

REND LAKE COLLEGE



REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

2023 - 2024



2023-2024

REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

This report offers an insightful overview of Rend Lake College's progress and standout moments spanning from July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024.



MISSION STATEMENT

Rend Lake College provides educational opportunities across cultural and economic boundaries to the diverse student population we serve. We are committed to our students' success in achieving their educational goals and to meeting our community-focused program objectives. With Rend Lake College, student journeys start here.



VALUE STATEMENT

In serving our students and community, we are student-focused, authentic and resourceful.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the President	4
Board of Trustees	6
Accreditation	7
By the Numbers	9
Grants Overview	10
Year in Review	12
Division Highlights	14
Faculty & Staff Awards.....	16
Athletics	18
Brick & Mortar.....	20
In the News.....	22
RLC Foundation.....	32
The Game Plan.....	39



SHAPING THE FUTURE AT REND LAKE COLLEGE

Embarking on a retrospective journey through the past year at Rend Lake College reveals more than just dates and events—it uncovers a story of relentless determination, collaborative spirit, and unwavering dedication to excellence.

From August 2023 to November 2024, each month is filled with moments of innovations, merits and milestones that underline our institution's commitment to supporting and empowering students.

This year saw us honoring the contributions of alumni and celebrating the accomplishments of our students.

We rejoiced as our community expanded, with the introduction of new facilities.

The foundation of our college was strengthened by partnerships, both within our community and with establishments on an extensive scale.

We have not only celebrated traditions but also introduced new ventures and infrastructures, ensuring that our institution remains at the forefront of academic and extracurricular excellence.

Additionally, at the heart of all these achievements lies a testament to the dedication of our educators, administrators and support staff. Their hard work behind the scenes has been instrumental in making each accomplishment possible, ensuring that our students have the best resources and environment to thrive.

As you explore the Report to Our Community, we invite you to relive the moments that made us proud, the challenges that motivated us to grow and the collective vision that will propel us into the future.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 2023-2024 Report to Our Community.

This year was all about improvement and progression for Rend Lake College. We welcomed new members of the team and corporate sponsors to the RLC family, and created more opportunities for our students to succeed academically, professionally and personally.

As Rend Lake College progresses, it's important to celebrate the achievements of our students, faculty, staff and alumni for their accomplishments in academics, athletics and community service. Glenn Box, our 2023 Alumnus of the Year, continues to represent the best of Rend Lake College with his success; Brittney Horn, Class of 2012, becomes the first female Corporate Executive Chef at HHS; and Lori Ragland, Executive Vice President, demonstrates her strength in leadership by being named RLC President Designee.

We saw advancements in our technology and facilities with an upgraded website, a new Ellucian Colleague system, the opening of the Southern Illinois Manufacturing Academy and the beginning renovations of the Banterra Sports Complex. With these developments, Rend Lake College continues to prove our commitment to our students' success in achieving their educational goals.

This past year, we continued to build our partnerships with community organizations. Banterra Bank made a historic financial contribution to The Game Plan, our capital campaign to renovate and expand the facilities at Waugh Gymnasium as part of the new Banterra Sports Complex. We celebrated a new partnership with Deaconess Illinois as they made a large contribution to The Game Plan, securing the naming rights to the athletic training room.

It's our intention to continue our hard work to serve our students, and remain relevant in a changing landscape. As always, with Rend Lake College, student journeys start here.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Wilkerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

- Terry Wilkerson, President



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As we prepare to embark on the next chapter together, I am filled with optimism for the opportunities ahead. Rend Lake College has long been a beacon of access, excellence and community impact. Whether through enhanced use of technology, modernized facilities or programs designed to address emerging community needs, Rend Lake College will remain a leader in embracing forward-thinking solutions that benefit our students and region. Our students are at the heart of all we do. By fostering partnerships with local industries and creating pathways for career advancement, we will ensure every student has the tools to thrive.

As we look to the future, our vision is clear: to continue building a college that transforms lives while fostering innovation, inclusivity and resilience. The upcoming transition is not just about leadership—it is about ensuring Rend Lake College continues to grow in strength, service and success. Together, we will build an enduring legacy for Rend Lake College to be experienced by generations to come.

- Lori Ragland, Executive Vice President



REND LAKE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



L to R: Dr. David Asbery, Joe Coy, Jeff Jones (Secretary), Brian Dorris (Vice Chair), Larry Manning (Chair), Wyatt Hamson (Student Trustee), Terry Wilkerson, Tony Wielt, Ron Daniels (ICCTA Representative)



REND LAKE COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

Rend Lake College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), one of six institutional accreditors in the United States. Accreditation is vital to what we do. It serves as a measure of quality, allows us to access and distribute federal student aid, facilitates the transfer of classes between institutions and more. The Higher Learning Commission is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. HLC determines an institution's accreditation based on its Criteria for Accreditation.

There are two methods, or Pathways, through which an institution may maintain accreditation. Rend Lake College is on HLC's Open Pathway. This involves the preparation of an Assurance Argument to prove the manner in which the college meets the criteria, as well as submission of a federal compliance filing.

In addition, Open Pathway institutions such as RLC must select a Quality Initiative project. A report on this must be compiled and submitted prior to the Assurance Argument submission. RLC's most recent reaffirmation of accreditation followed HLC's comprehensive evaluation in September 2018.



HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

PROGRAM ACCREDITATIONS

Automotive Technology – National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation

EMT Paramedic – Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions

Nursing - Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

Radiologic Technology – Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology

APPROVALS

Institutional Approval – Illinois Community College Board

Associate Degree Nursing – Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Cosmetology, Barbering, Esthetics and Nail Technology – Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Nurse Assistant – Illinois Department of Public Health

Nurse CE Sponsor - Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Professional Counselor CE Sponsor - Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Online Programming - National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)



“TOGETHER WE ARE BUILDING A FUTURE
DEFINED BY CURIOSITY, RESILIENCE AND A
COMMITMENT TO ONE ANOTHER.”

-Terry Wilkerson, President

BY THE NUMBERS

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

STUDENTS

Student Head Count	3,329
Summer	820
Fall	2,174
Spring	2,473
Full-Time Equivalency	1,461
Percent of First-Time, Full-Time Students	
Receiving Financial Aid / Scholarships	72%
Number of Student Workers on Campus	47

FACULTY AND STAFF

Faculty Members	102
Staff & Administration	203
Student:Faculty Ratio	18:1

CURRICULUM

Credit Hours	43,843
Summer	3,843
Fall	20,301.5
Spring	19,698.5
Tuition per Credit Hour	\$110
Degrees Awarded	464
Certificates Awarded	750
Number of Courses Offered in an Online or Hybrid Format	250

GRANTS OVERVIEW

This snapshot of grants spans January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 and does not necessarily reflect the specific grant cycle.



Grants Awarded

AmeriCorps-FY23	\$7,595
AmeriCorps-FY24	\$303,495
Apprenticeship Expansion	\$53,205
Archery Program Grant	\$1,767
Beginner Farmers and Ranchers	\$99,954
CCAMPIS-Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools	\$21,758
Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)	\$1,303,240
Competency-Based Education	\$60,000
Delta Regional Authority	\$101,350
Developmental Education Reform Act (DERA)	\$51,459
Digital Instruction for Adult Education	\$67,300
Early Childhood Access Consortium	\$330,777
Early Childhood Pre-K Block Grant	\$177,146
Federal - RLC Foundation Children's Center	\$44,194
ICCB - Adult Education	\$282,123
ICCB - Dual Credit	\$145,369
Illinois Green Economy Network	\$294,671
Illinois Bridge & Transition Grant	\$21,893
Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act	\$54,736
National Rifle Association (NRA)	\$5,600
Noncredit Workforce Training Initiative	\$130,000
Perkins Leadership Grant	\$50,558
Perkins Postsecondary	\$282,832
Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce (PATH).....	\$516,169
Rev Up-EV Grant	\$273,898
Smart Start Transition Grant	\$43,303
Strengthening Community College Training	\$220,970
Taking Back the Trades Round 2	\$348,765
Title III: Thriving Through Change	\$449,995
Title IV - STARS - SSS	\$317,998
Title IV - Upward Bound	\$312,480
Trades School Grant Program	\$232,975
Virtual Reality (VR) Grant	\$50,645
.....	
.....	Total \$6,658,220





“RLC CONTINUALLY PURSUES OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN ITS CURRICULUM, INNOVATE EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS AND FACILITATE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ITS FACULTY.”

-Kim Wilkerson, Vice President of CTE & Student Support

REND LAKE COLLEGE A YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2023



- President Terry Wilkerson receives prestigious ICCTA 2023 Advocacy Award
- Upward Bound and STARS celebrate end-of-summer program

AUGUST 2023



- RLC receives positive review from Higher Learning Commission
- Foundation awards \$248K in scholarships
- Banterra Bank and RLC announce Banterra Sports Complex

SEPTEMBER 2023



- Southern Illinois AHEC donates mini-grant to nursing program
- Young Farmers and Ranchers Grant Workshop hosts Mark Kabat of Farm Credit Illinois
- Tony Wielt joins RLC Board of Trustees

OCTOBER 2023



- RLC receives nearly \$2.25M Title III grant to expand curriculums
- James Malone, founder of The Crew in Mt. Vernon, visits RLC
- Marketing & Communications department receives Silver Medallion from NCMPR

NOVEMBER 2023



- Tiffany Wilborn receives CNA of the Year Award
- RLC Theater performs *Alice in Wonderland*
- Glenn Box named 2023 Alumnus of the Year

DECEMBER 2023



- Gregg Barnard appointed to Foundation Board of Directors
- President Terry Wilkerson announces retirement effective June 2025
- Executive VP Lori Ragland named President Designee

JANUARY 2024



- Matthew Worthington, AJ Lenkaitis and Maddie Karcher receive American FFA Degrees
- RLC and SIC partner to offer agriculture transfer education collaborative

FEBRUARY 2024



- Automotive Tech program recognized by National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence as accredited program
- Alumnae Brittney Horn named HHS's First Female Corporate Executive Chef

MARCH 2024



- RLC and SIC host Mental Health Nursing Conference
- RLC receives \$129,071 Illinois Green Economy Network grant to upgrade campus lighting to LED
- HLC approves At My Pace CBE programming

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education celebrated student success this year. In FY24, there were 100 individuals who enrolled in the program, and 21 students earned their State of Illinois high school diploma. As of December 2024, there are 44 students enrolled and three graduates.



ALLIED HEALTH

Allied Health dedicated this year to furthering the future of students' career opportunities in health care. In May 2024, 51 graduates received their pin for completing the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program, 21 graduates received their pin for the Radiologic Technology program and 50 graduates received their pin for the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program. Later in the summer, 32 graduates were pinned for completing the Practical Nursing program. In June 2024, local high school and grade school students got involved with the Allied Health program with the Healthcare Discovery Camp, which allowed students to explore various health care fields including EMS, Radiology, Nursing, Medical Coding, Phlebotomy and Medical Assisting. In October 2024, RLC held a CNA Conference. The conference saw an attendance of 50 participants and named Christina Bruner the RLC CNA of the Year.



APPLIED SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Students, faculty, and staff contributed to many welcome changes for this division. Students participated in 9 field trips, faculty attended over 30 recruitment events, and instructors hosted 13 guest speakers in their classrooms. The Industrial Electronics program welcomed the state-of-the-art Southern Illinois Manufacturing Academy at the RLC MarketPlace. Several programs in this division received new equipment, including the Agricultural Mechanics and Diesel Technology programs. The Automotive Technology program also received a MACH-E Mustang, and the Visual Communication Design Lab was updated with new Mac computers. Applied Science & Technology hosted the Truck Driver Training Showcase at the Murphy-Wall campus, and an FFA State meeting. The division welcomed Shari Carpenter as the new dean.



ARTS & SCIENCES

Arts & Sciences celebrated many accomplishments from students, faculty and staff this year. Theater ticket sales moved to an online format utilizing PurplePass software. Theatre productions included *Alice in Wonderland*, *Grease* and *FAME*. The Art Association began creating stained glass works for purchase to fund student scholarships. The Music Notes Society was created to support the Music program student needs. The Division hosted the annual ACES Regional contest in February. Karla Gunter was selected as the Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Member of the Year. Administrative Assistant, Faith Blair, was selected as the October Employee of the Month.

COMMUNITY & CORPORATE EDUCATION

In the spring, Community & Corporate Education offered 50 classes, 12 of which were Agriculture based and located in the Agronomy Innovation Center. This division also coordinated the Valentine Vendor Fair, the Children's Health Fair and Kindergarten Day. In the summer and fall, 34 classes and 16 camps were offered; six of these were CTE camps for kids in grades 7 through 12.



FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

SHINING STARS OF REND LAKE COLLEGE: CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING FACULTY AND STAFF



Outstanding Staff Award - Damon Sims



Outstanding Faculty Member - Jeff Fairbanks



Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Award - Daniel Brock



Student Success Award - Veronica Jones (L)



Kelly Eubanks Retires after 25 years at RLC



(L-R) Jessica Bertolozzi, Nathan Burkitt, Mike Meinert
(Not pictured - Jaron Hubbard, Amy Newell, Alan Fox Sr.)



(L-R) Hannah Webb, Megan Rounds, Kathy Carr
(Not pictured - Holly Heisner, Alex Martin)



(L-R) Amber Fann, Amy Cook, Dr. Nathan Brouwer
(Not pictured - Jamie Nichols, Jeff DeMattei)



(L-R) Henry "Buster" Leeck, Andrea Banach, Jena Jensik
(Not pictured - Beth Hoffman)



(L-R) Vickie Gollither, Chris Sink, Peggy Davis



(L-R) Roy Simpkins, Shannon Perkins
(Not pictured - Cary Hottes)



Warriors

RLC is home to nine sports teams and athletic clubs

ARCHERY



BASEBALL



MEN'S BASKETBALL



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



MEN'S GOLF



WOMEN'S GOLF



SOFTBALL



TRAPSHOOTING



VOLLEYBALL



ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

OVERALL

- 35 academic student-athletes were recognized for their academic achievements by the NJCAA for having at least a 3.6 GPA. Of the 35, 14 were honored as 1st Team All-Academic for having perfect 4.0 GPAs.
- NJCAA recognized 6 of the 7 eligible teams for their academic achievements and all 5 were honored for having overall team GPAs of 3.0 or above.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- Carly Foster made 1st Team Academic All-American, Region 24 All-Region and GRAC All-Conference
- Alania Maurer made 3rd Team Academic
- Cassidy Morris made 3rd Team Academic and 4th in the GRAC

MEN'S BASKETBALL

- Jackson Creel signed at Indiana University
- Carson Prost signed at Eastern Illinois University

WOMEN'S GOLF

- 2024 Region 24 Champions
- 2024 Central District Champions
- 2024 National Tournament Qualifier
- James Gray named Region 24 Coach of the Year
- Marni Copeland named Clippd Region 24 Player of the Year
- Kenzie Anderson finished her RLC career with 38 career birdies
- Kaitlyn Coombes with 1st Medalist Finish in 2024

MEN'S GOLF

- Finished 3rd in the Danville Fall Invitational
- Finished 3rd place in the RLC Fall Invitational
- Finished 5th place in the Region 24 Championship
- Sophomore Eric Hernandez named to the NJCAA DII Ping All-Region Team

VOLLEYBALL

- Brooke Miller named to the All-Region team

BASEBALL

- Pierce Herrenbruck signed with Ohio State University

ARCHERY

- Mallory Settles was USA Archery Academic All-American
- Andrew Hubbs was USA Archery 3D National Champion
- Bryce Bieber finished 17 / 1,362 at THE VEGAS SHOOT



BRICK AND MORTAR HIGHLIGHTS

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MANUFACTURING ACADEMY RLC MarketPlace

SIMA is a state-of-the-art academy that covers 21,629 square feet and includes advanced training stations for: Electronics, Robotics, Programmable Logic Controllers, Pneumatics, Machining, Welding, Wiring, Power & Controls, MSSC Certifications, SACA Certifications, Forklift Operator Certification, Production Skills, OSHA and Employability Skills. One of the standout features of SIMA is the integration of a chocolate production facility, called Confection Connection.

MURPHY-WALL PINCKNEYVILLE CAMPUS

The RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus installed a solar array system. This sustainable initiative was a collaboration with Utopian Power LLC and supported by the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN). The parking lot has undergone maintenance with a new layer of sealant applied to the surface, and the parking lines were repainted with new markings.



RLC MARKETPLACE MT. VERNON

The RLC MarketPlace had painting done on the exterior and interior of the building, flooring replacement across approximately 14,000 square feet, and a newly re-surfaced parking lot. With a grant from the Illinois Green Economy Network, 231 lighting fixtures were upgraded to energy-efficient LED lights.



PHASE II SOLAR PANEL ARRAY

Ina Campus

Installation of a second solar panel array, located south of the Agronomy Innovation Center. This sustainable initiative, a collaboration with Utopian Power LLC and supported by the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN), not only provides a supplementary electrical source for the campus but also enriches the educational experience for students, integrating hands-on learning about solar power and its underlying physics.



MAIN CAMPUS

INA

Five parking lots at RLC's Ina campus were re-surfaced. The Radiologic Technology Lab was relocated from the Advanced Technology Center to the Science Building. Rooms 120, 122 and 132 in the Science Building received new science furniture. Phase 1 and 2 Chiller Towers were replaced with newer models. 1,887 fixtures were upgraded to energy-efficient LED lights in the Learning Resource Center, Science Building, Applied Science & Technology Center, Academic Building, Administration Building, Vocational Building, Agronomy Innovation Center and Student Center.





PASSION
PROGRESS
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ENRICHMENT
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OPPORTUNITY
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IN THE NEWS

PARTNERSHIP ACADEMICS
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STARS PROGRAM TAKES A TRIP TO DISNEY WORLD



The STARS (Student Transfer & Retention Support) program took 15 students and 3 staff members to Walt Disney World to attend the Disney Imagination Campus in Orlando, Fla. on May 13-17, 2024. The students participated in the following workshops: Immersive Storytelling at Animal Kingdom, Leadership the Disney Way at EPCOT and Theme Park Design at Magic Kingdom.

“The Disney Imagination Campus was an amazing experience for the students in our STARS program,” says Mallory Modellmog, Director of TRIO Programs. “Amy Cook, Dara Whaley (RLC STARS advisors) and I accompanied the students and had the opportunity to watch them engage and learn in very meaningful ways.”

Each workshop was 2.5 hours in length and the students gained insight as to how Disney creates an inclusive environment for employees, engages all 5 senses to create immersive environments and combines imaginative vision with large-scale functionality to bring classic stories to life.

During the Immersive Storytelling workshop at Animal Kingdom, students were able to investigate how storytelling at the Disney parks employs all 5 senses, learn about Disney Imagineers’ early design processes and engage in similar, hands-on design experiences, uncover examples of storytelling that tell stories in innovative ways, understand the different creative and technical roles that create an immersive experience and know firsthand the importance of creating a story for a diverse audience.

“The immersive atmosphere at Disney World is truly extraordinary,” says STARS student Lucas Sloan. “Every detail, from the architecture to the soundscapes and even the scents, is meticulously crafted to transport visitors into different worlds. This level of immersion can make you feel

like you’re truly part of the Disney stories and create an unforgettable experience.”

The second day of the Disney World trip, the STARS group made their way to EPCOT to learn effective communication, critical thinking and the art of innovation at the Leadership the Disney Way workshop. These RLC students were taught the belief that everyone can be a leader, learned about the importance of Disney’s 5 Keys of Excellence, experienced the application of these principles by encountering problem-solving scenario and discovered their own personal leadership style.

“The Leadership the Disney Way workshop at EPCOT [was my favorite!]” said Sherry Stevers, a 2024 RLC Graduate. “I believe that everyone in the workforce should take the leadership workshop. They would learn to focus on people’s strengths.”

At the Theme Park Design Workshop, the STARS group learned the value and importance of diversity in the collaborative design process, determined how the convergence of creative and technical roles are necessary to design a theme park and explored the unique functional challenges of designing a theme park.

“I liked seeing how vast the parks really are, and how much goes into them,” says RLC Sophomore Mallory Settles. “It really makes you realize how much work is required, and how many different people exist to be able to do it.”

“THIS LEVEL OF IMMERSION CAN MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU’RE TRULY PART OF THE DISNEY STORIES AND CREATE AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE.”

- Lucas Sloan, RLC Sophomore

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS:

PASHEN TODD



RLC student Pashen Todd was able to earn her CNA certificate with the assistance of the PATHways to Success in Allied Health Careers Grant.

Before earning her CNA certificate, Todd was working multiple jobs just to get by. She assisted students with disabilities getting on and off the bus for Durham School Services, and she also worked for Addus Homecare assisting the elderly.

It was through this work that she realized she had a passion for helping others and decided to further her career within healthcare.

While searching for colleges with a good CNA program, she needed a school that was close to home and would offer one-on-one experience with experienced instructors. Todd started at Rend Lake College once before and dropped out due to lack of support and anxiety. Her experience this time around was a much more positive one.

Being eligible for the PATH Grant alleviated a lot of the stress she had about going back to school. The grant

covered the fees for her CNA course and state test while waiving tuition for all in-district CNA students.

“I was grateful for the support that I had while taking my classes,” Todd said. “My instructor, Miss Fann, filled me with the knowledge I needed to help others and pass my state test. My CTE Success Coach, Emily DeForest, was there to support me and give me the confidence I needed to succeed. Dr. Rhodes, my Disability Services Coordinator, helped me get the support I needed to get through my class.”

She is still working for Durham School Services and Addus Homecare, but with her CNA certificate she is applying to multiple medical facilities in Mt. Vernon so she doesn't have to work several jobs.

“My advice for other students interested in healthcare, is to try working at a healthcare facility or volunteer so you have an understanding of what to expect. Healthcare is a very caring field, you must have the ability to care for people and treat them with respect. Always have faith in God to get you through.”

BRITTNEY HORN

HHS FIRST FEMALE CORPORATE EXECUTIVE CHEF

Brittney Horn's (Class of 2012) journey started at Rend Lake College's Culinary Arts program. After graduating, she had dreams of being a famous chef in a big city. Little did she know that healthcare would be a career path for her, or the new heights that she would achieve in the culinary industry.

Horn is proud to call herself the first female Corporate Executive Chef employed at HHS.

HHS is a contracts service company that works with hundreds of different businesses across the country. They have contracts with government organizations, resorts, and senior living, to name a few. She works in the Healthcare division, specifically in Culinary & Nutrition Services (CNS).

Before starting with HHS, she never considered healthcare as a career option. After graduating from RLC, she moved to Chicago to pursue her dreams of being a big-city chef. She worked two full-time restaurant jobs. Her journey to success was paved with multiple different leadership roles, from working as a line cook to front-of-the-house management.

While she was working in Chicago, a friend from culinary school reached out to her about his new job at HHS. He said she should come work for them. She turned him down at first because she was happy at the restaurant she was running at the time. But still, he was insistent, and after two years of trying to convince her, Horn finally made the move to HHS.

She started in 2017 and since working there, she has been promoted four times, including the promotion to her current position. She feels that she has really had a chance to grow with the company. She is able to apply her skills as a chef and a leader in her role at HHS by developing programs, writing recipes, and providing quality food and care to the communities they serve. "Food is some of the best medicine," she said.

"In my role, we have to be very adaptive, we have to shift gears frequently, and having that creative freedom while I was [at RLC] helped drive that for me," she said.

She feels that starting at RLC was one of the best decisions she could have made because the education helped prepare her for her career.

"I think there's a lot of value in programs like these..." Horn said. "It's important for people to know that you don't have to go to the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) to get a

quality culinary education. You might not be getting the same exact education here that you would get there, but you get a really good, strong base. And as long as you're willing to work with that and build on it...for me it's worked out very well."

She also expressed that in a lot of her classes, they didn't just teach her what to do and how to do it, they taught her the why. They learned the science behind cooking, and she always thought that was a valuable skill to have in her education. She carries that principle not only in her cooking, but also her leadership.

When asked what advice she would give to current RLC students in the Culinary Arts program, she said, "Make sure people know what you want. I've always made sure to express what my expectations for my career were going to be. Solicit feedback and don't take it personally, take it as a lesson. We all make mistakes, mistakes happen, it's what you do with it that affects the situation the most."

She wants students to know it's important to keep an open mind, and that sometimes their original plan might not pan out the way they had hoped, but better things are sure to come their way if they keep their options open.

For instance, Horn never thought she would end up working in healthcare, but she gets to work with food every day and provide nourishment to those in need. And before she started at RLC, she never thought she'd end up being a chef, but now she can call herself the first female Corporate Executive Chef at HHS.

She originally started school majoring in something else entirely, but it didn't work out so she dropped out her first semester to figure out what she wanted to do. One night, she and her college roommate were sitting at the table, eating a meal that Horn had prepared when she said, "I want to do something and I don't know what it is...and [my roommate] said, go to culinary school. It had never dawned on me before that moment and it is one of the best decisions of my life."

The advice she would give to her younger self who didn't know what direction life was taking her would be, "Do it exactly the same. You're on the right path."



**“DO IT EXACTLY THE SAME. YOU’RE
ON THE RIGHT PATH.”**

- Brittney Horn, Class of 2012



REND LAKE COLLEGE HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING FOR THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MANUFACTURING ACADEMY

Rend Lake College celebrated the opening of the Southern Illinois Manufacturing Academy (SIMA) with a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday afternoon at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon.

RLC President Terry Wilkerson spoke about the origins of the project — conversations that started things moving more than two years ago, and securing \$5 million in federal funding.

“We formed partnerships along the way,” President Wilkerson said. “Rend Lake College extended our hand to work with Kaskaskia College and with Southeastern, and they decided to partner up. We had the confidence to work together and move our region forward.”

RLC Executive Vice President Lori Ragland opened the press conference, welcoming those in attendance and speaking about the layout of the facility, and how the introduction of SIMA is a significant milestone for Southern Illinois, bringing both educational and economic value to the region.

“The new facility will play a crucial role in filling the skills gap and preparing workers for well-paying, in-demand jobs,” Ragland said. “It will serve new and



“THE NEW FACILITY WILL PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN FILLING THE SKILLS GAP AND PREPARING WORKERS FOR WELL-PAYING, IN-DEMAND JOBS.”

- LORI RAGLAND, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

incumbent workers through hands-on application to validate learned skills and will include a working manufacturing environment where participants will demonstrate competencies based on industry criteria.”

The ceremony was followed by a showcase of SIMA, RLC programs, and Confection Connection where attendees were treated to all sorts of chocolate fare, made on-the-spot.

SIMA is a state-of-the-art academy that covers nearly 22,000 square feet and includes advanced training for electronics, robotics, programmable logic controllers, pneumatics, machining, welding, wiring, power & controls, MSSC certifications, SACA certifications, forklift operator certification, production skills, OSHA, employability skills and sustainable energy & logistics (coming soon).

In June 2022, Rend Lake College was awarded a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) to construct SIMA. This academy is funded under EDA’s American Rescue Plan Economic Adjustment Assistance program. Grant awards under this program help hundreds of communities across the nation plan, build, innovate and put people back to work through construction or non-construction projects designed to meet local needs.

One of the standout features of SIMA is the integration of a chocolate production facility, called Confection Connection. Students will experience the entire production process from raw ingredients to finished products, providing a cross-disciplinary approach that blends culinary arts with manufacturing.

“Our goal at the SIMA Confection Connection is to enable students to understand the Manufacturing process from start to finish,” said Chef Instructor Jeff Fairbanks. “We will include training on industrial safety, sanitation and hygiene, automated machinery, teamwork and manufacturing from purchasing to shipping.”

Fairbanks said training on food safety and the science of chocolate will be “from bean to bar” with a “focus on the quality control aspect in every step of the operation.”

Special thanks: U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Greater Egypt Regional Planning & Development Commission, Castle Ridge Director Greg Sutton, Eggemeyer Associate Architects, Bevis Construction, Inc., and the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce.



TECHNOLOGY UPDATES: ELLUCIAN COLLEAGUE



Students and employees alike are enjoying the new Ellucian Colleague system at RLC. This enterprise resource planning (ERP) system is the central program which handles student registration, financial aid packaging and disbursement, processing of payments, business office operations and much more.

The new system, an upgrade from the previous Ellucian PowerCampus product, is the result of nearly two years of effort on the part of many RLC employees, working hundreds of hours with Ellucian consultants and with project managers from BHA Technologies. The cost over five years, including the implementation work which began in January 2023 and will conclude in January 2025, is estimated at \$3.5 million.

The benefits of this cloud-based system include easier navigation and processing of records, a centralized Experience portal allowing students and employees quick access from any mobile device, and a new mobile app for ease of access.

“The new Colleague system is a major upgrade for RLC and has meant a better experience for students and employees,” said Dr. Chad Copple,

Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness. “It’s the result of a vast amount of work on the part of a large group, and I’m especially proud of the way that group kept up their enthusiasm throughout the implementation. They never lost sight of the finish line.”



TECHNOLOGY UPDATES: RLC WEBSITE

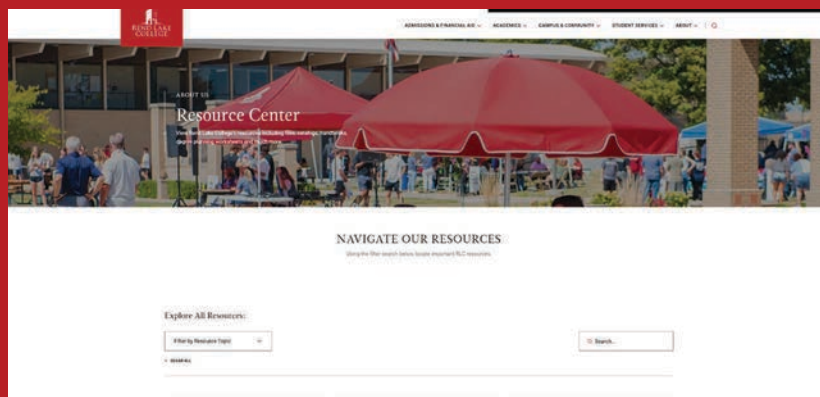
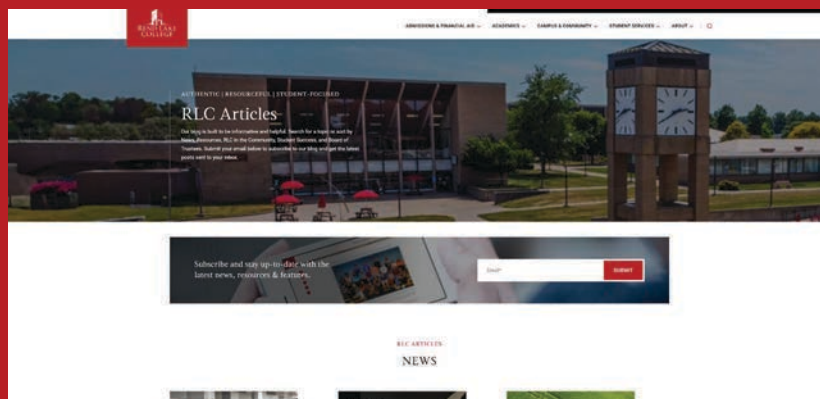
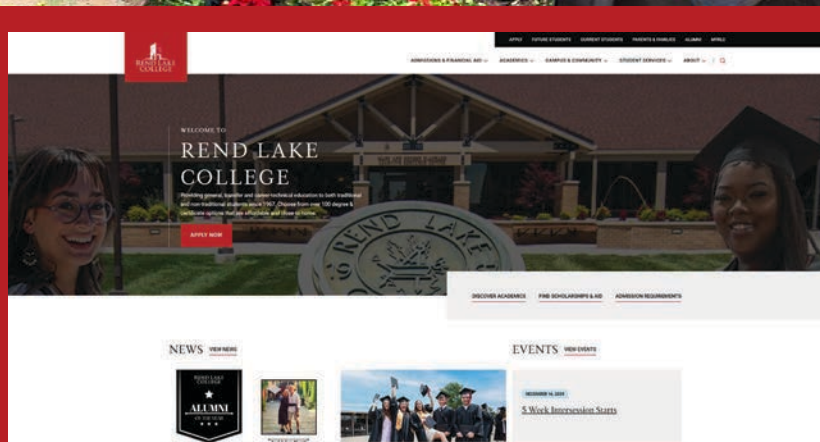


The Rend Lake College Marketing & Communication Department has developed and published the new RLC website in October 2024.

Partnering with Mole Street, an industry-leading technology and marketing consultancy, and using HubSpot products, the Marketing & Communication Department was able to create a website that is user-friendly with better mobile responsiveness, condensed pages, updated information and a simple and cohesive layout.

“Our department is thrilled to unveil this new site,” says Taylor Wilburn, Social Media & Outreach Specialist. “This launch represents a significant step forward, allowing Rend Lake College to better serve our students and community with new, enhanced technology that meets their needs.”

The standout features of the new site include an updated blog page with a subscription feature, filterable blogs and the ability to search content, the Events and Activities Calendar, a Resource Center that includes important resources such as files, catalogs, handbooks and degree planning worksheets, a new global search feature and the integration with MindStamp, an interactive video platform, for students.



REND LAKE COLLEGE *Foundation*

The Foundation represents a partnership between public and private interests for the benefit of Rend Lake College students. We invite and encourage your participation, interest and support. Please join the many generous individuals, corporations and foundations who have given their support to the Foundation and the mission of Rend Lake College.

MEET THE TEAM



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



AMY NEWELL

DIRECTOR
OF DEVELOPMENT



DAWN JOHNSON

MAJOR GIFT
OFFICER



JESSICA JACKANICZ

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
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MT. VERNON
EMERITUS

FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS

- BANTERRA SPORTS COMPLEX GROUNDBREAKING
- DEACONESS ILLINOIS DONATES 250K TO THE GAME PLAN
- RLCF HOSTS 44TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
- \$275K WORTH OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
- STEVEN TATE WELCOMED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- \$100K ENDOWMENT FROM JACI AND LEE WYATT
- RLCF HOSTS ANNUAL WILMA GUY HIGH TEA
- RLCF HOSTS 44TH ANNUAL DINNER
- GLENN BOX NAMED 2023 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
- GREGG BARNARD WELCOMED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- JACI & LEE WYATT NAMED 2024 ALUMNI OF THE YEAR



REND LAKE COLLEGE
FOUNDATION
2023
ALUMNUS
OF THE YEAR

GLENN
BOX



Glenn Box is a Warrior. He's a workhorse competitor — a committed professional who aims to one-up himself every day and motivates others to charge in with him. And he's not afraid to take risks. Hands down one of the smartest risks he took was deciding to pick up the phone and call Tim Wills at Rend Lake College. The college is honored to name Box its 2023 Alumnus of the Year.

Box's journey to head of Lady Redhawks basketball at University of Miami (OH) has passed through every level. In the usual manner, his coaching journey started out as a player. But it wasn't at RLC.

He started on scholarship with one of the Warriors' conference opponents, but eventually stepped away. He was working and still going to school, but only played when he could find free time.

"I knew I should be playing. I needed to play," Box said.

He decided to contact Coach Wills at RLC.

Wills was in his third year as the head coach at RLC and hadn't had a winning season yet. He was on the recruiting trail and looking for players who could help change that. "To be honest, I didn't recruit Box," said Wills, RLC Athletic Director and its 1996 Alumnus of the Year. "He called to ask if he could come to RLC to play on the basketball team ... as a walk-on."

"Rend Lake was my lifeline," Box said. "If Coach Wills didn't answer the phone ... I never would have played basketball, probably never would have continued my college career. It would have been very difficult for me to achieve much, had he simply not picked up the phone when I called."

Box said he had an instant connection with Wills. Two

days after meeting, Box was set on transferring, he said. He had saved up just enough to pay for one semester. After a few months, Wills awarded him a scholarship. The next season, Wills and the Warriors logged one of the best years in program history.

"It became evident early on that he had talent," Wills said. "He became our starting point guard on one of the most successful teams in the history of Rend Lake College's Men's Basketball. He was an integral part of a team that won 20 games and was ranked as high as #5 nationally."

"It was one of those situations where I just had to keep moving forward," Box said. He always believed he was destined to accomplish great things, and he pushed himself to achieving those dreams through taking risks and overcoming fears that otherwise might have held him back.

The impact RLC left on Box's life was a positive one. It gave him the tools he needed to shape his future and a sense of community being on a team again during a difficult time in his life. On the student athlete questionnaire Box filled out more than 28 years ago, he wrote that he believed one of his greatest strengths was his leadership skills and that a goal for himself was, "To win a national title and finally gain respect that I feel I deserve as a ballplayer."

Box had plenty of confidence and drive. What he needed was a shot. After graduating from RLC in 1996, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Southeast Missouri State in 1998. After SEMO, Box headed back to Cairo and started coaching at his old high school. He returned to RLC in 2002 as an assistant to Wills.

As an assistant coach, Wills said he saw in him the natural talent, desire, and determination to become an outstanding basketball coach. "Since that time, he has continually moved his way up within the college coaching ranks and has been a major part of many successful teams and programs," he added. "As great a coach he is, he is truly an even better human being. He was one of the most well-liked and respected people on our campus during his tenure as a player, coach, and employee of RLC."

In 2005, Box made the switch to coaching women's basketball. He took over the head coaching position for the Lady Warriors and it's no secret why he was gone after just three seasons. He had 19 wins in his first year and RLC suddenly caught the attention of programs across the country. A 24-8 campaign the next year carried the Lady Warriors to their first Region XXIV Finals, where they came one possession short of a national tournament berth. Ranked Preseason No. 20 in 2007-08 — what would be his final season coaching at RLC — they lived up to the ranking. Rend Lake started out 16-3, but season-ending injuries and the loss of its leading scorer resulted in a 21-11 mark. Nevertheless, Box's meteoric debut had him rising toward the top of coaching recruiting lists.

He joined Western Michigan in 2008 where he was an assistant for two years before heading to Saint Louis University from 2010-2012, and then Akron for two seasons where the Zips played in the 2014 NCAA Tournament. He returned to SLU for two more years and then spent seven seasons at Indiana — the last four as associate head coach. During his tenure

at IU, the Hoosiers made the NCAA tourney five times with two Sweet-16 appearances and one Elite Eight finish (2020-21). Finishing 28-4 this past season, the Hoosiers won the Big Ten for the first time in ten decades and were a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament, losing by a bucket to University of Miami (FL) in the second round. Box was named Miami-Ohio's 10th head coach on May 8.

He says it is a rewarding career just as much as it is challenging, and he continues to learn more about himself as a person and a coach with every team he joins. "You're a psychologist. You wash clothes. You mop the floors. You do scheduling. You're their academic advisor. You do everything for your students. You accrue a lot of experience in a lot of different areas. And it has been great."

He understands the responsibility of being a coach for student athletes. He knows he is not just their coach, but their mentor, just as Wills was to him. Box will continue to call Wills when he is in search of professional advice, he said.

When he was approached by the University of Miami (OH) to be the head coach for the women's basketball team, he was extremely surprised, he said, adding that it was an honor, but also extremely emotional. It gave him the opportunity to reflect on everything he and his family had been through to get to this point.

"Box continues to represent the best of Rend Lake College, and we are honored by his accomplishments as a proud alumnus of our institution," said RLC President Terry Wilkerson.

"Glenn Box is a standout Alumni of Rend Lake College," said Amy Newell,

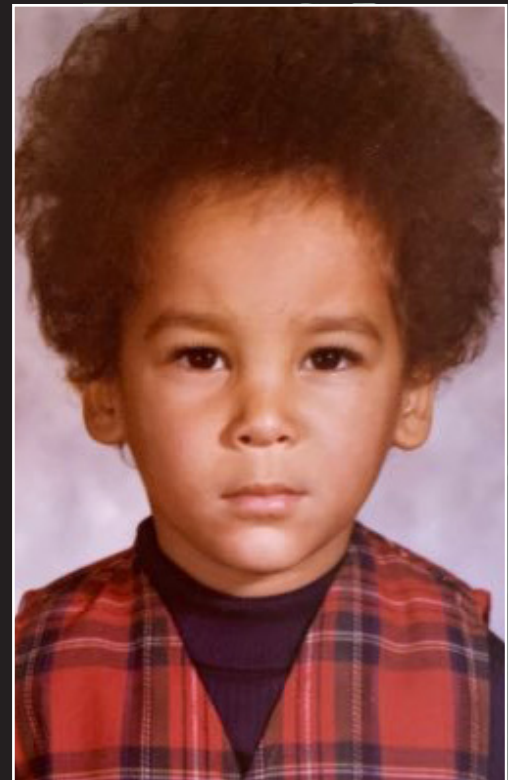
Assistant Director of Development for the Rend Lake College Foundation. "What impresses me about Box is he has taken his passion, skills, and life lessons he learned at RLC and used them to find success and make a positive impact on others. We are honored to add him to the list of accomplished RLC Alumnus of the Year and to celebrate his accomplishments at the 44th RLC Foundation Annual Dinner."

"The RLC Foundation could not have chosen a better individual to be the 2023 Alumnus of the Year than Glenn Box," said Wills. "I am proud of his accomplishments and proud to call him a great friend!"

Whether it's at his first gig back home in Cairo or his new role at Miami-Ohio, Box will always be a Warrior, warning the world not to sell him short.

If he could talk to his younger self — that kid who was so hungry to make a name for himself — Box said he would tell him "keep moving forward. There's more than where we came from. There's more than Southern Illinois. The whole world is yours. You just have to keep going."

Box will be recognized as 2023 Alumnus of the Year at the 44th Annual RLCF Dinner on December 7th at 6:00 p.m. It will take place at the Event Center on RLC campus in Ina. The Annual Dinner is one of the many ways the Foundation raises money for the school and student scholarships



"THE WHOLE WORLD IS YOURS. YOU JUST HAVE TO KEEP GOING."

- Glenn Box, RLCF 2023 Alumnus of the Year

REND LAKE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

2024

ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

JACI & LEE WYATT



Like so many young adults, fresh out of high school, Lee Wyatt and Jaci Brown were unsure of how they wanted to begin the next phase of life. Jaci (Pinckneyville) knew she still wanted to cheer. Lee knew he wanted to keep playing the sports he loved at Steeleville High. They chased their dreams to Rend Lake College. What they found there was much more than they ever expected.

They both started in 1971 at the brand new facilities in Ina. It wasn't long before their paths crossed on campus and they began dating. In a recent interview, they playfully debated whether or not the '71 Christmas Dance was their first or second date.

"It's kind of blur. All I know is she asked me out," Lee joked.

"It could have been the first

one. I thought it was the second one," she added with a laugh.

"I thought you said you needed a date for the Christmas Dance and that's why you asked me," he replied. "I thought that was the first one."

"I think it was," Jaci conceded through a grin.

There's one thing Lee can't forget.

"A sleeveless, long, purple dress," he said.

The Wyatts will return to the scene Dec. 12 when they are honored as RLC's 2024 Alumni of the Year. The theme of this year's RLCF Annual Dinner is Sweet Success: A Night of Chocolate & Champions. It could not be more fitting with their story.

"[RLC] was just such a

positive experience," he said. "We started to build momentum there. Academically, it was good — challenging but manageable. It was a lot of fun. We accomplished some things and built confidence. We realized, especially for me, this was a foundation, which made me motivated."

When thinking about the people and places that helped him the most, Lee says RLC is at the top of the list — specifically the people there. Folks like James "Hummer" Waugh, Mike McClure and Wayne Arnold from the athletics department.

Lee recalled a basketball practice in his first semester. Coach Waugh gathered the players together to make an announcement. He remembered Waugh saying, "Well, sports fans! We have

two members of the team who made the dean's list!" Lee "Sonny" Wyatt was one of those names.

"That was kind of a reinforcement," Lee said. "I remember that distinctly when he said that. I thought, you know, I could continue this and do well."

There were inspirations like B.J. "Skip" Witunski (Business Manager and Board/Foundation Treasurer 1970-1981) and Dr. James Snyder (President 1967-75) from the business and administrative corners of campus.

"I had decided I'm never going to be Division I, so I was going to get more focused on business and school," Lee said. "Skip Witunski, just out of the blue, came up to me and said there are scholarships you can get if you're going to go

to Carbondale. He said just fill this out. He took care of filing it for me.”

“Wayne Arnold was the biggest [RLC] impact on my life,” Jaci shared. “I talked to him on the phone about a year before his passing and I still called him ‘Mr. Arnold.’ He was very special in my life. I met a lot of friends from other towns who came to Rend Lake. It was fun for me. I enjoyed it.”

After RLC, Jaci entered the workforce and Lee went on to pursue a BS in Accounting from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Before he had even graduated, a St. Louis company offered him his first accounting job. He moved there and worked while earning an MBA from Washington University.

His career spanned major corporations including Sealy Corporation, Sonic Automotive, and the Sara Lee Corporation (Chicago) where he spent five years and helped spearhead the very successful spinoff of Hanesbrands Inc. (HBI).

“I was getting ready to retire early and got a call from a company in Chicago called Fortune Brands and they wanted me to do kind of the same thing.”

When Lee joined Fortune Brands as its senior vice president and chief financial officer in 2011, the company had three divisions: golf products with brands like Titleist and Foot Joy; Beam Global Spirits; and its Home & Security division that boasted a portfolio of businesses and brands like Moen, Kitchen Craft, and Master Lock.

Lee honed a remarkable

expertise in guiding private companies through the complex process of going public. In 2014, Financial Executives International Chicago presented him with its 2014 Large Public CFO of the Year Award.

When he retired in 2017, the options he earned helping create those spinoffs over the years led to great blessings for him and Jaci. Those shares became a vehicle for starting their own nonprofit foundation a year later. They named it the Three Palms Foundation after the palm trees that grace the coastal view at their home in Naples, Fla.

They had a new dream — creating opportunities for others.

“It’s easy to write a check,” Lee says, “but we are thoughtful about who and what we give to. ... So often, how you finish is how you start. If we can help people in Southern Illinois ... take that first step and get a little momentum. Rend Lake’s really good at that.”

Amy Newell, RLCF Assistant Director of Development, said the Wyatts have given back to RLC through multiple scholarships.

“Together, they have embodied the spirit of generosity by establishing scholarships dedicated to RLC coaches, administrators and their family who have shaped their journey,” Newell said.

Scholarships created by the Wyatts include the Jim Waugh Memorial Scholarship, Mike McClure Memorial

Scholarship, Wayne Arnold Memorial Scholarship, Wyatt Family Scholarship for Steeleville students and the Brown Family Scholarship for Pinckneyville students.

“I have had the privilege of visiting and working with Lee and Jaci on several occasions,” said Dawn Johnson, RLC Foundation Major Gifts Office. “The one thing that remains both true and consistent, as I learn more about their journey, is their authenticity. I can see how their faithfulness, gratitude and generosity are all linked.”

Their advice to future Warriors is akin to getting braces put on, Lee said.

“The braces may not be fun in the moment, but you have the rest of your life with a perfect smile. Give college a try. It doesn’t have to be a 4 year college, but invest in yourself. It’s not about the results you get, it’s about the potential you gain. It’s going to take work and patience, but it’s about the long view. Don’t take the easy path.”

“It is humbling that, after all their success and blessings, Jaci and Lee continue to honor RLC and the impact it had on their lives,” said Newell. “Their journey has come full circle, enabling them to help students from the Rend Lake College communities invest in themselves.”



“IT’S GOING TO TAKE WORK AND PATIENCE, BUT IT’S ABOUT THE LONG VIEW. DON’T TAKE THE EASY PATH.”
- Lee Wyatt, RLCF 2024 Alumnus of the Year

DE'VONNA BOYD

RLCF 2024 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

De' Vonna Boyd is a 2018 graduate of Mt. Vernon Township High School and the proud recipient of the Dr. Oliver D. Spittler Memorial Scholarship and MVTHS Class of 1957 Scholarship.

"These scholarships are more than just financial support," said Jessica Jackanicz, RLCF Development Coordinator. "They are a powerful testament to the belief others have in her potential, and that belief will serve as a lasting source of motivation and inspiration throughout her educational journey and beyond."

Boyd is currently pursuing her Associate Degree in Nursing, with plans to graduate in May 2025. She is a dedicated student, wife and the mother of a 6-year-old son, with a strong desire to make a lasting difference in her community.

"I worked as a CNA for three years before finally having the courage to apply to nursing school," shared Boyd. "Nursing school has taught me more about myself than my adversities ever have, because this was intentional. I chose this."

"De'Vonna has shown incredible resilience, dedication and determination on her journey toward achieving her dreams," said Jackanicz. "Her story is one of perseverance, overcoming challenges and never losing sight of the future she envisioned, even when it seemed out of reach."





“NURSING SCHOOL HAS TAUGHT ME MORE ABOUT MYSELF THAN MY ADVERSITIES EVER HAVE, BECAUSE THIS WAS INTENTIONAL. I CHOSE THIS.”

- De'Vonna Boyd, Class of 2025



REND LAKE COLLEGE HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING ON THE BANTERRA SPORTS COMPLEX

Rend Lake College held a ceremony to celebrate the groundbreaking on the new Banterra Sports Complex.

Renovations of the complex will include approximately 5,688 square feet of additional space for a new entryway/lobby, concessions, training room and new restrooms. The existing 32,000 square feet will be renovated to include new digital scoreboards, scorers' bench, locker rooms, office space and more. The cost of the renovations and additions totals to approximately \$6.5 million.

"Everybody forgets how much time our student athletes spend in facilities like this," says RLC President Terry Wilkerson. "The hours of practice and planning, and it's not just game time. And, so, I think that's important for our students to know that they're supported. And, if you elevate their environment, you elevate their expectations and they'll produce that."

President and CEO of Banterra Bank, Jeff May, shares that the partnership between Rend Lake College and Banterra Bank for this facility is about serving, enhancing and growing the community.

"If you look at the history of Rend Lake College and what it has done for our area, it is important that we continue to make the college a bigger and more important part of our community," says May. "We know Rend Lake College enrolls students in our [Banterra



“STUDENTS WALK ON THIS CAMPUS AND GET TO SEE THE NEWLY RENOVATED BANTERRA SPORTS COMPLEX. WHETHER THEY’RE AN ATHLETE OR NOT, THAT SAYS REND LAKE COLLEGE IS TOP NOTCH.”

- JENNIFER SPENCE, BANTERRA BANK

Bank] footprint and we want to support programs that recognize them and any enhancement to their campus experience.”

Jennifer Spence, Director of Marketing at Banterra Bank, shares that a facility like the Banterra Sports Complex shows students and student athletes how much RLC supports them.

“[The Banterra Sports Complex] raises the bar and makes them want to perform better, meet those expectations,” says Spence. “Students walk on this campus and get to see the newly renovated Banterra Sports Complex, whether they’re an athlete or not, that says Rend Lake College is top notch.”

“This complex hasn’t been updated for 50 plus years. By bringing in and doing this renovation, it’s going to equip students with the tools and new equipment for them to reach their peak,” says President of Deaconess Illinois, William Davis. “I think that this is going to do nothing but add to the momentum of the college, and help as a recruitment tool to bring in more students across Southern Illinois.”

The Banterra Sports Complex at Rend Lake College will include the existing James “Hummer” Waugh Gymnasium as well as new additions to the space. Waugh Gymnasium is one of the original buildings on the college’s campus and in 1995 was named after Waugh, a long-time coach and educator with nearly 50 combined athletic seasons to his credit when he retired. In addition to the gym, it includes athletic offices and locker rooms.

“When our students come on campus, they’re looking at academics, they’re looking at the program and their teammates,” says Dawn Johnson, RLC Foundation Major Gifts Officer. “But, the facilities absolutely make a difference. We’re just excited to continue tradition and have it be a place that students can be proud of.”

RLC Warrior basketball player Equinton Milsap and Lady Warrior basketball player Carly Foster share their excitement for the renovations.

“I’m excited that it’s going to be a better facility around here, and a better locker room,” says Milsap. “The training room will help a lot, because we need a bigger training room so more people can get help with what they need.”

“I’m just excited for the big opening out front,” says Foster. “It’s going to look real fancy and nice.”

RLC Executive Vice President, Lori Ragland, shares the expected completion goal for the Banterra Sports Complex will be August 2025.

“We’re hoping to be done by the time the fall semester starts and our volleyball season begins,” says Ragland. “So, if all goes well, we will be in this nice, new facility in August of 2025.”



33RD ANNUAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

Legence Bank, a community-focused financial institution, proudly sponsored the 33rd Annual Rend Lake College Foundation Scholarship Dinner, contributing \$5,000 towards scholarships and event support. This generous donation will directly benefit two exceptional RLC students, Brockton Miller and Madison Shephard, by providing them with scholarships that recognize their hard work, academic achievements and community service.

RLCF's Scholarship Reception is an annual event that celebrates the achievements of students and the generosity of their supporters. It serves as a way for them to network and socialize, and strengthens connections within the RLC community. This year's reception featured Miller as the keynote speaker.

Cathy DeJarnette, Executive Director of Administrative Services at RLC, expressed gratitude for Legence Bank's sponsorship and commitment to education. "We are really thankful for Legence Bank. They have generously supported our scholarship program. They've shown a strong commitment to education in Southern Illinois that I hope inspires others and I know is making a difference in the lives of Brock and Madison."

Miller, 19, of Thompsonville, is a business major. Shephard, 20, of Mt. Vernon, is majoring in Culinary Arts. They have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their studies and community involvement.

Kevin Beckemeyer, President and CEO of Legence Bank, shared his enthusiasm for the partnership. "Legence Bank believes strongly in the power of education and the importance of supporting our local communities. We are honored to contribute to the futures of Brockton and Madison through these scholarships and to play a role in the success of the Rend Lake College Foundation Scholarship event. It's a privilege to see the direct impact of our support on the lives of these hardworking students."



Legence Bank presented a \$5,000 check to support the Legence Bank Burt H. Rowe Memorial Scholarship, the Legence Bank Merit Scholarship, and sponsor the evening's event. FROM LEFT, are; Sydney Tucker – Branch Manager Mt. Vernon, Dustin Wilson – VP, Commercial Banker, RLC Executive Director of Administrative Services Cathy DeJarnette, Tricia Overturf – Vice President Marketing & Communications, Laura Small – Branch Manager Benton/Johnston City, RLCF Board Vice Chairperson Mary Ellen



Students Brockton Miller (Rowe Memorial) and Madison Shephard (Merit) with Legence Bank representatives, L-R, Laura Small, Jessica Grinnell, Tricia Overturf, Dustin Wilson and Sydney Tucker





Spacious lobby & concessions
Sponsorship - Still Available



State-of-the-art athletic training room
Sponsorship - Deaconess Illinois



Top-tier locker rooms
Sponsorship - Warren Stark (Men)



Officials Locker Rooms
Sponsorship - Still Available



Player Lockers
Sponsorships - Still Available



Scoreboard Panels
Sponsorships - Still Available

We are so excited to begin construction on The Banterra Sports Complex at RLC! As we end the year, we want to extend how grateful we are for those who have contributed toward this project and we welcome others to become part of The Game Plan. We are committed to our deserving student-athletes and programs.

If you are interested in a one-time gift, a naming opportunity or pledging your support over a period of years, please contact Dawn Johnson, Major Gifts Officer at johnsond@rlc.edu or call (618) 534-5190.

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The Game Plan



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