

# Enrollment down 5.2 percent

By Ryan Wilson  
Editor

SPRINGFIELD – Lincoln Land’s enrollment has dropped for the second-straight spring semester and the third time in the last four years. LLCC’s enrollment on the 10th day of classes this semester was 6,806 students, down 5.2 percent from the same time last spring. The school had an enrollment of 7,181 students that semester.

“We knew it (enrollment) was going to go down,” said Lynn Whalen,

Lincoln Land executive director of public relations and marketing. “I mean, all the signs were there.”

Each community college in Illinois has seen an average of a 3.4 percent enrollment decrease from last spring, according to a report by the Illinois Community College Board.

Whalen said the economy plays a factor in the enrollment numbers. She said there might be more job opportunities when the economy is better, so fewer people may choose to attend a community college.

“When the economy really tanked

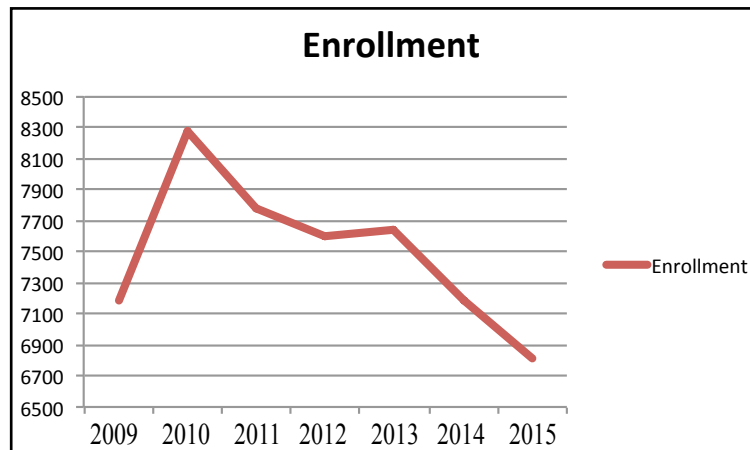
... our enrollment went up,” Whalen said.

Lincoln Land’s enrollment went up 15.2 percent (1,095 students) from the 2010 to 2011 spring semesters.

Whalen also said there are fewer high school students.

“We are visiting high schools, businesses and agencies to speak to prospective students,” she said. “We deployed a newly designed website this year with prospective students in mind. We continually evaluate our

**Enrollment**, continued on page 5



Jordan Minder/The Lamp

**Top left: A smart meter is seen in the Workforce Careers Center. Top right: The LLCC Caught Green Handed logo on a recycling bin. Bottom left: Food provided at the Farm to Fork event. Farm to Fork puts an emphasis on locally grown food Bottom right: Recycling bins that are seen throughout campus.**

## Board saves soccer

By Ryan Wilson  
Editor

SPRINGFIELD – Lincoln Land Community College’s soccer program just dodged another attempt by the Board of Trustees to cut the sport.

The Board of Trustees had a 4-3 vote on Feb. 25 to spare the soccer team from the budget axe. This is the second time in the past two years that the board has voted on this.

“We’re going to have soccer, and we’re going to make it work this time, OK?” said Craig Findley, the vice chair of the board. “Don’t just go home forget about this. Help us raise money. Help us get kids in your district (to) come.”

LLCC was questioning whether it is worth spending \$108,000 to keep the soccer program alive every year. The board members said this is more of a concern than in January 2013, when they last considered cutting soccer. They said the college continues to receive less funding from the State of Illinois.

“Soccer is the cheapest sport,” said Ed Gower, who spoke at the board meeting. “One of the reasons it’s the cheapest sport to play (is because) you need the ball and a couple of goals.”

It cost \$10,990 on game day for the soccer team, the lowest of all LLCC sports by nearly \$6,000, according to a 2014 report on lincolnlndloggers.com. This cost includes meals, equipment, transportation and lodging.

“I just want to keep (the soccer program) going, keep building,” said head soccer coach Shawn Dunas. “If it’s a budgetary thing, cut my pay and use it to pay the expense you need. To be honest, I’m not really concerned about not getting paid at all. It’s more about these guys having an opportunity to play in this community.”

The Loggers’ assistant coach, Tim Goulsen, echoed Dunas.

“If it’s a money issue, I would do

**Soccer**, continued on page 3

## Going green

College’s campus stays environmentally friendly in several buildings

By Teresa Brummett  
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD – It is important to be green. Lincoln Land became a little more green seven years ago.

The Workforce Development Department was created in 2007, with hopes to create courses that would help train students in different skills.

Within this department is the Green center. Several surrounding colleges have a similar program. It shows youth and adults how to planting a garden and how to maintain it.

Each student works on a part of the garden. They started out with only 12 raised beds. Raised beds help control troublesome weeds. That has increased to 25 beds.

Recently, the Green Center earned extra fund-

ing to install two high-tunnel structures. They will grow food for special events at LLCC. Food grown in the high tunnels is also used to support the Culinary Arts programs here at Lincoln Land.

Some fresh foods is given to local school districts for use in their cafeterias.

**Green**, continued on page 5

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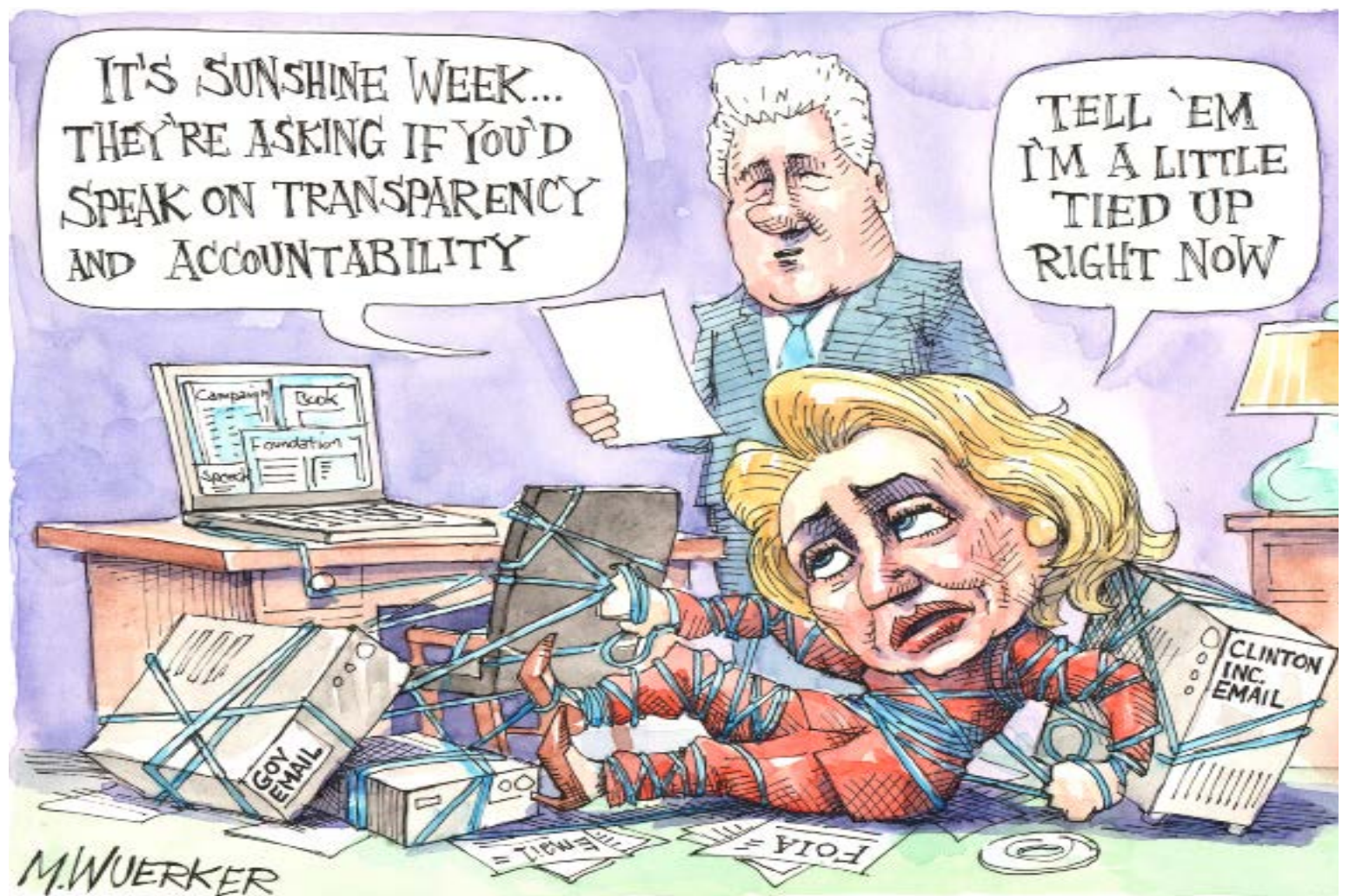
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Courtesy of Tribune News Service

## Letters to the editor

### Do not pay student athletes

As March Madness begins and teams are carefully selected, searching for the perfect bracket has become increasingly difficult. Parity in sports is at an all-time high, and while it makes for good television drama, it may not last. In the spring of 2014, Northwestern University Football players were granted the right to unionize. The National Relations Board claims that athletes qualify as employees of the University. Continuing the debate: Should student athletes be paid?

As a working student with tuition debt, I find it difficult to side with student-athletes who think that they should receive additional compensation. The struggles of balancing school with work and family is overbearing at times, and I can understand the commitment and hard work that student-athletes dedicate. However, paying student-athletes will undoubtedly lead to higher overall tuition. Additionally, schools with more money will attract better, higher-priced athletes, whereas schools with less revenue will not be able to compete on the courts/fields, leaving a large gap in competition.

As much as I would love to see my team advance in March and cut down the nets, I cannot afford higher tuition.

Amy Skeeters,  
LLCC student

### Respect police, grand jury decision

"After months of deliberation, on Monday November 24th 2014, a grand jury returned its decision that Darren Wilson will not face charges, as the St. Louis suburb braced for potential unrest as a result of the decision." The words, "braced for potential unrest", is an understatement. The police force and national guard had to brace for an uproaring of dangerous human beings acting irrationally based on emotions.

I believe the case of Police officer Darren Wilson was decided on fairly. The response of the public was and is inhumane, and we should respect our police for their willingness to protect and honor this beautiful country.

I have read many articles, and each one begins with stating the same truth. They state that the jury was picked at random, there were six white men, three white women, one black man, and two black women. They also state the length of time spent on this individual trial. Everything surrounding the case is airtight and "fair." Since this case is fair, why are people reacting as if it is an injustice?

The response of the decision of this well-followed court case was an unraveling of emotions through inappropriate means. When I say inappropriate means, I am speaking of damaging police cars, starting fires and endangering the lives of

police officers.

Protesting is a freedom of speech and expression of emotion. But, the wrecking of property is not a freedom protected by this country.

Police officers have one main goal in mind: to protect, love and serve our country and those who inhabit it. I personally know many police officers as well as call them family, and the way the police force is being treated in Ferguson, Missouri, currently is not respectful or humane in any way, shape or form.

I read another article describing a shooting of two officers thought to just be an "ambush" in response to the decision made almost four months ago. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder calls the acts, "inexcusable and repugnant," and I would have to agree.

So, when considering feeling sorry for these people, remember the hurt they are causing in their ambushes, property destroying and utter disrespect for law enforcement. Instead, encourage the behavior of those with nonviolent protesting, expressing feelings in an acceptable manner and those honoring the life of Michael Brown. Hopefully, this will soon change from violence and danger to respect for the police force and its will to protect this country.

Nicole Henton,  
LLCC student

### State should pay childcare bills

I'm a mother of four writing to address the issue on childcare payment delays.

Childcare Connection provides assistance to families of working parents and also for the parents who attend school. With childcare payments delayed because of state funding issues, it has created a hardship with daycare centers and parents, leaving the daycare centers and home-based daycares with no other options than to ask parents to pay all fees or stop providing care.

Also home providers and centers are not accepting any new clients from Childcare Connections until the matter is resolved. This has caused a community of upset providers and parents.

Some daycare providers may not be able to keep the doors open if they're not receiving any payments for the children who are in their care that receive the assistance from Childcare Connection. Furthermore some parents may lose their jobs or not be able to attend school if they have no sitter for their children.

The childcare program has helped many families over the years, and I hope that state funding does come available to Childcare Connections, so that it can continue to provide the services to parents who are working so hard to provide for their families.

Lapresha Wynne,  
LLCC student

### Correction

The Jan. 28 edition of The Lamp listed the wrong time when the Veterans Club meets. It meets at 11:30 a.m. the first and third Tuesday of every month.

# Tell us what you think!

Write the editor a letter, and we will publish it here.

Send it to: [lamp@llcc.edu](mailto:lamp@llcc.edu)

# Threat leaves emails undelivered

By Ryan Wilson  
Editor

Students may not have received any new emails from LLCC faculty and staff from March 12 to 18. Ben Roth, director of systems and IT infrastructure, said there was a threat to Microsoft Office 365's firewall. He said the problem was coming from a different IP address. "It's an unfortunate problem," Roth said.

Marlene Emmons, professor of English, said she noticed a problem when she was meeting with a student. "When he told me he hadn't gotten a response, I realized that there had been a problem with quite a few emails," Emmons said. She said that IT installed a new phone system in her office over spring break. She said she thinks this caused her email problem. "I did have some students who emailed me and thought I didn't

respond, even though I did," Emmons said. "My only concern was that students might think I had ignored their emails." She said her sent messages to students appeared in the "Sent" folder of her inbox. She said her problem is now fixed. Roth said there was no "internal" problems between Lincoln Land faculty and staff members' emails. He said the college updated its firewall during spring break. He

said this update was to help Office 365 better manage its network trafficking and visibility. Roth said there was a call to the IT help desk earlier this, reporting the problem. They then investigated and found the problem. Roth said the college is now using Microsoft Office Manager. He said this should recognize problems quicker.

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## SGA elections set for April 6, 7

Lincoln Land students will soon be called to cast their vote in the Student Government Election. The elections will take place April 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 in the A. Lincoln Commons. Students are highly encouraged to participate in the elections. Students who wish to vote must provide their LLCC student ID. Voting will be conducted by ballot. The names of the candidates are to be announced.



Submitted photo

Polar Plunge participants hit the frigid waters of Lake Springfield on March 7 to raise money for Special Olympics. A group of students from CRJ 101 volunteered to help with the event, although none jumped into the water.

## Students volunteer at plunge

SPRINGFIELD – Students from the CRJ 101 Criminology class at Lincoln Land Community College helped with the 2015 Law Enforcement Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics. Although no students took the plunge into the frigid waters of Lake Springfield on March 7, the

students did assist with parking cars, setting up and handed out towels and blankets. Instructor Mark Lahr said he thought this would be a great opportunity for the students to get involved with community service organizations and network with different law enforcement agencies.

Lahr said there are talks of putting together a team to plunge next year. Students who participated from LLCC were Jesse Heissinger, Jennifer Feurer, Michael Cameron, Corey Evak, Faith Phillips, Tanner Presker, Nic Sinclair, Markia Anthony, Jared Kink, Kendra Gott and Donte Smith-Greene.

## Students get chance to run state of Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Lincoln Land Community College students participated in the 37th annual Model Illinois Government simulation from Feb. 26 to March 1 at the Illinois State Capitol. Donald Shimkus of Petersburg earned the Lisa Tripp VanDuser Award for Outstanding Office of Management and Budget Analyst. Elizabeth Roehrs of Springfield earned the Outstanding House Freshman Delegate Award. She was also elected as the Democratic Committee spokeswoman for the Education Committee. Silas Tockey of Springfield was elected as a House whip. Tockey was responsible for communication and organization of the House of Representatives Democratic

caucus. Emma Todd of Springfield was elected as the Democratic Committee spokesperson for the Senate. Josh Scaife of New Berlin was elected as Republican spokesperson of the Firearms, Gambling, Alcohol and Tobacco Committee for the House. James Travis Heller of Petersburg was elected spokesperson for the same committee in the Senate. Other members of the team were: John DeRosa and Christian Todd, both of Springfield; Connor Benbrook of Chatham; and Brendan Little of Riverton. The team members are students in the Model Illinois Government class taught by John Vinzant, professor of political science.

## Quiz Bowl team places 20th nationally

SPRINGFIELD – The Lincoln Land Community College Quiz Bowl team competed in the National Academic Quiz Tournaments community college championship on Feb. 27 to 28 in Atlanta, Georgia. This was the fourth straight year that the LLCC team qualified for the national tournament. The LLCC Loggers won four matches and finished 20th in the competition. Jake Montgomery of

Athens placed 18th individually out of 121 participants. Other members of the LLCC team are Allison Penrod of Athens (captain) and Jacob Webb of Virden (lieutenant captain) along with Ashley Fields, Jefferson Gentry, Nick Shelton and Jarely Ventura of Springfield; David Western of Rochester; Holden Smith of Edinburg and Tim Schaeffer of Taylorville. Professor Eve Fischberg of Loami is the coach of the team.

## Soccer

continued from page 1

(coach the team) for half the cost, as well, if not, even at a volunteer level," said Gonulsen, who played on Lincoln Land's soccer team with Dunas during the 1995 and 1996 seasons. "I enjoy helping my friend coach soccer, and I think it's a great opportunity for the students."

Head coaches at Lincoln Land earn an average of \$12,551 per year, while assistant coaches earn \$6,354, according to the 2014 report on [lincolnlandloggers.com](http://lincolnlandloggers.com). Lincoln Land President Charlotte Warren said the assistant coaches at the school are paid based on the amount of time they spend with their team.

Dunas said the team held a "Soccer Marathon" this year to raise money. "It (money) is not going to fall from the sky," he said. "The guys have an understanding of that." He said the team plans to do more fundraisers in the future, including doing car washes or working at the State Fair. He also said business could place signs around the soccer field.

'I don't care about the team's performance. I don't care if the team went to nationals. I don't care about any of that stuff. What I care about is if the students finish their semester of school and got credit hours and went above the GPA needed to stay in school.'

**Trustee Craig Findley**

"We're willing to do whatever it takes to fund this program," Dunas said. The Board said there is also the constant need of rebuilding the team every year. Six of the team's 21 players will be returning next year. Two players, Harry White and Memo Guerrero, left 2½ weeks into the season to play professionally. He said a couple of players left this year because they were not able to

"keep up" their academics. "There was a significant number of students who essentially walked out on the soccer program," Findley said. "I don't even have a problem with that, if you quit the team. I've known people who quit their teams. But I'm really not happy about the number of students who quit the semester and didn't get the full-credit hours. ... Because, frankly, they got a tuition waiver that their fellow students — taxpayers — pay for them to go to school. I think that is immature." The National Junior College Athletic Association requires athletes to have at least a 2.0 GPA. "I don't care about the team's performance," Findley said. "I don't care if the team went to nationals. I don't care about any of that stuff. What I care about is if the students finish their semester of school and got credit hours and went above the GPA needed to stay in school." Dunas said his team had a 2.6 grade point average in his first semester with the team three semesters ago. That number dropped to 2.42 the next semester and 2.09 last semester. "We're not down to six because of failures," he said. "We're down to six because of other decisions, other choices. Some of those guys were sophomores and decided to go on." Nancy Cobetto is the academic adviser who

works with all Lincoln Land athletes. Warren also said the athletes have their own "study tables." The college will allow an athlete to have a 1.0 for one semester. "They (athletes) get attention above and beyond academically than our regular student body," Warren said. The Board also expressed concern about the recruiting of the players. Soccer is the most diverse sport at Lincoln Land, as it has the highest number of black students. There have been some international players on the team in the past two years. Several Board members said they would like to see more local talent on the team. Dunas said he is recruiting all local players for next season. Peter Christofflakos, the head coach at Sacred Heart-Griffin, where several Lincoln Land athletes have graduated from, said he has enjoyed watching these athletes grow up. "They (the athletes) are good kids," he said. "I'm begging you, just keep it here for them. Let's give it a chance. Let's do something. I'll do whatever I can in my power. ... I want to this program for our kids. It means the world to me."

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Lamp staff photos

At left, Eddie Longmeyer, No. 22, shoots a layup for Lincoln Land on Friday, March 6, 2015. The Loggers lost, 65-75, to Parkland College. At right, Molly Sloman, No. 2, looks to drive to the hoop in Lincoln Land's game on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014 in Cass Gym. The Loggers lost, 75-64.

# Seasons come to close

## Men's basketball

By Ryan Wilson  
Editor

SPRINGFIELD -- The Lincoln Land Community College men's basketball team finished this season in last place of the Mid-West Athletic Conference. The Loggers ended with an 0-11 conference record, four games behind Lincoln College for fifth place.

"Our league is just really difficult every night," said head coach Chad Jones. "However, that is not an excuse. We were good enough and just didn't get the job done."

LLCC also finished the season with a 14-17 record. The team won one of its last 12 games.

"The second half of the season was a big disappointment," Jones said. "I felt we were good enough to win. We played every game close, and simply couldn't find a way to win in the end."

### Notables

- **Leading scorers:** Eddie Longmeyer: 13.5; Edin Mehmodovic: 8.0
- Lincoln Land allowed 50.0 points per game (fourth in the nation). The team allowed 68.2 points per game in conference play (31st in the nation).



Ryan Mazrim/Lamp staff

Loggers Guard No. 13, Justin Thomas, attempts to rebound the ball. Lincoln Land fell to Rend Lake after the half 42-65 on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014.



Kelsey Forsythe, No. 3, leads a fast break for LLCC in Cass Gym on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014. The Loggers won, 79-37.

## Women's basketball

By Ryan Wilson  
Editor

SPRINGFIELD -- Lincoln Land's women's basketball team finished this season with a 12-17 record. The team was third in the Mid-West Athletic Conference, after finishing 4-6 in conference play.

"Our inexperience showed at times but we gained some valuable confidence for next year," said head coach Gary Albert. "Sophomores Kelsey Forsythe and Molly Sloman were the driving force that kept the team together and led everyone late in the season."

Albert said the team "lost" three sophomores. He said this gave freshmen more minutes and a bigger role on the team.

"Cheyanne Cherry and Rachel Alde brought some scoring and ball handling to our team and will step up and play key roles next year," Albert said.

Albert said the team will need to work on rebounding and shooting for season.

"With the addition of the new freshmen and our returning experience, I'm hoping those two things will get better," he said.

### Notables

- **Leading scorers:** Molly Sloman 10.9; Haley Lockhart 9.4

- Molly Sloman averaged 3.1 steals per game, which is 22nd in the nation.

- The Loggers allowed 52.2 point per game. They allowed 67.2 points per game in conference games.

- **Returning:** Gretchen Hobbie, Sydney Jarrard, Abbey Schaeffer, Eloise Sneddon

"Eloise Sneddon made huge improvements to her game since her arrival from England and will be looked upon to score the ball," Albert said.



Gretchen Hobbie, No. 40, attempts to save the ball in the game against Lindenwood University-Belleville on Jan. 7, 2015, in Cass Gym. The Loggers won, 66-51.

## Green

continued from page 1

The tunnels produced 240 in three months this winter. But either way the gardens are there for educational purposes and community learning programs.

The program has many other active projects to increase awareness in being green, in addition to the gardens. The program also tries to reduce paper waste by using cleaning products that meet Green Seal standards, and the use of Energy Star appliances or equipment.

The program is purchasing recycled paper to reduce the amount of solid waste that is continuously being placed in the local landfills.

Even with new construction they are installing low water flush valves and flow restrictors on the faucets and showers.

Even to incorporate a rain gar-

## Community gardening plots available

Faculty, staff and students can now register for a raised bed in the LLCC Community Garden. As a garden participant you will manage your own space to grow the fruits or vegetables of your choice all season long. A \$20 garden fee allows you to choose up to three raised beds, depending on space available and the amount of space you are willing to manage. Raised

beds are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis until filled.

The LLCC Community Garden is located behind the Workforce Careers Center and Montgomery Hall.

Contact Marnie Record at (217) 786-4993 for more information about the LLCC Community Garden and to inquire about garden space availability.

den, the green effort uses native trees and plant species for the landscaping at Lincoln Land.

The Integrated Pest Management course helps students and the college decrease the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides.

The department has also created a Watershed Management program that will focus on our food, sustaining our resources and the effects on the environment due to water.

The Green Center hosts several activities to providing awareness at being green. The events include College Sustainability Day with activities on recycling. The past year they showed, "OMG," which discussed genetically modified foods (GMO) and their effects.

They also host Earth Week activities. This year, it will include "Smart Grid" training. It will provide hands-on information and meters, which goes into homes.

There are several workshops available to help students earn a certificate. Building Operator and Building Performance certifications can be received through Management and weatherization training.

In the future, they would like to see a home built with green material.

Lincoln Land is the place to learn about going green, due to all the courses and activities through the Workforce Development Department.

"We hope that what we do has an effect on how people make decisions about their everyday lives," Julie Rourke, director of Workforce development. "Taking the wellbeing of the natural world into account and respecting the finiteness of our natural resources."

Teresa Brummett can be reached at [lamp@llcc.edu](mailto:lamp@llcc.edu) or (217) 786-2311.

## Lincoln Land to host Lincoln Funeral event

Lincoln Land Community College will be part of the 150th anniversary commemoration of President Abraham Lincoln's funeral.

The Loggers Activity Board is hosting "John Wilkes Boothe: A New Look at an Old Story" at 1 p.m. and at 6 p.m. in the Trutter Center. The two-hour talk is part of the Honoring Lincoln Symposia Series: Assassination & Conspiracy Symposium.

Terry Alford will discuss new discoveries, as well as old understanding, about the man who committed the most consequential murder in American history. Alford is a professor of history at Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale.

For more information on other events, visit the Lincoln Funeral Coalition website, [www.lincolnfuneraltrain.org](http://www.lincolnfuneraltrain.org).

## Enrollment

continued from page 1

marketing strategies to try to reach prospective students of all ages with the right messages using the right media"

About 500 students attended the campus visit day in February, Whalen said.

"We're happy with 300 (stu-

dents)," she said. "That's been about as high as we've ever gotten, so that's a dramatic increase."

Lisa Collier said she does not think the college has any number that would be considered dangerously low.

"We're a nonprofit organization, and so we're here to see the students," said Collier, the associate vice president of enrollment services. "I think our mission is

to make sure that our students are successful."

Collier said Lincoln Land's enrollment dropped to 5,700 as of Feb. 20. She said some students may have left due to financial or time constraints.

"There were some days that when the numbers went down, ... I didn't understand how it could have ever been there," she said. "I was like,

'Wait, I know I served many students myself, and it seemed like we were busy.'

Whalen said the college needs the enrollment to go up to help keep "our budget going strong."

LLCC received \$902,074 from federal grants and contracts in 2013. That number is down from \$1,647,704 in 2012, according from the LLCC 2013 and 2012 reports. Data from last year has

not yet been made available to the public.

"In the past few years, Student Services has reorganized and revamped the steps to enrollment to include orientation and student success initiatives," Whalen said. "They continue to look at ways to increase efficiency."

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# Pro-Text opening

## Photos by Ryan Mazrim/The Lamp

More than 40 students Lincoln Land Community art students were featured in a show that had a giant, three dimensional cupcake, Bamm-Bamm and a 3-foot Darth Vader mask.

It was "Pro-Text." It illustrated "Text by Design," as all the works were based on words or letters.

Students from LLCC's 3D Design, Screen printing and Intro to Graphic Design classes participated in the show. Their work was made from cardboard, foam core, wood, Plexiglas, ceramics

and other other materials.

This show is in partnership with Lincoln Land art students, the University of Illinois Springfield, the Illinois State Museum, and the Springfield Art Association.

"Pro-Text's" opening reception offered catered meatballs, mini quiches, martini glasses filled with mashed potatoes. It was held on the Friday of spring break (March 13).

The exhibit will be open until April 3 in the Trutter Center.





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