



June 2024

The VOYAGER

The Frontier Community College Newsletter

46th Annual Commencement

Frontier Community College held its 46th annual commencement on Friday, May 10th. Over 140 degrees and certificates were conferred for the 2023-2024 academic year. Since the first commencement in 1979, FCC has awarded over 6,500 degrees and certificates.



A couple of students all smiles, prior to becoming official graduates

After the processional, the welcome was given by Dr. Jay Edgren, President of FCC. The student speaker for the evening was graduate Robert Ellis. Chief Academic Officer Dr. Paul Bruinsma presented the degrees and certificates. Diplomas were presented by Mr. Gary Carter and Dr. Edgren. The charge to the class was also presented by Dr. Edgren.

Upcoming Events

June

- 19 Juneteenth - Colleges closed
- 28 Midterm

July

- 4 Independence Day - Colleges closed
- 19 Last Day for Course Withdraw
- 26 Last Day of Classes
- 29-30 Final Exams

Bobcat Den Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30AM - 4:00PM

46th Annual Commencement cont.



President's Award Recipient Robert Ellis with President Edgren

Receiving the President's Award was Robert Ellis of Albion, Illinois. The award is given annually to a member of the graduating class and is selected based on many criteria, including campus and community involvement, quality of character, academic rigor, and community service. Ellis graduated with an Associate in Science and Arts Degree and plans to continue his education and pursue a career as a high school business teacher. In his time at FCC, Ellis served as a student ambassador, in addition to being a member of the Student Senate and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international honor society for two-year colleges. Ellis stated he encourages all future students to be involved in PTK, Student Senate, and other opportunities, and as it adds to the experience and growth during a student's time at FCC.

Walk-In Wednesdays

A yellow promotional poster for "Walk-In Wednesdays" for Fall '24. The text "WALK-IN WEDNESDAYS" is in large, bold, black letters. To the right, "get ready FOR FALL '24" is written in a cursive font. Below this is the Frontier Community College logo. Underneath the logo, it says "ADVISING • CLASS REGISTRATION • FINANCIAL AID • TESTING". There are three small photos showing students interacting with staff. Below the photos, it says "FREE SNACKS & GIFTS FOR ATTENDING". At the bottom, there are four dates: "JUNE 26 9-3", "JULY 10 9-3", "JULY 17 9-3", and "JULY 24 9-3". At the very bottom, in small text, it says "Event held in Student Services at Frontier Community College, 2 Frontier Drive, Fairfield, IL 62837. Please bring: Transcripts, Driver's License or State ID, Social Security Number or Card, Completed FAFSA, IEP or 504 Plan (optional)".

This summer, all four IECC campuses will be holding 'Walk-In Wednesdays' in June and July. These days will provide students with an opportunity to come in unscheduled for advising, registration, financial aid assistance, and testing. Lincoln Trail College held Walk-In Wednesdays last summer as a trial run for the district and experienced a lot of success. A consistent student turnout is expected, as these days provide an opportunity to have any and all questions answered as student can fully prepare for Fall 2024.

Kids Classes Underway at FCC



Kids class participants having fun and enjoying the sun during 'Beach Towel Tie-Dye, one of many summer kids classes offered this year

Summer kids classes started on Wednesday, May 29th at FCC. Renewable Energy ran through the end of that week and continued during the first week of June. Junior Paleontology was held on Wednesday, June 5th, as students were given a lesson and a hands-on activity to learn about fossil types. Beach Towel Tie-Dye was on June 6th, as the kids were scattered across the lawn in front of the Workforce Development Center customizing their tie-dye towels, adding their own unique designs.

There are currently 258 enrollments in the summer kids classes, with more expected. There are 14 more classes from now until the middle of July, including Cooking 101, Origami, Sign Language, Intro to Robotics, Camp CSI: Shark Attack, and many more. Our kids camps help keep the kids engaged and entertained while providing many of them with their first look at the FCC campus.

Nursing Instructor Retires After a Decade at FCC

After 10 years as an RN Instructor, Karen Marks has retired. After instructing CNA courses, Marks developed a love for teaching and obtained her Master's to be able to teach in the nursing program.

Marks talked about how she always wanted to be approachable to students. "I just wanted to be supportive and watch them succeed. I wanted them to know they can always come to me with any questions," she said.

She also spoke about what teaching at FCC meant for her especially. "I loved teaching here because of the closeness of the community. I've learned so much about teaching, organization, and technology since being here. Most of all, I appreciate all of the support over the years," she said.

We thank her for her years of service and wish her a happy retirement!



Nursing Instructor Karen Marks

Title III Update

Graduation and Pinning

Frontier graduated its third cohort of Medical Laboratory Technicians on the evening of May 10th. The five new laboratory scientists were honored at the second annual MLT pinning ceremony at Bob Boyles Hall prior to graduation, with program pins being conferred by MLT faculty Jennifer England, Julie Dehart, and Cindy Green. The attendees were addressed by student speaker and MLT program award recipient Gretchen Miner, as well as keynote speaker, FCC MLT alum Felicia Wissel.



FCC MLT Class of 2024. Noah Ochs, Kristen Young, Levi Hart, Lindsay Piperakis, and Gretchen Miner

Faculty Recording Studio Expansion

Approval has been given by the U.S. Department of Education for the expansion of Frontier's faculty recording studio, established under the Title III Grant. The expansion will include a dedicated sound booth allowing editing and voice overs to be conducted with minimal external noise, capturing audio and increasing the overall quality of videos.

The studio project will also include the purchase of a second camera unit including teleprompter and a switcher allowing multiple angles and speakers to be filed at the same time. A new digital soundboard will also be added to increase the sound quality of videos.

The Title III team is excited about the added quality and flexibility the new equipment and sound booth will provide. Construction will soon begin in Cox Hall.

Business & Industry Update

Business and Industry (B&I) attended the WETRRAIN conference in Springfield. A forum to connect with workforce departments from colleges statewide.

Classes were recently launched that are funded by the Non-credit Grant

B&I assisted with organizing the Mental Health Summit, Physical Therapy Summit, and the QIDP/social work training on emotional intelligence.

Funding for incumbent worker training has been received for the City of Albion, Fairfield Memorial Hospital, and HPC Industrial, all new clients.

There are upcoming training sessions in June with Clay County Hospital, Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Edwards/Wabash County Highway Dept., and Olney City Library. All of which, outside of Clay County Hospital, are new clients.

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) participated in CEO trade shows around the district. The SBDC was instrumental in a new business launching - Harry Lee's at Red Hill State Park. Additionally, the SBDC offered a workshop on cannabis in the workplace, with attendees both in person and online. Lastly, a workshop on 'how to start a small business in Illinois' was offered.

Associate Dean of Business & Industry Laurie Taylor participated in the Emerging Leaders Program held at Springfield and met with Senator Terri Bryant to discuss issues facing the coal and aggregate industries.

The Mining and Industrial Training (MIT) annual instructor meeting was held on May 23rd in West Frankfort. The day included trainings on Teams, narcan, and ALICE.

Instructors Todd Byerline, Josh Hoffert, and Wes Taylor plan to attend the 'Train-the-Trainer Alice Training'.

An MIT initiative is underway, as an outreach program is now in place to promote services to aggregate companies.

EMT-B classes in Robinson and Mt. Carmel concluded in May. The Flora class will end later in June. New classes will also begin in Mt. Carmel later in the month.

The Fire Science Advisory Board meet in May. A CPR and 'Stop the Bleed' class for IECC employees will be held at OCC on June 21st.