



VIEW FROM THE VALLEY

October 2026



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WVC COMES TOGETHER FOR MEET THE WARRIORS NIGHT

Wabash Valley College welcomed students, faculty, staff, administrators, families, and friends for Meet the Warriors Night on Wednesday, September 30. The evening featured the bass fishing and archery programs before concluding with a home volleyball match against Lake Land College. Along with opportunities to meet the students and watch demonstrations, the gathering included an academic recognition and a signing for a future Warrior.

The showcase brought WVC's anglers and archers together with Bass Fishing Coach Todd Gill and Archery Coach Earl Lawrence. Attendees had an opportunity to learn more about both programs and connect with the students who represent WVC on the water and at

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 1 **Women's Basketball at Three Rivers College**
3 p.m., Lady Raider Classic
- 3 **Campus Closed: Election Day**
- 4 **HOME Women's Basketball vs. Mineral Area College**
5 p.m.
- 6 **Women's Basketball vs. Danville Area CC**
1 p.m., John A. Logan Classic
Men's Basketball vs. Columbia State CC
4 p.m., McDonald's Classic
- 7 **Women's Basketball vs. Moberly Area CC**
11 a.m., John A. Logan Classic
Men's Basketball vs. Volunteer State CC
4 p.m., McDonald's Classic, Vincennes University
- 9 **Pancake Night**
6-7 p.m.
- 10 **PTA Information Meeting**
5:30-6:30 p.m., Science Building Room 17
Men's Basketball at Danville Area CC
7 p.m.
- 11 **Campus Closed: Veterans Day**

HOME Women's Basketball vs. Parkland College
5 p.m.
- 13 **Men's Basketball vs. Highland CC**
TBA, Indian Hills Classic
- 13-15 **Bass Fishing at Lake Martin**
TBA
- 17 **Student Parent Information Night**
5:30-7 p.m., WVC Gym
IECC Board of Trustees Meeting
Time 6 p.m.
- 19 **Radio/TV Day**
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Brubeck Theatre
TEAS Testing
- 20 **Nursing Information Session**
10:30 a.m., Science Building Room 58
HOME Men's Basketball vs. Indian Hills CC
7 p.m., Warrior Classic
- 21 **Women's Basketball at State Fair CC**
11 a.m.
HOME Men's Basketball vs. Three Rivers College
7 p.m., Warrior Classic
- 24 **Women's Basketball at Olive-Harvey College**
5:30 p.m.
- 25 **Early Office Dismissal**
Time 2 p.m.
Last Day to Withdraw from Full-Semester Courses

Men's Basketball at North Arkansas College
2 p.m.
- 26-27 **Campus Closed: Thanksgiving Break**

the archery range. It also gave students a chance to share their interests with supporters who may not regularly have an opportunity to attend their competitions.

One highlight of the evening was Coach Sydney Jones presenting Bobby Joe Harris with his Academic All American Team Award, earned earlier this year. Presenting the award during Meet the Warriors Night allowed those in attendance to celebrate Harris's academic achievement as part of the evening's activities.

The bass fishing program also celebrated a new commitment to WVC, with a signing held during the event. Sharing that milestone at Meet the Warriors Night gave attendees an opportunity to welcome a future Warrior alongside Gill and the current anglers.

Gill described the evening as "nothing but a good time" and thanked everyone who came out to meet the anglers and archers. He gave special recognition to Mrs. Hockgeiger and Mrs. Trapp for providing sweet treats for the anglers and for their constant support and encouragement. He also acknowledged the faculty, staff, administrators, friends, and family members who attended, adding, "You all make THE BASH a pretty special place to call home!"

The archery program shared the spotlight throughout the showcase, giving visitors a closer look at the sport through demonstrations and opportunities to meet the archers. Featuring archery and bass fishing together introduced attendees to two different ways students can pursue their interests and become involved at WVC.

Following the showcase, attendees headed to the gym to cheer on the WVC volleyball team against Lake Land College. Although the Warriors fell to Lake Land, the match continued the evening's support for WVC students and brought fans together in the stands.

From recognizing Harris's academic achievement to celebrating a new bass fishing commitment, Meet the Warriors Night brought current students, a future Warrior, and their supporters together. The evening offered an opportunity to celebrate accomplishments, get to know the students representing WVC, and strengthen connections across the campus community.

The evening also gave families and friends a chance to connect with the broader WVC commu-



nity. With faculty, staff, and administrators joining students and their supporters, the gathering brought together people from different parts of campus. Attendees could spend time with students outside the classroom, learn about their interests, and celebrate achievements together. For those who came to support one particular program, the event also offered an opportunity to meet students involved in another. That shared encouragement carried through the night, from the showcase and individual recognitions to the volleyball match.





WVC WELCOMES BACK DR. TIMOTHY TAYLOR IN HIS NEW ROLE AS IECC CHANCELLOR

Wabash Valley College welcomed Dr. Timothy Taylor back to campus in his new role as Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Chancellor for a day focused on listening, learning, and connecting with the college community. Having previously worked within IECC, Taylor returned with a new responsibility and an opportunity to hear directly from the students and employees shaping WVC's present and future.

WVC marked the final stop in Taylor's first round of visits to IECC's four colleges. Throughout the day, he met with students, faculty and staff, coaches, Foundation representatives, members of the Operations and Maintenance team, and campus leadership. These conversations offered different perspectives on the college, from the experiences of students navigating their education to the work of employees supporting instruction, services, and campus operations.

In a message shared after the visit, Taylor reflected on WVC's distinctive atmosphere. He noted the mature trees, multiple buildings, athletic facilities, student housing, and overall campus layout that contribute to its traditional collegiate setting. Beyond those physical features, he recognized a college with considerable history, identity, and pride.

That sense of identity became an important part of his reflections on WVC's future. Taylor described a campus with strengths worth preserving and opportunities worth exploring. His observations connected the college's established character with a broader question about how it can best serve students, employers, and communities in the years ahead.

An ice cream social provided an opportunity for Taylor to connect with faculty and staff and hear about their programs, students, and work. He described meeting employees who were enthusiastic about teaching, excited about possibilities for

their programs, and interested in continuing the conversations that began during the visit. Those interactions led him to identify WVC's people as one of its clear strengths.

President Matt Fowler echoed that recognition when sharing Taylor's message with the campus community. Fowler explained that he had spent time reflecting on the chancellor's comments and observations and wanted employees to consider them as an opportunity to think about where WVC stands and where it wants to go together. He also emphasized the dedication of the college's employees, noting that their care for students and the institution was evident during Taylor's visit.

Taylor's conversations with TRiO students and staff were particularly meaningful to him. Employees discussed their commitment to proactive, relationship-based support, while students spoke positively about the people helping them navigate college. Hearing those perspectives together offered insight into both the work behind student support and the difference it makes in students' experiences.

Those discussions prompted Taylor to consider what IECC could learn from TRiO's approach when thinking about support for students throughout the district. The conversations highlighted the value of building relationships and helping students address challenges as they work toward their goals.

Taylor also spent time with international students and Student Senate members. Their discussions explored students' goals, their experiences at WVC, and what they would need to succeed after college. These exchanges gave students an opportunity to share their perspectives directly and helped connect the day's broader conversations about the college to individual experiences and aspirations.

The discussions eventually turned toward artificial intelligence, immersive learning, and what education might look like in the future. Taylor described the students as curious, engaged, and willing to share their ideas. He also noted their positive comments about WVC and the people supporting them, reinforcing the importance of those relationships in the college experience.

Alongside these conversations, Taylor's observations of campus spaces raised questions about future planning. He noted that some instructional spaces are being used differently than they once were, that equipment and facilities remain from programs no longer active, and that other programs continue to evolve. Rather than viewing these as isolated facilities issues, he considered how they relate to WVC's academic and workforce direction.

Taylor emphasized that community and employer needs should guide that direction. Understanding those needs, he explained, should come before decisions about renovating facilities, purchasing equipment, or repurposing spaces. Academic and workforce strategy should establish instructional requirements, which should then guide facilities and investment decisions.

His reflections placed the purpose of campus resources at the center of the discussion. Facilities should support the college's strategy, with investments connected to the opportunities WVC is best positioned to provide. Taylor also made clear that he did not yet have the answers to these questions and that listening and learning should come before reaching conclusions.

At the same time, he emphasized that planning for the future does not require WVC to reinvent everything about itself. His visits across the district reinforced that each IECC college has its own history, identity, community, strengths, and opportunities. He described shared resources, common systems, coordinated planning, and collective strength as benefits of operating as one IECC while preserving the qualities that make each college distinctive.

For WVC, that perspective recognizes the value of its existing relationships and commitment to students. It also leaves room to consider how those strengths can support new opportunities as educational and workforce needs change.





Near the end of the visit, Fowler shared a story that brought a personal focus to these discussions. A former international student came to WVC from Cameroon with limited English, completed a degree, continued into welding, and ultimately entered the workforce. While working on campus, the student received WVC's TRIBE Award, which stands for "True Role Model, Inspiring by Example." Fowler's conclusion was simple: "That's what we're about."

Taylor continued thinking about that story after leaving Mount Carmel. In his message, he reflected that buildings, programs, budgets, technology, organizational structures, and processes matter because of what they allow the college to do for people. The student's experience illustrated the purpose behind the many decisions and daily efforts that contribute to WVC's work.

The story also connected the college's history and identity to its future. For Taylor, the question extends beyond which programs to offer or which facilities to renovate. It includes how WVC can build upon its relationships and commitment to create more opportunities for students and the communities it serves.

Taylor concluded by expressing his intention to keep returning to campus. His initial visits were designed to help him listen, learn, develop relationships, and begin asking better questions. WVC, he shared, gave him plenty to consider and plenty worth building upon.

The visit provided an opportunity for the campus community to reconnect with Taylor and share its work, experiences, and ideas as he begins his role as chancellor. His reflections recognized the people and relationships at the heart of WVC while inviting continued conversation about how the college can carry those strengths forward.



STUDENT VOICES HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CAMPUS LIFE AT WVC

What would make students more likely to participate in campus activities? Wabash Valley College asked that question in September, giving students an opportunity to share the events they would enjoy, the activities they would try, and what would encourage them to attend.

The Student Activities Survey received 100 responses, providing a look at the interests of participating students. Created by WVC Coordinator of Marketing and Communications Kamille Johnson, the survey gathered feedback to help inform campus activity planning and identify more opportunities for students to become involved.

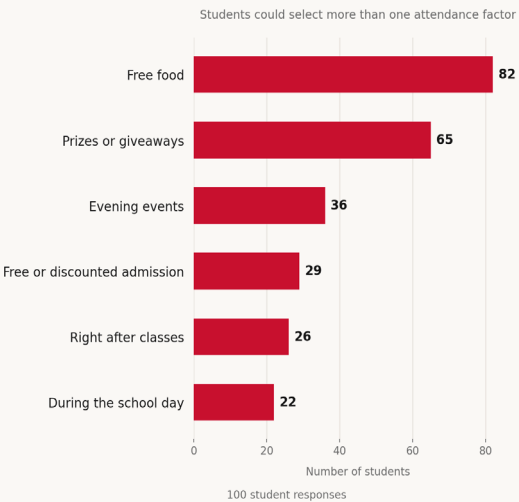
After reviewing the responses, Johnson organized the findings into charts and shared them with employees who coordinate student activities. Bringing the feedback to those planning events was an important step toward making student input part of the conversation. The results offer a starting point for considering activities that reflect students' interests while creating opportunities for different groups across campus to participate.

Recreational tournaments, outdoor activities, and food-related events were the most frequently selected event categories. Among the 100 respondents, 56 selected recreational tournaments, 54 chose outdoor activities, and 50 expressed interest in food-related events. Students could select multiple options, allowing them to indicate a range of interests rather than choose only one favorite.

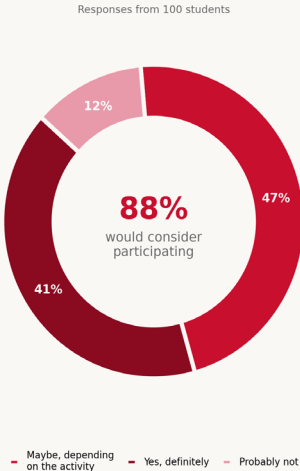
Holiday-themed events also received considerable interest, with 40 students selecting that category, followed by game nights with 35 responses. Other selections included off-campus activities, movie nights, trivia, painting and crafts, karaoke, and Singo. The variety of responses provides several directions for planning and shows the value of offering different types of activities throughout the year.

Another section explored interest in events that would bring students and employees together through friendly competition.

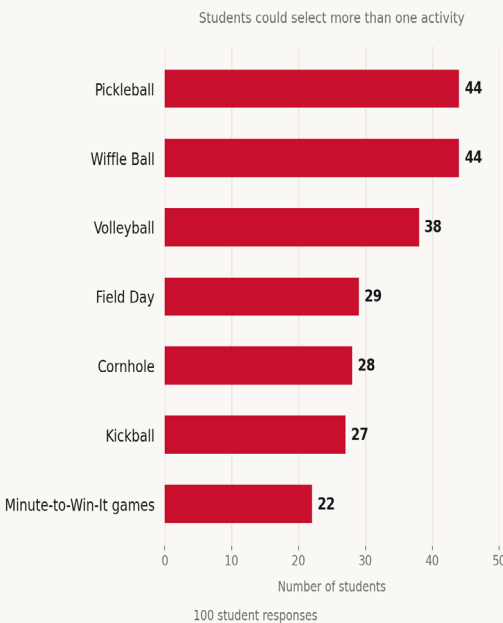
Food and prizes drive event turnout



Students are open to competing against employees



Pickleball and Wiffle Ball lead activity choices



Forty-one respondents said they would definitely participate in student-versus-employee activities, while 47 said they might participate depending on the activity. Twelve indicated they probably would not participate.

Those responses suggest that the specific activity would play an important role in participation. Rather than assuming one format would appeal to everyone, the findings give organizers a reason to consider several options and different ways for students to join in.

Pickleball and Wiffle Ball tied as the most popular choices for student-versus-employee activities, each receiving 44 selections. Volleyball followed with 38, while field day activities received 29 and cornhole received 28. Kickball and Minute-to-Win-It games also drew interest. These options could provide opportunities for students and employees to interact outside the classroom through activities ranging from team competition to shorter games.

The survey also asked what would make students more likely to attend an event. Free food was the most frequently selected incentive, receiving 82 responses, followed by prizes and giveaways with 65. These findings give organizers practical information to consider alongside the activities themselves when developing events and working within available resources.

Timing was another consideration. Thirty-six respondents selected evening events as an incentive to attend, while 26 selected events held right after classes and 22 selected activities during the school day. Free or discounted admission received 29 selections. The range of answers highlights the importance of considering when activities take place, as well as what they offer.

Students also had space to suggest an event or idea in their own words. Responses included games, trivia and card activities, seasonal celebrations, pickleball, basketball, and food trucks or other food events. These suggestions added detail to the broader categories and gave campus activity leaders additional ideas to explore.

Alongside sharing the results, Johnson emphasized an interest in creating more opportunities for all students on campus. Broader planning ideas included a campus talent show and exploring connections with community leaders and businesses that could help bring activities to life. Such possibilities could also strengthen connections between WVC and the surrounding community.

The survey represents the perspectives of the 100 students who participated, providing useful feedback without assuming that every student has the same interests or availability. It gives activity leaders a foundation for discussion, while leaving room for continued input and new ideas throughout the school year.

By gathering responses and sharing them with those who lead campus activities, WVC has taken a practical step toward including students in the planning process. Their feedback can help guide decisions about event formats, timing, and incentives as the college considers more ways for students to connect and take part in campus life.

WVC'S LEARNING COMMONS SERVES UP A CUP OF AMBITION FOR

Wabash Valley College's Learning Commons brought a little Dolly Parton inspiration to campus on Friday, September 25, with Dolly Day. Centered on the theme "Pour Yourself a Cup of Ambition," the event invited students and employees to stop by for a warm drink, enjoy the decorations, and take a break from their daily routines.

Coffee, hot chocolate, and tea gave visitors several options for filling their cups. The refreshments turned a familiar coffee break into a themed campus occasion, with a format that allowed students and employees to participate around their classes and work responsibilities. Rather than requiring a full afternoon or evening, Dolly Day offered an opportunity to join in during a visit to the Learning Commons.

Pink tablecloths, streamers, and napkins carried the Dolly-inspired theme throughout the space. A photo opportunity added another way to participate, giving visitors a chance to capture a memory of the day. Together, the decorations and refreshments created a cheerful setting for the September gathering.

The event's theme drew inspiration from Parton's song "9 to 5." In a college setting, the message of ambition also connected with students pursuing a variety of goals, from preparing to transfer to developing career skills. It provided a lighthearted nod to the effort students bring to their education and the work employees do to support them.

That connection made the theme a fitting choice for the Learning Commons. College life involves assignments, deadlines, and decisions about the future, but it also includes the everyday experiences that make a campus feel familiar and welcoming. Dolly Day offered a small opportunity to enjoy that side of the college experience while keeping its message connected to learning and personal goals.

Hosting the event in the Learning Commons provided a different reason to visit a familiar campus space. Alongside its role as a place for studying and learning, the setting offered an opportunity for students





and employees to spend time together outside their usual classroom and office routines.

The simple format meant visitors could take part in their own way. Whether stopping for a cup of coffee, posing for a photo, or making time for a conversation, participants could fit the experience into their day without a lengthy commitment. Having several ways to participate made the occasion approachable for people with different schedules and interests.

Dolly Day added variety to WVC's September campus activities through an experience built around refreshments, a recognizable theme, and an invitation to stop by. Smaller gatherings like this provide another way to make campus activities part of an ordinary school day and offer opportunities for connection between larger events.

With warm drinks and a touch of pink, the Learning Commons gave the WVC community a place to pause and enjoy a shared campus occasion. Dolly Day paired its message of ambition with a little fun, offering visitors a welcoming break before they returned to the work and goals ahead.





WVC WARRIORS JOIN MOUNT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL'S HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

Wabash Valley College joined the Mount Carmel community on Friday, September 25, for Mount Carmel High School's Homecoming Parade. Students representing several WVC teams and campus groups came together to participate, bringing Warrior spirit to an afternoon dedicated to celebrating the local high school and its homecoming festivities.

The college's participation was coordinated by Carrie Halbert, Director of Student Engagement and Recruitment. Members of baseball, soccer, men's basketball, student ambassadors, and other participants joined the WVC group, showing their support for Mount Carmel and representing the college beyond campus.

The parade brought together students whose daily experiences at WVC include different classes, responsibilities, and activities. Participating as one group gave them an opportunity to share in a community celebration while representing the college together. Their involvement highlighted the range of students who contribute to campus life and carry that involvement into the surrounding community.

For student ambassadors, the event offered another opportunity to represent WVC in a public setting. Joining members of the college's teams allowed them to be part of a shared campus effort while supporting a local tradition. Together, the participants brought a WVC presence to an event centered on Mount Carmel High School.

The afternoon also provided an opportunity for students to experience Mount Carmel beyond their regular campus routines. WVC brings together students from nearby communities, across the country, and around the world. Community events offer another way for them to get to know the area and take part in the traditions of the place where they are attending college.

For students already familiar with Mount Carmel, participating connected their college experience with a hometown celebration. For those newer to the area, the parade offered an introduction to a local event that brings people together. Both experiences reflect the connection between WVC and the community surrounding it.

Homecoming is an occasion for high school students, families, alumni, and supporters to celebrate together. WVC's participation added the college's encouragement to that gathering and demonstrated support for Mount Carmel High School. Taking part gave the Warriors a way to contribute to the celebration simply by showing up and joining their neighbors.

The event also highlighted the importance of opportunities that bring students together outside their usual groups. Although participants represented different teams and campus roles, the parade gave them a common purpose. Their involvement showed how campus engagement can extend into community activities and create shared experiences beyond classes and competition.

Halbert's coordination helped bring those groups together for the afternoon. With students from several areas of WVC participating, the college's entry reflected a collective effort to support the community and take part in its homecoming tradition.

WVC's presence in the parade was a reminder that the college is part of Mount Carmel's everyday life as well as its celebrations. By joining the festivities, students represented the Warriors while supporting the high school and the wider community. The afternoon gave campus groups an opportunity to connect, participate, and share their WVC pride with the college's hometown.





01 Warrior pride on parade! Dr. Sigler waved along the MCHS Homecoming route.

03 Keeping the energy up! The Warriors celebrated together during the Lake Land match.

05 Little hands, big smiles! WVC joined St. Mary's for Fist Bump Friday.

02 Selfie time! Coach Todd Gill and fellow Warriors posed at Meet the Warriors Night.

04 Clocking out, sunset showing off. An evening view of WVC's pond.

06 Between campus happenings, there's always time for a chat! Dr. Fowler and Dennis caught up.