

MONTHLY



# Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2023



Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce

## PATH Success Stories

The Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce Program (PATH) is an annual, non-competitive grant, of which all community colleges in the state of Illinois receives funds. The purpose of the PATH grant is to create, support, and expand the opportunities of individuals in the nursing pathway and select healthcare pathways to obtain credentials and degrees that allow them to enter and/or advance their careers in the healthcare industry. Additionally, this grant aims to address the shortage of workers in the healthcare industry that have been exasperated by the COVID 19 pandemic.



**Student Name:** Samantha Harris

**Program:** Nursing

Samantha was originally accepted into the IVCC Practical Nurse program which she successfully completed in July, 2023. As a result of her success in that program, she met the criteria to be accepted into the Accelerated Registered Nurse program. She is on target to complete her AAS in Nursing degree in May, 2024.

**Name of Community College:** Illinois Valley Community College  
Oglesby, Illinois

**What made you decide to seek a new career?** "I always knew I wanted to be part of something that was challenging and involved constant learning. My grandfather's passing really opened my eyes to the fact that my family does not have anyone with a health care background to take care of our loved ones as they age. Nurses in any field are so kind and compassionate

and truly make an impact on so many lives. I want to be that person and to have a career my children can look up to."

**Why did you choose the career program/community college that you did?** "Being a single mother of school aged children, IVCC has given me the opportunity to further my education while being local and readily available for my family. The nursing program at IVCC offered a wide variety of hospitals for clinical experiences that caught my interest as well. I also fell in love with the skills lab that I knew I would utilize being a hand-on learner!"

"I am very fortunate to have had financial assistance from PATH for two consecutive semesters so far. Having some financial relief has helped a great deal with everyday things such as childcare to help with attending classes. I want to explore all of the opportunities that come with having my degree. The great thing about nursing is there are so many places to go. I want to find the place that fits me best. I also want to buy a home!"

See more PATH Student Success Stories on page 6.



## Message From The Executive Director

Welcome Back!

The semester is well underway and we are starting to tally enrollment at the state level, though colleges are of course watching enrollment numbers daily. Although the ICCB doesn't have official numbers yet, conversations point to significant increases, with some colleges potentially seeing double digits. Anecdotally, reports suggest that dual credit enrollment is up, students transferring into the college have increased and enrollment growth is continuing. One area of significant growth is adult education, where we expect even more. During the FY23 academic year, Illinois' Adult Education and Literacy programs saw a 35 percent increase in student enrollment, reaching over 52,000 learners. This follows the 40 percent increase of student enrollment in fiscal year 2022. At the state level, in adult education, ICCB's adult education digital marketing campaign did much to move the needle we believe. Across the system, the Illinois Community College Marketing Collaborative is poised to create similar results.

This speaks to normalization in the system. It also speaks to the tremendous efforts that this system has put forth to bring students back post pandemic. We have seen the continued embrace of multiple delivery methods—hyflex, online (synchronous and asynchronous), CBE, traditional, accelerated, etc., all of which create opportunities for the many and varied students the system serves. At the ICCB we look forward to supporting you this year as you continue to innovate, explore and expand successful instructional and support strategies, and otherwise continue to change lives in your communities. Have a great semester!

-Brian

# 2023 ICCCA Conference Registration Now Open!

The Illinois Council of Community College Administrators announces registration for its 2023 Conference Fast & Furious: Managing the Speed of Change scheduled for November 16-17 is now open! Take advantage of early bird registration for \$150 now!

ICCCA is using Whova for this year's event, and we are excited about the various ways attendees will be able to interact.

The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites East Peoria, and guest rooms are available at the rate of \$132 until the block fills.

Visit [iccca.org](https://iccca.org) for the conference registration and guest room links.



## CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Career Connected Learning  
for All Students

## Postsecondary CTE Learning Community Meetings Now Open For Registration

The Postsecondary CTE Learning Community is designed for CTE providers to share concerns and best practices to learn from one another and improve programs for students' success. These learning communities will also provide opportunities to hear about upcoming professional development and resources throughout the fiscal year.

Learning Community meetings occur once a quarter on the first Tuesday of the month from 10-11 AM. These meetings will be hosted on Zoom meeting. The registration link below allows you to register for all four meetings and will provide a calendar invite.

You can register [here](#).

## ICCB Board Meeting to Be Held September 15th

The next meeting of the Illinois Community College Board will be held September 15th, 2023 at Richland Community College, Decatur, Illinois at 12:30 p.m.

When available the agenda, minutes and information from the meeting will be posted [here](#).

# ICCB Employee News

## Welcome New ICCB Employees!



### Patrick Moore

ICCB welcomes Patrick Moore as the new Senior Director of Academic Affairs and Instruction. Patrick most recently was at Lincoln Land Community College where he served as the Director of Concurrent Enrollment. He has previously held administrative positions at Springfield Public Schools district 186 and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois and adjunct faculty in Sociology. He holds a bachelor of arts from University of Illinois Springfield and a Master of Arts degree in Applied Sociology from the University of Indianapolis.



### Brianna Dennis

"My fiancé Corey and I have been together for almost 14 years. We have two cats; one is about 30 lbs. Family truly means everything to me. We have 17 nieces and nephews and another one coming in a couple months (I am already spoiling that kid too). Those kids are my everything. I am a big fan of outdoor adventures. When it comes to sports, my passion is for the Tennessee Volunteers. I started my HR career with a Special Education Coop in 2015. I left there and started at Sparc in 2020. Worked my way up through Sparc's HR department to the Director before accepting the position with ICCB. I am excited to start this journey at ICCB."



### Maria Zepeda

Maria Zepeda started as the Office Support Specialist for the Cook County High School Equivalency Records Office in Chicago on August 16th. Maria has been working as an administrative assistant for over 20 years and has attended Malcolm X College. She also volunteers at local events in her community and is a dedicated mother of six children and nine grandchildren. She enjoys cooking, planting, and interior design.

## Job Postings

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is the state coordinating board for community colleges with the statutory responsibility for administering state and federal grants to community college districts and adult education providers, as well as for managing high school equivalency testing in Illinois. The organization is assisted by an executive director and staff of approximately 50 in Illinois. ICCB currently has the following open positions:

### Chicago

- Director for English Language Acquisition

### Springfield

- Associate Director for External Affairs – Web & Digital Media
- Associate Director for Grants Management
- Associate Director for Dual Credit and Concurrent Enrollment

Learn more and apply [here](#).

# FY24 Innovative Bridge and Transitions Grant NOFO Announcement

The Illinois Community College Board is pleased to announce a new round of the Innovative Bridge and Transitions Grant <https://www.iccb.org/grant-opportunities/> (posted September 6, 2023 under New Grant information).

The ICCB will provide approximately \$9.194 million in grant funding opportunities to be administered to support innovative bridge and transition programs.

The purpose of this grant is to:

- create, support, or expand innovative bridge programs and services;
- support or create transition programs which improve student transitions to and through postsecondary education and into employment;
- create programs that promote equity and diversity among those served; and/or
- create programs and services that support individuals with disabilities.

**Grant Period:** January 1, 2024- December 31, 2024

**Applications Due:** November 1, 2023 11:59 p.m. to [ICCB.IBT@illinois.gov](mailto:ICCB.IBT@illinois.gov)

We are very excited about this next year of funding, and we look forward to working with the FY24 grantees. Information on the bidders' conference is in the NOFO. If you have any questions, please contact [lavon.nelson@illinois.gov](mailto:lavon.nelson@illinois.gov) or [alex.weidenhamer@illinois.gov](mailto:alex.weidenhamer@illinois.gov). Thank you for your interest and support.



The Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) has coordinated a massive effort to bring much needed visibility and funding to the field during National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week (AEFL Week) September 18-22, 2023.

State association leaders and state adult education fellows from across the country will be meeting with governors and Members of Congress throughout the week, leading advocacy efforts for adult education! COABE will share daily via social media the beautiful success stories which have been collected through the award winning Educate and Elevate campaign. The social media campaign will include short videos that many members in the field have sent in.

In addition to joining the free programming, you can also participate in a Twitter storm if you are on social media (which is a great way to connect with legislators!), or you can send an email to all of your legislators via COABE's Ignite 3 clicks software so that you can engage directly with your legislators easily and quickly. You can do so [here](#).

We hope you will mark your calendar and set aside time to join in at least some of these efforts during these pandemic-stricken times, when the field so desperately needs visibility and funding! Together we are the voice of Adult Education!

To view a calendar of events click [here](#).

To view a fact sheet about adult education program in Illinois, click [here](#).



# 2023 APPRENTICESHIP ACCELERATOR



15 September 2023  
12:00 PM to 04:00 PM

**Lunch Provided**

Join us for an exciting introduction to Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAP) as a model to strengthen your workforce pipeline.

## SOLUTIONS FROM THE EXPERTS:

### STATE OF THE SECTOR

Future-Proofing Through Workforce:  
Decoding Sector Dynamics and Needs.

### WHY APPRENTICESHIP NOW

From Vision to Reality: Exploring Funding  
Avenues for RTI and Apprenticeship.

### EMPLOYERS' EXPERIENCE

Empowering Through Experience:  
Apprenticeship and Group Sponsorship  
Insights.



## REGISTRATION



More information - Aimee Densmore  
+217-373-3838

## THE SPEAKERS



Scott Ellsworth  
Speaker



Aimee Densmore  
Speaker



Brent Weil  
Moderator



Taylor Black  
Speaker



Cassandra Dunham  
Speaker

# PATH Success Stories (continued)



**Student Name:** Lawrence Wilborn

**Program:** Practical Nursing

**Name of Community College:** Carl Sandburg College  
Galesburg, IL

**What made you decide to seek a new career?** "I wanted to be financially stable while providing for and raising his children. The only way to do this was to change careers."

**Why did you choose the career program/community college that you did?** "I wanted to advance in the medical field. This program was the next stepping stone to becoming a Nurse Practitioner. This program has set the foundation for my nursing career. To anyone that is considering healthcare to understand that the career you are choosing is all about CARING for other people."



**Student Name:** Jessica Acke

**Program:** Morton College Physical Therapist Assistant

"Prior to enrolling in the program, I was taking the prerequisite classes at my local community college that are required to be accepted and I was working as a babysitter. I knew in high school I wanted to become a physical therapist assistant, so I enrolled in the required college classes straight out of high school to begin achieving my goal."

**Name of Community College:** Illinois Valley Community College  
Oglesby, Illinois

**What made you decide to seek a new career?** "This is the first career I am pursuing, and I could not be more excited to enter a career I have such a passion and enthusiasm for."

**Why did you choose the career program/community college that you did?** "I knew I wanted to attend a physical therapist assistant program while in high school. This was due to my firsthand experiences as a patient and spending years in physical therapy to walk and regain my mobility. I want to be able to give back to others, improve their lives, and help them achieve their goals like so many physical therapists did for me. My focus and goal were finding the right program for me. My mom found this program online and told me about it. I did some research and investigated it, I wanted to know more about it. I met the advisor, and after speaking with her, I knew this was the program I wanted to attend. The program has so many things in place to help students succeed. There are a lot of extra resources here that I was not finding in other local programs I was looking into. When I went in for orientation and met the faculty it confirmed I made the right decision in attending this program. Everyone was so welcoming and friendly and genuinely wanted to see all of us succeed."

"I am so grateful for this program and the PATH grant. This program requires a lot of time and dedication, and I gave this program my all. Due to spending a lot of time in the program I only worked one to two days a week, which of course added to the stereotypical "broke college student." The PATH Grant helped take off some of the financial stress and allowed some ease of mind knowing I was getting some financial help. I am also thankful for this program who equipped my classmates and I with the tools and skills to be a successful clinician. The program provided us knowledgeable professors that brought real world experience into the classroom. They also provided a variety of clinical experiences that pushed me and expanded my knowledge to be the best clinician I can be. There is a CARE program at this school for healthcare career students which is set up to monitor students' academic success. If needed CARE program staff can create learning plans to help students get back on track if someone has a challenging time grasping concepts or for whatever extra help that might be required to be successful. There is a dedicated PTA tutor that is there to help in any aspect a student might need both with academic work and hands-on skills. I am grateful to have been able to attend and benefit from the different resources the school provided to help me achieve my goals."





**TRANSITIONS ACADEMY**  
Illinois Community College Board  
Career and Technical Education and Adult Education and Literacy

**OCTOBER 18  
VIRTUAL  
TRANSITIONS  
ACADEMY  
&  
OCTOBER 26  
IN PERSON  
COHORT CONVOS**

Programs will be asked to apply for  
the Cohort Convos.

**MORE INFORMATION WILL BE  
AVAILABLE SOON ON THE  
ICAPS WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.ICAPSILLINOIS.COM](http://WWW.ICAPSILLINOIS.COM)**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

*The Transitions Academy is designed to assist programs and their partnerships in developing, strengthening, and updating Bridge and ICAPS (Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System) programs by increasing awareness of the expanding partnership between Adult Education and Career and Technical Education as it relates to the ICAPS models, Illinois Bridge programs, and Illinois Programs of Study. The Transitions Academy commences with a convening each fall and persists throughout the year with offerings such as virtual learning communities, mentoring, professional learning opportunities, and communication.*

Learn more and register for events [here](#).



# Back To School

Fall semester is in full swing at all of Illinois' Community Colleges. We've collected a few images from various first weeks from several campuses around the state. Welcome back to all the students and staff!





*Every month the ICCB Newsletter will feature articles from various news sources reporting on the posts, programs, events, press releases, and happenings of Illinois' community colleges.*

[IVCC's One Book One College Launches Fourth Year By Planting a Garden \(Ogle County Newspapers - Sept. 8, 2023\) - Illinois Valley Community College](#)

[Heartland Community College Student Enrollment Close To Pre-Covid Numbers \(CIProud.com- Sept. 7, 2023\) - Heartland Community College](#)

[ECC's Center For Civic Engagement Welcomes Elected Officials For Women In Politics Event \(Daily Herald - Sept. 7, 2023\) - Elgin Community College](#)

[Lincoln Land Community College To Host SkySoar Fest Next Friday, September 15 \(WMAY - Sept. 7, 2023\) - Lincoln Land Community College](#)

[Lake Land's Adult Education Program Offers Free GED and ESL Classes For Adult Learners \(WMCI-FM - Sept. 7, 2023\) - Lake Land College](#)

[JWCC Prepares Criminal Justice Students Through QPD Partnership and Mock Scenario \(WGEM-TV - Sept. 6, 2023\) - John Wood Community College](#)