



ANNUAL REPORT

SEPT. 2022 - AUG. 2023



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Community College

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Annual Report 2022-23  
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## Mission

The mission of Lincoln Land Community College is to transform lives and strengthen our communities through learning.

## Vision

Lincoln Land Community College aspires to provide high quality learning experiences for all seeking to improve their knowledge and skills while serving as a catalyst for economic growth that enriches our communities.

## Values

### Diversity and Equity

You belong at Lincoln Land Community College. We strive to create a positive culture and to safeguard equity, inclusion, dignity and respect for all by fostering a sense of belonging in our working and learning environments.

### Affordability

We provide the best value in education. We recognize that everyone has their own educational goals, and we are the cost-effective pathway to achieve them.

### Collaboration

We are your partners in learning. We create a culture of collaboration with the communities we serve, our students and within our institution.

### Teaching and Learning

We exist to educate. We value student learning and life advancement through education.

### Agility

We adapt so you can thrive. We create environments that best serve the needs of our students and the community.

### Integrity

You can rely on us. We operate in a manner that is ethical, trustworthy, truthful and fair.

**On the cover:** LLCC's mascot Linc took a ride down the Giant Slide at the Illinois State Fair Aug. 11 after helping Governor J.B. Pritzker cut the opening day ribbon.



Linc was honored to present a plush Linc doll to the Governor and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton in the Governor's Tent at the Illinois State Fair.

## President's Message August 2023



# We have much to celebrate when looking over the past year.

Like our mascot Linc at the Illinois State Fair, we are sliding into a new academic year with enthusiasm and smiles on our faces. Enrollment is up almost 9%, and more students are returning to face-to-face classes.

We have much to celebrate when looking over the past year. In addition to Linc spreading sunshine around campus, Ember the “pawfficer” joined our police department as a comfort and therapy dog. She is a magnet for students, faculty and staff who can't resist a visit with the furry, friendly stress-reliever.

After years of self-reflection and documentation of our processes, we were awarded a full, 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. There were no recommended improvements or interim monitoring required,

confirming that LLCC meets the highest criteria for accreditation and federal compliance. This is a great accomplishment worth celebrating for the many faculty and staff who worked tirelessly on the project.

We were able to freeze tuition for the upcoming year, great news for students as we continue to ensure our college is the most affordable option around. As an institution, we are and will remain financially strong.

Over the past year we received numerous, major grants that allowed us to open up opportunities to many. Faculty and staff continue to step up with innovative plans for new programs to impact and empower students.

What does the future hold? I believe the unprecedented challenges of recent years can be harnessed to bring

unprecedented opportunities and great innovation. We plan to lead innovation, not be disrupted by it. For instance, I am forming an advisory group of faculty and staff to study artificial intelligence and make recommendations on how we can best use and manage it to the benefit of students.

LLCC continues to be a prime mover and shaker in our area. This annual report describes just some of the many ways we worked together toward the five goals in our strategic plan. We look to the future with optimism and welcome your ideas for partnerships. There are so many opportunities to set our college's and community's paths forward.

Charlotte Warren, Ph.D., President

# GOAL ONE

*Increase our students' persistence and completion rates and resolve barriers to enrollment.*



■ Responding to an urgent community need for more paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), truck drivers, diesel mechanics and agriculture



specialists, LLCC received a \$5 million federal grant to renovate and expand training facilities. Student capacity in these programs will grow while remaining on the cutting edge of curriculum, producing trained workers ready to fill local, in-demand jobs. The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration.

## Resolving barriers

■ Cost should never be a barrier to a college education. In a continuing effort to keep college affordable, the LLCC Board of Trustees voted to enact a tuition freeze and keep the standard tuition rate at \$137 per credit hour. This translates to approximately \$2,000 in tuition per semester for a full-time student.

■ To help students meet those costs, the LLCC Foundation awarded a record number of scholarships over the past year: 270 totaling \$664,000. This was an increase of nearly \$200,000 from the previous year. LLCC Financial Aid also continued to provide personalized assistance to students applying for state and federal financial aid.

■ Families facing barriers in securing childcare received help from a parent educator hired for the LLCC Child Development Center through a Parent Educator grant. The Center also received a Preschool

for All Expansion Classroom grant from the Illinois State Board of Education to serve children from families with risk factors such as poverty and developmental delays. And, an Early Childhood Access



Consortium for Equity (ECACE) grant of nearly \$650,000 helped those who work in early childhood education or childcare to earn credentials, certificates and degrees. LLCC added classes in the subject and hired an early childhood education advocate.



■ The Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) and Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce (PATH) allowed those with financial and other barriers to train for careers in fields in need of employees. WEI entered its third year of providing free training in automotive technology, HVAC, welding, truck driver training and medical fields. PATH provides free nursing and other health care training to individuals who are low income, a first-generation or minority student, or incumbent worker (already employed in a health care career but needing training to advance).

■ LLCC is also expanding its integrated media design and help desk programs thanks to a \$540,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to expand career and technical training. A new media design lab was installed at LLCC-Medical District near downtown Springfield, and the college is developing a competency-based program leading to a help desk certificate. Students will be able to demonstrate the skills they have in the subject and accelerate through courses based on their prior knowledge and experience, saving them time and money.



■ Aviation students received a 75% tuition discount and free books and tools for the fall '23 semester thanks to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant aimed at increasing the number of employees in this in-demand field. Classes are full for fall '23, and the tuition discount will be offered again in the spring semester.



■ The college welcomed 15 current high school students and recent graduates to the summer HELPrS (Healthcare Entry-Level Professional Skills) program. The free, six-week program exposed students to career options including radiography, sonography, neurodiagnostic technology, respiratory care, occupational therapy assistant, emergency medical services and nursing. The Illinois Community College Board grant-funded program aimed to enhance diverse representation in the health care field, with priority given to minorities and males.

■ LLCC's Adult Education program offered classes at new locations including the Springfield Urban League and churches in Beardstown and Petersburg.



■ A transfer agreement was announced by leaders of LLCC and Illinois Wesleyan University to guarantee admission and junior status to eligible LLCC graduates wishing to continue their education at Illinois Wesleyan.

■ A medical assistant (MA) program was introduced at LLCC-Litchfield and Jacksonville to help prepare workers for this in-demand field. LLCC-Litchfield is beginning the full MA program this fall, while LLCC-Jacksonville is starting a CNA to clinical medical assistant bridge program, giving current certified nursing assistants the opportunity to upskill and add to their credentials.

■ LLCC Community Education offered new Teen Learning and Culinary Labs to introduce students ages 13-16 to various career fields.

■ The TRIO student support services program, which provides personalized academic assistance to first generation or low-income students, reached a 94% persistence rate from fall to spring and achieved 100% of participants in good academic standing.



■ LLCC offered a free summer class to any new students entering in the fall or returning after more than a year.

# GOAL TWO

*Create spaces and experiences which enhance our students' engagement in their learning.*



■ LLCC's Model Illinois Government class continued LLCC's tradition of participating in the "MIG" simulation and competition at the Illinois



Statehouse, bringing home the "Best Small College" group award.

## Enhancing student engagement

■ The college's External Stakeholders Team documented high-impact and memorable experiences in the LLCC learning process, with the goal of scaling up to offer them to more students. High-impact practices identified included study abroad, hands-on and work-based learning.

■ High school construction students will attend two-hour classes at LLCC each weekday this fall thanks to a Trade Schools grant of \$200,000 designed to encourage young adults to enter a construction career. LLCC is partnering with Sangamon Menard Regional Office of Education 51 to expand the current Multi-craft Core Curriculum (MC3) high school program. Students will attend LLCC for two hours each weekday to explore construction apprenticeships and network with commercial contractors, trade

unions and industry leaders. The program also includes hands-on labs and field trips to work sites.



■ Construction students experienced work-based learning by building a residential home in partnership with Taylorville High School's construction program and partnered with Habitat for Humanity in building residential structures and sheds.



■ Twenty-eight students participated in a 10-day agricultural industry tour in Ireland, experiencing sheep and dairy cow sales, farmers' beef and dairy operations, a farm specializing in the Connemara Pony Breed and an aquaculture company dedicated to abalone cultivation. The trip also included visits to iconic locations and historic sites. The experience was supported by the Kreher Agricultural Trust.

■ LLCC dedicated a new, hands-on learning space adjacent to campus now known as West Lake Nature Grove. The outdoor lab contains an apiary (beehives), fruit trees, bushes and other plantings, along with benches. The land was donated to LLCC by Robbie Robert Jr. in memory of his friend, Lloyd Inslee Jr., who lived on the property for more than 50 years. Brent Todd, LLCC dean of natural and agricultural sciences, noted

the opportunity to use the Grove for various biology and agriculture classes. "The West Lake Nature Grove complements our existing curriculum by incorporating its amenities into science and agriculture labs. Apiaries, orchards, succession plots and pollinator gardens are just a few of the ways faculty are incorporating this living learning lab into their curriculum."



■ Nursing and respiratory care students learned from each other in a hands-on, interprofessional education (IPE) session. In the collaborative scenario, a ventilator patient pulled out his endotracheal tube, and the nurses called a "rapid response team" to evaluate the patient and give needed care.



■ The Workforce Institute formed its first Skills USA chapter, allowing trades students to compete at the state and national levels. Eleven LLCC students advanced to statewide competition. First-place gold winners were Dawson Bakunas – culinary arts, Brayden Booth – electrical construction wiring and Michael Kindel – carpentry. Bakunas advanced to national competition in Atlanta, Ga., where he won seventh place honors and earned an American Culinary Federation certification.

# GOAL THREE

*Identify and revise practices that contribute to equity gaps and increase course completion, course success and persistence.*



■ LLCC added to its long tradition of celebrating cultural diversity with a new Freedom Walk on Juneteenth. More than 100 participants walked and learned from a posted timeline of events leading up to the establishment of the national holiday.



Members of The Outlet, a local mentoring program, raised the Juneteenth flag on campus.

## Closing equity gaps

■ Springfield School District #186 will offer new agriculture courses in grades 9-12 thanks to a collaboration between Bill Harmon, professor and coordinator of LLCC's agriculture program, and D186 administrators. The goal is to reach minoritized students with ag curriculum and information about careers in agriculture and develop pipelines for students into LLCC's agriculture programs of study.

■ The Math and Computer Science Department used grant funding to revise courses in the computer help desk program to a competency-based education (CBE) model, which has been shown to reduce equity gaps. It also developed a plan to offer the first course in the help desk program to students from underrepresented groups in Springfield School District 186, so they could get a head start in an IT career.

■ The revised Summer Boost Program was designed to help build confidence in at-risk students transitioning to college and to introduce them to a variety of study options.

■ LLCC joined with the National Green Jobs Advisory Council and National Council for Workforce Education in development of Green Energy Curriculum and Inequities Inclusion strategies.



■ The Black Student Union (BSU) added new outreach events for high school students planning to attend LLCC this fall, including an all-





day BSU fest in April. Goals of the event were to encourage students to explore educational options and enhance community connection and inclusion among Black students. Participants toured campus, participated in workshops and heard from BSU alumni, faculty and staff. A welcome event was also held the week prior to the start of fall classes to help students find their classes and acclimate to college life.

■ A longstanding tradition, African American History Month was celebrated in February with the theme of Black resistance. The LLCC Library created an online

guide including information on events at LLCC throughout the month, as well as Library resources related to the topic. The Library also hosted the Black History Month Escape room event.

■ Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity activities were incorporated into faculty development programming with topics including “Understanding and Addressing (Anti)Racism in Classrooms,” “Language Variation and Linguistic Discrimination,” “Daring Dialogues and Courageous Conversations” and “Embedding Equity in the Classroom and Everyday Practice.”



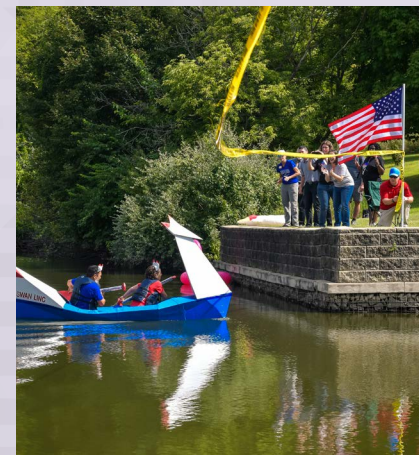
■ The 18th annual Multicultural Fest was held in October on the Springfield campus and Outreach Centers in Jacksonville, Litchfield and Taylorville.

# GOAL FOUR

*Advance practices which foster a healthy learning and campus culture*



■ The LLCC Police Department sponsored the college's first Cardboard Boat Regatta on the campus lake. Creativity, teamwork and school spirit were on display as the 10 teams of faculty, staff and students competed in a race. Awards were presented to the top



finishers along with best school spirit, best design, Titanic, fastest finish and president's awards. All proceeds were donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois.

## Fostering a healthy campus culture



■ “Pawfficer” Ember, the therapy and outreach dog, has become the most popular employee on campus. Not only does Ember provide stress-relief, she has greatly impacted positive relationships between students and the LLCC Police Department. Raising her right paw, Ember was sworn in during a ceremony attended by students, faculty, staff and local media.

■ LLCC Police sponsored additional events throughout the year including Coffee with a Cop, Cookout with a Cop, Pizza with Police, “Caught doing something right” campaign, a dunk tank and games of bags (cornhole). “It’s important for students and staff to know we are approachable,” says Police Chief Chris Russell. “I learned as a neighborhood police officer that you

need to be out and about, forming relationships. It changes people’s perceptions of police, builds trust and opens up lines of communication.”

■ The Campus Climate Team, after nine months of study and discussion, presented a new Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice statement for the college to the President’s Cabinet for approval. It states, in part, “At Lincoln Land Community College, we value diversity as an asset and strength in our student body, faculty, staff and the communities we serve. Open to all, we create an equitable, inclusive and just environment inside and beyond the classroom. We drive innovation in our learning and working spaces by dismantling systemic, academic, financial and geographic barriers to individual success.”

# GOAL FIVE

## Enhance engagement with district employers and community partners



■ LLCC's Workforce Institute invited more than 50 employers to bring heavy equipment and displays to the Workforce Expo to meet with more than 500 high school students interested in careers in the trades.

## Community engagement and partnerships

■ LLCC's Highway Construction students constructed an 8' x 10' storage shed for Habitat for Humanity, a trebuchet/catapult for the local Kidzeum and compost bins for a local elementary school. Students also built a large "boat bar" to be auctioned at the LLCC Foundation's annual gala, with proceeds supporting student scholarships.

■ The college hosted the annual Academic Challenge for top area high school students, the Illinois Junior Academy of Science Region 10 Science Fair and annual Rube Goldberg competition for fifth graders who designed and built "outlandish machines."

■ The Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois for the service-learning project, "Healthy Minds, Hearts and Hands." The project at

a local elementary school included engaging after-school activities promoting fitness, emotional well-being and social language development. The project aimed to increase the diversity of OTA student applications by increasing community awareness of the profession and was made possible by an Innovation in Diversity and Inclusion grant from the LLCC Campus Climate Team.

■ LLCC again hosted the Boys & Girls Club Summer Career Launch program, bringing participants to campus to learn about various career fields.

■ The LLCC Library joined Explore More Illinois, a cultural pass program that provides discounts and incentives at museums, historical societies, performing and visual arts centers and other attractions across the state.

■ LLCC-Medical District met the needs of local businesses by providing contract training in various subjects to BUNN Corporation, Taylorville Public Library, Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation, Illinois Senate Democrats, Illinois House of Representatives, Corteva Agriscience, Kuhn & Trello, Illinois Department of Corrections, National Bank of Litchfield and the Illinois Community College Board.

■ LLCC Community Education partnered with the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau and Lincoln's Home National Historic Site to present the second year of "History Cooks," a series of cooking demonstrations of dishes from Abraham Lincoln's time. The college also invited the public to the annual Lincoln Lecture, this year by local businessman Bob Bunn on his family's ties to the Lincolns.

■ LLCC Adult Education expanded bridge programming to LLCC Outreach Centers in areas of health care, information technology, truck driver training, business and pre-college.

■ LLCC initiated Handshake, the leading job board for colleges and universities, to connect local employers with open positions with students seeking employment. Employers can utilize Handshake to proactively reach out to students based upon their program of study, geographic preference and anticipated graduation year.



U.S. Representative Nikki Budzinski discussed issues with local farmers and toured the Kreher Agriculture Center.



State Senator Mattie Hunter visited adult ed classes, offering encouragement, and later toured the Workforce Careers Center, visiting with students.

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin toured the Workforce Careers Center to learn more about plans to expand EMS and workforce programs thanks to a \$5 million federal grant.

**Dignitaries  
visit  
campus**

Governor J.B. Pritzker and Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton held a press conference in the Kreher Agriculture Center to highlight higher education funding and a proposed increase in MAP grant funding. LLCC ag student Keziah Gragg spoke on the impact of MAP grants on her educational journey.



## Students and faculty excel



LLCC conferred more than 1,700 degrees and certificates at its May commencement ceremony. The top honor of Outstanding Graduate was awarded to Trent Matthews, recognizing his excellent grade point average, leadership, motivation, service to the college community, extracurricular activities and ability to overcome obstacles. He plans to continue his studies in exercise science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Four music students studying voice competed at a National Association of Teachers of Singing Central Region event with college students from Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. Jack John Barham qualified to advance to the national level in the classical tenor, baritone and bass category. Miriam Carter won first place in the regional adult classical treble category.

LLCC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society was designated as a Gold Star Chapter for maintaining its Five Star Chapter status, the highest level of achievement a chapter can earn, for the 10th year in a row.

The Ag Club and Livestock Judging Team earned top honors at national competitions. The Soils Specialist Team was named 2023 National Professional Agricultural Student (PAS) Champions. The Livestock Judging Team placed ninth overall at the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo, with a first-place win in sheep judging, and 11th overall at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.



LLCC students Garrett Kroeschel, Andrew Law and Brandon Sharp were honored with Illinois Geographical Society's Outstanding Community College Student Awards at the society's annual awards banquet held at LLCC.

Dr. Chris McDonald, professor of political science, was honored as a 2023 Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award winner by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The distinction recognizes individuals who go above and beyond to ensure that students are successful in their academic endeavors.



Luke Adams, Austin Simmons and Kortney Fisher were among top community college students from across the state honored as members of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-Illinois Academic Team.

Nursing faculty Leslie Catalano and Bridgette Hudson were awarded \$10,000 Nursing Educator Fellowship Grants from the Illinois Board of Higher Education. They were among 40 nurse educators from Illinois colleges and universities to receive the awards.

Twenty-two LLCC faculty completed the Association of College and University Educators Course Effective Practices Framework, designed to promote student engagement, persistence and academic success.



The 2023 recipients of the Dick Dhabalt Athlete of the Year Award were soccer's Madalyn Buxton and baseball's Porter Conn.



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