The VOYAGER

NOVEMBER 2026

SPRING REGISTRATION OPEN
Make your goals a reality this spring.

MAKING VOICES HEARD
Sharing student success in the nation's capital.

SERVING FELLOW STUDENTS
Isle and Rider to represent Frontier and make student voices heard.



MAKE YOUR NEXT MOVE AT FRONTIER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A new semester brings new opportunities, and Frontier Community College is inviting current and prospective students to take the next step toward their educational and career goals. Spring registration is now underway for the spring 2027 semester.

Whether you're pursuing a degree, preparing to transfer to a four-year university, enhancing your workforce skills, or exploring a new interest, FCC offers affordable, high-quality educational opportunities designed to fit a variety of schedules and goals.

Students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their advisor as soon as possible to discuss course options and build a schedule that supports their academic success. The first day of spring classes is January 11, 2027.

Registration is open now, and early registration gives students the best selection of classes and course times. For more information about Frontier Community College or to register, call 618-842-3711 or visit iecc.edu/fcc.



ADULT EDUCATION TAKES CENTER STAGE IN MAGUIRE'S WASHINGTON D.C. VISIT

For Angelique Maguire, her first trip to Washington, D.C., was more than an opportunity to visit the nation's capital. It was a chance to give a voice to adult education students and share how their successes strengthen communities throughout southeastern Illinois.

Maguire, Program Director of Adult Education at Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, traveled to Washington during National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, observed September 13–19. The annual observance raises awareness of the need for adult education, including foundational literacy, numeracy and digital skills training.

Representing IECC Adult Education alongside state and national adult education organizations, Maguire met with legislators and congressional staff to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing students in rural communities.

"I was representing our students and our communities, and I was educating our legislators about higher education, community colleges in rural America, and how different it is from what they're familiar with," Maguire said.



Angel Maguire poses for a photo on Capitol Hill during her first visit to Washington, D.C., the nation's capital.

Throughout the visit, Maguire shared students' challenges, celebrated their accomplishments and explained how educational opportunities and support services help them build better futures. She also emphasized the role elected officials play in supporting the community college programs that make those opportunities possible.

The conversations, she said, focused on education and storytelling rather than lobbying.

"It's all education and it's all sharing our story with them of who we are, our adult education journey, and who they are," Maguire said.

Those conversations also revealed unexpected connections. Some of the people she met had taught at community colleges or had been adult education students themselves. Hearing their experiences reinforced the importance of sitting down together and learning about one another's backgrounds.

Illinois participants were paired with representatives from Virginia for the congressional visits. Maguire said the meetings included legislators and staff from the offices of U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and U.S. Representatives Danny Davis, Jonathan Jackson, Robin Kelly and Mike Bost.

"There's a part of home that's there and we absolutely belong there and our students, their stories belong there," she said.

One of Maguire's biggest takeaways was the interest in student success stories. Legislators and staff wanted to understand how adult education changes individual lives beyond enrollment figures and statistics.

Maguire said Britney Chang, a legislative assistant in Durbin's office, encouraged participants to remain connected and continue sharing their communities' needs. Chang also offered guidance on ways to stay involved and keep those conversations going.

"They wanted to hear about our students. They wanted those success stories. That makes it real to them," Maguire said.

To illustrate that impact, Maguire shared the story of a local single mother of four who had experienced homelessness. Through adult education and partnerships with workforce development and community action agencies, the student received support to pursue an education while working toward employment.

Maguire described how coordination with the Southern 14 Workforce Development Board and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs helped connect the student with

education, job opportunities and assistance with expenses such as supplies, child care and transportation.

That support helped the student complete her education and pursue training as a certified nursing assistant. Today, Maguire said, she works at a local hospital and is working toward becoming a registered nurse.

For those listening, the story put a face to the programs and funding being discussed.

"You can see them light up," Maguire said. "They want to see that it is affecting people."

Maguire hopes to build on those conversations when she returns to Washington next year. One change she would like to make is bringing students along to tell their own stories.

"Next year, I'd love to take a student or two with us that can share their story," she said. "They want to see the impact it is making on the people."



The rising sun casts a warm glow over the Washington Monument.

While educators can explain their programs and share their own experiences, Maguire said there is something especially powerful about hearing directly from students who have moved from uncertainty to independence—supporting their families, giving back and becoming leaders in their communities.

"This is what dreams are made of, that is why we do what we do," she said.

The trip also provided an opportunity to discuss programs that may be unfamiliar to the public, including the Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System, or ICAPS. Maguire explained that grants help IECC offer adult education and career preparation opportunities at no cost to students. When funding is limited, however, the number of people those programs can serve is also affected.

Helping legislators understand that connection is an ongoing responsibility, she said.

"It's at the core of what I do, it's my heart. And I'm going to continue to do that in any capacity that I'm allowed to do it."

Although Maguire had previously visited the Illinois State Capitol and spoken with legislators there, the Washington trip marked her first opportunity to share those experiences at the national level.



The World War II Memorial honors the 16 million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, the millions who supported the war effort on the home front, and the 405,399 Americans who gave their lives.

Beyond the congressional meetings, the visit offered moments of personal reflection.

After training and legislative visits, Maguire visited the Washington Monument at sunset, photographing the American flag before walking to the World War II Memorial. Seeing the memorial brought tears to her eyes as she reflected on the sacrifices made by service members and their families.

"They sacrificed, their family sacrificed, for something that means more than I will ever understand for my freedom," she said.

The experience carried added meaning because her son served in the Navy. It also deepened her appreciation for the opportunity to speak with elected officials and represent the students and communities she serves.

Maguire said she was grateful to IECC for making the trip possible. With her own history connected to the college district, she welcomed the opportunity to explain what IECC means to her and to the residents of its 12-county service area.

"It's part of my history, part of my background," she said.

For Maguire, the visit reinforced both the value of adult education and the importance of ensuring its students are heard.

For more information about IECC Adult Education, visit iecc.edu/adulted.

**All photos courtesy of Angel Maguire.





Ava Isle (left) and Torrie Rider (right) represent Frontier Community College on the IECC Student Advisory Board.

ISLE AND RIDER SELECTED FOR IECC STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Two Frontier Community College students, Ava Isle of Fairfield and Torrie Rider of Carmi, have been selected to serve on the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Student Advisory Board (ISAB), giving them an opportunity to represent their peers and help shape the student experience across the district.

ISAB serves as a liaison between students and the IECC Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty. The board supports a high-quality learning environment and promotes meaningful programs and activities throughout the IECC system.

Members meet monthly with the IECC Dean of Students to discuss student concerns and priorities, review institutional policies, and provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees. ISAB also oversees and approves student organizations and considers their funding requests.

For Isle, joining the board offers a chance to continue her involvement in student activities while serving as a voice for others.

"When I received the email that I was accepted into the IECC Student Advisory Board (ISAB), I was very excited," Isle said. "I was very involved in extracurriculars in high school, so I wanted to continue that trend in college."

DECEMBER 2026

9	IECC BOT Special Meeting (Retreat)	9-5
9	IECC BOT Meeting @ Frontier	5-7
11	Last Day of Fall Classes	
14 - 17	Final Exams for Fall Classes	
18	Last Day of Fall Semester	
21 - 31	Winter Break	

JANUARY 2027

4	Campuses Open
6	Faculty Workshop
7	Spring Registration, Testing
11	First Day of Spring Classes
18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Campuses Closed



Torrie Rider (top) enjoys donuts provided during High-Five Friday at Jasper Elementary School. Ava Isle (bottom) creates her masterpiece during Canvas and Cookies at Dreith Pavilion on October 22.



She was also drawn to the opportunity to discuss issues, participate in decisions, and represent FCC's diverse student population.

Rider shared that enthusiasm and said encouragement from her volleyball coach, Kera Vinson, helped inspire her to pursue the position.

"I have always been in leadership roles throughout high school, and I have always enjoyed helping everyone," Rider said. "I was also encouraged by my coach, Kera; she told me I would be a perfect fit for the role."

Both students view listening as an essential part of their responsibilities. Isle hopes to help classmates share concerns with the appropriate personnel and connect students who have ideas for clubs, events, or activities with people who can help bring those ideas to life.

"My main goal is to be a spokesperson for my fellow peers," Isle said. "If they have any concerns, I want to make sure that those get passed on to the appropriate personnel."

Rather than focusing on a specific issue, Isle is eager to hear a variety of perspectives and bring students' suggestions to the board. She encourages classmates to approach her or another FCC student representative with concerns or ideas that ISAB could address.

Rider is particularly interested in improving campus life and encouraging greater student involvement. Her commitment to listening extends beyond Frontier to students throughout the district.

"I plan to listen to students from all the campuses and hear their ideas," Rider said. "I would encourage them to share their ideas with the board to make sure everyone feels included."

Both representatives believe student participation plays an important role in college decision-making. Isle emphasized that a student board with diverse perspectives can better consider how decisions affect students across all four IECC campuses.

Rider noted that students' everyday experiences can lead to ideas that might otherwise go unheard.

"Students should have a voice in decisions that affect their education and college experience," Rider said.

Their interest in serving others is supported by their own positive experiences at Frontier.

Isle, who grew up in the Wayne County area, said the college's proximity to home and its Medical Laboratory Technician program were key factors in her decision to attend. Now in her first year of the program, she is enjoying her classes and preparing for a career in the field.

Medical laboratory technicians test patient specimens, providing results that help health care providers determine treatment. After graduation, Isle hopes to find a job and continue exploring opportunities to learn and grow within the profession.

Rider is studying elementary education and is focused on maintaining good grades. She said the welcoming atmosphere at FCC has made her college experience especially rewarding.

"I have loved it all. I love my teammates, teachers, and classmates," Rider said. "Everyone here is so friendly and welcoming."

Through their service on ISAB, Isle and Rider hope to build on those experiences by helping fellow students feel heard, included, and encouraged to take an active role in their college communities.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: BOBCATS GIVE BACK

At Frontier Community College, learning extends beyond the classroom and into the communities we call home. By volunteering their time and talents, FCC students help meet local needs, support area organizations, and strengthen connections throughout the region.

The past couple of weeks have been filled with opportunities for students to give back. The Bobcats softball team sorted and organized more than 500 coats and matched more than 200 pairs of shoes for the 16th Annual Community Coat Drive—Coat & Shoe Give-Away, sponsored by The Wesleyan Church of Fairfield.

FCC students also cooked hot dogs, painted faces, and led games at Boo on Main in downtown Fairfield on Friday, October 30. The event drew hundreds of children and their families.

Students carried a large American flag during the Fairfield Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 7, and helped with Family Reading Night at Geff Grade School. Additionally, FCC student-athletes volunteered at the Frontier Community College Foundation's 9th Annual Fran Carter Memorial Scholarship Carnaby Square Fashion Show, where they sold tickets, served drinks, guided guests to their tables, and took to the runway as fashion models.

For FCC Student Life Coordinator, Kera Vinson, these activities demonstrate students' enthusiasm for serving others.

"When I think about the word volunteer, I immediately think of serving," Vinson said. "I'm really impressed by how much they want to serve. They want to be involved, and they enjoy being involved."

One moment at Boo on Main stood out to Vinson. Several baseball players helped run a game in which children selected ducks from a small pool to win candy. With a line stretching down the street, the players made each child's turn feel special, pretending to check their phones to confirm whether the selected duck was a winner.

After building the suspense, the players enthusiastically announced, "Winner!" Each child received candy and a moment of celebration.



Riley Roark (left) and Sarah McCorkle (right) sell 50/50 raffle tickets during the Fran Carter Memorial Scholarship Carnaby Square Fashion Show on Sunday, November 8.

"To see these young kids looking at someone who is 19 or 20 years old, getting excited to give them a piece of candy, and hearing, 'You're a winner'—what a confidence boost," Vinson said. "What an encouragement that is for anybody, at any age. Everyone wants to be told they are a winner."

Vinson said those interactions help students recognize the impact of making others feel accepted, valued, and loved. They also offer a lesson in leadership: making a difference does not always mean being the person in charge.

"Leadership can be service," she said. "Everybody has a role. They're finding out there is a role for all of them—not just on a team, but in our communities as well."

Linda Monge, an advisor for Phi Theta Kappa, sees community involvement as an opportunity for students to develop compassion alongside their academic skills. Through Phi Theta Kappa and her cultural diversity class, she regularly looks for ways students can help others.

"I think it has turned into an awesome opportunity for Frontier students to learn what service to others is and to give to others," Monge said.

While FCC students have long participated in local parades, coat giveaways, and other activities, Monge has noticed a growing effort to connect students with additional opportunities. She credited the athletic coaches, including Vinson's efforts to involve volleyball players, along with the shared commitment of those working with students across campus.

"We want Fairfield and the community to realize what jewels they have out here," Monge said. "These kids, with the proper direction, will do anything for you."



FCC students gather outside Jasper Elementary School after greeting students, faculty, and staff during High-Five Friday on November 6.

Monge also emphasized that service opportunities extend to all students. She said Phi Theta Kappa members consistently step up when help is needed, and college can offer a fresh start for students who may not have had opportunities to take an active role in high school.

"Here at the community college, they get to shine and show that they can help others just like anyone else," she said. "I think that's important."

For Monge, these experiences can help establish a lifelong commitment to giving back.

"There's something to be said about getting a good education and being brilliant. That's awesome," she said. "If you can couple that with compassion, caring, and giving back to others, that's going to make your life much more full. If you can set a foundation where you have this inner need to help others, that's going to follow you wherever you go."

The benefits reach beyond the students and the people they serve. Vinson said working alongside students has reinforced the importance of building connections across generations.

"It's been a blessing to me," she said. "We have to be willing to work alongside the next generation, to encourage them, and to be willing to learn from them as well. This generation matters. We need to make sure we're engaging with them."

Through these experiences, FCC students develop leadership skills, build meaningful relationships, and discover the difference they can make in the lives of others. Every helping hand reflects FCC's commitment to community and reinforces the importance of service as part of the college experience.



IECC B&I ANNOUNCES SPRING EMT CLASSES AT FRONTIER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Business and Industry Division has announced that spring Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) classes are now open for enrollment.

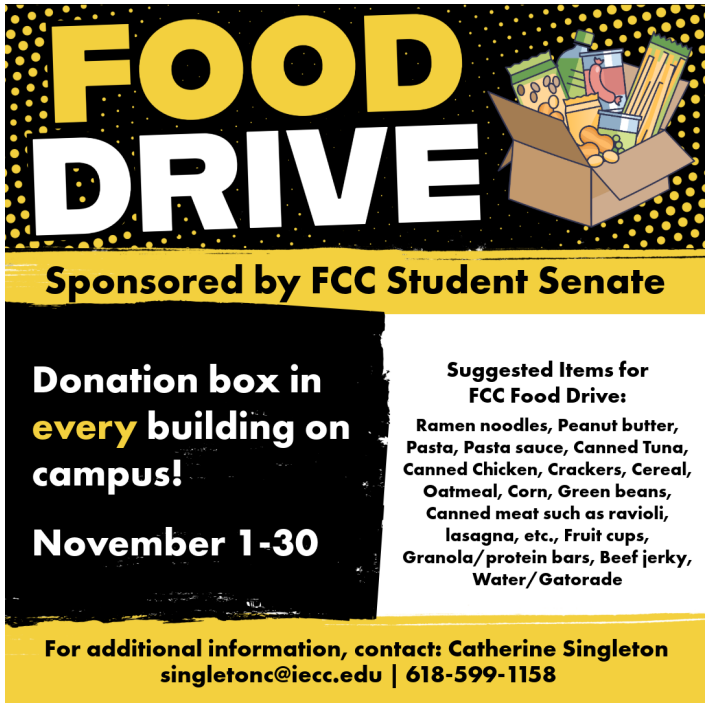
Classes will be held on Mondays and Thursdays on Frontier Community College's campus from January 11 through May 13, with participants able to choose between two class times: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Emergency Medical Technicians are trained healthcare professionals who provide out-of-hospital basic life support and emergency medical care to patients before and during transportation to a hospital. EMTs play a critical role in the emergency response system by assessing patients, providing immediate medical care, and ensuring safe transport to advanced medical facilities.

Course participants will learn essential skills including patient assessment, evaluating injuries and medical emergencies such as respiratory distress, cardiac arrest, and trauma. Students will also receive training in basic life support (BLS), including CPR, oxygen administration, and life-saving interventions such as the use of epinephrine for severe allergic reactions and naloxone (Narcan) for opioid overdoses.

Additionally, students will gain experience in patient monitoring and stabilization techniques used during ambulance transport to emergency departments.

Individuals interested in enrolling or learning more about the program can contact the Emergency Department at 618-847-9276 for additional information.



FCC IN PICTURES













1 FCC students greet Jasper Elementary School students during High-Five Friday.

2 FCC baseball players strike a pose before taking the stage during the fashion show.

3 Mabrey Foster and Harmony Ray enjoy Canvas and Cookies at Dreith Pavilion.

4 Medical Laboratory Technology student Corinne Walker completes a blood banking exercise in the MLT lab.

5 FCC student-athletes gather for a group photo during the annual Monster Mash event at FNB Field.

6 Students enjoy a game of ping-pong in the Bobcat Den.