

# Olney Central College Foundation



## Foundation changing students' lives

The Olney Central College Foundation is changing lives through its annual contributions to the OCC Learning Skills Center. In 2009-2010, Foundation funds enabled a homeless student to improve her reading skills so she could complete training as a certified nursing assistant and helped a local man earn the GED he needed to get a job at the Walmart Distribution Center in Olney.

"The Foundation is making a huge impact in the community," said LSC Director Donita Kaare. "The Foundation is improving the lives not only of the students, but their children. They are helping students to gain the education they need to get out and make a wage that will take them and their children out of poverty."

During 2009-2010, the LSC received \$8,000 from the Foundation to assist Adult Basic Education and GED students. The funds enabled Kaare to purchase eyeglasses for 45 students who couldn't afford them and to pay the \$50 testing fee for students taking the GED exam.

"Before, we were preparing students to take the GED exam, but many never took it because they couldn't pay the fee," Kaare said. "We used to have around 10 students a year complete their GEDs. Now, we have between 40 and 50 a year. For many of our students, \$50 is an insurmountable obstacle. With the Foundation's help, we've removed that barrier."

Kaare also uses Foundation funds to provide meals from OCC Food Service for ABE/GED students, who attend classes all day.

"For many of these people, this is the only hot meal they get a day," Kaare said. "In the past, teachers were coming to me and saying students were hungry but didn't have any money. Making sure they have a good meal has been as important as anything. When you feed them, they are more likely to be here and are more attentive and able to learn. Eating together also builds a community in which students are more apt to work together and help one another in class."

Students the LSC helps range from teen-agers who've just left high school to adults looking to enhance their skills and land a better job.

Bessie Tadder enrolled in GED classes in August 2009. The Olney resident completed her senior year of high school in 1997, but lacked the credits needed to graduate. A single mother of three, she wanted to do more than tell her children an education is important. She wanted to show them by earning her degree.

"I can tell them school is important, but I really felt like I needed to back that up. I felt like this was a good way to



**Max Tonn is one of many students the Learning Skills Center assisted with funds it received from the OCC Foundation. The Newton resident was able to complete his GED and is currently enrolled in OCC's Welding and Cutting Program. He is pictured with GED instructor Vicki Thompson and assistant Debbie Utley.**

motivate them," she said. "It's important to have that GED no matter how old you are. This has been a wonderful experience."

Tadder hopes to continue her education and eventually pursue a career in nursing.

OCC student Max Tonn lost his job due to company cut-backs and wanted to continue his education, but the Newton resident needed a GED first.

Tonn, who left high school in the early 1970s, enrolled in classes at OCC and successfully completed his GED testing in April. He is currently enrolled in OCC's Welding and Cutting Program.

"Earning my GED is something I've always wanted to do," he said. "I'm thankful I got this opportunity."

Don Helm returned to the classroom earlier this year when his job of nine years was eliminated. The 47-year-old Olney man admits he wasn't interested in high school and left in 1978 after completing his sophomore year.

"I just wanted to get out and get a job," he said. "Neither of my parents graduated and I thought they did all right. I thought if they could make it, I'd be OK too. Back then, I was more interested in having a good time. Now, I sit and study. I've gotten into school more. All my life, I never earned over \$20,000 a year. I'm hoping my GED will change that."

# A Message from the OCC Foundation President

We've all heard the saying "The only thing that is certain is change." Although the world around us is constantly changing, it is reassuring to know that Olney Central College remains as an essential part of the community. This is true, in large part, due to the support that many community members, alumni, and friends of the college provide through financial donations. The OCC Foundation is grateful to those who have remembered the college in their estate planning and to our contributors to the Campaign for Excellence. Many people shown on the enclosed list have chosen to contribute each year for many years. The Foundation is also grateful for those who consistently support the fundraising events, such as the fish fry, socials, and the Golf Outing. As described in this report, the Foundation provides funds for the advancement of the students that attend OCC. The list of projects details the financial benefits provided to the college for scholarships and programs. Please know that you are making a difference in the lives of students with your financial support!



OCC Foundation Executive Board

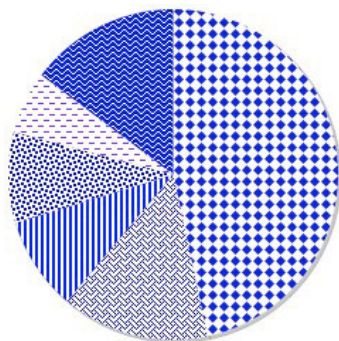
As a graduate of OCC, I remember the opportunities that a local community college provides. The Foundation awarded me a tuition scholarship. My housing and food expenses were nominal during those first two years of college because I lived with my parents. When I entered classes as a junior at the university, I was as much prepared academically as the students who had attended the university for the first two years, and my bank account was much further ahead. OCC also offers the opportunity to be involved in extracurricular activities such as sports, music, and Student Senate. These activities provide opportunities for leadership, friendships, and personal growth. Whether students plan to further their education after graduation or begin a career, OCC provides the best combination to meet students' goals.

The OCC Foundation is a non-profit corporation that is organized under the laws of the State of Illinois. Again, thank you to our contributors for making a difference. If you are considering a contribution to the Foundation for the first time, I encourage you to respond to the Campaign for Excellence letter, attend a fund-raising event, or donate directly to the Foundation. You can also create a lasting legacy through an estate planning gift. We understand that there are many opportunities to donate within our community and hope that you will consider OCC as a worthy recipient.

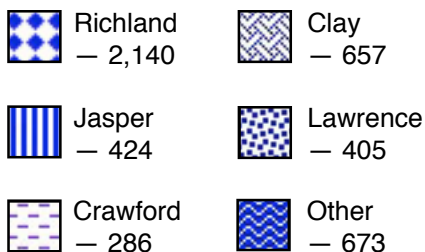
Best Regards,

Deborah A. Mitchell

## FY 2010 Enrollment by County of Students' Residence



**Total Enrollment — 4,226**



## Foundation Projects 2009-2010

The OCC Foundation made \$59,586 available to the college during the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

### Restricted Funds

- *Blackburn Fund* — \$692 to the Biology Department
- *Calvert Fund* — \$467 to the Anderson Library
- *Glover Fund* — \$3,650 to the OCC Music Department
- *Ulrich Fund* — \$10,731 for athletic scholarships and textbooks
- *Wilson Fund* — \$10,703 to the Anderson Library
- *Yount Fund* — \$401 to the Anderson Library

- *Scholarships and Awards* — \$12,942 in funds designated in various gifts to the OCC Foundation

### Campus Improvements and Departmental Projects

- *Faculty & Staff Professional Development* — \$4,000 to attend workshops and for travel expenses
- *Single Parent Program* — \$8,000 for student textbooks, transportation and tuition and fees support
- *Adult Basic Education* — \$8,000 to purchase eyeglasses, learning aids and other items for students

## Updates available on Foundation website

You can find information about the OCC Foundation's latest hap-

penings by visiting its website at [www.iecc.edu/occ/foundation](http://www.iecc.edu/occ/foundation).

# OCC Foundation Scholarship Recipients

The Olney Central College Foundation continued assisting students in their pursuit of higher education by supporting 23 scholarships, which were awarded in 2009-2010.

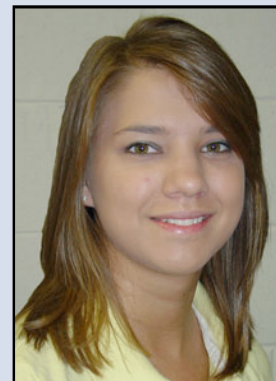
Rebecca Arnold, Newton	Heidi Henson, Flora
Becky Coleman, Olney	Lauren Hinterscher, Ingraham
Kylie Corry, Dundas	Hillary Johnson, Flora
Rachel Doser, Olney	Emily Lomas, Olney
Elizabeth Dunlap, Mt. Carmel	Brittany Marqua, Robinson
Logan Erbacher, Flora	Tania Nidey, Palestine
Avril Harder, Flora	Jordan Ruger, Flora
Ashley Harrington, Louisville	Brittani Sanders, Olney
Craig Harris, Bone Gap	Aleah Steiner, Olney
Teddi Helsel, Carmi	Megan Tredway, Olney
Alyssa Henson, Flora	Leah Welker, Dundas
	Melany Zwilling, Olney

Melany Zwilling is looking forward to helping others as a marriage counselor and the OCC Foundation is assisting her in reaching that goal.

The Olney resident used her Foundation scholarship to purchase textbooks for her classes.

"I want to thank the Foundation for choosing me for the scholarship. It's nice to know that students' hard work pays off and they get recognized by the Foundation."

Zwilling, who will complete her associate's degree in May, plans to transfer to Eastern Illinois University and earn both a bachelor's and a master's degree in psychology.



**Melany Zwilling**

## A Message from OCC's Interim President

Years ago, I attended Olney Central College as a student. One of the biggest factors to my success was the support of the Olney Central College Foundation. I received a Foundation Scholarship award which provided a tuition waiver. I was the first member of my family to attend college and the support of the OCC Foundation helped make my goal of enrolling a reality. The impact the Olney Central College Foundation had on my life is just one example of the support this organization has given numerous students for more than three decades.



The Foundation continues to support many activities at the college. The Foundation is instrumental in providing funds for professional development activities to help keep our faculty and staff current in the latest teaching strategies and other new developments in their academic disciplines. The Foundation also assists in the purchasing of new technologies and equipment to keep our career/technical and transfer courses current in the latest innovations. Furthermore, the Foundation assists our various support programs such as the Single Parent Program and the Adult Basic Education Program. Funds provided to these programs allow many needy students to enroll and succeed during their time at OCC.

In a time of dwindling state support, the success and support of the OCC Foundation is even more critical to the college and its students. I thank the Foundation Executive Board for its relentless advocacy for the college and the Foundation contributors for their support of our students.

Sincerely,

Rodney Raney

## OCC Foundation Executive Board

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## Upcoming Events

**2010**

- **Oct. 22** – *Foundation Fish Fry, 5 to 7:30 p.m. Olney Knights of Columbus*

**2011**

- **May 6** – *Tenth Annual Golf Outing at the Richland Country Club in Olney*
- **Summer** – *Third Annual Wine Tasting Event*

# OCC Foundation Contributors 2009-2010

## *Benefactor*

**\$1,000 to \$4,999**

George & Evelyn Brazitis  
Troy Hickey  
Art Kurtz

## *Sponsor*

**\$500 to \$999**

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Marilyn Weesner  
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Mary Beth Winchester  
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## *Friend – Up to \$49*

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Gene & Sherry Brauer  
Patrick M. Burke  
Larry Bussard  
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## *Memorial Gifts*

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Mr. & Mrs. Dick Fessel  
Aaron & Debbie Mitchell  
Carol Mitchell  
Galen & Pam Schwartz  
Cherie Somerville  
TrustBank  
Diane Zuber

## *How can I support the OCC Foundation?*

If you would like to support the OCC Foundation during the 2010-2011 fiscal year, please mail your tax-deductible contribution to: Olney Central College Foundation, 305 N. West St., Olney, IL 62450.

You also can make a difference in the lives of students and invest in the future of Olney Central College by remembering the OCC Foundation in your estate planning. If you wish to leave a gift to the Foundation, please consult with a professional such as a financial planner, lawyer, accountant or insurance agent about making a charitable bequest. Visit the Foundation's website at [www.iecc.edu/occ/foundation](http://www.iecc.edu/occ/foundation) to learn more.