

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE KNIGHTLINE



MAY 2024

CALENDAR

MAY

13 — Intersession Classes Begin

14 — Last Day for 100 Percent Refund for Intersession Classes

16 — Last Day for Intersession Textbook Refunds

21 — Intersession Midterm

27 — College Closed, Memorial Day

30 — Last Day to Withdraw from Intersession Classes

30 — Ignite Curiosity Summer Camps Begin

31 — Last Day of Intersession Classes

JUNE

3 — Summer Semester Classes Begin

7 — Last Day for 100 Percent Refund for Summer Semester Classes

7 — Last Day for Summer Textbook Refunds

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

19 — College Closed, Juneteenth

28 — Midterm



OCC Celebrates 60th Commencement

Olney Central College held its 60th commencement exercises at 7 p.m. on May 10 in the OCC Gymnasium.

OCC Interim Dean of Instruction Amy Tarr gave the welcoming remarks. Other speakers included OCC President Chris Simpson and OCC Alumnus Dr. Tanner Miller, who gave the Commencement Address.

More than 225 degrees and certificates were awarded this year.



High school students compete in fourth annual Brandon Blackford Welding Competition

Thirteen top high school welders showcased their skills during the OCC Welding Program's fourth annual Brandon Blackford Memorial Welding Competition.

Top finishers included:

First Place — Grant Kauble of Flora High School. He received a \$750 scholarship and a Lincoln 3350 welding hood.

Second Place — Justin McCormick of Flora High School. He received a \$500 scholarship and a Lincoln 1740 welding hood.

Third Place — Weston Miller of Clay City High School. He received a \$250 scholarship and a 1740 Lincoln welding hood.

Participating high schools were Newton Community, Clay City, Flora, Fairfield and Richland County.

The scholarships were made possible by the Brandon Blackford Scholarship Fund. Brandon's family also provided T-shirts for the event.

"I'm proud of all the guys who competed," said Instructor Curtis Marshall. "We conduct the competition just like the welding tests they would see in the field when applying for a job. Everyone did great work."



Top finishers in the Brandon Blackford Welding Competition were Grant Kauble, first place; Justin McCormick, second place and Weston Miller, third place. Pictured, from left, are OCC Welding Instructor Curtis Marshall, Justin McCormick, Welding Instructor Maverick Fisher, Grant Kauble and Weston Miller.



Active Minds' Stress Less Week

OCC Active Minds hosted several events for Stress Less Week.

Activities included free chair massages provided by the Massage Therapy students and Yoga Pop Up with The Studio at Britton's Bullpen.

Students also participated in Mario Kart and Ping Pong tournaments. Free food was available in the Knight Kafe and raffle prizes were awarded.

Stress Less Week activities were made possible through a grant from the National Active Minds organization.



Grand prize winners for Stress Less Week were Brody Sharp, Katie Smallwood, Brittany Clark and Jiazhen "Cookie" Zerrusen.



Raffle prize winners for Stress Less Week included Lauren Payton, Brittany Clark and Robert Mason.

Renovations underway for new recording studio

Construction is underway on the OCC Music Department's new recording studio in the former Upholstery Repair Building.

The new facility will not only serve OCC students, but also the wider community, providing access to professional recording resources in an area where such studios are rare.

Director of Bands Wade Baker shares, "We are really excited about the roll out. It is another step in expanding opportunities for students within the department."

The studio should be completed and ready for use this fall.



At top, renovations for the new studio include the installation of new walls for the recording booth. At left, the former Upholstery Repair Building prior to construction.

Dual Credit CNA Class

Richland County High School students successfully completed OCC's Dual credit CNA course on April 28. Their instructor was OCC Nursing faculty member Becky Coleman.



Registration ongoing for Ignite Curiosity Summer Camps

Dive into a world of exploration and excitement with Olney Central College's Ignite Curiosity Summer Camps! These fun-filled, one-day camps offer an excellent opportunity for students to explore their interests and hobbies while having a great time with peers.

Students will engage in plenty of hands-on activities under the guidance of OCC instructors. All camps will meet from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Camps available include:

Jazz for Young Musicians | Grades 5-12

Grab your instrument and get ready to jam as renowned Jazz musician and OCC Director of Bands Wade Baker guides you on an exploration of the musical genre of Jazz. Discover new artists and styles as you study the techniques and nuances of Jazz. The camp will meet June 10 in the OCC Band Room.

Blowing Stuff Up with Science | Grades 5-12

Are you a budding scientist who loves to explore the mysteries of physics and chemistry? If so, you're in for a treat! We're going to blow stuff up! Our summer camp offers a unique opportunity for young learners to participate in fun experiments and discover the wonders of science in a way they've never experienced before. The camp will meet on June 11.

Stylist for a Day – Cosmetology | Grades 7-12

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a cosmetologist? Spend a day in our Cosmetology Studio and learn to style hair and paint nails like a pro. Get ready to put your creativity to the test as you experiment with different colors and styles to create your own unique look. The camp will meet June 12 at the West Richland Center in Noble.

Starting Your Own Business | Grades 7-12

Ever wanted to start your own business? Join us to learn how to start, develop and market your new business idea. You'll spend the day and partner with the Small Business Development Center to brainstorm a business idea, learn how to run the business and then create a marketing plan to get a head start on the competition. The camp will meet June 13.

Ew! Awesome Biology | Grades 5-12

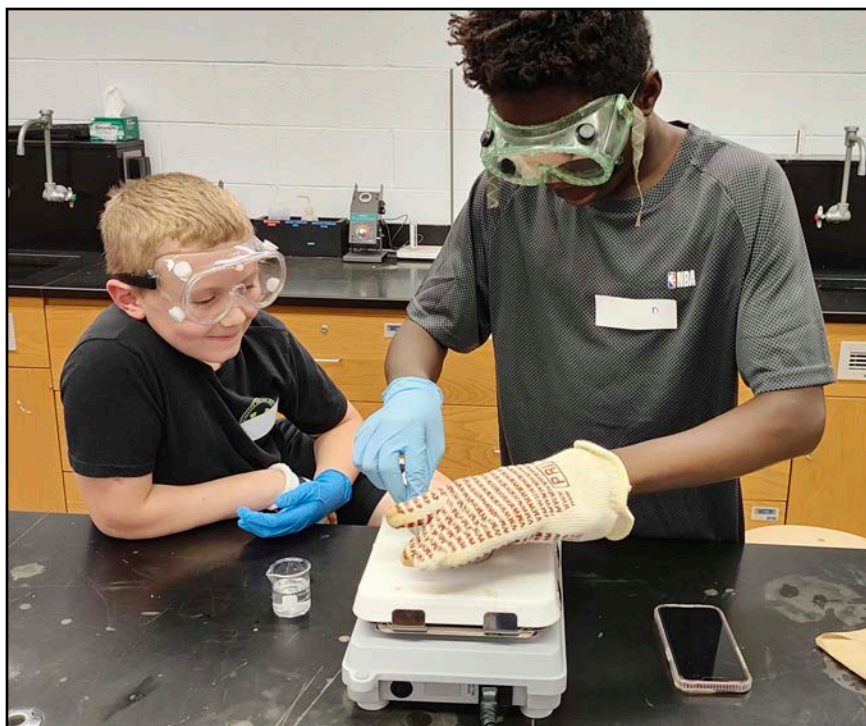
Join us for a day of discovery and exploration as we dive into the exciting world of biology! Touch a human brain! See DNA with your own eyes! Our knowledgeable instructors will guide young scientists through a variety of activities and experiments. There will be no shortage of opportunities to learn and have fun. The camp will meet June 14.

My Own Game! Coding | Grades 5-12

This computer gaming summer camp is the perfect place for all budding game developers and coders to learn the ins and outs of creating their own video games. Campers will learn coding and build their own games. The camp will meet on June 17.

The cost, which includes lunch and supplies, is \$25 per camp except for Blowing Stuff Up with Science and Ew! Awesome Biology, which are \$35 each. Payment is due at the time of registration.

Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. For more information and registration forms, visit www.iecc.edu/summercamps/occ.





OCC Music Department Band Concerts

The OCC Music Department presented its Contemporary Music Ensembles and Brass Band Concert on April 10.

The Big Band and Concert/Community Band presented their Spring program on April 24.



OCC Spring Musical Theater Showcase

The OCC Concert Choir and Musical Theater Workshop students presented their Spring Musical Theater Showcase on May 3.



Spring Fling

Rain forced Spring Fling indoors this year, but it didn't dampen spirits as students enjoyed games, food and prizes in the Student Union.

Student Senate sponsored the event.





Dual credit student crafts his own guitar

Dual credit student Brad Muentener completed his welding course with more than just a new skill-set. The Richland County High School senior left the classroom with his own creation — a meticulously crafted, custom-made, double-neck guitar.

Inspired by a similar guitar, Muentener embarked on a mission to build his own. Ordering a kit online, he dedicated the next nine weeks to constructing the instrument in class.

“The hardest part was welding the body,” he said. “It’s also very heavy.”

With a collection of 11 guitars, including his latest creation, Muentener is excited about showcasing his work.

“I’m looking forward to playing it and showing it off,” he said. “It’s a cool reminder I can do anything.”

Muentener enjoys welding and the dual credit class at OCC.

“It’s been a great experience,” he added. “I like being able to put metal together and making it work.”

After high school, Muentener plans to attend the University of Northwestern Ohio and eventually work as a race car mechanic.



Cosmetology students attend Chicago Hair Show

OCC Cosmetology students were among those attending the Chicago Hair Show on April 20-22.

One of the largest professional beauty events in the United States, the show brings together professionals and enthusiasts from the beauty industry, including hairstylists, barbers, makeup artists, estheticians and nail technicians.

Those attending included Krysllyn Kolb, Emily Barbee, Tara Garrard, Emalee Aguirre, and Lauren Bower. They were accompanied by Kristie Markman, Support Specialist for the TRIO SSS Program.

Students participated in a variety of advanced classes including Foilage, Balayge, Highlighting, Spray Tan, Social Media and Marketing and Business.



Baseball facility to benefit from new batting cages

Olney Central College Baseball is closing out the season with its new batting cages in place.

Coach Phil Britton says they are a much-needed addition to the program, replacing existing structures which have been in use for at least four decades.

"Those were the cages that have been here all of my life," said Britton, who is finishing his first season with the Blue Knights. "They were here when I attended youth camps and when I was a player. The new cages are safer and more efficient. Aesthetically, they are more professional, and they add a tremendous value to our program."

In undertaking the project, Britton reached out to his childhood friend and OCC Welding Instructor Curtis Marshall for assistance in constructing the needed poles. Marshall eagerly agreed to undertake the project as it would not only benefit OCC baseball, but also provide real-life fabrication experience for his students.

OCC welding student and baseball player Brett Kocher took the lead on the project dedicating time both in and out of class.

"Without his help, we wouldn't have been able to get this done," Britton said. "He really stepped up. The entire Welding Department did an awesome job."

The project began early in the fall semester with the poles finished in January. Once completed, Britton's players assisted with setting the poles, pouring concrete and stringing the netting and cables.

"It's awesome that our guys took ownership of this project," Britton said. "It's just representative of the hard working, blue-collar mentality of the guys in our program. We asked for their help, and they delivered. It's part of our mindset — if something needs done, let's find a way to do it."

The project was funded through a \$6,528.16 OCC Foundation mini grant used to purchase the metal pipes and concrete and an \$18,000 grant from the Johnsie Flock Fildes Foundation in Olney.

"It is really awesome when you go to people with an idea, and they trust you're going to do what you say," Britton said. "It's humbling. I'm thankful to everyone who helped us."

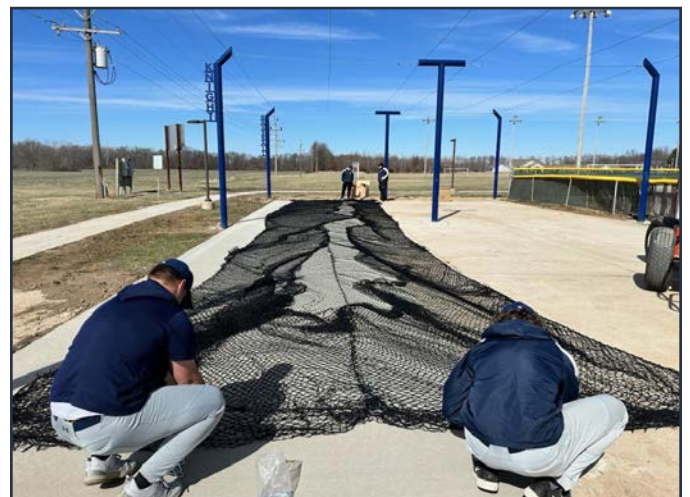
Britton said the financial donations along with the volunteer work of players and welding students were essential.

"If we had hired someone else to put it up, it would have been a \$50,000 project," Britton said. "We were able to do the work ourselves for \$24,000. I have to give our guys a ton of credit. They put in a lot of work getting this together."

Britton also credits Doll's Concrete for their assistance along with OCC President Chris Simpson, Business Director Doug Shipman and the OCC Maintenance Department.

Britton is eyeing other improvements to Dennis Conley Field.

"I'm hoping to knock out a project a year," he said. "The fencing needs replaced and we need a new press box and club house. I'm going to try and figure out a way to make that happen in the near future."





Jorri VanDyke
seated as Student Trustee
Olney Central College freshman Jorri VanDyke was seated as the new Student Trustee for Illinois Eastern Community Colleges during the Board of Trustees meeting on April 16.



High 5 Fridays

OCC hosted High 5 Fridays at Richland County Elementary, St. Joseph and Full Armour schools. Participating were faculty, staff, students and the baseball team.



Linda Horn Retiring

Linda Horn is retiring after 25 years at OCC. She was honored during a reception on April 22. Horn serves as the Allied Health Program Advisor. Her last day will be June 30.



Programs asking students to register for classes by July 15

Olney Central College's Cosmetology, Nail Technology and Massage Therapy programs are accepting new students for Fall 2024.

As enrollment is limited, students are asked to apply and register for classes by July 15 to reserve their spots.

This is especially important for Massage Therapy students as entry-level classes will not be offered again until 2026.

For more information or to meet with an advisor, contact Student Services at 618-395-7777.

To learn more about the programs, visit the IECC website at www.iecc.edu/occ.

Summer registration underway

Summer registration is ongoing.

Schedules are available at www.iecc.edu/schedules. Classes start Monday, June 3.

For more information, call 618-395-7777.

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

YOUTH CAMP

GIRLS
JUNE 15 - 17 • 8AM - 2PM • (DROP OFF TIME 7:30AM)

BOYS
JUNE 18 - 20 • 8AM - 2PM • (DROP OFF TIME 7:30AM)

COST: \$100

AGES: ENTERING 1ST GRADE - ENTERING 10TH GRADE

CONTACT JOEL LEDVINA AT 517-861-7587 OR VIA EMAIL AT LEDVINAJ@IECC.EDU