

KNIGHTLINE

Olney Central College



January 2021

Upcoming Events

January

18 College Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

25 Last Day for 100 Percent Refund of 16-week Spring Semester Classes

25 Last Day for Spring Semester Textbook Refunds

February

15 College Closed - Presidents Day

26 Priority Application and Scholarship Deadline

OCC Bookstore Spring Hours

The OCC Bookstore will offer extended hours the first week of Spring Semester.

The Bookstore will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Jan. 11-14 and 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 15.

Regular hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., resume Jan. 19 and will continue through May 7.

Important Dates

The last day for spring semester refunds is Jan. 25.

Spring Semester Buyback will be from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 5 to 6:30 p.m. May 10-12.

Virtual College Visits

OCC is hosting virtual college visits for students who plan to transfer after completing an associate degree.

For additional information and links to register, visit www.iecc.edu/advisingtours.

Hitch attachments made by OCC student are being sold across North America

Olney Central College welding student Austin Holtgrave won't graduate until May, but the 19-year-old already is making his mark as a welder and fabricator.

For the past three years, the Fairfield native has been building specially designed steer-skid hitch attachments for his family's business, Buchanan Mobile Home and Transport. The devices assist with moving and placing mobile homes.

"We are the only people who build these attachments and we have people wanting them every day," Holtgrave said. "We sold 20 the first year and 38 a year later. We have shipped them out all over the United States, Mexico and Canada. It just keeps growing."

Holtgrave started welding at age 14 with help from his stepfather, Julian Buchanan. By 16, he had built two semi beds, and at 18, he constructed a bed for hauling a steer-skid. Holtgrave also honed his skills welding tongues to mobile homes for transport.

Buchanan, who has owned the company for 20 years, was looking to expand the business when the firm started building the hitch attachments, which are sold predominately online.

"We've changed a couple of things here and there since we started," Holtgrave said. "The hitches now look better, are lighter and stronger."

While his stepfather and brother, Dylan Holtgrave, continue to concentrate on moving and setting up homes, Holtgrave has assumed sole responsibility for fabrication of the hitch attachments. Each weights approximately 800 pounds and takes about two days to complete.

During the fall semester, Holtgrave constructed a hitch attachment as an in-class project. He gave a demonstration to classmates in November when Buchanan picked up the finished product for shipment to Maryland.

"They got to see how it works and why it works as well as it does," Holtgrave added.

Holtgrave chose to attend OCC to expand his skills.

"I wanted to get welding certifications and to learn more about reading and working with blueprints," he added.

Holtgrave said OCC's Welding Program was the right choice for him.

"OCC isn't far from home and Curtis (Marshall) is a great teacher," he said. "I learn new things all the time. I've also made some new friends in the class."



OCC welding student Austin Holtgrave fabricates this specially designed steer-skid hitch attachment.

Nursing application deadline February 16

OCC is currently accepting applications for Fall 2021 entry into the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges/OCC Nursing Program.

Applicants must attend one of four informational meetings scheduled for 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20, Wednesday, Jan. 27, Thursday, Feb. 4 and Tuesday, Feb. 9. The meetings will be held in Wattleworth Hall Room 217.

Individuals wishing to apply should contact Nursing Advisor Linda Horn at 395-7777, ext. 2246, as soon as possible. The deadline to apply is Feb. 16. For additional information, visit www.iecc.edu/nursing.

Apply now for Spring 2021 scholarships

Spring 2021 scholarship applications are now available online at www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships.

A variety of scholarships are offered for current students.

Deadlines vary with the first applications due by Feb. 5.

For more information, contact Financial Aid.

Lock Vehicles

Students utilizing the OCC parking lots are advised to keep their vehicles locked when unattended.

Lost and Found

If you have lost an item, please check with Student Services.

Mason working toward doctorate degree

OCC Physics Professor Rob Mason is working toward a Ph.D. in Applied Physics, Computational Materials Science at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Mason took a course during the summer and completed a full semester in Fall 2020.

“I’ve always planned to pursue my Ph.D., but due to geography I was afraid that it would have to wait until I retired. When I started getting involved with the PICUP program, Partnership for Integration of Computation into Undergraduate Physics, I made connections with colleagues in physics all over the U.S. and some from other countries. They were very encouraging about going back now, versus later. After looking at several programs, I chose SIUC due to the fact that they had computational physics and their willingness to work around my schedule.”

In addition to his coursework, Mason serves as a graduate assistant to offset the cost of attendance.

“Aside from the Ph.D., there are other things that I hope to take away from my experience at SIUC,” he added.

This includes developing an even deeper understanding of physics to enhance instruction for his students at OCC.

Mason plans to introduce students to computation at an earlier point in their academic career, provide them with low-cost, often free, resources related to computation and use computation as an instructional tool in physics, engineering and beyond.

The use of computational tools allows students to analyze and solve a wide range of problems that are more challenging than those normally faced at this level and which represent more realistic situations. Students also will learn useful skills, programming languages or specialized software, that will benefit them in nearly all STEM areas.



Professor Rob Mason, right, works with a student during the Physics I Lab.



Scholarship opportunities available for new students

New students are encouraged to apply to OCC by Feb. 26 to qualify for scholarship opportunities.

It’s easy and free to apply online at www.iecc.edu/priority. Also, be sure to

complete your FAFSA using the code 001742.

For questions regarding the FAFSA, contact OCC Financial Aid at 395-7777, 2017, or email OCCFA@iecc.edu.

PTK and Student Senate team up to help families in need

This year has been a challenge for all student organizations, so OCC's Phi Theta Kappa and Student Senate decided to combine forces and complete a fall service project together.

Initially they planned to work together to adopt one family for Christmas. After receiving an overwhelming amount of donations, the students decided to continue adding more families. Altogether, they were able to assist three families with a total of 15 people.

"Thank you to the members that supported this project," said PTK Advisor Amie Mayhall. "I want to send a special thanks to Stephanie Blake and Stormie Hartsey for all of their hard work in wrapping and delivering."

If you would like more information about becoming active in either organization this spring, contact Mayhall at mayhalla@iecc.edu, or call 395-7777, ext. 2229.



SNA Donation

The Lawrence County Fraternal Order of Police accepts a \$125 check from the OCC Student Nurses Association for the Shop With a Cop Program.