



Look Ahead

3/31

SU22 Registration
Opens

4/6

FA22 Registration
Opens

4/13

Health & Wellness
Fair

5/3

Finals Week
begins

5/4
- 5/10

Textbook Return
& Buy Back

5/14

2022
Commencement

Spring Ahead !

Spring is a chance to hit the refresh button, especially this year when the fog of a two-year health pandemic seems to be lifting and we can look forward, up, ahead or just plain beyond the moment. Fresh horizons and new adventures await these five IVCC students as they move forward into 2022.

Hitting the 'sweet spot' on road trip of a lifetime

This summer, Colton Yanish's Field of Dreams has shifted a bit west. OK, a lot west.

Colton, who pitched for the IVCC Eagles baseball team last season, was recruited to join other top-tier collegiate players in a Great Plains region Expedition League. He'll wear the uniform of the Pierre, South Dakota, Trappers.

Colton has lived and breathed baseball since he was a kid playing catch with his dad. "Baseball is very competitive. I love that about it. It's fun!" He also plays first base. "Being tall (6-foot-5) and left-handed is a plus on both sides."

Now he'll be exposed to national pro scouts and minor-league level competition where athletes will hone their skills. "I'll be playing with and against players who are big, fast and competitive, just like I am."

Teams travel throughout the region and play before crowds of enthusiastic fans. The athletes room with host families, which Colton concedes brings some mixed feelings. "I hope I fit. But I'm looking forward to the chance to meet new people. It will be a completely new experience!"

Sports is a great teacher, says Colton, whose athletic career also included the high school gridiron. "You can relate sports to real life, because of the competitive drive and the commitment. That's what I like about it."





Keysha Cortez
(left) & family

Family puts down roots, ready to grow in new home

Keysha Cortez looks forward to reuniting her family under one roof soon and enjoying a new home in Princeton. From there, she'll pursue her dream of entering IVCC's nursing program.

Keysha and her family are transplants from Chicago, which they fled when the pandemic kicked the city into lockdowns and fear. "I packed up my three kids and figured we'd go back in a couple months. But when the time came, none of us wanted to go back!"

Husband Jay stayed in Chicago, where he works for the city. He travels to the family's home in Princeton on weekends. The separation has been difficult and both parents are working to end it soon.

"It's hard during the week being a single mom. It's challenging trying to raise the kids on my own." She's relied on her husband's strength and support as she's pursued her healthcare career. In his absence, she enrolled in online courses here because "I can't do it in person. I can't say, 'honey, watch the kids today because I have to go to school.' With him being here, I'll be able to do that."

She's passionate about working with patients and determined to better her life and those of her children. Those goals drive her. "Always push yourself," she says. A positive outlook carries her through even the tough days. "If you're negative, it's not going to work."

Go Western, young woman

Fall will bring Hope Stunkel new horizons. She's looking forward to trading the cornfields of Bureau County for the bright lights of Macomb when she transfers to Western Illinois University.

Drawn by Western's reputation in her field of study, she had other considerations in her school choice. Hope uses a wheelchair, so an accessible campus and community complete with "everything to get from Point A to Point B" topped her list.

A visit to campus sealed her commitment, as did a scholarship. She'll pursue political science, sociology and psychology with an eye to a career in law. At IVCC, she switched majors from business because "I felt I could help people more" by becoming a lawyer. "I want to help people with disabilities and child abuse cases. They are the most vulnerable and can't always speak for themselves."

She welcomes a change of scenery in the trade of a community of 300 to one seven times larger, and looks forward to "a bigger place that has a lot more to do and more opportunities" and where she can meet new friends.

Her move has been months in the planning as she researched college opportunities, financial aid, and housing. "Plan, plan, plan!" she insists. "Think of it as wedding planning, really long and detailed, but put things into categories and take one step at a time."



Hope Stunkel



Classroom, office and hallway signage in some areas will be getting a makeover, and will be updated and standardized.

Heads Up!

Riding the rural backroads of Illinois a podcast at a time

Spring is for planting seeds and watching things start to grow, and that's in Cesar Delgado's blood. Those ancestors who gave him his love for agriculture would be proud to watch him now, he says.

He's majoring in agronomy at IVCC, and maintains a backyard plot of corn, sweet corn, soybeans and tomatoes with the help of his dad.

In 2018, Cesar sowed another seed he's cultivated: he launched his own YouTube podcast, "The Back Roads of Illinois," where he covers ag news, markets and events, among other topics. The podcast is a step toward becoming a professional agronomy broadcaster. Guests have included famous farmers, broadcasters and industry experts.

Cesar isn't your typical communications techy nerd, though. Born with cerebral palsy, he uses a motorized wheelchair and communicates through a keyboard generated voice system he activates with his eyes.

He found his groove in ag and broadcasting. He's learned to "just be myself and enjoy the moment." Working toward his goals also improved his outlook. "Keep strong – be strong about everything – and be yourself," he advises.



Cesar Delgado

Getting down to business: Launching new company worth the risk

Many times, Jordan Shaw felt out of place and out of sync with those around him. "I felt lone-wolfish. I didn't know why I didn't fit in but I felt different."

What sets him apart may be Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, a difference he's begun to embrace. Understanding that he learns differently, Jordan now has a strategy to manage and a better understanding "what my brain needs to process things."

A military veteran and medic who in civilian life works at an ambulance service and fire department, Jordan first enrolled as a business administration major. But when he was introduced to marketing, the pieces fell into place.

"I fell in love with everything about it. Marketing brought everything I love together."

Recently, he launched his own digital marketing agency. "I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a little nervous, but I've been through so much and I haven't let anything derail me. I feel I'm where I'm supposed to be."

After an injury ended his military career and led to "dark times" in his 20s, he discovered that adversity can make you stronger or break you. He's embraced that philosophy in his deep dive into entrepreneurship.

Focusing forward doesn't mean forgetting the past, though. "If anything, the past is a guidebook. It teaches you, makes you stronger, and prepares you for what's ahead."



Jordan Shaw



Cafeteria and Cyber Café should be operational again this fall with a new caterer.
Food trucks will be back this summer.

Heads Up!

One Book One College explores issues

In this year's topic and selection for One Book, One College, we learned about the opioid crisis with the book *Death in Mud Lick: A Coal Country Fight against the Drug Companies That Delivered the Opioid Crisis* by Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Eric Eyre.

This relevant discussion and topic impact our community who are dealing with similar issues, so bringing education and conversation to our students, faculty, staff, and community members was an important task to us.

We invited members of our community with real experience in these subject matters to share their perspectives: members from our very own Perfectly Flawed Foundation in LaSalle, including the executive director and founder Luke Tomsha; faculty members with nursing and journalism backgrounds; and a United States Executive Office member who works directly with national drug control policy.

To say these perspectives were impactful is an understatement. We were so honored for every perspective that was shared during our discussions, we



see this momentum continuing for our next selections. We believe our next selection will offer another opportunity to foster greater thought, discussion, and involvement.

A film viewing at the end of April will bring our opioid-related discussions to a close, so don't miss out! You can still get copies through Jacobs Library.

-- Grace Norris, electronic resources librarian

Heads Up!

Our 2022-23 selection will be *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* by Stephanie Land. "The experience of the narrative speaks to so many of our current and former students. We want to explore the ethics of care, especially from the perspective of working parents, particularly women, who often take on low-wage work to provide for their families." -- Jayna Leipart Guttilla, collection development and access librarian.

AIMing to streamline, automate accommodations process

Be on the lookout for a new system for requesting and receiving accommodations. The office has recently decided to use a program made by Accessible Information Management (AIM) to help us automate our processes and streamline our work.

We hope to get trained on the software this summer, start working with it during the fall semester, then move full steam ahead in spring.

While we hope the system will be a fast and efficient way for you to get services set up, we know there's going to be a learning curve for all of us. We will keep you updated as we move forward.

