



Photo: Nathan Burton

Nathan Burton painting Silver Moon, one of his favorites that he has painted.

Douglas County Ag in the Classroom learns about Abraham Lincoln

Douglas County Ag in the Classroom offered "Abraham Lincoln and his Contributions to Agriculture" remote lessons for this month. While these days Lincoln seems relegated to advertising for furniture sales, specials on mattresses, etc., it is important to remember he was a real person that had a powerful impact on our nation.
 Abraham Lincoln was born on a farm in Kentucky

and later moved to a farm in Indiana. His family eventually moved to Illinois, first near Decatur and then close to Charleston. He helped his father with all the farming, which included splitting logs into rails to build fences or log cabins. Once, he spent all day planting pumpkin seeds only for a storm to wash them all away that very night! He knew farming was hard work.
 Abraham Lincoln was

the only president to hold a patent. While traveling with a flatboat of goods down the Mississippi River, the boat became lodged on a sandbar. Setting the boat free was quite a trial. Lincoln eventually developed a system to enable boats to float over these shallow areas of the river.
 While much of Lincoln's presidential term was devoted to preserving the union during the Civil War, he also

made major contributions to agriculture.
 Abraham Lincoln left three legacies for agriculture. Lincoln established the United States Department of Agriculture. This agency is still the basic authority for the present day. The department provides research, census, and education for agriculture. The Morrill Land Grant act donated public land for colleges of agriculture and mechanical arts.

The University of Illinois is our closest Land Grant College. The Homestead Act provided 250 million acres of land to settlers. 160 acres was available to each settler with the agreement that they then lived on and improved the land.
 Younger students made their own log cabins, and older students did STEM experiments with building boats from foil. All classes had worksheets and activi-

ties using coins and bills which feature Lincoln. A virtual field trip to the Mt. Pulaski courthouse was offered to classrooms as well. This courthouse is one of only two left where Lincoln practiced law.
Douglas County Ag in the Classroom is supported by Douglas County Farm Bureau, Douglas County Ag Center, and Illinois Ag in the Classroom.

Horizon Health Foundation names Bohannon as new Executive Director

For 50 years, community members have generously supported Horizon Health with charitable gifts of land, retirement accounts, and other financial resources.
 The Horizon Health Foundation of East Central Illinois was created in 2015 to ensure these resources are kept and used locally, amid a complex and changing healthcare environment. To build on the Foundation's success, the Horizon Health Foundation Board has named Randi Bohannon as its new executive director.
 Bohannon has worked for nonprofit organizations for more than 16 years. She has experience in higher education, as well as local and state government. In her new role, she oversees the Foundation's day-to-day operations, which includes managing donor gifts, fund raising, and requests for support, while supporting the Foundation Board's initiatives and strategic plan.
 As executive director,

Bohannon said she looks forward to getting to know members of the regional community.
 "I'm excited to join the Horizon Health Foundation and continue the strong tradition of community engagement and passion for philanthropy that have existed here for so long," Bohannon said. "I'm particularly impressed by the level of involvement in, and the support from, Horizon Health's healthcare mission and initiatives."
 Bohannon added that Horizon Health is a place patients choose for reasons more profound than convenient locations.
 "We offer the services of experienced physicians, including surgeons and specialists. They want to be part of a growing and active organization that is committed to supporting its communities," she said.
 The Foundation conducted an intensive search for an executive director who is an experienced professional



with small-town life experiences, said Dave Frisse, Foundation Board chairman. The executive director needed to have the highest not-for-profit credentials and a winning personality.
 "With Randi, we've found someone who meets and exceeds all of our goals,"

Frise said. "We're lucky to have her. We expect her to make the Foundation an increasingly important player in the regional healthcare community."
 Ollie Smith, Horizon Health president & CEO, added: "I'm excited to work collaboratively with someone with Randi's level of expertise and professionalism."
 Bohannon is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE). The credential is available through CFRE International, an independent nonprofit organization that offers the world's top accredited certification for philanthropic professionals.
 Prior to Horizon Health, Bohannon served as Director of Development at Eastern Illinois University. She has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Illinois at Springfield and a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University. She previously served as President of the Family Readiness Group for

the 1544th Army National Guard Unit in Paris, and is a current member of the advisory board for the Tarble Arts Center in Charleston.
 Bohannon has three daughters and one grandson. She and her husband, Mike, live in Charleston.
About the Foundation
The Horizon Health Foundation of East Central Illinois reinvests generous contributions from donors to support healthcare initiatives in Edgar County and surrounding communities. It has supported numerous projects, including Horizon Health's EZ Care/NAL Health Clinic, outpatient surgery expansion, rehabilitation services building, and much more.
For more information about the Horizon Health Foundation, contact Randi Bohannon at 217-465-1234 or "mailto:RBohannon@myhorizonhealth.org" RBohannon@myhorizonhealth.org.

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