

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE KNIGHTLINE



DECEMBER 2025

CALENDAR

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.

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

15-18 — Final Exams

19 — Last Day of Fall
Semester

22-31 — Winter Break,
Campus Closed

JANUARY

1-2 — Winter Break, Campus
Closed

5 — Campus Reopens

7 — Faculty & Staff Workshop

12 — Spring Semester Begins

12 — Last Day to Pay Spring
Semester Tuition & Fees

19 — Martin Luther King Jr.
Day, Campus Closed

26 — Last Day for 100
Percent Refund of 16-week
Spring Semester Classes



Olney Central College will celebrate the opening of the new state-of-the-art Health Professions Center with an Open House and Dedication Ceremony on December 11.

OCC Health Professions Center Open House and Dedication Dec. 11

Olney Central College will celebrate the completion of its Health Professions Center with an Open House and Dedication Ceremony on December 11.

The public is invited to explore the new 8,500-square-foot addition to Dr. Kent L. Wattleworth Hall from 3 to 7 p.m., with a formal dedication ceremony beginning at 4 p.m.

Funded through the Rebuild Illinois capital program, the \$3.15 million project represents a significant investment in the future of healthcare education and workforce readiness.

"The Health Professions Center will be used to help train the next generation of healthcare workers in our region," said Dr. Alani Frederick, Dean of Health Professions at Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. "This building represents the commitment from IECC to ensure a student-focused education."

An Illinois Capital Development Board project, the Health Professions Center features two nursing classrooms, a nursing skills lab, two nursing simulation labs, a radiography classroom and an energized radiography lab. Other amenities include a conference room, faculty offices and a commons area for students.

"With the new simulation center, all IECC Nursing students will have the opportunity to work through real world scenarios and practice high risk, low volume events such as a cardiac arrest and postpartum hemorrhage," Frederick emphasized. "The Nursing Skills Lab will feature flexible space which will reinforce IECC Nursing's commitment to active learning and allowing a safe and realistic learning environment. Our Radiography Program will have access to an energized lab, the first in IECC history. This space will allow students to practice projections in a



Equipment is being installed for the X-ray Lab in the Health Professions Center. Visitors will have an opportunity to tour the new facility on December 11.

controlled environment, ensuring that they are safe clinicians and are ready to make the most of their clinical experiences."

Olney Central College President Chris Simpson said the center reflects OCC's ongoing dedication to providing students with a high-quality education while helping them reach their future goals.

"Olney Central College and the entire IECC district has student success at the forefront. However, much of the work in this area can be more behind the scenes," he said. "This new Health Professions Center is a highly visible example of our commitment to deliver exceptional education to help our students succeed. This project will play a pivotal role in helping us deliver on this mission by providing a state-of-the-art facility for our health professions students."

In addition to state funding, OCC has received more than \$400,000 in financial support from the community to complete the project. This includes the Olney Central College Foundation's pledge of more than \$150,000 over the next five years along with contributions from the Johnsie Flock Fildes Foundation, Wabash General Hospital, the Richland County Board and the City of Olney. OCC also received a generous gift given in memory of Phyllis Fehrenbacher by her family. Carle RMH is supporting the project through the donation of medical equipment for student use.

"The support of our donors was essential in getting this project completed," Simpson said. "As a result of each of their contributions, the Olney Central College Health Professions Center will provide an excellent learning and training environment for the next generation of nurses and radiographers. Their generosity will help to open doors for our students to enter a career in the health professions."

Construction on the Health Professions Center began in early 2025, following a groundbreaking ceremony on January 15. The new facility, designed by Graham & Hyde Architects, Inc., and built by Shores Builders, Inc., is set to welcome its first classes during the upcoming spring semester, enhancing student instruction.

"The Health Professions program at Olney Central College already has an outstanding reputation in the region," Simpson said. "The healthcare providers in this area know that OCC produces top-notch graduates that are career ready and this new facility will enhance that reputation. The enhancements in the teaching and learning process, as a result of this new facility, will allow the nursing and radiography faculty to take their students to even greater heights."

OCC Community Choir Christmas Concert Dec. 12

The Olney Central College Community Choir will present its annual Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. on December 12 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

Director of Choral Activities Dr. Andrew Pittman said this year's event will feature a variety of selections that reflect the joy and spirit of the holiday season.

Among those are *We Need a Little Christmas* from the Broadway musical *Mame*, *You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch*, from the 1966 animated special *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and *Santa Baby* featuring soloist Genesis Cadwell.

The choir, comprised of both local musicians and OCC students, also will perform *Do You Hear What I Hear* and the a cappella chant *Of the Father's Love Begotten* based on an ancient text dating back to the 4th Century.

Other selections will include John Williams' *Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas* from the 1992 movie *Home Alone 2* and *The Mister Heat Miser/Mister Snow Miser* song from the Rankin & Bass 1974 animated special, *The Year Without Santa Claus*, featuring Isaiah Henson and James Benton. Soloists Garridan Goss will sing *Jingle Bell Rock* a holiday classic made famous by Hoosier singer Bobby Helms.

Following a long-standing tradition, the concert will conclude with a Christmas carol sing-along. Admission for the concert is free. Donations will be accepted to support the OCC Music Department.



The OCC Community Choir will present its Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. on December 12 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.



SNA Assists with Community Events

The Student Nurses Association has been involved in several community activities this fall. Above, SNA members help set up for the Veterans Day program at the Olney VFW. At left, SNA members participate in the first annual Chamber of Commerce Trunk or Treat.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

2026 SPRING



ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

FRONTIER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- FCC Book Club • Every Other Thursday • 10 a.m.**
\$10 • FCC Learning Commons
- Basketball • Wednesdays • 7-9 p.m.**
\$50 • New Hope School Gym
- FCC Fitness Classes • Various Times and Dates**
\$8-\$50 • Bobcat Den
- What Was the Renaissance? • Mondays, February 2-23 • 6-8 p.m.**
\$30 • Mason Hall 24
- The Golden Age of the Airwaves • March 18 & 25 • 6-8 p.m.**
\$30 • Mason Hall 24
- Painting Studio • Mondays, March 2-30 • 6-7 p.m.**
\$50 • Mason Hall 22

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE

- Woodworking • Wednesdays • 6-8 p.m.**
\$200 • West Richland Center 112
- Concert Band • Thursdays • 6-8 p.m.**
FREE • Wattleworth 216
- Jazz Band • Tuesdays and Thursdays • 2-3:15 p.m.**
FREE • Wattleworth 216
- Art Open Studio • Tuesdays • 6-9 p.m.**
\$96 • Ceramics Studio
- Teen Driver's Ed • Various Times and Dates**
\$400 • Wattleworth 204
- Small Business Development Center • Various Times and Dates**
FREE • West Richland Center SBDC

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

- Eagleton Reading Circle • 4th Wednesdays • 6-8 p.m.**
FREE • LTC Learning Commons
- Defensive Driving • 1st Mondays • 5:30-7:30 p.m.**
\$87 • Broadband Building
- Jazz Band • Tuesdays • 6-8 p.m.**
FREE • Lackey Music Hall
- Community Choir • Mondays • 6-8:30 p.m.**
FREE • Lackey Music Hall
- CCRC Fitness Classes • Various Times and Dates**
\$5-\$70 • Crawford Co. Recreation Center

WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE

- Progressive Stretch • Mondays and Wednesdays • 4:30 or 5:30 p.m.**
\$70 • Science Building 61
- Concealed Carry Certification • Various Times and Dates**
\$96 for 16 Hour Certification • \$50 for 3 hour Re-certification
- Community Choir • Wednesdays • 4-6 p.m.**
FREE • Brubeck Arts Center Theatre

FEATURED ONLINE CLASSES

- Discover Digital Photography • Self-Guided or with Instructor**
\$130 • www.iecc.edu/communityed
- Computer Skills • Self-Guided or with Instructor**
\$147 • www.iecc.edu/communityed
- Video Game Development • Self-Guided or with Instructor**
\$144 • www.iecc.edu/communityed
- Stocks, Bonds, and Investing • Self-Guided or with Instructor**
\$141 • www.iecc.edu/communityed
- Spanish • Self-Guided or with Instructor**
\$143 • www.iecc.edu/communityed
- Japanese • Self-Guided or with Instructor**
\$130 • www.iecc.edu/communityed



To register or to find out more
about IECC Community
Education Classes, scan the QR
Code or go to the link below:

IECC.EDU/COMMUNITYED



OCC students visited the Beck Chapel during their tour of the Indiana University campus.

Students attend opera at Indiana University

Olney Central College vocal students traveled to Indiana University on November 8 to attend a performance of Giacomo Puccini's opera *La bohème* by the Jacobs School of Music.

"For me personally, it was one of the best experiences I've had in the theater as a spectator," said Director of Choral Activities Dr. Andrew Pittman. "The Act III set was so beautiful the audience gasped."

Students attending included James Benton, Genesis Cawell, Athena Spieth, Sydney Zuber, Megan Hartich, Isaiah Henson and Garridan Goss. They were accompanied by Pittman, Jena Combs, Jon Wright, Jessica McDonald and Natasha Benton.

Prior to the performance, students had a chance to tour the IU campus and downtown Bloomington. They enjoyed dinner at Anyetsang's Little Tibet Restaurant.



Art Exhibit

The OCC Anderson Library Gallery is currently showcasing "Nostalgia," an exhibition of student artwork presented by the OCC Art Club. Community members are invited to visit the display through December 5.

Sports Schedule

Women's Basketball

Dec. 6 — at Kaskaskia, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 10 — at Rend Lake, 5 p.m.
 Dec. 13 — at Mineral Area, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 7 — vs. Lincoln Trail, 5 p.m. at home
 Jan. 10 — at Shawnee, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 14 — vs. John A. Logan, 5 p.m. at home
 Jan. 17 — at Wabash Valley, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 21 — vs. Vincennes, 5 p.m. at home
 Jan. 24 — at Southwestern Illinois, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 31 — vs. Rend Lake, 1 p.m. at home

Men's Basketball

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
 Jan. 7 — vs. Lincoln Trail, 7 p.m. at home
 Jan. 10 — at Shawnee, 3 p.m.
 Jan. 14 — vs. John A. Logan, 7 p.m. at home
 Jan. 17 — at Wabash Valley, 3 p.m.
 Jan. 21 — vs. Vincennes, 7 p.m. at home



The Play That Goes Wrong

The Olney Central College Theatre presented its production of *The Play That Goes Wrong* November 21-23.

