PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Welcome to the new look of our popular college magazine, FORWARD! We’ve added new sections and more stories to help you get to know your community college better. As our students continually inspire me, I hope their stories of resilience inspire you. It’s been a tough two years, with community college students persevering through unique challenges. LLCC as a college also persevered and provided new opportunities to students to see them through. We have emerged a stronger and even more energized institution. We keep moving forward because our students and communities depend on us.

Our new strategic plan provides inspiration as we continue to evolve as an institution. You can read our revised mission statement to the left. We’ve also updated our college vision and values.

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

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

Our core values are:

- Diversity & Equity
- Affordability
- Collaboration
- Teaching & Learning
- Agility
- Integrity

These words describe who we are and how we will work to continually progress on behalf of students. If they inspire you to want to join us, we’d love to help you achieve COLLEGE SUCCESS.

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

Inside

Latest@LLCC
See what’s “in the news” at the college.

Resilience
Two LLCC students won $10,000 scholarships for telling their stories of persistence with LLCC’s support.

Meet Linc!
LLCC’s first official mascot, the Loggers’ #1 fan, debuted at homecoming.

FORWARD MAGAZINE
Volume XXXII, April 2022; Produced by LLCC Public Relations and Marketing. Editor: Lynn Whalen. Contributing writers: Kyla Kruse, Caitlin Perry. Designer: Greg Walbert

On the cover: LLCC student Tamera Maniece, political science major

MISSION

Board of Trustees
Ken Gillmore, Chair
Waggoner District 7
Gordon Gates
Vice Chair
Springfield District 3
Samantha Raymond
Secretary
Springfield District 1
Vicki Davis, Ed.D.
Riverport District 2
Jeff Fulgenzi
Sherman
District 5
Mark Holaway
Jacksonville
District 6
Wayne Rosenthal
Alton/Altonville
District 4
Meghan Hadden
Student Trustee

Lincoln Land Community College
The mission of Lincoln Land Community College is to transform lives and strengthen our communities through learning.
Nursing students speak at press event
LLCC nursing students Luke Ridge and Lisa Robison-Carter spoke at a press event Feb. 16 when Gov. J.B. Pritzker visited the LLCC Nursing Education Center to highlight his proposals to increase MAP grants and provide $25 million to assist community college health care students. Ridge said he was inspired to become a nurse after witnessing the compassionate care his father received in the ICU, as well as the care he received himself as a two-time cancer survivor. Robison-Carter spoke on being able to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse at the age of 46 due to the MAP grants she received. Other speakers included LLCC President Charlotte Warren, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, Sen. Doris Turner and Rep. Sue Scherer.

Professor Tameka Johnson-Tillman honored with national faculty award
Tameka Johnson-Tillman, professor of English, is the recipient of the 2022 Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Recognition from the American Association of Community Colleges. Honored for making a difference in the classroom, Johnson-Tillman demonstrates a passion for and willingness to support students and goes above and beyond what is required to ensure that students are successful.

Students build projects for animal shelter
Students in the fall Structural Carpentry Concepts class at LLCC-Taylorville donated their final class projects — doghouses and cat perches — to Christian County Animal Control. Next up: the class is planning construction projects with the Christian County Historical Society.

LLCC launches new website
LLCC’s new mobile first, ADA compliant website launched in late 2021. The website features the latest web design and architecture and can even be translated into five languages other than English. www.llcc.edu

Livestock judging team excels at national competition
LLCC’s livestock judging team traveled to Denver, Colo., to compete in the 2022 National Western Stock Show, earning second place in team sheep and goats and eighth place overall, with several individuals placing in the top 10 in their competitions.

Workforce Equity Initiative awarded $1.2 million
LLCC’s Workforce Equity Initiative was awarded $1.2 million to operate the third year of the life-changing program. Individuals from underrepresented groups are eligible to receive free training and other supports so they can successfully complete short-term programs leading to high-wage careers.

Beautiful campus leads to anonymous donation
A couple who regularly walk through the LLCC campus and appreciate its beauty made an anonymous and generous gift to the LLCC Foundation, specifying that it be used to treat LLCC facilities staff to a nice dinner. Day and evening facilities staff were surprised and delighted with the recognition. They hope the couple reads this, and send their thanks for recognizing their hard work!
Linemen students get a national audience
LLCC linemen students were featured in Community College Journal, the bimonthly magazine of the American Association of Community Colleges. The caption reads: “The electrical distribution lineman program at Lincoln Land Community College helps get careers off the ground.” www.ccjournal-digital.com/ccjournal/dec_january_2022

Business students face the “sharks”
Students in the Introduction to Business class impressed a panel of local business leaders in a “Shark Tank”-type exercise. Four teams of students pitched ideas, presented financial plans and sought investment from the “sharks” for their unique businesses. The panel of Lisa Shafer, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce; Todd Weir, INB; Drew Kenny, The Real Estate Group; and Adrienne and Brian Murphy, Vancil-Murphy Funeral Home, asked tough questions and evaluated the viability of the business plans.

Bird research continues at LLCC
Bluebird houses dot the LLCC campus and have attracted more of that species. LLCC recently completed its 18th bird banding season, banding 1,863 birds of 77 species. Two interesting recaptures were a Blue Jay and Tufted Titmouse originally banded in 2015 and 2016. Biology students assist each banding season, held in the fall and spring.

Art student wins statewide contest
Wilma Wofford, LLCC art student, was recently selected as the winner of AARP’s Illinois Disrupt Disparities Art Contest. She credits her LLCC art professors. The article from the AARP website states: “Wofford didn’t start making art until after she retired and enrolled in art courses at Lincoln Land Community College, and she says she owes her success to her talented instructors. ‘I got started a bit late, so now I just want to make all the art I can make while I’m on this Earth.’”

Radiography students volunteer at HSHS Medical Outreach
LLCC’s Student Radiographer Association volunteered at HSHS Mission Outreach, a medical surplus recovery organization that repairs and distributes medical supplies and equipment to hospitals and clinics around the world. The students sorted through five pallets stacked high with boxes. Participants called it “gratifying work that made a difference.”

Summer Boost is back!
LLCC will again host a free summer program to help first-time collegenoers boost their writing, math and study skills to prepare for fall classes. Summer Boost will be offered Mondays-Thursdays, July 18-Aug. 4. Books, supplies and T-shirts will be provided at no charge, along with free lunch for students who attend morning and afternoon sessions. More information and registration: www.llcc.edu/boost

PTK sponsors organ donor event
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society held an all-day organ donor registration drive in conjunction with the Secretary of State’s Life Goes On project, culminating in a presentation featuring a living donor and the parents of an organ donor. PTK also collaborated with LLCC Student Life on Operation Full Belly to collect many food donations for the LLCC Food Pantry.
RESILIENCE
How two students won $10,000 scholarships for their stories of persistence

Olivia Pate and Carrie Brazil, like most LLCC students, have faced challenges and hardships over the past two years as they worked to further their education.

When they learned that Molina Healthcare was offering several $10,000 scholarships to fully vaccinated college students with financial need, based on their creative responses to how they adapted during the pandemic, they decided to tell their stories.

"Adapting during the pandemic was just as confusing for me as it was for everyone. It made me anxious, worried and overwhelmed 99% of the time," said Olivia Pate, 28, mother of eight-year-old Jazmyn. "Given the opportunity to do LLCC online classes gave me the chance to still continue to work, go to school, further my career and parent my child."

Months before the pandemic began, Olivia, a certified medical assistant, was adapting to becoming a single mom. "In July of 2019, we lost Jazmyn’s father in a motorcycle accident. We have been adapting to a new way of life since that date. After the passing of her father, I knew I had to go back to school to continue in the health care field to hopefully become a registered nurse, to make the best life for my daughter. I want to teach her that in life, adapting is key. I want to show her that hard work pays off, and that it’s worth the stress."

Olivia recalls her daughter’s reaction when she considered quitting school. "She looked at me with a puzzled look and said, ‘No, why would you stop now, when you have gotten this far? That would be a waste, Mom.’ That made me realize, I’m passing my classes, working my job and taking care of myself and a child alone. I’m actually thriving. How could I stop with little eyes encouraging me to continue? I have to be the best example for her and show her not to give up when times get hard."

Olivia is currently taking a CNA course at LLCC-Jacksonville after completing several other required courses to be considered for the nursing program. She plans to enter LLCC’s licensed practical nurse program and eventually bridge over to the R.N. program.

"The LLCC Center for Academic Success was a lot of help for me with virtual appointments. I think the online opportunities helped me follow through with going back to school. Balancing life, school and family is stressful but also rewarding. When I won this scholarship, I cried happy tears!"

Carrie Brazil says she’s on the go from early to late. A single mother with teenagers at home, she works as a CNA in a long-term care facility in Jacksonville and also attends LLCC. Like Olivia, her eventual goal is to become a registered nurse.

Carrie is currently in her second semester at LLCC, taking sociology and psychology classes online. She earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average in the fall and appreciates the support she has received.

"LLCC has been helpful with all areas where I needed assistance and help with planning. The online classes fit my schedule, and my education is advancing my career goals. It helps to be able to be home with my kids if they have to quarantine or their school goes to remote learning."

Carrie struggled with loss just prior to the pandemic. "My mom passed the month before we were all shut down. She was the glue that kept all of us together."

"Before the pandemic, my family was very busy and never home. We went from one sport to the next with no breaks in between. So when COVID-19 hit and we were forced to stay home, we had to adapt quite a bit. In the quarantine, we had to make three meals a day, every day. Another thing was we started taking two mile walks when we finished online school. We found things to do together and spent more quality time with each other."

She says she was "beyond ecstatic" to learn she was awarded the $10,000 scholarship, which she will apply to her education at LLCC. She says she learned an important lesson over the past two years.

"If anything has come out of the pandemic, I learned it is not about me. It is about other people."

As of Dec. 31, 2021, LLCC had distributed federal funds to 9,011 students to assist them during the pandemic in paying for school, food, housing, transportation, health and child care. The LLCC Foundation also distributed almost $93,000 in emergency fund assistance to students during the pandemic.
LLCC’s new mascot debuted at homecoming Feb. 12 and is now seen around campus at student life activities, and athletic and recruitment events. Linc will be out in the community soon!

Linc is proud to support the Loggers! How did Linc come to LLCC and become its No. 1 fan?

The story starts just a short time ago. Linc had been spending a lot of time at home, thinking about the future, trying to figure out the right direction to take. Linc needed a change, to get out and explore. And, like a lot of students, it all started with one question, one curiosity. Linc wondered what the local community college might have to offer and came to campus to look around.

Talk about mind blown! Linc couldn’t believe there was so much to do and see!

Linc started in A. Lincoln Commons, where there were student activities going on, and instantly felt at home. Linc then ran over to the Workforce Careers Center and tried out training programs like welding and HVAC, even climbed into a big rig in truck driver training and, you guessed it, pulled the horn. Then Linc smelled fresh bread, followed the scent to Bistro Verde, the student-led restaurant, and tried a little bit of everything, giving it all a No. 1 rating.

Next, Linc headed over to the Kreher Agriculture Center to learn how to drive a combine and stopped to pet the sheep in the animal science lab. Still exploring, Linc traveled to Menard and Sangamon halls and dropped in on choir practice, painted a self-portrait in art class and visited a biology lab testing DNA. (We’re still waiting for Linc’s results.)

Finally, Linc visited the new Nursing Education Center and couldn’t believe the students were learning and practicing in rooms that looked like an actual hospital!

So excited by all of the educational opportunities at LLCC, Linc realized you don’t have to study just one thing. There’s more than one direction to take, and LLCC is one college that has something for everyone – traditional degrees, training for hands-on careers, career advancements, personal development and more!

Linc immediately enrolled and that very night attended a Loggers basketball game. The excitement Linc felt about the college could no longer be contained. Linc decided to share the fun and excitement of being a Logger with everyone. Linc is now officially the Loggers’ No. 1 fan and will attend many games and activities. You’re sure to see Linc around campus, at LLCC Outreach Centers and in the community. Be sure to say hello and take a selfie with Linc!

Requests for Linc to visit your activity may be made by emailing StudentLife@llcc.edu.

#LincAtLLCC #GoLoggers www.llcc.edu/meet-linc
Hot Jobs and Training

The market for job seekers is hot! Local businesses have job opportunities but are having difficulty finding qualified applicants. These conditions make now a great time to prepare and position yourself for a new career.

“It’s worthwhile to think long term and invest in getting valuable skills that will make you more marketable and increase your earning power in the long run,” says Josh Collins, assistant vice president, business relations.

LLCC offers training for high demand areas such as health care, information technology (IT), ag, truck driving, lineman, electrical maintenance and HVAC.

Connect with future employees
josh.collins@llcc.edu
217-786-2346

Learn on the job
brenda.elliott@llcc.edu
217-786-2326

Train current employees
paula.luebbert@llcc.edu
217-786-1086

Learn on the job

At LLCC, you can get training at the college and on the job. The LLCC Office of Work-Based Learning establishes partnerships with local businesses who have IT opportunities and connects them with students who have a foundation in the field.

“It’s important to us to keep our students local and keep them loyal,” says Brenda Elliott, director, work-based learning. “We are a pipeline between businesses that have open positions and students studying IT. Every partnership is different and tailored to the tasks and skills of the job.”

LLCC student Robert White is making the most of one such opportunity — taking classes in computer science while also working as an IT generalist for Systemax in Springfield where he used to clean offices.

White first came to LLCC in 2013 when he enrolled in the certified production technician program through the Workforce Institute. He earned a certificate and began work at Reynolds Consumer Products in Jacksonville. Unfortunately, due to a hip injury that required surgery, he could no longer continue his work there.

But an injury did not keep White from moving forward. In 2018, he decided to return to LLCC and study for a career in IT. During this time, he was working for Clean Impact, a company that cleans offices, including those of Systemax.

When Systemax contacted Clean Impact as a reference, White received a glowing review — particularly on his performance and determination. “I continued to work even though in pain,” reflects White. “I just kept taking classes and studying until this opportunity came about.”

“The partnership with Systemax allows Robert to begin his career while working to complete a degree in computer science. It’s the right mixture of education and on-the-job training with a mentor to enhance his education and comfortably onboard him into his new position,” explains Elliott.

Train current employees

LLCC also has courses and customized training options that can help current employees upskill and advance within their organizations.

This past summer and fall, LLCC provided customized trainings for local businesses at LLCC-Litchfield. The college worked with local manufacturer Dometic to provide Excel training and with Litchfield National Bank for Microsoft Teams training. The sessions are led by an expert instructor and tailored to the business’s needs and employee goals.

“The Microsoft Teams training evening customized by LLCC for LNB was tremendous,” said Mike Fleming, CEO of LNB. “Our folks learned a lot quickly that will allow them to do their jobs better ... I found real value in the fact that it was cost effective, and that high-quality education is available locally.”

LLCC can customize training programs for businesses based on their specific needs — including hazardous materials, maintenance/field tech, Microsoft applications, customer service, leadership and much more.
On average, students who transfer from a community college do as well or better at their four-year institution than students who started there as freshmen.

While gen eds provide the foundation, higher level classes in a major are more specialized. “They are more content focused, while gen eds are often more about concepts,” explains Alex Berry, director, student success.

“Gen eds give you the opportunity to do and learn about things you’re interested in that you might not experience otherwise. It’s your education. Be a little selfish with it. Take the opportunity to select courses that complement or enhance what you’re wanting to do. It’s also a great time to get outside of your comfort zone and learn something new. Exercise a different part of the brain.”

Gen eds also serve to help you prepare for future employment. In addition to specialized knowledge and abilities, employers are looking for a broader set of skills that include communication (verbal and written), teamwork, problem solving and critical thinking.

“In surveys of employers, communication is consistently at the top of skill sets they are looking for,” says Berry. “Gen ed courses help students learn these concepts and apply them to various situations. In an English class you will refine writing skills and learn about sources, formulate ideas and present evidence-based reasons. In math, you are working through problems to get an answer. In social sciences, you learn about people and working with people. These are larger concepts that you can take with you and are applicable to any job.”

General education classes, or gen eds, are the first part — the foundation — in earning a bachelor’s degree. They include courses in:

• Social sciences
• Communications
• Fine arts
• Humanities
• Science
• Math

Best Value
In addition to a solid foundation, those who take gen eds at LLCC are getting great value — in low cost, high-quality classes. Cost savings alone can range from almost $6,000-$35,000 a year when compared to online, public and private university options in the state.

LLCC offers small class sizes, wraparound support services, faculty focused on teaching, and energized learning strategies.

Classes can be taken in person or online. The college has provided affordable, high-quality courses online since 1997. “You have options at LLCC, and you can choose what’s best for you,” says Berry.

“For those still deciding on a major, taking gen ed classes allows you to explore different academic areas. Doing so at LLCC provides the best value.”

Transfer
LLCC has many courses designed for transfer. “When you know what university you want to transfer to, meet with one of our success coaches. We’ll help optimize class selections to meet the requirements of that university,” says Berry. “If already at another institution, you can pick up a few of these courses online or in-person over the summer.”

Whether earning an associate degree or taking a class or two, LLCC can help you get ahead in preparation and savings.
Get your motor running

**LLCC to fill workforce need with new diesel technologies program**

When it comes to diesel technologies, Jeff Gardner knows his way around an engine and a classroom. Gardner recently began as LLCC’s program director of diesel technologies, bringing 23 years of teaching experience to the college.

“I also worked as a service technician, so I have over a decade of hands-on experience,” says Gardner. LLCC’s new diesel technologies program will launch in the fall of 2023 and offer a two-year associate in applied science degree. The program will prepare students to become service technicians in three main industries: agriculture, construction and highway truck/transportation.

“There’s a big demand for diesel workers. With workers retiring, LLCC will be training the next generation of diesel technicians,” says Gardner. Diesel technicians earn between $46,000-$60,000 a year, and employers are facing a shortage of skilled workers.

Roland Machinery Co. is headquartered in Springfield, with 17 locations in five states. Dan Smith, vice president of product support, says the company consistently has openings for diesel technicians at every location.

“It’s been increasingly difficult to find good, qualified technicians,” said Smith. “If you’re a good technician, you’re employed. The need for heavy equipment technicians will continue to grow over the years.”

Rush Truck Centers is one of several industries looking for entry-level technicians to hire and train.

“Trucking is the backbone of this country,” says Jason Courville, general manager. “The demand for technicians is increasing at a higher rate than those entering this field, making it the ideal time to join the industry.”

“Technicians are extremely vital to our business,” says Brian Sims, aftermarket manager at Sloan Implement, which provides parts and services for ag manufacturers. “We are constantly working to get students interested in agricultural mechanics.”

Students will develop the skills needed for a job through a combination of hands-on learning and classroom instruction. Classes will cover diesel engines, hydraulics and electronic systems. In the second year of the program, students will have two paid, eight-week internships at local repair shops.

“Diesel machinery is critical to our way of life. The food we eat, the buildings we work in, the furniture we sit on, everything around us was impacted by some sort of diesel machine,” says Gardner. Students interested in the diesel technologies program can email jeffrey.gardner@llcc.edu.

**Automotive technology**

LLCC automotive technology graduate John Wyness knew he wanted to work with his hands.

“I took career training classes before, and I knew I liked mechanical work,” Wyness said. “I heard LLCC’s auto program was really good, so I got started and earned an associate in applied science in auto technology.”

In addition to a two-year degree, LLCC offers short-term auto tech certificate programs in auto heating and air conditioning, brakes, steering and alignment, tire service and suspension systems, and automotive technician. These stackable certificates successfully equip students for a career in the automotive industry.

“LLCC is a good place to get started if you want to work in the auto industry. There’s a lot of hands-on work, and the instructors are great. They really motivate and push you to do your best,” Wyness said.

One of Wyness’ instructors was Brian Earley. You can find Earley working side-by-side students in the shop showing them how to successfully troubleshoot issues.

“Our students get quality hands-on training that allows them to explore what it’s like to work on cars, trucks and SUVs. Students can quickly develop the skills they need to get a job,” Earley says.

LLCC continues to work with local employers, training students to meet area industry workforce needs. In August 2021, the Workforce Institute partnered with Green Family Stores and Landmark Ford for the Ford Automotive Career Exploration (ACE) program. As part of the partnership, LLCC students will benefit from class presentations, Ford technician training courses, paid internships and part-time jobs leading to full-time careers.

www.llcc.edu/automotive-technology
“The term Emergency Medical Services (EMS) includes all the personnel who take care of patients in first responder capacities or the prehospital setting,” says Christopher McDowell, M.D., associate professor and chair of emergency medicine, SIU School of Medicine. “These first responders and their lifesaving patient care skills are an essential part of emergency care for any community.”

Erica Bunch and Austin Bell are two graduates of LLCC’s EMS program who worked in the field and are now utilizing those skills in other, related health care fields.

Bunch graduated as an EMT but was too young at the time to work for an ambulance company. “So I worked as a tech in the ER at HSHS St. John’s. ER techs have an expanded scope of what we can do: we receive patients from ambulances, take vitals, work in the trauma bay, do EKGs, cast splints on people and attend to psychiatric patients. During that three-year experience, I worked around nurses and decided to pursue that field. It definitely has helped to have my emergency medical skills as I progress through the nursing program.”

After turning 21, Bunch also worked part time on an ambulance crew. “When you’re training for your EMT, you learn to think on your feet. No day on the job is the same, and you’re applying the knowledge you gained every day. Helping people in their time of need, on the worst day of their lives, is a regular day for you. You have to thrive in high stress situations.”

“Dr. McDowell explains, ‘EMS providers provide lifesaving care in very difficult circumstances. They stabilize patients by making quick decisions to ensure patients arrive at the hospital already being treated. Imagine diagnosing a heart attack, treating an allergic reaction or stabilizing a severely injured motor vehicle collision victim. These are just some of the amazing things our EMS providers do every day. EMS is a truly fulfilling career where no two days are ever alike.’

“Obtaining certification as an EMS provider is a great way to gain health care experience while serving the community and earning a living. EMS providers often continue to develop their careers by entering other disciplines such as fire service, nursing, flight medicine or even medical school.”

LLCC’s EMS training programs range from 16 weeks for emergency medical technician and emergency medical responder, to two years for an associate in applied science degree in emergency medical services. Advanced EMT takes 24 weeks to complete, and Paramedic, 11 months.
Help desk professionals

A quick path to an IT job

You probably know the feeling — you’re working on your computer and something happens. The screen goes black. Your keyboard stops responding. A program freezes and won’t reboot. Frustration and panic set in … what do you do?

Enter the help desk professional. For those times when computer technology doesn’t function correctly, help desk technicians step in and provide support over the phone, in person and remotely. This position provides vital support to businesses, schools and organizations.

At LLCC, students are equipped with the skills they need to begin as a help desk technician in as little as one year. With the help desk certificate, students only take courses that are needed to be successful in the field. Topics include troubleshooting, customer service, networking fundamentals, operating systems, system administration and security.

“The help desk certificate gives you a taste of everything — hardware, software, soft skills and user support,” says Lucinda Caughey, assistant professor of computer science.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 70,400 job openings for help desk technicians are projected each year through 2030, with a median annual salary of $55,510.

“Our program is designed to prepare a student to move into a job right away. We see our students successfully find IT jobs locally,” says Caughey. “This is a good path to take to land a state job.”

A common misconception about technology programs is that you already need to be an expert to get started, but “all you need is an interest in learning and a basic understanding of how to use a computer, and you can be successful,” says Caughey. “The help desk certificate is the most beginner-friendly option. You can quickly get into the IT field and work your way up the ladder.”

LLCC computer science student Seth Tavernor says the help desk certificate is a solid first step toward advancing in the IT field.

“After earning my [help desk] certificate, I plan to take the CISCO Network Administrator Training offered at LLCC,” says Tavernor. “Both are excellent certifications for future employers to see on a resume.”

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 70,400 job openings for help desk technicians are projected each year through 2030, with a median annual salary of $55,510.

“Both are excellent certifications for future employers to see on a resume.”

LLCC also offers an associate in arts in computer science, an associate in applied science in computer systems, and certificates in computer science and cybersecurity. Students can earn a certificate, secure a job and return to LLCC to upskill or earn additional credentials.

Whether you’re new to IT, looking for additional training or just want to try something different, working as a help desk technician can be rewarding.

“There’s a certain type of satisfaction when you finally solve a problem, and being able to solve that problem by telling a computer what to do is the best,” says Tavernor.
Seeing what’s inside

Andrew Harmon

“IT BEGAN WITH WANTING TO GIVE BACK AND HELP PEOPLE,” SAYS ANDREW HARMON, LLCC INSTRUCTOR OF RADIOGRAFHY. AND HE HAS DONE JUST THAT — HELPING PATIENTS, COLLEAGUES AND NOW STUDENTS.

But radiography was not a career he always had his sights set on. Right after graduating high school, Harmon went to college to earn a bachelor’s degree in political science. While taking different introductory level courses, he discovered a passion for anatomy and anthropology — specifically, the study of bones.

So later in his 20s, he changed course and decided to pursue this interest by earning an associate degree in radiography from LLCC. He worked as a radiologic technologist at Springfield Memorial Hospital, helping patients by taking quality X-ray images to aid in the diagnosis of an injury or ailment.

He went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in radiologic science from the University of Wisconsin and advanced to work in radiologic quality management, ensuring equipment was working correctly and safely, and helping technologists improve positioning skills.

“I found I really enjoyed explaining processes that helped lead to better understanding. It got me thinking about what more I could do to pass that on.” He then became an instructor for LLCC’s radiograph program in 2018. He now shares his on-the-job experiences and insights with students to help them prepare for their careers.

“I look at it from the student point of view, from where they’re starting, to help them build a foundation in radiography and then expand on that,” he says.

At LLCC, radiography students get hands-on skill practice through position labs and clinicals. Harmon also offers interactive learning experiences in his classroom — including Kahoot quizzes, team Jeopardy challenges, match games and even a stomach simulation with the creative use of a zip-top bag and syrup.

“I always try to break up lecture and have an activity that reinforces the material covered. I’m a visual, hands-on type person, and those are ways of learning that students seem to enjoy. “In radiography, we have to be adaptive. Every day is different,” adds Harmon. “And ultimately everything we’re doing always circles back to patients and how we can help them.”

Radiography graduates are entering an in-demand field with 212,100 employed radiologic technologists and technicians earning an average of $61,900 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020).

Crusader for mental health

Dr. Karla Ivankovich

An LLCC alumna has received the highest national honor bestowed on a community college graduate from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). AACC has named Dr. Karla Ivankovich of Glenview, Ill., the recipient of its 2022 Outstanding Alumna Award for excelling in her chosen field of mental health.

Dr. Ivankovich is known for her advocacy for all people. After seeing patients unable to get basic health care services, she and her husband co-founded OnePatient Global Health Initiative, an organization to establish sustainable programs of mental and physical health care in Chicago and Haiti.

Starting her college career at LLCC, she went on to earn degrees in business administration, psychology, human development counseling, disability studies and a Ph.D. in psychology. Publishing academic research and text material in several mental health fields, her expertise has made her a highly sought-after voice on a national stage, including a four-year stint on iHeart Radio. She is often called upon to provide expert opinion on mental health and relationship topics for organizations such as The Atlantic, Aljazeera Television, Britt&Co, Chicago Tribune, Dr. Oz – The Good Life, Elle Magazine, Forbes, Glamour. Health Magazine, Health Technology Magazine, Huffington Post, Men’s Health Magazine, New Parent, The Science of Relationships, Self Magazine, Teen Vogue, Women’s Day, Yahoo and Psychology Today.

July 2020, she became an international best-selling author with the book, “Let’s FINALLY Talk About Sex.” She also serves as relationship advice blogger for Psychology Today.

Dr. Ivankovich says her passion was fostered by her LLCC instructors who showed her that the need for service is as important as the need to breathe. Like many students graduating from high school, she was unsure what she wanted to do with her life but confident she had plenty of time to make those decisions. That was until she found herself back home from college, having failed. Vowing to not let her circumstances dictate her future, she reenrolled at LLCC. Successfully completing course after course, she grew more inspired, but complications during pregnancy led to being in and out of the hospital and on bed rest.

She says rather than allow her to drop or fail her classes, each of her professors worked with her to ensure she was able to complete her final semester and graduate. She attended LLCC’s commencement ceremony in a wheelchair and returned to the hospital shortly after. Her son was born without complication in 1993, and she was able to transfer to UIS to continue her education. She says none of this would have been possible without the support of dedicated LLCC professors who encouraged her and never allowed her to believe that quitting was an option.

Congratulations Dr. Ivankovich!
Ron Brown

Coaching for COLLEGE SUCCESS

Ron Brown had coaches and mentors who pushed him to succeed, both on and off the football field. Now he’s doing the same for LLCC students as a success coach.

A native of Detroit, Mich., Brown played on the offensive line for four championship teams at Northern Illinois University. Earning a degree in corporate communication, he worked in sales for several years before a chance encounter with an NIU mentor led him to pursue his true passion of helping students. The mentor was entering a master’s degree program in higher education student services, and Brown decided to do the same.

“While an undergrad at NIU, I started a nonprofit where I helped kids learn how to play chess,” says Brown. “I had participated in several national chess tournaments and wanted to create that experience for them. You learn critical thinking skills while playing chess. Playing football teaches you the value of teamwork, discipline and hard work. I convey all of these to the students now as a success coach.”

Earning his master’s degree just last May makes Brown close in age to many of the students he coaches. “I’m also not that far away from being in the classroom. I know college is hard and takes away from being in the classroom. I know college is hard and takes

If students are struggling with a certain class, time management or life circumstances, Brown points them to the many resources the college has to help, including the LLCC Math Center, Writing Center, peer tutoring and the Center for Academic Success. He often checks in with students like Christian Mahin, left, to see how they’re doing and if they need assistance, pointing them toward the college’s many resources.

Emily Reynolds of Hillboro is able to schedule a mixture of online and in-person classes to work best for her schedule. She is active in both the LLCC Honors Program, as its secretary, and vice president of scholarship in Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. For PTK, she led an “Honors in Action” project to encourage organ donations.

“Collaborating with the Illinois Life Goes On organization, we held an all-day drive to sign up new organ donors. That evening, we invited an organ donor and her recipient, along with the parents of a deceased organ donor, to speak. It was very fulfilling to know our efforts increased the number of people on the organ donor registry.” She plans to complete an associate in arts degree at LLCC this spring and then transfer to a nursing school. She credits her LLCC professors with having a positive impact on her and her education, in particular Matt Vespa, Becky Croteau, Dr. Claire Gordon, Barb Bernardi, Tim Humphrey, Michael Ramm and Adrienne Range.

Jake Curtis is part of a Loggers baseball legacy. He was named first team All-American and also the Dick Dhabalt Athlete of the Year. The pitcher/second baseman was an integral part of the Loggers' eighth place finish at the 2021 NJCAA national tournament. Jake’s father played on the Loggers’ fifth place finishing team in 1993, and his uncle also played Loggers baseball. Jake’s brother Eli will join the Loggers next year. Jake plans to follow his father’s and uncle’s lead in transferring to Memphis University to play baseball.

Denmark Mahilon began his journey to LLCC in the Philippines where he was born. At age 15, he moved with his family to Beardstown. At the time, he could understand some English but wasn’t used to speaking it. Three days after arriving, he enrolled at Beardstown High School and despite initial language challenges, eventually became active in Key Club, Business Club and several sports teams. Looking to attend college, he was accepted at UIUC, “but my parents convinced me starting at LLCC was the best choice; it’s less expensive, but you still get the full college experience.” He moved to Springfield so he could be active on campus. He works in the LLCC Student Life office and can be seen helping with many student activities. He’s leaning toward a major in psychology and an eventual career in sports science. “LLCC is definitely the best place if you’re trying to figure out what your major is going to be, if you want to save money and get a great education. It feels like you’re at a university. It makes me happy to see students want to get involved like I do. It’s fun! I was actually involved in so much, I was having trouble finding time to study. The LLCC Center for Academic Success helped me get better organized, taught me when and how to study. I tell students, if you need help, talk to your success coach or contact the Center for Academic Success. LLCC will get you where you want to be!”

www.llcc.edu/student-success

23 FOR ward MAGAZINE - APRIL 2022

24 FOR ward MAGAZINE - APRIL 2022
LLCC offers

- Transfer Degrees (AA, AS, AFA, AES)
- Career and Tech Degrees (AAS)
- Career and Tech Certificates (Certificates of Achievement/Completion)
- Short-term Career Training
- Online Degrees and Certificates
- Community Education (personal enrichment classes)
- College for Kids

Arts and Communication

- Associate in Arts
  - Art
  - Digital Media Design
  - Music
  - Speech Communication
  - World Languages

- Associate in Fine Arts
  - Music
  - Performance
  - Studio Art

- Associate in Applied Science
  - Integrated Media Design

- Certificates of Completion
  - Audio Production

English and Humanities

- Associate in Arts
  - English
  - Journalism
  - Liberal Arts
  - Philosophy

- Associate in General Education
  - Liberal Arts

- Online Degrees
  - English - Associate in Arts
  - Liberal Arts - Associate in Arts
  - Philosophy - Associate in Arts

Health Professions

- Associate in Applied Science
  - Associate Degree Nursing
  - Associate Degree Radiography
  - Associate Degree Surgical Technology
  - Emergency Medical Services
  - Fire Science Technology
  - Neurodiagnostic Technology
  - Occupational Therapy Assistant
  - Respiratory Care

- Associate in Arts
  - Exercise and Sports Science

- Associate in Science
  - Pre-Nursing

- Certificates of Achievement
  - Diagnostic Medical Sonography
  - Medical Coding Specialist
  - Paramedic
  - Practical Nurse

- Certificates of Completion
  - Advanced Emergency Medical Technician
  - Advanced Technician Firefighter
  - Basic Nurse Assistant
  - Basic Operations Firefighter
  - Central Sterile Service Technician
  - Clinical Medical Assistant

CNA to Medical Assistant
- Emergency Medical Responder
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Fire Prevention Principles
- Fire Service Instructor I
- Fire Service Instructor II
- Fire Service Vehicle Operator
- Fire Tactics and Strategy I
- Hazardous Materials for the First Responder
- Technical Rescue Awareness
- Vascular Sonography
- Vehicle/Machinery Operations

- Short-term Career Training
  - Dental Assistant
  - ECG Technician
  - Massage Therapy
  - Personal Trainer
  - Pharmacy Technician
  - Phlebotomy Technician
  - Veterinary Assistant

- Online Degree
  - LPN to ADN Transition - Specialty Program

- Online Certificates of Completion
  - Fire Prevention Principles
  - Fire Service Instructor I
  - Fire Service Instructor II
  - Fire Tactics & Strategy I

Mathematics and Computer Science

- Associate in Arts
  - Computer Science

- Associate in Science
  - Engineering
  - Mathematics

- Associate in Engineering Science
  - Engineering Science

- Associate in Applied Science
  - Computer Systems

- Certificates of Achievement
  - Cybersecurity

- Certificates of Completion
  - CISCO Network Administration Training

- Help Desk

- Online Degrees
  - Computer Science - Associate in Arts
  - Computer Systems - Associate in Applied Science

- Online Certificates
  - CISCO Network Administrator Training - Certificate of Completion
  - Computer Administration - Certificate of Achievement

Natural and Agricultural Sciences

- Associate in Arts
  - Agriculture
  - Geography

- Associate in Science
  - Biology
  - Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
  - Geology
  - Physics

- Associate in Applied Science
  - Ags Business
  - Horticulture and Cultivation
  - Precision Agronomy & Custom Application

- Certificates of Completion
  - Cultivation
  - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
  - Precision Agronomy Operator

Social Sciences and Business

- Associate in Arts
  - Accounting
  - Business Administration
  - Criminal Justice
  - Early Childhood Education
  - Elementary Education
  - History
  - Human Services
  - Political Science
  - Psychology
  - Sociology

- Associate in Applied Science
  - Accounting Specialist
  - Business
  - Criminal Justice
  - Early Childhood Care and Education

- Certificates of Achievement
  - Entrepreneurship

- Certificates of Completion
  - Business Operations Facilitator
  - ECE Credential Level I
  - ECE Credential Level II

- Management

- Online Degrees
  - Accounting - Associate in Arts
  - Business Administration - Associate in Arts

- Online Certificates
  - Criminal Justice - Associate in Arts
  - Criminal Justice - Associate in Applied Science

- History - Associate in Arts
  - Psychology - Associate in Arts
  - Sociology - Associate in Arts

For more information, please visit www.llcc.edu or contact us at 217-786-2237. Payment plans available.

FINANCIAL AID is available to those who qualify. Visit www.llcc.edu/financial-aid or call 217-786-2237. Payment plans available.

SCHOLARSHIPS are available through the LLCC Foundation. Visit www.llccfoundation.org/scholarships.

LLCC LOCATIONS
- Main campus, 5250 Shepherd Rd., Springfield, 217-786-2200. www.llcc.edu
- Medical District, 130 W. Mason, Springfield, 217-782-7436. 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 WSHS 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 Hillboro)


FINANCIAL AID

FINANCIAL AID is available to those who qualify. Visit www.llcc.edu/financial-aid or call 217-786-2237. Payment plans available.

SCHOLARSHIPS are available through the LLCC Foundation. Visit www.llccfoundation.org/scholarships.

LLCC LOCATIONS
- Main campus, 5250 Shepherd Rd., Springfield, 217-786-2200. www.llcc.edu
- Medical District, 130 W. Mason, Springfield, 217-782-7436. 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 WSHS 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 Hillboro)

CPR/First Aid
Aug. 24-25, Oct. 10-11, Dec. 13-14

Forklift
April 19, Oct. 13, Oct. 14, Dec. 15

OSHA 10
Aug. 24-25, Oct. 10-11, Dec. 13-14

CPR/First Aid
Aug. 23, Oct. 31, Dec. 12

www.llcc.edu/workforce
217-786-3675

CAROLYN OWEN SOMMER, member of the Sangamon Watercolor Society, offers watercolor classes for all skill levels.

Student Showcase
Scandinavian Meal
Fri, 9/9, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Traditional Family Dinner
Sat, 12/9, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

HANDS-ON BAKING
Biscuit Bar
Sat, 9/10, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Holiday Candies
Sat, 12/3, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

 holiday Cookies Around the World
Sat, 11/9, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

SPECIAL NIGHT OUT
Cook the Book - Harry Potter Thursday, 11/3, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Cook the Book - The Godfather
Fri, 10/21, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
English Fare
Fri, 11/18, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
French Cuisine
Fri, 11/30, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

HOME & GARDEN
Basic Home Gardening Knowledge
Tue, 10/11-10/18, 6-8 p.m.
Creating Garden-Infused Vinegar
Tue & Thu, 9/13-9/15, 6-7:30 p.m.

MUSIC & HISTORY
Introduction to Black Classical Composers & Musicians
Thu, 9/22-10/3, 6-7:30 p.m.

PERSONAL INTERESTS
Career Development
Wed, 9/7-10/5, 5-6:30 p.m.
Ghost Hunting 101
Thu, 10/14-10/27, 6-8 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Becoming a Professional Photographer
Tue, 9/20, 6-8 p.m.
General Portraiture
Thu, 9/8-9/29, 6-7 p.m.
How to Capture Landscape
Tue, 11/8-11/29, 6-7:30 p.m.

TECHNOLOGY
Social Media: Which Platforms are Use for What?
Mon, 9/12-10/10, 6-7 p.m.

How to Capture Portraits of Your Kids
Mon, 11/7-11/28, 6-8 p.m.
How to Use Natural Lighting and Flash
Fri, 9/9-9/30, 5-7 p.m.
Intro To Photography I: The Camera and The Image
Wed, 6/8-7/13, 7-9 p.m.
Wed, 9/28-11/2, 7-9 p.m.
Intro To Photography II: Post Processing Your Images With Lightroom Classic
Tue, 6/7-7/15, 7-9 p.m.
Wed, 9/27-10/25, 7-9 p.m.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

ACTIVE/HEALTH
Anxiety and Stress Management for Adolescents
Thu, 10/13-11/17, 5-6:30 p.m.

Our Chemical Environment: Toxicology and Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals
Tue, 10/18, 6-8 p.m.

Zumba
Thu, 9/11-10/20, 6-7 p.m.

CPR Training
Tue, 6/7, 6-10 p.m.

Wed, 6/22, 6-10 p.m.
Mon, 7/11, 6-10 p.m.
Thu, 7/28, 6-10 p.m.

Barbeque
Sat, 9/24, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Intro to Calligraphy
6-7:30 p.m.

Beginning Improv
No class 11/1
Tue, 9/6-10/11, 6-8 p.m.

Intermediate Improv
Wed, 9/7-10/12, 6-7:30 p.m.

Introduction to Calligraphy
Wed, 9/14-10/26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Knitting 101
Tue, 9/6-10/11, 6-8 p.m.

Watercolor Bag of Tricks
Mon, 11/7-11/28, 6-8:30 p.m.

Watercolor Beginners
Wed, 10/5-10/26, 6-8:30 p.m.

Watercolor en Plein Air: The Art of Painting Outdoors
Tue, 6/7-6/28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

COOKING

Basic Portraiture Lighting
Sat, 10/15, 9 a.m.-noon

Technology for Photography
Wed, 9/28-10/25, 6-8 p.m.

Photography for Beginners
Tue, 10/14-10/25, 6-8 p.m.

Photography Lighting I: Navigating Light
Photography Technology for Photographing
Sat, 6/11, 9 a.m.-noon
Sat, 10/1-9 a.m.-noon

First Time Home Buyer Seminar
Sat, 9/24, 10 a.m.-noon

Learn All About Home Inspections
Tue, 9/27-10/27, 6-9 p.m.

Organic Gardening
Tue, 6/6-7/19, 5:30-7 p.m.

How to Capture Landscape
Tue, 11/8-11/29, 6-7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

TECHNOLOGY

ON A SHEET PAN

Advanced Knitting
6-7:30 p.m.

Advanced Improv
No class 11/1
Wed, 9/19-10/24, 6-7:30 p.m.

Disrupting Chemicals and Endocrine-Environment: Toxicology
Thu, 10/13-11/17, 5-6:30 p.m.

Adolescents
Thu, 10/13-11/17, 5-6:30 p.m.

The Academy of Lifelong Learning is hosting a series on climate change via Zoom called “The Action You Take, The Difference You Make.” The final presentation is April 20 at 6:30 p.m. “The Water” looks closely at the bikes, rivers, streams, aquifers and wetlands that move, store and filter Illinois water. Register to attend the free event at www.llcc.edu/academy-lifelong-learning.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

TECHNOLOGY

ON A SHEET PAN

Advanced Knitting
6-7:30 p.m.

Advanced Improv
No class 11/1
Wed, 9/19-10/24, 6-7:30 p.m.

Disrupting Chemicals and Endocrine-Environment: Toxicology
Thu, 10/13-11/17, 5-6:30 p.m.

Adolescents
Thu, 10/13-11/17, 5-6:30 p.m.

The Academy of Lifelong Learning is hosting a series on climate change via Zoom called “The Action You Take, The Difference You Make.” The final presentation is April 20 at 6:30 p.m. “The Water” looks closely at the bikes, rivers, streams, aquifers and wetlands that move, store and filter Illinois water. Register to attend the free event at www.llcc.edu/academy-lifelong-learning.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION
Virtual Culinary
For ages 8 & up
Access to virtual content: July 7-Sept 1
$29 for video content and PDFs of recipes/ingredients
Chocolate Eclairs and Pastry Swans
Octopus Pie Art
Sugar Cookie Decorating
Summer Lasagna
Summer Salsa and Street Tacos
Watermelon Look Alike Bread

Virtual Camp Fee Options:
$29 for video content, supply list, PDFs
$49 for video content and kit containing all supplies, printed handouts
$20 for each additional kit
$100 for Crew kit: Includes video content and 5 kits.
$180 for Class kit: Includes video content and 10 kits.

Abstract Art & Science 3-6
Art Commotion 3-6
ASL 3-6
Birds of a Feather K-2
Creations With Watercolor 6-8

Eric Carle Collage K-2
Express Myself K-2
Fancy Nancy K-2
Fantastic Beasts and How to Make Them 6-8
Fantastical Beasts 3-6
Hangin' With My Gnomies K-2
Healthy Bodies K-2
If You Give a Mouse a... K-2
Ink & Watercolor 6-8
Lightning Catcher 3-6
Love You, Love Your World 3-6
Make Your Own Graphic Novel 6-8
More Simple Science at Home K-2
Myths of the Norse 6-8
Over in the Green Grass K-2
Photography For All 6-8
Seuss, Science & Silliness K-2
Simple Science at Home K-2
Summer Senses 3-6
Tune Up Time 3-6
Tune Up, Warm Up 6-8
Watercolor Creations 6-8
Writers Unite 6-8

For more details and online registration visit www.llcc.edu/youth-programs
Loggers volleyball players Carly Michels, Isabel Hudspeth and Josie Wolter were there to welcome Linc, LLCC's new mascot, at the homecoming basketball games. Linc is the Loggers' No. 1 fan!

Summer term class registration open now.

Fall semester class registration begins April 14.

Summer classes begin June 6.

Campus Visit Day June 7.

Summer Boost begins July 18.

Fall classes begin Aug. 20.

www.llcc.edu