

KNIGHTLINE

Olney Central College



September 2020

Upcoming Events

September

17 Constitution Day -
Classes are in session

October

12 Columbus Day - College
Closed

15 Midterm

15 Last Day to Pay Fall
Tuition & Fees

27 Spring Registration
Begins



Nursing instructors at all four Illinois Eastern Community Colleges attended training on the new classroom simulator. The training was provided by Laerdal, manufacturer of the Nursing Mid-fidelity Simulation Trainer.

New simulators will enhance experience for IECC/OCC Nursing Program students

New classroom simulators are ensuring students in the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges/Olney Central College Associate Degree Nursing Program have the skills needed to succeed in their clinical and healthcare settings.

The Laerdal Nursing Mid-fidelity Simulation Trainers provide greater versatility than the program's older manikins and will give students a more realistic nursing experience.

The simulators are programmed to exhibit various health-related scenarios students will encounter in the real world. Using the LLEAP for SimPad Plus, faculty can make the simulator respond like a real patient during a student assessment. The devices also come with a monitor, which enables students to observe vital signs, ECG tracings, and oxygenation status.

"I'm really excited to have these," said Theresa Marcotte, Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health. "The simulator is very life-like, with heart, bowel and lung sounds, the chest moves up and down, and you can feel a pulse in the wrist and the feet. It even blinks. It gives us one more link in the learning process to help prepare our students for entry into practice."

See Simulators, Page 4



Food for Thought available in Student Services

Do you need a snack before class? Are your kitchen cabinets empty?

Non-perishable items and other necessities are available and free to OCC students.

Please inquire at the front desk in Student Services.

If Student Services is closed and you have a need, contact Academic Advisor, Jodi Schneider at ext. 2018.



OCC Nursing Instructor Anne Hustad participates in a Zoom meeting with faculty from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville to discuss how simulators are incorporated into the nursing curriculum there.

Anne Hustad completes DNP degree

Olney Central College Nursing Instructor Anne Hustad has completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

The DNP is one of two doctorate degrees available in the nursing field. SIU-E's program combines classwork along with a comprehensive research project.

"I am so excited to have it finished," Hustad said. "I have been working on it for two years and COVID-19 changed how we did things. There was no graduation and I had to do my project and discussions through Zoom, instead of in person."

Hustad's project, "Dedicated Preceptors Improve Nurse Residency," explored how the use of a residency can improve nurse retention at small rural hospitals.

"I met with representatives of a hospital's education department and its administration to come up with a plan to determine what I could do to help them," Hustad said. "They had done a nurse residency before and were looking for ways to improve it."

Hustad has served as a nursing instructor and head of the nursing department at OCC for 15 years. She is the advisor for both the OCC Student Nurses Association and Alpha Delta Nu, the nursing honor society. She also provides the manual skills evaluation for CNAs who want to enter the nursing program, but are not on the state registry.

Hustad is a graduate of the IECC/OCC Associate Degree Nursing Program, having attended Frontier Community College in Fairfield. She completed her bachelor's degree in nursing from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and her master's degree from Regis University in Denver, Colo.

Hustad is a Certified Nurse Educator and was selected by the Illinois Board of Higher Education to participate in the Nurse Educator Fellowship Program in 2018.

Before coming to OCC, Hustad worked 11 years as a school nurse in the Clay City Community Unit School District. She also worked as a WIC nurse for the Clay County Health Department and as a staff nurse at Richland Memorial Hospital, the Veterans Administration Medical Center and Flora Manor.



Dining Dollar Meal Plans available for Knight Kafe

Dining Dollar Meal Plans are available for use in OCC's Knight Kafe.

The plans offer a 10-percent discount on purchases and may be obtained in the OCC Business Office.

The Platinum Package, a \$950 value, provides an average of \$60 in Dining Dollars per week for 16 weeks and may be purchased for \$855. The Gold Package, an \$800 value, provides an average of \$50 in Dining Dollars per week for 16 weeks and may be purchased for \$720.

The Silver Package, a \$560 value, provides an average of \$35 in Dining Dollars per week for 16 weeks at a cost of \$504. The Bronze Package, a \$320 value, provides an average of \$20 in Dining Dollars per week for 16 weeks and may be purchased for \$288.

Dining Dollar Meal Plans are PELL eligible.

Dining Dollar Meal Plans are non-refundable 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.





Kale Wheeler, of Noble, was the winner of a drawing for a \$500 tuition waiver held in conjunction with OCC's Mobile Registration event. Pictured, from left, are Advisors/Recruiters Jodi Schneider and Sheri Gray, Kale and OCC President Rodney Ranes.

OCC Mobile Registration big success

Olney Central College Advisors/Recruiters Jodi Schneider and Sheri Gray made enrolling in fall classes easier for students with mobile registration.

"Due to COVID-19, our OCC Student Services Offices were closed to the public for nearly three months," Schneider said. "I tried to work remotely from home as well, but my country home Internet was not good and phone registrations were not easy to convey. I searched high and low for new creative plans and ideas. It then occurred to me, why not take our college van and simply go to the people, if they can't come to us. With that idea, we packed up the van, carried our offices in travel bags and hit the road."

During a three-week period, Schneider and Gray visited 17 locations in Clay, Jasper, Lawrence, Edwards and Richland counties. Stops ranged from school parking lots to convenience stores, courthouse squares and a drive-in theater.

"I enjoyed being out in several of our small communities in the district," Schneider said. "We made great efforts to manage our time wisely to hit several spots in each of our counties. It was also great to be back to work with Sheri. This was our first recruiting trip and adventure as OCC Student Services Advisors. Because we each have different experiences, contacts and talents it makes us such a great team. I am excited for our next OCC adventures."

Along with registering students, Schneider and Gray held giveaways and even had a chance to connect with alumni, including Lawrenceville Mayor Don Wagner, a member of OCC's first graduating class.

"We enjoyed the opportunity to visit our surrounding communities and meet wonderful people," Gray said. "OCC Mobile Registration was effective because it reminded people that even though our campus is located in Richland County, we are also a part of their community. It was an extra way we could provide a service to meet the educational needs of our students."

The event concluded with a drawing for a \$500 tuition waiver, which was awarded to Kale Wheeler, of Noble.

Schneider and Gray are already making plans for a Spring Mobile Registration later this year.

"OCC Mobile Registration was very effective, as we could finally meet with our students face-to-face again," Schneider said. "Personal attention at OCC is our forte. When you can meet with a familiar face to have answers, explanations or detailed directions, it makes all the difference. If everything in the world was an automated voice or electronic system, you would not get the satisfaction of the personal connection. Connections are very important for success."





First Day of Classes

The fall semester got underway Aug. 20 with students returning for in-person classes.

Emergency Alerts

IECC Alerts notify students and employees of campus emergencies and closures.

All students and employees who create an Entrata account will be signed up for emergency alerts via email.

Additional email addresses and phone numbers (for text messages) can be added as well. From Entrata, simply click on the "Alerts" link at any time to add or make changes.



Apply now for Fall 2020 Scholarships

Several scholarships are available to current OCC students for Fall 2020.

The Office of Financial Aid will select applicants from full-time OCC students for the following:

- A. C. Betebner Scholarship
 - Allen Lee Yarbrough Memorial Scholarship
 - Leola Bass Scholarship
 - Cochran/Kissel Scholarship
 - Shick/Thomson Scholarship
- Nursing and Radiography students can

apply for the Illinois Community College System Foundation Trust Scholarship and the Illinois Community College System Foundation Healthcare Scholarship.

Applications and additional information are available at www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships in the Current Student and Nursing and Radiography Majors folders. The deadline to apply is Sept. 30.

For more information, contact Financial Aid in Student Services.



Simulators *Continued from Page 1*

The IECC-OCC Nursing Program purchased three trainers through an Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Nursing School Improvement Grant, with one trainer allocated to Olney Central College in Olney, Lincoln Trail College in Robinson and Wabash Valley College in Mt. Carmel. A fourth simulator is being acquired through Perkins Grant funding for use at Frontier Community College in Fairfield.

Last month, two faculty members from each college attended a training session with Laerdal representatives at OCC.

As part of the IBHE grant, all nursing faculty participated in a Zoom meeting with Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville nursing faculty Amy Reed and Chelsea Howland, who utilize the simulators with their students. These simulation experts shared their journey with imple-

menting simulation in their programs.

"It was a boon to have nursing faculty from the university share their experiences and expertise," Marcotte said.

"They discussed and demonstrated how the simulators were incorporated into their curriculum. They gave us a number of scenarios to use in the classroom so our faculty didn't have to start from scratch. We have established a strong relationship with SIU-E while collaborating on an RN to BSN program. In fact, Dr. Laura Bernaix, Dean of the School of Nursing, wrote a letter of support for the IBHE Grant. We are working together to make a positive impact on nursing in Southern Illinois."

OCC Nursing Department Head Anne Hustad said the simulators are a welcomed addition to the program.

"We can use them in place of some of our clinical experiences, which will be beneficial with the uncertainty we are facing with COVID-19," she added.

Marcotte said it took a district-wide effort to ensure the simulators were ready for students to use this fall.

"I want to thank OCC President Rodney Ranes and the District IT Department who helped make this possible," she said. "The administration has been so supportive. IECC Chancellor Dr. Ryan Gower is also a big supporter, along with the IECC Board of Trustees. The administrations at each college have been helpful in making this project a reality. I'm very grateful to work where the nursing program has this kind of support, district-wide. Everyone has been great."

Marcotte added, "I'm so excited the program and faculty has this new tool to facilitate learning. Faculty continue to grow and incorporate new technology as nursing education changes. They are so dedicated to what they do. We are a community college nursing program doing big things for our students and the communities we serve."