



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2025

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Lincoln Trail College to Hold Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Career and Technical Training Center

Robinson, IL—Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) announced today construction is underway on the \$13.4 million Career and Technical Training Center at Lincoln Trail College, one of four colleges within Illinois Eastern Community Colleges.

Lincoln Trail College will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Career and Technical Training Center on Tuesday, October 21, at 4:30 p.m. The state-of-the-art facility will serve as a hub for hands-on training in Welding, Process Technology, and Broadband Telecommunications, creating new pathways for students and strengthening the local workforce.

“From local high school and college students to members of Illinois’ skilled workforce, Lincoln Trail College’s new facility will provide vital career development opportunities for the people of southeastern Illinois,” **said Governor JB Pritzker**. “I’m proud to see even more shovels in the ground as colleges across our state grow, offering key technical programs that help make our workforce the best in the nation. I look forward to seeing this new facility in Robinson come to life.”

Construction mobilized with site preparation and groundwork in August, marking the start of a project more than 20 years in the making.

“This has been a long-term vision for Lincoln Trail College and our community,” **said LTC President Tona Ambrose**. “We’re thrilled to see it becoming a reality. This building represents opportunity—an investment in students, in Crawford County, and in the future of technical education.”

The Career and Technical Training Center will provide modern, industry-aligned learning spaces where students can develop the skills employers need most. The programs it houses prepare graduates for high-demand, high-wage careers in fields vital to Illinois’ economy.

The Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) oversees the construction of new state facilities, such as correctional centers, state parks, mental health facilities, and college and university projects. In addition, CDB is responsible for renovation and rehabilitation projects at over 8,770 state-owned buildings spread over more than 100 million square feet of floor space.

The scope of work includes the construction of a single-story building encompassing approximately 30,000 square feet. The new facility will include classroom and laboratory space to support a wide range of technical programs.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs in welding, process technology, and telecommunications are all projected to grow in the coming decade, with average annual salaries ranging from \$48,000 to \$70,000.

“This facility is going to open doors for students, for employers, and for the region,” **said IECC Chancellor Dr. Ryan Gower**. “It will give people the tools to build better careers and better lives—without ever leaving southeastern Illinois.”

In addition to serving traditional college students, the facility will support dual credit and workforce partnerships. High school students will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and earn college credit, while area employers will benefit from customized training and upskilling opportunities through IECC’s Business and Industry division.

“This is about creating a strong, connected talent pipeline,” **Ambrose said**. “From high school students to adults returning to learn new skills, this center will empower people to achieve their goals and drive our local economy forward.”

The Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) will oversee the project in accordance with the protocol for state-appropriated construction projects. H.E. Mitchell Construction is serving as the general contractor, and Graham & Hyde Architects, Inc. is the architecture and engineering firm for the project.

“We are excited to begin this project at Lincoln Trail College, which will greatly impact the regional economy,” **said CDB Executive Director, TJ Edwards**. “Ensuring a skilled workforce is trained and ready to meet industry needs is critical to supporting Illinois’ continued growth, and the new Career and Technical Training Center will be an important resource for advancing educational opportunities in the area.”

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About Lincoln Trail College

Lincoln Trail College is one of four colleges within Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. Located in Robinson, Illinois, committed to providing accessible, high-quality education, LTC offers a wide range of academic and career-focused programs to serve the diverse needs of its students and community. For more information on Lincoln Trail College, visit www.iecc.edu/ltc, www.facebook.com/LincolnTrailCollege, www.twitter.com/ltc_il, or watch LTTV at www.youtube.com/LincolnTrailCollege.

About the Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB)

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