

AUGUST 2026



STRONG SEMESTER START

FCC welcomes students with activities, connections, and fun.



FRONTIER'S LEGACY

Dinner celebrates service, student success, and Frontier's future.



BOBCATS EARN HONORS

Forty-three Bobcats earn NJCAA honors for outstanding academic achievement.



FCC TO WELCOME STUDENTS WITH WEEKS OF WELCOME

Frontier Community College is gearing up for the 2026–2027 academic year with Weeks of Welcome, a series of activities designed to kick off the fall semester and welcome new and returning students. Events are open exclusively to FCC students, faculty, and staff.

“We have planned activities that will bring students together for fun and help build a sense of community,” said Lori Noe, director of the Learning Commons. “These opportunities for engagement will lay the groundwork for an involved student body and help start the year off strong.”

Weeks of Welcome activities include:

New Student Orientation will begin at 8:30 a.m. Monday, August 17, at the Workforce Development Center.

Athlete Orientation will be held at 9 a.m. Tuesday, August 18, in West Hall.



Students line up during last year's New Student Orientation at the Workforce Development Center. Approximately 100 students are expected to attend this year's orientation.

Fall classes begin Wednesday, August 19. To celebrate the first day of the semester, FCC will host a cookout at 11 a.m. at Dreith Pavilion.

Two events are planned for Thursday, August 20. Pizza and Prep with Jordie Higgason will begin at noon in Bob Boyles Hall. During "The Exam Mastery Playbook," Higgason will share tips to help students study smarter and stress less.

Later that evening, Phi Theta Kappa will host a photo scavenger hunt at 5:30 p.m. in Bob Boyles Hall.

On Friday, August 21, TRiO Advisor and local artist Jaeda Thomason will lead two Art

Experience with TRiO sessions at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Bobcat Den.

The One Love Christian Club will host a Nacho Bar at 11 a.m. Monday, August 24, in Bob Boyles Hall. Pickleball at the Park will follow at 4 p.m. at Lakeside Park in Fairfield.

Sweeties Ice Cream of Wayne City will serve ice cream beginning at 11 a.m. Tuesday, August 25, in the Learning Commons.

B-I-N-G-O will be held outdoors at noon Wednesday, August 26, at Dreith Pavilion. The Duck Drop will begin at noon Thursday, August 27, at Dreith Pavilion. Lawn games will also be available, and popsicles will be served.

On Friday, August 28, Thomason will lead two additional Art Experience with TRiO sessions at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Bobcat Den.

Weeks of Welcome will conclude Monday, August 31, with Doughnuts with Active Minds at 8 a.m. in the Learning Commons.

Fall registration remains open at Frontier Community College. For more information or assistance registering for classes, call 618-842-3711 or visit iecc.edu/fcc.





Former Frontier Community College President and FCC Foundation President Richard Mason (center) receives a plaque recognizing his many years of service to the college and Foundation. Mason recently stepped down from the Foundation's executive board. He is pictured with FCC Foundation Director Luke Harl (left) and FCC President Dr. Sharmila Kakac (right).

FCC FOUNDATION DINNER HONORS MASON AND BOYLES

The Frontier Community College Foundation Dinner was held Wednesday, July 29, in Bob Boyles Hall.

A highlight of the evening was the recognition of Richard Mason and the late Robert "Bob" Boyles for their lasting contributions to Frontier Community College.

Mason served as president of Frontier Community College from 1976 to 1996. Following his retirement, he continued supporting the college through the FCC Foundation, serving as its president from 1996 to 2009 and as an executive board member from 2009 to 2026.

In recognition of his many years of service to the Foundation, Mason received a plaque. He was also shown a second plaque that will soon be permanently displayed in Mason Hall.

"Thank you, everyone, for what you do and for your support of Frontier Community College," Mason said.

Boyles was also honored during the dinner with a surprise announcement. His daughter, Beth Ann Colclasure, was presented with a plaque that will soon be permanently installed in Bob Boyles Hall.

Boyles served Frontier Community College in several leadership roles throughout his career, including director of Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs from 1981 to 1983, dean of Institutional Development from 1983 to 1986, director of Adult and Continuing Education from 1986 to 2007 and dean of Instruction from 2008 until his retirement in 2013.

The tribute was kept secret from the Boyles family until FCC Foundation President Luke Harl unveiled the updated plaque during the dinner. Colclasure became emotional as she and Harl held the plaque together.

"He loved Frontier. It was like family to him," Colclasure said. "He was so proud to be employed here and of all the changes he was part of, the friendships he developed and the work he accomplished. We were one big, happy family. I was very surprised, honored and touched." The Foundation also conducted its regular business during the dinner. The installation of six members of the 2026–2027 board, whose terms will expire in 2029, was approved. Those members are Samantha Baker, Beth Colclasure, Chris Conard, Jodi Poole, Adam Schoenborn and Jeff Vaughan.

The Foundation also approved its officers for 2026–2027. Harl will continue serving as president, with David Savage as vice president, Baker as treasurer and Julie Aman as secretary.

Baker provided a financial update, while Harl and Conard presented an update from the Investment Committee.

FCC President Dr. Sharmila Kakac delivered the President's Report, which included information about student residency and enrollment. Of Frontier's students, 72% live within the district, 16% are from outside the district, 9% are from out of state and 3% are international students.

The latest fall 2026 enrollment figures showed an all-student headcount of 286, compared with 290 at the same time last year. The credential-seeking headcount stood at 237, compared with 241 a year ago.

Kakac also discussed two new programs coming to Frontier. Welding will be offered as both a dual-credit course and an evening certificate program. A sports management transfer program is expected to begin in January 2027.

Athletic Director Jeremy Ellis provided an update on Bobcats athletics. Ellis announced that 43 Frontier student-athletes earned first-, second- or third-team NJCAA All-Academic honors during the 2025–2026 academic year.



Beth Ann Colclasure (center) displays a plaque honoring her father, the late Robert "Bob" Boyles, that will be permanently installed in Bob Boyles Hall. Boyles served Frontier Community College for many years in a variety of roles.



FCC Foundation members listen as FCC President Dr. Sharmila Kakac delivers her president's report during the FCC Foundation Dinner on Wednesday, July 29.

Frontier's athletic teams also ranked among the nation's best academically. The Bobcats volleyball team ranked third nationally with a 3.84 overall GPA. The baseball team tied for fifth with a 3.74 GPA, while the softball team ranked sixth with a 3.79 GPA.

Ellis also provided an update on the addition of men's and women's basketball, which will begin at Frontier in 2027. Since the coaching vacancies were announced, Frontier has received 21 applications for the men's head coaching position and 16 for the women's position.

"They are not all local; they are from all over the country," Ellis said. "The goal is to hire a men's and women's basketball coach

soon, giving them a year to recruit, build their programs and establish connections within the community before the student-athletes arrive. We want to give them a strong start.

"Many of the applicants have extensive knowledge and experience. It is going to be a difficult decision to narrow the field down to one coach for each program."

Harl also presented proposed amendments concerning the Foundation's Constitution and Bylaws and the Jerry Cox Endowment.

43 FRONTIER COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT-ATHLETES EARN NJCAA ALL-ACADEMIC HONORS

Forty-three Frontier Community College student-athletes have been named to the 2025–26 NJCAA All-Academic Teams in recognition of their exceptional performance in the classroom.

Student-athletes named to the NJCAA All-Academic First Team achieved a perfect 4.00 grade-point average. Second Team honorees earned GPAs between 3.80 and 3.99, while Third Team honorees posted GPAs between 3.60 and 3.79.

Frontier had 19 student-athletes named to the First Team, 16 selected for the Second Team and eight recognized on the Third Team.

First Team selections were Elliana Ames (volleyball), Ian-Olivier Beaulieu (baseball), Justin Early (baseball), Kaelin Farr (baseball), Alaira Friese (softball), Mayes Gosser (baseball), Kasey Lowe (baseball), Sean McConachie (baseball), Sarah McCorkle (volleyball), Chloe Papineau (softball),

SEPTEMBER 2026

2	VB vs Wabash Valley College	6:30
4	VB vs Vincennes University	6:30
4	BB @ Danville Area CC (Scrimmage)	
5	BB @ Brescia (Scrimmage)	
7	Labor Day - Campus Closed	
8	VB @ Rend Lake	6:30
8	BB @ Parkland College (Scrimmage)	
10	VB vs Lincoln Trail	6:30
11	VB @ Vincennes Blazer Classic	6:30
11	BB @ PUMA Classic	
12	VB @ Vincennes Blazer Classic	2:00
12	BB @ PUMA Classic	
15	IECC Board Meeting @ LTC	6:15
16	VB vs Shawnee	6:30
17	Constitution Day - Classes in Session	
18	VB vs Lake Land	6:30
18	BB @ Dinger Showcase	1:50 P / 7 P
21	VB vs SWIC	6:30
22	BB @ Northern Kentucky University (Scrimmage)	
23	VB vs SIC	6:30
24	VB @ Mineral Area College	5:30
25	Senior Citizens Event @ West Hall	
28	VB vs John A. Logan College	6:30

OCTOBER 2026

2	VB vs Kaskaskia	6:30
3	BB @ Scout Connect Showcase	9 A/11:45 A
5	VB @ Wabash Valley College	6:30
8	VB vs Rend Lake	6:30
9	District Faculty & Staff PD Day - Campus Closed	
10	BB @ Rend Lake College (Scrimmage)	
12	Columbus Day - Campus Closed	
12	VB @ Lincoln Trail College	6:30
14	Fall Midterm	
14	BB vs SWIC (Scrimmage)	
17	VB @ SIC Tri-Match	11 A/1 P
17	BB vs SCC (Fall Fan Fest Scrimmage)	
19	VB @ Shawnee	6:30
20	Spring Registration Begins	
20	IECC Board Meeting @ OCC	6:15
21	VB @ Lake Land College	6:30
23	VB @ SWIC	6:30
23	BB @ Eastern Illinois University (Scrimmage)	
30	VB Region 24 Tournament	TBA
31	VB Region 24 Tournament	TBA

Riley Roark (volleyball), Arlissa Sharber (volleyball), Olivia Smith (softball), Peyton Smith (softball), Nathan Stivers (baseball), Camdyn Tappendorf (volleyball), Annika Van Heemst (volleyball), Carson White (baseball) and Miles Whitesell (baseball).

Second Team honorees were Bria Beals (volleyball), Caleb Boff (baseball), Olivia Brummer (volleyball), Bailey Collins (baseball), Landon Davis (baseball), Asa Dunlevey (baseball), Jackson Ethridge (baseball), Josh French (baseball), Drake Hartline (baseball), Braxton Mathews (baseball), Alexis Miller (softball), Mason Newland (baseball), Ryan Perry (baseball), Rayonna Ridley (softball), Emmalynn Vinson (softball) and Kyndall Webb (softball).

Third Team honorees were John Condon (baseball), Gavyn Harrell (baseball), Seth Harris (baseball), Harper Holeman (softball), Chase Loesch (baseball), Devon Ouwehand (baseball), Gael Salinas (baseball) and Alicia Stanley (softball).

In addition to the individual honors, all three Frontier Community College athletic teams ranked among the top six nationally in their respective sports for academic performance.

The Bobcats volleyball team ranked third in the nation with an overall GPA of 3.84. The baseball team tied for fifth with a 3.74 GPA, while the softball team finished sixth with a 3.79 GPA.

Frontier Community College Athletic Director Jeremy Ellis praised the student-athletes for their dedication in the classroom after the NJCAA released the results.

"We're super excited," Ellis said. "This is the standard we want to set. We want our student-athletes to remain academically focused and use their success here to help them continue their education and athletic careers elsewhere."

Ellis also emphasized the important roles Frontier faculty, staff, administrators and community members play in helping student-athletes succeed.

"We want to recognize the people working behind the scenes," Ellis said. "Our faculty, staff and administration are very supportive of us. They do a



Olivia Smith plays third base for the Bobcats during a game last spring. Smith was one of 43 Frontier student-athletes named to the NJCAA All-Academic Teams, earning First Team honors.

great job working with our student-athletes and making themselves available when help is needed. The hard work our student-athletes are putting in is also paying off, and these results show that."

Ellis said the support student-athletes receive from the Fairfield community also contributes to their success.

"We talk all the time about the impact our faculty, staff, administration and community have on our student-athletes," he said. "When community members are present and show our students that they are important to Fairfield and our campus, it motivates them to succeed and do well here."

The NJCAA All-Academic Teams program recognizes student-athletes from across the

country for their commitment to academic excellence while competing in collegiate athletics.

FRONTIER COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO HOST SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY

Frontier Community College will host a Senior Citizen's Day event on Friday, September 25, in West Hall, rooms 103-105, on campus.

The event is designed to provide helpful information, resources, and support for senior citizens. The morning will feature presentations from local professionals on topics including financial estate planning, resiliency, hospital resources, healthy meals, adult education, and tutoring opportunities.

Registration and breakfast will begin at 8 a.m., followed by opening remarks at 8:30 a.m. from Frontier Community College President Dr. Sharmila Kakac and Lori Noe, Director of Learning Commons.

Luke Harl, Financial Advisor with FNB Financial, will present "Financial Estate Planning for Senior Citizens" from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Following a short break, Dana Taylor, Chief Operating Officer at Fairfield Memorial Hospital, will speak on "Resiliency Through Life Challenges" from 9:45 to 10:05 a.m. Taylor will also share information about specialized resources and services available at Fairfield Memorial Hospital.

Additional sessions will include guided breathing imagery provided by Fairfield Memorial Hospital, "Healthy Snacks – Healthy Meals" with Whitney Buckles of Fairfield Memorial Hospital, and "Adult Education – Tutoring Opportunities" with Sharis Wilson, Director of Literacy and Adult Education Operations.

The event will conclude with door prizes and adjournment from 11:30 a.m. to noon. A tour of Learning Commons in Cox Hall will be offered afterward. During the tour, attendees can learn more about the accommodations and services available to senior citizens upon request.

Advance registration is required to attend. To register, call Frontier Community College at 618-842-3711.

Community members are also encouraged to mark their calendars for Friday, March 19, 2027, for Senior Citizen's Day and Health Fair. More details will be announced at a later date.

FRONTIER VOLLEYBALL LOOKS TO BUILD ON HISTORIC SEASON



Sarah McCorkle surveys Kaskaskia College's defense before serving during a match last season in Centralia. McCorkle is one of four players returning for the Bobcats this fall.

The Frontier Community College volleyball team is coming off a historic season and looking to build on that momentum this fall.

The Bobcats finished 19-19 overall last season and earned the first postseason appearance in program history. They advanced to the Region 24 Tournament and competed in the NJCAA Division I Midwest District B Championship.

Before the season began, Kera Vinson was hired as an assistant coach. She was named acting head coach in early September and guided the Bobcats through the remainder of their historic campaign. During the offseason this spring, Vinson was officially named the Bobcats' head volleyball coach and student life coordinator. Serving as assistant coach this season will be Lauren Grace Conard.

"I am very grateful for such a special opportunity to be involved with the students' lives at FCC and to be leading the Bobcat Volleyball team. I pray that God will use me to share the gospel and benefit His kingdom."

The Bobcats recorded several notable accomplishments throughout the season. They opened the year by taking a set from Vincennes University for the first time in program history. They went 3-1 at the East Central College Falcon Classic. Frontier later hosted Vincennes on October 13 and defeated the Trailblazers in four sets, earning its first victory over Vincennes in program history.

The Bobcats will be without Lily Spark, an All-Region 24 selection who is continuing her academic and athletic career at Eastern Michigan University. Annika Van Heemst is also continuing her career at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois.

Sophomores Camdyn Tappendorf, Arlissa Sharber and Olivia Brummer have graduated. Mariana Garcia-Gomez, Jenna Abusharbain, Ylayna Olivera, Evan Polsgrove, Tinlea Webb, Avery Wolfe and Cassidy King are also no longer with the program.

"Our sophomores set the tone in our gym. They constantly work hard, ask questions, compliment the practice planning, and push everyone to be better. Last season's group was super fun and were a joy to be around. I am so proud of them for becoming the sixth top team in our region."

Four returners and one key transfer will form the veteran core of this year's team. Riley Roark, Elliana Ames, Sarah McCorkle and Bria Beals return for the Bobcats, while Lauren Burzynski joins the program after transferring from Lincoln Trail College.

Roark, a 5'3" defensive specialist, continued to improve as the season progressed and emerged as one of the top liberos and defensive specialists in Region 24. If the gym floor were lava, Roark appeared determined to keep the ball from touching it, routinely diving across the court to keep rallies alive. The Carmi, Illinois, native appeared in 124 sets and recorded 573 serve receptions and 490 digs, averaging 3.95 digs per set. Roark is expected to remain a leader for the Bobcats and anchor their defense.

Ames, a 5'11" middle and right-side hitter, appeared in 37 matches and recorded 227 kills on 473 attacks. The Columbia, Illinois, native averaged 1.73 kills per set and posted a .311 hitting percentage. Her length also made her a valuable presence at the net, where she totaled 42 solo blocks and 15 block assists. After delivering several powerful attacks last season, Ames is expected to continue providing an aggressive presence along the front row.

McCorkle, a 5'8" setter, appeared in 124 sets and recorded 450 assists, averaging 3.63 per set. She also collected 211 digs and averaged 1.70 per set. The Mt. Carmel, Illinois, native possesses



With clipboard and marker in hand, Bobcats Head Volleyball Coach Kera Vinson calls out instructions to her team during last season's match against Kaskaskia College.



Riley Roark delivers a serve for the Bobcats. One of four returning sophomores, Roark will be counted on to help anchor Frontier's defense this season.

a strong serve and will be counted on to provide leadership this season.

Beals, a 5'8" outside hitter, appeared in 96 sets last season. The Effingham, Illinois, native recorded 23 kills on 107 attacks while adding 121 serve receptions and 100 digs. Beals brings impressive leaping ability to the court and can attack the ball with power.

Burzynski, a 5'10" setter, transferred to Frontier from Lincoln Trail and is expected to make an immediate impact. She previously played alongside Roark at Carmi-White County High School, where they helped lead the Bulldogs to consecutive 30-win seasons, including a fourth place finish in the IHSA Class 2A State Tournament in 2023-24 under head coach Chris Lucas.

At Lincoln Trail, Burzynski recorded 84 kills on 211 attacks, averaging 1.17 kills per set with a .209 hitting percentage. She also totaled 330 assists, averaging 4.58 per set, and collected 139 digs for an average of 1.93 per set. Her height and versatility allow her to contribute as both a setter and an attacker, while her willingness to dive for the ball makes her a valuable defensive presence.

The freshman class features several local players along with one international recruit. Set to make their debuts for the Bobcats are Kenzie Turner (5'10") of Fairfield, Illinois; Audrey Taylor (5'8") and Torrie Rider (5'10") of Carmi, Illinois; Tinlea Davis (5'3") of Mt. Carmel, Illinois; and Imogen Penny (5'9") of Alberta, Canada.

With a 10-player roster, managing workloads and keeping the Bobcats fresh throughout the season will be important.

"Due to having such a very late start in recruiting, our team is small in numbers. We have key players that will help us have fresh legs playing. Our strength trainer, Adrian Lopez, is amazing. We are currently working the girls to be able to endure five grueling sets, when needed. Coach Lopez worked at Carmi-White County High School and their progress with endurance was quite evident throughout their postseason run. I trust him to get our girls ready."

Vinson also shared the team's progress during preseason practices and what fans can expect from this year's squad.

"Practices are fast paced. We touch the ball a lot! We try to use two nets as much as possible to ensure every position is getting the quality reps needed to become the best at their role on the team. Our expectations are easy. Effort > Outcome & Simple = Repeatable = Accuracy. We point to these often."

John A. Logan College finished atop the Region 24 standings last season, followed by Vincennes University and Lake Land College to round out the top three. Vinson offered her outlook on what the region could look like this season.

"Region 24 is loaded. I am in awe of the top programs: Vincennes University, Kaskaskia, Southwestern Illinois College, and Lake Land. Their coaches are fantastic. While I also feel that Wabash Valley College, Lincoln Trail College, and Rend Lake are bringing in good competition as well. I have my work cut out for me to become a good development coach and really strive to build a strong program."

The Bobcats open their season Saturday, August 22, on the road against Vincennes University. They will host Wabash Valley College in their home opener Wednesday, September 2, at Center Street School in Fairfield. For the latest Bobcat athletics news and information, visit fccbobcats.com.

2026 BOBCATS VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

HOME GAMES ARE PLAYED AT CENTER STREET SCHOOL IN FAIRFIELD, IL

DATE	LOCATION	OPPONENT	TIME
SAT 8-22	@ Vincennes University	Vincennes, IN	12:00 PM EST
MON 8-24	@ John A. Logan College	Carterville, IL	6:30 PM
WED 8-26	@ St. Louis CC	St. Louis, MO	6:00 PM
FRI 8-28	@ Jimmy Johns Classic	W. Burlington, IA	12/4 PM
SAT 8-29	@ Jimmy Johns Classic	W. Burlington, IA	8 A/ 12 P
MON 8-31	@ Kaskaskia	Centralia, IL	6:30 PM
WED 9-2	Wabash Valley College	Fairfield, IL	6:30 PM
FRI 9-4	Vincennes University	Fairfield, IL	6:00 PM
TUE 9-8	@ Rend Lake	Ina, IL	6:30 PM
THU 9-10	Lincoln Trail College	Fairfield, IL	6:30 PM
FRI 9-11	@ Vincennes Blazer Classic	Vincennes, IN	6:30 PM
SAT 9-12	@ Vincennes Blazer Classic	Vincennes, IN	2:00 PM
WED 9-16	Shawnee	Fairfield, IL	6:30 PM
FRI 9-18	Lake Land	Fairfield, IL	6:30 PM
MON 9-21	SWIC	Fairfield, IL	6:30 PM
WED 9-23	SIC	Fairfield, IL	6:30 PM
THU 9-24	@ Mineral Area College	Park Hills, MO	5:30 PM
MON 9-28	John A. Logan College	Fairfield, IL	6:30 PM
FRI 10-2	Kaskaskia	Fairfield, IL	6:30 PM
MON 10-5	@ Wabash Valley College	Mt. Carmel, IL	6:30 PM
THU 10-8	Rend Lake	Fairfield, IL	6:30 PM
MON 10-12	@ Lincoln Trail College	Robinson, IL	6:30 PM
SAT 10-17	@ SIC (Tri-Match)	Harrisburg, IL	11 A/ 1 P
MON 10-19	@ Shawnee	Ullin, IL	6:30 PM
WED 10-21	@ Lake Land	Mattoon, IL	6:30 PM
FRI 10-23	@ SWIC	Belleville, IL	6:30 PM
Oct 30 & 31	Region 24 Tournament	TBA	TBA
NOV 6 & 7	District Tournament	TBA	TBA

#FRONTIERFIT



RILEY ROARK

BRIA BEALS

FCC IN PICTURES



1 Director of Dual Credit Megan Black speaks at Dual Credit Orientation on Monday, August 3.

3 FCC Foundation Director Luke Harl addresses Foundation members during the FCC Foundation Dinner.

5 Construction crews continue to make steady progress on the future Jerry Cox Athletic Center.

2 The Frontier Bobcat poses for a photo with Mary Johnston during Free Swim on Sunday, July 26.

4 FCC Athletic Director Jeremy Ellis provides an update on Bobcat athletics.

6 FCC President Dr. Sharmila Kakac paints handrails at WDC during Beautification Day on Friday, July 24.