

Lincoln Land Community College

OCTOBER 2026

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FORWARD

MAGAZINE



*Committed to a
student-centered,
collaborative and
future-focused 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 Generations of opportunity
Logger pride made stronger through family connections.



9-10 More than money
Helping students navigate college with confidence.

11-12 Behind the sterile field
Advances in LLCC Surgical Technology.



13-14 Learning without limits
Lifelong enrichment through LLCC Community Education.

15-16 LLCC's seventh president to lead college into seventh decade
Dr. Curt Oldfield sets sights on the future.

17-18 A world of discovery
Professor brings epic travel experiences to the classroom.

19-20 Meeting demand, building careers
Increasing capacity in welding and truck driver training programs.



21 Student Spotlight: Mattie Tierney
A lineworker with a powerful purpose.



22 Faculty Spotlight: Peter Embalabala
Teaching math and sharing a passion for learning.

23 Alum Spotlight: Ryan Wilson
Combining sports and storytelling.



24 Staff Spotlight: Mion Denton
Making every student feel welcome.

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

27-30 Continuing and Community Education
Professional and personal enrichment opportunities for all ages.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I begin my tenure as president of Lincoln Land Community College, I have been reflecting on what makes LLCC such a special place. Over the past several months, I have had the opportunity to meet students, employees, alumni and community members whose stories reinforce a simple truth: LLCC has always been about creating opportunities for more.

More opportunities to learn, more opportunities to grow, more opportunities to build meaningful careers and fulfilling lives — as we look ahead to the 60th anniversary of LLCC's founding, that commitment to "more" remains as strong as ever.

This issue of "FORWARD Magazine" highlights many examples of how our college continues to expand horizons and transform lives. You'll read about Professor Samantha Reif's remarkable experiences in Antarctica and how those adventures are helping bring science to life for her students. Her story reflects the curiosity, exploration and innovation that define learning at LLCC.

You'll also discover inspiring examples of family traditions that span generations, with parents, children and grandparents all choosing LLCC as part of their educational journey. These stories remind us that the impact of a community college extends far beyond individual students and often becomes part of a family's legacy.

Lifelong learning is another important part of our mission. LLCC Community Education programs offer opportunities for people of all ages to explore interests, gain new skills and connect with others. Whether someone is pursuing a hobby or simply enjoying the experience of learning, there is something for everyone.

Access and affordability remain central to our work. In this edition, you'll learn more about the many resources available to help students and families navigate the financial aid process, as well as the life-changing scholarships provided through the LLCC Foundation.

This issue also highlights exciting developments on our campus, including a newly expanded welding lab and a remodeled surgical technology lab. These investments reflect our commitment to providing students with modern learning environments that support hands-on training and prepare them for high-demand careers.

You'll also meet several members of the LLCC community whose stories exemplify the impact of education and service: Mattie Tierney (student), Ryan Wilson (alumnus), Mion Denton (staff) and Peter Embalabala (faculty).

As we prepare to celebrate 60 years of service to central Illinois and begin our seventh decade, LLCC remains focused on student success, workforce development and community impact. Building on a strong foundation, we will continue creating more opportunities for students, strengthening our region's economy and leading the way in higher education for the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Curt Oldfield, Ed.D.
President, Lincoln Land Community College

Discover MORE

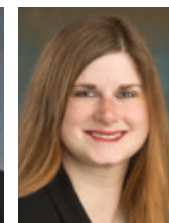
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Community gets a sweet look at beekeeping

Community members gathered at LLCC's West Lake Nature Grove this fall for a live honey extraction demonstration led by Dave Cox, professor of biology, and members of the Prairie State Beekeepers Association. Attendees observed the process from hive inspections and honey super removal to extracting honey harvested from the college's apiary. The event offered hands-on learning opportunities and highlighted the important role bees play in pollination and healthy ecosystems. Participants also had the chance to assist with the extraction process and sample freshly harvested raw honey, making for a memorable and educational experience for visitors of all ages.



LLCC's PTK chapter earns recognition

LLCC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter received multiple honors at the 2026 PTK Regional Convention and Honors Institute, highlighting the achievements of its students and advisors. The Alpha Epsilon Kappa chapter was recognized for maintaining Five Star Chapter status, the organization's highest designation, for the 13th consecutive year and earned an award for Outstanding College Project. Individual honors included Addison Patrick's selection to the Hall of Honor, along with recognition for advisors Ryan Roberts and Dr. Gillian Bauer. The awards reflect PTK's commitment to academic excellence, leadership, service and student success both on campus and in the community.



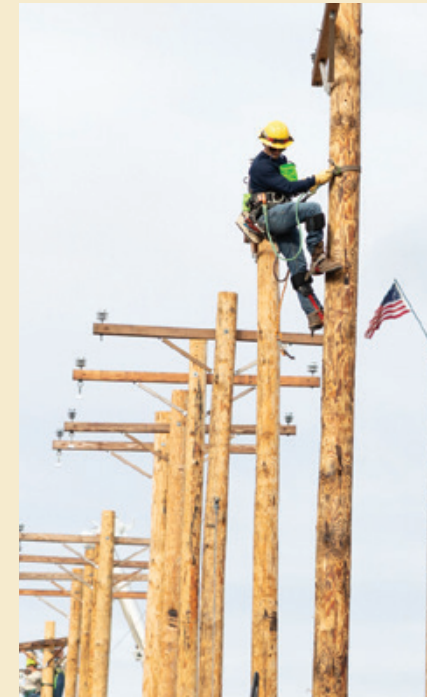
Student athletes excel in competition and the classroom

LLCC student-athletes continued a tradition of excellence this year, earning recognition for their achievements both on the field of play and in the classroom. Forty-six Loggers received all-academic honors, reflecting the dedication, discipline and support that help student-athletes succeed academically while competing at a high level.

The women's basketball team also enjoyed another standout season, finishing 28-6 and advancing to the NJCAA Division II National Tournament for the third consecutive year. The Loggers capped the season with a national tournament appearance and continued to build on their reputation of excellence.



What's happening at your community college



Careers Expo connects students with local employers and career opportunities

Approximately 1,400 high school students explored future career possibilities at LLCC's annual Careers Expo this fall. Held on the Springfield campus, the event brought together more than 100 employers representing industries including skilled trades, healthcare and agriculture. Students had the opportunity to interact with professionals, learn about career pathways and gain insight into the skills and training needed for in-demand occupations. The expo highlighted LLCC's commitment to local workforce development and helping students make informed decisions about their futures.

By connecting education and industry, the event provided valuable exposure to career opportunities available throughout central Illinois.

Bistro Verde returns for fall dining

This fall, Bistro Verde invites the community to enjoy a unique dining experience while supporting the next generation of culinary and hospitality professionals. Beginning Oct. 27, the student-led café transforms into a full-service restaurant, offering dine-in lunches through Dec. 3 (excluding Nov. 10 and Nov. 24-26). Guests can enjoy appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, entrees, desserts and weekly student chef prix fixe menus, all prepared from scratch with fresh ingredients and creative flair. Operated by students in LLCC's Hospitality and Culinary program, Bistro Verde provides hands-on learning while delivering exceptional service and cuisine. *Visit llcc.edu/bistro-verde for menus and reservations.*



LLCC students earn national SkillsUSA honors

Two Lincoln Land Community College Workforce Institute students showcased their talents on the national stage at the 2026 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta. Daniel Welch of Lincoln placed fourth in Heavy Equipment Operation, competing against seven other top students from across the country. Tamara Rahman of Rochester earned fifth place in HVACR (heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration), competing among 24 national finalists. The annual conference brings together thousands of the nation's top career and technical education students, highlighting excellence in skilled trades and workforce training. *Learn more about LLCC's Workforce Institute at llcc.edu/workforce.*



Geography professor earns national honor

Dean Butzow, LLCC geography professor, was recognized nationally as a recipient of the 2026 Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award from the American Association of Community Colleges. The award honors community college educators who demonstrate exceptional commitment to student success, both inside and outside the classroom. Butzow has taught geography courses at LLCC for nearly 23 years, inspiring students through engaging instruction and personalized support. The recognition reflects his longstanding dedication to helping students achieve their academic goals and highlights the quality of teaching and mentorship found throughout the college.

Journey to Juneteenth celebrates history and community

LLCC students, employees and community members came together this summer for "Journey to Juneteenth: Where History Meets Celebration," an event recognizing the significance of Juneteenth and the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States. The event combined education and celebration through interactive activities, a historical timeline exhibit and creative opportunities such as T-shirt decorating and painting. Attendees learned about key milestones in Black history and the continuing importance of Juneteenth while connecting with others in a welcoming atmosphere.



History Cooks features Route 66 flavors

LLCC Community Education celebrated the tastes and traditions of America's Mother Road this summer through its popular "History Cooks" series. In partnership with the Lincoln Home National Historic Site and Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, the program featured free cooking demonstrations inspired by iconic Route 66 dishes. LLCC chefs and culinary instructors prepared regional favorites ranging from Springfield horseshoes and chili to St. Louis gooey butter cake, brisket and blue corn enchiladas. Held at the Lincoln Home, each session gave attendees a chance to sample the featured recipe and take home a souvenir recipe card, blending local history, culture and culinary education.



Agriculture students explore California's farming industry

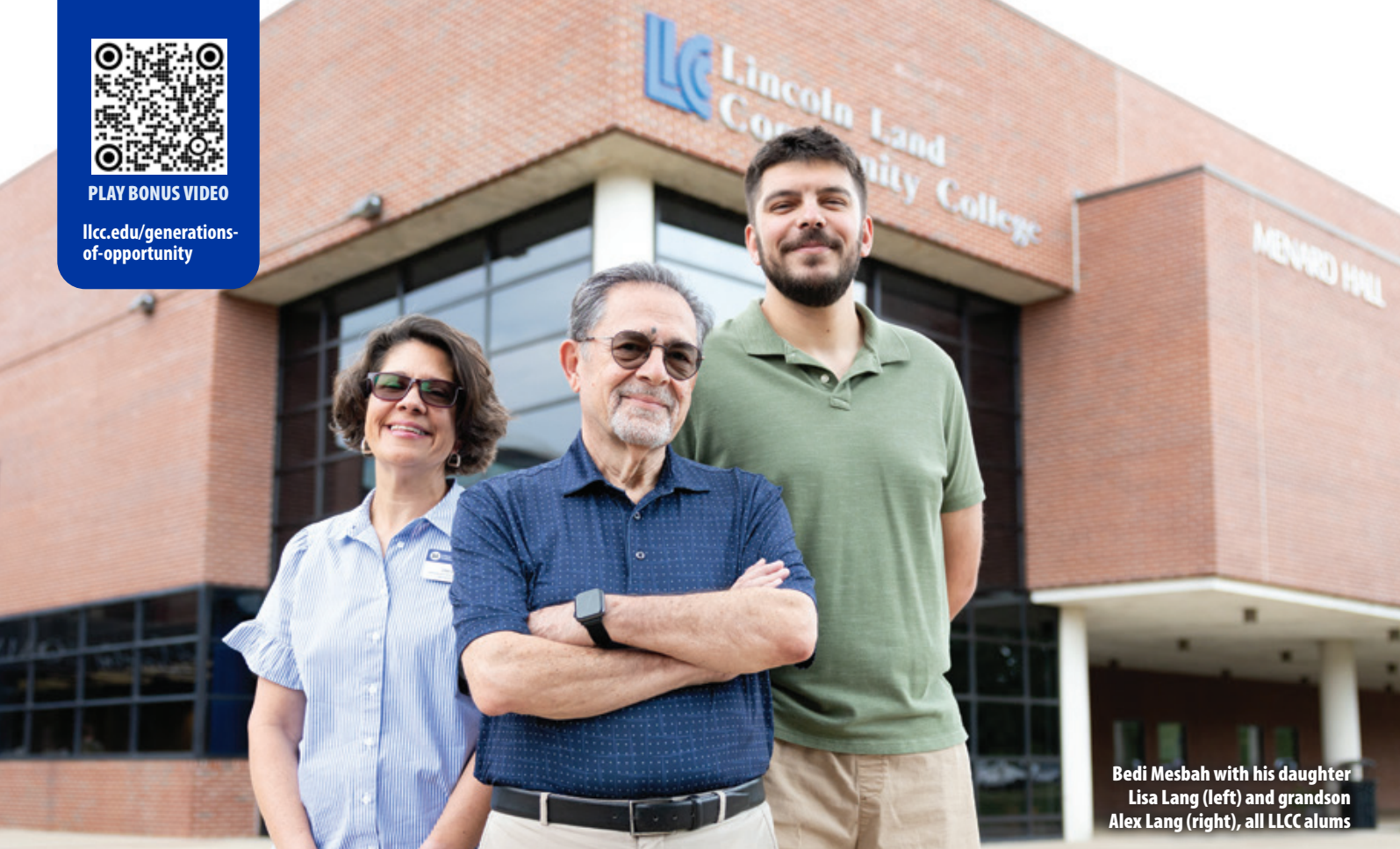
Eleven LLCC Agriculture students gained firsthand insight into California's diverse agricultural industry during a weeklong tour of the San Joaquin Valley. Students visited California Polytechnic State University and met with fruit, nut and livestock producers to learn about modern farming practices and challenges. The tour highlighted the critical role of irrigation and the impact of water regulations on the future of agriculture. Students also explored agritourism operations, farmers markets and notable destinations, including Yosemite National Park. The experience is part of LLCC's ongoing commitment to providing real-world learning opportunities beyond the classroom.





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llcc.edu/generations-of-opportunity



Bedi Mesbah with his daughter Lisa Lang (left) and grandson Alex Lang (right), all LLCC alums

GENERATIONS of opportunity

Logger pride made stronger through family connections

Full-circle connection

When Bedi Mesbah stepped through the doors of Lincoln Land Community College's first campus on South 6th Street in Springfield in 1968, he had no idea his decision to pursue a degree would create a connection with the college that would span nearly 60 years and three generations.

Born in Iran and raised in Turkey, Mesbah came to the United States in 1967 to attend college. He learned to speak English while working at the South 6th Street McDonald's and dreamed of building a better life and career.

"I remember people calling it 'Plywood U,'" he recalls. Mesbah went on to earn a bachelor's degree and later founded his engineering firm, KM2.

Soon, his daughter Lisa Lang would follow in his footsteps, enrolling at LLCC after a brain tumor brought her home from a four-year university. "While recovering at home, I decided to go to LLCC," explains Lang. "I felt comfortable talking with the faculty and working with them. It was a nice transition to the next step in my education."

Years later, Lisa's son, Alex, would also choose LLCC. He attended classes in Menard and Sangamon halls, sought services in the Millennium Center and attended events in the Trutter Center, all buildings for which his grandfather's engineering firm designed the mechanical infrastructure.

"After spending a year volunteering in Israel after high school, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do professionally," Alex Lang says. "LLCC was a great resource. It allowed me to explore a number of different subjects. I even enjoyed subjects I normally wouldn't have because those instructors cared so much."

He fondly remembers attending concerts, events and dinners on campus, assisting at the LLCC Gala with his family and even playing trombone in the LLCC Jazz Band alongside his father. Still, he says the decision to attend LLCC was entirely his own.

Alex completed an associate degree at LLCC and then a bachelor's degree at Eastern Illinois University. "I'm proud to say I'm both a Logger and a Panther when people ask about my college experience," he says. "And I recommend LLCC to anyone who may be undecided, like I once was."

Hall of fame footsteps

Colten Knoedler of Chatham said his decision to attend LLCC was his alone as well.

The freshman baseball player chose the same path as his father and uncle, Jason and Justin Knoedler, both LLCC alumni as well as LLCC and Springfield Sports Hall of Fame baseball players who helped lead the college to a national championship. Their names still adorn Claude Kracik Field.

Colten Knoedler was being recruited by colleges for both football and baseball.

"I knew that I wanted to play baseball and go somewhere where I could compete. LLCC has a rich history. It offers me the opportunity to get to the next level, and that was very enticing for a competitive person like me," he says.

"I was always open and honest with Colten about my experience at LLCC, and I wanted him to consider all of his options," shares Jason Knoedler, who admits he is equally proud and nervous to watch his son take the field.

"There is a lot of pride that I carry, and that my family carries, with LLCC," he says. "It was a great experience, and that pride continues with Colten. I hope he has the same experience, both academically and athletically."

Jason said he is most excited for Colten to build the kinds of lasting friendships that can span a lifetime.



Father and son, Jason and Colten Knoedler



Brothers Lawrence Merchant and Christopher Walker

A sky-high legacy

Lawrence Merchant is a proud graduate of the LLCC Aviation Maintenance program, following the same path his brother, Christopher Walker, took eight years earlier.

"My older brother is my biggest inspiration," Merchant says. "He's an airframe-and-powerplant-certified aircraft mechanic, and watching his journey and seeing how proud he is of his career showed me what's possible in this field."

Walker built his aviation maintenance skills in the U.S. Air Force before graduating from LLCC's aviation maintenance program. He was later hired by American Airlines and now specializes in avionics at the airline's Dallas hub.

This summer, he flew home to attend his brother's graduation from the same LLCC program that helped launch his own career.

"Coming through LLCC's aviation maintenance program helped build on the foundation and continue my interest in aviation, turning it into a career I'm extremely proud of," says Walker. "Seeing my younger brother graduate from the same program years later makes it even more meaningful. Skilled trades are in high demand right now, and aviation maintenance is a great example of a career where specialized training can lead to excellent opportunities and very competitive pay. Aviation has given me opportunities I never could have imagined, and being able to share that experience with my brother and watch him begin his own journey in the industry is something I'm incredibly proud of."

Share your LLCC legacy story.

Contact LLCC Alumni Services at llcc.edu/alumni-services.



More than money

Helping students navigate college with confidence



Financial Aid Advisor Mike Dunlap and Steven Tucker, LLCC student



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llcc.edu/more-than-money



FAFSA Family event

Steven Tucker is pursuing a career in integrated media design, and Lincoln Land Community College is helping him reach that goal in more ways than one. Beyond the support he receives in the classroom, Tucker credits Mike Dunlap, an LLCC financial aid advisor, with helping him stay on track to complete his education.

“If it wasn’t for Mike’s guidance and help from LLCC Financial Aid, I honestly don’t know if I would be finishing my final semester this coming spring,” Tucker explains. “The experience gave me insight into the process of financial aid, and now I have the confidence moving forward when it’s time to transfer to a four-year university.”

Understanding the process

To be considered for financial aid, including federal and state grants as well as work-study opportunities, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, commonly known as the FAFSA.

The application, which typically opens each fall, requires financial information and serves as an important gateway to financial aid. LLCC Financial Aid offers FAFSA Completion Nights at Outreach Centers in Jacksonville, Litchfield and Taylorville, as well as on the college’s main campus in Springfield.

“Students and their family members can come to one of our FAFSA events and complete the form,” says Alison Mills, assistant vice president, LLCC Financial Aid. “If they have a question, our team will be right there to get them through whatever may be causing confusion.”

The FAFSA Completion Nights are open to all students, regardless of where they plan to attend college.

A personalized approach

LLCC Financial Aid advisors provide more than FAFSA assistance. The team offers one-on-one appointments to help students understand financial aid awards, utilize veteran education benefits and navigate Department of Rehabilitation Services funding. Staff also hold fun, educational events for students to help them learn more about the financial aid process.

The personalized support helps reduce uncertainty and stress for students and their families.

“Financial aid and paying for college can feel intimidating,”

says Mills. “When someone takes the time to explain every detail of a student’s account and award information, it provides peace of mind. Students can focus on their classes instead of worrying about finances.”

Because of LLCC’s affordable tuition, combined with scholarships and grants, only about 11% of students utilize student loans. Many students receive LLCC Foundation Scholarships. Approximately 78% of students receive a scholarship or award offer.

The power of a scholarship

“Every student at the college should apply for a scholarship,” encourages Jill Siebert, scholarship program coordinator with the LLCC Foundation. “We have scholarships for students from every county we serve, a variety of majors and countless backgrounds. Best of all, students only complete one application to be considered for all eligible scholarships.”

Applications for LLCC Foundation Scholarships for the 2027-2028 academic year will open Nov. 15, 2026, and close Feb. 15, 2027. Instead of requiring a lengthy essay, applicants answer three questions about themselves, their goals and aspirations.

Like the LLCC Financial Aid office, LLCC Foundation offers personalized assistance throughout the application process. “Students can receive help with their responses from us or from writing specialists in The Learning Center at LLCC,” Siebert explains. “We’ll personally meet with students to ensure they can access the application and answer their questions every step of the way.”



FAFSA Family event

The LLCC Foundation works closely with admissions, recruiting and high school guidance counselors to make sure the scholarship process is as seamless as possible, from uploading transcripts to sending reminders when references have not yet responded.

For Siebert, the most rewarding part of the process is the donor appreciation reception, where scholarship recipients meet the individuals who helped fund their education.

“Students leave that evening knowing somebody else believes in them,” Siebert says. “Someone sees their potential and wants to invest in their success. For some students, that realization can be life changing.”

llcc.edu/finaid

llccfoundation.org/scholarships



PLAY BONUS VIDEO

llcc.edu/behind-sterile-field



Behind the sterile field



Assisting surgeon with tools in the lab



Latoya White, LLCC student, holding surgical tools



Classroom instruction in surgical techniques

In the operating room, every member of the team plays a critical role. “Most people know there are surgeons and nurses in the operating room, but they may not realize there is another highly skilled professional at the sterile field (the germ-free zone created around the surgical site) playing an essential role throughout the procedure — a surgical technologist,” says Nichole Smith, surgical technology program director.

Surgical technologists perform one of the most important roles in the room. They maintain the sterile field, prepare instruments and anticipate surgeons’ needs during procedures. Helping more people discover this rewarding career path is one of the goals of the Lincoln Land Community College Surgical Technology program.

Following a calling

After years of working in healthcare, Latoya White, LLCC student, knew she wanted to take the next step in her career. She enjoyed helping patients and being part of the medical field, but she found herself increasingly interested in a part of healthcare many people never see — the operating room.

That curiosity ultimately led her to enroll in LLCC’s surgical technology program. She is now in her second year of the program. White is looking forward to turning her passion for healthcare into a rewarding career as a surgical technologist.

“Not all superheroes wear capes, but being a surgical technologist is pretty close,” she says.

“It’s common for our students to receive job offers while they are still in the program.”

Firsthand connection

What makes LLCC’s program unique is a community of success and connections. Every current surgical technology faculty member, including Smith, is a graduate of the program.

“We have been in our students’ shoes,” Smith explains. “We know what it feels like to be the student walking into the operating room for the first time.”

Faculty use that experience to guide students as they develop the technical skills, confidence and professionalism needed for success. Small lab groups also allow for individualized instruction and direct feedback, while partnerships with healthcare facilities throughout the region provide students with exposure to a variety of surgical specialties and clinical environments.

Learning by doing

Hands-on learning is at the center of the program. Students begin in the newly renovated surgical technology simulation lab, which enhances the student experience by allowing learners to practice essential skills, build confidence and apply classroom knowledge in a setting that mirrors real-world surgical environments such as an operating room.



Second year LLCC Surgical Technology students

The program also continues to update its equipment and learning experiences to keep pace with advancements in surgical technology. Simulations become progressively more realistic, encouraging students to think critically and anticipate each step of a procedure.

“The lab gives students a place to practice, make mistakes, ask questions and build their confidence before they begin working with real patients in the clinical setting,” says Smith.

As students progress through the program, they move into clinical rotations at healthcare facilities throughout central Illinois. They work alongside surgeons, nurses and experienced surgical technologists while gaining exposure to a variety of specialties and surgical environments.

The program’s strong emphasis on hands-on learning has been one of the most valuable parts of White’s experience. “It has been so rewarding to see myself and my confidence grow,” she says. “It gets challenging sometimes, but I push myself to keep going because this is my passion.”

Preparing for career success

Success as a surgical technologist requires more than technical knowledge. The importance of communication, teamwork, adaptability and the ability to remain calm under pressure is the key to success. Students build these qualities through coursework, laboratory practice and extensive clinical experiences.

“It’s common for our students to receive job offers while they are still in the program, and many of our graduates begin their careers right here in the communities we serve,” Smith says.

For White, the journey through LLCC’s surgical technology program has confirmed that she is exactly where she is meant to be.

For future students considering a career in healthcare, the program offers an opportunity to develop valuable technical skills while becoming part of a profession that directly impacts patient care every day. From the simulation lab to the operating room, LLCC is preparing the next generation of surgical technologists to confidently step behind the sterile field and become indispensable members of the surgical team.

llcc.edu/surg-tech

Learning without *limits*



Lifelong enrichment through LLCC Community Education



Vicki Molnar, ALL president-elect, and Channing Fullaway, culinary coordinator, LLCC Community Education



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llcc.edu/learning-without-limits

Learning is a lifelong journey, and Lincoln Land Community College offers opportunities to grow, explore and connect at every age. Whether it's a child discovering a new interest through College for Kids, an adult exploring a hobby in a course or a retiree forming meaningful connections through the Academy of Lifelong Learning, LLCC Community Education provides opportunities for lifelong enrichment.

We should always be exploring new opportunities to engage our minds and increase our knowledge.

A lifelong connection to learning

Vicki Molnar is no stranger to LLCC. She and her husband are graduates, her daughters have taken classes through the college and this summer her grandson participated in College for Kids. Currently, Molnar serves as president-elect of the Academy of Lifelong Learning (ALL), a learning community for those 50 and greater.

"Learning opportunities have touched multiple generations of our family," Molnar says. "LLCC has always been a wonderful resource."

LLCC Community Education offers noncredit classes, workshops and enrichment opportunities for learners of all ages. The goal is simple: make learning accessible, welcoming and enjoyable.

"In Community Education we bring people together to learn new skills and explore their interests," explains Dr. Laurel Bretz, associate vice president of continuing, corporate and professional education. "We have the ability to leverage the great instructional knowledge base we have here on campus and in our community and channel that into low-pressure and low-stakes, but highly interesting learning opportunities for people to gain skills and learn about things they need without having to commit to academic-type courses."

For Molnar, that low-pressure environment was what first drew her to ALL. After joining at a friend's recommendation, she enrolled in a Mah Jongg class, attended Chautauqua programs (lectures on science, politics and literature and discussions on social issues) and participated in a variety of activities she had never experienced before.

"I didn't know what Chautauqua was, and now I'm on the planning committee," Molnar says. "It's just been a wonderful learning experience, and I've met some fantastic, fabulous people that I would not have met had I not joined."

Programs that grow with the community

"What surprises people most is that they become repeat students," Dr. Bretz says. "They try a class, they love it and then they might try something they didn't even think they were interested in."

LLCC Community Education includes classes in areas such as culinary arts, photography, visual and performing arts, technology, world languages, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), gardening and more. Coming this spring is a series of workshops that were designed in conjunction with LLCC's

Construction Technologies program to teach adults basic home improvement tools, skills and techniques, including electrical projects, plumbing fixes and drywall repairs.

"I often hear from our students that they are surprised by the variety of courses we offer," says Jolene Lamb, director of LLCC Community Education.

From College for Kids to lifelong learning

This summer, College for Kids experienced record enrollment. Molnar's grandson traveled from the Indianapolis area to participate in a karate class, following a family tradition as years earlier, her daughters had participated in College for Kids as well.



Vicki Molnar's grandson Gabriel learning karate at College for Kids

College for Kids offers students from kindergarten through high school opportunities to explore everything from STEM and gardening to sign language and arts. For older students, many classes provide hands-on exposure to careers such as agriculture, construction, HVAC and electrical trades.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to explore whether they like cooking, gardening, martial arts, writing or drama," Molnar says. "It's a very inexpensive way to allow children to explore that aspect of life without being graded on it."

The freedom to learn

That freedom to learn purely for personal enrichment is a common theme across LLCC Community Education. "There are no grades given in our classes. You can't fail," Lamb explains. "We welcome everyone. If you are age 5 to 105 or beyond and you are interested in discovering something new, join us to learn, create and connect with others."

For Molnar, that spirit of curiosity and connection is what makes the programs so valuable. "We should always be exploring new opportunities to engage our minds and increase our knowledge," she encourages. "LLCC Community Education provides not only an opportunity to explore interests, but also to socialize and meet new people."

Whether it's a child stepping onto a college campus for the first time, an adult learning a new skill or a retiree discovering a new passion, LLCC Community Education continues to prove that learning truly can last a lifetime.

llcc.edu/lifelongfun

LLCC's seventh president to lead college into

SEVENTH DECADE



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llcc.edu/seventh-decade



This fall begins an academic year of celebration as Lincoln Land Community College looks forward to its 60th anniversary on Feb. 23, 2027.

On that date in 1967, the college was officially voted into existence by residents of a 2,500-square-mile area of central Illinois. Headquartered in Springfield, the college, by state statute, was to offer courses in “liberal arts and sciences and general education, adult education courses and courses in occupational, semi-technical or technical fields leading directly to employment.”

The rest is history.

From vision to reality

Doors opened for classes Sept. 23, 1968, on a temporary campus constructed in 90 days on South 6th Street. Administrators predicted around 700 students would enroll; however, more than twice that amount lined up on the first day of registration.

In the summer of 1969, farmland on the west side of Lake Springfield was acquired for the permanent campus, adjacent to the future Sangamon State University (now UIS) campus site. Construction of the first two LLCC campus buildings, Menard and Sangamon halls, began in 1970, and by December 1974, all operations were at the current site.

Physical growth over the years has included 10 new buildings on campus, an aviation center at Springfield’s airport and the opening of outreach centers, currently located in Taylorville, Litchfield, Jacksonville and Beardstown. Academic, healthcare and workforce offerings have greatly expanded to meet the needs of students and area employers. Athletics as well as student support and activities provide for a well-rounded college experience.

LLCC was a pioneer nearly 30 years ago in online education, which has grown exponentially through the decades. Professional development, community and continuing education offerings have also greatly increased. With a commitment to all ages, the college serves the youngest toddlers at its Child Development Center through adults 50 and greater in the Academy of Lifelong Learning.

Over the years, the college has hosted many VIPs including Jimmy Carter, Hillary Clinton and J.R. Martinez as well as governors and other national, state and local officials, artists and authors.

A new chapter of leadership

A new era for the college began last summer, as Dr. Curt Oldfield arrived as the seventh president of LLCC. He previously served 14 years as president of Spoon River College. A Spoon River graduate, he taught agriculture in high school and later at Spoon River,

advancing to dean of instruction. After serving as vice president of instruction at Northeast Iowa Community College, he returned to Spoon River as president.

LLCC Board Chair Wayne Rosenthal praised the new LLCC president’s “Illinois community college experience, thoughtful leadership and clear commitment to student success.” Students, faculty and staff have noted his warm, approachable leadership style.

“When individuals feel seen, when they feel valued, when they feel heard and when they feel developed, that is when we are doing our best work,”

Dr. Oldfield commented during the college’s opening fall convocation.

He also highlighted the strong sense of commitment and pride he’s experienced at the college. He shared his commitment to being student-centered, collaborative and future-focused.

He believes key issues facing higher education include rapid technological advances and the importance of value in education. He said community colleges are well positioned to prepare students for a rapidly changing world, to demonstrate value and address lifelong learning needs through degree completion, workforce advancement, upskilling and reskilling opportunities.



Building on 60 years of impact

Looking ahead, Dr. Oldfield identified three priorities: supporting student success, strengthening connection through the communities LLCC serves and laying the groundwork for the college’s next chapter of strategic growth. He wants LLCC to be known for exceptional student success, strong employee and student engagement, operational excellence and meaningful community connections.

He expressed confidence in the college’s future because of its dedicated employees and their commitment to carrying out its mission to “transform lives and strengthen our communities through learning.”

As LLCC prepares to celebrate its 60th anniversary this spring, a variety of special events and activities will honor the people, milestones and achievements that have shaped the college since 1967. The anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect with pride on the past six decades. At the same time, it serves as a reminder that LLCC’s greatest impact is still ahead. Building on a strong foundation of student success, innovation and community partnership, the college remains focused on preparing learners for the opportunities of tomorrow and continuing to meet the evolving needs of central Illinois for generations to come.

llcc.edu/60-years



Original LLCC entrance sign



Futuristic Uranium Bio Atomic Robot visits campus



Walkway between Sangamon and Menard halls



PLAY BONUS VIDEO

llcc.edu/world-of-discovery

A world of DISCOVERY



Samantha Reif, LLCC professor of geology



Teaching geology at LLCC



Photos provided by Samantha Reif from her expeditions

Professor brings epic travel experiences to the classroom

Expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic in the last two years, viewing a third solar eclipse (this time from a boat in the Mediterranean Sea) — Samantha Reif has done it all, and more.

She is a geologist, volcanologist, naturalist and Lincoln Land Community College professor who brings these experiences to her geology classrooms every day. She doesn't need a textbook photo of a volcano, glacier, whale or penguin when teaching about the Earth and its climate. She has photos she's taken herself to share with students.

From the Arctic to the Antarctic

"In 2024, I traveled to the Arctic, starting in Svalbard north of Norway," explains Professor Reif. "I wanted to see these polar regions for myself. I fell in love with that environment, the silence and the peacefulness of it. It was very inspiring and gave me personal perspective I have brought to my classes and talks I give in the community."

Inspired, she now wanted to experience the southernmost and less traveled end of the planet, Antarctica. "The trip changed my life. It changed my teaching," says Reif.

Science beyond the classroom

Her 34-day Antarctica trip this past spring was an expedition cruise. "The goal of the expedition is education and for us to get

off the ship as much as possible. We would get in little motorboats, land on islands where humans have never been and go out in waters where there are penguins, icebergs or whales; you're in it, you're on it, you're touching and smelling it. It is an amazing experience. There are lectures throughout the day and activities. There are also research scientists of all kinds and a lab on board with actual research happening first-hand."

Reif says she would sit down with the two other geologists on board to look over geologic maps and discuss plate tectonics. "The word 'geologist' means to study the Earth, its climate, ocean, weather, glaciers, rocks and volcanoes, so we would share our knowledge and experiences," she explains. Other days she would view items research scientists brought up from the ocean or watch with an ornithologist from the back of the boat as albatross flew by. "The ship also does citizen science. For instance, if we could get a good picture of a whale's fluke (tail), there's a citizen science site where you can post a picture of the fluke from anywhere in the world, and if that whale is in the database, they can see where it's moved."

There was a bit of a scare when boilers on the ship failed, but the crew and passengers bundled up and adjusted while repairs were made.

"We were going into the huts of these polar explorers who were trying to get to the South Pole for the first time; their camps are still there. It was amazing to be in this room where they

lived and worked the last moments before they died. When we lost power, we were in the Bay of Whales, which is where Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian voyager of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration in the early 1900s, had his camp. He camped on the ice, so his camp is gone, because ice moves. The morning that we lost our boilers was also the morning that we made the world record of being the most southerly ship ever."



Other highlights were floating among a pod of whales who were logging (sleeping), with one blue whale going under the boat, and walking near penguins. "We saw some penguins that most people never get to see because they live on one single island in the middle of nowhere."

Bringing a global perspective

She noted the effects of climate change are more apparent in the north than the south. "In the

north it was a lot more obvious because the Arctic Ocean is warming much faster. I have images of fjords that are filled with a glacier, but now the glacier is a mile from where it was, probably within the last 100 years. The Antarctic isn't warming as quickly because it's buffered by a cold ocean."

She said Antarctica is an unusual place because it is not well studied. "It is hard to get there and hard to live there. There are still a lot of unknowns. The maps and information are incomplete and sometimes may be incorrect, because we haven't spent enough time there. Having conversations with other professionals, we discussed there's more work to be done. "It was invigorating to remember that science is new and cool, and new things are happening all the time."

And where to next for Reif? She plans on traveling to Botswana in southern Africa next summer.

"I was born and raised in rural central Illinois but have been all over the world. I tell my students, 'Travel, no matter where you go, to see how people live, to talk to people who live a different life than you live, to eat food that is not the food you eat every day, just to breathe air that is not your air. These are things that change who you are, make you think differently, more globally.'"

llcc.edu/geology



PLAY BONUS VIDEO

llcc.edu/building-careers

Meeting demand, BUILDING CAREERS



To meet the demand for more skilled welders, Lincoln Land Community College has created a new, updated welding lab and doubled the capacity for welding students.

Expanding opportunity

“It’s a massive expansion for us,” says Jon Brandenburg, welding program director at LLCC’s Workforce Institute. “Now we can start more students every fall and spring, and every student gets more square footage to work in. The ventilation system is upgraded, the lights are brighter, just everything about it is better.”

Students can take classes during the day or evening and finish a certificate of achievement in welding in less than a year. The program includes three other specialized certificates, so a graduate leaves with four certificates ready to enter the workforce as a skilled, professional welder.

Dr. Nancy Sweet, dean of the Workforce Institute, says enrollment continues to increase in welding and other workforce

programs. “We see high demand whether it’s in the construction or manufacturing industry from Springfield and our surrounding communities. Employers appreciate our commitment to continually refining our curriculum to make sure it fits their needs.”

Building skills through hands-on learning

Brandenburg says welding appeals to students who like hands-on, creative and detail-oriented work. “If you like working with your hands, building something from scratch and finding creative solutions to challenges, welding can be a great fit. It’s challenging in the most fun way because you see the results of your work immediately. Every weld provides feedback and an opportunity to improve. Our students really thrive in that environment.

“We take a pile of raw material and with creativity and application of our skill, we can create almost anything,” he adds.

The sky is the limit for skilled welders. “Whether you want to work 40 hours a week in a stable job, make good money with



Gabby Behl, LLCC Workforce Institute alumna

opportunities to earn additional income through overtime or the flexibility to travel, welding can provide those options. The skills can be demonstrated through the quality of your work, opening doors wherever you choose to go.”

Recent high honors graduate Gabby Behl is exploring multiple job opportunities. “When I graduated from high school, I knew I wanted to go into the skilled trades profession. I chose LLCC welding because I knew it would be a good career opportunity for me and allow me to learn a specialized skill set.”

She earned certificates in basic multi-practice welding, intermediate and advanced-level welding and shielded metal arc welding. “The LLCC Welding program was helpful in allowing students to learn all the different types of welding and be able to have hands-on opportunities to develop proper welding skills,” she says. “The new welding lab at LLCC will be a great enhancement for students to explore different welding methods and become successful in their welding career paths.”

Creating careers and community pride

Brandenburg says the LLCC welding program offers individualized, coaching-style instruction, with just 16 students per instructor. “That’s a big advantage here at LLCC. You’re developing a relationship that brings a level of familiarity, comfort and safety that students really respond to.”

Instructors in the LLCC Welding program are all professional welders with years of experience in the industry. “The level of professionalism that’s expected here, to be the gold star standard of your trade, is what sets the quality of our education apart,” says Dr. Sweet.

Former LLCC Welding students are invited back anytime they need to brush up on their skills. “Another aspect of the new lab are four welding booths available for former students who want to prepare for a new job or skills test,” adds Brandenburg.

Sweet says welding instills a sense of pride in its skilled practitioners. “For someone who’s been working as a welder in construction a long time, you drive through town, and you can point out building after building that you helped create. You’re part of creating our community from the ground up. That creates a long-term sense of pride for our welding graduates.”

llcc.edu/welding

Truck Driver Training expands to Litchfield



LLCC’s popular Truck Driver Training program will expand to LLCC-Litchfield early next year, thanks to a \$2.6 million grant from the State of Illinois.

Construction on the new training lot west of LLCC-Litchfield is complete and visible from Interstate 55. Plans are to start training in January 2027.

Four-week daytime classes will accommodate three to six students to start, with three students in the six-week night class.

Applications are not yet being accepted, but anyone interested in LLCC Truck Driver Training at the main campus or Litchfield may call Curt Robinson, program director, at 217-786-2565 or email Curt.Robinson@llcc.edu.

llcc.edu/tdt



LLCC-Litchfield



Adventure with purpose

Growing up, Mattie Tierney spent her time hiking trails, ziplining through the trees and embracing the outdoors. So when it came time to choose a career path, climbing electrical poles felt like a natural fit.

“My dad, uncle and other family members are all in the trades,” she says. “I wanted to follow in their footsteps, and the lineman program seemed like a good fit.”

Tierney’s journey began during her senior year of high school when she enrolled in the MC3 construction program at Lincoln Land Community College. The experience opened doors to a spring internship as a lineworker and gave her a firsthand look at the profession, including daily responsibilities, safety expectations and the teamwork required to keep communities connected and powered.

“MC3 gave me the chance to explore a career path early and get real hands-on experience,” she says. “Through that, I was able to intern in the field I was interested in, and it really confirmed that this is what I want to do.”

The hands-on nature of the lineworker program is one of the things she values most. “The program is designed to prepare you for real work in the field,” she explains. “You’re not just sitting in a classroom. You’re climbing poles, working with equipment and learning about safety every step of the way.”

The program challenges students both physically and mentally, but Tierney sees that as one of its greatest strengths. “It’s definitely not an easy program,” she says. “But that’s what makes it so valuable. It prepares you for what the job is actually like.”

She also credits the program’s instructors for helping students succeed. “They push you to be your best while making sure you understand how important safety and teamwork are in this profession.”

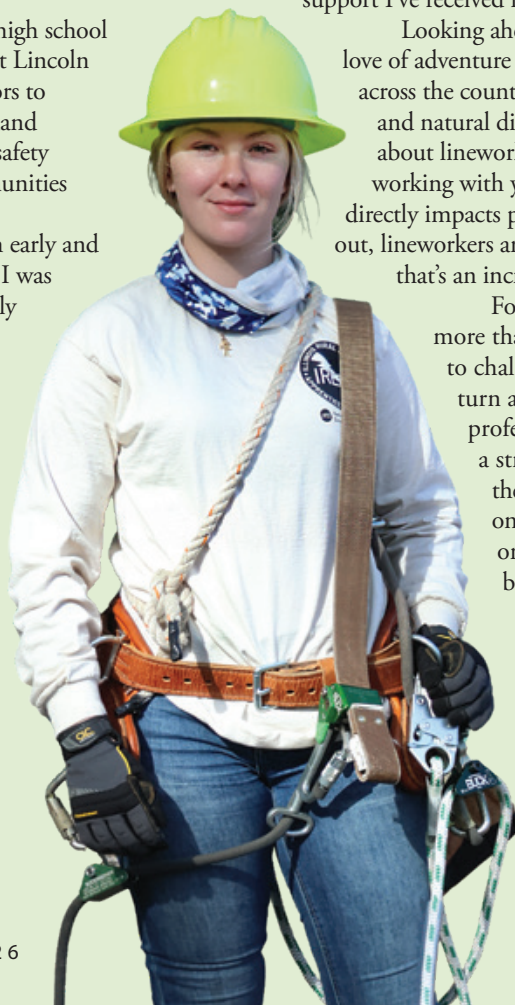
As she pursues a career in a traditionally male-dominated field, Tierney is proud of the example she is setting for others. “Being a woman in this trade is something I’m really proud of,” she says. “It’s not always what people expect, and I think that’s important. I hope it encourages other girls to consider careers like this, too. The support I’ve received in the program has been incredible.”

Looking ahead, Tierney hopes to combine her love of adventure with meaningful work by traveling across the country to help restore power after storms and natural disasters. “That’s what I love most about linework,” she reflects. “You’re outside, working with your team and doing something that directly impacts people’s lives. When the power goes out, lineworkers are the ones who help restore it, and that’s an incredible sense of purpose.”

For Tierney, the path ahead is more than a career. It’s an opportunity to challenge herself, serve others and turn a lifelong love of adventure into a profession that makes a difference. With a strong foundation from LLCC and the confidence gained through hands-on experience, she is prepared to take on the demands of the industry and build a rewarding future.

LLCC offers an electrical distribution lineman certificate of achievement and an associate in applied science.

llcc.edu/linework



Sharing the key to success

In his 36th year of teaching at Lincoln Land Community College, Professor Peter Embalabala is still energized by the “wow” moments when a student suddenly understands a difficult concept and begins to see mathematics in a new way.

As he says, “education is the key to success.” That belief has guided Professor Embalabala to a career in which he helps students build confidence, solve problems and achieve their goals.

Growing up in Kenya, Embalabala developed a love for biology and mathematics in school. After graduating, he hoped to continue his education at a university. Students in Kenya had to earn placement into one of two universities through a competitive examination process. When placement did not happen for him, he accepted a contractual teaching position at the secondary level, working with students ages 14 to 18.

Still, he never abandoned his dream of earning a university degree. To do so, the only path forward was to study abroad, a daunting undertaking that included securing finances, a passport and visa, and planning a journey halfway around the globe.

Embalabala’s determination paid off. He traveled to the United States and earned bachelor’s degrees in both biology and mathematics before going on to complete a master’s degree in mathematics.

In 1991, he joined the LLCC faculty. More than three decades later, he says the college continues to be a special place. “If you’ve been somewhere this long, it means you must be enjoying it,” he says. “LLCC is a great institution with great people.”

What he values most is the opportunity to connect with students and support their growth. Unlike larger institutions, LLCC provides the chance for personal interaction and one-on-one conversations that help students succeed. “You get to see students, get to know them and understand how to help them advance,” he explains.

That sense of connection extends beyond the classroom. Embalabala encourages students to stop by with questions or simply chat. His goal is to create an approachable, comfortable environment



where students do not fear mathematics or feel intimidated asking a professor for help.

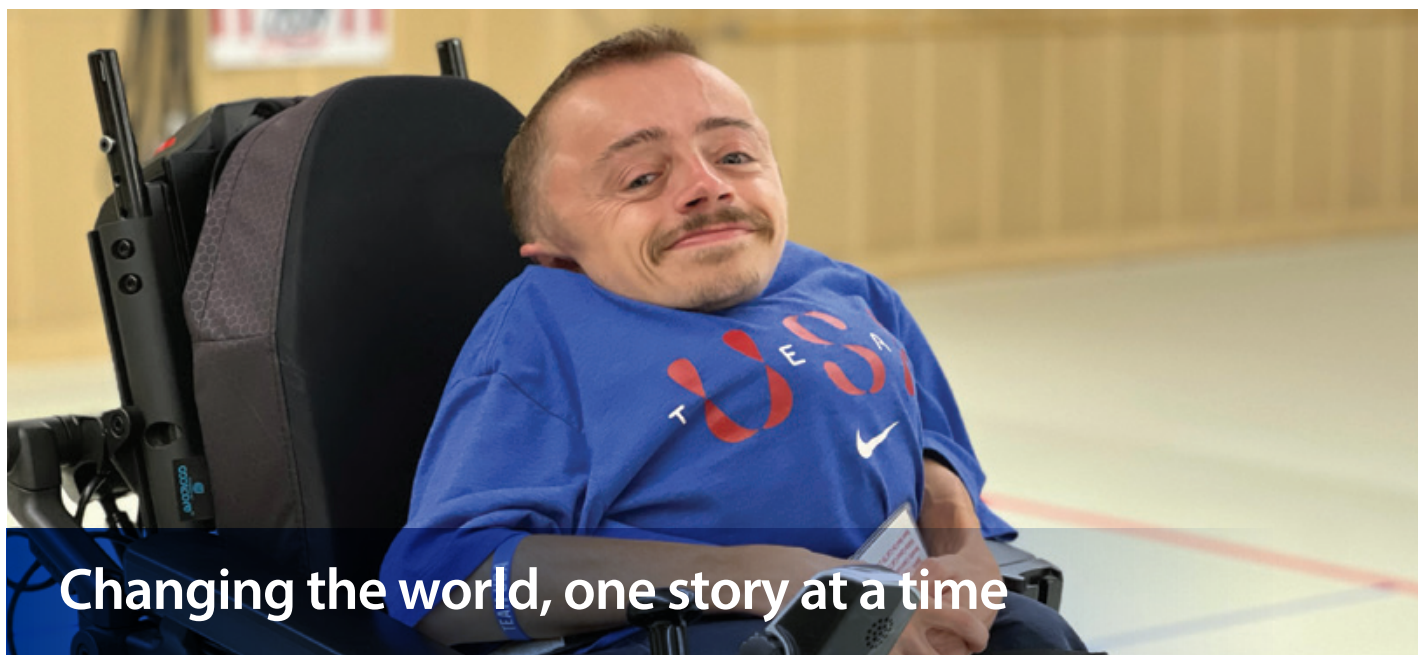
His own family has experienced the benefits of the college. Seven of his children chose to attend LLCC. “They had the best foundation here,” he reflects. “You can go to LLCC and go as far as you want to go.”

He is particularly excited to see students pursuing mathematics and challenging misconceptions about the subject. “Some people think you are born with math skills, but you have to work at it,” he says. “It’s not impossible. Don’t give up. It has to make sense to somebody. Why not you? That’s where you build problem-solving skills. You are improving as you go through, and before you know it, you’re an expert.”

Beyond the classroom, Embalabala continues to champion education in his home country. Teaching at LLCC has strengthened his commitment to mentorship, and over the last five years, he and a group of friends have sponsored 28 students in Kenya.

“Teaching here has helped me mentor others in Kenya,” he says. “We can all look back and see who mentored and motivated us.” Embalabala’s journey reflects the power of education to transform lives. And in his 36 years at LLCC, helping others discover their own potential remains his greatest reward.

llcc.edu/math



Changing the world, one story at a time

When he's not carrying the Olympic Torch, collaborating with Olympic and professional athletes or participating in philanthropic visits to children's hospitals, LLCC Alumnus Ryan Wilson is growing Team Trust Productions, his nationally operating media and marketing company.

Through his work, Wilson has built a reputation for telling authentic stories that highlight excellence, resilience and accessibility in sports.

"One story we did was in Winter Park, Colorado, looking at the trust that exists between a visually impaired skier and their able-bodied guide," he explains. "These skiers go downhill at 60 to 70 miles an hour, and they can't see. They rely solely on the verbal cues from their guide, who is about six feet in front of them. They are not tethered and only communicate from a Bluetooth headset."

The story resonated deeply with Wilson. As a person with a disability, he understands the importance of that trust firsthand.

Born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, commonly known as brittle bone disease, Wilson has experienced more than 60 bone fractures throughout his lifetime. Yet he has never allowed his disability to define his future.

A graduate of Auburn High School and lifelong sports fan, Wilson enrolled in LLCC planning to earn a communication degree and pursue a career as a play-by-play sports announcer. That path took an unexpected turn when he met Paul Povse, professor of journalism.

"Paul was instrumental during my time at LLCC," Wilson says. "He took me under his wing. He taught me how to enjoy reading and writing because he made it fun to learn. He was so passionate. It honestly changed everything for me."

Wilson credits Povse's mentorship for helping him recognize that his lived experiences were not limitations but strengths that could help him connect with others through storytelling.

While he stayed on track with communication, journalism quickly became his passion. Wilson says, "The trajectory is funny because under Povse's tutelage, I went from a person who didn't enjoy writing to the top community college student journalist in Illinois in just one year."

After LLCC, Wilson continued his education at the University of Illinois, earning a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism. There, he expanded his skills into producing and editing documentary films. Upon graduation, he was hired by the Big Ten Network as an editor and producer, and one of the films he worked on went on to win an Emmy Award.

Determined to combine his love of sports and storytelling, Wilson moved to Colorado to be closer to Olympic and Paralympic athletes. He founded Team Trust Productions and also serves as a Tour Ambassador for the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, helping elevate athletes' stories and connect audiences to their experiences. "I'm interviewing some of the best athletes in the world, and I still use the skills I learned at LLCC," Wilson says.

While professional skills have played an important role in his success, Wilson says one of the most valuable lessons he learned at LLCC was confidence in himself and his abilities. "There's going to be rejection," he shares. "But don't give up. That is one of the main lessons I learned at LLCC. I never wanted my disability to define me or my life. I knew I was destined for greatness. I knew I would change the world."

For Wilson, every story is an opportunity to do just that. Through his work, he continues to inspire others, challenge perceptions and create meaningful connections, proving that powerful storytelling can change lives one story at a time.

llcc.edu/communication



Making every student feel welcome

For many students at Lincoln Land Community College, a visit to the LLCC Student Engagement and Wellbeing often includes a warm welcome, an invitation to get involved and maybe even a spontaneous dance break. At the center of that energy is Mion Denton, student engagement coordinator, whose mission is simple: to help every student feel like they belong.

"It's a transitional learning time," Denton says. "Going from high school to college and learning that 'I'm responsible for me' and being able to be out and around different people to engage, connect with and just have a good time."

Denton's passion for student engagement began during her own college experience at Lincoln College, where she immersed herself in campus life. As a student, she served in multiple leadership roles across clubs and organizations; and at the same time, she found a home in the theater program, working behind the scenes and on stage. As a student, she balanced coursework, leadership roles and raising a family, experiences that continue to shape the advice she gives others. She credits those experiences that extended beyond the classroom with shaping her commitment to helping students find their place on campus.

At LLCC, Denton spends her days helping students also connect with opportunities outside the classroom. She works closely with

student workers, plans campus events, supports clubs and organizations and helps students find activities that match their interests.

What motivates her most is watching students grow. "I like to see the progression from a student saying, 'I don't want anything to do with this. I'm just here for my class, and I'm leaving,' to running the event themselves," she says. "They're planning it, they're executing it, they're getting other students to join in."

Creating opportunities for that kind of transformation starts with building an inclusive environment. Denton believes there is no single way a student should look, act or participate to feel welcome on campus.

"It's about creating spaces where there's not a certain mold that you have to fit," she explains. "We're welcoming everybody."

When students seem hesitant to participate, Denton likes to take a personal approach. Rather than waiting for students to come to her, she introduces herself, explains what opportunities are available and lets them know the invitation is always open.

She is particularly excited about the growth of LLCC Student Engagement and Wellbeing. The team supports students as they navigate the transition to college life and build meaningful connections on campus. "Our team is made up of superheroes, and they are amazing at what they do," she says.

"Life is going to happen. I had two kids during school and still was able to overcome things that were challenging for me. Everyone has different challenges they face, but knowing that you can get through that challenge is important because on the other side, you'll be even better than you were before," Denton explains.

These experiences have reinforced her belief that challenges do not define students' futures. The path may look different for everyone, but perseverance, self-belief and a willingness to seek support can make all the difference along the way.

"Don't give up. Don't stop," she says. "If you've got to take a break, take a break; but keep going."

llcc.edu/student-engagement

Mion Denton, student engagement coordinator, and Jordan Matthews, student care coordinator, at the announcer's table during the LLCC Cardboard Boat Regatta



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(More details on pp. 27-30)

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Radiography
Respiratory Care
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Transition to AAS
Surgical Technology

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Construction Technologies
Culinary Manager
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Hospitality Supervisor
HVACR (Heating, Ventilation,
Air Conditioning, Refrigeration)

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Brakes
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First Cook
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217-547-6749, llcc.edu/medical-district

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

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

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

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

Litchfield, 1 Lincoln Land Dr.
217-786-3401, llcc.edu/litchfield

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



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Power Automate: Beyond the Basics
Mon, Oct 19, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Springfield

Unleashing the Power of Adobe Acrobat
Mon-Wed, Oct 19-21, 3-5 p.m., Springfield

Introduction to Power BI
Wed, Oct 21, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Springfield

Microsoft Excel 365 Level 2
Tue, Oct 27, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Litchfield

Microsoft Power Platform Fundamentals
Thu, Nov 5, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Springfield

Microsoft Excel 365 Level 3
Mon, Nov 9, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Springfield

Microsoft Word 365 Level 1
Tue, Nov 10, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Springfield

Microsoft Word 365 Level 2
Tue, Dec 8, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Springfield

AI & EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

Prompting for Better AI Results
Tue, Oct 13, 9 a.m.-noon, Taylorville

Fri, Oct 16, 9 a.m.-noon, Jacksonville

Fri, Oct 30, 9 a.m.-noon, Litchfield

UAS Remote Pilot Test Prep Course
Tue & Thu, Oct 13-22, 5-9:30 p.m., Springfield

From Prompts to Agents: An Introduction to Agentic AI
Wed, Nov 18, 1-4 p.m., Springfield

AI-Enhanced Decision Making: Critical Thinking for Today's Workplace
Wed, Dec 2, 9 a.m.-noon, Springfield

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Supervision Essentials: Managing People and Performance
Mon, Oct 19-Sun, Dec 13, online, self-paced

Change by Design: Putting Change Management at the Decision Table
Thu, Oct 29, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Springfield

WORKPLACE READINESS SKILLS

Handling Conflict and Difficult Conversations at Work
Thu, Oct 22, 9 a.m.-noon, Springfield

Building Resilience, Flexibility and Agility at Work
Wed, Nov 4, 9 a.m.-noon, Springfield

Project Management Foundations
Wed, Nov 11, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Springfield

Communicating Effectively
Thu, Nov 12, 1-4 p.m., Springfield

Advanced Project Management
Wed-Thu, Nov 18-19, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Springfield

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Health care educators are invited to attend this new conference Friday, Nov. 6, at the Northfield Inn, Suites and Conference Center in Springfield. Secondary and post-secondary educators preparing the next generation of health care professionals will gain practical strategies, fresh ideas and valuable professional connections.

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- Improve basic reading, writing, math and tech skills.
- Learn and/or improve English language skills.
- Prepare to earn the State of Illinois High School Equivalency Diploma.
- Receive one-on-one tutoring.
- Get continued support as you progress into workforce and healthcare training or prepare for college.

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

Learn more by calling 217-786-2349 or visiting llcc.edu/adult-ed.



Community Education

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

LLCC offers short, noncredit personal enrichment classes for all ages — perfect for exploring interests and meeting like-minded people. Questions? Email Community.Education@llcc.edu.



Register online at llcc.edu/lifelongfun or call LLCC Registration at 217-786-2292.

ACTIVE/HEALTH & CPR

CPR Training
Thu, Jan 14, 6-10 p.m.

Tue, Feb, 2, 6-10 p.m.

Wed, Feb 17, 6-10 p.m.

Mon, Mar 1, 6-10 p.m.

Thu, Mar 25, 6-10 p.m.

Tue, Apr 6, 6-10 p.m.

Wed, Apr 21, 6-10 p.m.

Mon, May 3, 6-10 p.m.

Thu, May 20, 6-10 p.m.

Rhythm and Groove Line Dance
Mon, Jan 25-Mar 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Zumba
Thu, Jan 28-Mar 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

EXPLORE MORE

Retirement Planning Today
Tue, Jan 19 & 26, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Sat, Jan 23 & 30, 9 a.m.-noon

Ghosts and the Paranormal Level 1
Mon, Apr 5-26, 6-8 p.m.

HOME & GARDEN

Bonsai 101: Beginner Bonsai Workshop
Sat, May 22, 1-4 p.m.

Floral Arrangement in a Vase
Fri, Mar 19, 5-7 p.m.

Advanced Floral Design
Wed, Feb 24-Apr 21, 5-7 p.m.

Seed Starting for Beginners
Sat, Feb 20, 9 a.m.-noon

Home Improvement: Electrical Basics
Sat, Feb 27, 8 a.m.-noon

Home Improvement: Lighting & Fixtures
Sat, Mar 20, 8 a.m.-noon

Home Improvement: Drywall Repair & Painting
Sat, Apr 10, 8 a.m.-noon

Home Improvement: Plumbing How To
Sat, May 22, 8 a.m.-noon

LANGUAGES

Conversational German
Tue, Mar 23-May 11, 5:30-7 p.m.

Conversational Spanish 1
Mon, Jan 25-Mar 22, 7-9 p.m.

Conversational Spanish 2
Tue, Jan 26-Mar 30, 7-9 p.m.

Conversational Spanish 3
Wed, Jan 27-Mar 24, 7-9 p.m.

ASL Level 2
Wed, Jan 27-Apr 28, 6-8 p.m.

Beginning French
Mon, Apr 5-26, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography for Beginners
Tue, Feb 8-Mar 1, 6-8 p.m.

Photoshop
Thu, Feb 11-Mar 4, 6-8 p.m.

Macro Photography
Tue, Apr 13, 6-8 p.m.

TECHNOLOGY

Computer Basics
Thu, Feb 18, 6-8 p.m.

Cybersecurity Basics
Thu, Mar 18, 6-8 p.m.

Email Basics
Thu, Apr 1, 6-8 p.m.

Internet Basics
Thu, Apr 29, 6-8 p.m.

Mobile Devices – Android
Thu, May 6, 6-8 p.m.

Mobile Devices – iPhone
Thu, May 13, 6-8 p.m.



VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Basket Weaving: Straight to the Heart
Sat, Jan 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Basket Weaving: Matilda
Sat, Mar 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Basket Weaving: Whimsey
Sat, Apr 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Basket Weaving: Porch Basket
Sat, May 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Basket Weaving: Country Catch All
Sat, Jun 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Choir
Mon, Wed & Fri, Jan 11-May 7, 1-1:50 p.m.

Jazz Band
Tue & Thu, Jan 11-May 7, 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Watercolor Collage
Wed, Feb 24 & Mar 3, 5-7 p.m.

Candy Bar Watercolor
Wed, Apr 21, 5-7 p.m.

Watercolor Meditation
Sat, May 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Fused Glass Enamel Dragonfly Panel
Sat, Feb 13, 9 a.m.-noon

Ceramic Painting: Serving Platter, Strawberry Design
Thu, Mar 4, 6-8:30 p.m.

Stained Glass: Geometric Sun Catcher
Thu, Apr 29, 6-8:30 p.m.



CULINARY OFFERINGS

Join us for fun, educational, non-credit culinary experiences! Local chefs and food experts share their knowledge on a variety of topics and experiences. These include hands-on enrichment classes, demonstrations, dinners, special nights out and youth programs.

Register early as many classes fill quickly! Visit lcc.edu/culinary-offerings for more details and updates.

HANDS-ON COOKING

Ages 19 & up

Soup's On

Thu, Jan 21, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Spices 101

Fri, Jan 22, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Sourdough Pizza and Calzones

Sat, Jan 23, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

East Coast Favorites

Thu, Jan 28, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Cooking With Honey

Thu, Feb 4, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Freezer Meals

Thu, Feb 18, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Knife Skills and Care

Thu, Feb 25, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Beyond Hummus

Thu, Mar 4, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

A Modern Take on Three Southern Indian Classics

Thu, Mar 18, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Small Batch, Big Flavor: Comfort Foods Edition

Thu, Mar 25, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Flavors of Szechuan

Thu, Apr 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Hooked on Salmon

Thu, Apr 8, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Cooking With Cast-Iron

Thu, Apr 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m.



lcc.edu/culinary-classes



YOUNG CHEFS

Soups (Parent & Me)

Sat, Jan 30, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Pop-Tart Creations

Sat, Feb 27, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Pizza Party

Sat, Mar 27, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Taco Takeover!

Sat, May 1, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Cupcake Flowers for Mom

Sat, May 8, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

DINNERS AT BISTRO VERDE

Visit lcc.edu/culinary-offerings for dinner information and to register.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Give your kids a spring full of discovery and fun! Our spring programs offer the perfect blend of hands-on learning, new experiences and exciting adventures.

GRADES 1-3

Snow Much Fun:

Stories, Sounds and Winter Wonders

Sat, Jan 16 & 23, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

I Am an Artist!

Sat, Jan 16 & 23, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Storybook Chefs! Read, Cook, Create!

Sat, Jan 23, Feb 20, Mar 20 & Apr 24, 9 a.m.-noon

The Ultimate Game Zone!

Sat, Jan 30 & Feb 27, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Storybook Adventures: Friendship, Fun and Fantastic Readers

Sat, Feb 6, 13 & 20, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Creative Discoveries: Art All Around Us

Sat, Feb 6, 13 & 20, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Lego Builder's Club

Sat, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 17 & May 15, noon-2:30 p.m.

Engaging Readers:

Where Stories Come to Life

Sat, Mar 20, Mar 27 & Apr 3, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Art and the Amazing World of Color

Sat, Mar 20, Mar 27 & Apr 3, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Model Aircraft Engineers: Design, Build & Fly

Sat, Apr 3 & 10, 9 a.m.-noon

Engaging Readers: Exploring Stories, Lessons and Imagination

Sat, Apr 10, 17 & 24, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Art and Imagination in Action

Sat, Apr 10, 17 & 24, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Engaging Readers: Adventures, Friendship and Discovering New Worlds

Sat, May 1, 8 & 15, 9:30-11:30 a.m.



lcc.edu/youth-classes



GRADES 4-6

Science STEAM:

Getting Messy With Mixers

Sat, Jan 16 & 23, 3-4:30 p.m.

Speedometry

Sat, Jan 16, Jan 30 & Feb 13, 9 a.m.-noon

Game Quest: Play, Learn, Invent

Sat, Jan 30 & Feb 27, 12:30-2 p.m.

Science STEAM:

Mixing, Creating and Discovering

Sat, Feb 6, 13 & 20, 3-4:30 p.m.

Lego Engineers Club

Sat, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 17 & May 15, 9-11:30 a.m.

Science STEAM:

Mixing, Exploring and Experimenting

Sat, Mar 20, Mar 27 & Apr 3, 3-4:30 p.m.

Creative Creations: Math in Art

Sat, Apr 3, 9 a.m.-noon

Astrology for Kids:

Discover Your Star Story

Sat, Apr 3 & 10, 1-4 p.m.

Science STEAM: Messy Science in Action

Sat, Apr 10, 17 & 24, 3-4:30 p.m.

Science STEAM:

Let's Get Messy and Create

Sat, May 1, 8 & 15, 3-4:30 p.m.

GRADES 6-8

Black Rocket: Code Breakers

Sat, Jan 16, Feb 13, Mar 20 & Apr 17, 1-4 p.m.

Black Rocket: Young Coders

Sat, Jan 16, Feb. 13, Mar 20 & Apr 17, 9 a.m.-noon

Dungeon and Dragons

Sat, Jan 16, Feb 13, Mar 20 & Apr 24, 1-4 p.m.

Black Rocket: Minecraft Designers

Sat, Jan 16, 23, 30 & Feb 6, 1-4 p.m.

Scratch Coding 101

Sat, Jan 23, Feb 27, Mar 27 & Apr 24, 9 a.m.-noon

Black Rocket: Cyber Spies

Sat, Feb 6, 13, 20 & 27, 9 a.m.-noon

Black Rocket: Roblox Makers

Sat, Feb 13 & 27, Mar 27 & Apr 24, 1-4 p.m.

Black Rocket: Make Your First Video Game

Sat, Mar 20 & 27, Apr 3 & 10, 9 a.m.-noon

Draw, Design, Discover: Math in Art

Sat. Apr 3, 1-4 p.m.

Black Rocket: Make Your First 3D Video Game

Sat, Apr 17 & 24, May 1 & 8, 9 a.m.-noon

Creative Recycling: Magazine Bowl Workshop

Sat. Apr 24, 9 a.m.-noon

Power Up! Snap Circuit Lab

Sat, Apr 24, May 1 & 8, 9 a.m.-noon

Girls in Automotive Repair

Sat, May 1 & 8, 9 a.m.-noon

Intro to Automotive Repair

Sat, May 1 & 8, 1-4 p.m.



GRADES 10-12

ACT Test Prep Seminar

Wed, Jan 27; Feb 3, 10, 17 & 24, 6-8:30 p.m.

ACT Test Prep Seminar

Sat, Jan 30; Feb 6, 13, 20 & 27, 9-11:30 a.m.



Welcome week

Registration for spring begins Oct. 15; classes begin Jan. 11 – [llcc.edu/spring-classes](https://lcc.edu/spring-classes)

Apply for 2027-28 Foundation scholarships Nov. 15-Feb. 15 – lccfoundation.org/scholarships

Campus Visit Day for prospective students and families – Feb. 15 – [llcc.edu/campus-visit-day](https://lcc.edu/campus-visit-day)

Registration for summer begins Feb. 17 – www.llcc.edu/summer-classes

llcc.edu

