

**GO
AHEAD**



achievements.

SUCCESS STORY > **page 2**

Determination pays off for Isael Vazquez

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

PARKLAND COLLEGE
GO AHEAD



**THE GO AHEAD
BRANDING
CAMPAIGN:**

A message from the President

Dear District 505 Residents,

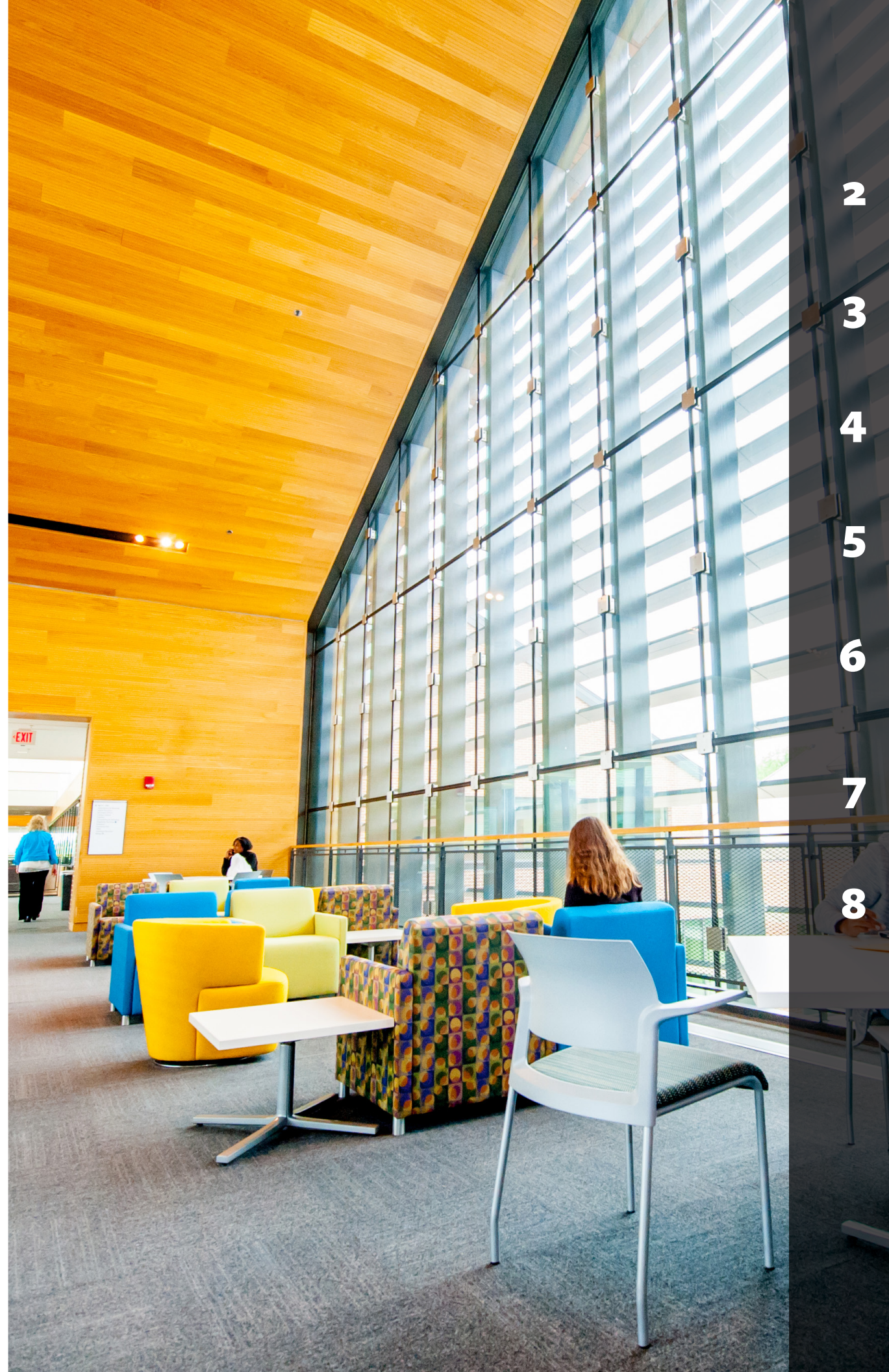
Over the past year, Parkland College has taken steps to reduce the amount of paper and printing for our academic and community education class schedules. Although we've stopped sending them to every household in the district, you'll find these schedules at parkland.edu/academics/schedules. You can also request a copy if you're unable to access them online or in your community library.

Instead, we're sharing a few stories of how Parkland College impacts the lives of individuals in our communities—and beyond. We hope you enjoy this new publication and see some of the ways Parkland helps you get ahead.

You might notice Parkland using the expression **"Go ahead"** more in our communications. This tagline is part of a new brand platform that local marketing firm SURFACE 51 helped us develop to better demonstrate the countless ways Parkland programming helps individuals get involved and move forward—in education and in life. You'll see **"Go ahead"** used to convey everything from our general studies courses to manufacturing, arts, and precision agriculture. We hope the invitation to **"Go ahead"** inspires you to think of your own circumstances and consider what you might want to learn at Parkland.

Tom Ramage

President



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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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**HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS:
Manufacturing**



“THROUGH HARD WORK I CAN DO MANY THINGS TO PROVIDE FOR MY FAMILY AND BE SUCCESSFUL.”

ISAEI VAZQUEZ
Welder, Comac Coil Manufacturing Inc.

Despite working full time, taking classes, and caring for his family, Isael was determined to finish the AO program—and it paid off. “I studied hard and made close relationships with my instructors, who supported me in so many ways,” he explained. In the second semester of enrollment, Isael was the first to earn Parkland’s Adult Student Transition Scholarship, which helped him pay for tuition. He also made the Parkland Dean’s List during his last semester.

“The teachers were so great and helpful, too; they made sure my welds were good and always took extra time to help me,” Isael said.

He finished the AO welding program in May 2015, and has since earned American Welding Society D1.1 certification in seven positions. He was soon hired as a full-time welder by Colmac Coil Manufacturing Inc. in Paxton. “I know that through hard work I can do many things to provide for my family and be successful,” Isael remarked. “I’m thankful to Parkland for the AO program, and will take additional coursework when I can to get even better at my job.”

For more information on the Accelerating Opportunity program, contact Parkland Adult Education at 217/351-2580.

In Fiscal Year 2015 (FY ’15), approximately 39% (\$151,500) of the total cost of the Parkland College Adult Education and Family Literacy Program is provided through federal funds under Title II of the Workforce Investment Act.

**FORGE AHEAD:
Hot careers**

Many middle-skill careers like Isael’s are in high demand now, with two-year degree and certificate holders often earning salaries that exceed those of bachelor’s degree graduates.* Parkland trains students to enter positions highly sought after by local, regional, and national employers, including:

- HOTEL & RESORT MANAGER**
- WELDER**
- PRECISION AG SPECIALIST**
- CUSTOMER SERVICE PROFESSIONAL**
- SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST**
- COMMERCIAL PILOT**
- FARM LABOR SPECIALIST**

*CARNEVALE, A. P., ROSE, S. J., & CHEAH, B. (2011). THE COLLEGE PAYOFF: EDUCATION, OCCUPATIONS, LIFETIME EARNINGS. WASHINGTON, DC: GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY CENTER ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE.

Determination pays off for Isael Vazquez ’15

Even though he worked two jobs, Urbana resident Isael Vazquez found he could barely make ends meet. Believing education would provide a better life for him and his family, he turned to Parkland College.

“I always felt like something was stopping me—like I could only go so far before I hit my head,” he said. But through a grant-funded program Parkland began offering students in 2013, Isael succeeded further than he’d dreamed.

After taking Parkland’s ESL classes to improve his English skills and earning his GED through Parkland Adult Education, Isael signed up for the

Accelerated Opportunity (AO) Program. The state-funded program works to increase the number of students transitioning from GED completion to college. Parkland’s AO program provides basic writing, reading, and math classes at no cost, and also allows students to take college courses toward earning welding certificates.



**GO AHEAD
ENRICH**

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION:
Noncredit classes**

Revisit your inner child in Parkland’s “Coloring for Adults” classes. A relaxing and creative outlet trending for grown-ups across the country, coloring classes teach the basics of visual art, including materials, mark-making techniques, color theory, and having fun!

**THINK AHEAD:
NONCREDIT CLASSES YOU MIGHT LIKE**

Ready to take a class or two for personal growth, enrichment, or just plain fun? Parkland College Community Education offers dozens of noncredit classes each semester. Check out the offerings at parkland.edu/communityed, call 217/353-2055, or visit us at 1315 N. Mattis Ave. in Champaign.

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT:
Business Club



“GET INVOLVED TO EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS AND HELP WITH SELF-REALIZATION.”

CHANG-HEE LEE
Sophomore,
Business Administration

**GO AHEAD
ENGAGE**

**MOVE AHEAD:
Clubs & Organizations**

Connect, volunteer, and serve with over 40 campus clubs and organizations, including

- PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY**
- ALPHA PHI OMEGA**
- STUDENT NURSES AT PARKLAND (SNAP)**
- MOTORSPORTS CLUB**
- AG CLUB**
- GARDEN HILLS HOMEWORK CLUB**
- BROTHER-TO-BROTHER**
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CLUB**
- PROSPECTUS NEWS**
- ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB**
- WPCD (88.1 FM)**
- COBRAS ATHLETICS (TEAM SPORTS)**

FIND MORE AT:
www.parkland.edu/clubs

Sophomore Chang-hee Lee connects and collaborates

You can be any age to get involved on campus, and the benefits are many, says Chang-hee Lee.

Parkland’s Business Club president and a sophomore from Urbana, Chang-hee considers age variety a plus: “You’ll make a lot of connections with knowledgeable people—some of whom run their own businesses. I’ve met so many great people, and I know they’re going to be long-term friends.”

Along with attending workshops on personal finance and LinkedIn, Business Club members participate in business-pitch competitions and collaborate with other campus groups, such as hosting Market Day with Club Latino last fall.

The Business Club even held the school’s first-ever dodgeball tournament! Chang-hee, also a former Parkland Student Government senator, recommends that all students get the most out of college by joining a campus organization. “It’s a must to put in your schedule, even if it’s just a couple hours a week. Get involved to expand your horizons and help with self-realization.”

Business and Agri-Industries Associate Professor Mark Kesler serves as the group’s faculty advisor.



**GO AHEAD
LEARN**

“MY STUDENTS ARE HAVING GREAT DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HOW MATH IS REALLY USED, AND I’M BETTER ABLE TO CONNECT WITH AND MENTOR THEM.”

DR. ERIN WILDING-MARTIN
2015 Outstanding Faculty
Member, Association of
Community College Trustees,
Central Region

**ACCENT ON STUDENT LEARNING:
Mathematics**

Dr. Erin Wilding-Martin leads curriculum overhaul

When a need arose to improve student outcomes in mathematics, Dr. Erin Wilding-Martin stepped in, leading an overhaul of Parkland’s math curriculum that gained national attention.

In 2011, Wilding-Martin and a faculty team were asked to review Parkland’s college algebra courses. They found that 75% of the students taking Parkland’s developmental math sequence weren’t in majors that required college algebra. “We were sending all of our developmental math students through a sequence that prepared them for college algebra and calculus—when only 25% were even headed that direction,” she explained. “They needed general education math or introductory statistics.”

For many students, the original course sequence was a painful hurdle, with some giving up along the way. So Wilding-Martin’s team created a new Mathematical Literacy course, designed to 1) prepare students for the critical thinking and writing required in statistics and gen ed math, 2) cut a semester out of the developmental math sequence for students who don’t need college algebra, and 3) give students the technological and teamwork skills employers want.

“The result is a challenging—but more relevant—course that I find incredibly rewarding to teach,” remarked Wilding-Martin. “My students are having great discussions about how math is really used, and I’m better able to connect with and mentor them.”

In recognition of her work, the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) honored Wilding-Martin with the 2015 Outstanding Faculty Member Award for its Central Region. The nonprofit organization represents the governing boards of over 1,200 US community colleges.

WORKFORCE BUILDING: Early College & Career Academy

JONATHAN AND TYLER STUDY MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY IN PARKLAND'S HEALTH PROFESSIONS WING BEFORE STARTING THEIR HIGH SCHOOL DAY



High schoolers Tyler Wegrich, Jonathan Walder jumpstart healthcare careers

“I WANT TO BE A DIETITIAN, TO HELP OTHERS WHO HAVE DIABETES STAY HEALTHY.”

TYLER WEGRICH
Senior, Bement High School

They live miles apart—both in hometowns and career destinations—but high school seniors Tyler Wegrich and Jonathan Walder agree that coming to the new Early College and Career Academy (ECCA) is jumpstarting their futures in health care.

Tyler, a student at Bement, enrolled in the certified nurse assistant program, one of six fields students can choose from in the ECCA, which launched this fall. “I want to be a dietitian, to help others who have diabetes stay healthy,” explained Tyler, who has Type 1 diabetes. “Earning my CNA through the program is getting me ready for that goal.” Although she makes the drive to Champaign herself, her high school is paying for her ECCA classes.

Through the ECCA, high school juniors and seniors earn dual credit (counting toward a high school diploma and college), as well as industry-approved trade certificates and licenses. Students also enjoy career-specific facilities and experienced instructors that would be cost-prohibitive for school districts to provide.

For Jonathan, one of six students from Paxton-Buckley-Loda in the program, the emergency medical services route was the way to go: “I’ve always wanted to work in a surgical room, or to be a nurse anesthetist,” he said, before heading back to PBL in the school van.

This semester, Tyler and Jonathan are taking Orientation to Health Careers and Medical Terminology classes. Next semester, they’ll move into their specialty course, explained Nick Elder, director of Education for Employment System #330, a K-12 career and technical education cooperative. “These orientation-level classes help students make up their minds about the careers they want to pursue, with coursework broad enough to accommodate different career paths.”

COME OUT AHEAD: About the ECCA

The Early College and Career Academy is a joint effort of Parkland and Education for Employment System #330. ECCA classes, composed of only high school students, take place 7:30–9:30am each school day.

Before high school graduation, ECCA students can earn trade certificates and college credit in six Parkland degree programs:

- MANUFACTURING
- AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY
- COMPUTER NETWORKING
- CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT
- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The ECCA operates out of EFE #330’s office at Parkland, Room A113. Contact Nick Elder at 217/355-1382 or nelder@efe.i12.il.us for more information.

CAREER PLANNING: Job fairs

Research shows that students who attend job fairs benefit from the experience in more ways than just finding a job.* Why? Because you can learn more about majors. You can gain job outlook and salary information. And you have the opportunity to network with influential contacts.

Sandy Spencer, Parkland’s Career Center director, says today’s colleges are trending toward hosting smaller, targeted career fairs—rather than the college-wide, community job fairs Parkland has held in the past. So next spring, Spencer’s department plans to host a series of small, career-specific fairs focusing on recruitment and retention to increase student success.

LOOK AHEAD: SPRING 2016 CAREER FAIRS

- EST/AG CAREER FAIR | FEBRUARY
- HEALTH CAREERS FAIR | MARCH
- COMPUTER SCIENCE/IT CAREERS FAIR | APRIL

VISIT www.parkland.edu/career-center for details.



GO AHEAD
EXPLORE

*CARNEVALE, A.P., ROSE, S.J., & CHEAH, B. (2011). THE COLLEGE PAYOFF: EDUCATION, OCCUPATIONS, LIFETIME EARNINGS. WASHINGTON, DC: GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY CENTER ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE.

ALUMNI SUCCESS:
Digital Media

Game of Thrones' Jason Pethtel '12 credits Parkland for skills

TV's Game of Thrones artist Jason Pethtel credits Parkland with giving him the 3D art and design skills he needed to make his mark in the entertainment industry.



Jason, a 2012 alum, works as a matte painter/computer graphics generalist in Los Angeles. He enjoys creating believable environments for film, TV, and games through the use of paint, 3D modeling, animation, rendering, and compositing.

Jason is most proud of seeing his name in movie credits, working on a *World of Warcraft* cinematic, and matte painting for the popular *Game of Thrones*. He also worked on the multimedia presentation at the new One World Observatory, which opened in New York this spring.

He says Parkland expanded his budding interest in the 3D art world—affordably—and he appreciated the friendliness of the staff. “I planned to go to Chicago for training in 3D art and design until I learned that Parkland offered a digital media program—and a pretty good one at that,” Jason remarked. “Parkland gave me an affordable boost into 3D art without life-altering debt, and with the energized environment of a small, adaptable program. I made good friends and developed important skills.”

JASON PETHTEL WITH HIS 2015 EMMY FOR THE GOT EPISODE, “THE DANCE OF DRAGONS.”

GAME OF THRONES

JASON PETHTEL WORKED ON THE VISUAL EFFECTS TEAM THAT WON A 2015 EMMY FOR THIS GOT EPISODE, “THE DANCE OF DRAGONS.”

“PARKLAND GAVE ME AN AFFORDABLE BOOST INTO 3D ART WITH THE ENERGIZED ENVIRONMENT OF A SMALL, ADAPTABLE PROGRAM.”

JASON PETHTEL
Matte painter/computer graphics generalist, Los Angeles

Know an outstanding Parkland alumnus?

Let us hear from you!

Visit parkland.edu/alumni-info.



PLAN AHEAD

FOR THESE LATE FALL/SPRING EVENTS!

Noises Off!

November 12–22
The Harold and Jean Miner Theatre
In this Parkland Theatre production, a cast of frazzled actors attempts to rehearse and perform a naughty little British comedy called *Nothing On*. Call 217/351-2528 to reserve tickets.

College Wide Open House

Friday, November 13, 12:30–2:30 p.m.
Student Union
Visit with departments through the college, tour the campus, and get answers to all your new student questions. No reservations required.

Health Careers Open House

Friday, November 13, Noon–3 p.m.
L and H wings
Check out the lab spaces, talk to current students and instructors, and learn about the selective admissions process. No reservations required.

2015 State of the Art: Ceramics Invitational curated by Chris Berti

November 16, 2015–February 6, 2016
Giertz Gallery
Reception: Thursday, November 19, 5–7 p.m.; gallery talk at 6:30 by Chris Berti.

Parkland College Offices Closed

November 26–30: Thanksgiving
December 14–January 11: Winter Break
January 18: Martin Luther King Day
February 25: Professional Development Day
March 21–26: Spring Holiday

Coffee and Tea:

Cups & Dessert Benefit
Thursday, December 3, 4–7 p.m.
Giertz Gallery

Try These Spring Series for the “Maker” in You!

Start January 2016
Woodworking classes with CU Woodshop: CNC Router, Basic Woodworking, Wood turning, Furniture Making
Winemaking and Home Brewing
Seasonal Floral Design (generally held once a month on Saturday mornings)
Visit www.parkland.edu/academics/schedules.aspx for specifics and call 217/353-2055 to register.

Free Information Session on New Career Training Opportunities

Tuesday, January 12, 6–8 p.m.,
Parkland College Business Training
Gain important details about these courses and insight into a new career. Bring your questions.
• Medical Coding
• Pharmacy Technician Training
• Veterinary Assistant Training
To register, visit www.parkland.edu/businesstraining or call 217/351-2235.

Spring Fitness Classes (Parkland Community Education)

Start late January 2016
Fitness coincides nicely with the holidays and New Year’s resolutions. Early morning, daytime, and after-work classes most days of the week. Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi, balance, interval, cycling, core, and more.

Visit www.parkland.edu/academics/schedules.aspx for the noncredit class schedule and call 217/353-2055 to register.

Light and Form: Installations by Ann Coddington and Jason Peot

February 15–March 29, 2016
Giertz Gallery
Reception: Thursday, February 18, 5–7 p.m.; gallery talk at 6:30 p.m.

The Curate Shakespeare As You Like It

February 18–28,
Parkland Theatre’s Second Stage
Touching and very funny, this is a true tribute to the core theme of *As You Like It*... All the world’s a stage. Call 217/351-2528 to reserve tickets.

Parkland College Art & Design Student Juried Exhibition

April 11–30, 2016
Giertz Gallery
Reception: Thursday, April 14, 5–7 p.m.; award ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

Travel: Memphis Tour (Parkland Community Education)

April 6–8, 2016
Enjoy a luxury motorcoach adventure to the magnificent river city of Memphis, Tennessee. Experience the home of the blues and the birthplace of rock ‘n’ roll. Deposit due Dec. 18; balance due Feb. 26.

Travel: A Taste of France (Parkland Community Education)

May 16–27, 2016



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***GO AHEAD
GET STARTED***



REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SPRING SEMESTER.

**Classes available for both
credit and noncredit options.**

Check out our electronic schedules on
www.parkland.edu/schedules.

Request printed schedules by calling 217/351.2200
or visiting parkland.edu/contactus.

**PARKLAND COLLEGE
GO AHEAD**

