

## Annual Update

7,003 HCC undergraduate students enrolled in credit classes

Of those, 1,640 HCC students were the generation in their family to attend college  
(2020-2021 academic year)

## Fund Reserve

Under direction of the District 540 Board of Trustees, the College is to strive for and maintain an operational funding reserve between 40% and 60% of operating budget expenditures.

18% FY 16  
30% FY 17  
50% FY 18  
54% FY 19  
54% FY 20  
61% FY 21\*

Fund Reserve Level

\*Accounts for COVID relief federal funding

District 540

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“One of the most exciting developments related to our focus on developing Career Technical Education and Work Ready opportunities is the creation of an Electric Vehicle Energy Storage (EVES) program at Heartland.”

– Keith Cornille

## From the President

It has been an eventful year at Heartland Community College. One filled with equal amounts of success and challenge.

I'm pleased to share the Heartland Annual Update with our friends, community partners, and the many supporters who have helped us in our mission to provide accessible, quality education to our region.

The following pages prove that a lot can happen in a year. Even with the barriers presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the College maintained a focus on our commitment to supporting the community and promoting student success. We strengthened our transfer partnerships, launched innovative new instructional programs, and, most importantly, have set a roadmap for a new phase of growth that will support growing workforce needs in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and agriculture.

Of course, we can't talk about our 2020-2021 academic year without mentioning the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and the challenges that were presented by the pandemic.

We began the academic year in a primarily remote learning environment. Much credit is due to our dedicated faculty, our information technology staff, and the many, many others who transitioned our instruction during that time to support our students online and maintain a high level of quality. It helped that Heartland has been training faculty to teach online since 2013, and that coming into the year 95% of our full-time faculty was certified for online instruction.

It also helped that a spirit of innovation and a commitment to student success here at Heartland promotes learner-focused improvement. One great example of this is the Quality Matters designation received for the BIO 191 course in which you will learn about in these pages.

Of course, even with our innovation in the online learning space, we know that the heart of a community college is the classroom. That is why we were so pleased to bring our students safely back to campus for the current 2021-2022 academic year. It is also why we have been looking for long-term improvements in our campus learning environment that will promote hands-on learning and fuel the pipeline to our area workforce.

Our Facilities Master Plan, the roadmap designed for College spaces needed to meet student and community needs in the years ahead, is now moving from the planning phase to the action phase.

Through specialized training, our new EVES program will support growth of electric vehicle manufacturing, which is anticipated to double in the next four years alone.

Any of the improvements we make to facilities or any innovations made with our instructional methods all have a primary focus: student success.

The most important piece of our Annual Update is to share how our outstanding students are learning, growing, and succeeding at Heartland. The final credit goes to them. It is their inspiration that drives us to be responsible stewards of our resources and to continually improve to meet their needs, and as a result, meet the needs of the community.

Keith Cornille, Ed.D., President

# Ensuring Resource Stewardship

## MTA Grant / EVES Project

In April 2021, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) joined with Heartland Community College and Rivian to announce an investment to build an advanced manufacturing training academy at Heartland – one of two to be built in Illinois.

Heartland's Electric Vehicle–Energy Storage (EVES) Manufacturing Training Academy (MTA) was conceived to expand training for high-demand manufacturing jobs of the future. The EVES MTA features degrees in electric vehicle (EV) and energy storage (ES) technology and delivers specialized skills training to equip learners for employment in two career pathways:

1. EV, including advanced manufacturing, installation, final assembly, inspection, diagnosis, service, and repair
2. ES, including maintenance and support of second-life energy storage battery systems in residential, commercial and utility-scale, applications

While each has a different focus, both help meet the demand for cutting-edge manufacturing training downstate, preparing Illinoisans to seize on current and future advanced careers in the manufacturing sector.

Jobs in the electric vehicle industry are expected to double in the next four years, with local EV manufacturer Rivian expected to add 1,600 jobs in the next two years alone. These metrics don't even include the growth in jobs in renewable electricity generation and beyond, and the training academy will play an essential role in providing affordable and equitable access to education in the ever-changing manufacturing field.

Funded in part by \$15 million in Rebuild Illinois capital, these new training facilities will be established at HCC in Normal and Southwestern Illinois College in Metro East.

“This capital investment builds on the funding that Rebuild already devotes to upgrading and expanding facilities at Illinois community colleges, cementing their key role in training our young workforce and propelling lifelong learning. Workforce investments like these foreshadow even more essential jobs we can fill in the future.”

– Governor JB Pritzker

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## Peer Recovery Support Specialist

With an eye on the area's growing need for mental health support professionals, Heartland added a Peer Recovery Support Specialist microcertificate program.

HCC collaborated with Chestnut Health Systems to develop the curriculum in response to a projected need for certification programs in substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health.

It is the first certified peer recovery support program offered at a college or university in Illinois and it exemplifies how Heartland continuously looks to meet the workforce needs of the community.

Through a combination of experience and professional training, students pursuing their Peer Recovery Support Specialist microcertificate will learn how to facilitate recovery, build resilience of persons in recovery, and construct criteria to guide ethical decision-making. Upon completion, students will demonstrate competency in mentoring, advocacy, and wellness skills, and they'll be equipped to enter the workforce directly from HCC.

The first cohort of the program began in the Fall 2021 semester and is focusing on substance abuse recovery. Subsequent cohorts will be trained in substance abuse as well as behavioral and mental health support.

## CT Technologist and Technical Management Skills Certificates

Heartland added a new Computed Tomography (CT) Technologist certificate program in response to community need for certified, entry-level CT Technologists. The three-course sequence provides an opportunity for both current radiography students and registered radiology technologists to earn an additional certificate in computed tomography which will increase both employment and earning potential.

The new Technical Management Skills certificate sequence prepares laborers to transition into a supervisory role. The program is comprised of 16 credit hours and encompasses business communications, customer relations, supervision, introductory computer skills or computer science, as well as business and technical electives of the student's choice.

Both new certificate programs will allow learners to advance into the workplace directly from Heartland, and students who earn a Technical Management Skills certificate can apply their earned credit toward an Associate of Applied Science in Trades Management if they seek to further their education.

HCC added these new programs to help fill workforce needs in healthcare and industrial technology.

## Agriculture Programs

Since its debut in 2015, Heartland's agriculture program has given students the foundational knowledge and skills needed to begin their academic career in ag. With the strength of Illinois agriculture not looking to wane anytime soon, Heartland built new certificate programs that now allow students to launch directly from the classroom to the workplace.

Direction on the new curricula has been informed by an industry advisory board with representatives from McLean, Livingston, and Logan counties, as well as input from the area's K-12 educators and our transfer partner, Illinois State University.

Heartland created new certificate programs in agriculture business, agronomy, precision agriculture, and regenerative agriculture, as well as a new applied associate degree program in agriculture, to meet area employment needs.

Expanding that foundation to more specialized learning is addressed through these new programs and key projects tied to Heartland's Facilities Master Plan. The District 540 Board of Trustees approved efforts to pursue funding sources for a new agriculture facility.

"The construction of a greenhouse and a food forest will bolster horticulture and food science job needs, while a new building will provide space for learning in agricultural mechanics, precision planting, drone technology, sustainable farming, and more."

– Keith Cornille

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## Serving as a Community Resource

### Service Day

April 30, 2021 marked HCC's inaugural Service Day.

Students and staff across McLean, Logan, and Livingston Counties partnered with local organizations to dedicate the day to community service.

From landscaping and painting to cleaning and food packaging, many Heartland hands accomplished a great deal, all in the spirit of giving back to the community.

### Essential Workplace Skills

Advancing Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Heartland's Essential Workplace Skills (EWS) is a series of professional development workshops designed to

equip learners with critical competencies and skills needed to achieve success at work. Added to the series this year, a workshop on advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion reflects today's most essential commitments for employers and employees alike.

"Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) is a fundamental part of 21st-century professionalism," said Christina Schulz, Director of Business & Industry Solutions. "A lot of people come to this workshop saying they want to learn more about specific terms and best inclusive practices. We also have folks share how their organization is committing itself to being a leader in EDI. No matter what their aim is, we make sure learners walk away with clear goals and the tools they need to measure their impact in this area."

### Vet Assistant Partnership

In our Veterinary Assistant program, instructor Adrienne Skitch has developed a partnership with Ruby's Rescue and Retreat. As part of our students' course requirements, they volunteer at the animal shelter which is located in McLean. Heartland students enjoy the hands-on experience and have benefited greatly from animal interactions and increased familiarity with animal behavior.

### HCCP CAT Grant

The Caterpillar Foundation helped create new opportunities for those seeking welding skills and information technology qualifications at Heartland Community College Pontiac (HCCP). Opportunities propelled by this donation include funding for the welding certificate program. Upon completion of this certificate, students will be equipped with foundational skills for careers in the fields of manufacturing and construction welding. Classes take place at the Livingston Area Career Center.

The Caterpillar Foundation grant has also contributed to an extended information technology program at HCCP. This grant funded a new IT facilitator position whose role it is to work with and support IT students at HCCP as they navigate Heartland's variety of online learning options. Students completing the program will earn the Cisco Certified Network Associate certificate.

### A Resource for Kids & Teens

After a year of remote learning, more than 1,000 K-12 students took part in safe, in-person Kids and Teens@Heartland camps. During spring and summer breaks, young learners got to explore and experience new interests in STEM, cooking, the arts, literature, language, and more.

Approximately one hundred were teens who specifically joined Heartland for professional/career development programs. One of these programs was Leadership and Service Academy, a program designed to help teens grow in their professionalism and earn service hours around their busy summer schedules.

Participants attended a full-day workshop with a business training expert that included tools and activities for advancing key communication, goal-setting, and teamwork skills. Then, they put their new skills into practice with K-8 students while assisting Challenger Learning Center and Continuing Education instructors during summer camps. Upon successful completion of the Academy, teens received a personalized reference letter and documentation of service to area youth.

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## Student Spotlights

Student Trustee: Katie Boland

Katie Boland served as Student Trustee for the 2020-2021 academic year. Her top priorities for the position were advocacy for a safer, more eco-friendly campus community.

Boland began as a student at Heartland in the spring semester of 2020. Once she receives an Associate in Art with a focus in English, Boland plans to transfer to a four-year college or university to pursue a pre-law track degree. Her long-term professional goal is to become an attorney.

Beyond the classroom, Boland enjoys playing golf, watching movies, and coffee runs with friends.

She was re-elected for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The Heartland Student Trustee serves on the District 540 Board of Trustees.  
The College NOW dual credit program serves approximately 1,500 students per year.

Of those earning College NOW credits, approximately 30% come to Heartland (approximately 450 students) and 50% enroll at another college/university. The remaining 20% go directly into the military or workplace.

Katie Boland  
Elizabeth Stein

### Student Commencement Speaker: Elizabeth Stein

The College's annual commencement ceremony was held in a format reflective of the times. Following a hybrid model, there was a socially-distanced diploma event on the Quad for graduates and their loved ones on Friday, May 14, followed by with a virtual ceremony in the evening that was available to be watched by any community member.

The ceremony featured student speaker Elizabeth Stein. Stein is a post-traditional student who took a ten year hiatus before returning to college. During her time at Heartland, she participated in the Project RISE educational support program and became a Peer Mentor within the program. She also served as the Community Outreach Director on the Heartland Activities Committee and represented the group in the Student Government Association. Additionally, she excelled academically, earning membership in the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

After graduation, Stein transferred to Illinois Wesleyan University and is now double-majoring in English and secondary education. Her professional goal is to teach English in Japan, and then eventually return to the States to teach creative writing.

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### Circle of Kindness PTA Scholarship

HCC Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) program student Abigail Jones was named as the recipient of the Continuing the Circle of Kindness scholarship from the Bloomington nonprofit group of the same name. Then, she gifted it to a classmate.

OSF St. Joseph PTA Kellie Rumps is a member of the board for the Continuing the Circle of Kindness organization in Bloomington, and was instrumental in developing the scholarship for Heartland's PTA and radiography students.

"We had so many wonderful applicants," said Rumps. "But, the decision to give the award to Abigail was unanimous. In her application essay, she expressed that she herself did not need the financial assistance, but if selected, she planned to pay it forward to a classmate." After being named recipient of the scholarship by Rumps and the non-profit's founder Tania Seibly, Jones, with the permission of the organization, gifted the prize to fellow classmate Sansanee Pattapongwat.

Mother to a second grader, Pattapongwat and her son had been navigating the new frontier of virtual learning together during the 2020-21 school year.

"I'm so grateful for this scholarship and the opportunity it will provide my family and me," Pattapongwa said. "I wish that I could share the money with all of my classmates."

"Sansanee is an amazingly brilliant person," said Jones. "I really admire her. With the amount she has had to work to provide for her son on top of schoolwork and clinicals – I can only imagine the burden that is there. Also, as an immigrant she doesn't have the family support here to depend on like a lot of us do. I'm more than happy to gift this scholarship to her and contribute to someone who's living out an American Dream."

### Honors Research Symposium

The Heartland Honors Program offers students the opportunity to develop

their scholarship, leadership and service skills through specialized seminars and engagement in individualized reading and research. On February 11 students in the program got the chance to showcase their academic research projects at the virtual symposium.

Amari Akins: Behind Open Arms: An Exploration of How Cults Operate  
Cassandra Bean: 100% Renewable Energy in the U.S.  
Anna Everett: The Rise of Designer Babies: Is it Morally Right?  
Carly Fisher: Impact of Fast Fashion  
Mya Gramm: Adoption: Why is it Such an Expensive Option?  
Elias Harris Bommarito: Music and the Mind  
Johnny Martinez: The New Direction of Filmmaking in the Digital Age  
DeAnna Moodie: Our Food Today: Where Does it Come From and How Does it Grow?  
Susan Namboodiri: The Karens: Collision at the Intersection of Race, Class, Age, and Gender  
Jacquelyn Summers: Exploration of Code-Switching  
Adriel Vega: Advantages to Electric Vehicles

Sponsored by the Honors Council Illinois Region (HCIR) and co-hosted by Heartland Community College and Illinois State University, the symposium drew around 100 honors students from colleges and universities throughout the state who had the opportunity to discuss and receive feedback on their academic research, providing them with robust learning and professional experience. Scan the QR code to view all the participating students' visual presentations.

### Student Video Contest

Before the Spring 2021 elections, Heartland's Service Learning and Civic Engagement Team and the College's Student Engagement Office organized a video contest that encouraged students to exercise their voice and create short videos about how important it is to vote in local elections. In true democratic fashion, fellow Heartland students voted for their favorite videos to decide the winners.

Three students were honored for their submissions:

Kylie Bazzwell, 1st place Tyler Butt, 2nd place Monima Thapa, 3rd place

The videos were shared across

Heartland's Facebook (@heartlandcommunitycollege), Instagram (@heartlandhawks), and Twitter (@Heartland.CC), platforms to spread further awareness in the weeks leading up to the elections.

### NSF Grant

Heartland received \$296,356 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to advance industrial technology education. This major gift will be applied toward Heartland's Flexible Learning for Industrial Technology Education (FLITE) project.

"The FLITE project will demonstrate an innovative hybrid model for industrial technology education that employs an open manufacturing lab and flexible delivery of the curriculum," said Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Rick Pearce. "Flexible learning formats within HCC's Industrial Technology programs and courses will make it easier for students to begin, efficiently progress through, and complete our Industrial Technology programs and courses."

Once the project is completed, students will be able to take courses offered through the FLITE lab each semester rather than waiting for a course catalog to match their schedule. Access to the lab will be available during a set schedule of daytime, nighttime, and weekend hours – designed to provide equal opportunity for all students, no matter their work or home schedules.

## Promoting Student Success

### [IWU Articulation Agreement](#)

Heartland and Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) adopted a guaranteed admissions agreement in March 2021. IWU joined the Illinois Articulation Agreement (IAI), allowing for a smooth transition for students graduating with their Associate in Arts or Associate in Science from HCC to IWU's four-year programs. The agreement allows students to seamlessly transfer from HCC to IWU and continue and finish their education locally.

"The community as a whole, including employers, reap the benefits when we are all able to retain and graduate our students," said Rachel Cook, Director of Advisement/Transfer Coordination.

"We want strong four-year partnerships within our community so that students have the options to both start and stay here."

With the specific transfer plans for each IWU major, students who start at Heartland can also be sure that within their associate degree they are taking classes that will keep them on track for timely graduation once they reach Illinois Wesleyan.

### [Workforce Equity Initiative Grant](#)

Heartland received a \$288,597 grant to assist underrepresented students in getting career training that will help launch them into their industry of choice.

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) has awarded Heartland a Workforce Equity Initiative Grant to support the HCC Learning through Equity in Action Program (LEAP). The ICCB Workforce Equity Initiative was established in 2019 with the purpose to create, support, and expand job training this situation and increase support to students most affected."

The grant will fund not only tuition for LEAP students, but also a series of support services including success coaching, career navigation, technology and transportation support, and childcare needs.

Health Sciences Board & Certification Exam Pass Rates opportunities for areas with identified workforce gaps.

"Over the past year, African American enrollment in HCC Work Ready programs fell by 37 percent," said Terrance Bond, Assistant to the President for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. "This grant will give Heartland the opportunity to devote immediate resources to challenge

Certified Nursing Assistant 97%

Medical Assistant 100%

Nursing 96%

Physical Therapist Assistant 93.3%

Radiography 100%

### [Lincoln College Partnership to Credit Prior Learning](#)

HCC and Lincoln College announced a new partnership that grants Heartland students and alumni the ability to complete their bachelor's degree through the Lincoln College Accelerated Bridge to Education program.

The agreement articulates a pathway for employees of State Farm to receive academic credit hours for prior learning they completed in State Farm training programs. Those credits then apply toward their baccalaureate degree program at Lincoln College.

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) credit applies toward an Associate in Arts (AA) at Heartland. HCC graduates can transfer into bachelor degree programs in organizational leadership, business management, criminal justice, health services administration, liberal arts, entrepreneurship, and supply chain & logistics management at Lincoln College's Normal Campus, or into one of the twelve degree programs offered at Lincoln College's campus in Lincoln.

## Athletics

In the midst of the uncertainties and challenges brought on by the pandemic, HCC athletes embraced teamwork and achieved on-and off-field success.

Heartland launched new programs in volleyball, men's and women's crosscountry, and men's golf in the 2020-2021 academic year.

## College NOW Plus graduates

HCC's Early College Opportunities programs make it possible for students to get a jump-start on their college career.

This cohorted associate degree program was created in collaboration with State Farm for students who seek a degree in computer science. The program was launched at Normal West in 2017, and is now at Normal Community and Olympia High Schools. The inaugural class graduated six students in May 2021 with both their high school diplomas and Associate in Science in computer science.

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## Student Honors and Recognitions

### PBL Students

In April, six students represented Heartland Community College at the Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Virtual Conference where they showcased their business skills and competed with other college and university students across the state.

Sheyann Mathias Williams finished first in community service and management concepts, second in marketing and computer concepts, and third in accounting principles.

Dana Bays finished first in accounting principles and macroeconomics and second in microeconomics.

Rebekah Hagberg and Roxanne Reed took home second and third place, respectively, in client services.

Cameron LaVere placed second in desktop publishing and Neha Tummala earned third in marketing concepts.

Students placing high in each event got the opportunity to compete at the Future Business Leaders of America – Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) 2021 National Leadership Conference in June 2021.

Williams and Reed finished with top five standings at nationals, where more than 12,000 students from across the country convened online to compete.

### Student Film Festival Winners

Students and alumni got the chance to share their silver screen storytelling talent at a virtual film festival in the spring.

Seven films were screened: two by current HCC students and five by alumni. The screenings covered a wide range of genres from comedy to horror and documentary to avant-garde. A panel of Heartland professors reviewed submissions, assembled the lineup of finalists for screening, and determined the top-ranking films.

“The You I Knew” by Walker Spaulding won “Best Film by a Current Student” and the “Audience Choice Award.”

“Unincorporated, CA” by Jeff Higgins won “Best Film by a Former Student.”

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, we've seen the crucial role that the arts and film in particular play in our lives,” said Adam Scott, professor of English/film. “We're proud to see our current and former students join the ranks of tomorrow's filmmakers.”

## Elevating Entrepreneurs

Two Heartland students emerged as savvy business minds and scored seed money for their empire-building ambitions at Elevating Entrepreneurs - HCC's very own spin-off of *Shark Tank*.

After submitting a business plan, feasibility study, financial plan, and video elevator pitch, Heartland students Cintia Arias, Michaela Lahr, Roxanne Reed, Micayla Webster, and Carrie Woggon were all chosen as finalists to compete and present their businesses to a panel of local entrepreneur judges.

First place went to Micayla Webster for Mutt Mess Pet Waste Removal, a service to help folks with mobility issues clean up after their pets.

Second place went to Carrie Woggon for her environmentally-friendly candle business, Queen Bee Candle Works.

## Black Student Union Founders

The founding members of HCC's Black Student Union (BSU) may have graduated, but their impact on the College has made a long-lasting impression.

Tijuna Beal served as BSU president during the spring 2021 semester while completing her Associate in Arts (AA) with an emphasis in early education. After graduating, Tijuna began working at the Boys & Girls Club.

Chase Brown, former vice president of both BSU and HCC Student Government Association, graduated with an AA. He transferred to the Academy of Art University in San Francisco where he's studying music scoring and composition.

Taylor Washington served BSU as the organization's events coordinator. She graduated with her AA in the spring and is now pursuing her passion for fashion.

Emory Davis, former BSU president, graduated in the fall and is now working towards his Bachelor of Science in entrepreneurship and small business management at Illinois State University.

Impactful events that Beal, Brown, Washington and Davis helped organize include A Night in Harlem, a celebration of the diversity of Black art and artists; Open Mic, which gave students a verbal creative outlet to express themselves; Hidden Figures, an annual honoring of HCC's Black faculty/staff on campus and across social media for Black History Month; and Table Talks, recurring safe spaces to discuss topics like diversifying Heartland's curriculum, activism strategies, women's empowerment, and much more.

## Athletics GPA

For the third year in a row, the Heartland Hawks athletic teams set a new high point for academic performance.

With a cumulative GPA of 3.23 for the 2020-2021 academic year, HCC student athletes posted the highest marks in the program's history. This surpassed the previous record of 3.03 they set in the 2019-2020 year, and 3.02 record from 2018-2019.

Forty athletes made the Academic All-Conference team.

### First Team (4.0 GPA)

Ariadna Roca Arjona, Women's Soccer

Morgan Boward, Softball

Emma Clark, Volleyball

Regan Danko, Volleyball

Emily Eder, Volleyball

Mikayla Fairfield, Softball

Lindsey Hari, Softball

David Hutson, Golf

Blair Jacobus, Softball

Lacey Kaiser, Volleyball

Sara Perkins, Softball

Sean Shook, Baseball  
Lucia Cuadra Valero, Women's Soccer

#### Second Team (3.8-3.99)

Montserrat Alsina, Women's Soccer  
Cora Perez Andreu, Women's Soccer  
Pavel Capovsky, Men's Soccer  
Brooke Evans, Women's Cross Country  
Dylan Foley, Baseball  
Santiago Huertas, Men's Soccer  
Lauren Minick, Volleyball  
Aniya Monla, Volleyball  
Kendall Peck, Volleyball  
Darla Portillo, Women's Soccer  
Irene Robles, Women's Soccer  
Alexander Schulze, Men's soccer  
Jazmin Torres, Women's Soccer  
Mattia Vecchi, Men's Soccer

#### Third Team (3.6-3.79)

Apryl Alvarez, Women's Soccer  
Ricardo Herrero Araguas, Men's Soccer  
Carely Baughman, Volleyball  
Loris Granier, Men's Soccer  
Jack Leffers, Golf  
Hadleigh Loitz, Volleyball  
Diego Massone, Men's Soccer  
Matthew Murphy, Baseball  
Rebekah Nielsen, Women's Soccer  
Brandy Ogden, Softball  
Alyssa Webb, Softball

“I hope everyone at Heartland feels a sense of accomplishment with this record-breaking group of athletes. It's truly a school-wide victory.”

– Ryan Knox,  
Director, Athletics

3211 Heartland students were named to Heartland Community College's Dean's List (2020-2021 academic year).

In the Fall 2020 semester, 486 full-time and 628 part-time students made the Dean's List.

Then, for the Spring 2021 semester, 458 full-time and 748 part-time students impressively earned the accolade.

We saw this dedication endure through the Summer 2021 semester when 292 full-time students and 599 part-time students made the Dean's List.

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## Faculty and Staff Awards and Honors

### Quality Matters Certification

Heartland Community College devotes persisting innovative efforts to providing online options, both during the COVID-related period of remote education and beyond. Following a rigorous review process for the online Biology 191: Introductory Microbiology course, the College earned the Quality Matters (QM) certification mark.

The QM certification mark is the internationally-recognized symbol of online and blended course design quality. It represents Heartland's ongoing commitment to creating learning environments that provide learners with a clear pathway to success.

The certification is the result of Heartland's dedication to continuous improvement, with specific accreditation to Dr. Manju Kishore, biology instructor, and Mallory White, adjunct biology instructor. Due to their foresight and commitment to the success of all learners, Heartland's biology 191 course is now listed on the QM directory of certified courses.

"The QM Official Review provides an opportunity for faculty to reflect on their course through a learner perspective," said Dr. Anna Catterson, Executive Director of Online Learning and Instructional Technologies for HCC. "From accessibility to learner engagement to assessments, the review used internationally-recognized standards and best practices to examine critical course components related to the learner experience, and ultimately, learner success."

The QM Official Review provided independent validation of the quality, learner-focused course design that HCC has been devoted to for the past several years. Reviews are conducted by QM certified reviewers and use the QM rubric and associated standards, which are based on research and defined best practices. A course earns the QM certification mark once it meets the QM rubric standards at the 85% threshold or better and meets all essential standards.

### Outstanding Faculty Awards

Associate Professor of Economics Heather Chapman received the 2021 Outstanding Full Time Faculty Award. Recognized for using her passion for economics to create a stimulating learning environment, Chapman also applies her course topics to instill the value of community in her students. She engages them with service learning projects and, a leader by example, she runs her own non-profit mobile food pantry. Through the pantry, she helps provide for community members in situations of food insecurity.

Chapman served as Heartland's Assessment Committee Chair from fall 2018 to spring 2019. She has also served on other important HCC committees: the Textbook Task Force and the President's Financial Sustainability Task Force. The 2021 Outstanding Part Time Faculty Award went to Humanities Professor John Evers. Evers has been an adjunct faculty member at HCC since 2016. He has a background in Neuroscience, Law, and Philosophy, and teaches Introduction to Philosophy and Introduction to World Religions at Heartland.

Evers applies his multi-faceted expertise when teaching about various religious and spiritual practices. While adhering to the core teachings of any religious tradition, Evers introduces students to developments in neuroscience, discussing recent findings on concepts like the "loss of self" and states of consciousness that relate to the more mystical or meditative practices of many of the world's religions. In doing so, Evers helps solidify his students' ability to understand while encouraging the habit of approaching new information from multiple pathways.

### Testing Center

The National College Testing Association (NCTA) recognized Heartland's Testing Center by awarding test center certification for maintaining high standards and providing excellent service. The certification is a national designation based on the NCTA Professional Standards and Guidelines developed to guide post-secondary test centers.

In awarding the designation, the NCTA recognized Hannah Mathes, Heartland's Assistant Director of Testing, along with the College's Testing Center staff: "With millions of educational, certification, and licensure tests administered in the U.S. every year, the need for secure testing environments and trained testing staff has never been greater. Congratulations are extended to Hannah Mathes and the entire staff at the HCC Testing Center."

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### Nurse Educator Fellowship

Kara Richardson – MSN, RN, and HCC Assistant Professor of Nursing – received a Nurse Educator Fellowship in March.

The fellowship is awarded by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Advisory Board. It was established to help provide resources to train more highly-skilled nurses in Illinois by

retaining qualified faculty. Recipients are awarded \$10,000 as an aid to promote excellence in nursing education.

Richardson has been with HCC since 2018. She teaches theory and lab components of the Fundamentals of Nursing and Nursing Care: Chronic Adult and Family Health courses. She also teaches labs for Mental Health, and several levels of Nurse Care Concepts.

“Kara is an exceptionally talented nurse educator. She is innovative and well-loved by students who appreciate her warmth and support,”

– Jennifer O’Connor,  
Dean of Health Sciences

In addition to her teaching, Richardson is a practicing emergency nurse with more than 10 years’ experience. She currently works in the ER at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Lincoln.

The Heartland Community College nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. Admission is selective, and is offered annually to new students who qualify. Advanced placement is also available for licensed practical nurses.

### Servant Leadership

Faye Freeman-Smith, Heartland’s Director of Student Counseling Services, was recognized in May by the Multicultural Leadership Institute with their 2021 Servant Leadership Award.

Freeman-Smith established HCC’s counseling center in 2011 and has volunteered in our community for more than 25 years. She also owns and operates her own private practice

– Counseling Resource Institute – and currently serves as an Advisory Board Member for Lincoln Christian University master’s counseling program, and as a Mental Health Advisory Board member for McLean County Health Department.

“Adding to her many accomplishments, Faye has had a special and unique impact on our College community over the past year,”

– Sarah Diel-Hunt,  
Vice President of Enrollment & Student Support Services

Freeman proactively led efforts to institute distance mental health counseling at Heartland. It was an extremely beneficial service for HCC students as they grappled with both the stress of the pandemic and the inability to hold in-person counseling sessions due to safety protocols, and this was just one of the many impressive ways Faye has made a positive impact on the lives of our students and community.

### President’s Medallion

Heartland honored fourteen individuals based on their distinguished service to Heartland, District 540, and/or the community; their giving to advance the community and student success; and their high character. The inaugural recipients of the HCC President’s Medallion were recognized in June, with eight of the fourteen being the College’s founding board members.

Vernon “Art” Adams, Founding Trustee, 1990-1993

Cindy Brand Trustee, 1991-2009

Willie Brown, Community Leader and Former Heartland Foundation Board Member

Gregg Chadwick, Former Board of Trustees Chair

Alan Chapman, Former Foundation Board Member and Unit 5 Superintendent

Julie Dobski, Local Entrepreneur

Margaret Esposito, Founding Trustee, 1990-2003

Jim Pemberton, Founding Trustee, 1990-1995

Betty Pilchard, Retired HCC Faculty

Fred Ragsdale, Founding Trustee, 1990-1995

Allan Saaf, HCC Vice President Emeritus

Sharon (Sullivan) Tarvin, Founding Trustee, 1990-2001

Roger Tuttle, Founding Trustee, 1990-2007

Jim White, Founding Trustee, 1990-2011

## Foundation Highlights

### Brandt Donation

Heartland provides specialized training and education that is tailored to the workforce needs of the regional economy. Local agribusiness leader Brandt Industries USA Ltd. helped Heartland in this effort with a \$10,000 gift to assist with scholarships and student support.

During the 2020 holiday season, Brandt asked employees to choose a local non-profit where the company could make a financial impact. In response to social distancing requirements, the company moved their annual holiday celebration online and created a five-day virtual party that culminated in a major philanthropic effort. The HCC Foundation received one of the three donations from Brandt.

“Meaningful, accessible educational opportunities are key to a thriving workforce,” said Mike Nau, Operations Manager, Brandt Industries USA Ltd. “Heartland Community College does a fantastic job of training locals to succeed in their career journeys and we’re thrilled to have a part in that.”

Heartland had recently added new programs to support emerging jobs in precision agriculture, agronomy sales and management, and ag-related technology. HCC’s partnership with Brandt has been vital to the College’s efforts to educate the agriculture industry professionals of today and tomorrow.

### McLean County Farm Bureau Scholarship

McLean County Farm Bureau gifted a \$25,000 donation to Heartland students wishing to pursue a career in agriculture.

McLean County is ranked #1 in cash from farming in Illinois. Before receiving this scholarship donation, HCC had recently expanded agriculture programming to match the employment snapshot of the region, where jobs in agribusiness, ag technology, and ag-related support services are reported to be in high demand.

“This is the largest gift from McLean County Farm Bureau in Foundation history. It is one more example of the commitment of the Bureau to support the future of ag by investing in the people who will lead the next generation of the industry.”

- Chris Downing,  
Executive Director, Foundation

### COUNTRY Financial Scholars

In partnership with the Heartland Foundation, COUNTRY Financial developed a scholarship program for students who wish to pursue early college credit in science, technology, engineering, math, business, and agriculture-related fields.

The program focuses on students who may not have access to early college credit opportunities due to resource constraints. Up to 12 students are accepted for the program each year. High school juniors selected for the program will receive continued funding for their senior year, provided they continue to meet GPA and other program requirements.

Students admitted to the program receive scholarship funding to help cover textbook costs as well as tuition and course fees for up to 18 credit hours each academic year. They also participate in a mentorship program through COUNTRY Financial and one to two activities per semester focused around career exploration and professional development.

### GROWMARK Donation

GROWMARK, Inc. gave a \$10,000 boost to the Challenger Learning Center (CLC) efforts to help rural school district students develop science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills.

CLC STEM EDventures were launched in the fall of 2020 as a way to provide an exciting and interactive STEM experience for students unable to make a conventional field trip. The EDventures create and encourage hands-on learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

The GROWMARK funding has connected more than 240 students from Heyworth, Olympia and Tri-Valley schools with CLCEDventure sessions.

“One of the principles on which GROWMARK was founded is concern for the community,” said Karen Jones, GROWMARK Youth and Young Producer Specialist. “We’re proud to partner with the Challenger Learning Center in boosting key STEM skills in and out of the classroom.”

During EDventures, students engage in fully-prepared, hands-on lessons that integrate essential Common Core standards and Next Generation Science Standards.

In one session, students can plan a “vacation to space” by calculating a path to distant planets. In another, they construct a one-of-a-kind rover and learn from NASA experts about how STEM skills and experiments are used by today’s top scientists and engineers.

EDventures are designed for accessibility and can be completed remotely or in a classroom setting.

“The creation of more CLC virtual options and a broader STEM focus to include life sciences will benefit students now and for years to come.”

– Kelli Tillery Hill, Vice President of External Relations

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## Message from Heartland Community College Foundation

### George Wood

The last several years have been a challenge for everyone. While the pandemic has upended virtually every aspect of our lives, the education sector faced especially daunting situations. At times like this, the mission of the Heartland Community College Foundation to support access and innovative learning opportunities through fundraising financial stewardship and advocacy has never been more important. In true Heartland spirit, Foundation donors worked to make sure our students, faculty, and programs were supported.

The Student Emergency Fund continues to be a vital resource for our students when faced with unexpected roadblocks to continuing their education. The Foundation realizes the need to assist these students and help them stay on track with their studies. We’re happy to report that more than \$250,000 was raised last year via the Elevate Heartland campaign to endow this important fund and ensure it remains a lifeline for years to come.

Continuing the theme of ensuring support for the future, a number of Heartland alumni and friends of the College stepped forward to include HCC in their estate plans. This long-term planning is especially important to make a lasting impact on students, and illustrates the powerful commitment our community has made to safeguard future educational excellence in our community. Our donors have also realized the importance of cutting-edge technology and tools needed for instruction. In that vein, they have come through with support of College programs, enabling them to provide the quality instruction our students have come to expect.

The Heartland Foundation is fortunate to have the support of so many friends of the College. Without you, none of these things would have been possible. Thank you for contributing your time, talents, and treasure to support our students.

George Wood,  
Heartland Community College Foundation Chair

## Alumni

### Distinguished Alumni Award

The Heartland Community College Alumni Association honored Dr. Justin Rickard with the 2021 Distinguished Alumni award.

The College’s motto “Discover Heartland, Discover Yourself” is exemplified by Dr. Rickard. “I originally came to Heartland because it served as a halfwaypoint between a four-year school and my lack of desire to go to college at all,” shared Rickard. “I discovered in an Intro to Sociology course taught by Doug Dowell that school was an amazing place to be.”

Rickard’s sparked connection with education at Heartland propelled him on a path of lifelong learning. After graduating, he transferred to Illinois State University (ISU). There he earned a Bachelor of Science in Animal Industry Management and a Master of Science in Agriculture Sciences. He then went on to the University of Missouri – Columbia, where he earned a Ph.D. in Animal Science.

Dr. Rickard is currently an Associate Professor of Animal Science with a teaching and research appointment at ISU. His research program focuses on improving the livestock production and food animal industries. In addition to teaching and research, he advises undergraduate and graduate students, and does a variety of outreach activities with livestock producers as well as 4H and FFA programs.

### ICCTA Alumni Award

Richard Casper, one of HCC’s 2020 Distinguished Alumni award winners, was the recipient of The Illinois Community College Trustees Association’s (ICCTA) Distinguished Alumni award.

Casper is a United States Marine veteran, Purple Heart recipient, artist, and entrepreneur. He served in the Marine Corps from 2003-2007. After a tour in Iraq left him with a traumatic brain injury, a discovery he made in an art class changed the course of his life, and the lives of other veterans.

He channeled his education and life experiences into his art and cofounded CreatiVets: a non-profit that provides therapeutic art, music, and writing curricula for combat veterans enduring post-traumatic stress and brain injuries.

Today, Casper also teaches art at School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the University of Southern California. He’s been named as one of TIME Magazine’s Next Generation Leaders, is the feature of TIME’s documentary “Evidence of Things Unseen,” and has been recognized by President George Bush and The Bush Institute for his passion and work helping combat veterans.

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## Total Net Position

### Foundation

FY20

\$7,821,710

FY21

\$10,051,506

### College

FY20

\$51,859,410

FY21

\$58,795,105

\$17,131,866  
total amount of state  
and federal dollars  
received in FY21

Federal Funding:  
\$11,346,055

State Funding:  
\$5,785,811

**HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**Financial Report**  
**As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021**

	<u>College</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Foundation*</u>
<b>Net Position</b>			
Invested in capital assets, net of debt	\$52,851,217	89.9%	
Unrestricted	(\$3,897,436)	-6.6%	\$3,345,588
Restricted	<u>\$9,841,324</u>	<u>16.7%</u>	<u>\$6,705,918</u>
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$58,795,105</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$10,051,506</b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Tuition and Fees	\$8,333,562		
Auxiliary	\$226,970		
State grants	\$5,785,811		
Federal grants	\$11,346,055		
Other operating	\$690,056		
Property taxes	\$26,717,227		
Investment Income	\$40,050		\$1,993,118
Contributions by State	\$15,389,330		
Other	\$771,100		\$598
In-kind payroll contribution			\$238,570
Annual campaign/gifts			\$740,706
Fundraising			<u>\$179,583</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$69,300,161</b>		<b>\$3,152,575</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Instruction	\$18,635,866		

Academic Support	\$3,305,871	
Student Services	\$4,826,407	
Public Service	\$3,918,946	
Institutional support	\$13,801,782	
Operations and maintenance	\$4,622,700	
Auxiliary enterprises	\$3,123,372	
Depreciation	\$4,672,818	
Scholarships, student grants & waivers	\$4,561,863	\$365,666
College Support	\$0	\$63,743
In-kind payroll expense	\$0	\$238,570
General Administrative	\$0	\$193,808
Fundraising	\$0	\$60,992
<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$1,561,283</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$63,030,908</b>	<b>\$922,779</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>\$6,269,253</b>	<b>\$2,229,796</b>

\* The Heartland Community College Foundation is included and presented as a component unit as required by Governmental Accounting Board's Statement No. 61.

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