

ACCELERATED BRIDGE TO EDUCATION

Newsletter

SUMMER 2021



ABE

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ABE.lincolncollege.edu



About ABE

The Accelerated Bridge to Education (ABE) program is committed to providing the most flexible and affordable bachelor's degree programs in Central Illinois. Earn your bachelor's degree by attending class one night per week for five weeks, supplemented by online learning in a program designed specifically for working adults. Enjoy the convenience of online learning with the community of being in the classroom with other working adults.

As we have learned in the last year and half, life can be unpredictable. The ABE program allows the flexibility for students to step out for five weeks when life happens, then jump back in for the next session. The program is year-round to accelerate your journey to earn your bachelor's degree.

Locations include **Normal**, **Peoria** at the Peoria campus of Illinois Central College, **Oglesby** on the Illinois Valley Community College campus, and a limited offering of courses at the Lincoln College campus in **Lincoln**.

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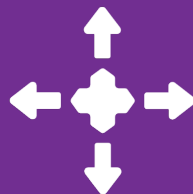
FREE Application



Attend class 1 night a week and online for 5 weeks



1/3 less than combined tuition and fees at public universities in Central Illinois



Flexible step-out option



\$350 per credit hour

Faculty Spotlight - Aaron Hurley



My name is Aaron Hurley and I am proud to teach at Lincoln College! Our students in the ABE program come from diverse backgrounds to improve their career opportunities, enhance their knowledge of business, and to grow as students and professionals. I absolutely love being a part of this process and seeing our students grow and

develop. There is a strong community at Lincoln College between the faculty and our students and a culture of excitement, continuous improvement, creativity, and collaboration. Students bring a wealth of knowledge and experiences to our classrooms and I believe that sharing collective stories and experiences enables us all to learn and to grow. I love that our courses are highly interactive and are not purely lecture. I feel that students form great relationships with each other and push each other to excel in our program.

Lincoln College is deeply rooted in tradition and the values of our namesake, President Abraham Lincoln. I thoroughly enjoy learning about the life of Lincoln and applying stories and lessons from his leadership practices into our courses here. There is so much to be proud of with our student's academic success. We continually have students placing in the top 5-10% in the Major Field Achievement Test in Business nationally and students ranking in top positions internationally in our Business Strategy Game against hundreds of colleges and universities worldwide. I feel that students at Lincoln form long-term relationships with each other and push each other to excel in our program.

Education at Lincoln College is a phenomenal process to be a part of, an outstanding culture to be a part of, and a wonderful place to call home.

Staff Spotlight - Stephanie Claudio



My name is Stephanie Claudio and I graduated from the ABE program in Fall 2018 with my bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership. I started working at Lincoln College 10 ½ years ago. I'm married and have 3 children. Achieving my degree has given me confidence and self-satisfaction more than I can even describe. I once thought at my age and the stage I am in life, it would be impossible to go back to school and earn my

degree, but the ABE program proved me wrong. My motto...If I can do it, you can do it!

I enrolled in the ABE program because I always had a desire to pursue my education for myself and working at Lincoln College gave me the opportunity since I have a family and work full-time. Being able to work during the day and tend to class one night a week made it possible for me to achieve my dream. With having to juggle work, family, and school, the pace of each class worked very well for me since I only had to focus on one class at a time. While attending classes I also started developing friendships with others who were in the same situation in life that I was. So, classes were not only enjoyable to learn but also meeting and getting to know some really great people was a bonus! I work as a Financial Aid Counselor at Lincoln College and also work with students using veteran's benefits to pay for their college education. I look forward to assisting you in accessing Pell Grant, MAP Grant, and loans if needed to earn your bachelor's degree.



Student Spotlight - Sade Boyd

My name is Sade Boyd, I am a mother of two busy boys and work a full time job. I had my boys fairly young and I was forced to put aside my education. When my boys reached an age where they were more independent I wanted to put my education above all else. I started at ICC as a full time student in 2017 through 2019 while maintaining a full time job and being a full time mother. After that, I



transferred to UIS for a semester as a full time student. I struggled as a non-traditional student at UIS, because I felt that their program did not suit my lifestyle. I needed to be able to attend classes near my home and have a flexible class schedule that worked with my life outside of school.

Through research, I found Lincoln College to be a good fit. I enrolled in the ABE program in 2019 to earn a degree in Business Administration Business Management and just recently graduated in March of 2021. In the ABE program, I was able to take classes all year round, attend evening classes, and was taught by faculty members who understood that many of us in this program are non-traditional students, and that we have families and life outside of school. I cannot say enough about how ABE has impacted my career. The ABE program has equipped me with the tools and knowledge I needed to be successful in my career path. My goal was to join Caterpillar by the end of my last semester of the ABE program. I currently work as a Capital Accountant at Caterpillar and was hired on in February of 2021.

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Scholarships & FAFSA



ABE's tuition is 1/3 less than combined tuition and fees at public universities in central illinois. ABE has no application fee and no hidden costs.



Full-tuition State Farm Foundation Scholarships are available for those who live or work in McLean County and meet eligibility criteria.



RLI Peoria Scholarships are available for Peoria area working adults.



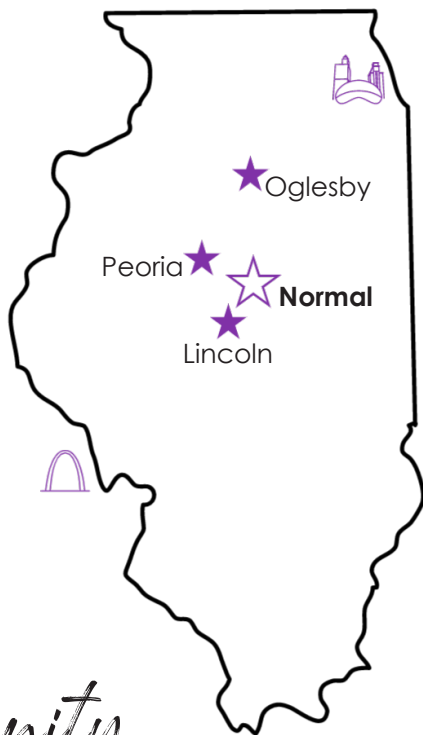
ABE's year-round program takes advantage of additional Pell grant funds when you earn 6 or more credits in the summer. ABE also has convenient payment plans available.



ABE also offers a Refer-a-Friend grant. After you become an ABE student, you can refer a new student to the ABE program. Once they enroll, you receive a Refer-a-Friend grant worth two credit hours of tuition. Some students receive this grant several times before they graduate.

Looking Ahead

Our next five-week session starts the week of August 16th, 2021, followed by our September session beginning the week of September 20th. Find a date that works for you and your busy life!



Dear ABE Community.

We want to hear from you!

Email your question to Ashley at Ashley.Berlett@lincolncollege.edu. If your question is chosen to be featured in the next ABE Newsletter, you will receive an ABE prize as a thank-you.

Follow us on Instagram @abelincolncollege and on Facebook @LincolnCollegeABE using the hashtag, **#haveyouheardaboutABE**.

For more information about the ABE program, call 309-452-0500, email abeinfo@lincolncollege.edu, or visit ABE.lincolncollege.edu.

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