

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE KNIGHTLINE



NOVEMBER 2025

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

10-18 — Textbook Buyback, OCC Bookstore, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

11 — Health Professions Center Open House, 3-7 p.m. Dedication Ceremony 4 p.m.

13 — OCC Community Choir Christmas Concert, OCC Theater, 7 p.m.

Campus Visits

Tables will be located in the hallway outside Student Services.

Nov. 12 — McKendree University, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Nov. 17 — Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Nov. 19 — Retzky College of Pharmacy, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.



Olney Central College Associate Professor of Life Sciences Dr. Sarah Bergbower works with students in the lab.

IECC Named Among Aspen Institute's Top 200 U.S. Community Colleges

Olney Central College is celebrating a significant achievement as Illinois Eastern Community Colleges has been named among the Top 200 U.S. Community Colleges by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program.

This national recognition highlights the ongoing commitment to academic excellence, student achievement and community service within IECC, which encompasses Frontier Community College, Lincoln Trail College, Olney Central College and Wabash Valley College.

OCC President and IECC Vice Chancellor of Business Operations Chris Simpson said the recognition underscores the hard work taken to ensure student success within IECC.

"This recognition is validation of the dedication and commitment of the Olney Central College faculty and staff," he said. "An accomplishment such as being recognized as a Top 200 Community College in the nation only happens through the efforts of many people putting student success at the forefront."

It's a distinction that places IECC among the top 20 percent of nearly 1,000 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence — the nation's signature recognition of achievement and performance in two-year higher education. The Aspen Prize honors colleges that excel in student outcomes such as retention,



completion, transfer and workforce success, while advancing equity and continuous improvement.

"Olney Central College has a proven track record of student success," Simpson emphasized. "These areas include student completion rates, transfer pathways, workforce development, and dual credit opportunities for area high school students."

The Aspen Institute has recognized Olney Central College in eight of the nine award cycles since the program's inception in 2010 — a reflection of OCC's longstanding record of excellence within Illinois Eastern Community Colleges and its ongoing dedication to student achievement and community impact.

"The mission of Olney Central College and Illinois Eastern Community Colleges is to deliver exceptional education and services to improve the lives of our students and to strengthen our communities," Simpson said. "By placing student needs at the center of our decision-making, we have been able to work toward this mission — and this recognition reflects that."

He added that continuous improvement remains central to OCC's vision for the future.

"Improvement is an ongoing process that continues year after year," Simpson said. "As circumstances in our communities and the larger region change, Olney Central College needs to be able to adapt to these changes. Being nimble and able to quickly make necessary adjustments is a strength of OCC and something that helps us align our practices with student success."

Simpson also praised the faculty and staff who contribute daily to the college's success as they share their expertise and knowledge with OCC students.

"The faculty and staff at Olney Central College are among the most dedicated and committed I have had the pleasure to work with," he said. "Many of them are alumni of Olney Central College or another one of the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, so they have a deep understanding of the role community colleges play in helping students move forward."

Simpson noted that the Aspen Institute recognition reaffirms the exceptional educational experience students receive across IECC and underscores why choosing Olney Central College truly is the Best Decision Ever.

"Students at Olney Central College, or those considering OCC for their post-secondary experience, have validation that choosing OCC is a great decision," he said. "It's a decision that will put them in a great position to move forward, whether that be transferring to a four-year institution or completing an associate degree or certificate. Coming to Olney Central College can be your next step to anywhere you want to go."



Preserving campus icons

Two campus landmarks — the Equinox and OCC sculptures — were cleaned by O&M Team Leader Dan Brant last month. The Equinox Sculpture was designed by now retired OCC Art Instructor Vic Connor in the early 1980s and constructed by students in the OCC Welding Program. Large rocks were placed at the site in 2001 and notched to designate the sun's zenith on the Spring and Fall equinoxes and the Summer and Winter solstices. The 2011 Welding Class fabricated the OCC sculpture.

Hospital Donation Expands Real-World Training for OCC Radiography Students

Olney Central College Radiography students will now have access to a C-arm machine on campus after the Carle Richland Memorial Hospital Radiology Department donated the previously used equipment.

In medical settings, the advanced imaging device uses X-ray technology and a characteristic C-shaped arm to provide real-time, high-resolution images during surgical and interventional procedures.

"It allows physicians to visualize internal structures such as bones, joints and surgical instruments during orthopedic, cardiovascular and pain management procedures," said OCC Director of Radiography Lisa Rauch. "The live imaging capability helps guide precise positioning, verify correct placement of hardware and reduce the risk of complications during surgeries and interventional procedures."

Rauch explained that having access to a C-arm on campus will give radiography students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with equipment they will use in clinical practice.

"It enhances their understanding of fluoroscopic imaging principles, radiation safety and positioning techniques used in surgical and interventional settings," Rauch continued. "This real-world exposure better prepares students for their clinical rotations and future employment in hospitals and surgical centers."

Carle Richland Memorial Hospital recognizes the value of supporting local healthcare education and offered the C-arm to the Olney Central College Radiography Program when it was replaced by a newer unit in their facility.

"The donation reflects a long-standing partnership between the hospital and the college, both of which share a commitment to training highly-skilled imaging professionals who serve the community," Rauch said.

The donation comes as the OCC Radiography Program prepares to move into the new Health Professions Center. The 8,500-square foot addition to Dr. Kent L. Wattleworth Hall includes new classroom and lab space.

"Students will use the C-arm in laboratory simulations to practice setup, patient positioning, equipment operation and image orientation," Rauch said. "They will learn how to maneuver the C-arm safely around the patient table, apply appropriate radiation protection measures and capture optimal images under supervision. These controlled lab exercises reinforce classroom learning and bridge the gap between theory and clinical application."

Rauch said donations like this strengthen the program by allowing students to learn on authentic, up-to-date medical equipment without the financial burden of costly purchases.

"They ensure that students receive the most realistic and relevant training possible, helping maintain program quality and accreditation standards," she said. "Additionally, these partnerships with healthcare facilities foster community collaboration and demonstrate mutual investment in the success of future healthcare professionals."



Carle Richland Memorial Hospital donated a C-arm machine to the OCC Radiography Program. Pictured, from left, are Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Health Professions Melissa Hines, Radiography Lab Instructor Elyssa Fry, Allied Health Program Advisor Julie Bullard, OCC President Chris Simpson, Director of Radiography Lisa Rauch, Dean of Health Professions Dr. Alani Frederick and Radiography Program Clinical Coordinator Brittany Ochs.

OCC Art Club exhibit opens Nov. 21 in the Anderson Library Gallery

The OCC Art Club is shining a spotlight on student artwork with an upcoming exhibition in the Anderson Library Gallery.

The exhibit entitled, "Nostalgia," runs November 21 through December 5, with an opening-day event at 2 p.m. Guests will have an opportunity to view the works and meet the artists.

Items featured in the display will include drawings, paintings, jewelry and other mixed media art.

"The artists will showcase their artworks based on the topic and each item will have an artist statement next to the artwork," said Advisor Mari Yamato.

For students, it's an exciting opportunity to share their work with a wider audience.

"This project will give Art Club members real-world experience as freelance artists submitting their work to a gallery," Yamato said. "It will also showcase their talents and, hopefully, inspire more students to join the club in the future."



Art Club member Reagan Schulte displays her crochet work, which will be on display. Look closely and you will see cats.

OCC hosts area high school and middle school students

OCC recently welcomed to campus students from Newton Community High School and Carlisle Middle School in Indiana.

The CNA class from Newton met with faculty and staff to learn more about OCC's Nursing and Radiography Programs. They also got a sneak peek of the new Health Professions Center, opening in Spring 2026.

The 27 eighth-graders enjoyed lunch in the Knight Kafe and toured several areas — including the Automotive Program, Ceramics Lab and the new STEM Lab inside the OCC Learning Commons. The group visited Lincoln Trail College earlier in the day.



Above, Carlisle Middle School students utilize the new STEM Lab in the OCC Learning Commons. At left, Dr. Alani Frederick speaks with Newton Community High School CNA students about the Radiography Program.





Rehearsals are underway for the OCC Theater's upcoming production of *The Play That Goes Wrong*.

Tickets on Sale for OCC Theater's *The Play That Goes Wrong*

The curtain is rising — and immediately falling — on Olney Central College Theater's hilarious production of *The Play That Goes Wrong*, performing November 21–23 at the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

Billed by the *Huffington Post* as “the funniest play Broadway has ever seen,” this award-winning comedy is a masterclass in theatrical mayhem.

Picture this: it's opening night for *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, a 1920s whodunit that's already on life support. The set collapses, props vanish, lines are forgotten and actors fall victim to their own scenery — all while desperately trying to convince you everything is “going according to plan.” Spoiler: it's not.

Performances are at 7 p.m. on November 21 and 22 and at 2 p.m. on November 23 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

Tickets are \$14 for reserved seating and are on sale now. Purchase online at www.iecc.edu/occ/theater or call and leave a message at 618-395-7777, ext. 2408.



Food Drive

Students in Jessica McDonald's Communications and Food Class are hosting a food drive now through November 21. Items may be dropped off outside Student Services.

Sports Schedule

Women's Basketball

Nov. 14 — vs. Danville Area at Lincoln Land, 5:30 p.m.
 Nov. 15 — at Lincoln Land, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 17 — vs. Kaskaskia, 6 p.m. at home
 Nov. 21 — vs. Danville Area, 3 p.m. at home
 Nov. 22 — vs. Lake Land, 3 p.m. at home
 Nov. 29 — vs. Mineral Area, 1 p.m. at home
 Dec. 2 — vs. Greenville JV, 6 p.m. at home
 Dec. 6 — at Kaskaskia, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 10 — at Rend Lake, 5 p.m.
 Dec. 13 — at Mineral Area, 1 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Nov. 15 — at Kankakee, 3 p.m.
 Nov. 22 — at Mineral Area, 2 p.m.
 Nov. 29 — vs. Henry Ford, 3 p.m. at home
 Dec. 4 — vs. State Fair, 7 p.m. at home
 Dec. 6 — vs. Moberly Area, 3 p.m. at home
 Dec. 10 — at Rend Lake, 7 p.m.
 Dec. 13 — at Lake Land, 3 p.m.
 Dec. 17 — vs. Parkland, 7 p.m. at home

Register now for Spring Semester

Spring registration is ongoing at Olney Central College.

Programs accepting new students include HVAC and Cosmetology.

New students can apply online for free at www.iecc.edu/apply.

The Spring 2026 schedule is available at www.iecc.edu/schedules.

Lost and Found

Have you misplaced something on campus? Stop by Student Services to check the Lost and Found — your missing item might be waiting for you!

OCC hosts Meet The Knights Event

Fans got their first look at the 2025-26 Blue Knights and Lady Knights in action during the October 22 Meet the Knights event.

The evening featured scrimmages, hotshot competitions and a dunk contest before wrapping up with autograph sessions.



Relaxing Moments
Olney Central College students, faculty and staff are finding balance and relaxation during free 30-minute yoga sessions led by instructor Hannah Orenich. Funded by the OCC Foundation, the sessions are being held in the Student Union. The final sessions will meet from 1 to 1:30 p.m. on November 14 and 19.

