

APRIL 2025



CHARGED WITH PURPOSE

Students showcase skills, compete fiercely, and celebrate lineman success.



STUDENTS COME FIRST

Dr. Edgren reflects during Community College Month celebration.



CLINE'S NEXT CHAPTER

Alexis Cline signs with OCU, continuing volleyball and academics.



POWER MOVES: LINEMEN RODEO SPARKS FRIENDLY COMPETITION

A large crowd gathered on a sunny, cool morning for the 2025 Lineman Rodeo, held Saturday, April 12, on the campus of Frontier Community College. The event took place at the pole yard behind the Workforce Development Center. Attendees had the opportunity to watch 12 Electrical Distribution Systems (EDS) students participate in a friendly competition, showcasing the skills they developed throughout the semester. Guests were treated to BBQ sandwiches and had the chance to purchase Lineman Rodeo shirts featuring a logo designed by current FCC Graphic Arts & Design student, Amanda Burkett.

EDS Lead Instructor Dustin Wiggins expressed his satisfaction with both the turnout and the success of the event. "We had great weather. The boys had some fast times. Everyone in attendance had fun. We had good food. The main thing is, hopefully, these boys learned something and are inspired to pursue a job in the trade."

Top Right: An EDS student competing in the hurtman rescue competition.

Middle: Dustin Wiggins congratulates Greyson Bridewell.

Bottom: Amanda Burkett and her son holding a Lineman Rodeo shirt.

In the weeks leading up to the rodeo, EDS students could often be seen practicing on clear weather days in preparation for the big day. The competition included events such as hurtman rescue, speed climb, fuse cutout, mini excavator (in which students had to stack tires onto a pallet), underslung, and the egg climb.

Points were awarded to the top five finishers in each event: first place earned 5 points, second place 4 points, third place 3 points, fourth place 2 points, and fifth place 1 point.

The final results were close. Greyson Bridewell claimed first place with 15 points, followed by Maddox McElravy with 14. Caleb Hardy secured third place with 13 points. Quinn Uebinger finished fourth with 12 points, and Brody Barker rounded out the top five with 11 points.

Also competing were Harley Stevens with 10 points, Wyatt Jackson with 8, Jeffrey Short with 4, and Blake Davis with 3.

As for the fastest times in each event, Wyatt Jackson recorded the quickest time in the hurtman rescue with 1:31.24. In the speed climb, Quinn Uebinger finished in 24.57 seconds. Caleb Hardy led all competitors in the fuse cutout with a time of 49.84 seconds. Maddox McElravy placed first in the mini excavator event, stacking tires in 1:14.07. Hardy also took first in the underslung competition with a time of 53.82 seconds. Finally, in the egg climb, Greyson Bridewell posted the fastest time at 30.92 seconds.





All the EDS students on the pole with the American Flag on top, as the National Anthem is performed by FCC Student Advisor, Kara Blanton.

Sponsors for this year's Lineman Rodeo included Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Les McCormick Trucking, and Tallman Equipment Co., Inc. Frontier Community College and the EDS program extend their thanks to all who sponsored and attended the event.

For more information on Frontier Community College's EDS program, visit iecc.edu/fcc/eds.

EMPOWERING EDUCATION: COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH AT FRONTIER

April is recognized nationwide as Community College Month—a time to celebrate the vital role community colleges play in providing accessible, affordable, and high-quality education. These institutions serve as stepping stones to rewarding careers, further education, and lifelong learning for millions of students across the country. Frontier Community College, part of the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC) system, proudly joins in this celebration by highlighting the achievements of its students, the dedication of its faculty and staff, and its commitment to empowering the local community through education and opportunity.

Dr. Jay Edgren, President of Frontier Community College, emphasizes the importance of the opportunities FCC provides for learners of all ages:

"It's important to our community employers because we provide them with a pool of skilled graduates ready to join the workforce. We also offer community education classes that support personal enrichment—for example, our kids' camps during the summer give young learners a chance to explore and grow right here on campus.

For those pursuing formal education, we offer pathways to earn general education credits and associate degrees, such as an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science, which can transfer to a four-year college or university. Overall, we provide a variety of opportunities for community members to expand their skill sets and knowledge base."

Many people misunderstand or overlook community colleges due to outdated perceptions of lower prestige, limited awareness of their programs, and a societal focus on traditional four-year universities. These institutions are often undervalued despite offering affordable, high-quality education, career-focused training, and flexible options for learners of all ages. With strong transfer pathways, community-centered learning, and real-world job preparation, community colleges play a vital role in today's higher education landscape.

"I think there's a perception that the academic rigor at a community college doesn't match that of a four-year institution," says Dr. Edgren. "Another misconception is that we don't offer the extracurricular or co-curricular experiences students get outside the classroom at a four-year campus. I would argue against both. While it used to be more common for students to leave home and live on campus for the full college experience, I don't think that's necessary anymore. Community colleges offer meaningful educational and life experiences without the added costs and barriers."



Dr. Jay Edgren, President of Frontier Community College.

Frontier Community College offers courses and programs that emphasize hands-on learning, taught by both full-time and adjunct instructors, to help students gain the skills needed to enter the workforce.

"Our career and technical education programs give students the opportunity to learn all the skills necessary for entry-level employment in their chosen fields," says Dr. Edgren. "We also offer emergency preparedness courses that are sometimes overlooked, like our emergency responder and EMT Basic classes. These are primarily taught by adjunct instructors—professionals who are actively working in the careers our students are pursuing, which I think is incredible. Students gain real-world experience and practical skills that are immediately applicable. Our instructors are teaching relevant, in-demand skills that students will use in their future careers."

Frontier Community College is committed to both staying current with industry trends and building strong connections with future students early on.

"The changing needs of employers are addressed through our advisory committee process," says Dr. Jay Edgren. "Every one of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs has an advisory committee made up of professionals currently working in that field. We receive valuable feedback from these committee members that can lead to updates in our curriculum. Sometimes a curriculum can become outdated, but with annual reviews, the advisory committees suggest changes to keep our programs relevant and aligned with industry needs.

"I also believe it's important for departments like Student Services, Enrollment Management, Financial Aid, advising, and recruiting to be active in the community and engaged with potential students at all levels—including high school and even grade school. I think about our kids' camps and athletic camps in the summer—even though those are co-curricular or hobby-based, they bring young people to campus. It's a chance to expose them to the wide range of opportunities available at Frontier."

When asked about new or upcoming partnerships, programs, or initiatives he's

excited about, Dr. Jay Edgren highlighted a gas utility and construction program currently in development and shared details about its progress.

"We've been exploring the idea of a gas utility and construction program for the past two to three years," said Dr. Edgren. "Originally, we planned to launch it in the fall of 2025, but after evaluating our financial position and other variables, we decided to pause it—for now. That said, the project isn't on hold entirely. I'm working closely with Jack Tribe, a retired local resident who led a similar

Bottom Left Photo: Nixie Hnetkovsky instructs her science students during a lecture inside Mason Hall.

Bottom Right Photo: A student in Kim Wellen's class demonstrates her public speaking skills in class.



program at a college in Wisconsin for 17 years. He's passionate about bringing this opportunity to our area.

"We're also partnering with A-Star, an employer that provides training and certification for workers in the gas utility and construction field. They already conduct training for people currently in the industry and are interested in helping us with initial training for those new to the field. The goal is to create a four-week, intensive boot camp that teaches the essential skills needed to enter this high-demand profession. It will be basic, but focused on the most important concepts students need to succeed.

"In addition to A-Star's support, we've received equipment donations—including a backhoe, mini excavator, and a truck—from a similar company, which is incredibly exciting. This program will offer another pathway not only for students within our district but also for out-of-district students who want to come to an IECC campus, receive hands-on training, and be job-ready in just four weeks. Starting salaries in this field range from \$50,000 to \$60,000, though students need to be open to traveling for work.



Nursing instructor, Juliana James, describes the functions of the respiratory system during an in-class session in the spring semester.

"Whether it's a student right out of high school or someone looking to change careers, this program is something new and exciting. It has the potential to grow into a nine-month offering down the road, but we're starting small and focused."

Dr. Edgren has shared that graduation day is both his personal and professional favorite, as it reflects the positive impact Frontier Community College has made in students' lives.

"My favorite day—from both a personal and professional standpoint—is graduation day," said Dr. Edgren. "I really enjoy seeing all the time and effort come to fruition as our students reach this milestone. It's a seamless moment of success, and afterward, we get to hear their stories and see where they go next. We're truly making a difference in people's lives—and in some cases, we're helping them change the entire trajectory of their future. That kind of

impact is powerful. I'm proud to help provide the experiences that enhance that transformation. I try to be a student-success-driven decision-maker, always asking: What is best for the students?"

What makes Frontier Community College truly shine isn't the buildings on campus—it's the people. From faculty and staff to recruiters and support teams, those who represent FCC both on and off campus share one guiding philosophy: students first.

"We have wonderful, dedicated, and loyal employees. I'm proud to be part of Team Frontier," said Dr. Edgren. "To me, it all starts with people—the people who make up the college. A college isn't just buildings. To me, Frontier is defined by the people who work here and the students we serve. I'm genuinely proud of the team we have. I've always thought of Frontier as

MAY 2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1 Bobcats Baseball @ Shawnee - 12
- 2 Last Day of Spring Classes
- 3 Bobcats Baseball vs Shawnee - 12 & 3
- 5 - 8 Finals Week
- 9 Last Day of Spring Semester & Graduation at Fairfield Community High School at 7
- 12 First Day - Intercession Classes
- 20 Midterm - Intercession
- 20 IECC Board of Trustees Meeting at 6:15
- 26 Memorial Day - Campuses Closed
- 29 Last Day to Withdraw from Intercession Courses
- 30 Last Day of Intercession Classes

* All times listed are P.M., unless otherwise noted.

** All athletic events are tentatively scheduled, and can change at any time due to weather, etc.

*** Home games will be live streamed on Bobcat Nation YouTube channel, unless otherwise noted through their social media channels.

a family, and we work to create and maintain that family atmosphere. We want to make it a fun and rewarding place to work.

"In the classroom, our faculty provide the best experiences possible so students can get the education they need. Whether it's the operations and maintenance crew to our recruiting staff, we focus on giving them the tools and resources they need to do their jobs well. It all comes back to serving students. We have a really great group of people here, and we all share the same philosophy—students first."

Dr. Edgren's official last day at Frontier Community College is Monday, June 30. After that, he will begin a new chapter: retirement.

"I will truly miss being on campus, interacting with students, and being part of the Frontier family," said Dr. Edgren. "Not many presidents serve for more than 11 years—that's only because I've genuinely enjoyed my time here at FCC. I believe Fairfield has a gem in Frontier—and it's certainly not a hidden one. Sometimes, I think Frontier is taken for granted, and we need to continue reminding people of the value this college brings to our community."



SERVING UP SUCCESS: CLINE SIGNS WITH THE MIGHTY OAKS

Surrounded by family members and teammates at the Bobcat Den on Monday, April 7, Frontier Community College volleyball sophomore Alexis Cline signed her National Letter of Intent to continue her academic and athletic career at Oakland City University in Oakland City, Indiana.

The Mighty Oaks women's volleyball team, coached by Allyson Moorman, is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA). They primarily compete in the River States Conference.

"I like the campus, and it's not far from Fairfield," Cline said. "I'm excited about signing with Oakland City University. I'm looking forward to meeting new people and playing for another two years."

During her sophomore season with the Bobcats, Cline played both middle and opposite positions. Versatility is essential in volleyball, especially at the middle and right-side spots. Middles must read the game quickly, transition from blocking to attacking in an instant, and maintain a strong presence at the net. Right-sides are often relied upon as offensive powerhouses and dependable blockers who can adapt to multiple roles.

"I will be transitioning from middle to right side, which isn't a big change, because I played mostly right side at Fairfield Community High School," she said.

Cline noted that collegiate volleyball at OCU is faster and quicker—something she observed while attending an Oakland City match during her campus visit.

She thanked former Bobcats volleyball coaches Nixie Hnetkovsky and Libby Lingafelter, along with current head coach Chet Snyder, for their impact on her growth as both a student and athlete at Frontier.

Cline plans to major in psychology and minor in criminal justice at OCU. After graduation, she hopes to earn her master's degree in social work online and pursue a career as a clinical adoption case worker.

KERA VINSON NAMED NEW VOLLEYBALL ASSISTANT COACH



Kera Vinson

Frontier Community College Bobcats Head Volleyball Coach Chet Snyder has announced the hiring of Kera Vinson as the new assistant coach for Bobcats Volleyball. Vinson officially began her duties on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

Vinson brings a wealth of coaching experience at the junior high, high school, and club levels. She currently serves as the head volleyball coach at Cisne Middle School and previously spent three years as the head volleyball coach at Cisne High School in Cisne, Illinois. She also served for seven years as a volunteer assistant and assistant coach at Center Street Middle School in Fairfield, Illinois.

In club volleyball, Vinson coached Blue Blaze Volleyball alongside Snyder for two years and Integrity Volleyball for four years, where she also held the role of club director. Most recently, she led Cisne Middle School to a second-place finish in the Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association (SIJHSAA) Class S state tournament.

"I am beyond excited to be a part of the future of Frontier Athletics," said Vinson. "It's an honor that Coach Snyder believes in my abilities, and I'm eager to contribute to the success of the Bobcats Volleyball program."

Vinson's coaching philosophy centers on effort over outcome, emphasizing hard work, selflessness, and continuous improvement. "Always work hard and give 100 percent. There are times in our lives when things don't go as planned, but if we've made a good effort to get better and be better, that's what truly matters," said Vinson. She is committed to supporting Coach Snyder through honesty, dedication, and ongoing study of the game to enhance her coaching expertise.

Vinson prioritizes player development both on and off the court, focusing on fundamentals, teamwork, and character growth. She emphasizes continuous learning to enhance her coaching and strives to be a positive role model by applying her faith and values in daily life.

Building team chemistry at the junior college level is crucial, as players have limited time to form strong bonds and develop trust. A unified team culture fosters resilience, communication, and motivation throughout the season. Vinson emphasizes the importance of a positive mindset, stating, "Players don't need to worry about past mistakes—they need to focus on the next ball or play. The mental game is built through playing!"

Junior college volleyball is fast-paced and competitive, demanding speed, power, and teamwork. Vinson reflects on her growth as a coach, saying, "My experience has helped mold me into a better listener. The game is ever-evolving, and I'm eager to learn and grow as the game progresses."

Coach Snyder expressed his enthusiasm for Vinson's addition to the staff.

"Kera Vinson and I have a long history of volleyball together. I don't know anyone who has studied the game and grown as much as she has over the past ten years," said Snyder. "She is a relentless worker who gives her best in everything she does—no one will work harder than Kera. She's also a high-energy person who loves building relationships with young athletes. Bobcat Volleyball got better today with the hiring of Coach Vinson."

For more information on Frontier Community College Bobcats Volleyball and Athletics, go to fccbobcats.com.

ROOTED IN FAIRFIELD, COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

In every town, there's someone whose impact stretches far beyond what's expected—someone who shows up not for recognition, but simply because they care. When needs arise, they don't hesitate. Instead, they roll up their sleeves and dive in, offering their time, skills, and heart to lift others up. This is the story of one such person—a quiet force of kindness who proves that when we are both able and available, choosing to help can transform not only the lives around us but the spirit of an entire community.

At the Greater Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Monday, March 10, at Willow Creek Venue, Tyler Lampley received the Community Service Award. This award is presented to an individual who is actively engaged in community service. Tyler was genuinely surprised by the announcement—he didn't know he had been selected until his name was called. In fact, he had even helped set up the banquet the night before.

After receiving the award, Lampley gave a brief speech, emphasizing the importance of community involvement.

"I am extremely humbled and honored to be recognized with this award. I did not expect it at all and am still in shock. But it has given me the motivation to continue my community service work."



Tyler Lampley holds his 2025 Community Service Award following the Greater Fairfield Area Chamber Commerce Banquet that was held on Monday, March 10.

A 2005 graduate of Fairfield Community High School, Lampley continued his education at Frontier Community College, where he earned an associate in science degree. He credits FCC with helping him discover his path, thanks to the support of exceptional instructors.

"My time at Frontier was great. I attended for two years after high school and was able to use that time to decide what I wanted to do next. I had some of the best teachers, and I keep in touch with many of them. Attending a school where teachers care about you inside and outside the classroom really showed me that you can always do more."

Following FCC, Lampley attended Murray State University in Kentucky, where he studied Finance with a concentration in Financial Planning. He has worked at the Fairfield Save-A-Lot since 2003. It was there that he met Tim McBride, a mentor who introduced him to the importance of being active in the community.

"Working side by side with my good friend Tim McBride really introduced me to being part of clubs and organizations. He's always been someone who stays involved."

Lampley has since taken part in a variety of community initiatives. He helped bring the Shriners Circus back to town after a 48-year absence. He also chaired the City of Fairfield Recreation Committee, which has helped launch or take over events such as Second Saturdays, the Halloween Trunk or Treat, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the Christmas Parade. One of his most impactful projects was the Solar Eclipse last year, where Fairfield successfully marketed itself and welcomed thousands of visitors on the day of the eclipse.

Lampley currently serves on the Frontier Community College Foundation Board. He shared his goals for the foundation.

“My goals while serving on the Foundation Board are to continue doing everything we can to award scholarships and assist students in need. Second, help the college grow at a sustainable pace. And third, help create a strong and engaging student life atmosphere.”

Lampley believes that community college students have a unique opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the places they call home. By getting involved—whether through volunteer work, student organizations, service projects, or local initiatives—students not only strengthen their communities but also grow personally.

“Get involved in a club or group. Whether it’s on campus, in Fairfield, or in your hometown—just join something. You don’t have to join every group. Find one or two that you’re passionate about and run with it.”

Looking ahead, Lampley noted that the recreation committee is planning even more events throughout the year, which he believes will be both fun and successful. He also extended heartfelt thanks to his family, friends, and coworkers for their continued love and support, saying it means a lot to him.

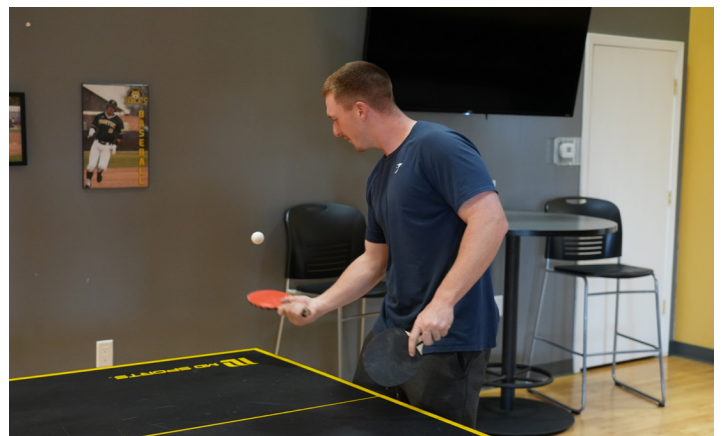
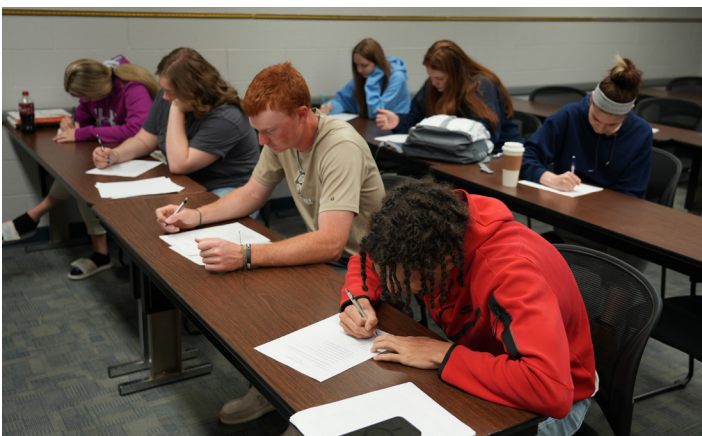
Tyler’s story is a reminder that true community spirit isn’t about titles or accolades—it’s about action. It’s about noticing what needs to be done and stepping up without waiting to be asked. Through his quiet dedication and unwavering support for others, Tyler has become a shining example of how one person can make a lasting difference.

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FCC IN PICTURES



1 Members of Phi Theta Kappa help at Baking A Difference for Jaimie Ford on March 20.

3 Aubrey Churchill guides Flora High School students on a tour of FCC's campus on April 8.

5 Angie Harrison's psychology class take a test.

2 Phlebotomy students answer questions from prospective students at the Phlebotomy Open House on March 18.

4 Quentin Hallam arrives at West Hall for a morning class.

6 Ian Olivier-Beaulieu shows off his ping-pong skills.