

KNIGHTLINE

Olney Central College



September 2018

Upcoming Events

September

17 Constitution Day, Classes in Session

October

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

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

8 College Closed, Columbus Day

9 Cellisimo, Southeastern Illinois Concert Assoc., OCC Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

College Visits

Tables will be located outside Student Services.

Sept. 13 & 24 Franklin University, Representative Nicole Jackson, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sept. 17 Eastern Illinois University, Representative Cecilia Yoakum, 9 am.-1 p.m.

Sept. 18 Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sept. 26 Greenville University, Representative Sarah Wilson, 8 a.m.-noon

Oct. 29 Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Representative Regiere Lovett, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

OCC No. 1 community college in Illinois

Olney Central College once again has been ranked the No. 1 Community College in Illinois by the career and education website Schools.com.

The 48 schools in the Illinois Community College System were ranked on multiple factors related to educational opportunity, student performance and student services. Colleges were scored on a 10-point scale based on the percentage of students enrolled in distance education, cost of attendance, student-to-faculty ratio, graduation rate, transfer rate to a senior institution and a flexibility score derived from National Center for Education Statistics data.

According to Schools.com, "The best community colleges in Illinois share a common trait in that they strive to make higher education accessible and affordable to all."

This is the second time Olney Central College has topped the annual list since first reaching the No. 1 spot in 2016. OCC also has been recognized nationally as an Aspen Prize Top 150 U.S. Community College since 2011.



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Technology initiative brings iPads into classroom

A new technology initiative is putting iPads into the hands of nursing and radiography students in the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District.

Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Theresa Marcotte said 130 Level 1 nursing students attending IECC's four colleges, Frontier Community in Fairfield, Lincoln Trail in Robinson, Olney Central in Olney and Wabash Valley in Mt. Carmel will be utilizing iPad technology in the program. OCC's 16 first-year radiography students will also be utilizing iPads in the Radiography Program.

"The faculty has done a great job at learning the system and working with the students," Marcotte said. "The feedback we are getting from the students has been very positive."

The introduction of iPads into the classroom is the culmination of a nearly two-year project, which evolved from the strategic plan and self study the nursing program compiled in preparation for its most recent accreditation visit. In advance of the changeover, faculty and staff began utilizing iPads, which were purchased with three different grants, a year ago. In July, Marcotte and six faculty members attended the University of Cincinnati's iCoN Summer Institute: Leveraging iPads to Innovate Education.



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Apprenticeship Program featured in national publication

Olney Central College's Industrial Maintenance Technology Program recently received national exposure as its apprenticeship program was highlighted in an industry-wide publication.

An article in the July/August edition of *Lift and Access* explores the need and challenges of developing skilled labor for the industry served by the aerial and access equipment market. Among those quoted is Kevin Lewton, general manager for RWCI Equipment Sales in Flora. In the article, Lewton touts the benefits of partnering with the IMT Program to provide training for company technicians.

"It is good to have a little light shined on what we are doing," said IMT Instructor Logan Marshall. "We are trying to build up the local workforce and by that help local employers. We started working with RWCI to develop an apprenticeship for their technicians and it has grown to encompass employers in the surrounding counties."

OCC launched its Mechatronics Technician Apprenticeship in January. The program is designed to help fill the skills gap for new technicians through a combination of classroom and on-the-job learning. Participants are hired by and work for partner companies while attending classes at OCC.

"We were the first community college in Southern Illinois to have a Department of Labor-approved apprenticeship,"



Marshall added.

The program currently includes Hella Electronics Corporation in Flora and Fair-Rite Products Corporation in Flat Rock. Marshall anticipates adding more companies in the future.

"We are in the process of re-designing how the classes meet in the spring to incorporate more employers and all shifts so this great opportunity is available to everyone," he said. "Scheduling has been one of the biggest hurdles in getting students in the program.

This spring we will offer an open lab concept where participants can schedule a time to come in. We had several businesses interested in the program, but they couldn't commit because of scheduling conflicts. This will better meet the needs of the workers and employers."

As of October, six students will be enrolled in the apprenticeship, which enables employees to "earn and learn" while pursuing an Industrial Maintenance Technology Degree.

"There is a huge skills gap everywhere," Marshall said. "In Illinois, it is particularly hard to find talented technicians and keep them here. Businesses need technicians with expertise and it has been difficult to find them. The apprenticeship provides a way to invest in employees while building up the company. It is good for both the employee and the employer."

Former student featured in magazine

Former OCC student Alexandre Quenouille was featured in the current issue of *Elite Living Africa*.

Quenouille is an associate at Trialys, an international business law firm with offices in Luxembourg and Brussels. An international business lawyer registered with the Luxembourg, Paris and New York bars, Quenouille practices as a transaction lawyer assisting high net worth individuals and companies to set up and manage business in Luxembourg.

Instructor Kristi Urfer said Quenouille studied business as an international student at OCC roughly six years ago.

The article may be viewed in its entirety at www.elitelivingafrica.com/lifestyle/luxembourg-building-bridges-with-africa.



Sports Schedule

- Sept. 14** – OCC at Grand Park, 12:30 & 3 p.m.
- Sept. 15** – OCC at Busch Stadium, 5 p.m.
- Sept. 20** – OCC vs. Vincennes, 2 p.m. at home
- Sept. 22** – OCC at Kentucky Wesleyan, noon
- Sept. 23** – OCC at Southern Illinois, 1 p.m.
- Sept. 26** – OCC at University of Southern Indiana, 5 p.m.

Softball

- Sept. 15** – OCC at Boonville Tournament, TBA
- Sept. 22** – OCC at Harrisburg, vs. Southeastern Illinois & Shawnee, TBA
- Sept. 23** – OCC at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, noon
- Sept. 29** – OCC at Southeast Missouri State, TBA

Jessica McDonald new Speech Instructor

Jessica McDonald has joined Olney Central College as a speech instructor.

While new to OCC's classroom, McDonald is a familiar face in the OCC Theatre having first appeared as a third-grader in the 1998 production of "The King and I." This spring she will direct "The Wizard of Oz."

McDonald earned her bachelor's degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, where she studied communication and culture with a minor in marketing. She received a master's degree from Eastern Illinois University's Communication Studies Department.

McDonald has enjoyed a diverse work experience, which includes not only teaching speech classes at EIU, but also stints in radio, sales, marketing and customer service. McDonald most recently served as communications coordinator for the CANDLES Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute, Ind. She will continue assisting, on a part-time basis, overseeing larger projects and branding.



McDonald is excited about working with students at OCC and hopes to instill confidence in them while tackling a subject many people fear.

"I'm that rare person who likes public speaking," McDonald said. "I really like the subject field and how communication works. I want to share that with other people. I hope the students will walk away from the class and at least like it slightly more."

In addition to speech courses, McDonald is teaching choral classes and directing the OCC Concert Choir this fall.

"All of the faculty and staff have been helpful and friendly," McDonald added. "I've felt very welcomed."

McDonald and her husband, Derek, reside in Olney. She is a member of the Richland County Recreation Council and 100 + Women Who Care Richland County, a group of philanthropic women dedicated to making a positive impact on Richland County.

OCC Theatre kicks off fund-raising campaign

The Olney Central College Theatre kicked off a three-year fund-raising campaign for the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center last month with its performance of "Curtain Call — A Musical Revue of OCC Theatre."

The show featured more than 50 people who have appeared in productions spanning the theatre's 40-year history. Proceeds from the event will aid in reaching the \$50,000 fund-raising goal.

"Certain areas of the theatre are very up to date, but there are other areas where we are using obsolete equipment," said OCC Theatre Director Jon Wright. "We want our shows to be as magical as possible for our audience. We work extremely hard to accomplish that goal, but some of our current equipment doesn't allow us to do that."

The facility lacks video or sound monitors backstage, which makes it difficult for performers to follow the show and the new lighting control panel isn't fully compatible with the building's older lighting system.

Plans are already being made to add a dual projection system this spring. Audiences will get their first peek at it during the spring production of "The Wizard of Oz."

"Due to the stage constraints of the theatre, there are times backdrops and sets are very difficult," Wright said. "This will allow us to enter the digital world and will make for a better audience experience."

Wright stressed the improvements will benefit not only the OCC Theatre, but the OCC Band and Choir, Olney Arts Council activities, the Southeastern Illinois Concert Association and area dance studios, which utilize the performing arts center.

"OCC and the OCC Foundation have been wonderful to us, but we are now looking to the community for support," Wright said. "We will be doing several fund-raisers similar to the Red Skelton salute, which was outstanding. We raised several thousands of dollars through the show. Over the next three years, we will be out in the community asking for donations and sponsorships to make our goal a reality."



Courtney Meadows new Director of Cosmetology

Courtney Meadows has been named the new Director for Olney Central College's School of Cosmetology.

A 2008 graduate of the program, Meadows has served as its assistant director for the past two years and was previously an instructor and lab assistant. Meadows worked in area salons for seven years and obtained her cosmetology instructor's license in 2012.



Friday at the West Richland Center in Noble.

"We hope increasing the number of days we are open will allow more people to come in and give the students additional clients to work with," Meadows said. "We want them to gain as much experience as possible. We hope OCC students and the community will take advantage of our services."

Cosmetology is a growing

"I love cosmetology and telling people about it," Meadows said. "I love teaching and I'm looking forward to growing the program and incorporating new technologies to enhance student learning. OCC already has a great program and I want to see it become even more successful."

Planned changes include incorporating tablets and eBooks into the curriculum through Mindtap, a personalized program of digital products and services.

Meadows also is expanding clinical hours. Beginning this semester, services will be offered from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on

field perfect for those who want to express their creativity, Meadows said. More than 60 different career opportunities are available to licensed cosmetologists. Graduates can even choose to operate their own businesses.

The OCC Cosmetology Program takes less than 12 months to complete and new students can begin working toward their certificates in January.

"I encourage those interested in the program to enroll for the upcoming semester," Meadows said. "Our program is affordable and you get a top-notch education."

To learn more about the program, contact Meadows at 395-1169.

Check your email for PTK invitation

OCC students, be sure to check your email. Invitations have been sent to join Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges.

In order to qualify for membership, students must have completed at least 12 credit hours, have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, and be seeking a degree.

Once in PTK, students can take part in various service projects and fund-raisers. Each year members have an opportunity to attend the annual PTK conference.

For more information, contact Advisors Amie Mayhall at mayhalla@iecc.edu or Shasta Bennett at bennetts@iecc.edu.



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

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"I'm excited OCC is being celebrated again for providing a quality and affordable education to the residents of the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District," said OCC President Rodney Raney. "As stated before, the college wouldn't be successful without the stellar faculty and Student Services staff who strive to provide excellent experiences for our students."

Another IECC school, Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, also made the list at No. 2.

"While this list celebrates OCC and LTC, we wouldn't be able to provide a quality education without the cooperation and work of all four colleges and the district administration and staff," Raney added. "Our ability to work together as a district is one of our greatest strengths."

Visit www.schools.com/community-colleges/top-community-colleges-in-illinois to view the complete rankings.

Baseball Exposure Showcase

Olney Central College will host a Baseball Exposure Showcase on Saturday, Oct. 6 at OCC's Dennis Conley Field.

The showcase is structured to expose players to multiple college recruiters. Position players will be evaluated on foot speed, throwing accuracy/arm strength, fielding ability and hitting skills. Pitchers will be evaluated on arm strength, control, secondary pitches and make-up.

Registration is at 9:30 a.m. for position players and noon for pitchers only.

The cost is \$60 for one session or \$90 for position players who want to pitch as well. Registration forms are available at www.iecc.edu/occ and must be returned by Friday, Oct. 5. Late registrations will be accepted the day of the showcase with an additional \$10 charge.

For more information or to register, call Coach Dennis Conley at 395-7777, ext. 2131, or 843-0333. You also may contact him by email at conleyd@iecc.edu. Rain date is Oct. 7.

Lost and Found

If you have lost an item, please check with Student Services.

Keep vehicles locked

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

“It was great training for us,” Marcotte said. “The conference helped us learn to use the technology and become more familiar with it. It also validated some of the things we are doing right.”

Marcotte said the iPads’ introduction into the classroom brings the programs in line with evolving technology in the health care industry.

“Nursing has become highly technical,” Marcotte said. “Go to the hospital and everyone has a computer. They are used for electronic charting and programming biomedical devices. The licensure exams our students take are on computers. As students transition to practice, we want to make sure they are ready and evidence shows incorporating technology is the way to go.”

Students will use the iPads for classroom work, campus labs and homework assignments. Students will also take course exams on the devices and even access electronic textbooks on their iPads.

“One of the things we are most excited about is the student option eBook,” Marcotte said. “With the textbook companies, we were able to reduce textbook expenses to help offset the cost of the iPads for students.”

Students can access textbooks through an iPad app, allowing them to easily search chapters and keywords. Students can even bookmark and highlight important material.

“It is nice because you can review something later and it is much easier than remembering page numbers,” said nursing student Brittany Kimmel, of Olney.

She also likes the practice quizzes students can take with the textbooks.

“You can pick topics and if you miss a question, it will tell you what the correct answer is instead of just telling you the answer is wrong,” she said.

Kimmel said the apps are easy to use and she especially likes Quizlet, which enables her to make study tools including flash cards.

“I just love the iPad,” Kimmel said. “It is the easiest way to keep track of things without having to carry around a bunch of papers or books.”

Nursing student Miranda Harmon, of Noble, agrees.

“The iPad saves you from having to carry all of the required



textbooks,” she said. “I like that it is easier to organize things and share information with other students. It also makes it easier to study. I can take the iPad anywhere instead of lugging a suitcase full of books.”

In addition to the iPads, Smart TVs were purchased with an Illinois Board of Higher Education grant and installed in the classrooms over the summer. Apple TV devices are used in conjunction with the iPads to display PowerPoints and classroom projects on the TVs.

“We can give the students a case study and they can make conclusions and share the information on the TVs using their iPads,” Marcotte said. “It will be great for class discussions and to facilitate collaboration, skills they will need as they transition to practice.”

Marcotte said numerous individuals helped ensure the technology initiative was in place this fall.

“It took a tremendous effort on everyone’s part from the presidents, deans, O & M and District Office. The Information Technology folks have been fantastic. The scope of the project was massive,” Marcotte said. “Faculty provided the push to innovate with technology and have really dug in to work with it. Even our Program Advisors are utilizing iPads in recruiting and other areas of their jobs. I’m blessed with the people I get to work with.”

Register now for OCC Concealed Carry Class Oct. 25-27

Individuals interested in obtaining an Illinois Concealed Carry permit are encouraged to enroll in an upcoming course at Olney Central College.

The Concealed Carry class provides 16 hours of required firearms training, including classroom and range instruction.

During the course, participants will receive instruction on how to safely handle a handgun while honing their marksman

skills. They also will learn how to survive a real-world encounter and to maintain the proper mindset, skills and abilities that come with “bearing arms” for the purpose of self-defense. The course is designed for both the beginner and experienced shooter.

The class will meet from 6 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 25 and Friday, Oct. 26 at OCC. On Saturday, Oct. 27, the class

will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Olney Gun Range.

Tuition and fees for the class are \$180 for residents of the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District, and must be paid in advance to reserve a seat in the course. Tuition is waived for residents of the IECC District who are age 60 and older, but course fees must be paid. To register, call 395-7777.