

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE KNIGHTLINE



OCTOBER 2025

CALENDAR OCTOBER

16 — Midterm

21 — Spring Registration Begins

28 — OCC Student Senate Sponsored Blood Drive, Student Union, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

NOVEMBER

11 — Campus Closed - Veterans' Day

21-22 — OCC Theater Presents *The Play That Goes Wrong*, 7 p.m.

23 — OCC Theater Presents *The Play That Goes Wrong*, 2 p.m.

26 — Last Day to Withdraw from Fall Semester Classes

27-28 — Campus Closed - Thanksgiving Break

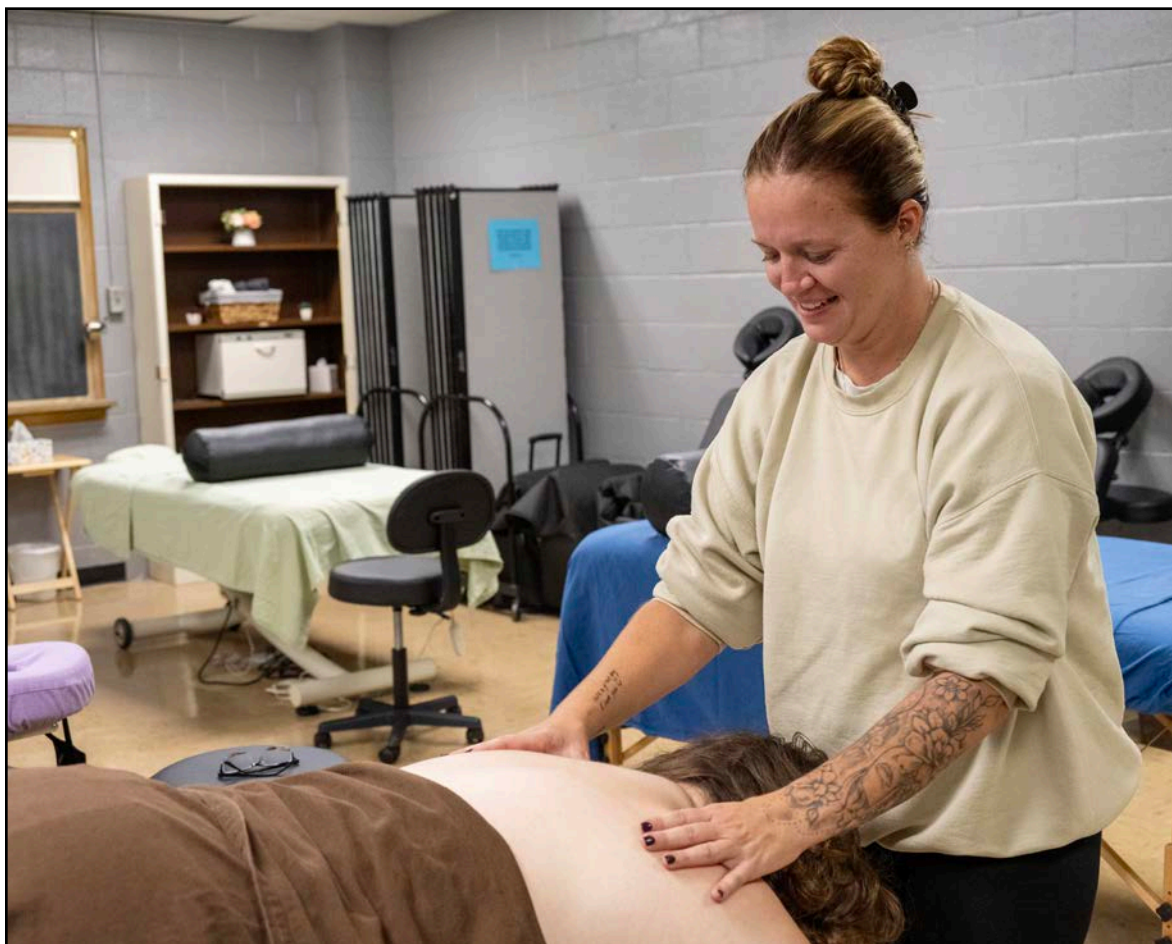
Campus Visits

Tables will be located in the hallway outside Student Services.

Oct. 23 & Nov. 6 — University of Southern Indiana, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Oct. 30 & Nov. 6 — Greenville University, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Nov. 5 — Eastern Illinois University, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.



Olney Central College student Shay Allen practices her massage therapy techniques during class.

OCC Massage Therapy students gain pathway to highest national credentials

Olney Central College has been approved as a National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCBTMB) Assigned School.

The designation ensures that after successfully completing state licensure, OCC massage therapy students can now seek NCBTMB board certification, the highest credentials available for those in the massage therapy profession.

"The NCBTMB board certification shows that you have reached the highest credential in your career and that you continue to pursue education, training and advanced skills in the profession," said OCC Massage Therapy Instructor Deb Burnett. "It indicates that you have gone above and beyond the requirements for state licensing. This certification gives you the credentials you need for advanced assessment and critical thinking skills and highlights your determination and dedication to your career."

Burnett emphasized that this certification is especially valuable for massage therapists choosing to work in hospitals and other healthcare settings, where advanced training and professional

credentials can enhance both credibility and patient care.

"It is seen as a demonstration of excellence and an enhanced skill-level," she added.

Earning the NCBTMB Assigned School distinction also affirms the high-quality of OCC's Massage Therapy Program as it meets or exceeds the rigorous standards of excellence established by the organization. This recognition reflects the program's commitment to preparing students with the knowledge, skills and professional training needed to succeed in the field of therapeutic massage and bodywork. As both an instructor and graduate of the program, Burnett brings nearly 20 years' experience to the classroom.

The additional credentialing comes as opportunities for massage therapists are expanding. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs for massage therapists are projected to grow by 15 percent over the next decade, with an average of nearly 25,900 new openings each year. The American Massage Council anticipates the greatest need will be in the area of medical massage, with therapists treating diagnosed pain, injury and chronic musculoskeletal issues.

"Massage therapy used to be considered more as a luxury treatment," Burnett said. "But people and the healthcare industry are realizing that the health benefits of massage therapy are substantial and using massage therapy along with other healthcare services makes a significant difference in your physical and mental health."

Olney Central College's Massage Therapy Program offers a one-year certificate with classes scheduled in the evenings to accommodate busy schedules. For more information, visit www.iecc.edu/occ/massage.

Stress Less, File Faster: FAFSA Fridays at OCC

Olney Central College Financial Aid wants to make it easier for students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, with FAFSA Fridays.

Starting October 17, and continuing for consecutive Fridays through November 14, students can visit Financial Aid and receive one-on-one assistance from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with no appointment needed.

OCC Financial Aid Specialist Taryn Bunting encourages students to take advantage as they will receive free, expert advice.

"FAFSA Fridays will help them reduce stress and avoid costly mistakes or missed opportunities," she said. "It's a chance to ask questions about financial aid, scholarships or specific college requirements. Getting it done with support makes the process faster and easier."

Bunting stressed the importance of completing the FAFSA as it determines eligibility for financial aid, including grants, like the Pell Grant, which don't have to be paid back, low-interest student loans and work-study opportunities.

"Many states, colleges and scholarship organizations also use FAFSA information to award additional aid, so skipping it could mean missing out on free money for college," she explained.

The 2025-26 FAFSA opened earlier this month and students are reminded they must file each year they are attending college. Bunting urges students to complete their FAFSA as soon as possible.

"Some financial aid is first come, first served — once it runs out, it's gone," she said. "Also state and college deadlines can be much earlier than the federal deadlines."

Early completion reduces the risk of delays caused by errors or missing information. Bunting said filing earlier means students will receive their financial aid package sooner, which can help them make informed decisions about college costs.

For additional information about the FAFSA or financial aid, visit www.iecc.edu/financial.



Financial Aid Representative Stephanie Corley and Financial Aid Specialist Taryn Bunting encourage students to take advantage of FAFSA Fridays.



Nursing Assistant Professor Cheryl Dill helps a student locate the heartbeat in a manikin. Blue Preview featured several stations where students could talk with faculty and learn more about OCC.

Blue Preview brings 327 students to campus

Each year Blue Preview provides area students a glimpse into campus life at Olney Central College. It's a chance to interact with current students and faculty and to explore career pathways and programs all while discovering what makes OCC truly unique.

Initiated in 2022, the event first targeted high school seniors within the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District. Last year, it was opened to area eighth-graders in an effort to initiate early career and college exploration.

On September 26, OCC welcomed 191 students from Richland County, Edwards County and Newton Community high schools along with the Wabash and Ohio Valley Special Education District. Also participating in Blue Preview 2025 were 136 eighth-graders from Richland County Middle School and St. Joseph's in Olney.

"This is our opportunity to showcase OCC," said Curtis Miller, Director of Enrollment and Community Outreach for IECC. "The Blue Preview offers future students an opportunity to learn more about the many different programs that OCC offers. It's a great opportunity to talk with our instructors and students in those areas and hear first-hand about their experiences."



The Blue Preview Expo highlights the event, giving students the chance to visit a variety of interactive booths. From locating the heartbeat in a nursing patient manikin to playing an instrument with the OCC Music Department, students were sure to find something to pique their interests.

For faculty like Nursing Assistant Professor Cheryl Dill, Blue Preview provides a forum to meet with potential students and perhaps spur their interest in a field.

"I am very passionate about nursing, and I want to recruit as many students as possible," she said. "One way to share my passion initially is at Blue Preview."

Engaging students one-on-one during the Expo is a chance for Dill to highlight OCC's outstanding educational opportunities.

"Students are always looking for the new teaching modalities such as high-fidelity manikins and simulation," she explained. "They think because we are a small area college that we do not offer these modalities, and we do offer them. The only way for them to see what we offer is to show them and that is why I bring one of the manikins to the Blue Preview."

Dr. Andrew Pittman and fellow Music Department instructor Jena Combs enjoy interacting with the students.

"Blue Preview was a blast," Pittman said. "Jena and I got to have fun talking to potential students, teaching them to play songs on our instruments, while our student worker, Genesis, spoke to interested students about the specifics of our programs including requirements and tuition waivers. I think days like this are a great way for high school students to see and think about what opportunities are available to them so they can be excited about the future."

Miller praised OCC faculty for creating an event students are excited to attend.

"The hard work and enthusiasm of our faculty, students and staff are what make Blue Preview Day such a positive experience for our future students," Miller added.



Each year, students are asked to select their favorite Expo booth. This year's winner was OCC Cosmetology Instructor Nancy Stremme. Students in the program put their skills to use offering hair tinsel applications to visitors.

At left, OCC Radiography Director Lisa Rauch discusses the program with students attending the Blue Preview Expo.



Olney Central College students talk with a high schooler about opportunities available in the OCC Theater.

TRIO Upward Bound receives \$1,000 donation for STEM Lab

The TRIO Upward Bound STEM Lab at Olney Central College has received a \$1,000 donation from Project Community in support of its mission to inspire and empower students through hands-on, project-based learning.

Located in the OCC Learning Commons, the STEM Lab will serve as a collaborative space where students can explore their passions, develop technical skills and build confidence in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

It will feature tools and technologies for coding, robotics and esports, which will aid students in developing 21st Century skills such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. All are essential for college and career readiness.

The STEM Lab will be completed in the coming weeks.



SNA Donation

The Olney Central College Student Nurses Association collected water and Gatorade, donating the items to the Olney Fire Department.

Nursing and Radiography information sessions

Students interested in applying for Fall 2026 admission to the Associate Degree Nursing or Radiography Programs at Olney Central College are invited to attend an upcoming information session.

All sessions — both in-person and virtual — will provide essential details about the application process, program requirements and opportunities available through these in-demand health-care pathways.

All in-person meetings will be held in Wattleworth Hall Room 213.

Nursing Program Sessions are:

- November 14 at 2 p.m.
- December 10 at 3 p.m.

Radiography Program Sessions are:

- October 17 at 2 p.m.

- November 12 at 3 p.m.
- December 12 at 2 p.m.

Virtual Sessions for both programs are:

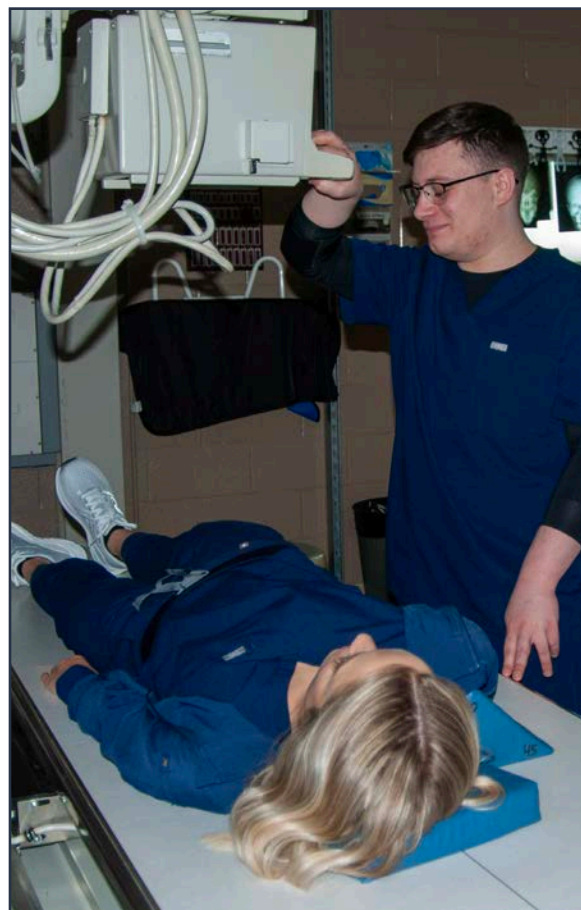
- December 15 at noon
- January 21 at 6 p.m.

A virtual session for nursing only will be held February 26 at 2 p.m.

Login information can be accessed online at www.iecc.edu/nursinginfosessions.

To apply for either program, contact Julie Bullard at 618-847-9201, ext. 4520, to schedule an appointment to attend one of the sessions.

For more information about nursing at Frontier Community College, Lincoln Trail College, Olney Central College, or Wabash Valley College, visit www.iecc.edu/nursing.



BEST DECISION EVER!

REGISTRATION FOR SPRING OPENS

OCT 21

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT NOW!

A smiling female graduate with blonde hair wearing a blue graduation cap and gown.

Free yoga sessions available for students, faculty and staff

Olney Central College students, faculty and staff are invited to take a break, stretch and recharge during a series of free yoga sessions led by instructor Hannah Orenich.

The 30-minute sessions will be held in the back of the Student Union from 1 to 1:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- October 29
- November 4
- November 14
- November 19

The sessions are open exclusively to OCC students and employees and are designed to promote relaxation, mindfulness and overall well-being.

Funding for these wellness opportunities is being made possible through an OCC Foundation grant.



Health Fest Event

Olney Central College and Carle Richland Memorial Hospital hosted the annual Health Fest on October 4 in the OCC Gym. New this year was a photo booth where visitors could stop by and snap some photos.

Active Minds Club seeks new members

Olney Central College's Active Minds Club is seeking new members.

A student organization dedicated to promoting mental health awareness and supporting community wellness, Active Minds works to foster open dialogue about mental health and reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness.

If you're interested in joining, contact Advisor Chad Groves at grovesc@iecc.edu or call 618-395-7777, ext. 2264. Upcoming meeting dates are announced on the hallway TVs.

OCC Baseball Golf Outing Oct. 17

The OCC Blue Knights Baseball team invites you to grab your clubs and enjoy a fun-filled day at its Golf Outing on Oct. 17 at the Richland Golf Club.

This annual event promises a great day of golf, food and camaraderie — all in support of the Blue Knights.

Funds raised will directly benefit the OCC Baseball program, helping provide student-athletes with the resources they need to succeed on and off the field.

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

To register or become a sponsor, contact: Head Coach Darrell Handelsman at 910-964-1979, or Recruiting Coordinator Matt McLaren at 317-796-0622.

Learning Commons offers tutoring

The OCC Learning Commons offers in-person tutoring.

Hours with Liam Ryden are 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and 1 to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Hours with Megan Smith are 1 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays; 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays.

Sports Schedule

Baseball

Oct. 25 — at Millikin, noon

Women's Basketball

Oct. 14 — at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, 3 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Oct. 31 — vs. Indiana Elite Prep, 7 p.m.

OCC hosts University of Illinois System's State Leadership Tour

Olney Central College hosted the University of Illinois System's State Leadership Tour on October 6, bringing together leaders from the University of Illinois System and Illinois Eastern Community Colleges to discuss collaboration and ways to keep Illinois talent in Illinois.



Millikin University and IECC explore new partnerships

On October 7, leaders from Millikin University and Illinois Eastern Community Colleges visited Olney Central College and Lincoln Trail College to explore innovative partnerships and expand educational opportunities for students.

During the visit, Millikin guests enjoyed student-led tours that showcased the colleges' vibrant campuses, hands-on programs and the true IECC student experience.

The collaborative discussions focused on building stronger pathways for student success, creating new opportunities that help students achieve their goals and continue their education close to home.

