

## CALENDAR

### APRIL

18 - *Early Childhood Education Town Hall Meeting, Student Union, 7 p.m.*

19 - *Spring Fling, Student Union & Patio, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.*

19 - *Commercial Music & Jazz Concert, OCC Theater, 7 p.m.*

21 - *Last Day to Withdraw from 16-week Spring Semester Classes*

20 - *Southeastern Illinois Concert Association Presents Judy Carmichael, OCC Theater, 7 p.m.*

### MAY

1-3 - *RN-NCLEX Review, OCC Theater*

3-4 - *Grad Fest, OCC Bookstore, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*

5 - *Last Day of Spring Semester Classes*

8 - *Summer Textbook Sales Begin*

8-11 - *Final Exams*

## College Visits

**April 24** - A representative from Southern Illinois University will be here from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**April 27** - A representative from the University of Southern Indiana will be here from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tables will be located outside Student Services.

## IECC and Clay County Hospital create first-of-its-kind nursing apprenticeship

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges and Clay County Hospital are partnering to create the first Department of Labor-registered nursing apprenticeship in Illinois designed to take students from a high school diploma to an associate in nursing degree.

Plans to create the apprenticeship began in December as Clay County Hospital reached out to the IECC Nursing Program in its efforts to increase opportunities

for students to transition into nursing. The IECC Board of Trustees finalized the agreement on March 21.

IECC Associate Dean of Allied Health Alani Frederick said, “The nursing apprenticeship program is a very innovative next step in education for nursing in the state of Illinois. What’s really going to be beneficial for our students is that they are going to not only receive a quality education at Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, but they will also be immersed in the world of healthcare through the apprenticeship hours that they will have at Clay County Hospital. This will help those students be ready to transition successfully to a career in nursing at the end of the apprenticeship.”

Entry into the apprenticeship is a two-step process. First, students must be accepted into the IECC Nursing Program at either Frontier Community College, Lincoln Trail College, Olney Central College, or Wabash Valley College. Then, they must apply to Clay County Hospital.

Clay County Hospital Clinical Educator and Registered Nurse Kamy Vail said the partnership is a win-win for both the hospital and students looking to enter the nursing field.

“We all know we’re in a nursing shortage especially after Covid, so we have to get new, innovative ways to bring in nurses to the hospital,” Vail explained. “The nursing apprenticeship program will be able to support students financially throughout their educational journey. In exchange for meeting the requirements of the apprenticeship, Clay County Hospital is prepared to pay for items such as tuition, fees, books, and uniforms in addition to the hourly wage the student will be earning as part of the apprenticeship program. When they graduate from the nursing program and pass their NCLEX, they will be licensed as a registered nurse in the state of Illinois and will come out with a full-time job at Clay County Hospital, with wonderful benefits and full-time hours.”

**See Apprenticeship, Page 6**



# Nancy Stremme serving as Director of Cosmetology

Nancy Stremme has been named the Program Director for Cosmetology at Olney Central College.

“I’m excited and looking forward to this new opportunity,” Stremme said. “I really enjoy working with the students and watching them grow. Seeing someone who comes in timid and scared and watching them come out of their shell and do fabulous hair is very rewarding. It’s just a great feeling to watch their skills and self-confidence grow.”

A licensed cosmetologist in both Illinois and Indiana, Stremme brings to the position more than 20 years’ experience in the beauty industry. She previously worked at Serenity Escape and Simply Unique in Olney along with Hair Ritz and Layers Family Hair Salon in Vincennes, Ind.

Stremme earned her Cosmetology Teacher Certificate from OCC in 2018. She has served as OCC’s Nail Technology instructor since 2020, and will continue to oversee that program as well.

“I’m hoping to bring the programs together, so we are working as a team,” she said. “With the Nail Tech Program moving to days, I think there will be more opportunities for students to work with each other during clinicals.”

Stremme also plans to introduce curriculum changes this fall that will provide more hands-on instruction for students. She also wants to increase program enrollment and expand opportunities for graduates.

“To me, how busy we are is how successful we are,” Stremme said. “In the future, we hope to provide continuing education classes for local cosmetologists, so they don’t have to travel outside our area to complete them.”

In her spare time, Stremme enjoys knitting, crocheting, painting, sewing and quilting. Her latest project is a blanket for her 10-month-old grandson.

Stremme and her husband, Dow, have been married for 35 years and reside in the Berryville area. The couple has three children and four grandchildren.



All students graduating this spring are invited to attend Grad Fest May 3-4.

## Celebrate your accomplishments and join us for Grad Fest May 3-4

As the Class of 2023 prepares to graduate, Olney Central College wants to help students mark this special occasion with Grad Fest.

Stop by the OCC Bookstore from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 3-4 to pick up your cap and gown and participate in the fun activities. There will be free food, a photo booth and giveaways.

All graduates are encouraged to attend either day. Please join us even if you aren’t planning to participate in the commencement ceremony.



## Marking a Milestone

A new sign at Dennis Conley Field commemorates Coach Conley’s 1,500 wins, a milestone he reached last month.

# 24/7 tutoring and writing review services available to students through TutorMe

Struggling with an assignment late at night? Need a question answered on a Saturday afternoon? Help is now available through Illinois Eastern Community Colleges' partnership with TutorMe.

IECC unveiled the online tutoring platform at Frontier, Lincoln Trail, Olney Central and Wabash Valley colleges in late March. Accessible through Canvas, it provides students 24/7 access to both one-on-one live tutoring and writing support.

"People started using TutorMe the same day it was launched, and we already have students who have used it multiple times," said IECC District Librarian Andy Cougill. "It is very exciting. We're happy to know students are utilizing and benefiting from it. It is thrilling to be able to offer these types of tools to our students. I hope they will give TutorMe a try to see if it works for them. There is no cost for our students and no limit on the number of tutoring sessions."

With TutorMe, students can request paper and essay review services through the Writing Lab or connect with a live tutor via video and audio links. Help is available in more than 300 diverse subjects ranging from math and science to foreign language and humanities. Students also can receive assistance in professional areas such as Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education and Nursing.

The new service augments IECC's traditional in-person tutoring, which the colleges will continue to provide.

"One of the biggest challenges we have faced with in-person tutoring is finding individuals to cover all subject matters," Cougill said. "We want and need more peer tutors, but as a two-year school it's difficult because you have such turnover. You can have an incredible tutor, but they will only be here for a short time. TutorMe provides access on their unique platform to fill those needs while complimenting what we do in person. Whatever a student's needs they are going to find expert tutoring with TutorMe."

Cougill said TutorMe rigorously tests and vets its tutors who include certified teachers, professionals, advanced-degree holders, and other subject matter experts. If a student enjoys working with a particular tutor, they can request the same individual for future sessions. Cougill reports several students already doing so.

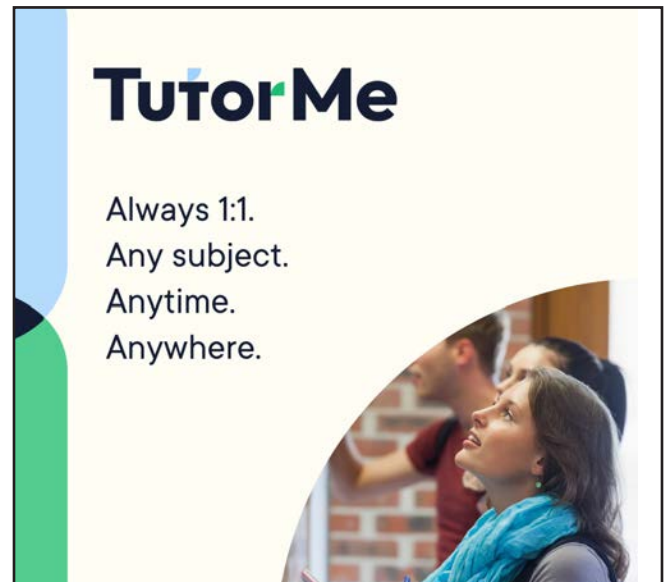
With its accessibility and convenience, Cougill said TutorMe ensures help is available when students need it most.

"Students who are going to school, working and have families are not going to study until late in the evening," Cougill said. "We want to provide tutoring services to fit their schedules. With TutorMe, students can log on nearly any time of day and be able to speak with expert."

Wait times for tutoring have been minimal, ranging from 2 to 43 seconds. Individual sessions are lasting 45 to 75 minutes. Turnaround times for papers and essays are guaranteed in 12 hours, but typically are taking just one or two hours. Still, Cougill recommends submitting these items as soon as possible, especially near the end of the semester.

Cougill encourages students to contact their college library for assistance if they have any questions regarding accessing and using the platform.

"We are ready to help," Cougill said. "Nothing would make us happier than to know students are using TutorMe."



## Registration is ongoing for summer and fall classes

Registration is ongoing for summer and fall semester classes at Olney Central College.

This summer OCC is offering five tuition-free classes to assist students in completing their degrees. These include online and in-person classes.

Students enrolling in these classes are still responsible for fees, books and materials.

For more information about tuition-free summer courses, go to [www.iecc.edu/occ/tuitionfreesummer](http://www.iecc.edu/occ/tuitionfreesummer).

OCC also will offer a variety of other essential courses at our affordable tuition rate. Catch up or move ahead with these 8-week summer classes that easily transfer.

To learn more or to register, call 618-395-7777. Summer classes start June 5.

# OCC hosts CTE Showcase

OCC welcomed 125 area high school students for the CTE Showcase on March 29. Students had an opportunity to learn more about OCC's Automotive Service, Collision Repair, Industrial Maintenance and Welding programs while meeting instructors and touring the facilities. The event concluded with lunch in the Student Union and prizes. Participating high schools included Edwards County, Newton Community, North Clay, Red Hill and Robinson.



## OCC Theater's 'Cinderella'

The OCC Theater set a new first-day ticket sales record with its production of "Cinderella" last month. More than 1,300 tickets were sold in one day and all seven shows were later sold out.



# OCC Musical Theater Showcase April 28

Join the Olney Central College Music Department as the Concert Choir and Musical Theater Workshop students present their Spring Musical Theater Showcase at 7 p.m. on April 28 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

“The showcase is a chance for these students to have leading roles, even if it’s only for 4 to 10 minutes,” said OCC Director of Choral Activities Dr. Andrew Pittman. “It’s a chance for all of my students to shine.”

The evening opens with the Prologue from *Into The Woods* by Tony- and Grammy-winning composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim. The 1987 musical intertwines the plots of several fairytales, exploring the consequences of the characters’ wishes and quests. This opening number introduces various central characters including Cinderella, Jack (from Jack and the Beanstalk), Little Red Riding Hood and the childless Baker and his wife.

“I am very excited about performing *Into The Woods*,” Pittman said. “It is very complicated, and performing it is a good experience for the students.”

The fairytale theme continues with a song from *Shrek The Musical*, based on the 2001 DreamWorks film. *I Know It’s Today* finds Princess Fiona daydreaming through the years of her rescue from the tower.

Students will also perform *Company Way* and *It’s Been A Long Day* from *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. The 1961 musical tells the story of J. Pierrepont Finch, who, with the help of the book *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, rises from a window washer to chairman of the board of the World Wide Wicket Company.

“I love this time period for musicals from the early 1960s,” Pittman said. “This is my favorite musical. It’s fun and charming and the audience will really enjoy it.”

Other selections will include *If I Were A Bell*, from 1950’s *Guys and Dolls* and *Mary Poppin’s Chim Chim Cher-ee*.

The concert is free. Donations will be accepted at the door.



## OCC Spring Fling will be April 19

Join the fun as OCC celebrates Spring Fling on April 19.

Hosted by Student Senate, activities will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Patio and in the Student Union.

The annual event will include free hamburgers, hot dogs and sides along with outdoor games and music.

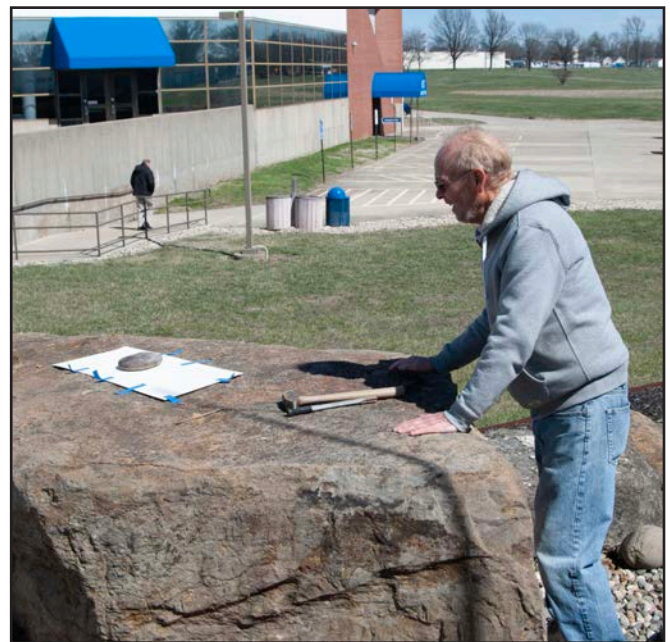
Prizes will include a TV, Beats Headphones and Yeti products.



# Retired professor maintains Equinox Sculpture

Spring arrived March 20 and retired art instructor Vic Connor visited campus to ensure OCC's iconic Equinox Sculpture is correctly marking the occasion.

Connor designed the sculpture in the early 1980s and it was later constructed by students in the Welding Program. Large rocks at the site are notched designating the sun's zenith on the Spring and Fall equinoxes and the Summer and Winter solstices. Connor said slight adjustments must be made periodically to compensate for the natural movement of the stones over time. He detected a slight change last month and adjusted the mark accordingly.



## Apprenticeship *Continued from Page 1*

During the apprenticeship, students are required to work only one 12-hour shift a week.

"It's a minimal work requirement so that they can focus on their schooling and to make sure they succeed in the nursing program," Vail added.

Frederick hopes the financial incentives tied to the apprenticeship will enable more students to pursue a nursing degree.

"We are hoping when finances are not in the picture, they will apply since that piece will be taken care of," she said.

OCC Interim President Roger Eddy said the apprentice-

ship is an example of the continued cooperation between IECC and the community.

"I want to congratulate Alani Fredrick and the administration at Clay County Hospital for coming up with such a creative way to solve a critical issue," he said. "It shows that we have partners that work with us in our area hospitals who look for innovative ways to solve what is a critical nursing shortage in our area."

For more information on applying to the IECC Nursing Program, contact Advisor Linda Horn at 618-395-7777, ext. 2246, or email [hornl@iecc.edu](mailto:hornl@iecc.edu). Apprenticeship applications will be available in April on the Clay County Hospital website at [www.claycountyhospital.org](http://www.claycountyhospital.org).



### *SNA Easter Basket Project*

OCC's Student Nurses Association filled Easter baskets for local Head Start students.



### *Cookie Decorating*

OCC's Active Minds Club hosted a free Easter cookie decorating event in the Student Union on April 5.

# Sports Schedule

## Baseball

**April 13**— OCC at Rend Lake, 3 p.m.

**April 15** — OCC vs. Rend Lake, noon & 2 p.m. at home

**April 17** — OCC vs. Oakland City, 3 p.m. at home

**April 18** — OCC at Southeastern Illinois, 3 p.m.

**April 20** — OCC vs. Southwestern Illinois, 3 p.m. at home

**April 22** — OCC at Southwestern Illinois, noon & 3 p.m.

**April 24** — OCC at Brescia, 4 p.m.

**April 25** — OCC vs. Southeastern Illinois, 1 p.m. & 4 p.m. at home

**April 27** — OCC at Frontier, 3 p.m.

**April 29** — OCC vs. Frontier, noon & 2 p.m.

**May 4** — OCC at Lincoln Trail, 3 p.m.

**May 6** — OCC vs. Lincoln Trail, noon & 3 p.m. at home

## Softball

**April 11** — OCC vs. Lincoln Trail College, 2 & 4 p.m. at home

**April 13** — OCC at Kaskaskia, 2 & 4 p.m.

**April 15** — OCC at Frontier, noon & 2 p.m.

**April 20** — OCC at Southwestern Illinois, 2 & 4 p.m.

**April 22** — OCC vs. Shawnee, noon & 2 p.m. at home

**April 25** — OCC vs. Wabash Valley, 2 & 4 p.m. at home

**April 27** — OCC vs. Lake Land, 2 & 4 p.m. at home

**April 29** — OCC vs. John A. Logan, noon & 2 p.m. at home

**May 2** — OCC at Southeastern Illinois, 2 & 4 p.m.

APRIL

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The last few weeks have been very eventful here on campus at OCC. On March 29, a very well attended and successful CTE Day was held with around 125 students from surrounding high schools visiting OCC. Those students were able to tour a wide array of vocational program offerings here at OCC, including Welding, Automotive Technology, Collision Repair and Industrial Maintenance. Instructors in each of these programs provided students with an overview of the program along with details related to job opportunities in the field. The day was capped off by a delicious pizza dinner served by Teresa Baker and her staff. Congrats to Andrea Loll and Curtis Miller for organizing an outstanding event.

The OCC production of *Cinderella* did not disappoint! All seven performances were sold out to rave reviews. Jonathon Wright and his staff once again delivered a terrific production for the entire region to enjoy. I personally enjoyed attending the April 1 performance and am really impressed with the community connection the Theatre Department has made with Olney.

Folks from Navigate 360 were on campus the week of March 26 to video record every classroom, storage room and office located at OCC and the West Richland Center. The videos, which are a 360 view of every square foot of OCC, will soon be stored in the cloud and accessible to IECC staff and law enforcement officials and other first responders on an as needed basis. This is a major security upgrade for the campus and is happening at every IECC campus as well as the District Office.

Spring Fling will be coming up on April 19. Students are encouraged to enjoy this event which includes various games and activities in the Student Union and Patio. On April 20, OCC will host a welding competition. Lots and lots happening here on campus!

We are also in the process of visiting each of the four high schools assigned to OCC with the goals of ensuring that existing dual credit opportunities offered at area high schools meet the learning objectives and quality standards of the same course offered on campus, and exploring ways that we can further provide high quality dual credit options for high school students. The four high schools that OCC serves as liaison for are Newton, Olney, Red Hill, and Clay City. Each of the other three IECC campuses also serve four high schools and are currently conducting these types of meetings. The "annual reviews" are part of the Model Partnership Agreements (MPA) that exist between IECC and all 16 high schools we serve. The MPA defines the "type" of dual credit course. The four types are A, B, C, and D. Type A courses are courses taught at the local high school by a qualified high school instructor. Generally, to qualify as an instructor, the high school teacher must have a master's degree in the subject area. There are a couple of exceptions for individuals who are working on their master's degree and have made substantial progress toward completion. There is a time limit to complete the degree and progress is tracked. There are around 80 Type A instructors throughout the 16 high schools we serve. Type B dual credit is if IECC sends a qualified instructor to the local high school to teach, Type C is remote instruction, and Type D is when students come to our campus or facility to take the course. All of this is tracked and supported by the Directors of Instructional Services at each campus. The meetings taking place this spring are critical to the success of dual credit at IECC as well as expanding opportunities for students at area high schools. The ultimate goal is to identify a pathway for each student and encourage them to attend an IECC school as part of their future educational plan. We believe that with a focused, intentional, and well thought out plan, most students can complete a transfer degree or certificate program using their junior and senior year in high school plus one year at IECC. Or "Three to Your Degree" (3TYD).

The recent investment in a synchronous learning network will move us toward attaining that goal. More information on the planning for synchronous classroom network use and Three to Your Degree will be coming soon. As we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of OCC, it is important that we also look to future opportunities.



**Roger Eddy**