

# OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE KNIGHTLINE



DECEMBER 2024

## CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

4 – OCC Christmas Movie Event, *A Christmas Story*, OCC Theater, noon

6 – Last Day of Fall Semester Classes

9 – Spring Semester Textbook Sales Begin

9-12 – Final Exams

12 – Music Department Christmas Concert, OCC Theater, 7 p.m.

13 – Last Day of Fall Semester

19-31 – College Closed, Winter Break

### JANUARY

1 – College Closed, New Year's Day

2 – College Opens

6 – Spring Semester Classes Begin

6 – Last Day to Pay Spring Semester Tuition & Fees

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

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

## Community Choir Christmas Concert Dec. 12

The Olney Central College Community Choir will present its annual Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. on Dec. 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 which embrace the spirit of the yuletide season.

Among those are African American spirituals: *Ain'-a That Good News* arranged by composer, performer and music educator William Dawson, a student and former professor at the

Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and *Ain't Got Time to Die* by Hall Johnson, a well-known composer and arranger of African American spiritual music.

The choir, comprised of both local musicians and OCC students, also will perform *Pilgrim's Hymn* from Grammy Award-winning composer Stephen Paulus' one-act opera, *The Three Hermits* and Daniel Gawthrop's *Sing Me to Heaven*. One of the most performed and recorded choral works in modern history Pittman describes Gawthrop's piece as "very beautiful."

The audience also will be captivated by the poignant *Once Upon a December*, featured in the 1997 American animated film and later the Broadway musical *Anastasia*.

For those wishing to leave the hustle and bustle of the holiday season behind, the choir will perform *Come Fly with Me* by Frank Sinatra.

"We are performing some music you don't traditionally hear at Christmastime, but these are really good pieces that we feel everyone will enjoy," Pittman said. "Our students have enjoyed them, and it's been a really good experience for them."

The holiday celebration continues with a jazzy rendition of It's *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, and a mixed meter arrangement of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, which adds an energetic calypso twist to the familiar 16th-century carol. The choir also will perform the classic Thurl Ravenscroft tune *You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch*.

The evening of special music will feature soloists Kylie Rauch performing *Pie Jesu* and Keegan Tucker singing *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* from the 1944 MGM musical *Meet Me in St. Louis*. Jessica and Diana McDonald will present *Santa, Can't You Hear Me* and Tucker will join Jessica McDonald for the 1940s classic *Baby It's Cold Outside*.

Following a long-standing tradition, the concert will conclude with a Christmas carol sing-along of the hymns *Silent Night* and *Joy to the World*. Admission for the concert is free. Donations will be accepted to support the OCC Music Department.



**The OCC Community Choir began rehearsals in early September for the annual Christmas Concert. This year's event will feature a mix of traditional season favorites and choral pieces, under the direction of OCC Director of Choral Activities Dr. Andrew Pittman.**

# OCC Theater presents 'A Christmas Carol'

The Olney Central College Theater presented three sold-out performances of *A Christmas Carol* on Nov. 22-24. The OCC Theater will mark its 50th Anniversary in 2025 with a year-long celebration packed with special performances.



# OCC Theater to host 50th Anniversary Gala

Tickets will go on sale at 10 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 9 for OCC Theater's 50th Anniversary Gala featuring Broadway star Adam Pascal.

Enjoy a night of dinner and music to kick off the 50th season of OCC Theater on Saturday, January 18, at the Parkside Event Center (Best Western) in Olney. Dinner will be a plated meal with a cash bar available followed by a concert featuring the Tony-nominated Pascal.

Pascal is an American actor, singer, and musician, known for his performance as Roger Davis in the original 1996 cast of Jonathan Larson's musical *Rent* on Broadway, the 2005 movie version of the musical, and the Broadway tour of *Rent* in 2009.

He is also known for originating the role of Radames in Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*, for playing the Emcee in the 1998 revival of *Cabaret*, for playing Freddie Trumper in *Chess* at the New Amsterdam Theatre and Royal Albert Hall, and for playing Huey Calhoun in the Broadway company of *Memphis*.

More recently, he played William Shakespeare in the Tony Award-winning musical *Something Rotten!* Pascal also appears in film and television roles, including the movie *School of Rock* with Jack Black and the Marvel TV series *Hawkeye*.



**Adam Pascal**



## Learning Commons sponsor Winter Reading Challenge

The IECC Learning Commons are excited to kick off their annual Winter Reading Bingo Challenge.

Running from Dec. 1 to noon on April 1, this fun competition invites the OCC community to dive into books and check off descriptions on the bingo card.

Bingo cards are available in the OCC Learning Commons. Find books that match the descriptions on the card and get started reading.

If you started a book in November, but complete it in December, you can count it toward your Bingo card.

Remember, the campus with the most Bingos turned in by the April deadline will win the coveted Golden Journal Traveling Trophy and bragging rights for 2025.


The OCC Learning Commons will hold a special drawing that day and one lucky participant will win a Mystery Grand Prize.

Need book recommendations? The OCC Learning Commons staff can match you up with a book before Winter Break.

**IECC Libraries Present...**

**Winter Reading**

**B I N G O**

Psychological Thriller	Any Holiday Theme	A new to you author	A Classic Novel	Choose a book because of the cover
A book set during Summer	Title begins with "S"	Read a book in a series	Suggested by a friend	One Word Title
Check out book from a library	A Banned Book		Turned into a Movie	Any book, Any form (audio, printed, online)
A Memoir/Biography	Out of your comfort zone	The word "People" in the title	Based on a true story	Book recommended by celebrity book club
Read a book with a Red cover	A book with a number in the title	Murder Mystery	A Bestseller	A book released in 2024

**For each Bingo you get in any direction, you'll be entered that many times into our Grand Prize drawing!!**

**Runs Dec. 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025**  
**Drawing will be held April 1st, 2025**

# Sports Schedule

## Men's Basketball

Dec. 7 — at Mineral Area, 7 p.m.  
Dec. 11 — vs. Lincoln Trail, 7 p.m. at home  
Dec. 14 — at Shawnee, 3 p.m.  
Jan. 4 — at Rend Lake, 3 p.m.  
Jan. 8 — vs. Lake Land, 7 p.m. at home  
Jan. 11 — vs. Southwestern Illinois, 3 p.m. at home  
Jan. 15 — vs. Wabash Valley, 7 p.m. at home

## Women's Basketball

Dec. 6 — at Crowder, TownePlace Suites by Marriott Classic, 7 p.m.  
Dec. 7 — at North-eastern Oklahoma, Crowder Classic, 1 p.m.  
Dec. 11 — vs. Lincoln Trail, 5 p.m. at home  
Dec. 14 — at Shawnee, 1 p.m.  
Jan. 6 — vs. Greenville JV, 6 p.m. at home  
Jan. 11 — vs. Southwestern Illinois, 1 p.m. at home  
Jan. 15 — vs. Wabash Valley, 5 p.m. at home



## TRIO SSS and Active Minds Pumpkin Smash

Students had a blast channeling end of the semester stress into some pumpkin-pulverizing fun on Nov. 12-13 as TRIO SSS and Active Minds sponsored OCC's first-ever Pumpkin Smashing event.

# Nursing Program hosts information sessions

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges will host information sessions for students interested in applying for Fall 2025 entry into the Associate Degree Nursing Program at Olney Central College.

Virtual sessions will be offered at 9 a.m. on Dec. 16; at 3 p.m. on Jan. 10 and at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 29.

Login information can be accessed at [www.iecc.edu/nursinginfosessions](http://www.iecc.edu/nursinginfosessions).

Olney Central College will host an in-person session from 9 to 10 a.m. on Dec. 4 in Dr. Kent Wattleworth Hall Room 207. Additional meeting dates for January and February 2025 will be announced soon.

To make application for the nursing program at OCC, please contact Julie Bullard at 618-847-9201, ext. 4520. Appointments to attend the in-person sessions may be scheduled at that time. All applicants must attend a nursing information session prior to application submission.



## Clubs sponsor OCC Christmas Movie Event on Dec. 4

Kick off the Holiday Season with the OCC Movie Event at noon on Dec. 4 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

Join the OCC Future Educators Club, Phi Theta Kappa and Active Minds for a fun-filled afternoon.

Watch the classic holiday film, *A Christmas Story* while enjoying free popcorn and a hot cocoa bar.

## OCC to host FBLA Conference

OCC will serve as the host site for the Future Business Leaders of America Eastern Area Conference on Jan. 14.

The event is being organized by Richland County High School. Approximately 200 students, advisors and judges will be on campus that day.

## Lost and Found

If you have lost items during the Fall Semester, please check the OCC Lost and Found in Student Services.



2025-2026

# FAFSA

**NOW OPEN  
TO ALL STUDENTS!**

IECC School Code: 001742

Students must fill out the FAFSA to receive Financial Aid, grants, scholarships and to be eligible for federal student loans.

You will need your FAFSA ID to complete your FAFSA!

Questions?  
Contact OCC Financial Aid  
618-395-7777



Go to [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) to complete the FAFSA.

## Olney Christmas Parade

Several OCC student organizations participated in the annual Olney Christmas Parade on Nov. 30. Representing OCC were the Student Nurses Association, Radiography Club, Future Educators Club, Phi Theta Kappa and Active Minds.



## Cosmetology accepting new students

Olney Central College's Cosmetology Program is accepting new students for Spring 2025.

Completion of the program qualifies students to take a state examination for registration as a licensed cosmetologist in the state of Illinois.

Qualified students, who begin the program in January, will be able to complete their certificates by December 2025.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with an advisor, call 618-395-7777.

## Register for Spring Classes before Winter Break

Spring registration is now underway. Stop by Student Services or call 618-395-7777 to schedule an appointment with an advisor.

Make sure your schedule is set before Winter Break. The college will only be open for two days before classes begin on Jan. 6.

The Spring 2025 schedule is available at [www.iecc.edu/schedules](http://www.iecc.edu/schedules).

OCC also is offering Community Education classes including community band and art topics.

For a complete listing of classes, visit [www.iecc.edu/communityed](http://www.iecc.edu/communityed).