

# Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



SEPTEMBER 2022

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

16 - Constitution Day  
Observance, Classes in Session

### OCTOBER

1 - Health Fest, 7:30-11 a.m.,  
OCC Gym

4 - No Day or Evening  
Classes, IECC Faculty/Staff  
Professional Development Day

5 - Last Day to Enroll in Fall  
2022 Tuition (2) Payment Plan

10 - College Closed,  
Columbus Day

13 - Midterm

14 - Blue Preview Day

18 - Spring Registration Begins

28 - Priority Application  
Deadline

## COLLEGE VISITS

**Sept. 29** - Eastern Illinois University Representative Sierra Hollenbeck will be here from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Oct. 24** - Southern Illinois University representative Jason Nugent will be here from 9 a.m. to noon.

**Oct. 24** - A representative from Murray State University will be here from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tables will be located outside Student Services.



## New landscaping enhances campus

New landscaping is brightening up the Olney Central College campus as classes begin this fall.

The project started last month and included the planting of small trees, perennials and bushes in the patio area surrounding the Student Union. Flowering plants and mulch were added to the area bordering the Equinox sculpture.





Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Kaitlyn Weger and member Jiazhen “Cookie” Zerrusen visit The Keep Student Lounge. PTK spent the spring and summer semesters working on the new student space.

# PTK creates new student lounge

Olney Central College students have a new place to relax and grab a snack between classes — The Keep Student Lounge.

Located in Room 207A on Wattleworth Hall’s second floor, the newly dedicated student space includes study tables, comfy chairs, a microwave, a fully-stocked refrigerator and a Keurig coffee maker. Students also have access to a food pantry with microwaveable meals and a variety of snack items. The room is available to all students from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A service project of Phi Theta Kappa, its members have been working to transform the former office since spring semester.

“This is a great space for students to study, talk and get something to eat,” said PTK member Jiazhen “Cookie” Zerrusen. “It gives PTK a nice way to support students. It breaks the traditional idea of student services like a library or computers. Supporting students isn’t just providing financial aid — it can be nice, cozy little things like this.”

The room also features a Little Free Library cart where students can take and exchange books. Students also can view upcoming events on the room’s bulletin board, and OCC clubs are encouraged to post announcements.

“I think it’s cool I helped create something that will be here after I’m gone,” said PTK President Robert Wray, who worked on the project over the summer with Zerrusen. “This is going to be a great space for our students.”

The lounge opened on Aug. 18 and PTK Advisor Kaitlyn Weger said the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

“Students are using it and we hope they are enjoying it,” she said. “We want to thank Maintenance for their help in putting up shelving and tables and painting the walls. They were a huge help in completing the project.”

Earlier this month, The Master’s Hands in Olney donated food items to restock the food pantry.

PTK is currently accepting individually packaged and microwavable food and drink items for the student lounge. Donations can be dropped off at the library circulation desk.



# IECC Priority Application Deadline October 28

Frontier Community, Lincoln Trail, Olney Central and Wabash Valley colleges are encouraging high school seniors to apply before the October 28 Priority Deadline to ensure they are first in line for scholarship dollars.

Last year, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges awarded more than \$272,000 in Success Scholarships to 408 area students.

IECC Director of Financial Aid Krystle Riggle says, “Applying for the priority deadline gives local students the opportunity to receive a scholarship for any of the four IECC colleges. We are excited to help students find different avenues to afford a top-rated education close to home.”

Initiated in 2020, the tuition awards are made available to Community College District 529 students who have committed to attend the IECC colleges by completing the admissions application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid by the Priority Deadline date. The Success Scholarships are renewable for up to four semesters — Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024 and Spring 2025, not including summer courses.

“The awards demonstrate IECC’s ongoing commitment to seeing area students successfully achieve their higher education goals,” said IECC Director of Enrollment Management Andrea Loll. “We encourage all our area students to complete the necessary documents and see how much they can save by attending one of the IECC schools.”

Students can go to [www.iecc.edu/priority](http://www.iecc.edu/priority) to begin the application process now and file their FAFSA starting October 1. The FAFSA must have school code 001742 – Illinois Eastern Community Colleges listed.

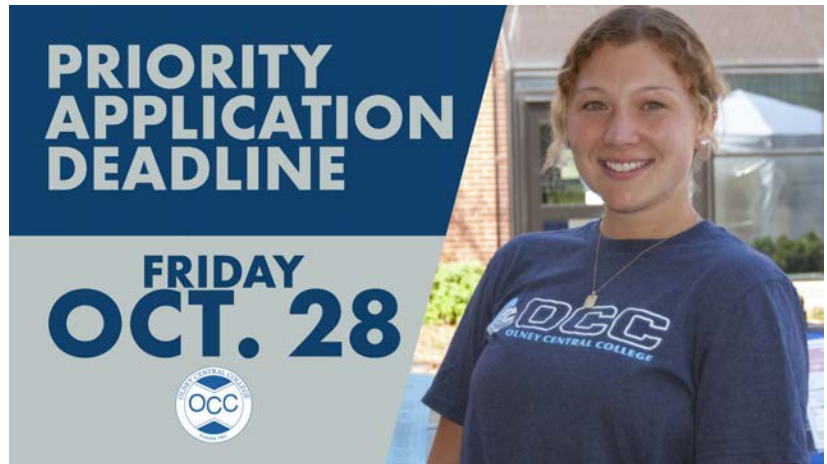
Loll says this year students will receive additional assistance in applying as each college now has a dedicated admissions representative. During September and October, these recruiters will visit IECC District high schools on a weekly basis.

“We are looking forward to partnering with our area high schools,” Loll said. “Our recruiters will be available to answer questions and guide students in the application process. They also will be working with Financial Aid to help students create their FAFSA IDs, expediting the process and making it easier to walk parents and students through the FAFSA application. We really encourage students to complete their FAFSA — the earlier, the better. Even if students know they are going to a four-year school, we still want to help them with the process. As community colleges, we are part of the community, and we want students to know we are here to serve them.”

Success Scholarship awards will be announced prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

“IECC is very affordable. We want to show students how affordable the IECC colleges can be and to let them know money is available to assist them financially,” Loll said. “We want to help our students and their families by providing the best option for them. With the priority deadline, families can see just how much money they can save by attending FCC, LTC, OCC or WVC.”

Students or parents with questions regarding the Success Scholarships or the FAFSA, should contact FCC, LTC, OCC and WVC Financial Aid, or visit [www.iecc.edu/financial](http://www.iecc.edu/financial).



## Enroll now in an 8-week mid-semester math course

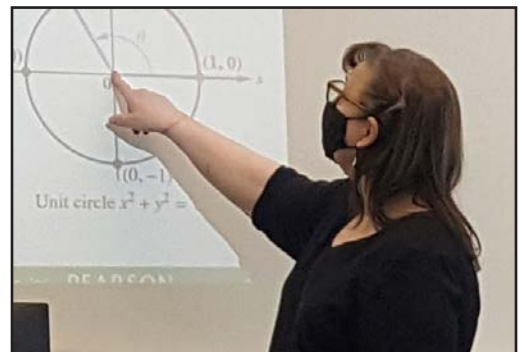
Did you drop a math class this semester or change your major and need to complete a math course?

Olney Central College is offering MTH 1102 College Algebra as an 8-week mid-semester course.

In this hybrid course, most of the homework and exams are online, while instruction takes place face-to-face. Students should consult their advisors as they may need to take a placement exam.

The 4-credit hour class will meet from 10 to 11:50 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Oct. 14 with Instructor Lisa Benson.

For more information or to register, call 395-7777.



# Robert Wray newest OCC Peer Coach

Olney Central College student Robert Wray is joining Jailyn Ballis and Sam Hanson as a Peer Coach this fall.

Wray is active in campus life as a member of the Science Club, Active Minds and TRIO Student Support Services. He is OCC Phi Theta Kappa President and holds the regional office of Vice President of the Southern District.

OCC's Peer Coach Program connects incoming freshmen with current students through the college's text messaging platform. Peer Coaches can convey information and answer questions while reaching out to fellow students.

"Being a Peer Coach is very rewarding," Wray said. "We are available to help other students. If they need information, they can text us. We can also send out reminders to them through Signal Vine."

Wray recently assisted with new student orientation and the Club Rush event. He is looking forward to interacting with students through other upcoming activities.

"September is Suicide Prevention Month, and we will be raising awareness and hosting activities related to that," he said.

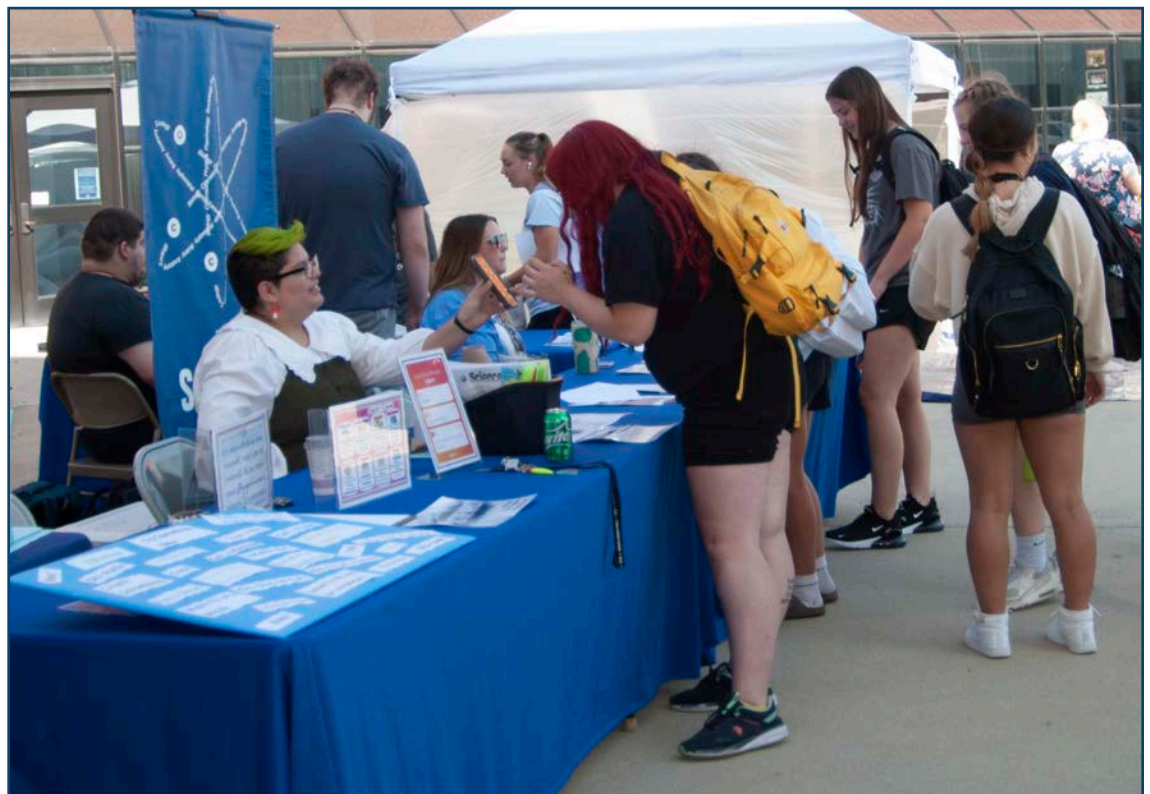
Wray is from Bellefontaine, Ohio and grew up in Columbus. He attended high school in Florida and currently resides in Florida. A sophomore at OCC, he plans to transfer to pursue bachelor's and master's degrees in zoology.



Olney Central College Peer Coaches, from left, are Robert Wray, Jailyn Ballis and Sam Hanson.

## Club Rush

OCC held its first Club Rush on Aug. 26. The event provided students with an opportunity to learn more about various clubs and organizations on campus.





## Students invited to join Art Club

The Olney Central College Art Club will host its first meetings at 3 p.m. on Sept. 15 and at 12:30 p.m. on Sept. 30 in Wattleworth Hall Room 202.

Open to all OCC students, the club offers those interested in art the chance to get together with like-minded students.

Members discuss art-related topics, such as artworks, artists and new materials. They also participate in activities and art excursions.

Students do not have to attend every meeting or be an art major to be a part of Art Club.

To learn more about Art Club, contact Advisor Heather Sandy at [sandyh@iecc.edu](mailto:sandyh@iecc.edu).

## Math tutoring available

Are you struggling with a math course or need help raising your grade?

Instructor Lisa Benson is offering free math tutoring on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

To schedule an appointment, email Benson directly at [bensonl@iecc.edu](mailto:bensonl@iecc.edu) or contact Director of Instructional Support Services Chad Groves in the Academic Success Center.

## Fall scholarship opportunities

Several scholarship opportunities are available for students during the fall semester.

OCC Foundation Fall 2022 scholarship applications are available along with scholarships designated for Allied Health and Nursing students.

Applications are available at [www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships](http://www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships).

Hurry, the deadline to apply for most monetary awards is Sept. 30.

For more information, contact OCC Financial Aid at 618-395-7777.



## Nursing Program Welcomes Guest Speakers

Joan Sager, nurse manager, and Leesa Bradham, quality nurse specialist, with Carle Richland Memorial Hospital recently spoke with OCC's first-year nursing students. The pair discussed various nursing opportunities available at Carle-RMH and answered questions from the group.

# OCC student Julie Harrolle receives Juanita Harris Nursing Scholarship

The family of Olney Central College nursing graduate Juanita Harris chose to honor her legacy by presenting a scholarship in her memory to a second-year Associate Degree Nursing student.

Julie Harrolle, of Olney, is the recipient of the \$1,200 monetary award, which can be used for tuition, fees, books, travel or other college-related expenses.

“The scholarship will allow me to work fewer hours and to concentrate on my education,” she said. “It is a blessing. I know it didn’t seem like a lot of money to her family, but it is a huge deal to me. It has inspired me and hopefully one day I can give back in the same way.”

Harris’ daughter, Debra Harris Kircher, presented Harrolle with the scholarship on behalf of her brother, Robin Harris, and the entire family.

“Being a nurse was so important to Mom,” Harris Kircher said. “It was her life, and she loved her work. She was a good nurse. She was dedicated to quality, professional care, kindness, and compassion. She dedicated herself to Christian nursing. She helped a lot of people in the church and the community. She was the friend they always came to.”

Harris passed away from cancer on Feb. 21, 2021, at age 91. A non-traditional student, Harris chose to pursue a degree in nursing after her husband sustained injuries in a motor vehicle accident, which left him paralyzed.

An honors student, Harris completed her associate degree in nursing in 1974, and later earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Harris spent her entire career serving in private medical offices. She especially enjoyed the 20 years she worked at Dr. Kimball Ewell’s practice in Eldorado before retiring at age 75.

Harris inspired others to pursue nursing careers as well.

“We were proud to have four nurses in the family,” Harris Kircher said. “I became a nurse, her granddaughter has achieved a master’s degree and is completing her studies as a nurse practitioner, and her granddaughter-in-law is also a nurse.”

The family is excited to assist Harrolle in reaching her goal.

“We want to thank all of the friends, family and co-workers who contributed to the scholarship fund,” Harris Kircher said. “We wanted to help someone like Mom, who was trying to go back to school with a family, and maybe needed some additional financial support. We were honored to give the scholarship to Julie.”



**OCC student Julie Harrolle is the recipient of the Juanita Harris Nursing Scholarship. Pictured, from left, are OCC Nursing Program Advisor Linda Horn, Julie Harrolle, and Debra Harris Kircher.**

## Earn credit in just 8 weeks with mid-semester online courses

If you dropped a course this fall, now is your chance to make up those lost credit hours through an 8-week mid-semester course.

Online classes available include:

- ACC 1203 QuickBooks II
- ENG 1101 Introduction to Composition
- INM 2210 Occupational Safety (OSHA)

- PLS 2101 Government of the U.S.
- PRE 0422 Math Literacy
- SOC 2102 Social Problems and Trends

A number of in-person classes also are available. Go to [www.iecc.edu/schedules](http://www.iecc.edu/schedules) for a complete listing.

Mid-semester classes begin Oct. 14. Contact your advisor to learn more.

# OCC Theater offers new scholarships to incoming and current students

Olney Central College Theater is excited to now offer scholarships for students interested in performing arts. Available to incoming and current Olney Central College students, these scholarships will now be offered each year.

OCC Theater producer Jon Wright created the scholarship opportunity to help students be able to afford college as well as learn more about theater.

“We are so excited to be able to offer scholarships to students who have an interest in theater,” Wright said. “This will allow us to go into local communities and financially assist students in their goals as they also contribute to OCC Theater. OCC is already an extremely affordable option for higher education, and when students are interested in being on stage or behind the scenes, we can make college even more affordable for them. We look at it as we are investing in them, and they are investing in us. They do not even need to major in theater. All they need to have is some ability, a good work ethic and dedication, and be willing to invest their time with us.”

Owen Hough and Summer Sanders are the first to receive two of the new OCC Theater scholarships. Both are current students at OCC and will be participating in upcoming productions at the theater.

Sanders began her stage time in the OCC/OAC Summer Children’s Theatre Workshop when she was in junior high and has done several shows at OCC since then.

Wright comments, “Summer is a great story for us. She started with us very young and has been in several shows with us. Now, through her hard work and talents, she is receiving a scholarship to continue her education. As our summer children’s program continues to grow, I expect to see many more students who are in our summer program excel on stage and receive scholarships from their work.”

Hough has participated in both Richland County High School and OCC Theater shows and plans to transfer after OCC to a four-year university with a goal of becoming a music/theater educator.

“Owen is just a great kid,” says Wright. “He has come so far and has worked hard on his abilities musically as well as on stage. I have no doubt that if Owen continues the work ethic he has shown with us, he will be able to accomplish his goals.”

When asked why the scholarships were an important part of his overall vision for the future of OCC Theater, Wright discussed the significance of giving students a chance.

“I come from the world of sports,” Wright reflected. “Signing a scholarship to play a sport at the collegiate level is a big deal. It is also a big deal when a student excels in music or theater and can receive a scholarship to continue their passion at the college level. We look forward to offering scholarships every year and to give students a chance to take that picture of them signing their scholarship offer with their families and teachers/directors.”

If you know a future student who would be interested in learning more about OCC Theater scholarships, please contact Jon Wright at [occtheater@iecc.edu](mailto:occtheater@iecc.edu) or 618-395-7777, ext. 2408.

For more information about OCC Theater, visit <https://www.iecc.edu/occtheater> or the OCC Theater Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OCCTheater>.



The fall semester is off to a very good start. As I meet with faculty and staff and share the good news regarding the increase in enrollment this fall, the joy is evident in expression and revealed with smiles on their faces. Plus, the fact that we are starting the year under “normal” circumstances, after a couple of difficult years, has certainly helped.

The City of Olney recently sent OCC a donation of \$15,000 toward the new electronic sign now located at Route 130 and the main campus entrance. I have heard multiple positive comments regarding the new sign. We are working on and excited about other campus beautification projects in the works. The landscaping projects have transformed the entrance near the student center and banquet hall. Students from TRIO are going to take over the care of the new look.



**Roger Eddy**

Speaking of student organizations and activity, OCC held a Club Rush on Friday, Aug. 26. Thanks to Title III Coordinator Ashley Bigard, Advising Specialist Cheryl Michl, and OCC Library Assistant Kaitlyn Weger for putting this event together. One of our goals this year is to ramp up student involvement in club activities now that we are back to “normal.” Students loved the event and were provided pizza, and that never hurts attendance!

The OCC Athletic Boosters held a golf outing on Saturday, Aug. 27 to raise funds for the Men’s Basketball team. There was a good turnout. I had a great time getting to know more of the people who support Olney athletics and activities. Although I did not bring much of an upgrade to the overall golf skills of those participating, it was a good day. That evening, there was an event at the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center featuring Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe performers. A good crowd enjoyed this event as we are seeing more and more activities on campus.

Recently, HELLA Electronics Corporation in Flora donated a semi-trailer truck load of items, including some robotics equipment to OCC. HVACR and Industrial Maintenance Technology Instructor Logan Marshall was instrumental in obtaining the equipment. There was terrific support from the WVC trucking program to move the items to our campus and Jason Doris assisted with the trailer. A big thank you to HELLA for the donation. This equipment will enhance our program.

The OCC Foundation is back to meeting in person as well. On Aug. 31, the Foundation met in the OCC Banquet Room. Among the many items on the agenda was the announcement that the Foundation will once again offer “mini-grants” to support OCC programs. Last year, over \$47,000 was awarded to various instructional programs at OCC. Additionally, the Foundation agreed to renew support for housing scholarships toward athletics. Beth Miller has recently agreed to continue as the OCC Foundations Relations Coordinator. She has done a terrific job of getting things reorganized. I also had the chance to meet with OCC Foundation President Bart Zuber and Treasurer Jason Doris. The continued support of the Foundation is greatly appreciated by everyone here at OCC.

The OCC gym will have a new look as the entire floor was sanded and will be refinished with a new design. Other active maintenance projects include elevator maintenance at the north entry to Wattleworth Hall. This will cause some inconvenience for a few weeks and rerouting of foot traffic to allow for the work to be completed.

In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation to Lynn Welker and Dean Michael Conn for the extra support and assistance as I am “onboarding” at OCC. There are really great folks here at OCC!