

# GO AHEAD

# achievement.



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*NCAS's Sean McCloskey pays it forward*

GROW. BUILD. CREATE. FOCUS. CARE. **SUCCEED.**

# PARKLAND COLLEGE GO AHEAD



## DEDICATION TO LEADERSHIP

### Executive Vice President's Message

**Dear District 505 Residents,**

Our fall semester has brought with it plans for administrative transition at our campus. President Tom Ramage announced that he will retire after December 2022, and our trustees have decided to designate me as his successor. I am deeply honored to receive this nod, as I would follow in a succession of outstanding chief administrators.

For now, my new role as executive vice president will allow me to learn much from Dr. Ramage before taking the helm. This move will also mean that I have the time to pass on the baton of leadership in academic services as I help the next chief academic officer transition into the role of vice president.

It is my goal to provide leadership so that Parkland continues to effectively serve the needs of District 505 as its community college.

**Pamela Lau, EdD**  
**Executive Vice President**



# read ahead.

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***Go ahead* is a biannual publication for the residents of Parkland College District 505.**

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**THE MISSION OF PARKLAND COLLEGE IS  
TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN LEARNING.**

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## STUDENT SUCCESS: On a Mission for NASA

### Sophomore Sean McCloskey pays it forward

*Aerospace engineering student Sean McCloskey nearly missed his chance to participate in a NASA training camp designed specifically for community college students.*

Fresh from his fall training and back at Parkland College, Sean is making sure other students don't miss the chance to attend this dream experience.

"I just happened to overhear someone talking about it at O'Hare Airport last spring, on my way back home," the sophomore from Warminster, Pennsylvania, says about the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars program. When he found the NCAS website, Sean had only two days left to submit his application.

Despite the tight deadline, the hustle was well worth it, he says. Held in only two sessions a year, NCAS provides community college STEM students with a five-week online workshop of discussions, video chats with NASA experts, and mission design challenges. Students scoring 70 or higher on the workshop research

paper may attend a four-day visit at one of several NASA centers around the country. This visit features a look at NASA missions and science, networking with scientists and engineers, and a team challenge to design, build and market a rover.

"It's completely free—the training, transportation, housing, meals, all of it," Sean explains. NCAS even organized his flight to the Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. "All I had to do was show up at the airport. And come on, it's NASA!"

To participate in the spring 2020 NCAS, students had to apply by October 16. So for a full month after his own experience, Sean spoke to nearly a dozen Parkland science classes, handing out flyers NASA gave him to promote the program.



"NASA wants to recognize and praise community college students," Sean says. "They are giving these experiences to let students like us explore now what we want to be doing in the future."

#### FORGE AHEAD:

## Engineering Science

Parkland College Associate in Engineering Science degree programs provide a stepping stone to a BS in Engineering. Our AES graduates leave prepared for transfer to four-year schools including **UIUC**, **SIUC**, **EIU**, and **WIU**.

For information of engineering science specialties, visit [parkland.edu/engineeringscience](http://parkland.edu/engineeringscience).

**GO AHEAD  
ENRICH**



**CAREER PLANNING:**

## **Women's Career Institute**

If you couldn't attend Parkland's first-ever conference designed specifically to boost women's careers, not to worry. The inaugural event was a hit that bears repeating, according to co-hosts YWCA and Parkland College.

High-powered professionals shared with community residents, campus employees, and students at the October 11 event. Topics covered included overcoming workplace obstacles, improving credit, and finding work-family balance. Dozens of community resource organizations, women-owned businesses, and Parkland College departments provided related information. Here were some attendees' comments:

*"I needed this! This was meant for me to hear. Turn that pain into power. Yes!"*

*"Everything was so informative and inspiring. I can't wait to apply this to my daily life."*

*"Learning how to build my credit and keep it up was a highlight for me."*

*"Details about how to research an employer were useful."*

*"Thanks for providing an opportunity for professionals to network."*

## **Parkland Data Analyst Wins State Award**

Brian Counter, senior data analyst with Parkland College's Institutional Accountability and Research office, was honored with the 2019 Special Recognition Award from the Illinois Association for Institutional Research during its annual conference in Oglesby, Illinois, October 7-8. The award is given to a practitioner with a significant contribution to the research and

planning field and its application for institutional decision making. I-AIR disseminates information on institutional research methods and content in postsecondary education, provides a forum where researchers share common problems and findings, and promotes professional development among its members.



# WORKFORCE BUILDING: SWFT Program

**GO AHEAD  
SUCCEED**



REPRESENTATIVE CAROL AMMONS ADDRESSES THE CROWD AT THE LAUNCH OF THE SWFT PROGRAM



VP OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS STEPHANIE STUART EXPLAINS THE SWFT PROGRAM

## IL grant program to boost career prospects for underserved

*A new Parkland College program is working to improve employment opportunities for underserved populations in District 505.*

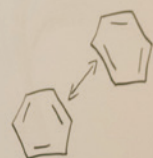
Backed by a \$1.5 million Illinois Workforce Equity Initiative grant, the SWFT Program (Support for Workforce Training) will provide short-term training to more than 150 area residents, including those in underrepresented minority groups, incumbent workers, unemployed persons, and individuals demonstrating financial need.

Supported by free tuition and fees, wraparound services, transportation assistance, and a stipend, participants

can select from 20+ Parkland programs that lead to high-wage, in-demand occupations. Career program options range from industrial welders to Google IT professionals to phlebotomy and pharmacy technicians; most programs can be completed in a year or less.

The program extends now through September 2020. For more information, visit [parkland.edu/swft](http://parkland.edu/swft).

GO AHEAD  
LEARN



$P_{TOTAL}$

$$\Delta G_{rxn} = \Delta G^\circ + RT \ln Q$$

**“I HIT A REALLY NICE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL MILESTONE.”**

**GEORGE BARTON**  
Sophomore, Chemistry

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

# Chemistry

## George Barton's work features in national publication

*Parkland Chemistry sophomore George Barton never imagined contributing to a national scientific publication before he completed his associate's degree, but that's just what he did.*

Through his participation in the Mississippi State University Research Experience for Undergraduates last summer, George was second author on a manuscript published by the American Chemical Society's publication *Organic Letters*\*, in March. The Champaign native says Parkland had a hand in his achievement. "I had heard of the experience from [chemistry] professor Britt Carlson and some of the other staff. It was a compelling opportunity, and I was lucky enough to be accepted."

The ACS manuscript describes an unprecedented and efficient development of

a new chemical framework of the compound diketopyrrolopyrrole that can be used to form organic semiconducting materials. These materials could be used in products such as organic solar panels that would be easier to produce, more physically flexible, and less expensive.

"It feels really nice to have a physical thing you can refer to in a resume or have your name on," says George, who plans to graduate from Parkland in May. "It also feels like I hit a really nice personal and professional milestone in my life."

Parkland students like George also participate in other US summer science research opportunities, including PRECS, a biology research program hosted by Parkland College and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. For more information on PRECS, visit [precs.igb.illinois.edu](http://precs.igb.illinois.edu).

\*Daijun Feng, George Barton, and Colleen N. Scott. (March 12, 2019). Synthesis of 2,5-Dibutyl-3,6-dimethyl-1H,2H,4H,5H-pyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrrole-1,4-dione: A Diketopyrrolopyrrole Scaffold for the Formation of Alkenyldiketopyrrolopyrrole Compounds. *Organic Letters*, 21 (7), 1973-1978, DOI: 10.1021/acs.orglett.9b00019

## HEALTH PROFESSIONS:

# AY 2019 Program Success

Top Pass Rates on Licensing Exams:

**RESPIRATORY THERAPY (100%)**

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**VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY (96%)**

Full Continuing Accreditation for  
5 years:

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New Offerings:

**EVENING COHORT FOR MASSAGE  
THERAPY: GREAT FOR ATHLETIC  
TRAINERS, NURSES, RELATED  
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

Milestones:

**DENTAL HYGIENE'S 50<sup>TH</sup>**

**GRADUATING CLASS, MAY 2020**

## NETWORK ADMINISTRATION:

# When One Door Closes

TOM ADAMS WORKS AS  
A TIER 2 IT TECHNICIAN  
WITH PARKLAND  
COLLEGE'S CAMPUS  
TECHNOLOGIES



## Tom Adams' job loss brings career reinvention

*Tom Adams was only five months from retirement when his forklift job at the Mitsubishi auto plant in Normal, Illinois, went overseas. It was 2015. He was 53.*

**“PARKLAND IS A  
GOOD PLACE TO  
START OVER.”**

“That one hurt; I had plans and had worked there 27 years,” says the granddad of two from Urbana. Refusing to be bitter at his situation, however, Tom enrolled in a WIOA-approved program of study at Parkland College. He earned his degree in Network Administration and Support in May 2018.

“My next job was going to be a little less physical,” he explains, smiling.

That next job didn't take long to materialize: Tom was soon hired part time as a Tier 2 IT technician with Parkland College's Campus Technologies. He says he enjoys the work and has been pleased with his office environment.

“Parkland has helped give me a good foundation for changing my life,” Tom adds. “I'm happy to have stumbled into this.”



# Parkland Marketing Earns District Honors

Parkland College's Marketing and Public Relations team won top awards at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations' District 3 Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 29–October 1. Parkland received:

- **GOLD FOR VIEWBOOK**  
(Parkland College 2018-2019 Viewbook)
- **GOLD FOR SPECIALTY PUBLICATION**  
(Don Lake Retrospective Catalog, Giertz Gallery)
- **SILVER FOR FLYER**  
(Parkland Athletics Recruitment Flyers)



## COME OUT AHEAD: Student Leadership Academy

Leadership education of college students is an important and growing movement within higher education. To succeed after college, students need more than just a degree and specific job skills.

Launched in fall 2019, the Parkland College Student Life Leadership Academy helps participants develop those skills through:

**IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION OF  
ETHICAL ISSUES**

**HANDS-ON LEADERSHIP PRACTICE**

**GOAL SETTING FOR MEANINGFUL  
GROWTH AND CHANGE**

**NETWORKING**

For more information on the program, visit [parkland.edu/studentleadership](http://parkland.edu/studentleadership).

## STUDENT SUPPORT:

# Student Life Merit Book

## Parkland College gets state nod for student-life activity

*Parkland College's Student Life office earned an Ed Snyder Merit Book Award honorable mention from the Illinois Community College Student Activities Association.*

Parkland received the recognition during the ICCSAA Fall Student Conference October 18–19 at Rock Run Convention Center and Joliet Junior College.

A merit book is a binder, or bound document, that provides an accounting of activities and services provided by each year's student government, leadership council, or activities board. Student governments must demonstrate excellence in six criteria to earn the

award: Student Voice, Assistance to Other Clubs and Organizations, Student Leadership Training, Community and/or Committee Service, Assuring Provision of Programming and Assuring Continuity of Governance.

One of only two community colleges to earn the distinction for the 2018-2019 academic year, Parkland College Student Government excelled among its peers because of several new programs available

to students, according to Student Life Director Tracy Kleparski.

"Parkland College was selected as an award recipient because of the diversity of student engagement programs, including our new Student Leadership Academy and opportunities to directly engage with President Tom Ramage to inform our leadership about the student experiences at Parkland," Kleparski said.

**SUCCESSION PLANNING:**

# Dr. Lau's Next Steps

[Adapted from Hansen, Nicoline (September 26, 2019). "Board Approves Dr. Lau as Next President of Parkland," *the Prospectus*, 51, 1-3. Photo (right) by Scott Landells.]

On September 18, the Parkland College Board of Trustees unanimously approved promoting Dr. Pamela Lau from chief academic officer to executive vice president of Parkland College. Trustees made this appointment as part of an executive transition plan in which Lau will take over the presidency when current president Dr. Tom Ramage retires in December 2022.

"It made sense through our discussion and conversations with Dr. Lau that her leadership, skills, and trust among the faculty, staff, and others in the community was a logical continuation of [Ramage's] leadership," said board chair Gregory Knott.

Describing her next three years as a journey, Lau says she is ready to learn the work of the current president. She explains that the job involves setting the strategic plan and deciding in what direction to take the college. She stresses that Parkland must ensure students are being prepared to transfer to a four-year institution and that those finishing Parkland's career programs have the skills employers need.



"At the end of the day, if students don't find that this is a good experience, we have not succeeded as a college," Lau said.

Lau started out as a part-time faculty member in 1995. She started teaching in the developmental reading program before going on to be the director of the program in 2003. Lau was promoted to dean of academic services in 2010 and to vice president for academic services in 2016.

Parkland College's leadership transition plan also includes finding an associate vice president who will eventually take over as chief academic officer.

DR. PAMELA LAU IS INTRODUCED AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF PARKLAND COLLEGE AT THE SEPTEMBER BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



# PLAN AHEAD

## FOR THESE WINTER AND SPRING EVENTS!

### Natural Sciences Poster Session

November 20, 4–6 pm  
Student Union

### MUSIC ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

[parkland.edu/musicensembles](http://parkland.edu/musicensembles)

#### Jazz Combo

November 25, 7 pm  
Parkland Second Stage

#### Guitar Ensemble

December 5, 7 pm  
Parkland Second Stage

#### Orchestra and Chamber Singers

December 7, 3 pm  
Harold and Jean Miner Theatre

#### Wind Ensemble and Concert Band

December 8, 3 pm  
Harold and Jean Miner Theatre

#### Parkland Pops: “Disney Today”

December 14, 1 pm  
Parkland Second Stage

#### Wind Ensemble and Chamber Singers

March 1, 3 pm  
Harold and Jean Miner Theatre

#### Orchestra and Concert Band

March 8, 3 pm  
Harold and Jean Miner Theatre

### PARKLAND THEATRE

[parkland.edu/theatre](http://parkland.edu/theatre)

#### Peter and the Starcatcher

November 14–24  
Harold and Jean Miner Theatre

#### A Christmas Carol

(theatre fundraiser)  
December 13–15  
Parkland Second Stage

#### How I Learned to Drive

February 6–16  
Parkland Second Stage

#### Machinal

(Actors’ Studio Series play)  
February 28–29  
Parkland Second Stage

### STAERKEL PLANETARIUM

[parkland.edu/planetarium](http://parkland.edu/planetarium)

#### Kaler Science Lectures

“Soils and Human Security”  
December 6, 7 pm

#### “Supermassive Black Holes”

February 7, 7 pm

#### “Chasing Tornadoes: It’s not what you think!”

March 6, 7 pm

### COMMUNITY EDUCATION

[www.parkland.edu/ceRegister](http://www.parkland.edu/ceRegister)

#### Personal Development Classes

Starting January 2020

New Year, new you! Try a fitness class; explore arts and crafts, cooking, and so much more.

#### Professional Development Classes

Starting January 2020

Explore new career options and earn certifications.

### GIERTZ GALLERY

[parkland.edu/gallery](http://parkland.edu/gallery)

#### 2019 State of the Art: Ceramics

*Masters of Material* curated by Heidi Preuss Grew

November 11–February 1, 2020  
Reception November 14

#### Complex Territory: Image and Appearance

February 10–March 24  
Reception February 13

### PARKLAND COLLEGE CLOSED

November 28–December 1  
December 21–January 1  
January 20  
February 27  
March 20



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**PARKLAND COLLEGE  
GO AHEAD**

