



The Knightline

Olney Central College Students & Employees Monthly Newsletter

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11

Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon visits OCC

Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon brought her Complete College Illinois Tour to Olney Central College on June 24.

Simon is touring each of Illinois' 48 community colleges to promote the state's goal of increasing the proportion of working-age adults with college degrees or certificates to 60 percent from 41 percent by 2025.

Simon is examining best practices at each institution and hopes to share innovations with other community colleges across the state.

"We can fix what is not working in our higher education system with what is already working in our system," Simon said. "We must learn from each other to reduce barriers to college success and create an educated workforce."

Simon said other institutions may be able to learn from Olney Central College, which was recently ranked among the top 120 community colleges nationwide by the Aspen Institute. The selection was based upon graduation and transfer rates as well as the number of low-income and minority students who completed their programs of study and if those rates improved over time.

Simon also plans to share information with state officials.

"I will be able to report to the governor and legislature what is going on at our outstanding community colleges," she said.

During her visit, Simon told faculty, staff and community leaders the state wants to assist OCC and other two-year colleges in the effort to help students make the transition between high school, the community college and four-year institutions.

"It doesn't always work as seam-



Illinois Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon talks with OCC President Rodney Ranes during her visit to the college on June 24. Simon spoke to faculty, staff and community leaders before touring the campus with Ranes.

lessly as we want it to," she added.

Simon fielded questions from the audience on a variety of issues ranging from the effectiveness of standardized testing to the shortage of nursing faculty.

Financial Aid Director Vicki Stuckey asked about funding for the Monetary Awards Program Grant and Illinois Veterans Grant Program.

"The governor is a strong advocate of MAP and has worked hard to restore what was cut out of the budget," Simon said. "He understands the value of MAP in making higher education available to everyone and not to people just of a certain income level."

Single Parent Program Coordinator Ashley Charleston told Simon one of OCC's biggest assets is the ability of faculty and staff to

establish personal relationships with the students.

"I know size has an impact on an institution," Simon said. "There is more opportunity at a smaller institution to be able to know people and to catch those who are struggling before they fail."

She added, "Community colleges are such an amazing resource for our state and are often overlooked. They open the door to a big range of possibilities for students and the community."

Simon concluded her visit by touring the campus with OCC President Rodney Ranes.

In addition to OCC, Simon visited Frontier Community College, Lincoln Trail College and Wabash Valley College, which are also part of the four-college Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District.

Register now for fall classes

Olney Central College is now enrolling students for fall semester classes.

Register now to ensure you get the classes you want. Fall semester begins Monday, Aug. 22.

Schedules may be obtained from the Student Services Office or visit the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges web site at www.iecc.edu. For registration information and appointments, contact the OCC Student Services Office at 395-7777.

Blue Knight Golf Classic

The OCC Blue Knight Golf Classic will be held Friday, July 29 at the Richland Country Club.

Registration and lunch begin at noon. Tee-off time is 1 p.m. The cost is \$70 per person.

For more information, contact Mike Burris at 395-7777 or 812-381-3569.

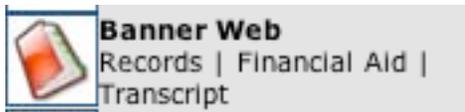


OCC Alumnus Award

OCC President Rodney Ranes, left, presents the 2011 Alumnus Award to Ron J. Keller during OCC's Commencement Ceremony on May 13. Keller, a 1989 graduate, is assistant professor of history and political science at Lincoln College as well as director-curator of the award-winning and nationally recognized Lincoln Heritage Museum in Lincoln.

ONLINE PAYMENT

Step 1: Log into your Entrata account with your username and password. Click on the Banner Web icon at the right-hand side of your screen.



Step 2: Click on Pay Tuition, Fees, and Other Charges Online — Credit Card to make your online Payment.

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If you encounter problems with making your online payment, please contact the IECC HelpDesk at 618-395-5299 or toll-free 1-866-529-4322, ext. 4357.



SAN raises \$500 for cancer society

OCC's Student Advantage Network participated in the Richland County Walk and Roll in May. Members raised \$500 for the American Cancer Society. Katelyn Haycock, far left, headed up this activity and gave generously. She is pictured with Patricia Pearce and Kelsey Schilt.

LSC offers free tutoring to students

The Learning Skills Center offers free tutoring in any subject taught at Olney Central College.

Biology I and II, Human Growth and Development, Sociology, Anatomy, Chemistry, Psychology and Introduction to Business study guides are available. Videos are available for Basic Math, Beginning Algebra and Intermediate Algebra.

If you have any special learning needs, come and see the LSC staff.

They will be glad to provide suggestions, help and/or accommodations.

The Learning Skills Center is located in the back of the Anderson Library in Conference Room 4.



Tree planting ceremony

Olney Central College held a tree planting ceremony and sustainability roundtable on May 31. The college received a \$5,000 grant through the Illinois Green Economy Network to help foster these and other green initiatives. The funds enabled OCC to purchase trees and shrubs for the campus and to host a series of presentations designed to help residents “green up” their lives. The roundtable discussion gave OCC employees an opportunity to talk about continued recycling efforts on campus and ways of reducing the college’s carbon footprint. Suggestions for future projects included initiating gardening classes and utilizing green spaces to grow produce as well as reducing the college’s use of paper and Styrofoam cups.



OCC Foundation Golf Outing

The TrustBank team won the 10th annual OCC Foundation Golf Outing. OCC Foundation Member Carrie Hallam presented the first-place prize to team members Greg Kuenstler, Al Peavler and Pat Burke. Not pictured is Keith Schonert.

OCC emergency alerts

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges has contracted with e2Campus to provide alert notification services.



The system will notify students and employees of campus emergencies and closures by e-mail and/or cell phone text message. Log onto Entrata and click on the alerts link to activate an account.

IECC Alerts is an opt-in service. While there is no direct cost for signing up for the service, you may be charged a text message fee by your cell phone provider. Please check your cell phone plan to understand the costs you may incur using the service.

The system will be used to send text messages related to campus emergencies, weather-related closures, test messages and notifications when accounts are about to expire.

If you do not have an Entrata account, please contact the Records Office at 395-7777.

PTK collects textbooks for Africa

Olney Central College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter collected 14 boxes of textbooks, which will be donated to students in Africa.

PTK accepted the books during the week of spring semester final exams.

The books will benefit students in Africa who do not have access to the quality of books that are available in the United States. PTK receives funds from each textbook donated and the money helps pay for events and conference trips.



PTK members Rachel Bratsch and Jessica Merrell pack boxes of textbooks the honor society collected for students in Africa. PTK collected 14 boxes of textbooks during the week of spring semester final exams.



SAN donations

Members of OCC's Student Advantage Network drop off items they collected for the Humane Society of Olney. SAN is also donating \$100 to the Richland County Animal Shelter. Pictured, from left, are Heather Henson; Jordyn Eckel; Rusty Foerster; Danielle Spitzner; Dale Smith, of the Humane Society; and Hailey Winka.

Keep up on campus happenings with OCC on FB

Follow OCC on Facebook at facebook.com/olneycentralcollege.

This is a great way to connect with friends, check out photos from Olney

Central College events and keep up to date on activities around campus.



College closed

Olney Central College will be closed on Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

Happy Birthday To:

June

- 1 Mary Doemer
- 1 Kevin Brinkley
- 1 Joyce Nix
- 7 Dusty Baker
- 12 Carla Burgener
- 20 Donita Kaare
- 21 Linda Miller
- 21 Kathy Fehrenbacher
- 24 Tammy Harmon

July

- 3 Tyler Boyles
- 4 Kathleen Hudson (WVC)
- 9 Mona Nease
- 10 David Denton
- 12 Kim Wilson
- 12 LeAnn Hartleroad
- 15 Bill Tucker
- 18 Casey Hamilton
- 18 Vicki Stuckey
- 21 Diane Emmons
- 23 Pam Madden
- 28 Laurel Cutright
- 29 Brittany Bass
- 29 Chad Schuetz
- 31 Sara Bergbower

Lost and found items

If you have lost an item, please check with the switchboard in the Student Services Office.

Keep vehicles locked

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

Knightline Information

Please submit information for the August Knightline to Deanna Ratts by 5 p.m. on July 29.

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