates now look ahead to commencement practice and, soon after, the big finale – graduation day. 🎓

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Wabash Valley College proudly recognizes Isabelle Leurck and Alex McGinnis as this year's Students of the Year. In honor of their academic excellence, leadership, and commitment to the college community, both students have been selected to serve as Honor Marshals for the upcoming graduation ceremony.

Wabash Valley College congratulates Isabelle Leurck and Alex McGinnis on this well-deserved recognition and looks forward to celebrating their accomplishments during commencement. 🎓

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Wabash Valley College recently recognized students who were awarded scholarships in support of their educational goals. These awards, made possible through the generosity of donors and the WVC Foundation, help students continue their academic journeys while easing financial burdens.

Scholarship recipients this year include Cali Bunting, Geena Jackson, Paige Mosson, Sofia Gamon and Keslie Martin. Each recipient represents the dedication, perseverance, and promise found across WVC's student body and are shown posing with WVC Foundation's Executive Director, Sam Newkirk.

These scholarships support students from a variety of programs and backgrounds and reflect the college's ongoing commitment to access, opportunity, and student success. Wabash Valley College is grateful for the donors who make these awards possible and proud to recognize the students working hard to achieve their goals. 🎓





Transfer Instructor of the Year
Rich Poskin



Career & Technical Education Instructor
of the Year - Megan Bunnage



Adjunct Instructor of the Year
Terrance McGee

Pictured above are Wabash Valley College's Instructors of the Year, recognized for their dedication to student success, instructional excellence, and commitment to the mission of the college. These individuals go above and beyond the classroom, inspiring students, supporting their growth, and strengthening the WVC community each day. Their impact is felt not only through academic achievement, but through mentorship, encouragement, and leadership that last well beyond graduation. Each Instructor will be recognized at graduation on May 15th. 🏆



Kim More is the recipient of this year's TRIBE Award (True Role Model Inspiring by Example).

The TRIBE Award honors full-time and part-time staff or student employees at Wabash Valley College who consistently demonstrate exceptional achievement, dedication, and service to the campus community. Recipients are known for going above and beyond their primary roles to support others. Kim was selected for this honor in recognition of his outstanding service as a maintenance worker in WVC's Operations & Maintenance Department. His reliability, strong work ethic, and willingness to assist wherever needed make a meaningful impact across campus each day. 🏆

HONORING TERRY BRUCE

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges mourned the loss of Terry L. Bruce, former Chief Executive Officer, who passed away on April 17, 2026. Bruce spent more than two decades leading IECC, serving as CEO from 1996 until his retirement in 2019.

Bruce helped guide IECC through years of growth and change while keeping student access and community service at the heart of everything he did. He believed strongly in the role community colleges play in strengthening rural communities.

IECC extends its heartfelt condolences to the Bruce family and all who were touched by his life and service. His legacy will continue to be felt throughout the colleges and communities he served faithfully. 🕯️

WVC SUMMER CAMPS

Ignite Curiosity This Summer!

IGNITE CURIOSITY
IECC SUMMER CAMPS

Theater & Media Production

Forensic Science & Healthcare

Art, Drawing, Painting & Origami

Cell Towers & Smart-phones

Sign Language & Mandarin Chinese

Culinary Arts

Cosmetology & Personal Styling

STEM & Robotics

Explore. Discover. Learn Together.

ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE

BASKETBALL CAMP
BOYS & GIRLS
GRADES K-12

Scan the code to register!

AGES K-4 (Overseas Entering)
\$85 Per Person, 9am - 12pm
Skill Development, Competitions & Games

AGES 5th-10th (Overseas Entering)
\$100 Per Person, 10am - 4pm
12pm - 12pm: Skill Development
12pm - 1pm: Lunch
1pm - 4pm: Classes

AGES 11th-12th (Overseas Entering)
\$150 Per Person, 10am - 4pm
12pm - 12pm: Skill Development
12pm - 1pm: Lunch
1pm - 4pm: Classes

Early Bird Registration 50% until May 26 (\$100 After)

WVC SUMMER MUSIC CAMP
JULY 13-16
Jazz, Concert Band, Bluegrass/Folk, Country, Oldtime, Classical, Blues, Rock, and Celtic

Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Acoustic/Electric Guitar, Piano, Banjo, Fiddle, Mandolin, Dulcimer, Harmonica, Drums, Dulcimer, Conchango, Trumpet and more!

Classes Each Day with Experienced and Acclaimed Instructors

Monday: 1-3pm for ages 6-11 and 1-3:45pm for ages 12 thru adult
Tues-Thurs: 9-11:45am ages 6-11 and 1-3:45pm ages 12 thru adult
Early Bird Special Thru May 26: \$75 for all 4 days (\$100 after)

*Choose only to attend Monday Night, Age 12-Adult, for special workshops including guitar repair, songwriting, steel pan drums, violin/viola, advanced fiddle, and group jam with snacks. \$25 for Monday only

Pre-arrive with credit or call WVC, 800/833-8833
\$19,950-\$25,000, No pay by check/credit card
stroughm@wvc.edu, WVC Music PE, or WVC Business for Instrument Registration Order Form

MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE
THE FROG PRINCE

THEATER CAMP AT WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE
JULY 6-10, 2026

ENTERING 1ST GRADE - 7 YEARS OLD	AGES 9-18
LIMITED PROGRAMMING FOR 3.5 DAYS	MONDAY 10 AM - 2:30 PM
MONDAY MORNING AUDITIONS 10 AM - 12 PM	TUESDAY 10 AM - 3:30 PM
WEDNESDAY 9 AM - 12 PM	WEDNESDAY 10 AM - 3:30 PM
THURSDAY 9 AM - 12 PM	THURSDAY 9 AM - 2:30 PM
FRIDAY 1 PM - 8 PM (DRESS REHEARSAL AND SHOWS)	FRIDAY 1 PM - 8 PM (DRESS REHEARSAL AND SHOWS)
COST: \$50	COST: \$75

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

*Schedule times are subject to minor adjustments based on final direction from our Missoula Children's Theatre directors. Families will be notified of any updates prior to camp.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION



WVC PERFORMING ARTS SERIES: NEW TRADITION

The Wabash Valley College Performing Arts Showcase was a memorable evening that highlighted the talent and creativity of WVC students and community members alike. With a great crowd in attendance, the showcase featured outstanding choir performances, including group pieces and impressive solo-to-trio selections that allowed performers to truly shine.

The evening also included a laugh-out-loud one-act comedy drama, *Death of a Dead Guy*, performed by WVC Music and Theatre students. The production featured graduating sophomores Noah Alka, Jaden Heinrich, and Tim Young, whose performances added to the energy and success of the night. The showcase celebrated collaboration, creativity, and community support—and marked the beginning of a new annual tradition at WVC. 🎆



WVC RECOGNIZED IN PHOTO CONTEST

Wabash Valley College is proud to share that WVC’s Cozy Corner has been named the winner of the Spring 2026 NILRC Photo Contest, hosted by the Network of Illinois Learning Resources in Community Colleges (NILRC).

Since Fall 2022, NILRC has hosted photo contests to highlight the people, collections, and spaces that make community college libraries special while encouraging connection among member institutions. This spring’s theme, “Book Nook or Cozy Corner,” invited members to share photos of small, welcoming spaces designed for reading, relaxing, or enjoying media.

Entries were submitted from February 17 through March 20, with member voting held April 6–17. During the voting period, participants could also find inspiration for refreshing their own spaces.

WVC’s winning submission reflects the college’s commitment to creating welcoming environments that support learning and quiet moments of connection. As the first-place winner, Wabash Valley College received the NILRC Rock, a traveling trophy awarded each semester.

WVC thanks NILRC for hosting the contest and all members who participated, voted, and shared their creative spaces. 🎆



CONGRATULATIONS, WARRIORS!



The Baseball Team knocked off John A Logan 14-13 to become the Region 24 Champions!

MORE FROM BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL:

The Lady Warriors start Region 24 Tournament play May 12th at 3:30! They will play the winner of Frontier and Rend Lake.

The NJCAA Midwest District Baseball Tournament starts May 13th at SWIC in Belleville, IL

CALENDAR

May

15- Graduation

25 - Campus Closed (Memorial Day)

June

8 - First Day of Summer Classes

19 - Campus Closed (Juneteenth)



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