

SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE

FALCON



2023-24 FOCUS



A FALCON LEGEND LEAVES THE NEST

After 34 years, longtime educator and SIC college president, Dr. Jonah Rice is retiring.

PASSING THE BATON

Moving forward, Dr. Karen Weiss to succeed President Rice as SIC's seventh president.

DONORS MAKE CTE POSSIBLE IN CARM

SIC's Stanford D. Williams Career & Training Center hosts inaugural Career Academy for high school students at no cost.





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Greetings!

My time working at SIC has been amazing. I recall my first year, 1990, as junior faculty member in the Humanities Division, as being the best year ever...and then each year after that just seemed to bring new joys and excitement. Retiring is bittersweet, of course, and I'm reminded of what Charlie Brown said: "Goodbye always makes my throat hurt."

I cannot express the gratitude for the faith people have placed in me all these years in navigating SIC through challenges. The community's trust in me to create, grow, renew, and upgrade SIC is most appreciated. My intent was always to make SIC stronger than it was the day before—financially, academically, and regionally. With your support and encouragement, we have achieved great success for the district and region.



As I always say, programs aren't buildings, programs are people. And I've had the pleasure of working alongside so many wonderful colleagues who made all this happen. It has been a true honor being a servant leader for you and the people of SIC District #533 alongside my peers and friends at every level of the College. The colleagues I leave behind to guide SIC are par none—vested, talented, intelligent, dedicated, and hard-working individuals who have worked with me and challenged me to meet the needs of students and the College. My wife Megin and I trusted these people with my three children (Jacob, Haley, and Connor), and my family has benefited from SIC's attention to quality and care. This College has been a home for me, housing a wonderful family that means so much. I love this place and believe in its mission and people.

"Great is the art of beginning," as Wadsworth taught us, "but greater is the art of ending." Leaving when the cupboard is fairly well stocked, the house generally clean, and most things in order is an opportune time to depart and what's best for the College to transition smoothly. I am confident that the new leadership will continue to improve SIC and move forward on a path to grow, change, expand, respect, and serve. There is so much more on the horizon that is exciting and ready to engage. I can't wait to see what wonderful things happen for SIC next.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve SIC.

Dr. Jonah Rice

SIC President, 2009-2024





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SOWING SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE

AGRICULTURE STUDIES COMING THIS FALL

In partnership with Rend Lake College, SIC is set to unveil a new agriculture program for the Fall 2024 semester. This program features three agricultural majors in Business, Education, and Science.

The Ag Business major delves into the economic facets of agriculture, equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed for careers in farm management, agricultural finance, marketing, and policy analysis.

Meanwhile, the Ag Education track is designed to empower future educators with comprehensive knowledge and effective teaching methodologies specific to agricultural settings. Graduates will be well-prepared to excel in roles within high

schools, vocational schools, extension programs, or agricultural outreach organizations.

For those inclined toward scientific exploration, the Ag Science curriculum provides a robust foundation in modern agricultural practices' fundamental principles. Through hands-on lab experiences and practical applications, students will gain invaluable insights into tackling real-world agricultural challenges.

This new program not only fosters a solid foundation in agriculture but also provides an affordable pathway for students to transition to a university for further academic pursuits seamlessly. For more information, please visit sic.edu/ag.



The Stanford D. Williams Career and Training Center opened its doors in the fall of 2023 at SIC's Carmi extension site. This state-of-the-art facility provides vocational education and encompasses a comprehensive array of amenities, including a welding shop, an automotive and diesel technology workspace, and a diesel truck bay dedicated to CDL training. Alongside, it offers a diverse curriculum offering both traditional coursework and dual credit options, designed to empower students with the skills demanded by today's industries. The project was made possible by a half-million dollar gift from local philanthropist Stanford D. Williams, for whom the center is named in recognition of his generosity and commitment to workforce development in the region.

This milestone marks the completion of the first phase of a visionary two-part capital development initiative. Supported by the generous contributions of local businesses, industry leaders, and private donors, the Center stands as a testament to the power of community collaboration in driving progress. Anticipation is high for the imminent completion of the second building, slated for early 2025, which will further augment the Center's capabilities by providing additional classroom space tailored to vocational and trade programs. SIC extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Center's donors, including The Absher Foundation, Campbell Energy, Elastec, Huck's Market & CWD Transport, Roark Trucking, Stanford D. Williams, Vibracoustic, the City of Carmi, and the White County Board, for their generosity and support.

In August, the Center welcomed its inaugural class predominantly comprised of students from Carmi High School. Under the guidance of instructors Griffin Hart in welding and Tracy Bunting in programmable logic



"We are so excited to kick off these long-awaited programs in Carmi. With the addition of our second building to be completed next year, we look forward to offering even more opportunities for our White County students and adults looking for training, and we are thankful to the Carmi business community for their support in this endeavor to train more students for skilled employment in the area."

Dr. Karen Weiss

SIC Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs

controllers (PLC), these students completed a segment of the Industrial Maintenance Certificate program during their first semester. Notably, the Absher Charitable Foundation has generously underwritten the students' expenses. Additionally, upon successful completion of both certificate programs, the Foundation is rewarding each student with a \$1,000 stipend in recognition of their dedication and achievements.

Looking ahead, the Center is poised to evolve its curriculum to meet the dynamic needs of regional industries, blending technical proficiency with essential soft skills such as effective communication, adept time management, and other workplace essentials. Plans are underway to expand program offerings, catering to a more extensive cohort of students, including high school students, traditional college attendees, and adult learners seeking to enhance their skill sets through immersive on-the-job learning experiences.



BUILDING A STRONGER HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE WITH PATH

Dedicated to fostering excellence in healthcare education and equipping the future healthcare workforce, Southeastern Illinois College proudly announces that it was a recipient of the Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce (PATH) Grant from the State of Illinois. With this invaluable support, SIC was able to provide aspiring healthcare professionals with additional resources to further augment their education in this high quality program.

Amidst the challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic, the PATH Grant highlights the state's commitment to bolstering healthcare education and retention initiatives. With a focus on expanding support and opportunities for students pursuing careers in healthcare, the PATH Grant aims to mitigate the shortages of skilled workers that have been acutely felt in recent times.

Out of PATH's \$25 million budget, SIC received \$184,807 for fiscal year 2024, which has been used to enhance various facets of healthcare education and training. From enhancing learning environments with upgraded equipment to supporting the invaluable

instructors who guide and mentor students, every dollar has been meticulously allocated to maximize its impact.

The investment in equipment and supplies is particularly noteworthy, as it directly improves the educational experience for students. With 90 new desks and chairs for nursing classrooms, alongside specialized medical equipment such as wound care simulators and defibrillators, students are equipped with the tools necessary to excel in their studies and prepare for real-world scenarios. Furthermore, the provision of iPads and other technological resources reflects SIC's commitment to embracing innovative learning approaches.

Crucially, the PATH Grant has allowed SIC to provide support directly to students, acknowledging the financial challenges they may face on their educational journey. Through the provision of meal and fuel cards, coverage of certification exam costs, and assistance with textbook purchases, SIC alleviates the financial burdens that students often face, enabling them to focus on their studies and future careers.



SIC EMBRACES COMPETENCY-BASED LEARNING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

SIC has been exploring competency-based education (CBE) as an alternative learning avenue for students. Unlike traditional methods that prioritize seat time, CBE focuses on individuals' abilities and practical application of knowledge. It represents a shift toward outcome-oriented education, ensuring students achieve proficiency by demonstrating applied skills, knowledge, and behaviors.

The advantages of CBE are diverse. It grants students the freedom to learn at their own pace, fostering flexibility in their educational journey as they strive to master essential skills. Moreover, CBE programs serve as a vital link to career pathways, particularly in technical fields, by aligning with skills-based learning requirements.

SIC was introduced to competency-based education by a state-wide initiative led by the Illinois Community College Board in 2022-2023. Using a cohort model, SIC collaborated with other community colleges across the state to develop a Welding CBE program, leveraging the American Welding Society certification standards as a blueprint. In the ensuing years, faculty and staff have dedicated themselves to refining this model through immersive workshops and professional development sessions.

SIC aims to unveil its inaugural CBE program in the 2025-26 academic year. This endeavor marks a significant milestone in the institution's commitment to providing innovative educational opportunities that empower students and bridge the gap between learning and real-world application.

SIC THEATRE CONTINUES TO SET THE STAGE FOR SUCCESS

The SIC Theatre Department is renowned for its rich tradition of cultural contributions to Southeastern Illinois since the 1970s. Our dynamic program offers a blend of theory, practicum, and creativity, covering classical and contemporary styles, with students participating in two shows per semester in our 450-seat theatre.

During the 2023-24 season, shows like *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*, *Elf: The Musical*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Jekyll & Hyde The Musical*, have drawn sold-out crowds, underscoring the enduring appeal of our performances.

From stage theory and scenic design to children's theatre and dance, our

curriculum equips graduates with the skills and knowledge to pursue careers as performing artists, directors, set designers, educators, and more.

Join us in 2024-25, as we continue to inspire the next generation of theatre professionals and celebrate the enduring magic of the Allan G. Kimball Stage at the George T. Dennis Visual & Performing Arts Center Theatre.

Purchase tickets to our shows online at sic.edu/boxoffice. To join our mailing list, email your mailing address to boxoffice@sic.edu with "Add me to your mailing list" in the subject line.



SQUIDWARD!



FROM BIKINI BOTTOM TO THE LAND OF OZ JR. FALCONS CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE IN YOUTH THEATRE

Since its inception in the late 1990s, SIC Jr. Falcon Productions, proudly sponsored by the SIC Foundation, has cultivated a rich legacy of excellence in youth theatre. With a diverse repertoire spanning the timeless allure of *Chicago* to the whimsical charm of *Wonka Jr.*, Jr. Falcon Productions has consistently captivated audiences with dynamic performances and commitment to nurturing young talent.

The summer of 2023 marked a milestone for Jr. Falcon Productions, as over 3,300 eager attendees flocked to see *The SpongeBob Musical* and the youth edition of *The Wizard of Oz*, featuring more than 100 children and youth in our region on the Allan G. Kimball Stage. This remarkable turnout not only underscored the popularity of the summer children's shows, but highlighted Jr. Falcon Productions' pivotal role in fostering children's love for theatre within the community.

As anticipation builds for the upcoming season, excitement abounds for the upcoming productions. Audiences of all ages can look forward to being transported to the magical kingdom of Arendelle with Disney's *Frozen Jr.*, catering to grades kindergarten through 9th, while high school through SIC students will take center stage in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*. With each performance, Jr. Falcon Productions continues to inspire and ignite the imaginations of young performers, ensuring the legacy of youth theatre thrives for generations to come.

Stay connected with Jr. Falcon Productions through their Facebook and Instagram (@jr.falcon.productions) pages for the latest show updates, and join us in celebrating the enduring spirit of creativity and camaraderie that defines SIC Jr. Falcon Productions.



A FALCON LEGEND LEAVES THE NEST

SIC COLLEGE PRESIDENT DR. JONAH RICE IS RETIRING

If you've been a student or employee of Southeastern Illinois College in the past thirty years, chances are Dr. Jonah Rice has left a positive impact on your academic or professional journey with his dedication, expertise, and steadfast support. From student to faculty to college president, he has become what one would call a legend at SIC, and after 35 years in higher education (34 of those at SIC) he has decided to hang up his suit and retire.

Dr. Rice graduated from SIC in the 1980s and returned to his alma mater as a junior faculty member in 1990, initially serving as a communications instructor teaching public speaking, interpersonal communication, and rhetoric. He is credited with creating the theatre program and coaching the nationally renowned SIC Forensic Falcons speech program for nearly 20 years. Under his leadership, the team secured national championships in 1997 and 2005. In 2010, he assumed the role of the sixth president of Southeastern Illinois College after serving as interim president for a year.

Dr. Rice chuckles when reflecting on his decision to accept the presidency in 2009, initially turning it down. However, his profound affection for the college and his belief in its mission ultimately led him to accept the interim position. Over his 15-year tenure, he encountered numerous challenges, including one Illinois fiscal disaster after another, the Leap Day Tornado of 2012, the great budget impasse of 2016, a declining district population, economic downturns, and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite these obstacles, under his stewardship, the college implemented a fund balance policy to establish a safety

net for emergencies such as state impasses and grossly late payments. Furthermore, the college witnessed the construction of new facilities, the development of innovative programs, and the formation of new competitive teams. To say that Dr. Rice played a pivotal role in the college's success during his tenure would be an understatement.

Dr. Rice's wish for SIC is "that we continue to maintain servant-leadership on the board and keep personal politics out of governance. And also, that the community supports the college as much as it can. Without it, the region suffers. People like to promote 'shop local.' Well, I say 'educate local.'"

What's on the horizon for Dr. Rice? Retirement isn't about slowing down for him. Instead, it's a new chapter filled with exciting prospects. He looks forward to cherishing moments with his family – his wife Megin and their three children, Jacob, Haley, and Connor. Beyond that, he's venturing into entrepreneurial ventures, finding joy in woodworking projects, and setting his sights on penning a book.

Dr. Rice, your unwavering dedication, friendship, and guidance have left an indelible mark on students, faculty, staff, alumni, and our wider community over the past 34 years. Your presence, often heralded by the cheerful whistle echoing through the halls, will leave a void that's impossible to fill. As you embark on this new journey in life, we extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes. May this next chapter be filled with joy, adventure, and the relaxation you so richly deserve.

2023-2024 FOUNDATION REPORT

With unwavering support from the Southeastern Illinois College Foundation's donors, our students are empowered to ascend to greater heights, shaping not only their own futures but also making a profound impact on our community.

ANNUAL ENDOWMENT GIVING

- Current Falcon Society Giving – \$17,000
- Current Dream Maker Society Giving – \$11,000
- Current Leadership Society Giving – \$7,000
- Alumni & Friends Giving – \$5,130

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

- 289 Scholarships Awarded in 2023-24 totaling over \$200,000
- Graves-Absher Scholarship – \$20,000 for 2023-24

STANFORD D. WILLIAMS CAREER AND TRAINING CENTER DONORS

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Absher Charitable Foundation | Campbell Energy, LLC | City of Carmi |
| Elastec, Inc. | Freudenberg: Vibracoustic | Martin & Bayley, Inc. |
| Roark Trucking | Stanford D. Williams | White County Board |

FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

- Jazz Under the Stars – \$11,011
- Holiday Dinner – \$10,308
- Dueling Pianos: Concert for a Cause – \$24,886

SPECIAL GIVING

- Hise Estate Property - \$195,000
- Jerry L. King Hall of Champions – \$25,000
(Location: E-Building 2nd Floor)



SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Franks Visionary
Philanthropist Award

presented to

Stanford D. Williams

This award is presented to Mr. Williams in appreciation of his extraordinary vision and generous contributions toward the advancement of career and technical education, empowering countless future students to lucrative professions, and laying the foundation for a sustainable skilled workforce for White County and the region.

SAVE THE DATE FOR
THE FOUNDATION'S
2024-2025 EVENTS!

The Holiday Dinner
featuring a Christmas Musical
November 22 & 23, 2024

Dueling Pianos:
Concert for a Cause
February 8, 2025

Silver Feathers:
Falcon Society Lifetime Members
\$10,000 Donation

Blue Feathers:
Dream Maker Society Lifetime Members
\$20,000 Donation

Birds:
Leadership Society Lifetime Members
\$50,000 Donation

Lifetime donors at all levels provide unrestricted giving for growth of the College endowment.



FALCONS DUNK THEIR WAY ONTO THE NATIONAL STAGE

The 2023-2024 season proved to be a defining moment for the Southeastern Illinois College Men's Basketball Team, marked by an array of remarkable achievements. With each dribble, pass, and shot, they showcased not only their athletic talent but also their commitment to excellence and teamwork.

With a regular season record of 17-15, including impressive victories over rivals such as Lewis & Clark, Jefferson County, and West Kentucky Tech, the team demonstrated their ability to compete at the highest level. Notably, the Falcons enjoyed a winning record at home in Deaton Gymnasium, creating an atmosphere of excitement and pride for their loyal supporters.

Playing at prestigious venues like Gainbridge Fieldhouse, home of the Indiana Pacers, added to the excitement of the season, as the Falcons showcased their skills on a larger stage. The crowning moment of the season came with the team's historic qualification for the Small College National Championships in Richmond, Virginia. Making their first appearance in recent history on the national stage, the Falcons soared to new heights, securing a #5 seed.

At the forefront of the team's success were Jadyn McHugh (#3) and Amari Wales (#12), whose stellar performances earned them coveted spots on the Small College Basketball All-American teams. McHugh's inclusion on the first team and Wales' recognition on the second team underscored their impact on the court and their invaluable contributions to the Falcons' journey. Adding to the team's accolades was Eli Mackey (#10), whose dedication both in academics and athletics earned him the title of National Small College Basketball Student Athlete of the Year and Academic All-American.

Behind every successful team is an exceptional leader, and in Coach Sam Swinford (seated center), the Falcon Men's Basketball Team found their guiding force. Coach Swinford's outstanding leadership and commitment to his players were recognized as he was named the 2023-2024 Small College Basketball Division I National Coach of the Year by the USCAA. He was selected out of a pool of candidates nationwide, ranging from community colleges to four-year institutions by a national board of coaches and administrators.



FORENSIC FALCONS CELEBRATE ANOTHER CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

The Forensic Falcons of Southeastern Illinois College have completed another chapter in their storied legacy with an outstanding 2023-2024 season. Through perseverance, dedication, and sheer talent, they have soared to new heights, leaving an indelible mark on the competitive speech circuit.

Kicking off the season at the Moraine Valley Appelquist Speech Tournament in Palos Hills, Illinois, the Falcons wasted no time in making their presence felt. Amidst fierce competition from colleges and universities across the nation, they emerged as the Community College Champions, clinching top school honors and a plethora of individual awards, including 20 individual awards and three duo awards.

The momentum continued to build at the Prairie State College "Showdown in the Heights" Speech Tournament in Chicago Heights. Here, the Falcons not only secured the title of team champions but also earned the tournament's quality award for the strongest performance per capita. With 19 individual awards and two duo awards, they once again demonstrated their dominance on the competitive stage.

Navigating the challenges of virtual competition, the

Falcons continued to excel at the Region IV-Affiliated Forensic League Tournament hosted by Prairie State College. Despite the distance, they delivered stellar performances, clinching an impressive array of individual medals—seven gold, four silver, and ten bronze—in public address, interpretation, and limited preparation events.

The pinnacle moment of the season came at the Illinois Intercollegiate Forensic Association, where the Falcons were named overall state champions in the two-year college division. Six competitors, Braxtyn Baugher, Bradlee Thomas, Grant Dooley, Rachel Russell, Abby Zirkelbach, and Carter Wiseman received open finals awards solidifying their place among the top six competitors from any college or university statewide in their respective categories. The team collectively brought home 23 individual awards and three duo awards at the tournament.

The culmination of the 2024 season came as they traveled to Reno, Nevada, for the 2024 Phi Rho Pi National Tournament. The Forensic Falcons added to their impressive haul with 6 bronze medals in both team and individual events and team overall sweepstakes in the Wyman (large school) division. They secured 13 individual awards and 3 duo awards.



AGAINST THE ODDS: SIC'S MIG TEAM CLINCHES 14TH STATE TITLE

While others sought the warmth of southern rays during spring break, students from Southeastern Illinois College once again ventured North, braving snowflakes to immerse themselves in the fervor of legislative debate at the Model Illinois Government (MIG) simulation in Springfield.

MIG, a rigorous legislative contest, puts participants into various roles including legislators, lobbyists, journalists, attorneys, judges, and party leaders. This year saw students from 15 colleges and universities across the state participating.

In a familiar narrative, SIC clinched the prestigious title of "Outstanding Small Delegation," marking its 14th championship in school history—a remarkable feat marked by their first back-to-back victory since 2017.

However, the path to victory was anything but typical. Starting the year with eleven members, the team faced dwindling numbers, culminating in a mere four delegates—the smallest delegation in the school's 23-year history. As fate would have it, illness further depleted their ranks, leaving them at three to face the competition.

Yet, against all odds, a testament to their resilience

emerged. Senior delegate Jillian Womack of Eldorado authored a compelling piece of legislation, championed through both chambers by team captain Tobias Hamblin after Womack's departure, which ultimately received gubernatorial approval. The bill was later named "Outstanding Original Legislation."

First-year delegate Ben Gulley of Harrisburg was elected to the position of Senate Majority Leader, while senior delegate Jillian Womack secured the role of Attorney General. Gulley's stellar performance also earned him the distinction of "Outstanding Member of the Senate," a rare feat for a freshman delegate—echoing Womack's own historic achievement as the first.

Moreover, two SIC alumni also played central roles in the simulation. Alex O'Daniel from Carmi presided as Chief Justice, overseeing the moot court competition, while Dana Hooven of Harrisburg assumed the revered role of Secretariat, reserved exclusively for top alumni of the organization.

In reflection, SIC advisor Matt Lees expressed, "This year was incredible on so many levels. This group overcame so much. To win the competition under these circumstances is a tribute to the resiliency of our students."



MORE THAN JUST FUN AND GAMES WHY SIC'S ESPORTS PROGRAM IS A GAME CHANGER

People have asked, "Why is SIC giving out scholarships to sit around and play video games?" The short answer to that question is "We're not." Yes, SIC does offer scholarships to our Falcons Faction of Gamers varsity esports team, but there is so much more to being on a collegiate esports team than just playing video games. Just like other collegiate activities, esports provides many rewards, builds valuable life skills, and connects students with a supportive community.

First and foremost, being on the esports team helps students pursue their education while easing some of the financial burden. These scholarships prioritize academics, ensuring members remain students first. Being a member of a collegiate esports team also teaches students critical communication, strategic thinking, and time management skills. These skills help students be productive members of society long after they have left SIC.

Being on a collegiate esports team provides a welcoming community for like-minded individuals. Team members connect over shared interests, supporting each other through academic and personal challenges. Just like with any great team, the camaraderie on the Falcons Faction of Gamers is strong and is facilitated by team members having their own dedicated space on campus in the arena and team room.

Professional esports has become a huge business over the last 15 years. The 2023 professional Call of Duty tournament championship saw total prize money worth over \$2 million spread across the top 8 teams, with \$1 million going to the first-place team. Other

titles, such as Halo and Rocket League, have similar payouts for their tournaments. As a result, there has been an increase in competitive esports teams on college campuses across the world. SIC is currently a member of the National Association of College Esports (NACE) which has over 250 member colleges across the United States and Canada, and the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) which has over 285 participating colleges and universities.

Over the past three years, the Falcons FoG have competed against teams across North America. We have played against 2-year colleges, 4-year universities, private schools, public schools, schools with multimillion-dollar esports facilities, and schools whose team members are playing from their dorm rooms. Our Call of Duty teams have earned second and third-place finishes, a divisional championship, many trips to playoffs, and are currently on another divisional championship run. Our Halo team made it to the post-season as well during the 2022-2023 season.

SIC's commitment to esports is evident in our state-of-the-art esports arena, streaming room, and team room. We're constantly seeking new talent to join our award-winning program and compete in various titles. So, no, we don't offer students scholarships to sit around and play video games. We offer students scholarships to be a part of a supportive community on campus, develop valuable skills, and help them achieve their goals of a college education. The fact that they are required to play video games throughout all of it is just icing on the cake. Learn more at sic.edu/esports.

Written by Jason Fitzgerald, SIC Falcons FoG Coach

FALCON ARCHERS SOAR

The Falcon Archers have been on fire this season, racking up a string of impressive wins! Their recent accomplishments highlight the dedication and talent of our archers.

At the USA Archery 3D Regional competition, the team secured an impressive second place finish, showcasing their skill in navigating a 3D course and hitting challenging targets. To add to the team's success, several archers brought home individual awards, demonstrating their exceptional skills.

The team then ventured to the prestigious Vegas Shoot. Despite being new to the competition, their competitive spirit shone through. Four archers earned checks for their outstanding performance in their respective flights.

But the winning streak didn't stop there. At the USA Archery Indiana State Indoor Tournament, the Falcon Archers dominated the competition, achieving a remarkable first place team finish. This wasn't just a team victory – all 11 SIC archers secured podium finishes, placing first, second, or third in their individual classes.



Learn more about our athletics and competitive teams at sic.edu/action and connect with them on social media.

FACEBOOK

SIC Archery	SIC Athletics
SIC Baseball	SIC Bowling Team
SIC Clay Breakers	SIC Falcons FoG
SIC Forensic Falcons	SIC Men's Basketball
SIC Softball	

INSTAGRAM

SIC Falcons FoG	SIC Falcons FoG
SIC Athletics	SIC Baseball
SIC Softball	SIC Men's Basketball

DISCORD

SIC Falcons FoG	SIC Falcons FoG
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X (TWITTER)

TWITCH

SIC RECOGNIZES THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR AWARD WINNERS



Spirit of Southeastern

Addison Bean

Ridgway

This award honors a sophomore student who cares for their college and community, maintains academic excellence, sets realistic goals, positively represents Southeastern Illinois College, and demonstrates good citizenship within the school.

Living the Mission

Eddie Fitzgerald

Carrier Mills

This award celebrates a faculty or staff member who exemplifies the College's Mission and Vision, promoting quality education and service-focused leadership aimed at personal growth, community connections, and readiness for the evolving 21st century society.



Outstanding Teacher of the Year

Paul Cummins

Harrisburg

This honor, bestowed by peers, acknowledges a faculty member's exceptional dedication to higher education, exemplary involvement beyond classroom duties, promotion of ethical conduct among self and students, and generous efforts in preparing students for their career paths.



In the pursuit of progress and enduring success, it's imperative to begin with a solid foundation and effective leadership. As the legendary basketball coach John Wooden once remarked, "A strong foundation is essential for lasting success." This principle serves as the cornerstone upon which all future endeavors are built. Dr. Rice's leadership provided that firm foundation from which the College can continue to serve as a catalyst for progress for this region.



Building upon established successes is the next crucial step. There are a few projects still "in progress" to be completed this next academic year, including the Williams Career and Training Center in Carmi and the second of two new certificate programs focused on dual enrollment with our secondary partners. We also want to continue to fortify our infrastructure with routine maintenance and upgrades to existing buildings and grounds, as well as open more learning pathways for students. Continuing our alliance with Rend Lake College is important to expand existing programs and services to strengthen our footprint in southern Illinois. These efforts not only solidify current achievements but also provide a springboard for future growth and innovation.

However, true advancement necessitates the courage to forge new paths. Introducing innovative programs in agriculture, competency-based education (CBE), and increasing dual credit career pathways through our CTE Academy and other dual enrollment programs can open doors to previously unexplored opportunities. By embracing change and pioneering novel approaches, SIC can stay at the forefront of educational excellence.

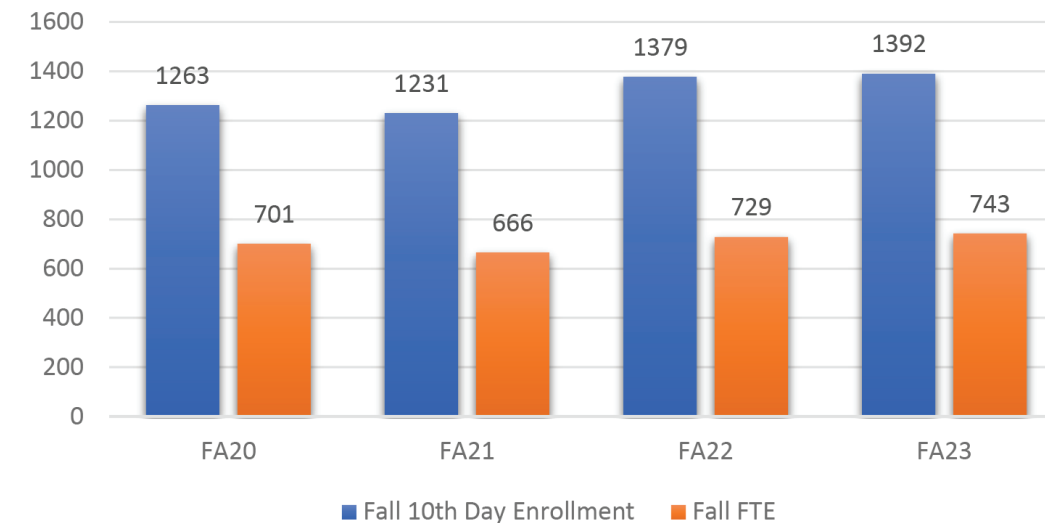
Furthermore, meaningful progress cannot occur in isolation; it requires active engagement with faculty, staff, students, and the community. Internally, the focus is on continually assessing and strengthening institutional practices to meet the needs of our students, faculty, and staff, as well as addressing federal and state requirements. Externally, the focus is on meeting the needs of our constituents by collaborating with local stakeholders, identifying workforce demands, and fostering partnerships with community and civic groups in creating a symbiotic relationship between SIC and its broader environment.

In essence, *moving forward* involves a multifaceted approach that combines a resolute commitment to foundational principles, leveraging existing successes, exploring new frontiers, and fostering robust community engagement. By embracing this holistic strategy, Southeastern Illinois College can navigate the ever-evolving landscape of education while remaining steadfast in its pursuit of excellence and relevance.

Dr. Karen Weiss

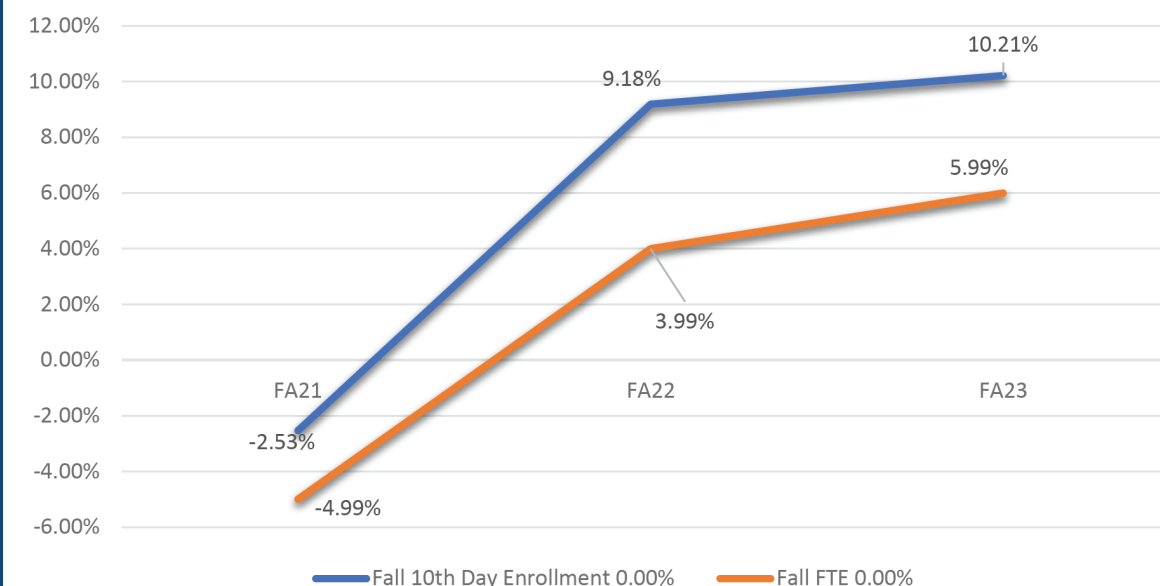
Vice President of Academic and Student Services, Incoming President

Headcount/Enrollment



	FALL 20	FALL 21	FALL 22	FALL 23
Fall 10th Day Enrollment	1263	1231	1379	1392
Fall Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	701	666	729	743

Enrollment as a Percentage since Fall 2020



	FALL 20	FALL 21	FALL 22	FALL 23
Fall 10th Day Enrollment	0.00%	-2.53%	9.18%	10.21%
Fall Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	0.00%	-4.99%	3.99%	5.99%



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