

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE KNIGHTLINE



JANUARY 2025

CALENDAR

JANUARY

13 — Last Day to Enroll in Spring 2025 Tuition Payment (4) Plan

13-14 — OCC Theater Auditions for Disney's Tarzan, 6:30 p.m.

15 — Applied Technology Center Groundbreaking, 2 p.m., OCC Theater

17 — Last Day for 100 Percent Refund of 16-Week Spring Semester Classes

17 — Last Day for Spring Semester Textbook Returns

20 — College Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

5 — ACES Academic Challenge

6 — Last Day to Enroll in Spring 2025 Tuition Payment (3) Plan

17 — College Closed for Presidents Day

19 — Nursing Information Session, 3-4 p.m., Room 213

College Visits

Feb. 10 — Eastern Illinois University Representative Bri Dominguez will be on campus from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Site prep work is underway for the new Applied Technology Center, which will house OCC's Nursing and Radiography programs. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. on January 15 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

Applied Technology Center Groundbreaking January 15

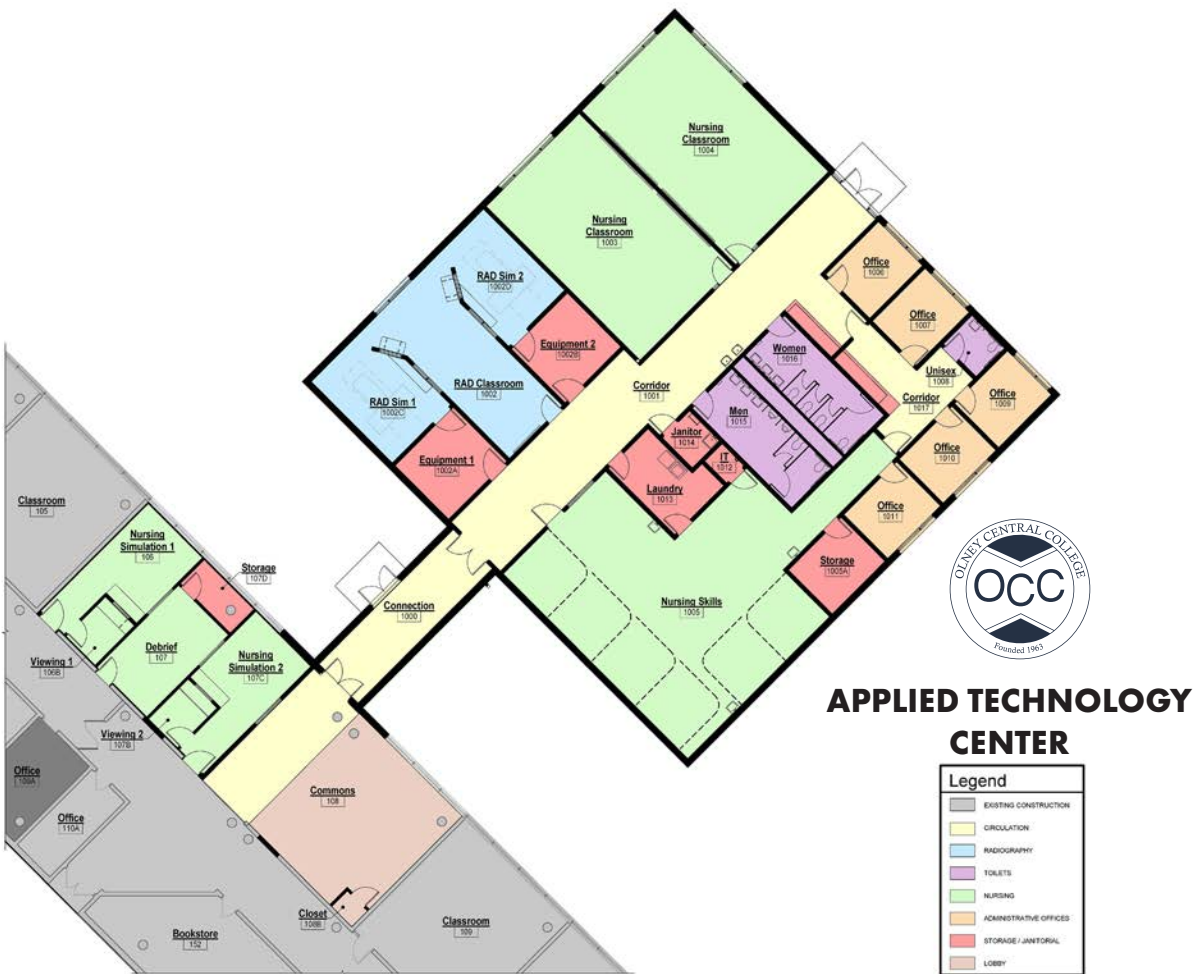
Construction is slated to begin in early 2025 on a \$3.15 million addition to Dr. Kent L. Wattleworth Hall, which will house Olney Central College's Radiography and Nursing programs.

A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. on January 15. The event will begin with remarks in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center and then proceed to the construction site located on the north side of Wattleworth Hall.

The 8,000-square-foot Applied Technology Center will feature dedicated classroom and office spaces for both programs as well as high-tech simulation and skills labs. The facility also will provide Radiography students with access to an energized lab on campus — a first in the program's 30-year history. Other amenities include a student lounge, laundry area and added storage space.

"The Applied Technology Center at Olney Central College represents our commitment to delivering state-of-the-art education through advanced simulation and hands-on learning," said Dr. Alani Frederick, Dean of Health Professions for Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. "Nursing students will be immersed in a realistic hospital environment, allowing them to develop critical clinical judgment in a safe, supervised setting. Radiography students will gain essential experience in our energized lab, where they'll take X-rays under the guidance of expert faculty to ensure precision. By blending cutting-edge technology with expert instruction, we're preparing our students to become highly skilled healthcare professionals ready to meet the demands of today's workforce."

This will be the largest classroom addition at OCC in more than a decade and the biggest



renovation to OCC’s main building since its opening in 1974. The project includes revamping current Classrooms 106, 107 and 108 and incorporating them into the new facility designed by Graham & Hyde Architects Inc.

“This is really a significant improvement for Wattleworth Hall and a real game-changer for Allied Health,” said OCC President Chris Simpson. “This construction project will have a huge impact on the OCC Nursing and Radiography programs. It’s exciting to see it finally come to reality and this is something we really want to celebrate.”

He added, “Allied Health Programs are some of our most successful, creating graduates who are workforce ready. I think this not only helps the college’s efforts to improve, but it will have a far-reaching impact in the community because the graduates we produce will be working within our local healthcare facilities.”

Funded in part by Illinois Capital Development Board monies, Simpson shared that project bids exceeded the construction budget. Instead of altering plans or eliminating optional classroom space, OCC turned to the community for support.

Since then, the college has received more than \$400,000 in donations to cover the shortfall including the Olney Central College Foundation’s pledge of more than \$150,000 over the next five years. Other contributors include Wabash General Hospital, the Johnsie Flock Fildes Foundation, the Richland County Board and the City of Olney. OCC also received a generous gift given in memory of Phyllis Fehrenbacher by her family.

“We are very pleased with the response we have received from these different groups who have chosen to support this project,” Simpson said. “It indicates the generosity of our supporters and the valuable role OCC plays in our community.”

The donations have ensured the best possible outcome for OCC students.

“One of the main reasons we wanted the two nursing classrooms is to be able to bring together all of our Allied Health Programs in one location,” Simpson said. “Currently they are spread throughout Wattleworth Hall. Also, without the inclusion of the two nursing classrooms, we would have a net loss of classrooms in the building. Now, we have a net gain and some additional office space as well.”

Prep work at the site is already underway. Construction is expected to continue throughout 2025 with the facility ready for student use in 2026.

OCC to produce its own renewable electricity

Olney Central College will begin producing its own renewable electricity this year with the completion of its solar array.

Construction has been ongoing since September with the installation of 622 solar panels, which are located behind Dr. Kent L. Wattleworth Hall near the southeast corner of the building.

Once operational, it will generate 370.1 kilowatts of power and provide a possible cost savings of \$30,000 a year to the college.

"The solar array at OCC will provide a substantial savings in our utility bills," said OCC President Chris Simpson. "In a matter of a few years, it will pay for itself and then continue to provide savings to the college's budget."

The project underscores OCC's commitment to sustainability and minimizing its ecological footprint.



At right, installation of the 622 solar panels began in September. Above, the completed solar array, which is located on the southeast corner of Dr. Kent L. Wattleworth Hall.



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INSTRUCTION:
30 HOURS CLASSROOM
6 HOURS BEHIND THE WHEEL
MUST BE 15 BY MAY 9, 2025
TO REGISTER FOR CLASS

LEARN MORE AT iecc.edu/driversed

Auditions for *Tarzan* January 13-14

Olney Central College Theater will host auditions for the musical Disney's *Tarzan* on January 13 and 14 at the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

A title that is recognizable the world over, *Tarzan* is a powerhouse of a musical.

Based on Disney's epic animated musical adventure and Edgar Rice Burrough's *Tarzan of the Apes*, *Tarzan* features heart-pumping music by rock legend Phil Collins, and a book by Tony Award-winning playwright David Henry Hwang.

Audition information and materials are available at www.iecc.edu/occ/theater. Auditions are open to age high school and above.

No previous theater experience is required. Local and surrounding community members are welcome to audition.

Sports Schedule

Men's Basketball

Jan. 15 — vs. Wabash Valley, 7 p.m. at home
Jan. 18 — at John A. Logan, 3 p.m.
Jan. 22 — at Vincennes, 6 p.m.
Jan. 25 — vs. Kaskaskia, 3 p.m. at home
Jan. 29 — vs. Rend Lake, 7 p.m. at home
Feb. 1 — at Lincoln Trail, 3 p.m.
Feb. 3 — vs. Southwestern Illinois, 7 p.m. at home
Feb. 5 — vs. Shawnee, 7 p.m. at home
Feb. 8 — at Lake Land, 3 p.m.
Feb. 15 — at Southwestern Illinois, 3 p.m.
Feb. 19 — at Wabash Valley, 7 p.m.
Feb. 22 — vs. John A. Logan, 3 p.m. at home

Women's Basketball

Jan. 15 — vs. Wabash Valley, 5 p.m. at home
Jan. 18 — at John A. Logan 1 p.m.
Jan. 22 — at Vincennes, 4 p.m.
Jan 28 — at Brescia JV, 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 29 — vs. Rend Lake, 5 p.m. at home
Feb. 1 — at Lincoln Trail, 1 p.m.
Feb. 5 — vs. Shawnee, 5 p.m. at home
Feb. 15 — at Southwestern Illinois, 1 p.m.
Feb. 19 — at Wabash Valley, 5 p.m.
Feb. 22 — vs. John A. Logan, 1 p.m. at home
Feb. 26 — vs. Vincennes, 5 p.m. at home



OCC Presents Service Awards

Olney Central College proudly recognized several employees for their outstanding years of service during the Spring Faculty and Staff Workshop on January 2. Honorees include front row, Financial Aid Specialist Stephanie Corley, three years; Records Specialist Tiffany Starwalt, three years; and Associate Professor of English Kelly Payne, 20 years; and Back row, Professor of Physics Rob Mason, 25 years; and Allied Health Administrative Assistant Melissa Hines, three years. Others receiving awards include Part-time Business Office Assistant Elaine Michl, OCC Foundation Executive Director Beth Miller and Nursing Instructor Clare Roosevelt, all with three years of service; Adjunct Welding Instructor Wesley Phillips, five years; Adjunct Massage Therapy Instructor Deb Burnett, 10 years; Part-time Assistant Softball Coach Teddi Heisel, 15 years; and Business Office Assistant Kim Wilson, 25 years.



Christmas Tree Donation

OCC Custodian Terrilynne Majors provided a Christmas tree to brighten the holidays for children at the Buckeroo Early Education Center at Olney Central College.



Learning Commons Adds Keurig Station

Kaitlyn Weger and Chad Groves invite you to stop by the OCC Learning Commons and check out the new self-serve Keurig station. A wide variety of coffee and hot chocolate is available.

OCC Softball Hitting Camp

Olney Central College Softball will host a Winter Hitting Camp on Saturday, February 1 at Britton's Bullpen, 1809 S. Whittle Ave., in Olney.

Ages 7-12 will meet from 10 a.m. to noon. A session for those ages 13-17 will be offered from 1 to 3 p.m.

Check in begins 30 minutes before start time. Participants should bring tennis shoes and a bat. Helmets are optional.

The cost is \$50. Early registration is encouraged as each session is limited to 25 participants.

To pre-register online go to <https://olneycentralathletics.com/sports/sball/campregistration>.

Forms also are available by contacting OCC Softball Coach Nick Short at 618-395-7777, ext. 2223, or email shortn@iecc.edu.

Lost and Found

If you have lost an item, please check the OCC Lost and Found in Student Services.

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE
OCC
Founded 1963

2024-2025
OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLICATIONS
AVAILABLE NOW!

www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships

DEADLINE TO APPLY: MARCH 1, 2025

Questions?
Contact OCC Financial Aid



SNA helps families at Christmas

The second-level Student Nurses Association members at OCC used proceeds from selling T-shirts to buy items for the Adopt-a-Family program in Olney.



**APPLY FOR
GRADUATION**

IN ENTRATA

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28