



WAUBONSEE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# President's Report

June 2024

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



## Community Engagement

In addition to the many wonderful events that we host on our Waubonsee campuses, I always enjoy the opportunity to engage with members of our Waubonsee community outside of the college. Some of the highlights this month include my service as a judge for the East Aurora School District #131 All Staff Talent/Variety Show, Dr. Jeff Craig's County Fair Retirement Celebration hosted by West Aurora School District #129, and a retirement celebration for my friend and district neighbor, Dr. Brian Caputo, President of the College of DuPage. I have been fortunate to benefit from working with experienced leaders like Dr. Craig and Dr. Caputo and wish them well in their retirement. In my role on the board, I attended the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin Blue Star Celebration/Open House where we announced a name change to the Boys and Girls Club of North Central Illinois better reflecting our expanded service area including Aurora. We continue our partnership conversations to offer services at our Aurora Downtown Campus. I am also honored to have been asked to speak at the Finishing Contractors Association of Illinois 2024 Larry Nedrow Scholarship Awards Night.

With the flurry of our end of the academic year events behind us, we are all looking forward to the relatively more relaxed feel of summer on a college campus. Although the feeling may be more relaxed, there is plenty of activity and work being accomplished. We hope to capitalize on this more casual atmosphere by hosting a few informal lunches to bring employees together and encouraging them to take time to build relationships over lunch.

We recently celebrated Waubonsee's fifth cohort of 24 faculty and staff who completed the Association of College and University Educators program. This professional development program focuses on innovative teaching practices and new strategies to enhance student engagement and success. This year, six of the cohort members were from Oakton Community College.

In other recent celebrations, we were delighted to welcome former pitcher and coach, Dan Crawford, and former baseball player and long-time Waubonsee Athletics supporter, Chuck Day, to our Athletics Hall of Fame. We also welcomed representatives from Southern Illinois University (SIU) to our Sugar Grove Campus for a scholarship presentation ceremony for Waubonsee student Isidro Piña. Isidro was one of 12 recipients statewide for the SIU 2024 Provost's Scholarship.

Our Waubonsee Foundation hosted another successful Walk, Run, and WIN with Waubonsee 5K/10K. Check out the [photo gallery and race results](#). We had a great turnout for this fourth annual event and had a great time showcasing the beauty of our Sugar Grove Campus while raising funds to provide scholarships for students. We know that for many students, college would not be possible without these scholarships so we appreciate the continued dedication and commitment of our Foundation Board and our community.

Several of us recently returned from attending the Achieving the Dream (ATD) Kickoff Institute in New Orleans, LA. We also worked with ATD recently during a Student Journey Mapping workshop on our Sugar Grove Campus. During the workshop, students and employees from across the college participated in a collaborative exercise that explored the current design of our student experience, began to identify and address critical pain points, and explore additional data and ideas for addressing these pain points.

Trustee Tina Willson; Evelyn Cassano, Adult Education Instructor and 2024 ICCTA Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award nominee, and I attended the recent Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) Annual Convention. Ms. Willson was recognized as a first-time recipient of a Trustee Education Award, and Dr. Sheila Vemu, Associate Professor of Biology, was recognized as the 2024 ICCTA Outstanding Full-time Faculty Member Award recipient.



## What I'm Reading

- *Radical Reimagining for Student Success in Higher Education*  
Edited by Jo Arney, Timothy Dale, Glenn Davis, and Jillian Kinzie
- *AI and the Future of Education: Teaching in the Age of Artificial Intelligence* by Priten Shah
- *The Agile College: How Institutions Successfully Navigate Demographic Change* by Nathan D. Grawe



## What I'm Following

- @waubonsee social media channels
- Jobs for the Future (JFF) on LinkedIn

Next week, we look forward to celebrating and recognizing Waubonsee's Support Staff and the important work that they do to help students achieve their goals at Waubonsee during our Annual Support Staff Meetings at the Aurora Downtown and Sugar Grove Campuses. We will also recognize our 2024 Support Staff Award for Excellence winners in Service and Quality: Brandy Monthe, Administrative Coordinator Business, Technology, and Workforce Development; in Innovation and Creativity: Jeremy Falk, Assessment Technology Coordinator; in Diversity and Inclusion: Genesis Flores, Information Desk Assistant, as well as staff who have earned degrees, earned promotions, or taken on new roles at the college.

Our recent stellar HVAC accreditation site visit, highlighted some of the wonderful work done by our support staff, faculty, and administrators. Several employees were involved in preparing the accreditation materials, planning the visit and hosting the accreditation team, and making certain that our lab looked and functioned at its best. Congratulations to all!

## AROUND THE COLLEGE

Baseball completed their year with a final overall record of 21-33 and a conference record of 5-9. The team made it to the Region 4 Division III Tournament. Baseball had five athletes that had post-season honors: Trey Hernandez (All-Conference 2nd Team and All-Region 1st Team), Joel Johnson (All-Conference 2nd Team and All-Region 1st Team), Ryan Buck (All-Conference Honorable Mention), Donovan Zielke (All-Region 1st Team), and Chazz Crook (All-Region 2nd Team).

# Coming Up

### June 20

Finishing Contractors Association of Illinois 2024 Larry Nedrow Scholarship Awards Night

### June 26

Mayor Richard Irvin's Second Quarter State of the City Address, "The State of Public Safety and Public Engagement"

### June 27

2024 Annual Support Staff Meetings