

Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



OCTOBER 2021

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

13 - Virtual FAFSA Night, 4-7 p.m.

13 - Mid-Semester Classes Begin

19 - Spring Registration Opens

29 - Priority Deadline

30 - OCC Student Senate Halloween Movie Knight, *Casper*, 3 p.m. Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center, *Freddy vs. Jason*, Student-only event, 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER

6-12 - National Radiologic Technology Week

11 - Veterans Day, College Closed

19-20 - OCC Theater's *Curious George and the Golden Meatball*, 7 p.m.

21 - OCC Theater's *Curious George and the Golden Meatball*, 2 p.m.

COLLEGE VISITS

Tables will be located outside Student Services.

Oct. 18 - Southern Illinois University Representative Jason Nugent, 1-4 p.m.

Nov. 4 - Eastern Illinois University Representative Sierra Hollenback, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Active Minds Chapter forming

Title III Advisor Ashley Bigard hopes to raise mental health awareness at Olney Central College by establishing an Active Minds chapter on campus.

Founded by Alison Malmon following her older brother Brian's suicide in 2000, Active

Minds is the nation's premier nonprofit organization promoting mental health for young adults.

With more than 550 chapters in high schools and colleges nationwide, Active Minds is opening conversations about mental health and creating lasting change in the way mental health is talked about, cared for and valued in the United States. The organization is dedicated to saving lives and to building stronger families and communities.

Active Minds ties into the Appreciative Advising process, part of the IECC Title III Block Grant initiative to enhance academic advising. OCC Peer Coach Philip Henderson will be assisting in the chapter's formation. Students interested in joining are invited to attend a meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 20 in Room 102.

"This was needed before, but after COVID it is even more important to address mental health issues," Bigard said. "Active Minds is designed to get people talking about the issue, to destigmatize help-seeking and reassure people they are not alone."

While one out of every five students lives with a mental health condition, many continue to suffer in silence. Sixty-seven percent of those ages 18-24 who experience anxiety and depression do not seek treatment. Currently, suicide is the second-leading cause of death for college students.

Active Minds wants others to know mental health conditions are treatable and suicide is preventable. Through education, research and advocacy, the student-led chapters encourage peers to network and seek help for mental health issues just as they would for a physical issue, without shame or silence.

Those efforts are making a difference. Research from a landmark study by the RAND Corporation confirms that Active Minds has a significant, positive impact on student health and well-being by creating a supportive climate for mental health on college campuses.

According to the study, as students become more involved with Active Minds, they are more likely to reach out to a classmate or friend who is struggling with a mental health issue such as depression, anxiety or suicidal thoughts.

For more information about Active Minds, contact Bigard at 618-395-7777, ext. 2005.

activeminds

changing the conversation
about mental health

OCC Student Senate Halloween Movie Knight Oct. 30

The Olney Central College Student Senate will host a Halloween Movie Knight on Oct. 30 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

A family-friendly event featuring, *Casper*, will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. with a costume contest. Categories are Most Creative, Scariest and Cutest. Prizes will be awarded following the movie.

Children must be accompanied by a family member. A freewill donation will be accepted at the door.

OCC students are invited to watch *Freddy vs. Jason* at 6 p.m. Students must present their OCC ID at the door. Each student may bring one guest.

Refreshments will be available including pizza, water, popcorn and candy.

Masks are recommended for both events.



OCC Priority Deadline Oct. 29

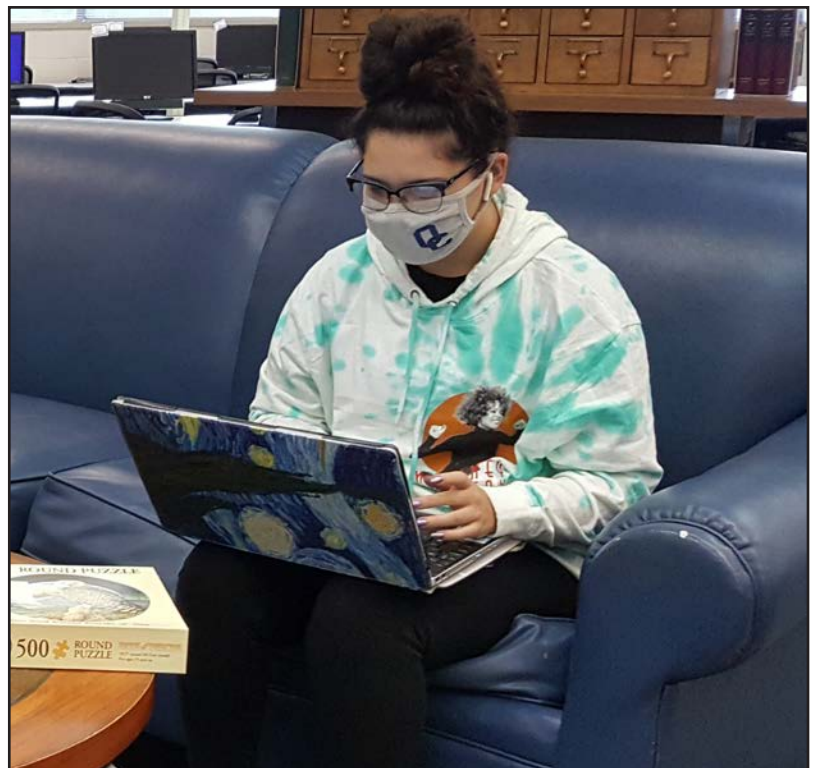
Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Chancellor Ryan Gower is urging prospective students to apply before the October 29 priority deadline to be the first in line for Student Success Scholarships.

“A college education continues to be one of the best vehicles to improve an individual’s quality of life,” Gower said. “Students who graduate with a two-year degree from IECC will — on average — earn \$300,000 more in lifetime earnings than high school graduates. If they go on to earn a bachelor’s degree, they will earn approximately \$750,000 more in lifetime earnings than high school graduates.”

With these increased earning potentials, Gower says it is not surprising more students are attending college now than in past years. Unfortunately, far too many students and their parents are taking on unnecessary levels of student debt in the process, with the average student debt in the United States just over \$30,000.

“We are encouraging area students to apply to IECC early because we want them to make informed decisions about how they can approach their college education differently,” Gower said. “When a student starts at Olney Central College, they not only receive a high-quality education, they save about \$40,000 over their first two years of college. No matter how you look at it, attending Olney Central College is a smart financial decision.”

Make Olney Central College your priority! Take the first step toward a high-quality, nationally recognized education and apply for free at www.iecc.edu/priority. Submit your application and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the October 29 priority deadline to maximize your financial award. Students will receive an estimated cost of attendance by mid-November.



Ashley Bigard gives webinar presentation highlighting Appreciate Advising success

Title III Advising Specialist Ashley Bigard shared Illinois Eastern Community College's success with Appreciative Advising during a webinar on Oct. 13.

The event was hosted by Signal Vine, the provider of IECC's text messaging platform. Olney Central College began utilizing the service in 2019. Its implementation coincided with the district's move toward Appreciative Advising under the IECC Title III Block Grant initiative to enhance academic advising.

During her presentation, Bigard discussed the six phases of Appreciative Advising — Disarm, Discover, Dream, Design, Deliver and Don't Settle — along with how OCC is using texting to complement the appreciative advising protocol.

"I think it has been an amazing addition to our Student Services and advising staff as a whole," Bigard said. "I love being able to engage more with the students and expand our reach. We can send specific messages and streamline them to groups instead of texting one person at a time."

The ability to connect with students through text messaging has also increased efficiency for Student Services advisors and staff, giving them the

ability to send appointment reminders, registration announcements and even directions to sign up for IECC alerts. Financial Aid has used messaging to disseminate scholarship information.

With the two-way communication service, advisors can reach out to new students and establish relationships before they ever arrive on campus.

"We can utilize it to make them feel comfortable and let them know we are excited to see them," Bigard said. "Appreciate advising conversations are open-ended and allow us to learn about the students. As we discover more about them, we can let students know we are here for them, and we are on their team. In appreciative advising, we learn what their dreams are and working with the students, we build a plan together to achieve those goals."

Bigard's webinar included actual text messaging exchanges — with the students' names removed — to highlight the types of interactions occurring at OCC. She also explained how text messaging is being used for new initiatives including the Peer Coach Program.

Through Signal Vine, OCC Peer Coach Philip Henderson can connect with new students by checking in on them and fielding any questions that



may arise to ensure they are getting the help and assistance they need to be successful.

Bigard's presentation featured comments from Henderson along with those of Kyrach Buchanan, who utilizes text messaging in her capacity as the nursing program advisor at Lincoln Trail College.

Signal Vine also includes an analytic feature, which enables Bigard to review student response to each message. Monitoring the response rates allows Bigard to tailor future messages to maximize student engagement.

Schedule your registration appointment now



Spring semester registration opens Oct. 19 at Olney Central College.

To schedule an advisement appointment, call 618-395-7777 or stop by Student Services. New students can apply for free at www.iecc.edu/apply.

The Spring 2022 schedule is available at www.iecc.edu/schedules.

OCC will offer several spring Community Education classes including community band, oil painting, quilting and woodworking. Visit www.iecc.edu/occ/communityed for a complete course listing.

Spring classes start Monday, Jan. 10.



Blue Knights looking to build on success with mix of veteran and new players

Head Coach Casey Wyllie enters his second season at the helm of Olney Central College Men's Basketball expecting great potential from a mix of veteran and new players hungry to build on last season's success.

The Blue Knights wrapped up the 2020-2021 campaign ranked 24th in the final NJCAA Division 1 poll, with a 14-7 overall record in the COVID-shortened season. The team also finished second in both Region 24 and Great Rivers Athletics Conference play.

Individual players earning high accolades were Elijah Farr and Cobie Montgomery. Farr was named Co-player of the Year in Region 24 and was selected All-Conference and 2nd team All-American, while Montgomery was named All-Region 24 as well as All-Conference.

Last year's accomplishments extended beyond the hardwood into the classroom. Wyllie is building a culture stressing both "books and

basketball," which was evident as the Blue Knights were named Region 24 Academic Team of the Year. The team grade point average of 3.19 was the highest of any squad in Region 24. The Blue Knights also finished No. 13 in the country in team GPA.

"I am excited to begin the season," Wyllie said. "There were a lot of unknowns last year. This year the entire world seems a lot more normal. We're more comfortable going in that things will be closer to normal this season. I am excited we are playing a full season with fans. Last year everything was up in the air. We're playing in three jamborees and a preseason scrimmage. We didn't have that opportunity last year."

The Blue Knights' lineup features four returning players in CE Talton, Jordan Graham, Joseph Dalton and Dillon Harrison, a red-shirt freshman.

"Having those four back here for a second year is huge for our culture," Wyllie said. "They are great players

who are showing our freshmen guys our standards."

Talton, a 6'3" guard, was one of two Blue Knight players to play and start all 21 games last season. He averaged 10 points and 2 rebounds and earned the Great Rivers Athletic Conference Sportsmanship Award.

"Having him come back with his experience and leadership is huge both on and off the floor, Wyllie added.

The Blue Knights also will get a lift from 6'3" guard Graham, who averaged 7 points and 3 rebounds last year and 6'5" guard/forward Harrison, who gave the team 6 points and 2 rebounds per game. Dalton, 6'5" guard/forward, averaged 3.5 points and 1.6 rebounds.

Also bringing previous college-level play to OCC is forward Chaz Hinds of Indianapolis. A 6'8" sophomore transfer from Kankakee Community College, Hinds averaged 13 points last year and was an All-Region and All-Conference player in Region 4.

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Sports Schedule

Baseball

Oct. 16 — OCC at John A. Logan, TBA

Oct. 22 — OCC vs. Brescia, 2 p.m. at home

Softball

Oct. 16 — OCC at Southeast Missouri State, TBA

Men's Basketball

Oct. 17 — OCC at John A. Logan Jamboree, noon

Oct. 30 — OCC at Parkland College, 6 p.m.

Nov. 5 — Olney Rotary Classic, OCC vs. Indiana Elite Prep, 7:30 p.m. at home

Nov. 6 — OCC Rotary Classic, OCC vs. Western Kentucky Tech, 3 p.m. at home

Nov. 10 — OCC vs. Greenville JV, 7 p.m. at home

Nov. 17 — OCC vs. Missouri Baptist JV, 6 p.m. at home

Nov. 19 — OCC at Brescia JV, 3 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Nov. 6 — OCC at Three Rivers vs. Southern Arkansas, 1 p.m.

Nov. 7 — OCC at Three Rivers, 3 p.m.

Nov. 13 — OCC vs. St. Louis Community College, 1 p.m. at home

Math Tutoring

Are you struggling with a math course or need help raising your grade? Lisa Benson is offering math tutoring from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday. Both 30-minute and one-hour sessions are available.

To schedule an appointment, email Benson at bensonl@iecc.edu.

File your FAFSA

The 2022-2023 FAFSA is now open. Remember, you must complete the FAFSA every year you are attending college. File for free at www.fafsa.gov.

If you have questions, contact the Financial Aid Office.

Blue Knights

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“Chaz is older and in his third year of college basketball, which is a big benefit for us,” Wyllie said.

At center, will be 7’3”, 290-pound freshman Tayt Harbour of Kansas City, Kan.

“He brings a different element with his size,” Wyllie said. “He will be a tough matchup for teams to guard due to his size and strength and he will give us a rim protector on defense.”

Harbour played high school ball at Bishop Miege in Shawnee, Kan., which won a Class 4A State Championship this past season.

Trevor Taylor is a 6’3” guard from Bloomington South High School in Indiana. He averaged 14 points per game and led the team in rebounds and assists. He was ranked No. 42 in the state of Indiana by Prep Hoops.

“He is really quick and can score the ball,” Wyllie said. “Look for him to make a big impact.”

Noah Gordon, a 6’7” forward, averaged 19 points and 11 rebounds per game at Mt. Vernon High School in Indiana.

“His level of versatility and ability to play inside and out and to score in a variety of ways will make him difficult for other teams to guard,” Wyllie said.

Joining Gordon in the forward spot will be 6’6” Rickey Lovette, who played at Montgomery County High School in Mount Sterling, Ky. Lovette was named Second Team All-Region 10 and was ranked as the 13th best player in the state of Kentucky.

Fellow Kentucky standout Eli Brown averaged 16 points and 3 rebounds last year at Paducah Tilghman High School. Prep Hoops ranked the 6’3” guard as the 51st best player in the Bluegrass state last season.

“It is very big for us to get Rickey and Eli,” Wyllie said. “They were both very highly sought-after recruits.”

Wyllie landed a strong player in Chandler Moore. The 6’4” forward out of Evansville North averaged 18 pounds per game and was First Team All-Southern Indiana Athletic Conference and Hoosier Basketball Coaches All-District 2 Senior Team.

Rashard Harris is a 6’5” guard/forward from Kankakee High School. He averaged 15 points per game and was an Illinois Basketball Coaches Association 3A All-State and Associated Press 3A All-State selection.

“He is a big, strong kid who wins,” Wyllie added.

A 6’1” guard, Jordan Hardiek averaged 12 points and 3 rebounds at Teutopolis.

“He is a traditional Teutopolis kid,” Wyllie said. “They have a tradition of winning everything they do. He can open things up for us. He works hard, can produce and he can really shoot the ball.”

Wyllie and the Blue Knights coaches wanted to get a jump on the season by introducing the new players to OCC before the fall semester began.

“We were able to bring a group of guys here in early August and were able to move half the team in on Aug. 1,” Wyllie said. “For the freshmen, it really helped to establish the culture for those guys and get them acclimated to Olney, the school, staff and weight room. The rest came in Aug. 13 and 14. Since then we have been doing workouts and have been in the weight rooms. It’s been really beneficial.”

He added, “This is a really great group. We have a good mix of experience and youth. We have a lot of guys who are eager to play.”

Nursing Program accepting applications for 2022

Olney Central College is currently accepting applications for Fall 2022 entry into the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges/OCC Nursing Program.

Applicants must attend an informational meeting which will be scheduled for some time in January and February. Please check with Nursing Advisor Linda Horn as to the dates.

Prospective students, who have already submitted their applications, should have received a letter regarding updating their file, along with information about the TEAS Prep Courses being offered at Lincoln Trail College. Applicants who have not received this letter should contact Horn.

Individuals wishing to apply should contact Horn at 618-395-7777, ext. 2246, as soon as possible. The deadline to apply is Feb. 15. Applicants also must take and pass the TEAS Test with a Proficient Level of 58.7 percent or higher to be ranked for admission into the program. For additional information, visit www.iecc.edu/nursing.



Students attend opera at Jacobs School of Music

OCC Director of Choral Activities Dr. Andrew Pittman recently took a group of OCC students to visit Indiana University in Bloomington.

Taylor Merritt, Jenna Zumbahlen, Owen Traub, Harrison Hahn and Avery Howard had an opportunity to tour the IU campus and downtown area prior to attending the Jacobs School of Music's production of the opera *The Magic Flute*.

The group also enjoyed dining at Anyetsang's Little Tibet Restaurant and topped off the trip with custom made to order cookies at Baked.



At top, students enjoy outdoor dining at Anyetsang's Little Tibet Restaurant in Bloomington, Ind. Pictured, from left, are Avery Howard, Harrison Hahn, Taylor Merritt, Jenna Zumbahlen and Owen Traub. At right, students prepare for the opera to begin in the Musical Arts Center at IU.

