

Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



July 2023

CALENDAR

JULY

20 - Last Day to Withdraw from 8-week Summer Semester Classes

28 - OCC/OAC Summer Children's Theatre Workshop Presents "The Music Man Jr.," OCC Theater, 7 p.m.

28 - Last Day of Summer Semester Classes

29 - OCC/OAC Summer Children's Theatre Workshop Presents "The Music Man Jr.," OCC Theater, 2 p.m.

31 - Final Exams

31 - Fall Semester Textbook Sales Begin

31 - Summer Textbook Buyback, OCC Bookstore, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

AUGUST

1 - Final Exams

1 - Summer Textbook Buyback, OCC Bookstore, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

1 - Dual Credit Orientation, OCC Theater, 1-3 p.m.

8 - New Student Orientation, OCC Theater, 1-3:30 p.m.

9 - New Student Orientation, OCC Theater, 9-11:30 a.m.

8 - Adjunct Faculty Meeting, OCC Banquet Room, 6-8 p.m.



Olney Community College, as it was known then, opened on Sept. 3, 1963, with a dedication ceremony following on Oct. 6. Olney Central College will mark its 60th Anniversary with a celebration from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sept. 6.

OCC to mark 60th Anniversary with upcoming celebration

Olney Central College will celebrate its 60th Anniversary during the 2023-2024 academic year and is marking the milestone with a special celebration on Sept. 6.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Student Union Patio and will include guests speakers, prizes and refreshments. Additional details will be announced closer to the date.

"For 60 years, Olney Central College has provided countless opportunities for students and community members to pursue their dreams, play out their passions and support job preparation while supporting business and industry," said OCC Interim President Roger Eddy. "Times have changed, but the mission 60 years ago is much the same as today, to deliver exceptional education and services to improve the lives of our students and to strengthen our communities. In the future, we will experience other changes to our society, culture and needs, but this mission will endure."

Efforts to form a Class II Junior College began in the late 1950s when a citizens' committee for education was formed under the direction of Frank Bower, president of the East Richland Community Unit 1 Board of Education.

Later a second committee, chaired by F. Ross Anderson, was created to study the need for a junior college in Olney. At the time, the state was considering plans for a system of junior colleges. The group found residents receptive to the idea, but with little money or the facilities to house a college, the prospect of forming one was several years away.

That changed on March 10, 1961, when the Pure Oil Company donated its former office building and adjacent property to the East Richland school district to house the college.

In a special election on Sept. 15, 1962, East Richland school district voters approved 2,579 to 585 to establish the college. Olney Community College — as it was known at the time — opened its doors to 154 students on Sept. 3, 1963 and more than 1,000 people attended a dedication ceremony on Oct. 6. OCC officially became a Class I College on July 1, 1968, and was renamed Olney Central College.

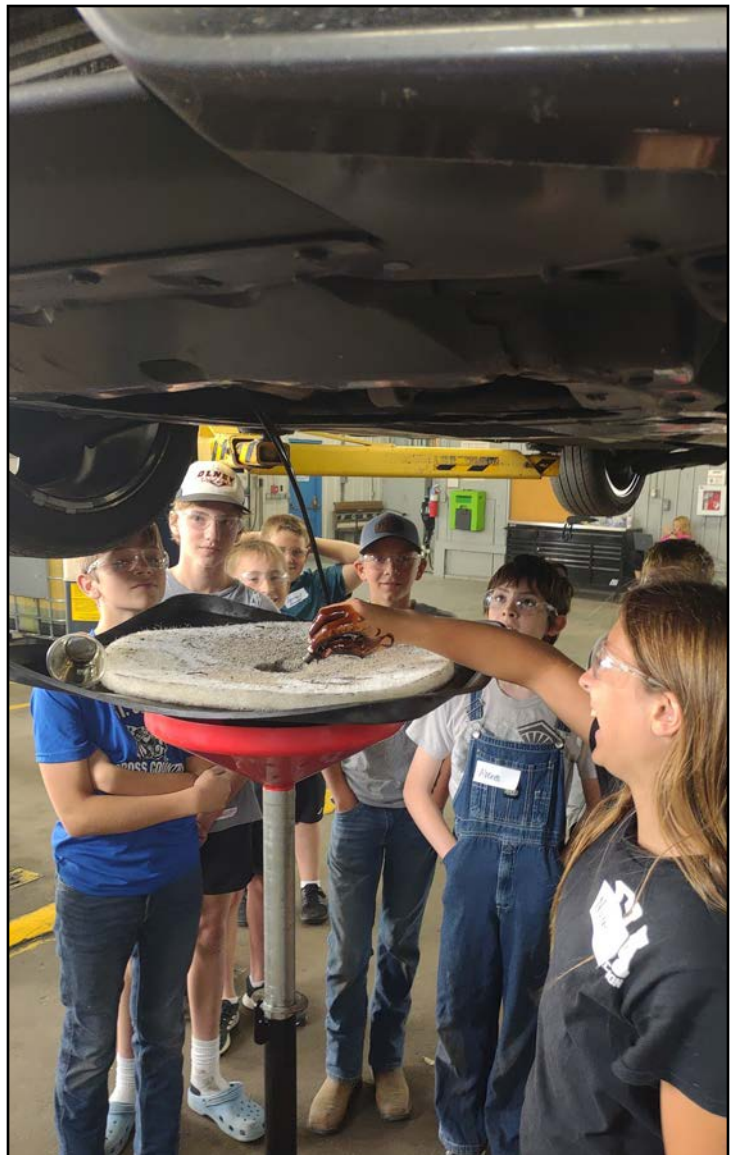
OCC Youth Explorer Camps

Olney Central College Youth Explorer Camps returned this summer providing an incredible opportunity for elementary through high school students to delve into a wide range of exciting topics and explore their passions.

The response this year has been overwhelming, with such an enthusiastic turnout that additional sections were added for several camps. Camps held in June included Metal-ing Around – Welding, My Own Game! Coding, Jazz for Young Musicians, Soar Above! Drone Boot Camp, Stylist for a Day – Cosmetology and Grease & Gears.

OCC 2023 Summer camps will conclude this month with Blowing Up with Science and Ew! Awesome Biology.







Nursing students practice new skills

In preparation for entering the nursing program, students from Frontier, Lincoln Trail, Olney Central and Wabash Valley colleges completed their skills checkoffs for Nursing 1207 last month at OCC. Putting on and removing PPE, personal protective equipment, is one of the required skills.

OCC Baseball to host Alumni Golf Outing Aug. 12

Olney Central College Baseball will host an Alumni Golf Outing on Saturday, Aug. 12 at the Richland Country Club.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. with a shotgun start to follow at noon. The cost is \$400 per team with RSVPs due by Aug. 1. Sponsorship opportunities also are available.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser will go toward updating the hitting bubble and bullpens, purchasing a spinball pitching machine and student housing scholarships.

The event will wrap up with a dinner at 6 p.m. provided by The Smokin' Pig. The menu includes a pork chop sandwich with two sides. The cost is \$25 for non-golfers.

To reserve your spot or sponsorship, call or text OCC Baseball Coach Phil Britton at 618-388-1000.

Men's Basketball Youth Camps July 17-19

Olney Central College Men's Basketball will host Summer Youth Camps July 17-19 in the OCC Gym.

The camps offer a unique opportunity for young basketball enthusiasts in Grades 2-8 to enhance their skills under the guidance of experienced OCC Men's Basketball staff and players. The camps will provide campers with high-level instruction and training to develop their basketball abilities.

The boys' camp will meet from 8 a.m. to noon, with drop-off starting at 7:30 a.m. The girls' camp will meet from 1 to 5 p.m., with drop-off starting at 12:30 p.m.

The cost is \$60 per camper. For more information or to register, contact Assistant Coach Joel Ledvina at 517-861-7587, or email ledvinaj@iecc.edu.

Dual Credit Orientation Day

OCC will host a Dual Credit Orientation Day from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 1 in the OCC Theater.

The event is for high school students from Richland County, Red Hill and Clay City high schools who plan to attend classes this school year on campus.

Faculty members that teach dual credit also are invited attend.

Adjunct faculty meeting Aug. 8

OCC will host an Adjunct Faculty Meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 8 in the OCC Banquet Room.

All adjunct faculty are asked to attend for a great night of fun, information and prizes.

For more information, contact Director of Instructional Services Amy Tarr at tarra2@iecc.edu.

JULY

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am pleased to continue through July as Interim President at Olney Central College. As most of you know, my time as Interim President at OCC was to have ended June 30. However, various circumstances resulted in the need for some additional time. It is an honor to have additional time with the award-winning faculty and terrific staff here at OCC. As I stated last month, it has been a pleasure and blessing to work with folks at OCC.

Even though it is summer, we have had lots of activity here on campus. Between the large turnout for the Summer Youth Explorer Camps, Summer Theatre, Summer Athletic Camps for various sports, TRIO/Upward Bound programs, Inter-session and regular Summer Session we have seen lots of students on campus this summer. Despite the traffic on campus, and the lack of rain this summer, the maintenance department has completed several projects inside and the campus looks great outside. We appreciate all of the work everyone is doing to make OCC look so good. The 2023-24 school year, marks OCC's 60th Anniversary. You will be hearing and seeing more about the 60th Anniversary in the next couple of months. OCC opened on September 3, 1963.



Roger Eddy

In addition to the various camps and classes, we have been busy sprucing up our campus and grounds. New entry doors are being installed in the Student Union and the visitor parking lot (Banquet Room entrance) will have a new look for the fall. There is also good news to report regarding the availability of childcare on campus at OCC. As many of you know, Cozy Corner operated for many years at the north end of the first floor of Wattleworth Hall. This provided convenient and high-quality childcare options for OCC faculty and students. In the spring of 2022, the center closed due to staffing shortages. Every effort was made to reopen the space in the fall of 2022 and throughout the spring of 2023. However, staffing shortages persisted and there was simply not enough available certified staff in order to assure that the center could reopen in a sustained manner. Meanwhile, Wabash Valley was involved with a state grant to assist in addressing the statewide shortage of early childcare in Illinois. IECC's Carla Cadwalader has operated a successful, well-staffed and well-operated childcare program at WVC for many years. WVC Dean Robert Conn had secured the state grant which would support programs to help address the shortage in childcare and was developing and expanding program options for IECC students. In fact, with the support of Dean Conn and Carla, Early Childhood courses are being offered this fall on campus at OCC. It seemed like there had to be a way to reopen Cozy Corner so that eventually the space could serve childcare needs for our staff, students and community. It might also be a great on-campus "lab" for IECC Early Childcare students to serve some internship hours. Thanks to Carla Cadwalader, and her contacts throughout the area, we were able to work with a private provider to lease the space starting in October. Buckeroo Early Education Center has agreed to a lease for the space and the IECC Board recently approved the new partnership. More details will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. The agreement will offer OCC staff and students an opportunity to have convenient, on-site childcare options. Once again, we want to offer a huge thank you to Carla Cadwalader, Dean Robert Conn and Buckeroo Early Education Center. We are excited the program will reopen this fall.

June 30 marked the retirement of a couple of long-time OCC family members. You recall that Dennis Conley retired as Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach after 43 years. CTE Advisor Vicki Thompson also retired on June 30 after 10 years at OCC. We wish them both the very best in retirement!

The summer is quickly fleeting. As such, preparations are underway to welcome students and staff back to campus. Dual credit student orientation will be held August 1; Student Orientation August 8 and 9; and the Faculty and Staff Fall Workshop dates are August 10 (OCC) and 11 (IECC). We look forward to seeing everyone back on campus this fall as we celebrate 60 years of providing our students and community excellence in education!