



## Campus Sunrise

# RLC again on Aspen Institute's list of best colleges

**CHAD COPPLE**

RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

For the third time, Rend Lake College has been recognized on the Aspen Institute's list of the top community colleges in the nation for its student success rates.

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program on Friday named its 150 top community colleges, challenging them to compete for a \$1 million fund through the 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The institute's mission is to improve colleges' understanding and capacity to teach and graduate students by sharing and building on best practices found at community colleges across the nation. The goal especially targets the

growing population of low-income and minority students on American campuses.

This year marks the third time RLC has made the Aspen list since the competition began in 2011. The Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence is awarded every two years.

"We're proud to be on the Aspen list again," said RLC President Terry Wilkerson. "We've consistently been on this list, and I think that's a testament to the solid work of our faculty and staff, who every day help our students keep focused on making forward progress."

According to the Aspen Institute website, the prize is "the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and per-

formance among America's community colleges and recognizes institutions for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students."

The Aspen Institute, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, and the Lumina Foundation are partners supporting the prize.

Josh Wyner, Aspen Institute College Excellence Program Executive Director, said what the funding partners realize is that community colleges are not getting the attention they deserve.

"We need to make sure that

we recognize that these are institutions that serve 7 million degree-seeking students, and that we are not going to meet our goals for social mobility or economic growth unless these institutions are recognized for the excellent work that many of them are doing," Wyner said.

RLC's three-year graduation and retention rate – 70 percent – far exceeds the national average of 39.8 percent for all community and technical colleges, according to information provided by the Aspen Institute.

"It is rewarding to see the impact of RLC's continuous effort to serve and support students," said Chris Kuberski, Vice President of Academic Instruction at RLC. "While the national recognition is wel-

come, we hope it will be recognized locally that Rend Lake College offers a quality education and the support services that students need to be successful."

Other Illinois community colleges that made the list include: City Colleges of Chicago – Kennedy-King College and Wilbur Wright College; Elgin Community College; Illinois Eastern Community Colleges – Olney Central College and Wabash Valley College (Mount Carmel); Kishwaukee College (Malta); McHenry County College (Crystal Lake); and Morton College (Cicero).

The Aspen Institute will announce 10 finalists this fall, with the winner being announced in early 2015.

## Keeping up with the Writing Center

**BILLY MCPHERSON**  
 CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFFWRITER

One are those long, cozy, pajama-wearing days of winter vacation, and in their place is the new Spring Semester, which is now in full swing here at Rend Lake College. This adjustment period can prove to be quite challenging to many students who must now re-acclimate themselves to the daily grind of college life in the absence of said cozy pajamas. For those aforementioned students, as well as the rest of the general campus population, the Rend Lake College Writing Center is here to help you keep from falling behind at this crucial juncture in the academic year.

Just recently the Clocktower Chronicle had an opportunity to

speak with the Director of the RLC Writing Center, Kelsey Landis, about what kind of help you can expect to find when you visit them at their new location in the North Oasis.

"The Writing Center offers help with any writing endeavor that a student may encounter, be it an essay for English class, a research paper, or résumé and cover letter writing. We can also help develop basic college writing skills, as well as help with grammar and punctuation," Landis said.

"The Writing Center has two professional tutors and one volunteer peer tutor. We are also open to hiring more volunteer peer tutors," Landis added.

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## Cybulski remembered a decade after attending RLC

**George Cybulski Sr.**  
 one of college's oldest students

**REANNE PALMER**  
 RLC SPORTS INFORMATION

This month marks the 10th anniversary of the passing of George Cybulski Sr., an 82-year-old man who impacted the lives of many students and staff at Rend Lake College when he decided to go back to school. Though his time at RLC was short, his legacy still stands in the form of the George Cybulski Memorial Scholarship.

In the words of a former-student, Cybulski was "living proof that it is never too late to go to college." On campus, he

became a role model for students while obtaining his GED at 79 years old and working toward an associate degree until his death. And he did it all with style, attending campus activities and hanging out with students not half his age. To one local newspaper reporter, he jokingly said, "I expect to do well, especially in history class."

Born in 1921, the Great Depression affected Cybulski's education when he dropped out of high school to work and take care of his family. His son, Dr. George R. Cybulski, said it was always one of his father's goals to return to school and finish what he started.

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## Local filmmakers sought for student competition

Community college students throughout Illinois are being asked to get their cameras ready to show off their school pride for a short film competition. The competition, hosted by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA), is asking students to create a five-minute film about their school and community to enhance school engagement, pride, and awareness.

There are some requirements students have to fulfill in the

short film, including incorporating the college's mission and motto, and filming within the college's district. At least one student must be currently enrolled or a recent graduate of the 2013-2014 school year.

The deadline to register for the competition is 10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1. After the registration period is closed, filmmaking seminars will be posted for students to attend throughout February and March. The

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# Hilarity ensues at annual Night of Comedy

**SHELBY PATTERSON**  
CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

The Rend Lake College Thespians delighted audience members with their quick wit and improvisational skills at the annual Night of Comedy, Jan. 30, in the RLC Theatre.

The troupe played a variety of games similar to those made famous on shows such as "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" and put their own flair on them. Several audience members, who thought they were in for just a night of being entertained, got pulled up on stage to join the Thespians in their fun.

Club sponsor Tracey Webb, director of theatre at RLC, said, "Last night we had a really great audience who really enjoyed the improvisational games. In fact, we had many former Thespians — RLC graduates — who returned to join in on the acting games and it almost seemed like a reunion. As the club spon-

sor, I admit to being euphoric about the performance. After all, laughter makes a person feel buoyant and there was a ton of laughter last night."

The show opened with members of the troupe "breaking the ice," with their large audience, by showing off their wacky and zany dance moves to the hit "Gangnam Style," and then quickly followed into some of their favorite games. The audience was in stitches during the club favorite "Comedy Cube," where four people simultaneously improvise four different scenes. RLC Instructor Dayna Hartley even joined in on the fun and got on stage with the actors to help entertain!

The crowd was also actively involved in the games — "Who's Line," and "Stage Directions" — where suggestions from the audience are required. Members of the audience write down funny phrases and actions for the troupe to weave into

their scenes — true improv at its best.

Other hilarious games played during the night included "Questions Only," "Helping Hands," "Sit, Stand, Lean," "Gibberish," "Last Line," and "Freeze".

The Thespians meet every Friday afternoon to work on their improvisational skills and comedic timing to prepare for this annual show. They are thankful to the college for having such a nice environment to develop and nurture their love of the craft! Comedy improv is a great way to get your start in theatre. Many of the troupe members have expanded their involvement, knowledge, and love of theatre since joining the group.

During the spring semester, they take a break from comedy improv games and start focusing on their scripted production, "Flummoxed Fairy Tales," which is performed in early May for area grade schools. Reservations are still being taken, but seats are going quickly!



RLC Thespians can't contain their laughter as members Nicholas Conner, LEFT, and Tyler Bourland improvise a scene during the game, "Comedy Cube." (Shelby Patterson / Clocktower Chronicle)

Additional information about all things theatre at The Lake is available

online at [www.rlc.edu/theatre](http://www.rlc.edu/theatre) or by contacting Webb by e-mail at

[webbt@rlc.edu](mailto:webbt@rlc.edu) or by phone at 618-437-5321, Ext. 1295.

## New library materials

The LRC recently added the following material to the collection.

**NONFICTION**  
"The Uncharted Path: an Autobiography" by Lee Myung Bak  
"Prince William" by Joann F. Price  
"School Success for Kids with Dyslexia" by Walter Dunsan  
"Watch Your Words" by Marda Dunsky  
"Too Bold for the Box Office: the Mockumentary from Big Screen to Small"

"Shocked But Connected, Notes on Laughter" by Michael Koemer  
**DVD**

"Making Stuff 2"  
"Dark Ages"  
"Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"  
**JUVENILE FICTION**  
"Underpants, Thunderpants" by Peter Bentley  
"Say Please, Little Bear" by Peter Bentley  
"Count to 10 with a Mouse"  
"Do Super Heroes Have Teddy Bears" by Carmela LaVigna

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# Concealed Carry classes planned for February, March

**REANNE PALMER**  
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

Two more Concealed Carry classes are being offered at Rend Lake College in upcoming months. The Concealed Carry Firearms Training courses are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 8-9 and Saturday and Sunday, March 1-2. All courses will last from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. both days in RLC Coal Mine Training Center, Room 107 on the Ina campus and the RLC

Range. Fingerprinting services will be available during the class time for \$50 cash, or \$52 with a debit or credit card. A driver's license is required for fingerprinting. In addition, attendees must bring a valid FOID card, a handgun, and two boxes of unopened factory ammunition to the training session. Handguns will be inspected by RLC certified instructors.

The cost of the class and qualification is \$200. Pre-registration and pre-

payment is required. Registration is done on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, contact the RLC Community and Corporate Education

Division at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1714 or visit online at [www.rlc.edu/firearmtraining](http://www.rlc.edu/firearmtraining).

## Reel Illinois .....

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films themselves will be due in April. Film scores will consist of a judgment by panel for 80 percent of the total, with the remaining 20 percent based on total YouTube views. After judging, finalists will have a special award ceremony and screening at the Chicago International Social Change Film Festival in September to determine the winner. The world premiere of the winning films will be featured at the National Leadership Congress in October.

There are two categories for the films — introductory and

advanced. The first place film in each category wins a grand prize of \$1,000, with \$500 for second place and \$250 for third. Winners will also receive film equipment.

For more information about the competition, or to register for free, visit [www.reelillinois.org](http://www.reelillinois.org).

Illinois Community College Systems serve 65 percent of all students in higher education. There are 48 community colleges in Illinois. Films will automatically be eliminated with no exceptions if it contains explicit language, nudity, discriminates against one's race, ethnicity, disability, religious belief, gender or sexual orientation.

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# ATHLETICS

## W S E C T I O N

### RLC pitcher Trey Garrett signs to Florida International University

REANNE PALMER  
RLC SPORTS INFORMATION

Rend Lake College sophomore pitcher Trey Garrett recently signed a national letter of intent to play next year at Florida International University in Miami. FIU is an NCAA Division I Program in the Conference USA.

The 6-foot-1 Benton native is the son of Mike and Julie Garrett. He played for Benton Community High School before coming to RLC, where his arm strength helped him excel on the pitcher's mound. Coming out of BCHS in 2012, Garrett was one of the top recruits in the state.

Garrett came into the fall with no offers, but after several strong performances at

showcase events, he picked up the interest of many Division I schools.

"I didn't really have a plan for where I was going to go. The fact that it's in Miami and in warmer weather helped me make that decision," said Garrett.

Last year as a Warrior, the criminal justice major had 10 appearances as pitcher with seven game starts. The right-hander posted a 5.45 ERA with 22 strikeouts in 36 innings. Offensively, he hit .242 with four doubles, 25 runs, 21 RBI and nine stolen bases.

Garrett also played over the summer for the Richmond RiverRats, a collegiate summer baseball team out of Richmond, Ind., where he made 19 appearances. He ended the sum-

mer with a 3.26 ERA at 21 strikeouts in 30 innings.

When it comes to this spring season, Garrett says he's looking forward to helping the Warriors have a successful season.

"Hopefully we can get a bunch of wins this year and go further in the post-season," he said.

Head Coach Tony Etnier added, "Trey is a gifted athlete who played the outfield and pitched for us last year. This summer in the Prospect League, his ability as a pitcher really took off. The increase in his velocity and the development of a legitimate out pitch is what attracted so many Division I 1 programs this fall. I am very happy for Trey and think that Florida International will be a great fit for



Trey Garrett

him next year."

For more information, contact Etnier at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1282. For all things athletic at the Lake, visit [www.rlc.edu/warriors](http://www.rlc.edu/warriors).

### Lady Warriors bring home victory against Lincoln Trail, Warriors fall to Statesmen

The Rend Lake College Warriors and Lady Warriors took on the Lincoln Trail Statesmen Jan. 29 in Robinson, bringing back one win and one loss. The Lady Warriors were victorious at 68-58, bringing them up to 7-8 for the season. During the following game, the RLC Warriors suffered a three point loss at 68-71. They move to 11-8 for the

season. For all things athletic at The Lake, visit RLC online at [www.rlc.edu/warriors](http://www.rlc.edu/warriors).



### Cybulski

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"He always told me he wanted to get a college education," said Cybulski. "My father grew up in the Great Depression and he wasn't able to complete high school because he had to help feed his family. When my mother passed away after a long illness, he started working on that goal by getting his GED and enrolling at Rend Lake College. He always thought highly of education. It was one of his basic philosophies of life. It was him and my mother who always supported my dreams of becoming a doctor."

Dr. Cybulski is currently serving as Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and as a neurosurgeon at Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation. He is also a 1971 graduate of Benton Consolidated High School.

"My father would tell me about the different classes he was taking and the professors he had," said Cybulski. "He and I shared a lot of that through his experiences. I actually went with him to Rend Lake a few times, and he'd introduce me to everyone he knew. He was very involved in the STARS program, so he took me to their office and I met everyone there too. They were all wonderful people who really helped him and other students. He enjoyed the atmosphere and the environment at Rend Lake College."

Cybulski Sr., originally from Chicago, moved to Benton where he was a manager at various dress factories for more than 30 years. He also served in the U.S. Army, worked as Benton water commissioner for many years, and played an active role in the community. His son says his outgoing and warm personality didn't just blossom at RLC, but was apparent throughout his life.

"He had a very optimistic outlook on life," said Cybulski. "He encouraged people to realize their dreams and go after them. That was another of his basic principles in life. His goal was to move on to Southern Illinois University. Sadly, he wasn't able to do that, but he was immersed in getting his education. He had a

wonderful time at Rend Lake College."

After his father's death, Cybulski followed in his father's footsteps by establishing the memorial scholarship and helping aspiring students reach their goals.

"I think Rend Lake College is a wonderful place and a great environment. When my father passed away, I wanted to do something to recognize his memory and his great experiences there, and to help other students," said Cybulski. "It's shortly coming up on 10 years now as the first person to receive a scholarship was in 2005."

RLC Foundation CEO Shawna Manion added the scholarship continuously helps students reach toward their dreams, something that Cybulski Sr. always encouraged.

"Dr. Cybulski's scholarship in honor of his father

is exactly what we strive for. It is a way for his family, his friends, students, and instructors impacted by Mr. Cybulski at RLC to remember him fondly," said Manion. "I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Cybulski, but I'm confident that the scholarship that has been developed in his memory helping students achieve what he thought was so important, education, would put a smile on his face."

A number of RLC current and former staff members wrote down their memories of Cybulski during his time on campus.

Julie Mumbower, former Director of the STARS program, said, "He inspired us and made us look at the joy of life with a smile and a song in our hearts."

RLC Theater Professor Tracey Webb added, "For someone so close to the end of his life, his star burned brighter than other students a quarter of his age. His verve and zest, his drive to get a college education left a life-long impression on me. Instead of waiting for his time to run out, he ran after his dreams, and I wish more people loved being alive as much as he did."

### Jobs at RLC

As of Jan. 29, Rend Lake College was seeking part-time instructors in automotive technology and mining technology. Read more and apply online at [www.rlc.edu/jobs](http://www.rlc.edu/jobs) or call (618) 437-5321.

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### Workshop wine with VESTA Feb. 15-16

A VESTA Wine Chemistry Workshop will be held Feb. 15 and 16 in Science Building Room 108 on the RLC campus in Ina. Call (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1724 for more details.

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