

NETWORK



JULY 2026



HIGHLIGHTS



LTC Foundation inducts new members into Hall of Fame and Patrons of the Statesmen.



Rachel Dollahan comes full-circle to lead the LTC Learning Commons.



Tye estate donation preserves a treasure trove of LTC history.

GOWER REFLECTS ON IECC CAREER

After retiring as Chancellor of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, Dr. Ryan Gower is reflecting with gratitude on the institution he helped lead through some of the most significant changes in its history.

Gower, who previously served as President of Lincoln Trail College before becoming Chancellor, said the moments that will stay with him most are not tied to a single project, policy or initiative. Instead, he said they are tied to people.

"Several things come to mind," Gower said. "Navigating COVID as a new executive leader. The Board's decision to embrace Guided Pathways. The reorganization of the institution. New buildings and spaces that will serve students for years to come."

But those accomplishments are not what he said he will carry with him most.

"When I think about what will stay with me most, it isn't a project or a policy," Gower said. "It's the



UPCOMING AUGUST EVENTS

- 1 Beetlejuice, JR.**
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 3 Moonlight Mondays**
4-7 p.m., Student Services Office, Williams Hall
- 4 Dual Credit Orientation**
6 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 10 Moonlight Mondays**
4-7 p.m., Student Services Office, Williams Hall
- 12 IECC Faculty & Staff Workshop**
Olney Central College
- 13 Faculty Workshop**
- 17 New Student Orientation**
8-1 Campus-wide
- Weeks of Welcome: Cookout**
12-1 Triangle
- 18 Weeks of Welcome: Entrata, Canvas, Testing Help Available in Learning Commons**
- Weeks of Welcome: Snacks & Board Games in Learning Commons**
- Dr. Timothy Taylor Investiture Reception**
4-6 p.m., Olney Central College
- 19 First Day of Fall Semester**
- Weeks of Welcome: Donut Stress with TRIO SSS**
8-10:30 a.m., Williams Hall
- Softball Field Advisory Board Meeting**
12-1 p.m., Lincoln Room
- 20 Weeks of Welcome: Movie Night by Active Minds: Pitch Perfect**
6 p.m., Student Lounge
- 21 Weeks of Welcome: Root Beer Floats**
1:3-2:30, Student Lounge
- 24 Weeks of Welcome: Club Rush**
11 a.m.-1 p.m., Outside Williams Hall
- Moonlight Mondays**
4-7 p.m., Student Services Office, Williams Hall
- 25 Weeks of Welcome: Pickleball Fun**
7-9 p.m., Crawford County Recreation Center
- 26 Weeks of Welcome: Donut Truck**
1-3 p.m., Parking Lot
- Eagleton Reading Circle**
5:30 p.m., Learning Commons
- 27 LTC Foundation Meeting**
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
- Weeks of Welcome: Pool Party**
7-9 p.m., Crawford County Recreation Center
- 28 Weeks of Welcome: Duck Hunt**
9-4, Campus-wide
- 31 Weeks of Welcome: Trivia**
1-3 p.m., Student Lounge



Jim Reed with the Illinois Community College Trustees Association presents Dr. Ryan Gower with a memento honoring his ten years of service to Illinois Eastern Community Colleges.

people. The relationships I formed. The perspectives I gained. The opportunity to see our communities through the eyes of students, employees, employers and residents across the district."

Gower's time with IECC began at Lincoln Trail College, where he gained a deeper understanding of the connection between a community college and the people it serves. That experience shaped the way he approached districtwide leadership.

"My time at Lincoln Trail College gave me a deep appreciation for the history and identity of each campus," Gower said. "Community colleges are intensely local institutions, and that local connection matters."

That perspective became important as IECC worked to balance the identities of Frontier Community College, Lincoln Trail College, Olney Central College and Wabash Valley College with the shared mission of one district.

Gower said he tried to approach change with respect for the past while also being honest about the future.

"The challenge wasn't choosing between honoring our history and preparing for the future," he said. "The challenge was doing both at the same time."

Gower came to IECC from the University of Illinois, and he said the transition to community college work changed the way he viewed higher education.

"Like many people who make that transition, I probably carried a certain amount of arrogance without realizing it," Gower said. "The community college system humbled me quickly."



IECC Board of Trustees Chairman Gary Carter recognizes Dr. Ryan Gower for his service to Illinois Eastern Community Colleges during Gower's final Board meeting as Chancellor. Gower's wife, Tracey, joined him for the recognition.

He said community college work is more difficult because students come from such a wide range of backgrounds, goals and life circumstances. Some arrive with financial challenges. Some are balancing college with families and jobs. Others carry self-doubt or a limited view of what might be possible for their future.

"There is no such thing as a typical student," Gower said. "But the work is also more impactful."

That impact, he said, can begin with one class, one instructor, one adviser or one moment of success.

"We have the opportunity to help them see something different," Gower said. "Sometimes all it takes is one class, one instructor, one advisor, or one success to change the trajectory of a life. That is a privilege that should never be taken for granted."

During his time as President and Chancellor, Gower helped guide IECC through the COVID-19 pandemic, facility projects, Guided Pathways, operational challenges and the reorganization of four largely independent colleges into one institution.

He said those changes were necessary to preserve long-term access to higher education across the district.

"The reality is that higher education is changing whether institutions want it to or not," Gower said. "Students expect flexibility. Employers expect responsiveness. Technology is reshaping how people learn and work. Demographics are changing. Resources are becoming more limited."

Gower said IECC adapted by accepting that reality instead of arguing with it.

"Not every decision was easy or popular," he said, "but standing still was never a realistic option."

Among the accomplishments he is proudest of is the Crawford County Recreation Center, which he said reflected what can happen when colleges, industry and communities work together toward a common goal. He said seeing similar possibilities emerge at other campuses has also been rewarding.

But when asked what he is proudest of, Gower pointed to people again.



Dr. Ryan Gower shares reflections on his time with Illinois Eastern Community Colleges during his final Board of Trustees meeting as Chancellor.

"If I'm honest, the accomplishment I'm proudest of is assembling the right leadership team," he said. "Institutions don't move forward because of one person. They move forward because a group of people decide to stop pointing fingers, stop protecting turf, and start solving problems."

Leadership also brought difficult moments.

Gower said COVID taught him that leaders sometimes must make decisions with imperfect information and accept the responsibility that comes with them.

"COVID taught me there was no white knight coming to save us," Gower said. "No outside agency. No funding source. No perfect solution."

The hardest challenges, he said, were often internal. Program closures, reorganizations, leadership changes and other difficult decisions affected real people.

"If you care about people, change is painful," Gower said. "You can know a decision is necessary for the institution and still hurt for the people impacted by it."

Through those challenges, Gower said he saw the commitment of IECC students, faculty, staff, trustees and community partners.

"They care deeply," he said. "Sometimes that passion makes change difficult. Sometimes it creates disagreement. Sometimes it means people hold too tightly to traditions they value. But underneath all of that is a genuine commitment to students, communities and this institution."

Gower said he has worked with faculty who refuse to give up on struggling students, staff members who solve problems without seeking recognition, trustees who care deeply about preserving educational opportunity and community partners who step forward when help is needed.

That commitment, he said, is one of IECC's greatest strengths.

For Gower, commencement has always been the clearest reminder of why the work matters.

"Every single graduation," he said. "You see students who were told they weren't college material. Students balancing jobs, families and coursework. First-generation students. Adult learners. Students who faced setbacks and kept going."

For a few hours, he said, the budgets, meetings, policies and challenges fade into the background.

"You are reminded why the institution exists," Gower said. "Everything we do ultimately leads to that moment."

Reflecting on his tenure, Gower said he hopes people remember that he was

willing to make difficult decisions when they needed to be made, not because he enjoyed conflict, but because he cared about the future of the institution.

"I hope they remember that I cared about the long-term future of the institution and that I was willing to act when I believed action was necessary," he said.

Gower said he is confident about IECC's future because of its Board, leadership team, employees and communities.

"The challenges facing higher education are real, but IECC has already begun making many of the difficult changes that other institutions are still avoiding," he said. "That doesn't guarantee success, but it gives me confidence that the foundation is in place."

Gower said retirement gives him the opportunity to reconnect with the part of himself that first drew him to higher education.

"At my core, I have always been a teacher," he said.

Leadership, he said, has been rewarding, but it also required him to spend more time managing systems, solving problems and making difficult decisions. Retirement will give him time to read, write, mentor, teach when opportunities arise and spend time with people he cares about.

"In many ways, it feels less like walking away from something and more like returning to something," Gower said.

Gower said serving as President of Lincoln Trail College and later as Chancellor of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges has been one of the great privileges of his life.

"No leader accomplishes anything alone," he said. "Whatever success I've had is the result of being surrounded by talented people. Our Board. Our Foundations. Our people who all care deeply about students and this institution. For that, I will always be thankful."



Dr. Ryan Gower is joined by his parents, wife and sister following a recognition honoring his service to Illinois Eastern Community Colleges.

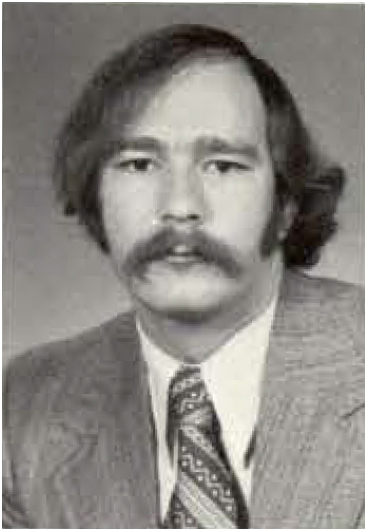


Dr. Ryan Gower and his wife, Tracey, gather with the IECC Board of Trustees following a recognition honoring Gower's service as Chancellor.

LTC FOUNDATION INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS INTO HALL OF FAME, PATRONS OF THE STATESMEN

The Lincoln Trail College Foundation honored a group of individuals on Tuesday, June 9, whose service, generosity and connection to the college have made a lasting impact.

Charles "Chuck" Bonesteel was inducted into the LTC Foundation Hall of Fame, while Jeanette Berty, Rod and Diana Harmon, and the late William Thomas were named the newest Patrons of the Statesmen. Thomas was inducted posthumously, with his son, Kent, accepting the honor on behalf of the family.



Charles "Chuck" Bonesteel is pictured in the 1972 edition of the Lincoln Logue, Lincoln Trail College's yearbook.

Bonesteel, a 1972 Lincoln Trail College graduate, was honored for his professional accomplishments and continued support of the college. Rod Harmon introduced Bonesteel and recalled meeting him years ago when Bonesteel stopped by the Foundation office.

Harmon said the two connected over their military service, their careers and their shared appreciation for Lincoln Trail College.

After graduating from LTC with a degree in computer science, Bonesteel worked for Robinson Computer Services before beginning a 32-year career with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Harmon said Bonesteel served in 16 states as a bank regulator and was recognized as the FDIC's 2006 Employee of the Year in Southern California.

Harmon read a quote from Bonesteel, who was unable to attend the ceremony.

"Without my LTC education in the technology field, it is very likely my life would have taken a completely different path," Bonesteel said.

Harmon said Bonesteel's success gave him the opportunity to give back and help other LTC students take advantage of the opportunities the college provides.

"It's an honor to be a part of the Foundation," Harmon said.
"It's an honor to be a part of the college."

The Patrons of the Statesmen recognition was started last year to honor people who did not attend Lincoln Trail College, but whose service and support have been instrumental to the college.

Berty was recognized for more than four decades of service to the Foundation, including her work with scholarships. Cindy Grimm introduced Berty and said she set an example of quiet, meaningful leadership.

"Jeanette didn't just inspire me," Grimm said. "She set the standard for what our community leadership should look like."



Jeanette Berty, left, receives her 2026 Patrons of the Statesmen induction award from Cindy Grimm during the Lincoln Trail College Foundation's annual recognition event.

Grimm said Berty approached scholarship work with fairness, integrity and care for students.

"You've shown us what it means to lead with kindness, to serve with purpose and to give with joy," Grimm said. "We honor you today, not just for what you have done, but for who you are."

Berty thanked the Foundation for the recognition and reflected on her longtime connection to the college.

"It's been such a pleasure to be on the board," Berty said. "I love everybody."

Rod and Diana Harmon were honored for decades of service and support to the college and Foundation.



Rod and Diana Harmon receive their 2026 Patrons of the Statesmen induction award from Dan McDonald during the Lincoln Trail College Foundation's annual recognition event.

LTC Foundation President Dan McDonald introduced the Harmons, who moved to the Robinson area in 1977. Rod Harmon accepted a temporary teaching position at LTC, while Diana Harmon began teaching in a local school. What began as a short-term opportunity became a lasting home and a lifetime of service.

After retiring from teaching, Rod Harmon joined the LTC Foundation and later became its executive director. Diana Harmon, while not serving in an official board role, assisted with countless projects and worked alongside students, donors and supporters.

During their years of involvement, the Foundation awarded millions of dollars in scholarships, supported campus events and projects, and helped make improvements across campus.

Diana Harmon said Lincoln Trail became a second family.

"When I was done teaching, I was just kind of following along with Rod in his shadow, and Lincoln Trail opened their arms to me and allowed me to be a part of their family," she said.

Rod Harmon thanked the Foundation, faculty, staff, students and former students.

"I love you, and I want you to do well," he said. "We all are going to do well. We've got a great school and a great opportunity."

Thomas was honored for his longtime service to the Foundation and his commitment to the community. He began serving during the first five years after the Foundation was organized and remained deeply committed to its work, rarely missing a meeting or event.

Kent Thomas said his father, William "Bill" Thomas, practiced law locally for 52 years and served on numerous boards. His service to the LTC Foundation dated back to 1974.

"My dad believed in staying busy and serving his community," Kent Thomas said.

For Thomas, as with Berty, the Foundation became a shining example of service to the college and the community. Kent Thomas said Lincoln Trail was always important to his father and that he



Kent Thomas, right, accepts the 2026 Patrons of the Statesmen induction award honoring his late father, William Thomas, from Dan McDonald during the Lincoln Trail College Foundation's annual recognition event.

was proud to serve the Foundation. He also shared one of his father's favorite memories: helping bring New York Yankees legend Mickey Mantle to Lincoln Trail College for a Foundation event in the early 1980s.

"On behalf of my dad and our entire family, I want to express our gratitude for his induction into the Patrons of the Statesmen," Kent Thomas said. "While my dad is no longer here with us, his values and his example remain alive in all of us who had the privilege of knowing him."

Kent Thomas said the recognition was meaningful for the family.

"Thank you again for this recognition and for honoring his legacy," he said. "It means so much to our family, and it's given us a moment to reflect not only on what he did, but the kind of man he was."

LTC FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS IMPACT DURING ANNUAL MEETING

The Lincoln Trail College Foundation highlighted another year of support for students and campus programs during its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 9.

LTC Foundation President Dan McDonald said the Foundation awarded \$231,000 in scholarships in 2026 and provided an additional \$297,000 in support for campus projects and programs.

The Foundation, which was formed in 1970, also established three new scholarships for the coming year. McDonald said that continued support is possible because of the families, estates, businesses and individuals who invest in Lincoln Trail College students.

"We're very, very blessed and thankful for that," McDonald said.

Among the projects supported by the Foundation were \$150,000 toward LTC's new Technology Center, \$20,000 to help restart the college's soccer program, \$27,000 to support employee use of the Recreation Center and \$32,000 for athletic books.

LTC President Tona Ambrose said the Foundation's support directly affects students and their ability to complete degrees and certificates. She said 171 students graduated from LTC in May, and many of them were scholarship recipients.

"The scholarship money makes it possible for students to not only come to Lincoln Trail, but complete a degree or a certificate and graduate," Ambrose said. "That really does make a difference in their lives."

Ambrose also thanked the Foundation for its role in helping make the new Technology Center possible. The building will house process technology, welding and broadband telecommunications.

"We could not do what we do at LTC without the Foundation," Ambrose said. "It's that simple."

COMING FULL CIRCLE: DOLLAHAN LEADS THE LEARNING COMMONS

When Rachel Dollahan first walked through the doors of Lincoln Trail College as a student, she never imagined she would one day lead one of the college's most important student support departments.

Today, as the new Director of the Learning Commons, Dollahan sees the opportunity as more than a career move. It's a chance to give back to the college that helped shape her own path.

"LTC has always been a big part of my life, even when I wasn't a student or employee," Dollahan said. "It's really cool to be able to serve at the organization that, looking back, played such a big part in me becoming the person that I am today. I honestly can't think of another place I would like to work."

Dollahan brings a unique perspective to the role after serving the college in several capacities over the years. She previously worked as a Library Specialist before earning her bachelor's degree in library science, inspired in part by former Learning Commons Director Vicky Bonelli. Most recently, she served as a Counselor with TRIO Upward Bound, where she helped first-generation and low-income students prepare for college.



"My role as Library Specialist prepared me for my entire career," Dollahan said. "My time with that role, as well as the encouragement from the former director, Vicky Bonelli, inspired me to get my degree in library science. My time with TRIO Upward Bound really got me back into the swing of working with students."

Those experiences have shaped the philosophy she brings to the Learning Commons.

"I hope when students come in here, they feel seen and heard not just as students, but as the interesting, intelligent people that they are," Dollahan said. "I truly believe each student has something new to offer not only our organization, but our entire community."

She also hopes to continue the compassion she experienced as an LTC student herself.

Dollahan recalls losing an important English paper when her computer crashed before cloud storage and automatic backups were common. Instead of simply enforcing a deadline, her instructor offered an extension and directed her to what was then known as the Learning Resource Center.

"That compassion she had for me, that's what I want to give to students," Dollahan said. "If that can't reinforce my love of helping students, then that will be my sign it's time to retire."

Today, Dollahan sees the Learning Commons as much more than a traditional library.

"I would describe the Learning Commons' role as a support hub for students," she said. "We are here to support their educational journey, to help them build on the things they are learning in the classroom. We also support connection, whether that's connecting students to other services at LTC, the local community or each other."

Looking ahead, Dollahan's vision is simple: meet students wherever they are.

"I've got lots of ideas, but the one big goal that will drive any idea now or in the future will always be to get the services to the students in whatever way we can," she said. "Whatever trail students take to success, I want to make sure we're there every step of the way."

IT'S SHOWTIME! LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE ANNOUNCES CAST FOR YOUNG ADULTS THEATER PRODUCTION OF BEETLEJUICE JR.

Lincoln Trail College has announced the cast for this summer's Young Adults Theater production of Beetlejuice JR., welcoming a talented group of performers ages 13-18 to the stage under the direction of Brenna Keeler, who is making her Lincoln Trail College directing debut.

Based on the beloved film and Broadway musical, Beetlejuice JR. follows Lydia Deetz, a strange and unusual teenager who is still grieving the loss of her mother. After moving into a haunted house, Lydia meets a recently deceased couple and the mischievous Beetlejuice, setting off a wildly entertaining adventure filled with humor, heart and supernatural chaos.

"I'm incredibly excited to make my directing debut at Lincoln Trail College with such an energetic and talented group of young performers," Keeler said. "This cast has embraced these characters with enthusiasm from the very beginning, and they're bringing so much creativity, humor and heart to every rehearsal. I can't wait for audiences to experience the fun they've been creating."

The production features Chase Dunlap as Beetlejuice, Anna Osborn as Lydia Deetz, Lucas Aydt as Charles Deetz, Wyatt Herrington as Adam Maitland and Kate Rosborough as Barbara Maitland.

Additional principal cast members include Logann Baker as Priest, Madison Hayes as Mover 1, Bella Escobedo as Mover 2, Hailey Jones as Delia Schlimmer, Tyler Pleasant as Maxie Dean, Mak Carlen as Maxine Dean, Violet McDonald as Sky, Samantha Davis as Beetlejuice Clone 1, Kellan Dennis as Beetlejuice Clone 2, Cohlson Fearday as Otho, Austin Jones as Miss Argentina, Isabel Talamantes as Parachute Jumper, Lena Kreighbaum as Death by Toaster, Emma Lhota as Dead Cheerleader, Jane Sutfin as Death by Fireworks, Kayden McKinney as Cigar Mobster, Caitlyn Tingley as Dead Jockey, Spencer Heidinger as Machete Groom, Carlie Harrell as Juno, Isabella Basile as Sandworm, Elizabeth Valdez as Cater-Waiter and Ben Jenness as Hunter with Shrunken Head.

In addition to their featured roles, cast members will also appear throughout the production as members of the ensemble.

With music and lyrics by Eddie Perfect and a book by Anthony King and Scott Brown, Beetlejuice received eight Tony Award nominations, including Best New Musical, and has become a favorite among young theater audiences for its unique blend of comedy and emotional storytelling.

Performances of Beetlejuice JR. will be held at 7 p.m. July 31 and Aug. 1 in the Zwermann Arts Center Theater at Lincoln Trail College.



TYE FAMILY DONATES COLLECTION OF LTC ATHLETICS MEMORABILIA

Decades of Lincoln Trail College athletics history have found their way home through a collection of memorabilia donated by the family of longtime Crawford County broadcaster Jerry Tye.

Tye's son, Dale, recently presented the college with a box filled with photographs, game programs, basketball yearbooks and other materials his father had collected through the years. Several pieces date to the early years of LTC athletics, including original layouts used to produce some of the college's first programs.

The collection also contains autographed photographs of former student-athletes and other items that capture the people, teams and moments that helped shape Lincoln Trail College.

Jerry Tye, who died May 6, 2025, at age 85, spent much of his life documenting Crawford County through broadcasting and journalism. He began his radio career in 1958 and joined WTAY in Robinson in 1962. He called his first local basketball game in January 1963 and went on to broadcast thousands of sporting events. He later purchased the station and changed its call letters to WTYE.

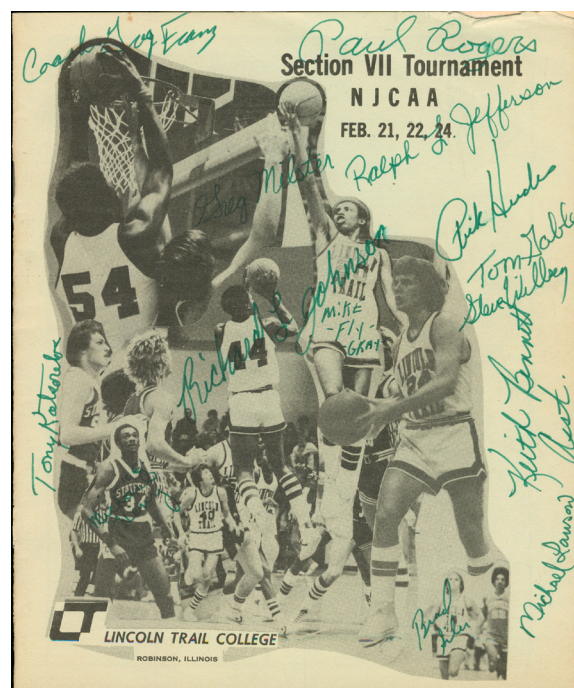
Following the deaths of Jerry and his wife, Sandy, Dale Tye began sorting through the historical items they had accumulated. Rather than allow the collection to remain packed away, he has worked to place pieces with individuals and organizations that can preserve and appreciate their significance.

"Dad and Mom collected so much Crawford County history over the years, and I want those pieces to go where they belong and where people can enjoy them," Tye said. "Lincoln Trail College was an important part of the community and an important part of the sports history Dad covered. It made sense for these items to come back to the college."

One of the collection's highlights is a warmup once worn by former LTC men's basketball standout Michael "Fly" Gray.

Gray left Lincoln Trail College as the program's all-time leading scorer with 1,591 points. He scored a school-record 1,018 points during the 1976-77 season, and LTC later retired his No. 20.

Gray continued his career at the University of Nevada, where he played from 1977-79. During his senior season, he averaged nearly 24 points per game and helped



ABOVE: A piece of Statesmen basketball history, signed by the players who made it. The Tye family donated three autographed copies of this NJCAA Section VII Tournament program, along with the original photo collage used to create its cover.

BELOW: Lincoln Trail College's founding president, Dr. Joseph Piland, is pictured in an undated photograph included in the Tye family's donation. The collection also features a handwritten 1976 note from Piland and his wife, JoAnne, thanking Jerry Tye for coaching their children in youth baseball, a personal reminder of the relationships behind LTC's early history.



Front and back views of the Lincoln Trail College warmup worn by Michael "Fly" Gray, one of the greatest players in Statesmen history. Gray finished his LTC career with a 1,591 points, including a school-record 1,018 during the 1976-77 season. His No. 20 was later retired by the college.

lead the Wolf Pack to its first National Invitation Tournament appearance. Nevada inducted Gray into its Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005.

IECC Program Director of Marketing and Communications Chris Forde said the donation fills gaps in the college's historical collection while providing tangible connections to LTC's past.

"Lincoln Trail College has a rich history, but many of the photographs, programs and other items that tell that story are still in personal collections," Forde said. "These materials help us preserve more than scores and statistics. They preserve the people, traditions and experiences that have shaped the college."

Forde said items such as the early program layouts are especially valuable because they show how the college documented and promoted its teams before digital publishing and photography became commonplace.

"There is something special about seeing the original materials that were assembled by hand to create a program," Forde said. "They give us a glimpse into how people shared the LTC story during the college's earliest years."

He hopes the Tye family's contribution will encourage other community members, alumni and former employees to consider sharing photographs, publications, uniforms and other pieces of Lincoln Trail College history.

"People may have something stored in a closet, basement or scrapbook that they do not realize could be historically significant," Forde said. "We hope this donation inspires others to reach out before those pieces are lost. Every item can help us build a more complete picture of Lincoln Trail College and the people who made it what it is today."

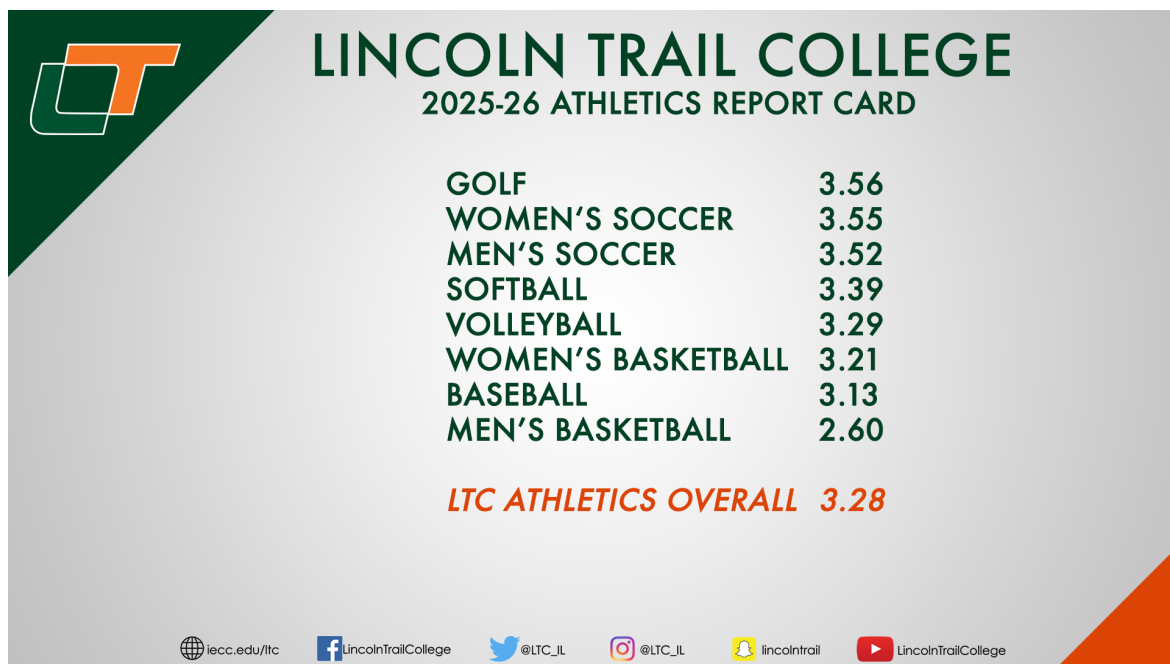
For Dale Tye, sharing the collection is a way to honor his parents while ensuring that the history they valued continues to be remembered.

"I think Dad would be happy knowing these items are back at Lincoln Trail College," he said. "He spent his life telling the stories of this community, and now some of the history he saved can continue telling those stories."

LTC STUDENT-ATHLETES COMBINE FOR 3.28 GPA

Lincoln Trail College student-athletes continued to show their commitment to success in the classroom during the 2025-26 academic year.

LTC Athletics combined for a 3.28 department GPA, with 12 student-athletes earning perfect 4.0 GPAs.



"I'm incredibly proud of the way our student-athletes continue to represent Lincoln Trail College," Athletic Director Jennifer Saad said. "They put in countless hours at practice, in competition and in the classroom, and this shows the level of commitment they have to being successful students as well as successful athletes."

The golf team led LTC Athletics with a 3.56 GPA, followed closely by women's soccer with a 3.55 GPA and men's soccer with a 3.52 GPA. Softball finished with a 3.39 GPA, volleyball had a 3.29 GPA, women's basketball had a 3.21 GPA, baseball had a 3.13 GPA and men's basketball finished with a 2.60 GPA.

Seven of LTC's eight athletic teams finished the year with team GPAs above 3.0.

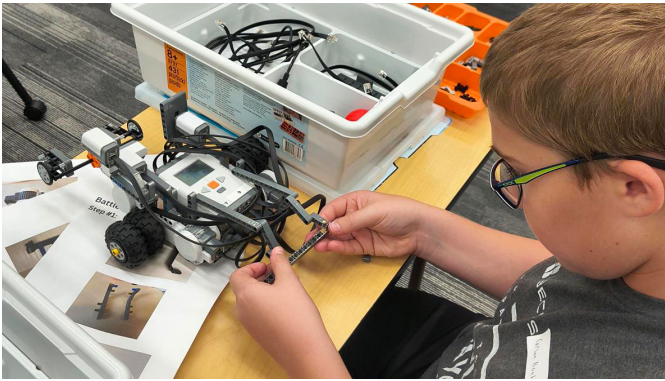
LTC President Tona Ambrose said the academic success of student-athletes reflects the college's commitment to supporting students in all areas of their college experience.

"These results are a wonderful example of what our students can accomplish when talent, discipline and support come together," Ambrose said. "Our student-athletes work hard to balance the demands of academics and athletics, and we are proud of the dedication they show every day. Their success is also a reflection of the faculty, coaches and staff who are committed to helping them reach their goals."

Saad said the department's academic performance is something the college can take pride in.

"Our coaches place a strong emphasis on academics, and our student-athletes have responded," Saad said. "A 3.28 department GPA is a tremendous accomplishment, and having 12 student-athletes earn perfect 4.0 GPAs makes it even more special. This is something our entire athletic department can celebrate."

LTC IN PICTURES



Careful construction is key as a camper adds the finishing touches to a LEGO Battle Bot before putting the custom-built machine to the test.



With parts sorted and creativity fully charged, campers build their LEGO Battle Bots and prepare for a little friendly robot-on-robot competition.



Riddle solved and quest complete! The Black Knight rewards the heroes with a ceremonial knighting during LTC Children's Summer Theater's *The Knight at Dawn*.



Hear ye, hear ye! The cast and crew of *The Knight at Dawn* gather for one final royal portrait following their adventure onstage.



Atlantic crossed and adventure complete! James and his unusual insect friends celebrate reaching the end of their giant journey in *James and the Giant Peach JR.*



What a peach of a production! The cast and crew of *James and the Giant Peach JR.* gather for a final photo after bringing the adventure to life.



The Technology Center begins rising from the ground as crews guide some of the building's first steel posts into place at Lincoln Trail College.



What a difference a day makes! Just over 24 hours after the first steel posts went up, the Technology Center's framework was rapidly taking shape.