

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE KNIGHTLINE



January 2024

CALENDAR

JANUARY

8 — Spring Semester Classes Begin

8 — Last Day to Pay Spring Semester Tuition & Fees

11 — Last Day to Enroll in Spring Tuition 4-Payment Plan

15 — College Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

18-19 — OCC Theater Auditions for "Fiddler on the Roof," 6:30 p.m.

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

22 — Last Day for Spring Semester Textbook Returns

FEBRUARY

2 — American Red Cross Blood Drive, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Student Union

6 — Last Day to Enroll in Spring Tuition 3-Payment Plan

7 — ACES Academic Challenge

15 — FAFSA Night, 4-7 p.m., Dr. Kent Wattleworth Hall Room 205

19 — College Closed - Presidents' Day

Bookstore Hours

January 8-9

7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

January 10-May 3

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Dual-credit student earns every plate certification offered through OCC's Welding Program

Olney Central College dual-credit student Weston Miller finished the fall semester having earned every plate certification the Welding Program offers.

"While most dual-credit students leave with some qualifications, Weston is the first to leave with them all," said Instructor Maverick Fisher. "He has put in significant extra time outside of class to make this happen."

Now a senior at Clay City High School, Miller was preparing for the second semester of his junior year, when his guidance counselor suggested he enroll in dual-credit welding courses at OCC.

"I had never really welded, maybe just one or two times before the class," Miller said. "But, I signed up and got in. Within two weeks, I was welding in the booth. I was really unsure when I started, but Maverick worked with me and showed me what to do. I knew I wanted to take this seriously."

"Honestly, this is the best class I've ever taken, and Maverick is the best teacher I've had in my life," Miller added. "I have enjoyed working with him so much. He is always positive and always happy to show you what to do. He is good at explaining things, so they make sense, and you understand. These classes have given me life skills I'm going to use. It's been a great experience and I've learned so much."

Toward the end of his first semester, Miller was invited to participate in the annual Brandon Blackford Memorial Welding Competition, which is hosted by the OCC Welding Program. He completed his first plate test the day of the event. The only junior in the competition, Miller finished in fourth place.

"I just wanted to keep going after that," he said. "It just clicked with me, if I can win fourth place against seniors, who have been welding a lot longer than me, I wonder what I can do if I get really good. It pushed me to do better. I started working really hard after that and it paid off."



Dual-credit student Weston Miller displays the welds and certifications he completed through the OCC Welding Program.

See Certifications, Page 2

Welding students fabricate Advent Wreath holder for St. Joseph's

Students in the OCC Welding Program showcased their skills by fabricating a beautiful new Advent Wreath holder for St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Olney.



Certifications *Continued from Page 1*

Miller worked closely with Fisher to meet his goal, earning eight of the nine certifications during the fall semester.

"We hit it hard after the first one," Miller said. "I'd practice a couple of days and then take the test. I was taking a plate test every other week."

Miller wants to pursue a career in the welding field and has even started his own small welding business. He plans to continue his studies at OCC and complete an associate degree in welding. Miller also hopes to become a Certified Welding Inspector.

Miller encourages other high school students to enroll in OCC's dual-credit welding classes.

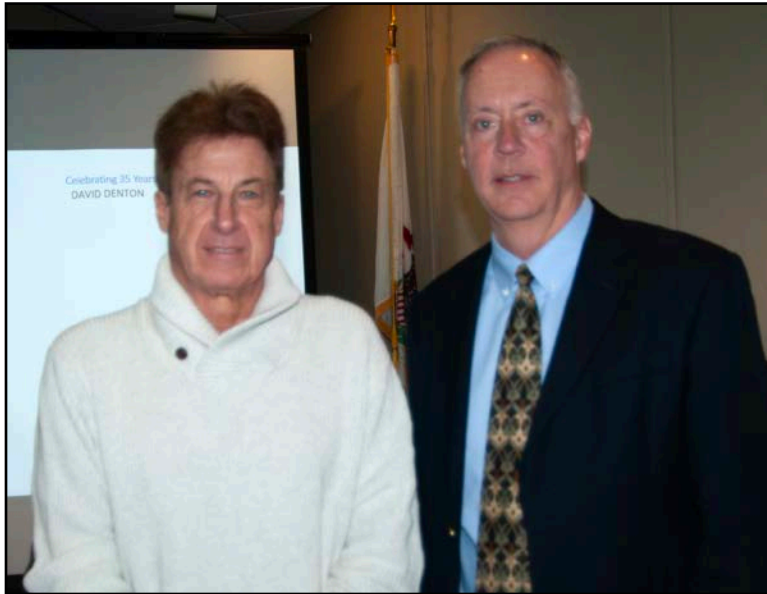
"I think everyone should try this class," he said. "You won't regret it and you will learn so much. Welding is a high-demand trade, and you will never be without a job."

Weston Miller practices his welding skills during his dual-credit class at the Terry L. Bruce West Richland Center in Noble.



OCC Service Awards

OCC employees receiving service recognition awards were honored during the spring workshop on Jan. 2.



David Denton — 35 years



Doug Shipman — 30 years



Cristina Siegel, Jodi Schneider and Shasta Bennett — 20 Years



**Deanna Ratts and Linda Horn — 25 years
Not pictured, Tim Bower and Kathy Swinson**



**Lynne Welker, Brandi Rich and Teresa Baker — 5 years
Not pictured, Joshua Feddes and Julianna James**



**Sarah Bergbower — 10 years
Not pictured, Matthew Urfer, Clay Atkins,
Tina Evans, David Spillman and Jason Snider**



OCC Service Awards

Jane McCormick — 3 years
Not pictured, David Kandalec, Kyle Ochs,
Nancy Stremme and Elyssa Fry



Spreading Holiday Cheer

OCC's Terrilynne Majors helped brighten the holidays at OCC. She gave out gloves and Christmas cards to the Men's Basketball team. She also provided a Christmas tree for Buckeroo Early Education Center and made magic reindeer food for the children.



OCC FAFSA Night Feb. 15

Oleyn Central College will host a FAFSA Night on February 15 to assist students and their families as they navigate the application process.

OCC financial aid experts will walk families through the process and answer questions regarding the newly revised Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

The event will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. in Dr. Kent Wattleworth Hall Room 205.

Participants will need to create their FSA IDs prior to the event as they take one to three days to be verified. On the FAFSA Night, families will need their 2022 tax information, contributor demographic information, Social Security numbers and valid email addresses. Families who own a farm or small business will need to know the net worth minus any debt.

Those unable to attend are encouraged to contact Financial Aid to schedule an appointment to complete the FAFSA on campus. For more information, call 618-395-7777, ext. 2017.

'Fiddler on the Roof' auditions scheduled for Jan. 18-19

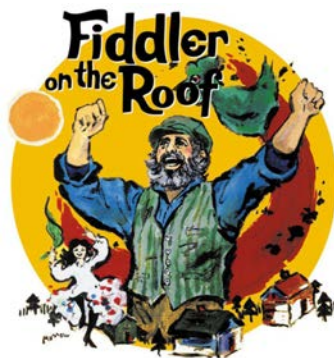
The OCC Theater will host auditions for *Fiddler on the Roof* at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 18-19 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing antisemitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, *Fiddler on the Roof's* universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality, and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy, and sadness.

Those auditioning need to attend only one audition date. Auditions are open to anyone in high school or older.

Callbacks will be on Jan. 20, as needed.

Additional audition information is available on the OCC Theater website at www.iecc.edu/occ/theater.



Study Abroad opportunities

Two study abroad opportunities are available for OCC students this summer.

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, through its membership in the Illinois Consortium For International Studies and Programs, is offering students the chance to study in Seville, Spain from May 29-June 28.

IECC also has partnered with the College of DuPage through its membership in the Illinois Consortium For International Studies and Programs to offer students a study abroad opportunity in Costa Rica from May 29-June 28.

Interested students should contact Cassandra Goldman, IECC Dean of Students, at 618-263-4999, ext. 3166.

Mid-semester math course starts March 12

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

Oleyn 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 will take place face to face.

Liberal Arts Math will meet from 1 to 2:15 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning March 12 with instructor Lisa Benson. This course meets the math requirement for graduation.

For more information, contact your advisor.

Sports Schedule

Men's Basketball

Jan. 10 — at Shawnee, 7 p.m.
Jan. 13 — vs. Lake Land,
3 p.m. at home
Jan. 17 — at John A. Logan,
7 p.m.
Jan. 20 — vs. Vincennes,
7 p.m. at home
Jan. 24 — vs. Rend Lake,
7 p.m. at home
Feb. 3 — at Lincoln Trail, 3 p.m.
Feb. 7 — vs. Kaskaskia, 7 p.m.
at home
Feb. 10 — vs. Shawnee, 3 p.m.
at home

Women's Basketball

Jan. 10 — at Shawnee, 6 p.m.
Jan. 17 — at John A. Logan,
5 p.m.
Jan. 20 — vs. Vincennes,
5 p.m. at home
Jan. 24 — vs. Rend Lake,
5 p.m. at home
Jan. 27 — at Southwestern
Illinois, 1 p.m.
Feb. 3 — at Lincoln Trail, 1 p.m.
Feb. 7 — vs. Lincoln Land, 5
p.m.
Feb. 10 — vs. Shawnee, 1 p.m.
at home

Blood Drive Feb. 2

The OCC Student Senate will host a Blood Drive from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 2 in the OCC Student Union.

Visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Olney Central College to schedule an appointment.

Keep Vehicles Locked

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

Lost & Found

If you have lost an item, please see Student Services.



In the spring, Sarah Bergbower and her students worked with Maverick Fisher and retired Instructor Jim Burnett to identify plants on the Hoffmann Prairie.

Controlled burn planned for OCC's Hoffmann Prairie

As part of the Hoffmann Prairie Restoration Project, Maverick Fisher and volunteers from the County Line Quail Forever Club will conduct a controlled burn this spring.

Fisher said the burn could occur as early as February, depending on weather conditions. Announcements will be made beforehand.

Controlled burns are necessary for the prairie ecosystem as they help to control invasive species and aid in native plant propagation.



Rylee Bloomer signs with OCC

Richland County High School student Rylee Bloomer recently signed to play softball at Olney Central College.