

ICCTA

Illinois Community College Trustees Association

QUICK SURVEY RESULTS

College Time Capsules

October 3, 2023

A total of 17 colleges/districts responded to ICCTA's Quick Survey on COLLEGE TIME CAPSULES.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ A number of Illinois community colleges have buried time capsules to commemorate special events such as founding anniversaries, Earth Day, and even Haley's Comet.
- ❖ Most colleges plan to open their time capsules to mark the institution's 100th anniversary.
- ❖ Among the items included in the time capsules: college memorabilia and photos, student messages, popular culture artifacts, campus flora and fauna specimens, and college-branded COVID masks and hand sanitizer.

1. Has your college buried a time capsule to commemorate a major anniversary or event?

Yes -- 13

- Harper
- Highland
- John Wood
- Kankakee: KCC created a time capsule for the college's 50th anniversary.
- Lake Land
- Oakton: We have a time capsule, but did not bury it.
- Parkland
- Richland
- Sandburg
- Shawnee
- Spoon River
- Triton
- Waubonsee: In 2006 - Grand Opening of Waubonsee's Science Building, a 40th Anniversary event at the College

No -- 4

- Danville, Illinois Valley, Kaskaskia, Sauk Valley

2. If YES to Question #1, what was included in the time capsule?

- Harper: Items related to Harper College 50th Anniversary, plus a consumer guide, Black Panther movie poster, Daily Herald article, school newspaper, Illinois maps, Illinois park guide, letters from employees, survey from students, NY Times Book Review, Broadway cast recording of Hamilton, Celebrate Diversity button, iPhone, fidget spinner and many other items.

- Highland: Our time capsule was buried on Highland's 60th anniversary (September 2022), just after things were getting back to more normal after COVID, so a couple items were COVID related. We included a branded COVID mask, a "COVID Warrior" pin, 2022 graduation tassel, Opening Days agenda, a card listing our cultural beliefs, information on our Foundation's Legacy Campaign, which was ongoing at the time, our new strategic plan, a pen, and a Board photo. We also asked faculty, staff, and students to fill out a commemorative note card with their favorite Highland memory. The cards were collected and added to the time capsule.
- John Wood: Items from the era when it was buried. Commencement program, important history facts, school items popular, etc. items that depict the atmosphere of what was going on.
- Kankakee: The time capsule's contents were chosen by the Student Advisory Council. The contents included college-related items and pop culture items deemed relevant as a snapshot in time.
- Lake Land: A plush Laker Louie - our mascot, a college magazine, catalog, some promotional materials, a college mask, pennant and branded hand sanitizer.
- Oakton: Artifacts from our anniversary celebration (event scripts and programs, apparel, etc.), current academic catalog, examples of campus/student life
- Parkland: We buried two capsules: 1) Items to commemorate Haley's Comet, which appeared during the construction of our Planetarium; 2) PTK Chaos in Time capsule to commemorate the events of 2020.
- Richland: Pictures, course schedule and other small items
- Sandburg: Not sure.
- Shawnee: Items included - Student signature page, a listing of 2023 Graduates, an athletic flag, old requisitions, departmental representation from Math/Science, Adult Ed, and the Business/Occupation/Technical programs
- Spoon River Our time capsule was buried by former students in a Cultural Anthropology class. Students selected items that were important to them and that reflected aspects of popular culture at the time. This time capsule was unearthed in May of 2022, twenty years after it was buried. Approximately eight students returned for the event along with faculty and staff, retired and current.
- Triton College, community, and national publications, books, magazines, brochures, reports, clothing and merchandise, etc., representative of the time of the time capsule's burial.
- Waubonsee Letter from the Waubonsee President (Dr. Christine Sobek), current science textbooks, air and water samples, on-campus flora and fauna specimens, campus and student photos, and samples of current Waubonsee publications.

3. If YES to Question #1, when was the time capsule recovered?

- Harper: It is to be opened in 2067 - 100th anniversary.
- Highland: It will be recovered on the College's 100th anniversary.
- John Wood: It will be recovered on our 100th anniversary, 2074
- Kankakee: The time capsule will be opened when the college celebrates its 100th anniversary.
- Lake Land: It has not been recovered.
- Oakton: As part of our anniversary we opened a time capsule that was 'buried' when we build the Des Plaines campus in the 1970s. It did not weather well and was filled with water and mold. The artifacts were unrecoverable.

- Parkland: 1) To be opened when the comet reappears in 2061. 2) 30 years from burial, 2050.
- Richland: We just placed the time capsule to commemorate our 50th anniversary
- Sandburg: 50 year was not opened and will be opened in 2026; the other capsule will be opened in 2046.
- Shawnee: The capsule was buried in April 2023 as part of a Campus Clean Up day, in association with Earth Day.
- Spoon River: May 2022
- Triton: Not yet.
- Waubonsee: Plans to open the time capsule in 2046.

4. If YES to Question #1, what other suggestions or precautions do you have regarding time capsules?

- Harper: Select items that will not melt or disintegrate over time by sealing in plastic.
- Highland: Make sure the time capsule is marked with a marker or something similar so when it is uncovered in the future, people will know what it is and where it is buried.
- Kankakee: A precaution would be to have a plan in place as to the location of the time capsule. The capsule was designed and fabricated by the college's welding professor. Although the initial thought was to bury the capsule, it was not watertight. A plexiglass case was then constructed to house it, and it is displayed in the College Center.
- Oakton: Purchase a capsule that is water and elements tight. Consider displaying it in a case inside rather than burying it outside.
- Parkland: Digital copies, photos, documents, etc... were backed up through our Archives department.
- Spoon River: Invest in a container specifically designed to be buried and uses as a time capsule. Do not improvise. Also, bury the capsule away from everyday traffic.

Additional comments:

- Illinois Valley: Love this idea as we are approaching our 100th birthday!
- Kankakee: The college held a time capsule dedication ceremony on campus with guests, refreshments, and remarks by the college president and Student Advisory Council president.
- Lake Land: Our time capsule was put into a new granite flag that was being constructed in our Veterans Park in 2022. We used a plastic tote.
- Spoon River: Time Capsules are great opportunities to reunite people and give thanks for opportunities we may not have fully appreciated at the time.

For more information, please contact:

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