

Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



NOVEMBER 2021

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

6-12 - National Radiologic Technology Week

11 - College Closed - Veterans Day

12 - Exhibit, *The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey*, Opens, OCC Theater

19-20 - OCC Theater Presents *Curious George and the Golden Meatball*, 7 p.m.

21 - OCC Theater Presents *Curious George and the Golden Meatball*, 2 p.m.

24 - Last Day to Withdraw from 16-week Fall Semester Classes

25-26 - College Closed - Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

8 - Last Day of Fall Semester Classes

9 - Spring Textbook Sales Begin

9 - Fall Textbook Buyback, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m., OCC Bookstore

9-10 & 13-14 - Final Exams

10 - Fall Textbook Buyback, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., OCC Bookstore

OCC selected as Aspen Prize Top 150 community college

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Aspen Institute has named Olney Central College one of the 150 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. The colleges selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high and improving levels of student success as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.

The 150 eligible colleges have been invited to submit data and narratives as the next steps in an intensive data and practice review process, culminating in the announcement of the Aspen Prize winner in Spring 2023.

"Once again I would like to thank the faculty and staff for their hard work to the students in our area," said OCC President Rodney Ranes. "The college would not receive such accolades without their support and dedication. We are happy to celebrate this distinguished honor once again and look forward to celebrating the success of our college and its students."

All four Illinois Eastern Community Colleges — Frontier Community College in Fairfield, Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Olney Central College in Olney and Wabash Valley College in Mt. Carmel — are eligible to compete for the 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

The Aspen Prize spotlights exemplary community colleges in order to elevate the sector, drive attention to colleges doing the best work, and discover and share highly effective student success and equity strategies. Since 2010, Aspen has chosen to focus intensively on community colleges because they are — as First Lady Dr. Jill Biden stated at the 2021 Aspen Prize ceremony — "a powerful engine of prosperity."

But student outcomes vary enormously among community colleges, and improving those outcomes is essential to securing our nation's economic future, strengthening communities, and ensuring that diverse populations experience economic mobility and prosperity. With these goals in mind, the Aspen Prize honors colleges with outstanding achievement in five critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, and equity for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds.



See Aspen, Page 6

Former students establish \$10,000 scholarship in honor of nursing instructor Wanda Douglas

During her teaching career, Wanda Douglas has trained and inspired a generation of nurses working in healthcare facilities across the country. Her dedication to the nursing profession and community has left a lasting impression on many, including two former students who created a \$10,000 scholarship in her honor.

Douglas says she was shocked when the two donors, who wish to remain anonymous, contacted her late last fall. Over the years, the pair had never forgotten Douglas' kindness to them while nursing students at Frontier Community College.

"They told me, 'We are where we are today because of you,' and wanted my permission to establish the scholarship in my honor," Douglas said. "I cried. I couldn't even talk when they told me. I've had a lot of honors and recognitions in my career. I was selected nursing student of the year when I graduated from Olney Central College. When I received my bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University, I was the student of the year and the first distinguished Nursing alumni of the Health Sciences Center School of Nursing. At the University of Texas at Arlington, I was the outstanding nursing administration graduate student. Of all the honors I've received, this is the greatest — to be recognized by two former students, who have been very successful. I am very grateful and humbled by their gratitude."

For Douglas, nursing was a second career. The Carmi native initially worked in accounting before completing her RN degree in 1973 at OCC. She earned a Baccalaureate degree from Texas Tech University Health Sciences 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 has 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 the Director of Education at the Texas Nurses Association from 1998 to 2006. She has served as a nursing instructor for 17 years, the last 11 years at FCC where she has been the Nursing Department Head since 2016.

"Every time I think about retiring, I think, 'What would I do without the patients and the students,'" she said. "I love the students and they know that. It's a thrill to walk into a hospital and see your graduates working, many in key positions. There is no more proud feeling. It has been a joy to give back to the program that gave to me. I'm just thankful for the experience."

The Wanda Douglas Scholarship will be administered through the Olney Central College Foundation and will be awarded to a second-level nursing student at Frontier to assist with tuition, books, fees and other program-related expenses. Douglas in conjunction with the FCC nursing faculty selected Jaclyn Pearce as the first recipient.

The mother of two young children, Pearce is grateful for the additional financial assistance as she juggles work and school with her family commitments.

"It will definitely give me more time to be with my kids and study without one or the other suffering," she said. "I am so honored to be chosen. I never would have imagined I would receive a scholarship like this. It means a lot to me to know



Two former students established a scholarship in honor of longtime nursing instructor Wanda Douglas. Douglas, left, presented the award to its first recipient, Frontier Community College nursing student Jaclyn Pearce.

Free basic computer class focuses on Google Workspace

Olney Central College will offer a free basic computer class this spring focusing on how to access and utilize Google Workspace.

CIS 1601 Computer Skills 1 will meet in the Anderson Library computer lab from 6 to 8:50 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 11. The 8-week class will be taught by Jane McCormick, the Instructor for OCC's Information Systems Technology Program.

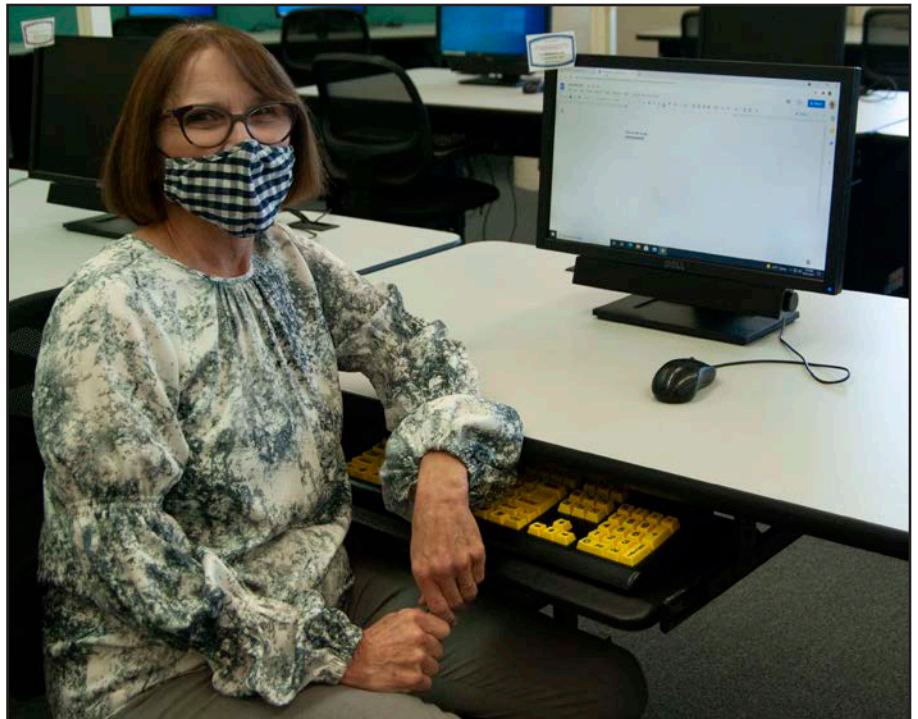
"The class will be ideal for people who want to learn more about the computer and would like to understand more about the Google products they can use for free," McCormick said.

The course begins with a basic introduction to computer software and hardware. McCormick will then assist students in creating a Google account before introducing them to the web-based Google Workspace.

Students will start off learning how to create and edit text documents with Google Docs. During the course, McCormick will demonstrate how to add text, insert images and format the text as well as how to share documents.

As the course progresses, students will move on to Google Sheets creating charts and then explore Google Slides to create basic visual presentations incorporating images and links.

For more information or to register for the class, call 618-395-7777.



Spring registration ongoing

Spring semester registration is ongoing at Olney Central College.

To schedule an advisement appointment, call 618-395-7777 or stop by Student Services. New students can apply for free at www.iecc.edu/apply.

The Spring 2022 schedule is available at www.iecc.edu/schedules.

Spring classes start Monday, Jan. 10.

Douglas Continued from Page 2

my instructors have this much faith in me. It was an unbelievable honor to be chosen."

Pearce knew she wanted a career in the healthcare field when she began working at a small home for the developmentally disabled shortly after high school.

"I loved getting to know the residents and helping them," she said. "I just fell in love with caring for others and have worked in healthcare ever since."

While attending FCC, Pearce has continued to work at a long-term care facility.

"I love working at the nursing home," she said. "You really get to know the residents because they are with you day in and day out. Being there the past year with COVID, has meant a lot to them and to me."

After graduating in May, Pearce plans to work as a registered nurse until both her children are in school. She then hopes to continue her education and complete a bachelor's degree in nursing.

OCC Theater brings Curious George exhibit to community in conjunction with upcoming show

Olney Central College Theater is bringing the lovable childhood character of Curious George to town for two special events. Many people have enjoyed the books, TV shows, and movies featuring Curious George, but few know the fascinating history of how he came to life.

Long before getting himself into all sorts of mischief, the famous monkey made an incredible journey when his creators escaped the Nazi invasion of France. OCC Theater invites children, families, and adults of all ages to learn about this incredible adventure through the traveling art exhibit *The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey*. The exhibit will be hosted at the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

The traveling exhibit showcases original and reproduction works of art depicting the miraculous escape of the Reys from Nazi-occupied France during World War II. OCC Theater will display their story along with fun activities for children. The exhibit will open Friday, Nov. 12, and run through Sunday, Nov. 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. on weekdays and 1 to 3 p.m. on weekends. It is free and open to the public.

“The art exhibit is a really powerful visual story of not only the authors’ escape from persecution during WWII, but also of how George saved their lives along the way,” said OCC Theater veteran Jessica McDonald. “So many adults and kids have enjoyed Curious George over more than three generations, but most never knew how close he had come to never even existing. The exhibit brings in a special historical aspect to the fun and adventurous musical that we are bringing to the OCC stage.”

The OCC Theater will present the musical *Curious George and the Golden Meatball* at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 19 and Saturday, Nov. 20, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 21. Specifically designed for young audiences, this musical is full of fun songs and dances featuring George, The Man in the Yellow Hat, and their friends.

In *Curious George and the Golden Meatball*, All You-Can-Eat Meatball Day came just once a year. George had been waiting all month for that day, a day almost bigger than his birthday! On Meatball Day, George helped his friend, Chef Pisghetti, cook some delicious meatballs and serve them to the hungry crowd. But this year, the crowd had vanished! Something was keeping people away... something pretty big. And that something was Phinneas T. Lightspeed and his speedy Meatballs-o-Matic machine. In despair, Chef Pisghetti vows to cook no more. Determined to help his friend, George goes on a mission to enter the Chef’s meatballs in the world-famous Golden Meatball Contest in Rome.

Curious George and the Golden Meatball is a fun-filled adventure, in which George learns more about Rome... and meatballs... and the secret ingredient to cooking!

Tickets for the show can be purchased online at www.iecc.edu/occtheater or in person from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday at the OCC Theater box office.

For more information about OCC Theater and the Curious George events, visit <https://www.iecc.edu/occtheater> or the OCC Theater Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OCCTheater>.

These events are made possible in part by the Olney Arts Council. For more information about OAC, visit <https://www.olneyartscouncil.com>.



Jessica McDonald displays artwork that will be featured in the upcoming exhibit.

Active Minds Chapter hosts initial meeting

OCC's Active Minds Chapter held its first meeting on Oct. 20 with 11 people in attendance.

Chapter Advisor Ashley Bigard said the need for mental health services on campus was discussed.

"We created a survey to send out to students to gauge the awareness of mental health as well as the needs," she said.

The next meeting will be from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 19 in Room 106.



OCC offering lunchtime and online business courses

Enhance your skills and keep pace with today's ever-changing business climate. Enroll now in Olney Central College's spring business courses.

"Our business courses are designed with both the employer and employee in mind," said OCC Director of Instructional Services Sheri Gray. "We are offering convenient lunch-hour and online courses which can help individuals enhance their current skill set or advance their knowledge in the evolving world of business. This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to take the next step in his or her career or for businesses who would like to refresh their employees' business understanding."

Lunch-time classes will include:

- BMG 2103 Business Statistics, which meets from 11 to 11:50 a.m. on Monday and Wednesday, beginning Jan. 10.
- BMK 2102 Introduction to Sales, which meets from 12 to 12:50 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday, Jan. 10 through March 2.

- BUS 1101 Introduction to Business, which meets from 12 to 12:50 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday, March 14 through May 11.

Online courses beginning Jan. 10 include:

- BMG 1202 Business Math
- BUS 2105 Business Finance
- BUS 2101 Business Law I
- ACC 2101 Financial Accounting
- ACC 1202 QuickBooks I and ACC 1203 QuickBooks II, which will run Jan. 10 through March 4 and March 14 through May 12, respectively.

"OCC is always looking for ways to support our community," Gray said. "We encourage local businesses to contact us for ways we can customize courses to complement their business or strengthen their employees."

For more information or to register for upcoming courses, call 618-395-7777.



Student Senate

The Olney Central College Student Senate is busy planning activities for the coming year. Members recently hosted a Halloween Movie Knight for the community and OCC students. Officers for 2021-2022 are President Conner Christopher, Vice President Chloe Piercefield and Secretary Madi Fulk. Senators are Skyler Counciller, Joseph Dalton, Austin Dunn, Kaylie Land, Taylor Meritt, Mason Parrott, Paige Tedford and Becka Wright.

Sports Schedule

Men's Basketball

- Nov. 10** — OCC vs. Greenville JV, 7 p.m. at home
Nov. 17 — OCC vs. Missouri Baptist JV, 6 p.m. at home
Nov. 19 — OCC at Brescia JV, 3 p.m.
Nov. 23 — OCC at Kaskaskia, 7 p.m.
Dec. 1 — OCC vs. Shawnee, 7:30 p.m. at home
Dec. 4 — OCC at Lincoln Trail College, 3 p.m.
Dec. 6 — OCC at Western Kentucky Tech, 6 p.m.
Dec. 8 — OCC at John A. Logan, 7 p.m.
Dec. 11 — OCC vs. Lake Land, 3 p.m. at home

Women's Basketball

- Nov. 13** — OCC vs. St. Louis Community College, 1 p.m. at home
Nov. 17 — OCC at Parkland, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 23 — OCC at Lake Land, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 27 — OCC at Danville, 1 p.m.
Dec. 1 — OCC vs. Shawnee, 5 p.m. at home
Dec. 4 — OCC at Lincoln Trail, 1 p.m.
Dec. 8 — OCC at John A. Logan, 5 p.m.
Dec. 11 — OCC vs. Lake Land, 1 p.m. at home
Dec. 18 — OCC at Wabash Valley, 5 p.m.

Free headshots

Phi Theta Kappa and Sara Finney Photography are offering free headshots from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 23 for registered OCC students. These are high resolution digital images that will be emailed to you.

Confirm your spot by emailing stephblake29@yahoo.com or by calling 618-843-5744.

File your FAFSA

The 2022-2023 FAFSA is now open.

Remember, you must complete the FAFSA every year you are attending college. File for free at www.fafsa.gov.

If you have questions, contact the Financial Aid Office.

Aspen

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“In an era of persistent inequity and workforce talent gaps, our nation’s best community colleges are stepping up to deliver more degrees to increasingly diverse students so they are prepared for the good jobs waiting to be filled,” said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. “Leaders of exceptional community colleges understand that achieving excellence requires expanding college access and increasing degree completion, but it doesn’t stop there. They are committed to ensuring that all students — including students of color and those from low-income backgrounds — graduate with the skills needed to secure a job with family-sustaining wages or successfully transfer to and graduate from a university. That same commitment that stands at the center of the Aspen Prize: to advance the goals of social mobility and equitable talent development.”

The eligible colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector. Located in urban, rural, and suburban areas across 34 states, these colleges serve as few as 230 students and as many as 57,000. Winning colleges have ranged from smaller institutions serving rural community and smaller towns — including Lake Area Technical Institute (SD, 2017 Prize winner) and Walla Walla Community College (WA, 2013) — to large community colleges serving major metropolitan areas, including Miami Dade College (FL, 2019) and San Antonio College (TX, 2021).

The four other previous winners are Indian River State College (FL, 2019); Santa Fe College (FL, 2015); Santa Barbara City College (CA, 2013); and Valencia College (FL, 2011).

In this first round, eligibility for the Aspen Prize is based on publicly available data. Eligible colleges must show strong and improving student outcomes in key areas such as retention, completion, transfer, and equity.

Nationwide, 15 percent of community colleges (150 of the approximately 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide assessed for the Prize) have been invited to apply — the full list can be accessed online at www.highered.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize.

Selection of the top 10 finalists by a panel of 15 experts in community colleges, higher education, and workforce training, will be announced in Spring/Summer 2022. The Aspen Prize will be announced in late Spring 2023.

PTK, Anderson Library/ASC teaming up for food drive

Phi Theta Kappa and the Anderson Library/Academic Success Center are hosting a Food Drive to benefit the Food for Thought pantry in Student Services.

Needed items include individually packaged snacks, cereal, soups, mac and cheese, Ramen noodles, quick rice and pasta and instant meals. Donations are being accepted now through Dec. 1.

Students, faculty and staff who donate will be entered into a drawing for a prize basket.

Donations can be dropped off in the Anderson Library from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Hines serving as Administrative Assistant for Nursing and Allied Health

Melissa Hines has joined Olney Central College as the Administrative Assistant for Nursing and Allied Health.

“I like the job and it keeps me busy,” Hines said of her new position. “I’ve got something to do all the time. I love working with Excel Spread Sheets and organizing things.”

Hines was employed for 14 years at Street Chiropractic in Olney, where she assisted patients and handled billing, insurance and bookkeeping. Before relocating to the area in 2007, Hines had worked for the Ventura County Human Services Agency. She earned an associate’s degree from Moorpark College in Moorpark, Calif.

Hines is excited about her new position and working at the college.

“It’s nice to be in an office atmosphere again and have coworkers,” she said. “I enjoy getting to interact with people and having the opportunity to form friendships. I have a lot of friends that work for IECC.”

In her spare time, Hines enjoys hiking and camping. She keeps busy with her daughters’ many activities. Hannah, a junior at Richland County High School, is active in cheerleading, and Stella, a sixth-grader, is an avid softball player.

Hines’ husband, Jerrod, is employed at the Marathon Refinery in Robinson.



Register now for Spring Community Education courses

Looking for a hobby or the opportunity to learn a new skill?

Olney Central College is offering a variety of Community Education classes beginning Jan. 10.

Courses range from basic computer skills, community band and oil painting to quilting, woodworking and artistic welding.

Go to www.iecc.edu/occ/communityed for a complete listing of Spring 2022 courses.

For more information or to register, call 618-395-7777.



2022

DATE 2/1/22

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Students

Money for college

FOR Educational Paycheck

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\$ money DOLLARS

Allinois Eastern Community Colleges



THE EDUCATIONAL PAYCHECK IS BACK!

USE THE QR CODE OR VISIT iecc.edu/edcheck TO APPLY

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 28, 2022