

# Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



JANUARY 2023

## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

9 - Spring Classes Begin

9 - Last Day to Pay Spring Semester Tuition & Fees

12 - Last Day to Enroll in Spring Semester Tuition Payment (4) Plan

16 - College Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

17-18 - OCC Theater Auditions for 'Cinderella', 7 p.m., Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center

### FEBRUARY

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

6 - Southeastern Illinois Concert Association, Seraph Brass, 7 p.m., Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center

20 - College Closed - President's Day

## OCC Bookstore Spring Hours

January 9-12  
7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

January 13  
7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

January 17-May 5  
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

January 23

Last day for Spring returns

## Applicants sought for OCC's new Student Ambassadors program

Olney Central College is looking for students to promote OCC, assist with recruiting and engage in campus events through its new Student Ambassadors program.

Both current and incoming students can apply by downloading the application on the OCC scholarship page at [www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships](http://www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships). Applications will be accepted through March 3.

Three ambassadors will be selected for the 2023-2024 academic year, with each receiving a one-year full-tuition scholarship.

"I am excited and looking forward to putting together a team and promoting OCC using our own students," said College Admissions Representative Curtis Miller, who will oversee the program. "I think it's important to include current students in the recruiting process and provide opportunities for them to connect with prospective students."

Responsibilities will include participating in new student orientation and first-year experience activities, providing campus tours to prospective students and their families, and assisting with a variety of office-related tasks. Students also will act as valuable sources of information and liaisons between students, staff and faculty.

Miller said participants will benefit in numerous ways.

"Along with the full-tuition scholarship, the Student Ambassadors will have a whole year to gain hands-on skills in the areas of leadership and communication. These are all skills that will look good on a resume," he added.



## Auditions for 'Cinderella' January 17-18

Olney Central College Theater is holding auditions for the spring musical *Cinderella* at 7 p.m. on January 17-18 at the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

OCC Theater will perform the "Enchanted Edition" of *Cinderella*. 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.

Auditions are open to anyone in high school or older in Olney and surrounding counties. No experience is required. Visit <https://www.iecc.edu/occ/community/olney-central-college-theater/audition-information> for audition materials, FAQs, and audition tips. Performances are March 24-26 and March 30-April 2.





## PTK and SNA make Christmas brighter for area family

OCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter and the Student Nurses Association teamed up to adopt a local family for Christmas. The organizations began collecting donations in mid-November for the mother and her two young sons.

PTK Advisor Kaitlyn Weger and PTK member Jiazhen

"Cookie" Zerrusen wrapped the gifts and helped deliver them with SNA Advisor Anne Hustad.

"The mom was very excited and super thankful for us adopting her and her two children for Christmas," Weger added.

## Phi Theta Kappa hosts induction ceremony

Olney Central College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter held its new member induction ceremony on December 6.

Students inducted into the Alpha Theta Eta Chapter of the honor society include:

Kevin Hyder of Cisne, Madison Cherry of Cowden, Sara Roark of Dundas, Maxwell Puckett of Fairfield, Jayden Weidner of Ingham, Chantel Welker of Mt. Carmel, Casey Stallard of Noble, Maggie Payne of Sumner, Stephanie Brinson of Willow Hill, and Tyrus Johnson of Denton, Texas.

Also, Addison Cowger and Hannah Moore, both of Albion, Anden Cartright and Elaina Kessler, both of Clay City, Jenifer Mason and Elisha Scoles, both of Flora, Lily Bierman, Lexi Sowers and Nolan Stanford, all of Newton, and Callie Barbee, Joan Mari Biyok, Isabelle Conn, Zachary Duenas, Bentley Farris, Autumn Hubble, Kaitlyn Kerr, Joshua Kuhns, Jessica Martin, Rebecca McDonald, Natalia Mendoza Salcedo and Carlene Weiler, all of Olney.



**Olney Central College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter held its new member induction ceremony on December 6. Those inducted into the international honor society include front row, from left, Carlene Weiler, Autumn Hubble, Addison Cowger and Madison Cherry; and back row, Elisha Scoles, Kevin Hyder, Jessie Martin, Jayden Weidner and Tyrus Johnson.**

# Phi Theta Kappa welcomes new advisors

Academic Advisor Brandi Rich-Beard and Assistant Professor of Life Sciences Sarah Bergbower are serving as the new co-advisors for Olney Central College Phi Theta Kappa.

As a past PTK member, Rich-Beard is excited to be involved in the honor society again.

“I want to help students achieve their goals here at OCC and am looking forward to helping them transfer on to a university,” she said.

An OCC alum, Rich-Beard has been employed with Illinois Eastern Community Colleges since 2017. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Management and Administration from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Bergbower joined OCC as a full-time instructor in 2015. She received her associate’s degree at Lake Land College and earned a bachelor’s degree from Greenville College. She completed a master’s degree in Biology (Genetics)



from the University of Iowa and received her Medical Laboratory Science Certification from St. John’s Hospital School of Clinical Laboratory Science in Springfield.

Rich-Beard encourages current members to join the PTK Club and participate in spring activities.

Students should check their emails for upcoming invitations to join PTK. To qualify for membership, students must have completed at least 12 hours of coursework that may be applied to a certificate or associate degree (part-time students may be eligible) and have a 3.5 grade point average.

Once in PTK, students can take part in various service projects and fund-raisers.

“Being a member of an honor society is a privilege that not all students get, it looks good on a resume and it opens the door to PTK members-only scholarships,” Rich-Beard said.

If you have questions about Phi Theta Kappa, please contact Rich-Beard at beardb3@iecc.edu or Bergbower at bergbowers@iecc.edu.

## *Wanda Douglas retires as nursing instructor*

Wanda Douglas was honored at the Nursing Christmas Luncheon on December 14.

Douglas officially retired on January 1 after working for 11 years with the IECC/OCC Associate Degree Nursing Program. She served as a nursing instructor at Frontier Community College.

Douglas graduated from the Olney Central College Associate Degree Nursing Program in 1973. She has had a long and distinguished career in nursing.

She earned a baccalaureate degree from Texas Tech University Health Science Center at Odessa, a master’s degree in nursing from the University of Texas at Arlington and completed 30 semester hours toward a doctorate in nursing at Louisiana State University Medical Center in New Orleans.

During her extensive career, Douglas worked at hospitals in Illinois, Missouri, Texas and Louisiana in various capacities including nurse recruiter, clinical director and director of emergency services. Douglas was executive director for the Louisiana State Nurses Association from 1994 to 1998 and Director of Education for the Texas Nurses Association from 1998 to 2006.

We wish her a great retirement!



**Wanda Douglas, left, was honored for her service during the IECC/OCC Nursing Program Christmas Luncheon. She is pictured with Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Alani Frederick.**



## Students enjoy activities as semester wraps up

OCC students ended the fall semester participating in a variety of activities before final exams. OCC Active Minds set up a Christmas Cookie decorating station in the Student Union. Students could choose their favorite frosting and holiday sprinkles. Professor David Denton and his students made waffles, providing a free breakfast for the OCC community.



ANNUAL & SPRING 2023  
OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION

# SCHOLARSHIPS

**APPLY NOW!**



SCAN THE QR CODE  
OR VISIT

[www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships](http://www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships)



## Radiography Club adopts family for Christmas

Second-year Radiography Club students at OCC adopted a family in need for Christmas through Good Samaritan of Richland County.

The students purchased, wrapped, and delivered the gifts before taking their finals in December.



**THE EDUCATIONAL PAYCHECK  
IS BACK**



USE THE QR CODE  
OR VISIT [iecc.edu/edcheck](http://iecc.edu/edcheck)  
TO APPLY

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 20, 2023





## IECC Nursing Program unveils Sim Mom during community event at FCC

Illinois Eastern Community College's Nursing Program held a community event on December 13 at Frontier Community College to unveil its newest simulator, Sim Mom.

Sim Mom is an advanced, full-body simulator with realistic delivery and was purchased with funds from the PATH Grant.

The Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce Program (PATH) Grant was awarded to IECC to create, support, and expand the opportunities of individuals in the nursing pathway and select healthcare pathways to obtain credentials and degrees that allow them to enter and/or advance their careers in the healthcare industry.

During the event, community members, agency partners, and current nursing students were able to tour the nursing facilities and observe nursing faculty run a training simulation as the Sim Mom gave birth. More information about the event including a video of the presentation is located on Facebook at [Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Nursing Program](#).



# Sports Schedule

## Men's Basketball

**Jan. 11** — OCC at Southwestern Illinois, 7 p.m.

**Jan. 14** — OCC vs. Wabash Valley, 3 p.m. at home

**Jan. 16** — OCC at Kaskaskia, 7 p.m.

**Jan. 18** — OCC vs. Lewis & Clark, 7 p.m. at home

**Jan. 25** — OCC at Shawnee, 7 p.m.

**Jan. 28** — OCC at Vincennes, 6 p.m.

**Feb. 1** — OCC vs. John A. Logan, 7 p.m. at home

**Feb. 4** — OCC at Lake Land, 3 p.m.

**Feb. 11** — OCC vs. Rend Lake, 3 p.m. at home

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

## Women's Basketball

**Jan. 11** — OCC at Southwestern Illinois, 5 p.m.

**Jan. 14** — OCC vs. Wabash Valley, 1 p.m. at home

**Jan. 16** — OCC at Kaskaskia, 5 p.m.

**Jan. 25** — OCC at Shawnee, 5 p.m.

**Jan. 28** — OCC at Vincennes, 4 p.m.

**Jan. 30** — OCC at Danville, 6 p.m.

**Feb. 1** — OCC vs. John A. Logan, 5 p.m. at home

**Feb. 8** — OCC vs. Lincoln Trail, 5 p.m. at home

**Feb. 11** — OCC vs. Rend Lake 1 p.m. at home

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

# Lost & Found

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

JANUARY

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a great start to the new year! The break allowed us to refresh OCC and take care of a couple of important maintenance items.

As the new semester (and year) begins, we welcome students back to campus after a productive week for faculty and staff preparing for the beginning of another opportunity to meet our mission.

This semester we are going to pilot a couple of synchronous courses using our recently installed, state of the art, synchronous classroom. The room is located on the first floor of Wattleworth Hall (Room 109). Jessica McDonald will teach Speech to OCC students while also teaching Speech to a classroom of dual credit students at Clay City. In addition, new IECC Spanish Instructor Elaine Hasty will teach Spanish to students at OCC and students at Grayville High School. The equipment has been tested and everyone is excited about the potential this technology might provide to connect our campuses with each other, and high schools live. These two pilot courses will provide us with very good insights as to how this system works. For now, we are excited about the potential. Later this spring, we will look for additional opportunities to expand this network. Fifteen of the high schools within the IECC District are equipped with a synchronous classroom. All four IECC campuses have synchronous capability as well.

The first semester was a productive one on many fronts. Several important maintenance projects were completed. We have an aggressive list of additional projects that we hope to tackle in the spring and are appreciative of the funding that has been made available for these projects to move forward. In addition, an enrollment increase, although slight, was welcomed news. The efforts of our staff and enrollment management team members have been critical to this success. I expect these efforts to yield additional positive results moving forward.

Finally, I wanted to also report that the OCC Foundation has received over \$20,000 in just a few weeks from the Campaign For Excellence fundraising effort. There is still time to contribute. Last fall, the OCC Foundation approved over \$30,000 in mini grants to support various programs at OCC. If you would like to contribute, contact Beth Miller at [millerb1@iecc.edu](mailto:millerb1@iecc.edu). Any donation would be most welcome.



**Roger Eddy**