



Office of the President

Memorandum

To: The College Community

From: Dr. Christine J. Sobek
President

Date: May 19, 2009

As the 2008-2009 academic year draws to a close, I want to share the outstanding accomplishments we have collectively achieved as a college community. In these uncertain economic times we have worked together to achieve our goals as a college; and yet remain sensitive to the quickly changing needs of our students, faculty, staff and community residents.

Uncertainty in both the positive and the negative sense can make it difficult for organizations to move forward. However, I don't believe that is the case for Waubonsee. We have had our goals and plans in place for many years, and our Board of Trustees' deliberate and responsible planning and stewardship over this time period have enabled Waubonsee to make tremendous progress in teaching and learning. This year we have had the unique opportunity to see many of our long-term projects move forward significantly. As we look to the future and all of the challenges that face our community, state and nation, we do so with a cautious, yet optimistic and hopeful view toward shaping the future of Waubonsee Community College and the future of our students.

I am thankful for the opportunity to work with all of you in achieving these accomplishments, milestones, new initiatives, awards, and student achievements for 2008-2009. Please spend a few moments to review them and take pride in our collective successes.

- Student enrollment growth during the 2008-2009 academic year has been unprecedented. The college experienced a 13.2 percent increase in credit hours for the fall 2008 semester with 10,697 students enrolled. And, nearly 12,000 students enrolled in more than 77,000 credit hours during the spring 2009 semester. In addition, this is the first time in the college's history full-time enrollment has exceeded 35 percent.
- Several milestones were achieved this year as a part of the 2020 College Master Plan. In February the college community celebrated the Grand Opening of the Student Center. Located in the heart of the Sugar Grove Campus, the building provides central access to (nearly all of) the college's services for students, as well as a new food service and areas for students to participate in clubs, activities and events.

- In January the college held a Ceremonial Groundbreaking for the 132,000 square foot, four-story new downtown Aurora Campus. This new campus will enable students to earn a complete associate degree, and will also feature workforce development and adult education programs and services. Construction is well underway on this new campus. The Aurora Campus is scheduled to open for classes in 2011.
- In April the college kicked-off the (active) construction phase of the new Plano Campus with a Ceremonial Groundbreaking. The 33,000 square foot building will house general classrooms, science labs, computer labs, an interactive television classroom, and a Certified Nurse Assistant lab. Students will be able to earn a complete associate degree at this location. The Plano Campus is scheduled to open for spring semester classes in 2011.
- Waubonsee hosted our first Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) Checkup Visit in February. The successful results of our AQIP Checkup Visit from the Higher Learning Commission identify and validate the college's strong commitment to systematic quality improvement and recognize our use of quality management principles and our work in building a culture of continuous improvement centered on teaching and learning. The work of the Quality Team has been instrumental in achieving this success. And, new AQIP action projects are underway in the areas of Emergency Preparedness and Safety, Quality, and College Readiness.
- This year we initiated a Strategic Planning Council as an important next step in our quality planning and infrastructure process. This council provides leadership for the strategic planning process through the rollout and support of the college's Major Support Plans. These plans serve as critical support for the college's Strategic Planning Framework.
- mywcc, the new personal Web portal was launched in January. mywcc gives faculty, staff and students a single Web site from which to access the college's most important online services and information. The main goals of mywcc are to create new and enhanced college-wide communication systems; to increase access to college services; and to provide an enhanced sense of community among students, faculty and staff.
- Mr. Richard "Shorty" Dickson has been honored by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) for his 35 years of service as an elected trustee. According to ICCTA, this is the first time in Illinois community college history that a trustee has achieved 35 years of service. He will receive this distinction with a trustee from the College of Lake County, who has the same number of years of service.
- Mrs. Rebecca Oliver was re-elected to her third six-year term as a member of the Waubonsee Community College Board of Trustees. Mr. Daniel Jaquez, a Waubonsee graduate and former Student Trustee, was elected to his first six-year term on the Board of Trustees. And, Mr. James Detzler retired from the Board of Trustees after 18 years of service to the college as an elected trustee.

- Waubonsee was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for the ninth consecutive year.
- The college was honored to have the Illinois Community College Trustees Association select Penny Deligiannis as the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus and Penny Cameron as the 2008 Lifelong Learning Award recipient.
- The Greater Aurora Chamber of Commerce recognized Waubonsee as the recipient of the 2008 Business of the Year in the Community Service category. The award honors the education and workforce development partnership Waubonsee has with Hesed House, a homeless shelter, for the Employment Skills Training Program.
- The Council for Advancement and Support of Education, The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations, the Admissions Marketing Report and the Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals recognized the college with 18 awards for excellence in marketing and communications during the 2008-2009 academic year.
- Waubonsee was awarded \$381,000 in federal grants from the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to support job training programs for credit instruction, continuing professional education, and dual credit programs.
- The college's Illinois Buffer Partnership and Trees Forever Project was chosen to receive a 20th Anniversary Outstanding Project Award from the Trees Forever organization.
- More than 60 students, faculty and staff have been actively participating in the college's new Diversity Leadership Council. The council acts as a focal point to facilitate Waubonsee's strategies to enhance and promote individual awareness, understanding and respect for all aspects of diversity.
- Waubonsee's Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee, the Crisis Assessment Team, and the Public Safety Department have implemented many strategies and activities including evacuation drills; AED, CPR, and weather spotter training; structural voice announcement capabilities for emergencies; incident reporting; and continued analysis of security and safety risk trends during the 2008-2009 academic year.
- Waubonsee implemented the college's first Employee Assistance Plan that focuses on health care advocacy, wellness initiatives, health risk profiles, legal and financial consultation, and dedicated personal assistance.
- Channel 18, a new college-wide television channel was implemented. Channel 18 can be accessed from any TV on campus that is connected to Waubonsee's internal cable system. It features campus events, training seminars, educational videos, up-to-date news feeds, and Waubonsee original programming.

- The Community Education Department launched www.WaubonseeTickets.com. Tickets to Community Education special events and programs can now be purchased online through this site.
- Two new Associate Degrees in Applied Science for Library Technical Assistant and Geographic Information Systems were approved by the Board of Trustees. In addition, new Certificates of Achievement were approved by the Curriculum Council for Legal Interpreting, Patient Care Technician, and Computer Gaming, as well as 643 changes to our existing college curriculum.
- Students had a unique opportunity to learn about government from Former U.S. Speaker of the House J. Dennis Hastert and other local leaders in the “Hastert Leadership Series” class offered by Waubonsee and the Office of Former Speaker Hastert.
- Waubonsee held two Regional Economic Development Summits in partnership with Northern Illinois University and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to help communities and organizations examine trends and devise workforce development plans.
- A new College-wide Calendar System provides a centralized place for information about all Waubonsee-related events, including student activities, institutional events, special events and many other departmental events of interest to the college community. The calendar is accessible to all college faculty and staff via a Quick Link on the mywcc Home tab.
- Nearly 35 students in the Dunham Early College Academy will have successfully earned a full 24 hours of college credit during the inaugural two years of the program. The Dunham scholars also earned a higher percentage of satisfactory grades (C or better) than Waubonsee’s students overall; their ACT scores were higher than their matched sample; and their need to take developmental English dropped by 25 percent. These Dunham scholars will participate in Waubonsee’s Dunham Early College Academy Graduation and will also graduate from their respective high schools this spring.
- The Waubonsee Community College Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary. The scholarship endowment campaign, Foundations for the Future: Building Healthy Futures Appeal, is in the planning stages. Scholarship Fest, held in the fall, recognized scholarship donors, recipients, and their families. In March, the Foundation awarded 153 scholarships for a combined value of \$104,274 to 143 recipients. Assets of the Foundation are more than \$2 million.
- Waubonsee’s Sustainability Working Group has identified several projects to focus on including the development of new college credit courses and workforce training opportunities. The college has joined with other Illinois community colleges to create a statewide sustainability network. We have also joined the Illinois Sustainability University Compact that identifies four main goals to accomplish by December 2010. Waubonsee also participated in Aurora’s GreenTown Conference in the fall and held our Second Annual Renewable Energy Fair.

- An inaugural group of Adult Education students was inducted into the new Waubonsee Community College National Adult Education Honor Society.
- Waubonsee’s first annual *Report to the Community* was distributed to key college district business and governmental leaders, educational colleagues, chamber and economic development professionals, foundation donors, and faculty and staff. The report is designed to highlight our core values and share student and institutional accomplishments.
- The inaugural issue of *Connect*, a new biannual Waubonsee publication, was distributed to more than 18,500 Waubonsee alumni. *Connect’s* purpose is to create a strong connection with alumni by informing them of key events and providing college news.
- The “Placing Learning First: Faculty and Program Recognition Initiative” was initiated to highlight outstanding teaching and learning efforts at our Board of Trustees meetings.
- Waubonsee launched a new outreach program for parents of college-bound high school juniors and seniors. Parent components were added to our College Night, Experience Waubonsee, and New Student Orientation events and special “Parents Night” workshops were held in the fall and spring semesters.
- A cross-functional team of Waubonsee faculty and staff has implemented a number of initiatives and activities designed to assist veterans who are returning to college to begin or continue their education.
- Waubonsee hosted its first Health Care Interpreting Conference: Shaping the Future for Health Care Professionals for practicing interpreters, health care providers, and bilingual individuals who are considering a career in interpreting.
- In conjunction with the opening of the Student Center, the South Side Improvement Project was completed. The project included enlarging Lake Huntoon to expand stormwater capacity, new sidewalks and landscaping, a new kiln shelter for the Ceramics program’s wood-fired kilns, and improvements to the south parking lot and adjacent areas to create a gateway entrance to the Student Center.
- A new temporary 130-space parking area was also created on the north side of the Sugar Grove Campus to meet the demand for additional parking during peak class times.
- An East Side Improvement Project has been endorsed that will include an access road to the Auditorium, the creation of a new parking lot east of Collins Hall, and the expansion of the parking lot north of the Science Building.

- Students earned conference, state and national competition recognition in SkillsUSA, the National Coca-Cola Two-Year Scholarship Program, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society Hallmarks Program, Phi Theta Kappa All-Illinois Academic Team, IDOT Public Service Announcement Contest, Ted Brattin Civic Youth Awards, Studio Potter Undergraduate Merit Award, Ravinia Festival Women's Board Poster Contest, Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference co-curricular Art, Writing, and Jazz activities, and Model Illinois Government.
- Outstanding student participation took place in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance project, and several other community service projects spearheaded by Student Support Services, the Criminal Justice Club, Latinos Unidos, African Cultural Alliance, Womyn for Womyn Alliance, Waubensee Student Nurses, Student Chapter of the Fox Valley Association for Education of Young Children, and the Business Club.
- The Men's and Women's Cross Country Teams and the Women's Soccer Team won the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference, and the Region IV Championship. The #1 Women's Tennis Doubles Team captured the Region IV title. Women's Tennis, Men's and Women's Cross Country, Wrestling and Golf advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association's national competitions. And, three Waubensee student athletes were named All-Americans.

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