

Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



FEBRUARY 2023

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

20 - College Closed Presidents' Day

MARCH

3 - Midterm

6 - Pulaski Day, No Classes

6 - Last Day to Enroll in Spring Tuition (2) Payment Plan

7-10 - Spring Break, No Classes

13 - Tickets Go on Sale for OCC Theater's "Cinderella," 10 a.m.

14 - Summer/Fall Registration Begins

17 - Spring Priority Deadline

24-25 OCC Theater Presents "Cinderella," 7 p.m.

26 - OCC Theater Presents "Cinderella," 2 p.m.

30-31 OCC Theater Presents "Cinderella," 7 p.m.

College Visits

Feb. 23 & March 16 - A representative from the University of Southern Indiana will be here from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A table will be located outside Student Services.



OCC Ranked No. 2 Community College, Named Best for Drone Technology in Illinois

The higher education resource guide Intelligent.com included Olney Central College in its 2023 list of the Best Community Colleges in Illinois — ranking OCC No. 2 overall and awarding it Best for Drone Technology.

A trusted resource for program rankings and higher education planning, Intelligent.com identifies top schools in the state based on tuition costs, the number of credits required to graduate, and the online coursework delivery format. Intelligent.com then implements a unique methodology to rank each institution on a scale from 0 to 100 across six categories. The scoring system compares tuition costs, admission, retention and graduation rates, faculty, reputation, and resources provided for online students.

In its rankings, Intelligent.com states, "Drone technology is one of the fastest-growing industries, and OCC is on the leading edge, providing in-class and hands-on instruction."

Created through a Title III Grant initiative, Olney Central College's Unmanned Aerial Technology is the only associate degree drone program in Illinois. UAT is housed at the West Richland Center in Noble, where classes have been offered since Fall 2021.

"It was fantastic to be named No. 1 in the state for drone technology," said Title III Program Director Ashley Bigard. "The use of drones is growing nationwide, and Morgan Henton has worked hard to establish the program and develop the curriculum. We have seen an increase in enrollment, particularly from our high school students. We are excited to see what opportunities the program will bring to our college and community."

To access Intelligent.com's complete rankings, please visit <https://www.intelligent.com/best-community-colleges/Illinois>.

The Unmanned Aerial Technology Program is a Title III program that is supported in part by a five-year grant awarded to Olney Central College from the U.S. Department of Education effective October 1, 2018. The estimated total cost for all project activities is \$2,506,775 financed by the grant award of \$2,249,968 (90%) and \$256,807 (10%) by Olney Central College.

Joe Young named IMT instructor

Joe Young is serving as Olney Central College's new Industrial Maintenance Technology Instructor.

Young brings a variety of experiences to the position. He worked three years for Troyer Heating and Air in West Salem and spent the last seven years at Hella Electronics in Flora, where he assisted with building maintenance and repair. Young's responsibilities included addressing HVAC systems and mechanical-related issues. He earned an associate's degree from Wabash Valley College.

Young, who joined OCC in January, says the IMT Program is a great asset to the area.

"It allows students to complete their education in a short time," he said. "Jobs are available locally so students can stay in the area and earn a good living."

Young enjoys sharing his knowledge with students and preparing them for rewarding careers.

"In this field, you are always solving puzzles," he said. "You have to trouble-shoot problems and then find a way to fix them. It is always interesting because each time you're dealing with different issues."

He added, "I like the process of taking someone through a problem and trying to solve it. I enjoy seeing people when they understand an idea you've been trying to explain and their eyes suddenly light up. To me, that is very rewarding."

Young, who is originally from the Mt. Erie area, currently resides in Olney. He enjoys kayaking and fishing in his spare time. He also plays several instruments and likes repairing and rebuilding guitar amplifiers. Recently, he restored a 30-year-old bike.

"I enjoy taking things apart, seeing how they work and making them better," he added.



Guest Speaker

A supervisor from BWX Technologies Inc. in Mt. Vernon Ind., spoke to Curtis Marshall's first-year and dual-credit welding students on Jan. 27. BWX is a defense contractor for the U.S. Navy and builds components for nuclear submarines. The Mt. Vernon facility is looking to hire 40 welders immediately. OCC welding graduate Andrew Garrison, of Fairfield, is one of the company's top welders.

IECC TRIO Upward Bound student publishes book, inspires students to write

High school students with IECC's TRIO Upward Bound program had the opportunity to learn from one of their peers at their workshop held January 21 at Olney Central College.

Lawrenceville High School sophomore Dakota Sanders spoke to fellow Upward Bound students about her recently published novel, *A Dead Girl's Diary*.



The book, published under the pen name Cheyenne Sanders, was the selected reading for IECC Upward Bound's fall book club.

At Upward Bound's January Workshop, students had the opportunity to meet with Sanders and learn about her writing and publishing process. In a survey, one student said, "I am a writer and I found it fascinating how someone my age could publish a book."

Upward Bound students are encouraged to set goals and work hard to achieve them, but seeing a peer accomplish her goal so early in life provided extra motivation for many who attended the workshop. Another student wrote, "I love writing, and hearing the experience of a young author who is close to my age is really inspiring."

IECC TRIO Upward Bound is a college preparatory program for area high school students that works to provide the skills and motivation necessary to complete high school and college. Upward Bound provides after-school academic sessions, Saturday workshops and a six-week summer program.

The TRIO Upward Bound programs are 100% federally funded by the Department of Education for \$312,480 (LTC), \$361,983 (OCC), and \$297,601 (WVC).



Dakota Sanders signs a copy of her book during TRIO Upward Bound's January workshop.

Complete math credits in 8 weeks with mid-semester class

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 1103 Liberal Arts Math as an 8-week mid-semester course.

In this hybrid course, most of the homework and exams will be online, while instruction takes place face to face. Students should consult their advisors as they may need to

take a placement exam.

Liberal Arts Math will meet from 8 to 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday beginning March 14 with instructor Lisa Benson.

This course meets the math requirement for graduation. For more information or to register, call 395-7777 or contact your advisor.

'History's Greatest Mysteries' episode with David Denton airs

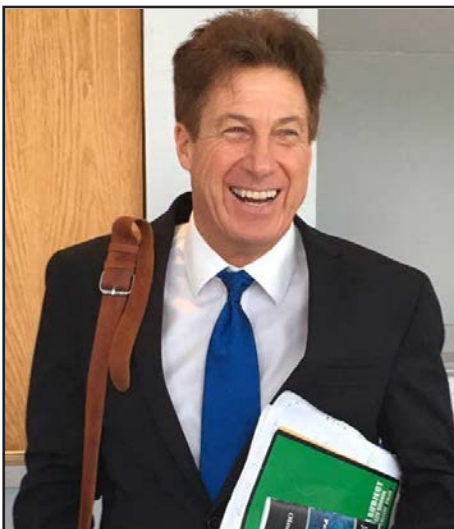
On February 13, The History Channel aired an episode of *History's Greatest Mysteries* featuring Olney Central College Professor David Denton.

The show explored President John F. Kennedy's assassination with Denton sharing insights and discoveries he has made through his extensive research into Kennedy's death.

Over the years, Denton has interviewed several people associated with the case and has reviewed hundreds of documents relating to both Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald. He has written numerous articles on the subject and in 2020 published a collection of his works, *Essays on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy*.

Denton also has hosted and participated in several conferences exploring the events surrounding Kennedy's assassination.

The episode featuring Denton is available for streaming on The History Channel website at <https://play.history.com/shows/historys-greatest-mysteries>.



Professor Laurel Cutright attends AMAT Conference in Toronto

Olney Central College Professor Laurel Cutright attended the American Mathematical Association of Two-year Colleges' annual conference in Toronto, Canada.

Keynote speakers were Peter Liljedahl, author of the best-selling book, *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics*, and Ben Orlin, author of *Math with Bad Drawings*, *Change is the Only Constant: The Wisdom of Calculus in a Madcap World* and *Math Games with Bad Drawings*. Guest speakers included Sunil Singh and Stan Yoshinobu.

The conference featured informative break-out sessions and regional meetings. Educators also had the chance to meet directly with representatives from various textbook companies.

"It was a great time of sharing, teaching and collaborating," Cutright said. "I like seeing what other states are doing in mathematics education and this was a great opportunity to do that."

During her trip, Cutright visited local landmarks including the CN Tower, a more than 1,800-foot structure that features a revolving restaurant, and the Christmas Market at the Winter Village.

Cutright serves as president of the Illinois Mathematics Association of Community Colleges and is preparing for IMACC's annual conference March 30-April 1 at Allerton Park in Monticello.



Sports Schedule

Men's Basketball

Feb. 15 — OCC vs. Southwestern Illinois, 7 p.m. at home

Feb. 18 — OCC at Wabash Valley, 3 p.m.

Feb. 22 — OCC vs. Kaskaskia, 7 p.m. at home

Feb. 25 — OCC at Lewis & Clark, 3 p.m.

Feb. 28 — OCC at Vincennes, 6 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Feb. 15 — OCC vs. Southwestern Illinois, 5 p.m. at home

Feb. 18 — OCC at Wabash Valley, 1 p.m.

Feb. 22 — OCC vs. Kaskaskia, 5 p.m. at home

Feb. 27 — OCC vs. Shawnee, 5 p.m. at home

Baseball

Feb. 17 — OCC vs. Ivy Tech Northeast, 1 & 3 p.m. at Westfield, Ind.

Feb. 18 — OCC vs. Ivy Tech Northeast, 1 & 3 p.m. at Westfield, Ind.

Feb. 22 — OCC at University of the Columbians, 1 p.m.

Feb. 23 — OCC at Union College, noon

Feb. 24 — OCC at Vincennes, noon

Feb. 25 — OCC vs. Joliet, noon & Morton, 3:30 p.m. at Vincennes Tournament

Softball

Feb. 25 — OCC at Motlow State, noon & 2 p.m.

Feb. 26 — OCC at Northwest-Shoals, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Lost & Found

If you have lost an item, please stop by Student Services.

Library updates furnishings

The OCC Anderson Library recently purchased new furniture with grant funding from the Olney Central College Foundation.

One of the new couches features built-in outlets and USB ports allowing students to connect their devices.



Register now for mid-semester classes

OCC is offering several 8-week mid-semester classes starting March 13. Mid-semester courses are ideal for students who may have dropped a course or for those who need an additional class to graduate.

Face-to-face classes include:

BUS 1101 Introduction to Business, noon to 12:50 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday

MTH 1103 Liberal Arts Math, 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Online courses available include:

ACC 1203 QuickBooks II

ENG 1101 Introduction to Composition

INM 2210 Occupational Safety (OSHA)

LSC 1105 Environmental Biology

MUS 1104 World Music

PLS 2101 Government of the U.S.

PRE 0420 Intermediate Algebra

SOC 2102 Social Problems & Trends

For more information or to register, contact your advisor or Student Services at 395-7777.



ANNUAL & SPRING 2023
OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIPS

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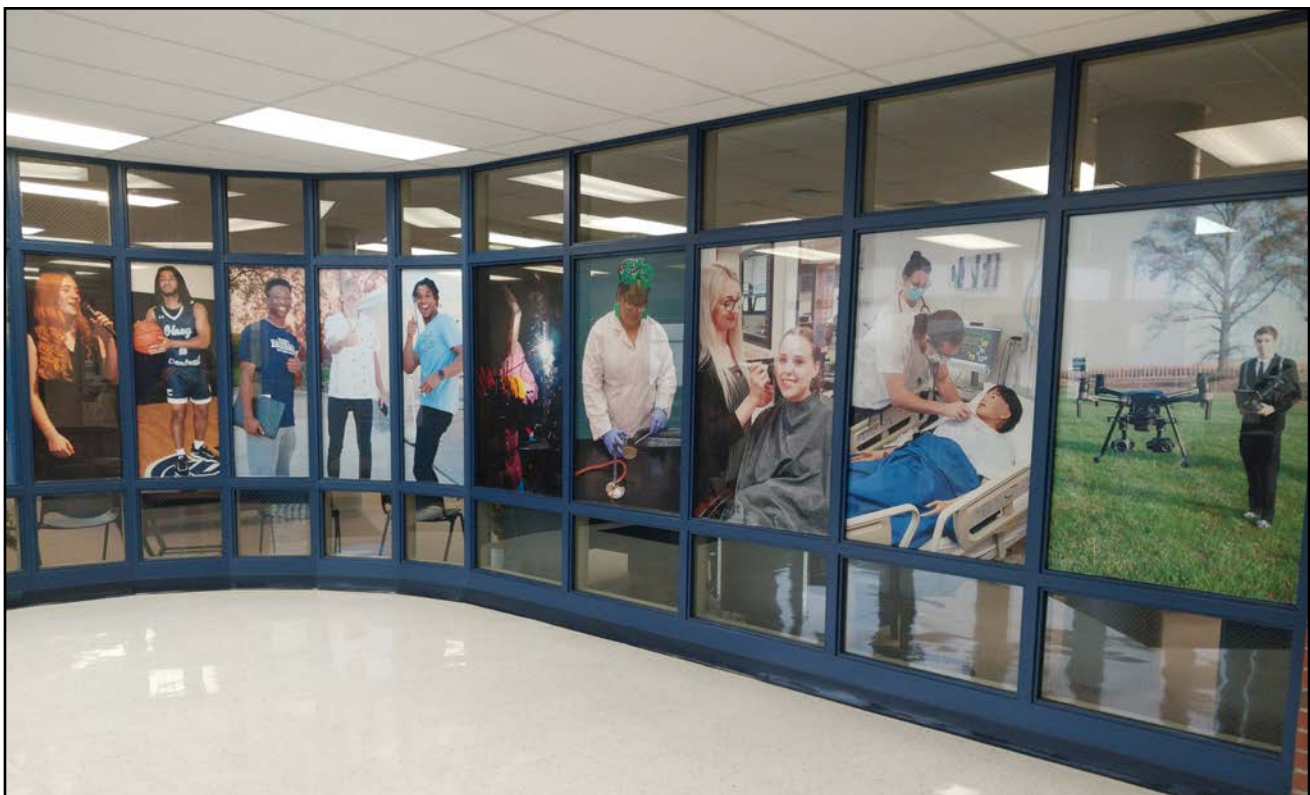
www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships

The semester is off to a great start. It is fantastic to see students back on campus, their presence is what makes OCC what it is. As I watch them return, I am reminded that many students will be attending classes for their final semester at OCC. We even established and scheduled graduation committee meetings the other day. This is a great time to remember that we are a launching pad for our students' future. Future nurses, welders, automotive technicians, teachers, scientists, technology specialists, business professionals, criminal justice officers, and other public servants will complete their courses of study. Others will complete transfer degrees and head to dozens of higher education institutions to complete their coursework in a chosen profession. Each of these individuals will have benefited greatly from the quality education they have received from OCC's award-winning faculty and staff. The spring semester is indeed an exciting time.



Roger Eddy

There remain numerous deferred maintenance projects to be tackled this spring as well. A new driveway and overhead door have been installed at the welding building, new flooring placed in the automotive classroom, and a fresh, vibrant new look has been added to the main entry of OCC at the Student Services office. New vinyl graphics depicting our students engaged in various education program activities have been installed on the windows of the Student Services Center. The vinyl coverings allow for the staff to see into the hallway and entrance area while providing privacy to workers inside, sort of like a one-way mirror. Sunlight is also filtered. Best of all, the entire area has come alive for those entering OCC. This is a major improvement for this space. A special thanks to Deanna Ratts for her work on this project. A committee has been established, and we continue to meet to advance other projects that will beautify the campus and add a sense of our mission to our surroundings.



I had the pleasure of attending the women's and men's basketball games against Wabash Valley on Saturday, January 14. It was a terrific atmosphere as two IECC schools competed against each other. Wabash Valley won one of the games and Olney Central won the other. The thing that was great was the hard-fought competition between these two sister rival schools in the best spirit of athletic competition and what athletics can teach. Both Clint Burris and Jim Glash coached their teams hard and the players played hard while the OCC Pep Band energized the crowd. Wade Baker and the band added a special flavor to the day. Great job to all! By the way, if you have not had the chance to get out and see a game, I would highly recommend it.

On February 1, OCC once again hosted the ACES competition. This event pits area high schools in academic competition in English, Math, Engineering Graphics, Computer Science, Physics, Biology, and Chemistry. There are four divisions to the competition based on school size. All of the IECC high schools are invited to attend and historically almost every school sends a team. The competition lasts most of the day and winning teams and individuals are announced during a ceremony, which wraps up the event. This is a great way for top students from area high schools to visit our campus. Top performing students in all categories were offered one 15-credit tuition waiver to attend an IECC school. Student Services and personnel from all four campuses assisted that day. We appreciate the collaboration and support. Special thanks to OCC's Kelly Payne for leading this event with the assistance of Laurel Cutright and Rob Mason. It was an exciting day.

OCC also hosted the TRIO Etiquette workshop on Saturday, February 11. Activities included an opportunity for students to participate in mock interviews. This is an important skill as these students prepare for professional opportunities. Special thanks to Wain Davis for leading this effort. I enjoyed participating in this event as an interviewer.

I would be remiss to end this report without mentioning the recent retirement announcement of OCC Head Baseball Coach and Athletic Director, Dennis Conley. Dennis has been the steady hand behind the success of not just his baseball program, which has been exceptional, but the success of the entire OCC athletic department for over 40 years. Yes, over FORTY years! That kind of dedication and loyalty to a program and institution is rare. Imagine the incredible influence he has had on thousands of his own players and athletes over the years. His baseball program has helped to produce professional and even major league players. More importantly, he has led a department that has been as proud of the academic success of the athletes as their athletic success. What an outstanding career. Congratulations and best wishes from everyone at OCC.



OCC Baseball Coach and Athletic Director Dennis Conley