The goal of the project is to develop, evaluate, and sustain regional and national partnerships that coordinate state and federal economic development, workforce training, and educational initiatives to meet the immediate needs of employers and job seekers.

The programs will incorporate remedial training at community colleges and other post-secondary institutions to provide basic skills, credentials, and transferable credits. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development (IDCED) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) have approved a workforce Innovation Grant designed for individuals transitioning into a manufacturing career.

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Carlyle High School

Kaskaskia College is proud to announce that Carlyle High School students Taylor Aarns, Cody Huels and Courtney Gerstenecker will each receive a Board of Trustees Scholarship to attend Kaskaskia College for the 2013-14 school year. The award provides the students with full tuition for up to two years. Courtney Gerstenecker is the daughter of Robert and Tamra Gerstenecker of Carlyle and plans to study agriculture education. Cody Huels is the son of Joe and Julie Huels of Carlyle and plans to study physical therapy. Taylor Aarns is the daughter of Tim Aarns of Breese and Tina Aarns of Carlyle. She plans to receive an Associate of Science degree and plans to transfer to Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville for pharmacy school.

Central Community High School, Breese

Kaskaskia College is proud to announce that Central Community High School of Breese student Sarah Kecke will receive a Board of Trustees Scholarship to attend Kaskaskia College for the 2013-14 school year. The award provides the student with full tuition for up to two years. Sarah is the daughter of Pamela Kecke of Bartlesville and plans to study elementary education. Amy Troutt serves as director of Student Recruitment.

Greenville High School

Kaskaskia College is proud to announce that Greenville High School students Corey Manning and Samantha Sinclair will each receive a Board of Trustees Scholarship to attend Kaskaskia College for the 2013-14 school year. The award provides the student with full tuition for up to two years. Corey is the son of Robert and Tamara Manning of Sorento and plans to attain an Associate in Arts degree as well as study automotive technology. Samantha Sinclair is the daughter of Richard and Shannon Sinclair of Sorento and plans to study ag sales and marketing.

Mater Dei High School, Breese

Kaskaskia College is proud to announce that Mater Dei High School students Jared Kampwerth and Alex Gelbe will each receive a Board of Trustees Scholarship to attend Kaskaskia College for the 2013-14 school year. The award provides the student with full tuition for up to two years. Jared is the son of Brian and Sara Kampwerth of Beckemeyer and plans to study engineering. Alex is the son of Chuck and Chris Gelbe of Bartlesville and plans to study accounting.

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Sunrise Care Givers of Greenville & Tavie Tots of Salem Given Emerging Entrepreneurs of the Year Award

2013 Centralia High School graduate Anastasia Aarons, SEATED, CENTER, recently signed a letter of intent to continue her golf career at the Kaskaskia College Blue Angels. Aarons received the Golden Aces Award as a senior at Centralia High School and played varsity for three years. According to Centralia coach Doug Jack, "I am proud to see Anastasia move on to college golf. She is hard worker who is working hard at improving her game. I am sure she will succeed at the next level." KCC coach Jay Garrett said, "Tahira has been working to improve all aspects of her game. The folks at Greenview told me that she was at the course almost every single day throughout the spring and summer. As a coach that is what you want to see.” Pictured are her father Robert Aarons and mother Nancy Aarons, and behind them are CHS coaches Doug Jack, LEFT, and Renee Ryterski, and KCC coach Jay Garrett, RIGHT.

KC Vandalia campus offers “I on Diabetes” class in cooperation with U of I Extension

KC Vandalia campus is planning to attend the Kaskaskia College Financial Aid Office of host FAFSA Friday workshop on Sept. 6.

Sara and Adam as KC students

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Kaskaskia College is pleased to announce that the Adult Education and Literacy Department has received a $20,000 grant from the Accelerating Opportunity (AO) Affiliate College Network. Eight colleges in Illinois were chosen to develop an Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) approach to provide college access and support to Adult Basic Education (ABE) students so that they can earn a career/technical certificate faster. I-BEST pairs ABE and career/technical instructors in the same classroom to advance student-learning gains, to contextualize skills content, and to integrate learning outcomes. At Kaskaskia the partnership brings together Adult Education and the Nursing Department to develop a class for students seeking their GED credentials as well as Nurse Assistant Certification (CNA). All services for students related to this class will be free of charge.

Janet Garretson, Director of Nursing, said, “This is a great opportunity for students to accomplish their GED credentials and their CNA and to continue on a career pathway, building on that foundation by seeking additional certificates in the health care field.” Lisa Atkins, Director of Adult Education and Literacy, said, “The face of adult education has changed. No longer are we just interested in helping our students to earn their GED credentials. Our mission is to assist them in earning their basic credentials so that they can transition to post-secondary education and/or employment and help re-build our economy.”

Members of the core team for development have already had a training session in Springfield. During the fall semester there will be further expansion of the design for this class. Implementation is planned for January, 2014.

Kaskaskia Adult Education & Literacy Department receives $20,000 grant from Accelerating Opportunity (AO) Affiliate College Network
Kaskasia College recently held a pinning ceremony for its Licensed Practical Nursing graduates at the East St. Louis Center. Pictured are 1st row - Megan Kapp (Highland), Jasmine Nicholson (East St. Louis), Lori Millikan (Troy), Latala Walls (East St. Louis), Stephanie Schweins (Collinsville), Theressa Dougall (Effittson), Tori Condra (East St. Louis), and Christina Higginbotham (Maderon); 2nd row - Catherine Shueb (Madison), Candice Stangler (Collinsville), Tonya Burnston (Calhoun), Cierra Nelson (Fayetteville Heights), Robyn Musick (Belleville), Tammi Melchendorf (East St. Louis), Jaelene Hughes (Carbondale), Jasmine Anderson (East St. Louis), Sharnawa Wise (Granite City), LaDonna Johnson (Centralia) and Liso Kelley (St. Louis). 3rd row - D’Antrane Harrington (Chapel Hill, NC), Erica Baker (Granite City), Essie Harrell (East St. Louis) and Trina Brown (Swansea).

KC’s Trenton Education Center continues service to students

The Trenton Education Center, part of the Western Clinton County area, is currently undergoing a much needed expansion at its location on Old Highway 50 in Trenton. A groundbreaking ceremony was held this Spring, and construction began at the end of the Spring semester. When it opens in the Spring of 2014, the Center will have been transformed from 3,800 square feet of space to nearly 14,000 square feet, enough to allow for a much larger increase in the classes and degrees offered as well as the services it provides to the students and community.

During construction, the Trenton Center office has been relocated to 9 West Broadway in Trenton (between City Hall, and college) and classes will take place in other locations including Willhelm High School in Trenton and Central Community High School in Breese, Wesley Baptist Church, the Trenton Public Library, and more.

Built based upon Kaskasia College’s philosophy of “bring education to the times and places convenient to the learner,” the Center was built to accommodate the need to determine if Kaskasia College’s services could be rationalized away from the main campus, in Western Clinton County, as well as in the other Education Center locations. The experiment was a resounding success.

Demand was so strong for the educational and community services offered by the Center that they quickly outgrew their current location and the decision was made to proceed with the exponential expansion currently underway.

The Trenton Education Center offers services to the community beyond education. Its open computer lab, free to use by students and citizens alike, is a popular amenity that helps to strengthen the relations between the College and the community.

In the expansion, several start-up businesses will call the Center home, under the Small Business Incubator Program, which allows for some area startups to lease offices at the Education Centers for a period of up to three years, while the staff at the Center make themselves available for questions and are eager to help in any way they can.

Along with the expansion of the Trenton Center and the services it offers to the community, recent changes have also occurred for an expansion of the Center’s educational opportunities for students. Under an agreement signed earlier this year, Kaskasia College is now able to offer full degree programs at each of its Education Centers, where before only half of the credit hours needed for a degree could be earned off campus.

With the advent of online classes, in which students need only a computer and Internet access to attend classes, and distance learning classes through the College’s network of distance learning classrooms, Trenton, as well as other Education Centers, can now offer even more programming than what was previously available when every class meant a rigid schedule of face-to-face classroom meetings.

The Center plays host to a number of College Advisory Board and Community Engagement meetings. In addition to new programming to fill needed in the area are solicited. The College works to act quickly on these suggestions. As a result, the new Trenton Center will house three different classrooms that can be opened up to accommodate group meetings, science and computer laboratories, and an industrial laboratory space for students needing to be taught both classroom and hands-on skills.

Another service offered at the Trenton Center is Community Education classes. These credit and non-credit classes cover topics of interest from getting the most use from an iPad or iPhone, to basic and intermediate computer classes, to hobbies such as genealogy to social networking and scrapbooking. As a service to the senior citizens of the area, these classes are offered for free or a reduced amount to persons 60 years of age or over.

The Trenton Education Center is a growing, vibrant part of Kaskasia College’s educational network, and the staff look forward to serving the educational and community needs of the Western Clinton County area, even during the expansion. For more information on the Trenton Center, please call the Center at (618)545-3647 or 224-2666 or email the director, Artie Conroy, at acconroy@kaskaskia.edu.