



WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President's Report

July 2024

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



Achieving the Dream

As we have shared, our launch into a three-year journey as a member of the Achieving the Dream (ATD) network marks the next step in our ongoing commitment to student success. By expanding successful pilot programs across the campus, ATD network colleges have witnessed significant improvements in student outcomes and experiences.

Joining ATD is more than just starting a specific initiative or project; it represents a fundamental shift in our institutional mindset. While we already use data to guide our decisions, the ATD network offers unique advantages. Alongside a network of 300 colleges across 45 states, we will benefit from the guidance of two dedicated coaches. These coaches will not dictate our actions but will provide valuable insights, challenge our assumptions, and help us adopt best practices.

In the coming academic year, our ATD coaches will visit Waubonsee three times. This first year will focus on developing an action plan to address key areas identified through thorough data analysis.

We look forward to this opportunity for all employees to be involved in enhancing our student success efforts and making a lasting impact on our students' lives. Achieving the Dream is not just a program; it's a movement towards a brighter future for all.

Our proposal, "Empowering Student Wellbeing: Waubonsee's Peer Support Program and Innovations in Mental Health Support," has been accepted for the 2024 ACCT Leadership Congress scheduled for October 23-October 26 in Seattle, WA. I look forward to presenting with Christian Locke, Counselor, and Board Chair Rebecca Oliver. Trustees Patrick Kelsey, Greg Thomas, and Tina Willson, as well as Student Trustee Ashley Hatcher have indicated their plans to attend. This year's Leadership Congress theme is, "Community Colleges as Catalysts: Cultivating Skills for the Future," and promises to be another excellent professional development opportunity.

Our team is also looking forward to attending the Alliance for Innovation and Transformation (AFIT) 2024 Summer Institute later this month. The theme is, "Looking Ahead to Empower the Future Today." Learning partners from the [Institute for the Future](#), [Alquist 3D](#), [LAB Midwest](#), and others will challenge us to consider the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies and how they are reshaping jobs, organizations, and industries. In addition to considering how we might utilize AI and emerging technologies to enhance the student experience and increase operational efficiency, we will specifically be asking this team to help lead discussions and recommend AI policies at Waubonsee.

Responsibility for New Student Orientation has moved to Student Life and is now tasked with fostering school spirit and community at Waubonsee. This responsibility has brought about changes to the program and environment aimed at creating a foundation for belonging, connecting students' academic and social success to campus resources and services. I look forward to participating as often as my schedule allows.

Recently, I attended Mayor Richard Irvin's second State of the City address in which he highlighted public safety and public engagement. The timing was perfect as we had just hosted an emergency management tabletop exercise organized by Tollway Thunder at our Sugar Grove Campus. Members of President's Cabinet were invited to observe the exercise as we prepare to reinvigorate Waubonsee's emergency preparedness training to help us be better prepared for emergencies such as the recent tornado that impacted our Sugar Grove Campus.

Planning is well underway for our annual [Foundation Golf Outing](#) on September 16 at the Aurora Country Club. As in years past, our board is invited to join us throughout the day. In addition, we look forward to hosting our 2nd Annual State of the College on September 24. Launched as part of my Inauguration activities, this event provides an opportunity to share updates with community members and elected officials. RSVP forms for these events are included in your materials this month. In addition to sharing updates at the State of the College, I attended the Kane County Board Committee of the Whole meeting on June 25 and provided an update on our Technical Education Center. It has been wonderful to feel the excitement and community support for this project and it is exciting to see the continued progress.



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

AROUND THE COLLEGE

Waubonsee students Aleah Sauder, Automotive Refinishing Technology; Joshua Kovar, Automotive Service Technology; Julian Flores, HVAC; and an Entrepreneurship team including Danny Conti, Ryan Fotre, Jake Guernon, and Elijah Somlock, qualified and competed at the national SkillsUSA competition in June. Aleah Sauder earned Silver for finishing in second place in the Automotive Refinishing category. Our other competitors finished in eighth, seventh, and sixth respectively.

Congratulations to our Waubonsee employees who earned degrees and certificates this year. A list is available in your Info Items.



Coming Up

July 18

Dr. Clyne Namuo, President, Joliet Junior College

July 27

City of Aurora and Hollywood Casino Job Fair, Aurora Downtown Campus

August 1-3

Alliance for Innovation and Transformation 2024 Summer Institute

August 7

Dr. Christine Hammond, Interim President, College of DuPage

August 14

All-College Address, APC, Sugar Grove Campus

September 16

Waubonsee Foundation Golf Outing, Aurora Country Club

September 24

State of the College, APC, Sugar Grove Campus