

KNIGHTLINE

Olney Central College



August 2019

Upcoming Events

August

15 Fall Semester Classes Begin

28 Last Day for 100 Percent Refund of 16-week Fall Semester Classes

28 Last Day for Fall Semester Textbook Refunds

30 Red Cross Blood Drive, Student Union

September

2 College Closed – Labor Day

17 Constitution Day – Classes in Session

College Visits

Tables will be located outside Student Services.

Sept. 9 Eastern Illinois University Representative Brianna Schmidt, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Oct. 2 Millikin University Representative Mackenzie Larrick, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Bookstore Reminders

The OCC Bookstore reminds students to bring their schedules for faster service. Also, the last day to return fall textbooks is Aug. 28.

Fall Buyback will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 9-11 and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 12.

Changes in advising to benefit students

Students returning to Olney Central College will find changes in Student Services designed to enhance the new online registration process beginning this fall.

Title III Project Director Stephanie Nuttall said work this summer included installation of a new reception desk and the creation of an online registration area with three computer terminals.

“Beginning with spring registration in October, students will be able to come in, sit down and register online for their classes,” Nuttall said. “The area is set up so students can receive support during the registration process.”

The changes are being implemented through the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Title III Block Grant, which includes streamlining the college’s advisement process among its objectives. The move to self-registration will enable advisors to take a more proactive approach in assisting students.

“Appointments with their advisors will focus more on how the students are progressing rather than registering them for classes,” Nuttall said.

Title III Advising Specialist Ashley Bigard has been working with advisors to prepare for the changes. She will be available to assist students during the initial registration process.

As part of the new proactive advising efforts, students also will begin receiving text messages from the advising department starting this month.

Students will receive texts alerting them of registration dates and reminding them to schedule appointments to meet with their advisors. Students also will be able to reply with questions and in many instances receive replies after regular business hours. Students can use the service not just at registration time, but throughout the semester.

“I’m hoping it will be very beneficial for the students,” Nuttall added.

Earlier this summer, Nuttall and Bigard also attended the OnCourse Engaging and Empowering Learners Workshop in Menlo Park, Calif.

The Title III program is supported in part by a five-year grant awarded to Olney Central College from the U.S. Department of Education effective October 1, 2018. The estimated total cost for all project activities is \$2,506,775 financed by the grant award of \$2,249,968 (90%) and \$256,807 (10%) by Olney Central College. Grant initiatives include streamlining the college’s advisement process, redesigning the Information Systems Technology and Welding programs and developing a Drone Technology Program.

Nuttall said other grant initiatives are moving forward as well. Renovations have been completed on the Information Systems Technology Classroom at the West Richland Center in Noble and new equipment installed for the state-of-the-art lab.

“We have gotten a lot accomplished and are seeing the finished product,” Nuttall added.

Positions also are being advertised for a Drone Technology Specialist and Welding Specialist.



Title III Project Director Stephanie Nuttall is pictured at the new online registration area in Student Services.

Rob Mason attends PICUP Faculty Development Workshop

Olney Central College Professor Rob Mason attended a weeklong professional development workshop last month hosted by the Partnership for Integration of Computation Into Undergraduate Physics (PICUP).

Held at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls, the PICUP Faculty Development Workshop assisted educators in developing a plan for integrating computation into undergraduate physics courses through the use of material software, Microsoft Excel, and the program language, Python.

“We spent the first couple of days becoming better acquainted with the programs and spent the rest of the week developing an exercise we would use in class,” Mason said.

Excel and Python are ideal for classroom work because both are easy for students to pick up, Mason said. In addition, Python is extremely powerful and can be downloaded for free.

PICUP, an informal organization created by retired physicists Norman Chonacky and David Winch, is dedicated to creating a vibrant community of educators, a forum for open discussion, a collection of educational resources and a set of strategies and tactics that support the development and improvement of undergraduate physics education through integration of computation across the curriculum.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, the conference drew physics and astronomy educators from both two- and four-year institutions. The event enabled professors from the United States, Canada and even Norway to collaborate on



projects.

Computational physics, which incorporates the use of computer software in research and problem solving, is gaining importance in the field as it enables students to tackle more complex problems while gaining a better understanding of difficult concepts.

Over the next decade, Mason said the ability

to program areas of physics and engineering will be as important to students as their expertise in the subject. He noted both the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Physical Society are encouraging educators to prepare students for this shift by including more computational activities along with analytic theory and experiment.

“Graduates in all fields are getting hired not based on their degrees, but on their skills in computation,” Mason added.

Mason is looking forward to incorporating Microsoft Excel and Python into the classroom.

“The technology we are using will give students a preview of things they will be doing at a university,” he added. “It is hard to go into any of the science fields without doing some programming. This will allow us to expose our students to cutting-edge trends in science without placing a burdensome cost on the college since we can use existing resources.”

This is the second PICUP conference Mason has attended. Last year he participated in the Greater Chicagoland PICUP Computational Physics Workshop at Lewis University in Romeoville.

ALERTS

IECC ALERTS

The IECC Alerts System notifies students and employees of campus emergencies and closures by email and text message

SIGN UP FOR IECC ALERTS THROUGH ENTRATA

Already signed up? Check to make sure your contact information is current

Baseball

Aug. 17 — OCC at Indiana State, 10 a.m.

Sept. 7 — OCC at Brescia, 1 p.m.

Sept. 15 — OCC at Busch Stadium, 5 p.m.

Sept. 20 — OCC at GRAC Showcase, 5:30 & 8 p.m.

Softball

Aug. 31 — OCC at Rend Lake, TBA

Sept. 7 — OCC at Wabash Valley, TBA

Sept. 21 — OCC at IUPUI, TBA

Three attend Appreciative Advising Institute

Assistant Dean of Student Services Andi Pampe, Title III Advising Specialist Ashley Bigard and TRIO Support Specialist Kristie Kolb attended the Appreciative Advising Institute, July 21-24, at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Information gained from the conference will aid in efforts to streamline the college's advisement process, which is one of the initiatives of the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Title III Block Grant. The training was funded through Title III.



"The Appreciative Advising Institute was a highly interactive, action-packed week full of practical suggestions for translating the theory of Appreciate Advising into practice," Bigard said. "We better understand the necessity for each of the six phases of Appreciate Advising."

The six phases focus on various aspects of advising and include:

- Disarm — Recognizing the importance of first impressions and the need for creating a safe, welcoming environment for students.
- Discover — Utilizing positive open-ended questions to reveal students' interests, strengths and passions while listening to each answer carefully before asking the next positive questions.
- Dream — Helping students formulate a vision of what they might become, and then assisting them in developing their life and career goals.
- Design — Helping students devise concrete, incremental, and achievable goals.
- Deliver — Aiding students as they follow through on their plans. The advisor is there for students when they stumble, believing in them every step of the way and helping them continue to update and refine their dreams as they go.
- Don't Settle — The advisor challenges students to proactively raise the internal bar of self-expectations.

"By utilizing the six phases of Appreciative Advising and making small, thoughtful changes, we have the potential to change the lives of our students, one day at a time," Bigard said. "We spoke to many individuals who have adopted the Appreciative Advising framework. These individuals worked in various positions at their colleges, but they each had something in common. By adopting the Appreciative Advising framework, they did not only report improved effectiveness as advisors, but they had stronger connections with their advisees and saw a positive impact on their relationships with co-workers, children, spouses, and friends."

Pampe is excited about implementing Appreciate Advising at OCC.

"The conference was a wonderful experience that I am thrilled to share with the Student Services staff in order to give our students the best experience possible while at OCC," she said. "I appreciate the opportunities that the Title III Grant has given us to improve the lives of our students and staff."

Kolb added, "The Appreciative Advising Institute was very informative. I can't wait to utilize the tools and resources in my own advising appointments."

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Check email for invitations to join PTK

OCC students, check your email! Invitations are being 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.

Community Choir starts Aug. 20

The OCC Community Choir is excited to announce its ninth season.

The choir will begin rehearsals at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 20 in the OCC Choir/Band Room 216 on the second floor. Anyone high school age or older is welcome to join, regardless of experience.

To register, call 618-395-7777. The choir is under the direction of OCC Director of Choral Activities Dr. Andrew Pittman.

Lost and Found

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

Students participating in apprenticeship program

North American Lighting, Inc. (NAL) held its second annual apprentice signing ceremony to recognize four new apprentices enrolled in the NAL Technical Apprenticeship program, sponsored by the Industry Consortium for Advanced Technical Training (ICATT).

Among those honored were Kyle Dowty and Russell Hilliard, who will work at the Flora facility while obtaining their associate degrees from OCC.

The ceremony was dedicated to publicly celebrating the students' momentous step in their future career. One by one each apprentice excitedly signed an official offer letter and put on an NAL ball cap declaring their commitment to the ICATT sponsored NAL Technical Apprenticeship. Supporting onlookers included NAL company officials, OCC Industrial Maintenance Technology Instructor Logan Marshall, ICATT representatives, and students' family members.

Joshua Seeberg, ICATT Apprenticeship Program Manager, and Doris Bawa, Client Relationship Manager, joined NAL in celebrating the new apprentices at the signing ceremony. Seeberg encouraged the students in their next endeavor, combining company-specific knowledge and theory with hands-on learning, a German-based dual education system from which the ICATT program derives.

Second year apprentice Chad Morris from NAL's Salem facility was also present to show his support of the new apprentices and congratulate them on their career decision.

"Going back to college at the age of 30 wasn't something I ever imagined," Morris said. "Although excited to start this journey, I was a little nervous about the time management of balancing work and school. After my first year, I can say this is not a worry due to the NAL support system. Not having to worry about student loans and having a set career path is also a big stress reliever."

Mike Randolph, Assistant General Manager of NAL's Salem Plant, related to the apprentices how he started his career through a similar co-op program which led to his first job out of college. His experience provided a solid understanding of how the skills he studied in school could be applied in the working environment and says he developed many working relationships while in the organization.

"Today, more and more of our young people are forced to leave the area to find employment with progressive, growing companies, but as NAL products become more technologically advanced and in higher demand, we can offer local opportunities in more state-of-the-art, challenging fields," Randolph said. "Retention of skilled local talent who want to stay at home, strengthens our NAL facilities and supports our local communities."

The ICATT sponsored NAL Technical Apprenticeship is a five-year program that helps students kick-start their careers without college debt. The program is designed to prepare young people for highly skilled positions that are offered locally and train the next generation of NAL technicians.

Apprentices have the unique opportunity to earn and learn simultaneously by working three days a week for a competitive wage and attending classes at partnered colleges two days a week to complete their associate degrees in Industrial Technology.



Kyle Dowty shakes hands with OCC Industrial Maintenance Technology Instructor Logan Marshall and Mike Sullivan during NAL's apprentice signing ceremony. Dowty will be taking classes at OCC while participating in the NAL Technical Apprenticeship program.



Russell Hilliard is pictured with OCC Industrial Maintenance Technology Instructor Logan Marshall and Mike Sullivan during NAL's apprentice signing ceremony. Hilliard will be taking classes at OCC while participating in the NAL Technical Apprenticeship program.

SUMMER YOUTH EXPLORERS CAMP

Olney Central College held its second annual Summer Youth Explorers Camp July 29-Aug. 2. Sessions included The Artist Within with Heather Sandy and Fun with Physical Science with Rob Mason and Dr. Aaron Lineberry & Ew! Awesome Biology! with Chris Mathews.



Save on your Knight Kafe purchases with Meal Plans

Save money on your purchases in the Knight Kafe with the Dining Dollars Meal Plans.

The plans offer a 10 percent discount on all OCC food purchases.

During the 16-week semester, the \$855 Platinum Plan, provides an average of \$60 in Dining Dollars per week. The \$720 Gold Package, an \$800 value, provides an average of \$50 in Dining Dollars per week. The \$504 Silver Package is a \$560 value and provides an average of \$35 in Dining Dollars per week.

The \$288 Bronze Package is a \$320 value and provides an average of \$20 in Dining Dollars per week.

Dining Dollars Meal Plans are Pell eligible and can be purchased in the OCC Business office.

Dining Dollar Meal Plans are nonrefundable and can only be redeemed at the college where they are purchased. Any unused value at the end of the academic year will not carry forward.

Report lost or stolen cards to the Business Office immediately.



Dining Dollars Meal Plans
SAVE MONEY IN THE KNIGHT CAFE

Platinum Plan	\$855 – \$950 Value
Gold Plan	\$720 – \$800 Value
Silver Plan	\$504 – \$560 Value
Bronze Plan	\$288 – \$320 Value

Purchase Yours in the OCC Business Office