

Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



MARCH 2023

CALENDAR

MARCH

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

14 - Summer/Fall Registration Opens

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.

APRIL

1 - OCC Theater Presents "Cinderella," 7 p.m.

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

7 - College Closed Spring Holiday

20 - Southeastern Illinois Concert Association Presents Judy Carmichael, OCC Theater, 7 p.m.

College Visits

March 16 & 30 - A representative from the University of Southern Indiana will be here from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 12 - A representative from Murray State University will be here from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A table will be located outside Student Services.

Coach Dennis Conley surpasses 1,500 wins

Olney Central College Head Baseball Coach Dennis Conley has reached another major milestone in his illustrious career.

During the team's annual Spring Break excursion to Myrtle Beach, S.C., Conley became just the third National Junior College Athletic Association baseball coach to register 1,500 wins.

The landmark victory against College of DuPage was the centerpiece of an undefeated trip, where the Blue Knights went 10-0.

"It is a good feeling," Conley said of the accomplishment. "We played a good game. A lot of guys contributed, and it was a fun experience."

Olney Central College and the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District recognized Conley's outstanding achievements on and off the field by renaming OCC's baseball diamond in his honor in 2008.

Conley, who is in his 43rd year of leading the Blue Knights, is second in wins among active NJCAA baseball coaches and third on the all-time list. He was named to the NJCAA Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2010.

A Charleston native, Conley joined OCC after receiving his master's degree from Eastern Illinois University, where he had been a member of the Panthers' baseball team. He has served as OCC's athletic director for 39 years.

Conley plans to retire after this season.



Register now for tuition-free summer classes

Olney Central College is offering several tuition-free summer classes to assist students in completing their degrees.

Face-to-face Classes

- Elementary Spanish II (SPN 1121) — Meets Wednesdays 9-11:50 a.m.
- College Algebra (MTH 1102) — Meets Monday-Thursday from 9-10:50 a.m.

Online Courses

- Environmental Biology (LSC 1105)
- Women in Literature (LIT 2135)
- Music Appreciation (MUS 1101)
- Elementary Spanish II (SPN 1121)
- Intro to Business (BUS 1101)



• Forging the American Character (HUM 2161)

• World History to 1500 (HIS 1120)

Students enrolling in these classes are still responsible for fees, books and materials.

OCC also will offer a variety of other essential courses at our low-tuition rate. Catch up or move ahead with these 8-week classes that easily transfer. Both in-person and online classes are available. Classes run June 5 through July 31.

For more information or to register, call 618-395-7777. View the Summer Semester Schedule at www.iecc.edu/schedules.



IECC hosted 145 TRIO students and graduates who participated in the 2023 National TRIO Day of Service on Feb. 25.

IECC hosts Illinois' Southern Region TRIO Day event

One hundred forty-five low-income and first-generation TRIO students and graduates sponsored by 10 Southern Illinois colleges participated in the 2023 National TRIO Day of Service on Feb. 25.

Students who attended were inspired to continue their individual paths to success by learning from current TRIO mentors as well as TRIO alumni who are TRIO legacies and walking success stories.

They were encouraged to take what they learned and prove that they can also become a “Walking Success Story” and grow into future TRIO leaders for those that follow in their footsteps.

The day started off with a presentation of several personal hygiene and clothing items to SWAN (Stopping Woman Abuse Now) that students and staff had collected as part of a service project. SWAN aids victims of domestic abuse, care-facility neglect, abuse of the disabled, homelessness and has a domestic violence shelter.

Julie Hill, an Olney native and participant in the first TRIO Upward Bound program available in the area, delivered an unforgettable keynote presentation to the students and staff.

Hill and her husband are the owners of Ginger Ale's, a small soda shop they opened in 2015, and since have gone on to franchise the drink concept. Hill gave students seven questions to think about to help them discover their life purpose. Many interactions stood out including when Hill asked the question, “What is the thing that you really want to do but are too embarrassed to tell anyone about?”

A student raised her hand and answered, “Personally, a lot of women like me don't want to go into the modeling career, but I feel like I would be a good plus-size model.” Hill along with everyone else erupted in applause and the student was called up on stage where Hill said, “I want you to show us what you've got!” The student did her model walk across the stage as the crowd praised her confidence. Hill asked another question that stood out, “If you knew you would not fail, what would you do?” The student she called on answered, “If I could change something or do something I would try to find the cure to a disease or something.” Hill encouraged the students to use the talents they possess, grow in every way they can, and try their very best to accomplish their goals.

She left them with the quote, “It's better to do something and be criticized for it, than do nothing and criticize others.”

Students attended three different educational sessions of their choice. Sessions were presented by various IECC staff, TRIO employees, and local professionals. The breakout session topics varied from mental health, financial literacy,

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OCC Theater to present ‘Cinderella’

Olney Central College Theater will present the musical *Cinderella* at the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center, opening on March 24. Cinderella resides under the cruelty of her wicked stepmother and her evil stepsisters until her Fairy Godmother steps in to change her life for one unforgettable night. At the ball, she falls for a handsome prince whose parents are anxious for him to find a suitable wife.

OCC Theater is performing the “Enchanted Edition” of *Cinderella*, which is inspired by the acclaimed 1997 teleplay starring Brandy and Whitney Houston. This version of the magical fairy tale is reborn with the Rodgers & Hammerstein hallmarks of originality, charm, and elegance.

OCC Theater’s production of *Cinderella* features a cast of 34 people including the first IECC students to receive the brand-new OCC Theater Scholarship. In addition, there are also several people in the cast who have never done theater before and will be performing for the first time.

The theater also welcomes a guest costumer for this production, Vivian Krishnan, who is designing and creating the costumes for *Cinderella*. Krishnan is a professional costumer and has her master’s degree in costume design from the University of Illinois. Learn more about Krishnan by following OCC Theater on social media.

Performances for *Cinderella* are March 24, 25, 30, 31 and April 1 at 7 p.m. and March 26 and April 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$13. All seating is reserved, and tickets can be purchased online at www.iecc.edu/occ/theater or via phone at 618-395-7777, ext. 2408. *Cinderella* is sponsored by First National Bank.

For more information, email occtheater@iecc.edu or visit www.iecc.edu/occ/theater. Be sure to follow Olney Central College Theater on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok.

Mark your calendars: OCC Theater’s 50th anniversary is coming in 2025. Stay tuned for special announcements.



TRIO Continued from Page 2

self-care, career readiness, health careers, drug crisis in rural Southern Illinois, and social emotional learning. Students also had the opportunity to role-play and debate, interact with a TRIO alumni panel, and take a campus tour.

For millions of students from low-income families who strive to be the first in their families to attend and graduate from college, seven federally funded programs called TRIO are making a world of difference. TRIO programs have been providing valuable supportive services to students from low-income and working families to successfully enter college and graduate for over 50 years.

TRIO services include tutoring, personal and financial counseling, career counseling, assistance with the college admissions process, college visits, instruction in composition, literature, STEM, personal development, study skills, lab science, foreign language, and mathematics, test prep, work study program, SEL, financial literacy and assistance with FAFSA and scholarships, in addition to academic support and advising in high school through college graduation.

Today more than 1,000 colleges, universities, and community agencies host more than 2,800 TRIO projects that

serve more than 800,000 young people and adults. TRIO serves students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. Currently, 34% of TRIO students are White, 33% are African American, 21% are Hispanic, 4% are Asian-American or Pacific Islander, 4% are American Indian, and 1% are listed as “other,” including multiracial students.

We are so glad that we were given the opportunity to host such an amazing event where so many motivated, inspiring, and absolutely remarkable students came to spend their Saturday learning and growing together.

TRIO is lucky to have such determined young people who dedicate their time to becoming the best version of themselves. In honor of National TRIO Day, we proudly walk beside them knowing they can share their story and walk in their truth as their very own “TRIO Walking Success Story.”

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

TRIO – SSS is 100% federally-funded for \$348,002 as a college-based educational opportunity outreach program that motivates and supports students from low-income backgrounds – including military veterans and students with disabilities.



Sophomore Night

Olney Central College Men's and Women's Basketball teams recognized four players during Sophomore Night on Feb. 22. Those honored were Blue Knights Gavin Gilstrap and Benjamin Faatz along with Lady Knights Kenzie Weiler (bottom left) and Jocelyn Hall (bottom right).



Summer & Fall Registration ongoing

Summer and fall registration is ongoing at Olney Central College.

Stop by Student Services or call 618-395-7777 to schedule an advising appointment.

The Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District is offering several tuition-free courses this summer to assist students in completing their degrees. These include online and in-person classes.

Schedules are available online at www.iecc.edu/schedules.



2023
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SNA Donations

The OCC Student Nurses Association collected valentine cards and cakes for residents of the Carle RMH Long-Term Care Unit. Lisa Runyon and Joanna Burrow delivered the items.



Campus Visit

OCC hosted a group of home schoolers for a campus visit on Feb. 22. Life Science Professor Chris Mathews provided a demonstration of the Anatomage table. Students also visited OCC's Nursing and Radiography Labs with Nursing Professor Becky Coleman and Director of Radiography Lisa Rauch.



Sports Schedule

Baseball

- March 16** — OCC at Shawnee, 3 p.m.
- March 18** — OCC vs. Shawnee, noon & 3 p.m. at home
- March 20** — OCC at Oakland City, 3 p.m.
- March 22** — OCC at Danville Area, 3 p.m.
- March 23** — OCC at Lake Land, 3 p.m.
- March 25** — OCC vs. Lake Land, noon & 3 p.m. at home
- March 28** — OCC vs. Vincennes, 2 p.m. at home
- March 30** — OCC vs. Kaskaskia, 3 p.m. at home
- April 1** — OCC at Kaskaskia, noon & 3 p.m.
- April 3** — OCC vs. Brescia, 1 p.m. at home
- April 4** — OCC at Rose-Hulman, 5 p.m.

Softball

- March 14** — OCC at Lincoln Trail, 2 & 4 p.m.
- March 16** — OCC vs. Southwestern Illinois, 2 & 4 p.m. at home
- March 18** — OCC at Shawnee, noon & 2 p.m.
- March 19** — OCC vs. Kaskaskia, 1 & 3 p.m. at home
- March 21** — OCC vs. Frontier, 2 & 4 p.m. at home
- March 23** — OCC at Lake Land, 2 & 3 p.m.
- March 25** — OCC vs. John A. Logan, noon & 2 p.m. at home
- March 30** — OCC at Wabash Valley, 2 & 4 p.m.
- April 1** — OCC vs. Southeastern Illinois, noon & 2 p.m. at home
- April 6** — OCC vs. Rend Lake 2 & 4 p.m. at home
- April 11** — OCC vs. Lincoln Trail, 2 & 4 p.m. at home

With some warmer winter days over the past few weeks and knowing a more consistent brand of warmer weather is headed our way, it is clear that spring is just around the corner. We are excited to welcome the new season and the signs are everywhere. Baseball and softball teams are outside sharpening their skills and have enjoyed a couple of "southern trips" to Myrtle Beach. Best of luck to these teams as they enter their respective seasons. Another sure sign of the change of seasons was Spring Break last week. Plus, graduation committee meetings are taking place. The last couple of months of the semester will go fast.

We also continue to stay in close contact with our area high schools to explore possibilities to provide dual credit opportunities to students. Synchronous learning is one of the ways that we can provide additional opportunities while also improving accessibility to dual credit for many rural locations. The two pilot courses being held synchronously this spring are Speech and Spanish. Clay City High School students receive Speech instruction synchronously at Clay City along with students in the same course here at OCC. Jessica McDonald is the instructor. Students at Grayville High School are receiving Spanish synchronously. Elaine Hasty is the Spanish instructor. Both of these pilots have provided us with really good insight as to how we should move forward.



Roger Eddy

With the knowledge we have already gained through these pilot courses, we are currently in the process of meeting with all of our IECC District high schools to discuss how we can provide additional opportunities for their students. Our Instructional Service Directors, one from each of the four IECC campus locations, are visiting each school to review current dual credit offerings and develop new opportunities. It is early in the process of identifying specific courses to offer in the fall of 2024, and there are numerous details and some challenges related to the various high school schedules and our schedule. However, there are ways to work through these issues and use the network for the benefit of students across the IECC District.

Last month, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution in support of the construction of an addition to the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center at OCC. This addition to the theater will greatly enhance the facility by providing space for storage and set construction purposes. The generous support the Board pledged was crucial to enhance local fundraising efforts. I am pleased to report that the OCC Foundation recently voted to provide up to \$19,000 toward the project. Along with other generous donations, we have been able to meet our local fundraising goal and move forward with the project. Thanks to all involved in making this happen.