

Lincoln Land Community College

OCTOBER 2025

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FORWARD

MAGAZINE



**BUILDING FUTURES
AT LLCC**

To **transform** lives and **strengthen** **our communities** through learning

INSIDE

3-6 Latest@LLCC

See what's "in the news" at the college.

7-8 From mother's legacy to daughter's dream

The caring career of occupational therapy assistant.



9-10 Unlock your team's potential ... or your own
Professional development opportunities at LLCC.

11-12 RISE and shine

Real-time tech empowers tomorrow's teachers.

13-14 A culture of care

Student wellbeing.

15-16 Choose more, choose LLCC
Accessibility, affordability, innovation and impact.

**17-18 Laying the foundation for tomorrow's workforce**

Building futures in LLCC's new construction lab.



19-20 The first choice for leadership & learning
Phi Theta Kappa and honors opportunities.

21 Student Spotlight:

Heidi Wilson
It's how you finish.



22 Alumni Spotlight:
Patrick Pianezza
Alum writes feature film starring Rainn Wilson.

23 Staff Spotlight:
Richard C. Hayes II
Supporting students every step of the way.

24 Faculty Spotlight:

Dr. Matt Schownir
Bringing history to life.

25-26 See all LLCC has to offer
View a list of college transfer and career training programs.

27-28 Professional Development
Advance with confidence.



29-30 Community Education
Personal enrichment for all ages.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to this issue of our college magazine. It's a celebration of more — more opportunities, more innovation, more connection, more ways to grow.

Inside these pages, you'll find stories that reflect the vibrant energy of our college community. From the hands-on learning in our new construction lab to the cutting-edge technology powering remote education, we are committed to offering more ways for students to succeed.

We're offering professional development opportunities to support employers looking to invest in their teams and individuals who want to stay competitive in today's evolving job market. Whether a business is seeking customized training or an individual looking to upskill, we offer opportunities for flexible, high-impact programs — covering AI, tech certifications, entrepreneurship, industrial safety, leadership and more — designed to support professional growth, workforce development and organizational performance. It's another way we're expanding access to education and empowering our community to thrive.

You'll also read about the vital role of occupational therapy assistants in addition to the multifaceted support systems that promote student wellness, our Phi Theta Kappa honors society that continues to inspire academic excellence and how our community college opens doors to affordable, high-quality learning. These features highlight how we're preparing learners not just for jobs, but for meaningful careers and fulfilling lives.

We're proud to spotlight the achievements of our alumni, students, faculty and staff — each one a testament to the power of community and the promise of education. Read about Patrick Pianezza, an alum who wrote the feature film "Code 3;" Heidi Wilson, who was named an Outstanding Nursing Student in the LPN program and is transitioning to our registered nursing (RN) program; Dr. Matt Schownir, a professor who is bringing history to life in classrooms; and Richard Hayes, student success advisor, adjunct instructor and champion of possibility, who with compassion and clarity helps students in their academic journey.

This issue also showcases the breadth of educational opportunities available — degrees and certificates, professional development, health care and workforce career training, GED® programs and community education. Whether you're just beginning your journey or returning to build on your experience, there's more here for you.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Let's keep reaching for more — together.

Charlotte Warren, Ph.D.
President, Lincoln Land Community College

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Harvesting knowledge in the heart of Italy

Twenty-nine LLCC Agriculture students participated in a week-long agricultural industry tour in Italy this past summer. Tour stops included locations in Rome, Tuscany, Siena and Florence. Students visited Italy's leading designer and manufacturer of agricultural machinery as well as farms with grains, fodder crops, vegetables, cheese, dairy cow breeding and production, hazelnut and olive production.



Student-led, flavor-filled: Bistro Verde at LLCC

Bistro Verde, Lincoln Land Community College's student-led casual, dine-in restaurant experience will be open from Oct. 28-Nov. 20 (closed Nov. 4), serving customers Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The full-service lunch features appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, desserts, coffees, drinks and chef-inspired dishes that are prepared from scratch using high quality ingredients and finished with creative flair. Reservations are recommended. The menu as well as ordering and reservation information are available at www.llcc.edu/bistro-verde. Bistro Verde is located inside the east entrance of the Workforce Careers Center on the LLCC campus, 5250 Shepherd Road, Springfield.

What's happening at your community college

Career Quest Camps: Where summer fun meets future focus

LLCC partnered with area schools to offer free Career Quest Camps over the summer. Topics included ag in Jacksonville; construction in Hillsboro and at Lanphier High School; science, technology, engineering and math in Beardstown; and a "Try a Trade" camp in Litchfield. "Career Quest Camps provided opportunities for students to have fun while digging into a specific area of study that leads to a high-demand job field, learning about the related career paths and getting hands-on skill training," said Dr. Joel Dykstra, associate vice president of academics at LLCC.



Dr. Brothers honored for distinguished dedication

Dr. Deborah Brothers, professor of English at LLCC, was recognized as a 2025 Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award winner by the American Association of Community Colleges. The distinction recognizes individuals who demonstrate passion for the students and the classroom; show willingness to support students, inside and outside of the classroom; and go above and beyond to ensure that students are successful in their academic endeavors.

LLCC partners with IDOR to deliver customized training

A cohort of 43 Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) employees successfully completed a series of five LLCC courses that were customized for IDOR. LLCC partnered with the department to streamline payment, make the class times and locations more accessible by offering them onsite during the workday and equip employees with important knowledge and skills. A new cohort is scheduled to begin in the spring. This program reflects LLCC's commitment to tailoring education to meet local workforce needs by collaborating with industry partners to reshape how education supports career development.





LLCC hosts third annual Juneteenth Freedom Walk

In observance of Juneteenth, LLCC again hosted the Juneteenth Freedom Walk on June 19, starting at 8:30 a.m. The public was invited to participate in the one-mile walk around the main campus in Springfield. The walk began with a song of remembrance and included tributes to the timeline of events leading up to Juneteenth's Freedom Day. A light continental breakfast was provided after the walk, and viewings of "Juneteenth 1865-2021" were offered.



College for Kids sparks curiosity, builds skills and creates lasting memories

LLCC hosted more than 50 in-person College for Kids camps this summer, welcoming nearly 600 students entering grades 1-10. Morning and afternoon sessions offered a wide range of hands-on experiences, including theater, gardening, sign language, orchestra, fossil exploration, cultural and artistic discovery, yoga, magic, webpage creation, coding, photography, beekeeping, government and civic engagement, journalism, chemistry labs, podcasting, culinary arts and career exploration in trades such as construction.

History Cooks provides a taste of history at Lincoln Home

For the fourth consecutive year, LLCC Community Education teamed up with the Lincoln Home National Historic Site and the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau to host "History Cooks" — a lively series of free cooking and baking demonstrations. Community members and visitors gathered to watch historical recipes come to life and received souvenir recipe cards to recreate the dishes at home. This year's theme spotlighted favorite foods of U.S. presidents.



Matlock honored for excellence in teaching

Derek Matlock, instructor of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) at the Workforce Institute at LLCC, was recognized as a recipient of a 2025 NISOD Excellence Award. The distinction recognizes Matlock's outstanding contributions to the college and his unwavering commitment to student success and excellence in teaching.



LLCC student shines at SkillsUSA Illinois

LLCC student Mary Wichmann took home the gold medal in baking and pastry arts from the 2025 Illinois SkillsUSA Championship. "I'm so proud of what I've accomplished at LLCC," she said. "From winning my first competition to graduating from this program with honors, it's nice to see all that hard work paying off." Wichmann was one of 44 LLCC students competing at the state level. LLCC students competed in seven categories: automotive and diesel technologies, heavy equipment operator, HVAC, welding, culinary arts, and baking and pastry arts. LLCC students Gabriel Sarabia (culinary arts) and Garrett Sheehan (heavy equipment operator) won bronze awards.



From mother's legacy to daughter's dream

The caring career of occupational therapy assistant

As Hirut Fisseha Harris begins her 25th and final year as an occupational therapy assistant (OTA), her daughter Leah prepares to enter the profession.

Hirut will retire this spring after more than two decades in Springfield District 186 schools. "As an OTA, my job is to help children with special needs learn skills to be more independent and successful at school. For some students, that means working on writing their names, cutting with scissors, tying their shoes or fastening their clothes so they can take care of themselves. For others, it might be helping them stay organized with their schoolwork, use special writing tools or sit in a way that makes it easier to focus and learn," she explains.

"Every little step a student makes toward independence is a big success, and it's so rewarding for me to see their progress and know I've helped make a difference in their lives."

She's been able to see her youngest clients progress to high school graduation. "School therapy is different for an OTA than a hospital or nursing home setting, because you can see the kids in kindergarten all the way through graduation."

Leah Harris was inspired to enter LLCC's OTA program after watching her mother at work. Hirut assisted LLCC OTA Program Director Yvonne Cosentino in organizing an afterschool program called "Fit for Life" at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois. "I insisted that Leah volunteer at our afterschool program," says Hirut, "and the next thing we know, she wants to enroll in the OTA program!"

Leah will graduate this December and is debating whether to

take a job in the field or continue her education. If she does go right to work, she'll take a different path than her mother. "What I've liked best is geriatrics, so if I take a job right after graduation, I'd like to work in a rehab center. I enjoy working with the older population."

The impact of OTA work

LLCC-trained OTAs work in a variety of settings including hospitals, nursing homes, private clinics, early intervention programs, home health and school districts. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median salary for an OTA in central Illinois is approximately \$67,000.

Dr. Cosentino describes the occupational therapy assistant's goal as "helping people achieve health and wellbeing for participation in all of their life's daily activities. We work with all ages: children and adults, including end-of-life stages."

OTAs are trained to address a variety of performance skills, not just physical condition, but also cognitive and psychosocial skills that may impact function. "We consider each person's culture, spirituality and unique life experiences," says Cosentino. "Recognizing the whole individual, we can support them in restoring or relearning the activities that are meaningful in their lives. OTAs serve as a client's coach, mentor and educator while supporting them in regaining skills during difficult times."

Graduation from LLCC's OTA program allows students to sit for the national certification board examination, leading to

state licensure in Illinois or across the country. "The occupational therapy profession is recognized worldwide, allowing for career opportunities across the globe," says Cosentino.

Expanded and renovated facility

The OTA program is now located in a new, larger, state-of-the-art lab with fully accessible kitchen and bathroom spaces.

"We have a wonderful new space and equipment, including multiple mat tables if we're doing a mobility activity," says Cosentino. "The lab has a stocked kitchen where students learn techniques to promote safety and independence during meal prep for clients who have low vision or use a wheelchair or walker. We have a fully accessible bathroom with a two-way mirror that allows faculty to observe students as they practice safe wheelchair and walker use. Our lab is equipped with all the tools and medical equipment necessary to support the full range of skills OTAs must master."

LLCC's OTA program combines classroom learning, hands-on lab experiences and fieldwork, along with community service at sites such as the Packard Mental Health Center, Mary Bryant Home for the Blind and Sparc Developmental Day Program. In one activity, students gain perspective on accessibility by working with a community member who uses a wheelchair. Together, they select a Springfield destination, arrange SMTD transportation and evaluate the challenges of navigating public transit and community spaces.

Leah, currently completing her second fieldwork placement at the Orthopedic Center of Illinois, recently had the opportunity to work alongside a hand therapist and fabricate splints. "The fieldwork sites really help you take what you've learned in class and apply it directly in practice," she says.

Launching an OTA career

The OTA program admits one new cohort each fall; the final deadline for OTA applicants is the second Thursday in June. Dr. Cosentino encourages people interested in a health care career to consider OTA. "What sets us apart is the time we spend with clients — building relationships, understanding their goals and promoting independence. While some graduates choose to continue their education to become occupational therapists, others go directly into the workforce, finding rewarding, financially stable and deeply fulfilling careers as OTAs."

llcc.edu/ota





Dr. Diana Heeb Bivona teaches a professional development class on artificial intelligence (AI).

UNLOCK YOUR TEAM'S POTENTIAL OR YOUR OWN

Want your employees to communicate more effectively, think more critically and act with greater professionalism? Or maybe you are an individual looking to advance in the workplace, improve your resume or simply keep learning? LLCC has you covered with a wide range of professional development and continuing education opportunities designed to help you grow.

Real results, real impact

"We are the one-stop shop for cost-effective training for essential workplace skills, or soft skills, that employers are expecting," says Dr. Diana Heeb Bivona, director of continuing education and business solutions. "We've designed courses and workshops to solve real challenges that our

local employers have identified."

Heather Hampton-Knodle of Knodle Farms in Montgomery County is a satisfied client. "We're going through some transition as a farm with our management team," says Hampton-Knodle. "I thought it would be valuable for all of us, as a team of seven, to sit down together and work through some concepts besides just doing our day-to-day physical work. We actually did two workshops in one day, which was an efficient use of our time, one



Heather Hampton-Knodle

on mitigating stressors and challenges and another on thinking critically for solving problems. It was valuable that the training came to us, along with the content itself and its relevance."

Flexible, affordable and customized

Communication, critical thinking, professionalism — "these are the types of essential workplace skills that employers are always looking for," says Dr. Bivona. The college conducts business advisory meetings and listens closely to employers.

"These are the skills that are identified whether it's in manufacturing, professional services or even law enforcement. They're

also some of the hardest skills for companies to train. They expect employees coming in will have those skills but unfortunately find that many do not yet have them developed."

The workshops are highly interactive and provide participants with a set of tools they can immediately take back and implement at their jobs. "People taking these workshops go away with the knowledge that 'I can use this,'" adds Bivona.

To accommodate various employer and employee needs, the workshops are held at LLCC's locations throughout the district or can be customized and delivered at the workplace. The half-day essential workplace skills workshops are reasonably priced at \$129. Until December, a half price offer is in place using the discount code UPSKILL when checking out at www.llcc.edu/ews.

Area employers are also able to bring customized training to their teams at 50% off, made possible through the Noncredit Strategies at Work Grant. "We have companies with enough employees that ask us to come to them to do a customized training," says Bivona. "Then we have employers who say, 'We have a couple of people we'd like to send to an open session,'

or people who are trying to improve their skill sets. We work to meet people where they're at as far as the types of courses and workshops we offer."

Learning that keeps you ahead

In addition to essential workplace skills workshops, LLCC offers a robust lineup of continuing education courses designed to help individuals and teams stay competitive, confident and future-ready.

"We have online offerings, self-paced courses, in-person Microsoft Suite classes and new workshops on artificial intelligence (AI)," explains Bivona. "Topics include digital and tech skills, entrepreneurship and small business; leadership and management development; and workplace readiness and professional skills. We've broadened our offerings to address anything an employer has brought to our attention or that we know of trend-wise from different industries."

LLCC offers CEUs for health care continuing education and CPDUs for teacher professional development. In addition, workforce and occupational safety

classes, ranging from OSHA 10 to welding, are also available.

What sets LLCC apart is its ability to respond quickly and customize training to local workforce needs. Community colleges like LLCC are close to the ground and well connected with employers and businesses. "When we see something that they need, we can pivot quickly to provide it; we're agile in that way. For us, it's a great opportunity to respond ASAP to businesses."

Having seen results from her team after participating in two workshops, Hampton-Knodle would recommend them to employers. "Any small business could definitely benefit as long as they have an open mind going into it, realizing 'I don't have all the answers when I step through the door.' And larger institutions could benefit as well. Larger corporations may have in-house training, but what I liked was it's not just about compliance and not just about towing a company line, it's about performing better as a team, overall."

llcc.edu/professional-development



RISE & SHINE

*Real-time tech
empowers tomorrow's
teachers*

What if students taking the same class in different towns could feel like they're sharing the same classroom? At LLCC, RISE technology is turning that vision into a reality as the college brings high-tech classrooms to communities.

This semester, future teachers, like John Jones, are building foundational knowledge in his Introduction to Teacher Education class. They are also gaining something more — a front-row seat to how cutting-edge technology is transforming the way students connect, collaborate and learn at the same time across multiple locations.

Jones attends class from LLCC-Taylorville, seamlessly connecting in real-time with students at LLCC-Litchfield, the main campus in Springfield and high schools in Riverton and Tri-City. "The new RISE technology allows us to participate in class in real-time, even though we are 60 or more miles apart," says Jones.

Creating connections

RISE — Rural Illinois Shared Education network — offers a fully immersive classroom experience powered by high-speed and secure connectivity, multiple interactive touch screens, condenser microphones and cameras that automatically focus on whoever is speaking.

Think of it as looking through a window into another classroom.



John Jones, LLCC student,
joins the Introduction to
Teacher Education class from
LLCC-Taylorville.

Humphrey's Introduction to Teacher Education course is the first to use the system, and he is enthusiastic about the possibilities. It bridges geographic distance and makes it easier than ever for students from main campus, Outreach Centers and dual credit programs in high schools (where they are earning both high school and college credit at the same time) to connect and collaborate.

Jones is grateful. "The benefit — and I cannot emphasize this enough — is not having to spend the money on gas to travel. That is money that I can save to use when I transfer to a four-year university."

Online but not online

Presley Sturtevant, an aspiring teacher, joins the class from LLCC-Jacksonville on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Her class consists of students from the main campus in Springfield, LLCC-Jacksonville and Auburn High School. She says RISE is a refreshing shift from her online courses, which were not in real time. RISE offers real-time engagement and shared classroom experiences across locations.

Sturtevant enjoys having live conversations with students in completely different places. "I feel more connected," she says. "I like reading facial expressions. It helps me see if someone's passionate about a topic. You can feel the energy in the room, and it makes you feel like you're truly part of the class."

"Compared to other conferencing platforms, this is a major upgrade," Jones says. "It creates a sense of accountability. During the pandemic, I struggled with Zoom classes, but this blends the traditional classroom structure with modern tech — the best of both worlds."

Dr. Joel Dykstra, associate vice president of academic services, agrees. "It's about as close as you can get to having the other students in the classroom without physically having them there."

Education Professor Tim Humphrey, who teaches the course, says the technology allows him to teach naturally and interact with students as if they were all in the same room. "Students in remote areas can see me, engage with the class, respond to questions and participate in discussions," he explains.

Professor Humphrey calls the technology smooth, user-friendly and says it doesn't suffer from the lag or glitches common with other platforms.

And each day's setup? Surprisingly simple. "I can essentially push one button and have it up and running," he says.

Funding the tech

The RISE technology was made possible through a \$550,000 Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. The grant's goal is to connect rural communities with advanced educational tools.

The funding equipped classrooms at LLCC's Springfield campus and Outreach Centers in Jacksonville, Litchfield and Taylorville, as well as provided portable tech for several rural high schools.

RISE offers real-time engagement and shared classroom experiences across locations.

Looking ahead

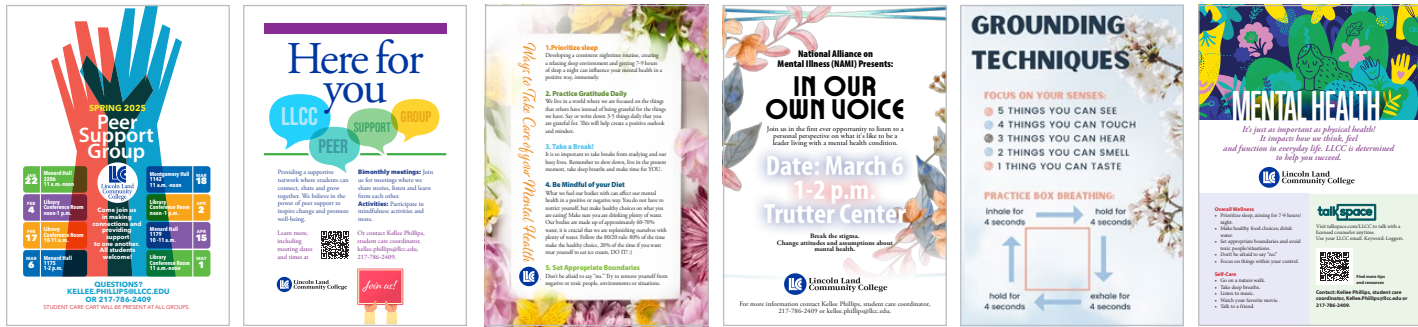
LLCC hopes to expand the use of this technology in the coming semesters.

"Our deans are exploring rotation models, possibly offering classes from each general education area throughout the day starting in spring 2026," says Dykstra. "We're working to maximize classroom use and meet student needs."

Registration for the spring 2026 semester opens Oct. 15.

llcc.edu/education

llcc.edu/locations



A CULTURE OF CARE

Student Wellbeing



Student Care Coordinator Lyndsay Shelton (second from left) and care crew mentors gathered by the care cart — sharing kindness, connection and support.

College life is a journey filled with excitement, growth and transformation — and at LLCC, students are never alone on that path. Thanks to a dynamic network of wellbeing services, LLCC creates a campus culture where students feel supported, valued and empowered to thrive.

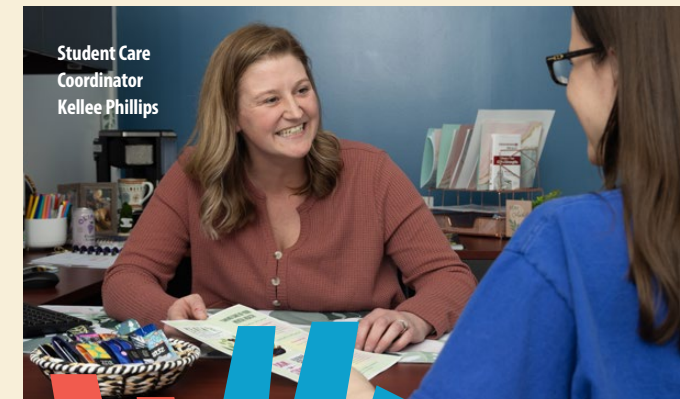
From compassionate care coordinators and peer mentors to engaging self-care events and wellness resources, LLCC is committed to supporting the whole student.

“Our goals are to support students, build a sense of community and belonging and provide them the resources that they need to be successful,” explains Kristin Booher, director, LLCC Student Engagement and Wellbeing.

Care coordinators

At the heart of LLCC’s wellbeing efforts are Student Care Coordinators Kellee Phillips and Lyndsay Shelton, who offer a welcoming and safe space for students to share their experiences and challenges. Their proactive approach ensures that students receive timely support and feel genuinely cared for.

“I just truly believe that no one should have to go through anything alone,” says Phillips. “Asking for support is a sign of strength. It takes a lot of courage to basically open up and say, ‘I need some help,’ and we’re here to provide it.”



Student Care Coordinator Kellee Phillips

Reaching students where they are

Both in the office and around campus, LLCC’s care coordinators are always finding meaningful ways to connect with students and provide support. Through thoughtfully designed events and activities focused on mindfulness, self-care and resilience, students are encouraged to take charge of their wellbeing, set goals and build lifelong skills.

One beloved initiative is the care cart, a common

sight around campus that is stocked with free snacks, fidget toys and other self-care items. Inviting students to take a moment of self-care is a simple yet powerful way to remind students that their wellbeing matters — and that support is always within reach.

“We’re intentional about our programming models and the planning of each activity,” Booher explains. “It’s about leadership, skill-building and creating opportunities for students to grow.”

Connecting with peers

Care crew mentors also play a vital role in student wellbeing. These trained student workers are friendly, familiar faces who help foster a supportive campus environment. From distributing care cart goodies to offering peer support, they’re making a real difference in students’ lives.

“Students love the care cart — especially after class,” says Thomas VanderDrift, care crew mentor. “It’s a great way to brighten someone’s day.”

Each mentor first receives training in areas like mental health first aid, Certified Peer Education and QPR (question, persuade, refer), equipping them to provide meaningful support to and build strong connections with their peers.

Care crew mentors also take part in Care Crew Connect, a bimonthly peer support group led by a student care coordinator. It offers an opportunity for students to lean on one another — sharing, connecting and growing together. “If you need help with anything, you don’t have to be ashamed of it,” says Sami Johnson, care crew mentor. “You can just come down here and talk if you need to. We’re here to listen and support.”

Strong community partnerships

LLCC’s commitment to student wellbeing extends beyond campus through strong partnerships with local organizations. Collaborations with Gateway Foundation and Memorial Behavioral Health bring expert resources directly to students, including education on addiction prevention and free mental health assessments.

Shelton, who also serves as LLCC’s housing liaison and benefits navigator, ensures students facing housing insecurity receive compassionate support, access to vital resources and a safe and welcoming environment to discuss goals and needs. “Whether it be assistance with transportation cost or referrals to different housing organizations, rent assistance, utility assistance — I’m here to help,” she says.

Ready to talk

LLCC students also benefit from free access to TalkSpace, a virtual counseling platform offering two monthly, 30-minute video sessions and unlimited text, voice and video messaging with licensed therapists. This flexible option empowers students to seek support on their own terms and at their own pace.

LLCC’s Student Engagement and Wellbeing team is passionate about normalizing help-seeking and breaking down barriers to getting support. “Everybody needs help at some point,” says Phillips. “It’s part of being human.”

At LLCC, wellbeing is more than a service. It’s a culture where students can flourish academically, emotionally and personally.

Care Crew Connect



Choose
MORE

Choose



In a world full of possibilities in higher education, LLCC stands out for its commitment to opportunity, value and care. Nestled on Lake Springfield, LLCC is a college and so much more. It's a launchpad for dreams and a community of support.



Dr. Charlotte Warren speaks at the Illinois State Fair press conference on Aug. 7, honoring the 60th anniversary of the Illinois community college system — six decades of bridging ambition and achievement, challenge and change.

As Illinois celebrates the 60th anniversary of its community college system in 2025, LLCC proudly reflects the values that have made these institutions essential: accessibility, affordability, innovation and impact.

At a press conference in August celebrating the 60th anniversary, LLCC President Charlotte Warren, Ph.D., shared, “It is a milestone that recognizes the enduring impact of access and opportunity in higher education. Community colleges are engines of opportunity that serve students from every walk of life — first-generation learners, working adults, recent high school graduates and those seeking a new beginning. We meet students where they are and help them get to where they want to go.”

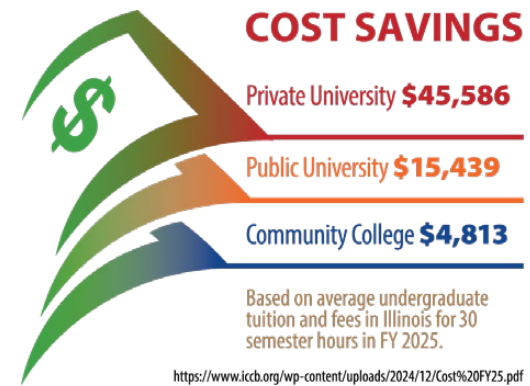
Through a wide range of credit and non-credit courses, LLCC continues to redefine what it means to be a first-choice college.

Success starts here

Whether students are seeking a transfer pathway to a four-year university, career training, professional development or personal enrichment, LLCC delivers. With more than 100 programs of study, including high-demand fields like

Value that matters

Before even adding in financial aid, including scholarships, LLCC stacks up as THE choice for higher ed at a lower cost. In 2025-26, the cost per semester for 15 standard credit hours taken by a full-time, in-district student toward a transfer degree is \$2,392.50.



nursing, business and computer science, LLCC equips students with the skills to thrive in today's workforce.

LLCC's services play a vital role in ensuring students have the support and resources they need to succeed academically, personally and professionally. From tutoring and accessibility to academic advising and career coaching, LLCC's wraparound services ensure that every student has the tools to succeed.

Where learning comes to life

Step onto LLCC's campus and you'll immediately feel the difference. It's clean, modern and beautifully maintained, with state-of-the-art labs, collaborative learning spaces and green areas that invite reflection and connection.

The newly renovated Student Services Hub is a one-stop destination for admissions, advising, financial aid and more — designed with students in mind and built to foster success. This year, LLCC has renovated its construction, emergency medical services (EMS) and occupational therapy labs, and expanded the lot and trucks for its truck driver training program on main campus. State-of-the-art improvements were also made to both the biology classroom and lab in Litchfield and the doors and windows at the Jacksonville Outreach Center. LLCC has outreach centers in Beardstown, Jacksonville, Litchfield and Taylorville.

Partners in progress

Approximately 25 advisory committees represent local business, industry, labor and education. They strengthen the connection between college and community, helping create a highly skilled and readily available workforce through training programs in LLCC Health Professions, Workforce Institute and more.

“We are deeply rooted in our communities. We partner with local businesses, with school districts, workforce and economic boards, and health care to ensure our programs are relevant, responsive and empowering people to build meaningful, life-changing careers,” explains Dr. Warren. “Our partnerships with local employers ensure our students are prepared for the jobs of today and tomorrow.”

COST SAVINGS

Private University **\$45,586**

Public University **\$15,439**

Community College **\$4,813**

Based on average undergraduate tuition and fees in Illinois for 30 semester hours in FY 2025.

<https://www.iccb.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Cost%20FY25.pdf>

Confidence in two-year colleges

Americans are more confident in two-year institutions across all factors measured. At the top of the list are confidence in:

- Providing an affordable education.
- Providing an education that is worth the cost.
- Teaching relevant skills and knowledge people can use in their jobs/lives.
- Providing an education that will lead to a good job.

(Source: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/646841/americans-confident-two-year-schools.aspx>)



Why LLCC?

- Affordable tuition
- Modern, safe and welcoming campus
- Diverse academic and career program options
- Personalized student support
- Part of a legacy of excellence

MISSION:

To transform lives and strengthen our communities through learning

FOUNDED:

1962

TEAM:

LOGGERS

STUDENT BODY:

LLCC serves over

12,500

individuals annually through credit and non-credit courses.

VALUE:

MORE THAN 75% OF STUDENTS GRADUATED WITH NO DEBT FROM LLCC.

75% DEBT-FREE

FUN FACT:

LARGEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT IN ILLINOIS IN TERMS OF LAND MASS

4,115
SQUARE MILES



LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE



BUILDING FUTURES IN LLCC'S NEW CONSTRUCTION LAB



A new era has begun for LLCC Construction Technologies. With the newly opened, state-of-the-art construction lab in Sangamon Hall South, LLCC is building the future of the construction workforce itself.

Step inside, and you'll find pristine concrete, sleek marble, modular equipment and updated classrooms. "Everything is clean, professional and polished," says Chris Edmonds, program director. "We designed the lab to reflect the kind of professional setting students will encounter in the field."

The updated lab was highly anticipated as enrollment in construction trades continues to grow in LLCC's Workforce Institute. Currently, the lab houses four programs: construction technologies, construction management, highway construction careers and multi-core craft curriculum (MC3). Throughout the school week, the lab can see up to 100 students through its doors.

Workforce oriented

Designed to mirror real-world construction sites, the lab offers hands-on training in trade skills and professional practices. "It's how we keep it clean, how we live and work in the space — learning how to get the work done productively and professionally," says Edmonds. Instruction is career-focused, aligning with industry standards.

Students range from newcomers preparing to enter the workforce to experienced tradespeople advancing their careers. With both day and night classes available, the programs are designed to meet the needs of a diverse student body.

"The updated layout and technology are going to help us get hands-on experiences that really reflect what it's like on an actual job site," says Alexis Bowman, a second-year LLCC student in construction management.

Industry experts, like Matt O'Shea of O'Shea Builders and Courtney Cosby of E.L. Pruitt Co., serve as adjunct faculty. Their knowledge and expertise are invaluable to LLCC students. "It's important to learn it the right way the first time," says O'Shea.

Modular in design

Built for flexibility, the new lab features modular venting, movable equipment and a large open space that can be easily reconfigured to support a wide range of project goals. "It's designed to change as we need it," says Edmonds.

This layout supports greater capacity and collaboration among students. LLCC's eight-week course modules complement the lab's versatility, enabling students to focus intensively on specific skills while progressing through a construction project from start to finish.

Whether it's framing, electrical or interior work, students can now experience the full scope of a worksite without needing to disassemble their projects, gaining a deeper understanding of the construction process.

Located next to the 3D art labs, the space also welcomes art students, fostering a dynamic environment where creativity and craftsmanship intersect.

A jumpstart on the future

The MC3 program is a standout in the construction lab. A pre-apprenticeship program for high school students in the Sangamon Menard Regional Office of Education 51, the MC3 year-long course blends career exploration with hands-on training. Since its launch in 2019, MC3 has been opening doors for high school students interested in construction trades and equipping them with the skills needed to become successful entry-level apprentices.

"We are full at 20 students this year," says Edmonds. "We have continued to grow over the last six years."

Students also have the chance to springboard into the workforce early with an internship in the trade of their choice. The construction lab gives them that foundational knowledge for when they transition to shadowing on a job site.

This real-world connection builds confidence, competence and a clear sense of what a career in the trades truly looks like.

llcc.edu/construction

INDUSTRIAL TECH: WHERE PROBLEM-SOLVING MEETS PRODUCTION

LLCC is bringing its industrial technology (advanced manufacturing) program to the Jacksonville Outreach Center in spring 2026. "We take 16 students in the cohort," says Doug Hoy, program director.

The program equips students with a broad range of technical skills for careers in everything from manufacturing and facilities maintenance to energy and utilities. By covering multiple systems

— electrical, mechanical, hydraulic and more — graduates have the flexibility to adapt to various industries and job roles.

"It's about getting students ready for the workforce, to really hit the ground running," Hoy says.

The year-long certificate of completion merges classroom education and job shadowing. Students will be able to apply what they learn directly through on-site internships, thanks to partnerships with local companies. LLCC is dedicated to getting students in, getting students trained and getting students jobs.

llcc.edu/industrial



The first choice for leadership & learning

PHI THETA KAPPA AND HONORS OPPORTUNITIES

When Kaydence Richardson of Athens began exploring college options in early 2024, LLCC quickly became her top choice. A strong student academically, Richardson found LLCC to offer the perfect blend of academic excellence, affordability and opportunity. And, as it turns out, she not only found a college — she found a community.

Richardson accepted a full academic scholarship, joined the LLCC Honors program and accepted her invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), a prestigious, international academic honor society for two-year colleges.

“I joined my first year in college and thanks to the honors program and PTK, I had a group of people to connect with,” says Richardson, who is now in her sophomore year studying English at LLCC.

Leading with purpose

LLCC’s PTK chapter has consistently earned top honors, ranking among the top 100 chapters internationally for the past two years and achieving Five Star Chapter status for 12 consecutive years. The chapter is a model of excellence, which it accomplishes through projects like the Honors in Action Project, a dynamic campus presence, PTK Hallmark Awards submissions and participation in regional and international events.



Kaydence Richardson



“What sets PTK apart are the leadership development opportunities, including serving as an officer or on committees,” says Dr. Gillian Bauer, English professor and PTK co-advisor. “The club is entirely student led. They decide what projects and activities they want to tackle and what needs to be done to complete them. My job is to help them learn to lead their chapter, build agendas, lead meetings and make connections at the school and in the community to accomplish their goals.”

Building skills and credentials

PTK members can also enhance their resumes through PTK EDGE, a series of professional development courses that award microcredential badges, which appear on PTK transcripts and can be added to resumes and job applications.

“Students can take these self-paced courses on research, transfer processes, health professions, business and advocacy. The microcredential signifies

the student has completed courses designed by an international honor society focused on leadership,” explains Ryan Roberts, interim dean of The Learning Center at LLCC, professor and chapter co-advisor.

Launching bright futures

PTK membership opens doors to millions of dollars in scholarships — and LLCC students consistently excel in national competitions.

Earlier this year, Zorah Austin of Virden was named a 2025 Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar, earning a \$1,000 scholarship. In 2024, Malena Kirgan of New Holland received a \$1,000 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship and Olivia Marchizza of Auburn was awarded \$2,250 as a New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar.

PTK members also gain access to a database of more than 800 colleges and universities offering transfer scholarships specifically for PTK students.

Richardson plans to take full advantage of PTK scholarships as she begins the transfer process. “Knowing there are scholarships at the colleges waiting on PTK members is important to me,” she says.

Her drive and appreciation for PTK are echoed by Issac Barrett, former chapter president, who says PTK was transformative.

“PTK gave me the tools to excel as a leader and a scholar,” said Barrett, now a senior studying neuroscience at the University of Illinois. “It built my confidence as a student and taught me how to be more proactive about getting involved on campus and in the classroom. PTK offers valuable leadership experience as well as providing a great way to make connections with amazing people!”

llcc.edu/ptk



PTK board members and advisors pose by some of their most recent awards recognizing the chapter's academic excellence and leadership. LLCC's PTK Alpha Epsilon chapter is ranked among the top 100 chapters internationally.

THE BUZZ ABOUT LLCC HONORS

On a warm fall morning, students in LLCC's Honors 201 course traded their backpacks for beekeeper suits as they headed to class at West Lake Nature Grove to document parasites on honeybees — part of the biology module in the innovative LLCC Honors program.

Biology is just one of eight subjects explored in Honors 201. Each week, students dive in — hands-on — to a specialized topic and complete a project.

“When the students successfully complete the project, they earn a module. If they’ve taken, or later take, the full course for that subject — biology, in this case — it’s designated as an honors credit because they have completed the course and an in-depth project,” explains Dr. Chris McDonald, professor of political science and honors advisor.

Completing five module-related courses earns students an honors designation on their LLCC transcripts, reflecting a higher level of academic achievement and strengthening college transfer applications.

Students can apply to the honors program through the LLCC Foundation Scholarship application. The selective program offers 15 new scholarships annually, a dedicated lounge, participation in a student-led club that organizes fundraising and community-building events and opportunities for travel and leadership conferences.

llcc.edu/honors-program



LLCC Honors students collaborated with biology students at West Lake Nature Grove to document honeybee parasites — blending fieldwork with academic inquiry.



It's how you finish

As the 2025 fall semester began, Heidi Wilson was wrapping up the licensed practical nurse program with LLCC in Hillsboro and accepting the Outstanding Nursing Student award.

"I was honored to be recognized for my journey and hard work," Wilson says. "My dream has always been to become a nurse."

Growing up, Heidi was a natural caregiver, helping take care of her mother. For the past 17 years, Wilson has been a dedicated employee of the Memorial Health team. She began her career as a certified nursing assistant, later transitioned to a unit secretary and is now preparing to start as an LPN on 2B, the hospital's medical/surgical floor.

Wilson began her LLCC nursing journey right out of high school, but life's challenges led her to put her dreams on hold. Once her daughter graduated and began nursing school herself, Wilson jumped back in. During another brief setback, she watched her daughter, Capria Fields, graduate from LLCC's registered nursing (RN) program.

"I was so proud of her. It brought tears to my eyes," Wilson says. "All through nursing school, Capria worked full time as a certified nursing assistant on the night shift, so she could attend classes during the day. She pressed through it all and is now an RN."

Motivated by her daughter's perseverance, Wilson decided to pursue nursing school again. She took the nursing Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS), was accepted to LLCC's licensed practical nurse program and committed fully to her goal.

"This was my goal, my dream, and I am making it come true. Nothing is stopping me now."

Balancing work, classes and study time was no easy feat. Wilson worked weekends and attended classes during the day and spent every spare moment studying. She credits LLCC's instructors and staff for their support and encouragement.

"The program was demanding. There were some topics I struggled with, but the support I received along the way made all the difference," Wilson says. "LLCC even offered NCLEX preparation, which helped me get ready for my licensing exam."

The NCLEX is a standardized test required for nursing licensure,

and she passed it with flying colors. LLCC's pass rate is 93%, which is higher than both national and state pass rates.

In a full circle moment, Fields proudly pinned her mother during the time-honored LPN pinning ceremony — a symbolic rite of passage marking Wilson's official entry into the LPN nursing profession.

Fields calls her mom her biggest inspiration. "I admire her determination in continuing her education. I watched her study hard, apply herself and push herself through each semester. I motivated and encouraged her every step of the way, like she did for me when I was in the RN program."

And Wilson's journey isn't over yet.

After passing her LPN NCLEX exam, she is preparing for LLCC's LPN to RN bridge program. Successful completion of the transition course allows licensed LPNs to enter the second year of the RN program.

LLCC nursing programs have more enrolled students than any other nursing program in Springfield. The college offers certificates in basic nurse assistant (CNA) and practical nurse (LPN) and degrees in LPN to ADN transition and associate degree nursing (RN).

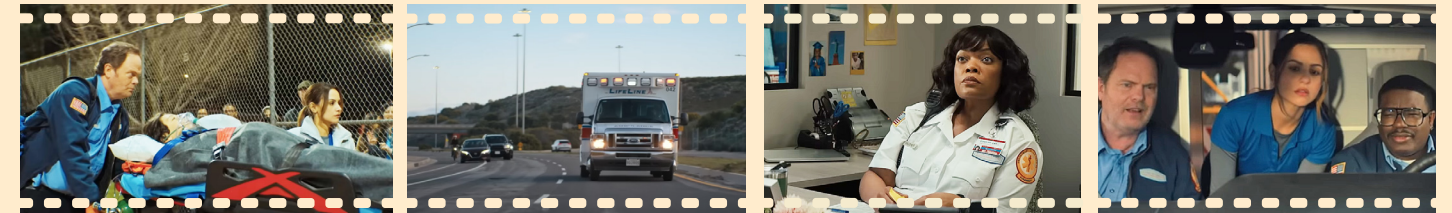
Wilson's advice to others facing setbacks? "Don't give up on your dreams. It's not how you start; it's how you finish."

llcc.edu/nursing



Heidi Wilson proudly poses after receiving her LPN pin from her daughter Capria Fields.

Alum writes feature film starring Rainn Wilson



"Code 3," written by LLCC graduate Patrick Pianezza, recently debuted in movie theatres across the U.S. And it all started when he stumbled upon an emergency medical services (EMS) course at LLCC.

"My life is a series of happy accidents," says Pianezza. "I had to be a full-time student to stay on my parents' insurance, so I was furiously going through the catalog and found a course that was eight credit hours. It happened to be an EMS course."

It didn't take long for him to get hooked. On his first day at a clinical site, there was a code in the trauma room. "You couldn't have scripted a better movie moment. I opened the door, and the doctor was shocking the person with the old school paddles. I heard, 'Clear! Boom!' I thought this is incredible; I want to do this forever."

Pianezza earned his biology degree along with certificates in EMT, intermediate EMT and paramedic at LLCC while working locally in emergency services. He transferred to the University of South Carolina, continuing to work as a paramedic, when another happy accident occurred. "I had a homework assignment in a creative writing class. The professor told us the old cliché that to write well, write what you know. I had just come off this brutal shift and remember thinking, 'Oh you want a story? I'll tell you a story!' I cranked out a 36-page short story

about my experiences as a paramedic."

That short story lay dormant as Pianezza completed his bachelor's degree and then a master's degree in health administration, which included an externship at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Meanwhile his brother Paul, who also attended LLCC, was working at a studio in Los Angeles. He encouraged Pianezza to turn his short story into a script. Paul was pestering his co-worker, the director Christopher Leone, to read the script. Enter another happy accident. "My brother made some kind of bet with Chris, and Chris lost. His punishment was he had to read my script. He liked it enough and wanted to come on board and be a co-writer on it. After writing on it and making it better and stronger for a dozen years, it ended up in Rainn Wilson's hands, who really liked it. Once we had him, he got us a studio and financing, and then we were off to the races."

Wilson plays the main character, Randy, named after Randy Romadka, Patrick's EMS instructor at LLCC. "It was awesome working with Rainn and co-star Rel (Lil Rel Howery); it was like having a front row seat to the best comedy show."

It's not all about laughter though. "Our team agreed that the patient would never be the butt of the joke. I'd say the lead character is 80-85% me. We never had to make up a scenario. I've seen just about everything."

They also were committed to medical accuracy. Pianezza was on set every day to make sure everything was as true to life as possible. "You're going to get a taste of what this job is and what it takes, and part of the goal is to be a recruitment tool for and elevate EMS to the broader audience while being honest about what it is."

He said LLCC definitely influenced his life and career choices. "LLCC was very important to me. It really gave me structure and guided me in ways that, in retrospect, had massive impact."

View movie trailer:



CODE 3

www.llcc.edu/ems

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Richard C. Hayes II



Supporting students every step of the way

As a proud graduate of a community college himself, Richard C. Hayes II brings professional expertise, lived experience and empathy to his role as student success advisor at LLCC. “We’re here to guide and walk alongside students — to be a friend, mentor and sounding board as they navigate their educational journey,” says Hayes.

Since joining LLCC in January 2000, Hayes has never lost the spark that comes from working with first-time college students. Each new story, goal and career aspiration, fuels his drive. He enjoys helping students build their education plans, which set them on a clear and confident path forward. “It is even more exciting when I see those same students graduate LLCC and transfer to their next college or enter the workforce,” he adds.

As a student success advisor, Hayes works closely with students pursuing degrees in business and accounting. LLCC’s business and accounting programs offer practical, career-focused courses in financial accounting, management, marketing and entrepreneurship — giving students a competitive edge and strong foundation for transfer or workforce success. Hayes also assists students taking individual courses for personal or professional growth.

Whether they’re on a long-term academic path or just dipping a toe into college life, Hayes ensures every student feels seen, supported and empowered. He guides them through decision making, goal setting, study strategies and how to tap into college resources.

His approach is holistic and collaborative. Hayes partners with nearly every office on campus — including financial aid, student finance, academic departments, testing, the LLCC Career Center and The Learning Center — to create a seamless support system. “It’s all about helping students thrive, not just academically, but personally,” he says.

You can also find Hayes in the classroom as an adjunct instructor for Psychology 101. Serving as both advisor and instructor has deepened his understanding of his students. “I have a greater insight into and appreciation of the student experience and academic



journey from every angle,” he explains.

At the heart of it all for Hayes is a simple but powerful motivation: it’s all about the students. “Helping them reach their personal goals motivates me, whether it’s completing one class or a full certificate or degree,” he says.

Supporting students by meeting them where they are and encouraging them to move forward with confidence is important to Hayes. Knowing that success looks different for everyone, he empowers students to complete their programs on a timeline that works for them — fitting their lives and goals — to achieve their best success at LLCC.

Hayes shares his own journey as an example to put his students at ease and help them take ownership of their educational path. “I took six years to complete my associate degree, and I still had the same opportunities as someone who completed the degree in two years,” Hayes explains. “It’s not about how fast you complete the degree; it’s about completing the degree.”

Over the years, Hayes has become a trusted guide for countless college students. Whether they’re pursuing an accounting or business degree, or simply taking a course, he is there to remind them that they’re not alone — and that every step forward is worth celebrating.

llcc.edu/student-success

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Matt Schownir



Bringing history to life



For Dr. Matt Schownir, history is more than a subject. It’s a living, breathing experience. As a history professor at LLCC, Dr. Schownir transforms traditional classroom learning into immersive, interactive journeys through time. His passion for history was sparked in an unexpected place — junior high study hall.

“I’d grab any book I could find,” Schownir recalls. “One day, I picked up a book about great battles in history. Suddenly, these weren’t just stories. They were real events that happened to real people with loved ones, hopes and aspirations. That moment of empathy changed everything for me.”

That early spark evolved into a career rooted in innovation and engagement. While finishing graduate school, Schownir returned to teach at his alma mater in Indiana, where he discovered a new approach to teaching history — through gamification and role playing. “I caught the bug pretty quickly,” he says. “Students were excited to come to class. It was fascinating to engage with historical problems in new and exciting ways.”

One of Schownir’s most beloved classroom simulations is a one-session game set during the Peloponnesian War. Students take on the roles of Athenians under siege by Spartans. Every 10 minutes in real time equals one month in the game. Food is scarce, represented by Starburst candies, each color determining a student’s fate. Some are reincarnated as Spartans, shifting the balance of power. “It’s a race

against time for a satisfactory peace treaty,” he explains. “Every time I do this session it’s just magic.”

Another favorite is a two-week simulation on the French Revolution. The game begins in 1791, and students debate, vote and shape the course of history as members of a deliberative body, struggling between rapid change and maintaining some level of tradition. “It builds awareness of how real-world processes unfold,” Schownir says. “Students see how choices lead to outcomes — sometimes very different from what actually happened in history.”

Schownir’s classroom is a hub of energy and engagement. “Games create a personal connection with historical moments,” he says. “They help students understand the ‘why’ behind events and retain the lessons of history.”

And the impact goes beyond content knowledge. “Once students experience one game, they approach the next with a deeper understanding of negotiation, collaboration and strategy,” he notes. “I see them becoming bolder, more decisive and more analytical.”

For Schownir, teaching history is about more than dates and facts. It’s about empowering students to see themselves as active participants in the world. “We’re not just passengers in life or history. We make choices that matter.”

Students who study history at LLCC are going on to work in careers in government, law, non-profits and the private sector, or continuing on to graduate studies. “We focus on building skills in the classroom, and it’s rewarding to see our graduates take those skills into the real world,” Schownir says.

“It’s an immense privilege to grow with people. I’m excited to show up to work every day because what if today is the day a student discovers they’re a master negotiator or persuader? LLCC faculty are great at helping students find their potential. This is my way of doing that.”

llcc.edu/history

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Certificate of Completion – less than 30 credit hours)

Continuing education

(More details on pp. 27-30)

- Short-term career training
- Professional development classes
- Business solutions
- GED®, ELL, literacy and college prep
- Community education

(Personal enrichment classes, Academy of Lifelong Learning, College for Kids)

View classes:



llcc.edu/view-classes

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Agriculture

Associate in Applied Science
Agribusiness
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Precision Agronomy/Custom Application

Certificate of Completion
Cultivation
Precision Agronomy Operator

Arts, Language & Communication

Associate in Arts
Art
Creative Writing
Communication
English
Music
World Languages

Associate in Applied Science
Integrated Media Design

Associate in Fine Arts
Music Performance
Studio Art

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Business Administration

Associate in Applied Science
Business
Culinary Arts
Hospitality Management

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Baking and Pastry Certificate
Culinary Manager
Entrepreneurship
Hospitality Supervisor

Certificate of Completion
Business Operations Facilitator
First Cook
Hospitality Professional
Management
Workplace Dynamics

Education & Social/Behavioral Sciences

Associate in Arts
Accounting
Criminal Justice
Early Childhood Education
Elementary Education

History
Human Services
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Psychology
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Sociology

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Criminal Justice
Early Childhood Care and Education

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Credential Level II
Early Childhood Education
Credential Level III

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Cardiovascular Sonography
Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Emergency Medical Services
Fire Science Technology
LPN to ADN Transition (RN)
Neurodiagnostic Technology
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Radiography
Respiratory Care
Surgical Technology
Transition to AAS Surgical Technology

Associate in Science
Pre-Nursing

Certificate of Achievement
Neurodiagnostic Technology
Paramedic
Practical Nurse (LPN)

Certificate of Completion
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician
Advanced Technician Firefighter
Basic Nurse Assistant (CNA)
Basic Operations Firefighter
Central Sterile Service Technician
Emergency Medical Responder
Emergency Medical Technician
Fire Apparatus Engineer
Fire Prevention Principles
Fire Service Instructor I
Fire Service Instructor II
Fire Service Vehicle Operator
Hazardous Materials for the First Responder

Technical Rescue Awareness
Vascular Sonography
Vehicle/Machinery Operations

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Bridge Program
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Massage Therapy
Phlebotomy
Veterinary Assistant

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Geography

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Engineering Science

Associate in Science
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Engineering
Geology
Mathematics
Physics
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Cybersecurity

Certificate of Completion
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Automotive Technology
Aviation Management
Commercial Electrical Maintenance
Construction Management
Culinary Arts
Customized Applied Technology
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Baking and Pastry Certificate
Construction Technologies
Culinary Manager
Electrical Distribution Lineman
Hospitality Supervisor
HVACR (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration)
Industrial Maintenance Technology

Certificate of Completion
Auto Heating and Air Conditioning
Basic Multipractice Welding
Brakes
Commercial Electrical Maintenance
First Cook
Hospitality Professional
Industrial Technologies
Intermediate-Level Welding
Shielded Metal Arc Welding
Steering and Alignment
Truck Driver Training CDL Basic

Workforce Training
Aerial/Scissor Lift Training
CPR/First Aid Certification
Forklift Certification
Hazwoper 8-Hour Training/Refresher
Highway Construction Careers Training
OSHA 10 Certification
Solar PV Training

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Visit www.llcc.edu/tuition.

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LLCC LOCATIONS

Main campus,
5250 Shepherd Rd., Springfield.
217-786-2200. www.llcc.edu

Medical District,
130 W. Mason, Springfield.
217-547-6749. www.llcc.edu/medical-district

LRS Aviation Center,
815 S. Airport Dr., Hangar 4, Springfield.
217-544-4965. www.llcc.edu/aviation

Neurodiagnostic Technology, Respiratory Care programs located at HSHS St. John's Hospital, Springfield.

Jacksonville, 32 N. Central Park Plaza.
217-243-6699. www.llcc.edu/jacksonville

Taylorville, 800 S. Spresser.
217-786-2754. www.llcc.edu/taylorville

Litchfield, 1 Lincoln Land Dr.
217-786-3401. www.llcc.edu/litchfield
(some classes offered in Hillsboro)

Beardstown, 109 White Pine Ln.
217-323-4103. www.llcc.edu/beardstown



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Classes are offered in Springfield, Beardstown, Jacksonville, Litchfield and Taylorville.

Learn more at llcc.edu/adult-ed or by calling 2177-786-2349.



Professional Development

We design opportunities to help you elevate your expertise and expand your impact, so we are continuously evolving the schedule to meet community and workforce needs. The courses and workshops listed below reflect our current offerings, but additional opportunities will be added. For the most up-to-date schedule, visit llcc.edu/pro-dev-schedule.



Spring 2026 Schedule

FEBRUARY

- AI in the Workplace: Practical Applications & Insights
- Communicating Effectively
- Generational Differences in the Workplace
- Thinking Critically at Work
- U.S. Entrepreneurship Certificate Exam Preparation (online)
- Small Business Finance: From Numbers to Strategy (online)

MARCH

- Mastering Prompts: Unlocking AI's Potential
- Microsoft Excel 365 Level 1
- Microsoft Excel 365 Level 2
- Microsoft Word 365 Level 1
- Power Automate Jumpstart
- Practicing Professionalism at Work

APRIL

- Introduction to Power BI
- Conflict Management Through Emotional Intelligence
- Microsoft Excel 365 Level 3
- Microsoft Word 365 Level 2
- Navigating Challenges & Stressors
- PowerPoint to Power Play: Designing & Delivering Presentations That Win
- Strengthening Critical Thinking in AI-Driven Work
- Understanding Customer Service Essentials

MAY

- Building Stronger Teams Through Inclusive Practices
- Power Platform

Custom Training

In addition to our open-enrollment sessions, many of these workshops can also be delivered as customized training for your business or organization. Programs can be tailored in content, format and delivery to address your specific workforce needs.

For more information, contact Diana Heeb Bivona, director of continuing education and business solutions, at Diana.Bivona@llcc.edu or 217-786-4959.

Health Care Continuing Education

Fall 2025



Understanding the Pathophysiology of Addiction: A Deep Dive Into the Science of Substance Abuse
Nov. 7, 2025, 9 a.m.-noon

Designed for health care providers and frontline professionals working in or alongside those in the field of addiction medicine and treatment, this program offers an accessible overview of the neurobiological foundations of addiction with emphasis on the variations that occur in individuals with substance-related and addictive disorders, helping participants better understand the science behind addiction and its implications for treatment, intervention and support.

CEUs: 2.75

\$59 – use code UPSKILL for 50% off registration.



Advanced Cupping Techniques for Massage Therapists
Dec. 11, 2025, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Elevate your cupping skills with this class designed for experienced massage therapists. The course will delve into sophisticated cupping methods, providing you with the knowledge and practical skills to enhance your therapeutic practice and achieve better client outcomes. Topics include:

- In-depth exploration of cupping theory and history
- Advanced cupping techniques for various conditions
- Combining cupping with other therapeutic modalities
- Safety protocols and contraindications
- Client assessment and personalized treatment plans

CEUs: 4

\$79 – use code UPSKILL for 50% off registration.

Spring 2026



CNA Instructor Conference
Bedside to Blackboard: Thriving as a Nurse Educator
April 30 & May 1

Thu, April 30, 2026, 1-5 p.m. with meet-and-greet in the evening
Fri, May 1, 2026, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



Workforce Training

Workplace Safety Certifications

Learn more at llcc.edu/workforce-development or 217-786-3675.

OSHA 10

Mon & Tue, Nov. 17 & 18,
8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.,
\$150
Sangamon Hall South

Forklift

Wed, Nov. 19, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.,
\$175
Sangamon Hall South

Aerial/Scissor Lift

Mon, Nov. 24, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.,
\$100
Sangamon Hall South

CPR/First Aid

TBD, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., \$100
Workforce Careers Center

Community Education

Ready to try something new, connect with others or add new skills?

Lincoln Land Community College offers short, non-credit personal enrichment classes for all ages — perfect for exploring interests and meeting like-minded people.

Check out the latest course offerings at www.llcc.edu/lifelongfun.



Questions? Call 217-786-2432.

Culinary

DINNERS AT BISTRO VERDE

Please visit llcc.edu/community-education for dinner information and to register.

These dinners are multi-course dining experiences (rather than hands-on cooking classes). Each evening features a chef-curated menu, with the chef offering insightful remarks on each course.

HANDS-ON BAKING

- Hand Pies**
Sat, Jan 24, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Bread Lovers**
Sat, Feb 7, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Cream Puffs and Eclairs**
Sat, Feb 21, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Lemon Lovers**
Sat, Feb 21, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Macarons**
Sat, Feb 28, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



- Poptarts**
Sat, Mar 21, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Meringue Magic**
Sat, Mar 28, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Easter Treats**
Sat, Apr 4, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

- Macarons**
Sat, Apr 11, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Spring Cookie Platter**
Sat, Apr 18, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Cheesecakes**
Sat, May 2, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

HANDS-ON COOKING

- Better for You Snacks**
Thu, Jan 22, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Souper Bowl**
Thu, Jan 29, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Molecular Geometry – Boba**
Sat, Jan 31, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- The Science of Searing & Sautéing**
Thu, Feb 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m.



- Dim Sum**
Thu, Feb 12, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Spices 101**
Thu, Feb 26, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Cast Iron Cooking**
Thu, Mar 19, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Sushi Workshop**
Thu, Apr 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Kabobs and Skewers**
Thu, Apr 9, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Lasagna From Scratch**
Thu, Apr 16, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Pappardelle Pasta Workshop**
Thu, Apr 30, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

YOUTH

- Sushi Time**
Sat, Jan 31, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Cookie Decorating-Valentines Day**
Sat, Feb 14, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Tacos and Salsa**
Sat, May 2, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Mother's Day Baking**
Sat, May 9, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

SPECIAL NIGHT OUT

- Brazilian**
Fri, Jan 30, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Italian Night – Sauces**
Fri, Feb 6, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Mardi Gras**
Thu, Feb 19, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Zero Proof: Indonesian Street Food & Mocktails**
Fri, Feb 20, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Simple Spring Seafood**
Thu, Mar 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Portuguese**
Fri, Mar 20, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Mediterranean**
Thu, Mar 26, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Girls Night Out – Cookie Cake Decorating**
Fri, Apr 3, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Zero Proof: Craft Mocktails & Charcuterie**
Fri, Apr 10, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Galettes for Dinner**
Fri, May 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Brunch Favorites for Dinner**
Fri, May 8, 5:30-8:30 p.m.



Youth

- Dungeons & Dragons**
Sat, Feb 7-May 9, 9 a.m.-noon



ACT TEST PREP

Build your confidence by mastering essential skills in math, science, grammar, reading comprehension and essay writing. Learn how to approach questions strategically, familiarize yourself with the test format and strengthen your critical thinking to perform your best on test day. Each session includes:

- Proven test-taking techniques
- In-depth content reviews
- Practice with authentic ACT-style questions
- Strategies to manage time and reduce test anxiety
- Tips to improve speed and accuracy

Wed, Feb 4-March 4, 6-8 p.m.
Sat, Jan 31-Feb 28, 9-11 a.m.

Personal Enrichment

Whether you're exploring a hobby or expanding your knowledge, these courses offer a fun and flexible way to invest in yourself. Take the first step toward personal growth. Your next adventure starts here!

- Beekeeping
- Digital literacy
- Floral projects
- Gardening
- Home repair
- Languages (including Spanish and American Sign Language)
- Music (including band and choir)
- Paranormal subject exploration
- Watercolor painting

Academy of Lifelong Learning

The Academy of Lifelong Learning (ALL) is a vibrant, member-driven community of those 50 or greater. With enriching experiences and engaging programs and interest groups, ALL empowers you to keep learning, growing and connecting. Join a network of curious minds and discover how lifelong learning can inspire your next chapter.

WINTER CELEBRATION

Join us for the ALL Winter Celebration
Jan. 23, 1-3 p.m.



**Lincoln Land
Community College**

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Springfield, IL 62794-9256

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Students (above) proudly represent their club at the LLCC Cardboard Boat Regatta, showing off their spirit at this annual event. Two creatively crafted boats (right) make a splash as they compete in the race.

Registration for spring begins Oct. 15; weekday classes begin Jan. 12 – www.llcc.edu/spring-classes

Apply for 2026-27 Foundation scholarships Nov. 15-Feb. 15 – llccfoundation.org/scholarships

Campus Visit Day for prospective students and families Feb. 16 – llcc.edu/campus-visit-day

Registration for summer begins Feb. 18 – www.llcc.edu/summer-classes

www.llcc.edu

