The Sky is the Limit
Retired Pilot Helping Others Reach for the Stars

As a young boy, Brice Huddleston, call sign "Hud", developed a passion for aviation and mechanics, including fixing things, especially cars. During his senior year at Springfield Southeast High School he enlisted in the 183rd Fighter Wing, Springfield Air National Guard, Capital Airport.

Upon graduation from high school he completed Air Force Basic Training and Crew Chief Technical School to become an aircraft mechanic, but his real desire was to someday fly. After receiving his associate degree from Lincoln Land Community College, "Hud" was selected for Air Force Navigator Training and flew an F-4 from the back seat as a Weapon Systems Officer.

He completed Air Force Training in 1987 and in 1993, he was called to active duty at the Air National Guard in Washington, D.C. as the F-16 Action Officer, coordinating training and operational guidance for all F-16 units. While on the staff, he was deployed to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to perform F-16 combat missions.

His flying career ended in 2003 with over 2,000 fighter jet flying hours. He took an assignment at the Pentagon to assist in deploying Air Force assets to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. In "Hud’s"

"It all started with his job as an aircraft mechanic and his LLCC degree, which led to a military flying career."

Brice Huddleston, LLCC alum and retired Air Force Pilot

It all started with his job as an aircraft mechanic and his LLCC degree, which led to a military flying career.

Brice Huddleston, LLCC alum and retired Air Force Pilot

Now he gives back to LLCC students with a scholarship, helping others get the education they need to realize their dreams.

Now he gives back to LLCC students with a scholarship, helping others get the education they need to realize their dreams.
The Lincoln Land Community College Foundation Board of Directors elected new officers, welcomed five new members and recognized outgoing board members at a recent meeting.

Brett Jackson was installed as board chair for 2023. Margaret Teague was elected vice-chair, and Dan Wilcoxen was elected treasurer. Outgoing board members Kathy Dierkes, Mitch Rogers and Jennifer Stice were acknowledged for their dedicated service on behalf of LLCC students.

The following are new members of the board:

Jennifer Call, CIC, of Springfield is a risk consultant and partner at Troxell, a locally owned insurance agency with offices throughout Illinois. She is involved with numerous organizations in the community including Vision of Hope, Springfield Chamber and Westside Rotary.

Tom Fitch of Springfield is the Vice President of Facilities, Real Estate and Construction at Springfield Clinic. He has a master’s in structural engineering, a bachelor’s in civil engineering and has 15 years of executive leadership experience as well as 14 years of small business ownership experience. His previous board experience includes the Chamber of Commerce, Heartland Credit Union, and the YMCA.

Lou Johnson of Taylorville is the general manager of McLane Foodservice. He is active on several boards including Loving Arms and the Taylorville Chamber of Commerce. He also coaches youth soccer for the YMCA.

Bobby Kulavic of Springfield has been a member of the Bi-Petro team for more than 10 years. He serves as director, finance and planning, and works with Bi-Petro’s crude oil inventory, movements and the operations in Utica. He is an LLCC alum and also earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration.

Adam Pallai of Springfield is an LLCC alum and also earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering. As vice-president of Martin Engineering, he serves as the project manager and engineer for numerous ongoing projects and as the state and federal grant administrator for various municipalities. He is an active member of local organizations including Springfield Lake Council of Clubs.

New Scholarships Established

The Foundation recently announced the following new scholarships established by generous donors.

- Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Scholarship
- Pete Garretson Career Ready Scholarship
- Heartland Credit Union Scholarship
- Brice R. Huddleston Scholarship
- LLCC Facilities Union Scholarship
- National Board for Respiratory Care Scholarship
- Nicole Pedigo LLCC Alumna Scholarship
- Chloe Pemberton Automotive Technology Scholarships
- The Natalie Richardson Scholarship
- Mary Rios-Squibb Memorial Scholarship
- Eleanor Swartz Memorial Scholarship
- James Van Eman Memorial Scholarship
Welcome aboard! Make plans to join Dr. Charlotte Warren, LLCC president for the 17th annual Gala on Saturday, April 29. Guests will enjoy a four-course gourmet meal prepared and served by LLCC’s hospitality management and culinary arts students and instructors. There will be music from a steel drum band, a wall of wines, a silent auction including a boat bar and more. Not only does the Gala raise funds that benefit the students and programs of LLCC but it also serves as part of the coursework for our culinary students.

Check out the delicious menu, purchase tickets and view the limited exclusive silent auction packages at www.LLCCFoundation.org/Gala. If you are unable to attend, you can still bid on the auction items online including:

- Dinner for eight in your home prepared by Chef David Radwine
- Sail Away Boat Bar constructed by LLCC’s Highway and Construction Careers Training Program
- Private Gourmet Dinner for eight with drink pairings in LLCC’s Bistro Verde
- Nelson’s Backyard BBQ for 25
- Bourbon, golf, wine and more!
- Nola at Home six-course Mardi Gras dinner for eight prepared by Chef Howard Seidel
Meet Kylie, a 22-year-old Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Scholarship recipient studying to be an electrician. Currently her favorite class is residential and commercial wiring. After receiving her associate degree at LLCC, Kylie is hopeful she will begin her electrical apprenticeship and eventually secure a job at Ameren.

She is grateful for the scholarship and the chance to achieve her dream which started when she would “job shadow” her dad who did electrical work for a robotics company. Her father brought her to work with him which opened her eyes to the benefits and opportunities available in this field.

Her father has since passed away. “Having this scholarship is helping me in more ways than you could possibly know,” says Kylie. My adolescence was not always the easiest, and during my struggles, I learned compassion through my ability to sympathize with others. Perseverance was another thing I gained learning to push through those struggles and carry on.”

“We are grateful for our partnership with Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Scholarship that affords the opportunity for students like Kylie to overcome hardship and diversity to pursue a career in which only 4.4% are female,” says Karen Sanders, VP advancement and executive director of the LLCC Foundation. Kudos to Kylie!