



# CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE



## Clocktower Chronicle looks back at the year in news

**BY NATHAN WHEELER**  
CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE EDITOR

Welcome to the Clocktower Chronicle's "Best of" edition. In this issue, you will find some of the top stories from the 2013-14 school year at Rend Lake College.

Summer classes start in less than a week. We are looking forward to beginning the 2014-15 year in news from our campuses

in Pinckneyville, Mount Vernon and Ina.

This past term was packed with stories that illustrate RLC's mission of developing the region with educational opportunities for our diverse district. With an eye on industry, the college added new programs like cyber forensics, concealed carry, and oil and natural gas drilling - a partnership with Southeastern Illinois College. We hosted state and

federal officials like Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Secretary Arne Duncan's staff from the U.S. Department of Education.

RLC added labs for writing and communications in the North Oasis, and started work on an expansion to the art program, as well as improvements to the anatomy and physiology programs. We continued to implement ongoing grants and pur-

sued new opportunities of funding progress, and learned about an exciting new scholarship drive called Pathway to Success. Our top-level leadership welcomed back a former member of the Board of Trustees and three new faces to the RLC Foundation Board of Directors.

The college hosted a slew of contests, workshops and events, including our 33rd RLCF golf outing for scholarships, 2nd

Criminal Justice Roundup, first fall car show, a 12th Anniversary at the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon, our first Warriors basketball alumni weekend, our 47th commencement, and much more.

I hope you enjoy this look back. Any student who would like to join the Clocktower Chronicle staff in the fall can contact me at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1234, or by e-mail at wheelern@rlc.edu.



Rend Lake College staged a production of "Treasure Island" in November 2013 and "Little Shop of Horrors" in April 2014. (Clocktower Chronicle File Photos)

## RLC named Military Friendly School for 2014

**BY REANNE PALMER**  
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION  
CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE  
SEPTEMBER 2013

Rend Lake College has been awarded, for the second year in a row, the title of Military Friendly School by Victory Media, a veteran-owned business and publisher of G.I. Jobs. The award is a result of a survey of over 12,000 schools, of which RLC ranks in the top 15 percent.

RLC and the other 1,867 colleges, universities and trade schools on this year's list exhibit leading practices in the recruitment and retention of students with military experience. Fifty percent of the surveys focused on military support on campus and academic credibility.

"The faculty and staff at RLC are proud to be listed among the best Military Friendly Schools this year," said RLC President Terry Wilkerson. "Veterans and service members are a distinctive group of students and we work every day toward helping them become successful stu-

dents at Rend Lake College."

The full list, interactive tools and a search function to help military students find the college best-suited to their unique needs and preferences can be found at [www.militaryfriendlyschools.com](http://www.militaryfriendlyschools.com).

"On behalf of the 8 million military members and veterans seeking a school, I thank you for your commitment to educating our nation's most deserving heroes," said Rich McCormack, President of Victory Media, Inc. "You have demonstrated a strong interest in recruiting military students, and I urge you to augment your already stellar efforts by continuing to improve your military friendliness each year."

As a part of one initiative to help veterans and service members, RLC began registering veterans and service members today for Spring 2014 classes. This priority registration continues from 8 a.m. to 4:30

**Military** ..... continues on page 2

## 'Hello yellow brick road'

**BY BILLY MCPHERSON**  
RLC CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER  
CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE  
MARCH 2014

*Editor's note: Brick color subject to change.*

It's the first building a student is likely to set foot in when starting an education at Rend Lake College. The Dr. Allen Y. Baker Administration Building has been the launching point for thousands of dreams, careers, and assorted life-long journeys for nearly a half century. Now, the RLC Foundation is preparing a capital campaign that aims to pave the way for thousands more. Literally.

A new walkway will be created that will lead to the Baker Administration Building. It will be paved with commemorative bricks paid for by supporters of RLC. This is far more than just a brick walkway project. The Foundation Board is backing the venture by matching each dollar of support. Proceeds will create a "Pathway to Success" Scholarship Endowment. According to RLCF CEO Shawna Manion, the

endowment is expected to be the Foundation's largest.

The entryway project goes by the name of "Pathway to Success" — a title that echoes the credo of Rend Lake College itself with "Our Students' Success is Our Own Success." Manion told the Clocktower Chronicle that the title "embodies what we want for all of our students."

The walkway, along with other facade renovations for the Baker building, is estimated to cost \$250,000. It is intended to create a more inviting atmosphere for prospective students and stamp the facility with a greater overall aesthetic identity.

Manion said there will be three different "pathways" from which donors can choose.

"We have three levels of bricks, or giving levels, for this project," she said. "There is a 12-inch by 12-inch brick that can feature an engraved logo for

**Road** ..... continues on page 4

## RLC Allied Health awarded up to \$2.25 million from Dept. of Education

**BY REANNE PALMER**  
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION  
CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE  
OCTOBER 2013

Big changes lie ahead for students looking into healthcare at Rend Lake College as updated curricula, student support services and new programs will be taking shape over the next five years with the help of federal grant money.

The Title III Pathways to Success in Health Careers Grants were announced last week by the U. S. Department of Education (USDE), which added that

a total of approximately \$20.1 million in grants to 39 colleges and universities across the nation will be awarded under the Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP).

RLC will receive the first grant payment this fiscal year in the amount of \$449,960 to begin making big changes in the Allied Health Division. Kim Robert, Dean of Allied Health and Project Director, said the grant money will help increase

**Health** ..... continues on page 3

### INSIDE:

- Online associate degree rolls out this fall . . . 2
- RLC retirees. . . . . 2
- Gustafson new RLCF director. . . . . 4
- Concealed carry certification at RLC . . . . 4
- Trish Reed named Alumnus of the Year . . . . 6

# Online associate degree rolls out this fall, registration begins May 5

BY CHAD COPPLE  
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION  
**CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE**  
**APRIL 2014**

Beginning May 5, students can enroll in Rend Lake College's new distance-delivered associate degree program, which makes local higher education more accessible than ever.

Classes begin Aug. 18 in this Associate in Science Degree program, which has a business focus. The program is made up mainly of online classes, allowing students to complete work at their convenience. The remainder of the classes will be delivered in a hybrid format, consisting of online coursework with a small number of face-to-face meetings announced in advance.

The roll-out of this new offering is an effort to make a college education more accessible to the residents of the Rend Lake College district, particularly those who may have difficulty attending college in the traditional face-to-face setting. This distance-delivered format allows most class work to be completed at the student's convenience, making it well suited to working adults, stay-at-home parents and more.

The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the organization which accredits colleges and universities in this region, has given its approval to allow RLC to offer this degree. College officials will continue work-

ing to polish this new offering and to investigate additional distance-delivery options in the future.

Chris Kuberski, Vice President of Academic Instruction at RLC, said, "Rend Lake College is continuously seeking ways to improve the educational opportunities for the residents of our district. Offering an online degree is yet another way for us to provide a quality education in a convenient and affordable format."

"Distance delivery is an option that is needed in our community," said RLC President Terry Wilkerson. "The simple fact is that people have tighter schedules today, and it's difficult for many people who want a college education to attend classes on a set schedule at a brick-and-mortar location. The goal of this program is to enable more people to pursue a college degree."

Registration for the online degree begins May 5. Those enrolling in this distance-delivered program will pay in-district tuition regardless of residency. The curriculum includes several general education core classes in subjects such as English, mathematics, computer science, psychology and health, in addition to various business classes.

To set up a registration appointment or for more information, contact the Rend Lake College Academic Advisement Center at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1266, or at [advising@rlc.edu](mailto:advising@rlc.edu). For more information about RLC, visit [www.rlc.edu/journey](http://www.rlc.edu/journey).

## Military .....

continued from page 1  
p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13.

Anyone interested in taking advantage of this priority registration period simply needs to call the Rend Lake College Academic Advisement Center at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1266, identify themselves as a veteran or service member, and make an advisement

appointment.

"Offering early enrollment to our veterans and service members is just one way Rend Lake College exudes how important these students are to our community and how military-friendly we are," said Lisa Price, Vice President of Student Services at RLC. "We look forward to helping these students with the next phase in their education."



## RLC retirees

**CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE, MAY 2014** — This year, Rend Lake College said goodbye to its largest group of retirees in recent years — five members of the faculty and five staff. Between them — 237 years of service, eight campus departments, and an immeasurable amount of students impacted by their work. The retirees were honored at RLC's annual Board, Faculty, Staff Recognition banquet. PICTURED, FROM LEFT, are; Lisa Payne, vice president of Career and Technical Education, served 29 years; Martha McCreery, Computer Networking professor, served 32 years; Paula Myers, Community and Corporate Education specialist, served 26 years; Larry Thuilliez, Academic Computer technician, served 15 years; Barb Crouse, director of Nursing and nursing professor, served 20 years; Barb Crouse, director of Nursing and nursing professor, served 20 years; Larry Williams, zoology professor, served 33 years; Cathy Cross, administrative assistant in the Liberal Arts division, served 31 years; and Don Trogolo, custodial supervisor, served 15 years. (ReAnne Palmer / RLC Public Information)

# Rend Lake College again on Aspen Institute's list of best colleges

BY CHAD COPPLE  
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION  
**CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE**  
**FEBRUARY 2014**

Clocktower Chronicle, February 2014 — 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 performance 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 welcome, 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.



## Student rep

**CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE, APRIL 2014** — The Rend Lake College Trustees welcomed new student member Eli Liske to the board at their April 2014 meeting. Liske, of Okawville, is a double major in agriculture production and agriculture mechanics with aspirations to one day teach. Liske will serve on the board for the next year. The previous student trustee was Haden Smith of Wayne City. Liske is pictured above, SEATED, along with, FROM LEFT, member and ICCTA Representative Rick Marlow, member Dr. David Asbery, member Randall Crocker, Chairman Eric Black, RLC President Terry Wilkerson, Secretary John Kabat, and member Larry Manning. (Clocktower Chronicle File Photo by Nathan Wheeler / RLC Public Information)

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# New Writing Center, Communications Lab to benefit RLC students

BY REANNE PALMER  
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

**CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE  
SEPTEMBER 2013**

Rend Lake College students needing an extra opinion on their class paper or speech now have the option to visit the Writing Center or Communications Lab throughout the week for tips and suggestions from experienced staff.

Dean of Liberal Arts Henry Leeck said there has been a need for more than just tutoring for students on campus. The idea evolved into a space dedicated to the written and spoken word.

"We identified the need for tutoring, especially in writing and communication, and we found that professionals in those areas needed to be available throughout the day to help our students," said Leeck. "The Communications Lab and Writing Center have posted hours when students can drop in or make an appointment to visit."

Leeck added that students needed more help in writing; therefore the Writing Center will be open 47 hours per week. The Communications Lab will be open approximately 24

hours per week.

"Students can now come in no matter what stage they're on, from brainstorming on what they want to write about through the editing process," said Leeck. "While editing isn't the main focus of the Writing Center, it can be done. The real goal is to be a part of the writing process with the student."

Two staff members, Kelsey Landis and Bill Robinson, will be available in the Writing Center each week. Robinson is an adjunct English instructor at RLC and Landis is finishing a Master's Degree in English from DePaul University.

As for the Communications Lab, Leeck said the focus will be on helping students through the process of individual or group presentations.

"It can be any part of that process as well, from choosing a topic and outlining the speech to the final tweaks and presentation itself," he said.

RLC adjunct Speech and Business Instructor Dana Uhls will be working in the Communications Lab this semester.

To set up an appointment, or to ask a quick

question, email the Writing Center at [atwriting\\_center@rlc.edu](mailto:atwriting_center@rlc.edu) or the Communications Lab at [comm\\_lab@rlc.edu](mailto:comm_lab@rlc.edu). Students can also connect with the Writing Center on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/rlcwritingcenter](http://www.facebook.com/rlcwritingcenter).

Below is the list of days and times for each site. The Writing Center is located in the North Oasis Room 138 and the Communications Lab is in Room 125.

Writing Center  
Mondays  
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Tuesdays  
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
1 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Wednesdays  
7:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Thursdays  
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Fridays  
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Communications Lab  
Mondays  
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays  
Noon - 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays  
12:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Thursdays  
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Fridays  
CLOSED



## Illinois Attorney General at RLC

Lisa Madigan spoke to local leaders and law enforcement personnel in August 2013 at Rend Lake College in Ina. She spoke about consumer fraud and mortgage foreclosures and how the two have been linked in Illinois. (Clocktower Chronicle File Photo / Original photo courtesy of Mt. Vernon Sentinel)

## RLC awarded \$102k Illinois School Security Grant to upgrade safety features

BY REANNE PALMER  
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

**CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE  
MAY 2014**

Rend Lake College will soon be enhancing security features across campus with the help of \$102,738 from the Illinois School Security Grant Program and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA).

Announcements were made Tuesday of grants totaling \$25 million in funds to public K-12 and community colleges across the state. Jo Ann Dick, Coordinator of Special Projects at RLC, said the college will use the money to install locks on the inside of doors and to place more security cameras across campus.

"The main things we wanted were door locks for inside doors on all buildings, in classrooms, offices, and restrooms," said Dick. "We're also upgrading our security system with new cameras inside some buildings and some exterior ones too."

Damon Sims, Assistant Chief of Security, said there will be 127 new locks installed on campus, in addition to 29 new cameras. The security server also will be replaced with grant money to improve picture quality and reviewing abilities, and key card entry will be added to some buildings for faculty

and staff. Another safety upgrade RLC officials are considering completing without grant funds are security blinds in more classrooms to block the view from an outside hallway.

"Once we get the agreement from IEMA, we can start on these projects," said Sims. "We're expecting everything to come through May 16, so we'll get started on it soon."

The grant funds will be spent updating several buildings on campus, including the Academic Building, Administration Building, Advanced Technology Building, Applied Science Center, Science Building, Coal Mine Training Center, Learning Resource Center, Theatre, and Vocational Building.

Chief of Police Gary McGill added, "These security features will help keep our students safer locked inside a classroom from the outside in case something were to happen. The program is about keeping students a little bit safer, and that's our goal too."

The project at RLC is just one of 1,312 projects at 448 schools and college campuses in Illinois. The purpose of the grant program was to establish a starting point security system at every school in the state.

"Nothing is more important in Illinois than keeping our schools safe," Governor Pat Quinn said during the grant announcements Tuesday. "These projects will strengthen security at main entry points, providing school personnel with critical moments to alert law enforcement, activate plans to protect students and save lives."

IEMA received applications totaling more than \$54 million from 623 school districts and campuses, or about 2,200 projects.

"Our top priority for funding was to help schools establish a baseline security capability through such measures as reinforced doors, shatter-resistant glass and physical locks at primary public entrances," said IEMA Director Jonathon Monken. "These are the types of security enhancements experts say can buy valuable time for schools to implement emergency plans."

To see the complete list of schools receiving funds from the Illinois School Security Grant Program, visit [www.illinois.gov/ready/Press/Documents/All-GrantAwardeesByCounty.pdf](http://www.illinois.gov/ready/Press/Documents/All-GrantAwardeesByCounty.pdf). To learn more about the grant at RLC, contact JoAnn Dick at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1337.

## Health .....

continued from page 1

educational prospects for RLC students.

Annually, per approval by the USDE, RLC will receive approximately \$449,000 annually, for a total of \$2,249,833 over five years. By the end of the grant period, RLC expects to see an increase in the number of Health Studies degrees and certificates awarded, as well as an increase in overall enrollment and enrollment-based revenue.

"The Allied Health Division is extremely excited to be awarded such a grant from the U. S.

Department of Education, and we look forward to utilizing it to help our students in a number of ways," said Robert. "We are looking into starting some new programs, purchasing equipment and starting an Allied Health Student Success Center to help our students be successful in their field of choice. Personally, I'm looking forward to working with the Rend Lake College staff to prepare our students for life after graduation in a number of healthcare occupations."

Other plans include the establishment of a new Anatomy & Physiology (A&P) lab and revision of A&P I and II curricula, revisions to the Practical Nursing program curricula to incorporate educational simulation and web-based interactive instructional modules, development a new Health Studies advising and tutoring systems, and the establishment of a new Health Studies Success Center.

"Rend Lake College is one of only 39 schools across the nation to receive a part of the \$20.1

million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, and the only one in Illinois," said RLC President Terry Wilkerson. "The grant will help us improve on our health studies programs, including the addition of two programs, and the support our staff can give to our students. On behalf of the college, faculty and staff, I want to thank the Department of Education for believing in Rend Lake College and our students by helping us expand our educational options and become one of the best higher education institutions in healthcare."

Information from the USDE states that the healthcare and social assistance sector will create 149,000 new jobs in Illinois alone by 2018, effectively ranking Illinois as one of the top five states in the nation with the greatest shortage of healthcare professionals. More than a third of RLC students, or 35 percent, identify completion of health studies as an educational goal, and enrollment in these programs has increased 22 percent since the 2009-10 academic year.

U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan stated due to these job increases, both in Illinois and across the country, grants such as the Pathways to Success in Health Careers will allow students more options for careers post-graduation.

"Everyone deserves access to high-quality learning opportunities, from preschool to middle school and all the way through college," said

Duncan. "In order to achieve President Obama's goal to lead the world in college graduates by 2020, we must work to ensure that everyone has a chance to enroll and complete postsecondary education. These grants will boost the capacity and quality of programs offered by higher education institutions that serve low-income students as they work to increase completion rates and better prepare their students for success in college, careers and lifetime aspirations."

SIP helps postsecondary schools expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen their academic quality, institutional management and fiscal stability, as well as build a framework to help students complete college.

For more information, contact Kim Robert at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1251.

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# Gustafson welcomed as newest RLCF Board director

BY REANNE PALMER  
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION  
CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE  
NOVEMBER 2013

A new face has joined the Rend Lake College Foundation Board of Directors in the form of Phil Gustafson of St. Mary's Good Samaritan, Inc. and SSM Health Care.

Already well-known throughout the district for his work in the health care field, Gustafson has served as President and CEO of St. Mary's Good Samaritan of Southern Illinois and as System Vice President for SSM Health Care since December 2008. With many years of experience in hospital administration, he says he hopes to use RLC's connection with the communities in its district as a director and voice for the college.

"I've been involved with some projects with Rend Lake College in the past and, of those people I worked with, I've developed some very good relationships and I've been very impressed," said Gustafson. "I think that I can provide some help with the strategic planning and long-range planning to help Rend Lake

College and the Foundation achieve its mission, especially in the health care industry."

He began his health care career as an assistant administrator at St. Louis Children's Hospital and has served in four other states, including Illinois. Before joining St. Mary's Good Samaritan and SSM Health Care, he was CEO of West Valley Hospital in Goodyear, Ariz.

Prior to embarking on what has become a 30-year career, Gustafson earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, a Master of Science Degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a Master of Health Administration Degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. He has been a fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives for more than 20 years.

Through the experiences of his career, Gustafson pointed to the relationships between RLC, the community and the needs of local industry as unique reasons for his desire to become a director.



Phil Gustafson

"Overall, I've been impressed with what Rend Lake College has done," he said. "I don't think I've ever seen an entity try to be so responsive in what the needs in the community are. The partnerships between the college and local businesses are significant and I see that as a very special approach that I want to be involved in."

Gustafson was brought onto the board in October, and with only a few weeks of experience as a director under his belt, he said his long-term goals for working

on the board are still too early to tell.

"At this point, I'm looking for opportunities for some great discussions and creativity," he said. "I hope to bring some thinking outside of the box, and I think we're all going to go through some enriching changes. I'm sure that our work together is going to reflect on the educational framework and the mission of the college."

RLCF CEO Shawna Manion added that Gustafson's contributions to the Foundation have already been numerous, and she looks forward to working with him as a director.

"Phil is an incredible asset to the community of Mt. Vernon and to the district of RLC," she said. "The working relationship he has formed with us over the years will be strengthened by seating him on the Foundation board, and we look forward to utilizing his experience and knowledge in healthcare to help us better serve our students."

For more information about the RLC Foundation, visit online at [www.rlc.edu/foundation](http://www.rlc.edu/foundation).

## Coming soon: Concealed Carry certification at RLC

BY REANNE PALMER  
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION  
CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE  
SEPTEMBER 2013

Concealed carry is now the law in Illinois, and those wanting to earn their concealed carry license will soon be able to look to Rend Lake College to get started.

Rend Lake College has started the application process to become a certified training center with the Illinois State Police for the Firearm Concealed Carry Act, which was passed on July 9, 2013. Several instructors are applying for their instructor certifications from the state, and the training program currently is in development.

One of the requirements to obtain an Illinois Concealed Carry License is a 16-hour firearms training, including classroom work and range instruction. This is the program being developed by RLC. Dates and costs of the classes have not yet been finalized.

Once the participant passes the training class, they must also be fingerprinted and fill out an application for a state license, which costs \$150. The state will not begin processing these applications before January 5, 2014; however, the training class can be completed beforehand.

The college will release more information as it becomes available in the coming weeks.



Students qualified on the range in Mt. Vernon last winter. The college will soon begin offering concealed carry certification classes for those wanting a license. The state starts issuing those licenses in January. (Clocktower Chronicle File Photo by Nathan Wheeler / RLC Public Information)

bers, and members of both boards — as well as Major Donors from the community.

"We want for this project to be exclusively for people who have shown their support of our mission, which is our students' success," Manion added. "We really want to stress the fact that the people who are getting involved in this project are making an incredible impact. They're not just buying a piece of our history that they can have their name, favorite quote, or business logo on. They're creating scholarships for our students. Each of those brick prices will be matched and a scholarship is an amazing way to impact a student's life at RLC."

So why the Baker building?

"It is our hope that the Dr.

Allen Y. Baker Administration Building will become a visually powerful entrance to our college. After all, with departments like Academic Advisement, Financial Aid and Student Records located inside, it is the starting point for new students. We plan to take this area with the highest traffic rate and make it a symbol of support and appreciation for our students. We believe that every student walks that pathway, whether they're registering for classes, paying a bill, meeting with Financial Aid, or getting transcripts," said Manion.

"Our vision is for the Pathway to be something people stop and admire - a commemoration to those whose names and messages have been etched in support of an educational future. We imagine students seeing employers that they plan to work for, or a professor that they loved in class, or a community leader that they've

grown to respect. We hope that they see those inscriptions and understand that our community is behind them and their pursuit of higher education."

Manion stated that the RLC Foundation has a long and rich history of financing beneficial projects and raising the standard at RLC. Examples include the Walls of Honor in the center of campus, the Walls of Fame outside Waugh Gymnasium, the RLC Children's Center, the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus, the RLC Clocktower, along with renovations to the theatre and music programs. Expectations for the Pathways to Success project could not be higher.

Anyone interested in supporting the Pathways to Success Scholarship Endowment by purchasing a brick, or those wanting additional information, can contact the RLC Foundation Office at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1214 or by emailing [manions@rlc.edu](mailto:manions@rlc.edu).

# Rend Lake College Foundation welcomes new directors

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE  
SEPTEMBER 2013

The Rend Lake College Foundation is two directors stronger after the recent addition of Finny Mathew, CEO of Crossroads Community Hospital in Mt. Vernon, and Nelson Wood, president of Wood Energy Inc. in Mt. Vernon, to the board.

RLCF CEO Shawna Manion said the board voted unanimously to approve the two directors to help represent the Foundation in the district.

"We are extremely excited to be seating such highly respected individuals to our board," according to Manion. "These two people are leaders in their industries and are both already engaged in their duties as directors. Their knowledge and experience will benefit the college and help us continue to strengthen RLC through our commitment to scholarships, curriculum and programs. The students are at the center of our mission, and RLCF Board supports the scholarships, capital campaigns and projects that continually make RLC a better place for our students."

Mathew was recommended to the board to fill the position of outgoing Chairman Ed Cunningham, the former CEO of Crossroads Community Hospital, who took a position in Granite City.

"Finny has already continued Crossroads Community Hospital's great partnership with RLC through scholarships, sponsorships and as a strong liaison to the healthcare industry," Manion said.

Mathew said he plans to continue with the partnership during his time as a director, and he also hopes to be able to help students in need through scholarships.

"Part of my reasoning in joining the board is that Crossroads has had a great, long-standing relationship with Rend Lake College, and I want to continue that partnership," Mathew said. "Second, on a personal level, I feel that education is really important. It was a big deal to my grandpa as my parents were first-generation students. I want to be able to further help those students without a scholarship from the Foundation."

Right now, Mathew said he is focusing on getting to know the RLC

Foundation and the inner-workings of RLC before lining out his goals as director.

"It's too early for me to say," Mathew said. "I need to understand more of the board and I will develop a goal after that. Now I'm focusing on being supportive of ongoing initiatives and getting to know Rend Lake College."

Wood was also recommended to a director's seat, based on his background in the energy industry and community involvement.

"We approached Nelson to become a director after he was continually recommended by members of our board and community leaders," according to Manion. "His knowledge in the oil industry will be very valuable as Rend Lake College continues to develop the program."

Wood said he hopes to bring something to the board from his work in the energy industry.

"I want to thank everyone. I'm very glad to be here, and I believe I can bring something to the table in the energy sector," Wood said. "My expertise is in the areas that Rend Lake College is currently developing, in curriculum development, establishing industry partnerships and determining needs of the sector. I believe I can help with that process. The main reason that I'm joining the board is because of the young folks. We need trained individuals in our profession and in our industry, and I think Rend Lake College is the perfect vehicle. I appreciate what the college is doing for the industry. I'm really looking forward to serving on this board."

Together, the RLCF directors act as ambassadors of the college to the communities within the district, being both the eyes and ears between industry, residents and the college, according to a college statement. RLC President Terry Wilkerson added that the college is fortunate to have such high-caliber individuals serving the students.

"Each of the directors on the Foundation Board are leaders in their communities, their industries, and in the respects of their peers," Wilkerson said. "We know they are all extremely busy people, and we value the work that they do for our students tremendously. On behalf of the college, we welcome Finny and Nelson to the team."

## Road .....

continued from page 1

\$2,500. There are also two plain-text bricks that come in an 8-by-8 brick for \$1,000 and a 4-by-8 standard brick for \$500. We also have payment plans available for all three bricks through online, annual, and payroll deductions. We intend for this project to be feasible for everyone who wants to be involved," said Manion.

According to Manion, the Pathway to Success project has been in the works since the fall of 2013, and the current hope is to see it completed by this fall. It was officially approved by the RLC Foundation and the RLC Board of Trustees at their February meetings. The project encompasses supporters at RLC — such as faculty and staff mem-



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# Trish Reed named RLC Alumnus of the Year

BY REANNE PALMER  
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION  
CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE  
NOVEMBER 2013

If you had told Trish Reed during her years in Southern Illinois that she would one day live in the big city as the president of a company, she might not have believed you. Now, after more than two decades with Navistar, Inc. in northern Illinois, Reed has risen through the ranks and is the President and General Manager of UpTime Parts, LLC.

Reed has been named the Rend Lake College Foundation Alumnus of the Year for 2013. She will receive her award during the Foundation Annual Dinner on Dec. 5.

The Scheller native grew up with four brothers and sisters in a typical Southern Illinois small town. She attended school in Waltonville before coming to Rend Lake College in the fall of 1985. She earned an Associate of Science Degree in 1987 from RLC before moving on to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and minor in Economics from Southern Illinois University.

She has spent 24 years working for Navistar, Inc., a leading manufacturer of commercial trucks, buses, defense vehicles and engines. For the first 20 years she worked with Navistar Financial Corp., a Navistar affiliate that provides financing to help dealers and customers purchase Navistar products. She then became president of UpTime Parts, an aftermarket parts supplier for light-duty trucks.

In her four years in this role, she has successfully reinvigorated a culture of teamwork and performance that has resulted in improved customer satisfaction, nearly double-digit growth in sales and a 90 percent increase in profitability.

Before moving on to these successes, Reed was like other small-town athletes and

played basketball for the Lady Warriors as a forward, a legacy carried on since her grade school years.

"When I think about my time at Rend Lake, I look back and see what a key influence it was for me," said Reed. "I was initially accepted at Bradley in Peoria, but then Coach Jim Waugh reached out to me and that helped me pay for my first two years in college. Between school and basketball, I learned a very important life lesson: a good team is one that works well together."

Coming from a small school, Reed said she received a lot of playing time on the court for the Spartans, but that changed when she took the floor for the Lady Warriors.

"There were a lot of adjustments I had to make, but regardless of my role, it was important that we were all one team," said Reed. "I've taken that lesson to every job I've had. I didn't appreciate it as much at the time, and I don't know if I would've learned it at all if not for Coach Waugh and Rend Lake College."

Reed also calls to mind several instructors who had a hand in influencing her future.

"There were other instructors at Rend Lake that put me on a great path. My speech teacher was one. I dreaded speaking and I was not looking forward to his class," said Reed. "By the time our class was over I thought, 'I really love speaking'. Now I make presentations in front of 500 people and I feel comfortable. My math instructors were great too. They were some major influences on my career in finance."

After graduating from SIU, Reed said her goal was to move to central Illinois and pursue a career at a bank or financial company. She said the idea came from seeing her sister working at a bank in Sesser; however, but something bigger was on the



Trish Reed

horizon.

"I started interviewing in the Springfield area, one of which was Navistar. I really had no idea who Navistar was at the time," she said. "I interviewed for a trainee position, and they wanted me to go to Chicago for the interview. I was reluctant, but I did, and Navistar Financial offered me the job the same day I interviewed. My gut thought, 'this is the place to be' and it's been a great 24-year career."

While working at Navistar Financial, Reed did everything from collections and credit underwriting to sales, and worked her way up through 11 different positions.

Four years ago, she made the jump to the parts division and hasn't looked back since.

"Basically, I run a small division that Navistar owns called UpTime Parts," said Reed. "I oversee all operations: sales, customer service, procurement of parts. We work with aftermarket and specialty vehicles, like UPS, who is our largest customer. Four years is the longest I've been in one position, but that's the great thing about Navistar. They keep us challenged and they continue to throw opportunities at us."

If there's one thing Reed took away from Rend Lake

College, she said it's the value of teamwork, which she now utilizes at Navistar in a number of leadership and mentoring programs. She has been a mentor to many Navistar employees, and has helped coach and develop numerous colleagues to advance their careers.

"I would say, for me and my background in sports, I've been very involved in team aspects my whole life. Being a part of that and knowing how well teams work together in achieving results is important to my position," she said. "I've taken on management and leadership positions and it's the same every time: how well is the team working together? Some of the things I learned was you've got to have a common goal, strong morale and great spirit. You've got to celebrate the wins and successes, and people are more open to feedback in the spirit of being better tomorrow. You need a variety of people of different backgrounds and experiences who all value working together with a common vision and goals."

Additionally, both inside and outside of the workplace, Reed spends her time focusing on health and fitness. At home, she finds ways to be active outside, and at work, she has served as a sponsor for Vital Lives, a Navistar wellness initiative.

She is also involved in the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society.

"I work a lot of hours, but health and fitness are very

important to me. I'm usually at the gym or doing things outside like yard work or roller blading," said Reed. "I'm also passionately involved in the MS Society, and I do a lot of fund raising. I'm a part of a team that walks every year in honor of someone very special to me who was diagnosed with MS in 2003. We're called D's Dream Team. Next year we're planning on having a golf outing as a fundraiser for her."

As the team captain of D's Dream Team, she has helped raise more than \$29,000 for the National MS Society. She has also raised more than \$7,500 for Chicago-area AIDS charities with two 500-mile bike rides.

In the workplace, she has served as an advisor to the Navistar Financial Diversity Council and as a certified Valuing Differences facilitator. She is also an active Junior Achievement volunteer in DuPage County.

Reed's extended family and many close friends still reside in Southern Illinois, and she is a frequent visitor. She recently became involved at Rend Lake College with an endowment through the RLC Foundation.

In addition to the Alumnus of the Year award, several programs and teams will be highlighted at the Annual Dinner, including the 2012 Men's Basketball National Championship team, the Allied Health Division and the Mining Technology program. These new features will illustrate changes,

improvements and teamwork between the College and Foundation in recent years.

The theme for the dinner this year is teamwork, said Foundation CEO Shawna Manion, and the evening's events will focus on honoring and awarding those at RLC who exemplify that theme.

"We always have strong community support at our annual dinner, and this year we're changing it up a bit to help encompass a broader range of programs for the audience," said Manion. "Our theme for the evening is centered on being a team, and we're aiming to show that everyone at RLC plays for the same team, and we all have the same goal. Our trustees, our Foundation Directors, our administration, faculty, our staff, we're all here for one reason, and that is our students."

Jim Muir of WQRL in Benton, the 2009 Alumnus of the Year, will be the emcee for the evening, with additional awards and honors to be handed out throughout the night. Major sponsors of the event include Hamilton County Telephone Co-Op and Peoples National Bank.

Reed will officially receive her award at the RLCF Annual Dinner, Dec. 5, at the Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn. The evening begins with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and the ceremony at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Foundation at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1214 or 1324, or by sending an e-mail to [tofoundation@rlc.edu](mailto:tofoundation@rlc.edu).

## New orientation program named HLC Quality Initiative Project

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE  
APRIL 2014

First-Year Experience (FYE), Rend Lake College's new orientation course, has been named the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) Quality Initiative Project for 2014. Program leaders will attend the Share Fair during the HLC annual conference, which is held in Chicago in April, where they will have a booth to talk with attendees about the project.

The Higher Learning Commission is the organization which accredits Rend Lake College. The First-Year Experience program will be used as an action project which will play a part in maintaining RLC's accreditation. Over time, this and other projects will be used to demonstrate the college's ability to continuously improve its quality.

FYE Coordinator Hillary Halsey said the program started with the need to revamp the then-online orientation

process for incoming freshmen at RLC. Now the course is a face-to-face setup and is designed to build stronger connections between students and the faculty and staff.

"I have a lot of ideas for the future as far as projects and course topics, and I see the program growing in the next few years," said Halsey. "We are getting a lot of feedback from our students, and we're adapting to what they're asking for and need. I feel very honored and excited that the FYE program was chosen to be the HLC Quality Initiative Project."

Course goals include helping students engage on campus, learn organization skills, prepare to meet professional standards for behavior, and understand and successfully navigate the college culture.

Already, the course has covered many specific topics this semester, including myRLC, Warriormail, Black-

board, campus and library resources, differences between high school and college, expectations from instructors, time management, study skills, programs and degrees at RLC, calculating GPA, academic plans, financial aid, and transfer services. Halsey said students will wrap up the semester with a service learning project.

"We are going to be discussing why it's important to read to children and doing a children's book drive," she said. "Studies have shown that a student's reading level in third grade can determine whether they will access college or not. We will be hosting a children's book drive and donating the books to local preschools."

FYE was chosen to be one of 16 participants for the Share Fair next month. For more information about the First Year Experience, contact Halsey at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1323 or [halseyh@rlc.edu](mailto:halseyh@rlc.edu).



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