



# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Lincoln Land Community College Foundation

WINTER 2019

## Community Partners Open Doors to Excellence

### Microscopes and Lasers Enhance Science Learning

Excellence in education must include memorable student learning experiences beyond textbooks and lectures.

Generous gifts made to the Lincoln Land Community College Foundation endowment fund have made experiential learning possible for more than 1,000 students in science classes that all students

planning to transfer to a four-year school must complete.

The Math and Sciences department invested \$22,000 for microscopes and laser equipment thanks to generous donors.

“While we have a replacement plan, the Foundation’s supplemental support has allowed us to replace more microscopes and

update classrooms where the need was the greatest,” Bill Bade, dean of the LLCC Math and Sciences Department, said. The new laser equipment allows faculty to teach more efficiently, leading to more concise results.

Gary Armour, science instructor and lab safety coordinator, said the students have at least 15 minutes more learning time during each class because the new equipment and technology is easier



for students to use. “It’s like the difference between an automatic transmission and a stick shift,” he said. “Simple and functional

translates into less student frustration and more learning, and that’s good.”

### Success Begins Long Before College

LLCC Community Education offered enrichment classes at the Boys & Girls Club in Springfield last summer for more than 140 children in third grade through fifth grade thanks to two community partners.

Wells Fargo and the Boys & Girls Club of Central Illinois joined to provide funding for the enrichment activities. There were

eight different classes in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. The classes that were held over two weeks helped disadvantaged youth build skills during the summer, a crucial time to prevent regression and prepare for school in the fall.

“It’s important to promote access to engaging education and also for kids to

experience a whole new level of having fun while learning,” Laurel Bretz, director of community education, said.

Jessica Ingold, youth programs coordinator, said the student’s favorite class was rocketry. The children learned basic aerodynamics and engineering by building and then testing rockets. “They loved the hands-on component and going outside to launch their rockets,” Ingold said.



Other classes included Cool Chemistry, Speedometry and Brain Games.

Registration for College for Kids

summer programming begins March 1. Visit [www.llcc.edu/community-education](http://www.llcc.edu/community-education) or call 217-786-2432 for information.

**13th Annual Gala**  
**SINGING IN THE RAIN**  
 LINCOLN LAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

**Saturday, May 4, 2019**

Gourmet dinner prepared and served by LLCC Culinary students and instructors

Tickets and sponsorships available

217-786-2785 | [LLCCFoundation.org](http://LLCCFoundation.org)

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## Annual Scholarship Appreciation Reception

Yvonne Brandis added Cody Vedder's picture and thank you letter to her album after the annual scholarship appreciation reception last fall.

Vedder, 23, was the 17th LLCC student to receive the Louis "John" Brandis Memorial Scholarship.

"I've met every one of them," Brandis says. "I always ask for their pictures. It means a great deal to me."

Brandis created the endowment and scholarship after her husband John died in

May 2001. John was a U.S. Army Air Force veteran and co-owner of Brandis Aircraft, Jet Investment Group Inc., Evergreen Aviation Inc. and 20/30 Series Inc.

"Aviation is in our blood," Brandis says. The scholarship helps keep her husband's name alive, and the annual reception is a way of remembering his legacy in aviation.

Vedder says the \$600 annual scholarship helps, especially since aviation is more



Left to right: Cody Vedder, Yvonne Brandis, David Kloppe

expensive than other programs. He is finishing the 18-month LLCC Aviation program in June and plans to be an aviation mechanic.

The scholarship validates his choice

to study aviation, he says. Meeting Brandis helped him feel more invested and welcomed into aviation. "It is encouraging to know that people in the field are helping students," he says. "It was

extremely thoughtful of her to go so far out of her way to help us."

More than 200 students receive scholarship support from the LLCC Foundation annually.

## New Board Members Seated; Officers Elected



Karl Barnhart



Ginny Fanning



Kent Richardson



Margaret Teague



Karen Zerkle

The LLCC Foundation Board of Directors welcomed new members, bid farewell to others and elected officers at its December board meeting.

The board thanked outgoing board members: Jim Hahn, Lynne Sheaff and Neil Williamson. Todd Wise of Springfield was elected as chairman for 2019. Ronda Folkerts of Springfield was elected vice chairman and Kathy Dierkes of Chatham was elected treasurer. Five friends joined the board.

Karl Barnhart is chief marketing officer and executive vice president for BRANDT. He has spent his career in strategic branding and specializes in agricultural education and sustainability.

Ginny Fanning of Jacksonville serves as a Morgan County commissioner. She has worked as an elementary school teacher, small business owner and president of the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Kent Richardson is market president at CNB Bank and Trust in Taylorville. He is an LLCC alum and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Springfield. He serves on the Christian County YMCA Board and the Taylorville Memorial Foundation Board.

Margaret Teague of Springfield is manager of the education services division at Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. She has worked in the information technology industry for more than 20 years and enjoys the opportunity to help others use technology most effectively.

Karen Zerkle recently became a partner at Renken Dentistry in Springfield. She graduated from the Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine in 2010. She also has a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and attended Rochester High School.