



# President's Report

August 2024

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



## Kicking Off the Fall Semester – Faculty Development Days/All-College Address

For me and most of my colleagues, this is our favorite time of year as we embark on a new academic year and all the possibilities it brings – for students and for the college as a whole.

Of course, work is always ongoing to try and make each new academic year more successful than the last. Sometimes, it can seem like too much is going on, with everyone wondering how it all fits together.

That's why my [all-college address](#) focused on Waubonsee Together, providing some clarity and connecting the dots among a variety of topics and efforts, including:

- College Structure
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Strategic Plan
- Achieving the Dream
- Student Success and Experience
- Community Engagement
- Institutional Strength
- Communication
- Collaboration

I am especially grateful to the many staff and faculty who lent their voices to the address as it added fresh perspectives and insights while reinforcing the idea that true transformation requires everyone's commitment and energy. And I am also grateful to the Faculty Excellence Team who made time in their [conference program](#) for Dr. Stacey Randall and I to present a special session to faculty on Thursday, Aug. 15, specifically addressing their role in the Strategic Plan and our engagement with ATD.

## Strategic Plan Feedback Continues

I was pleased to be able to attend all four strategic plan community conversations, which centered on the sectors of K-12 education, healthcare, manufacturing and government. More than 40 individuals participated, with a lot of great ideas discussed and even stronger partnerships planned. In addition to these external engagement sessions, online listening sessions were conducted with employees recently. More than 600 employees joined one or more sessions based around the four emerging themes of academic innovation, student success, community engagement, and the employee experience.

## Waubonsee Night at Cougars Game

My family and I were excited to be among the more than 400 Waubonsee alumni, students and employees who attended the second annual Waubonsee Night at the Kane County Cougars game on Aug. 8. In addition to the special \$5 ticket rate for those affiliated with WCC, the night also featured a pre-game concert from the Waubonsee Chorale and first pitches from WCC alum and Athletics Hall of Fame Member Chuck Day, along with current Waubonsee student and softball player Alyssa Perkins.



## Trustee Tina Willson Appointed ICCTA Region Chair

A congratulations to Ms. Willson on her appointment as Chair of the West Suburban Region and member of the Executive Committee for the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA).

## Other Summer Fun in the Community and at Conferences

It's always great to be out and about in the community – especially during the summer and especially when it involves theater. I had fun attending the ribbon cutting for Aurora's new Stolp Island Theatre recently, along with emceeing Geneva's Shakespeare in the Park. I was also able to fit in Sugar Grove's Corn Boil before heading out with colleagues to the Alliance for Innovation and Transformation Summer Institute in early August.



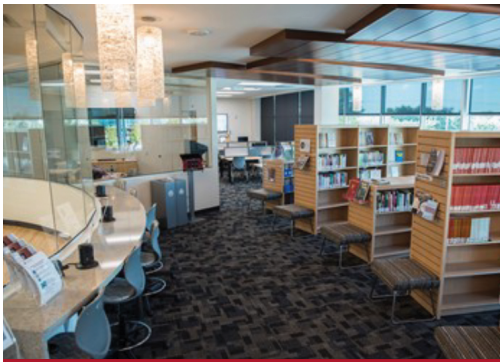
## AROUND THE COLLEGE

### Cross-Town Classic Lunch

It's funny how a rivalry can sometimes bring people together, just as it did during our Cross-Town Classic employee lunch on August 9. More than 150 employees attended across the four campuses to enjoy some hot dogs, team colors, and connections.

### Boys and Girls Club

A new partnership between Waubonsee and the Boys and Girls Club of North Central Illinois is launching this fall! "Club Waubonsee" will open at the Aurora Downtown Campus and provide no-cost/low-cost after-school programs for children in grades K-5. While open to all, the hope is to primarily serve children whose parents are enrolled in Waubonsee's Adult Education courses. This is the organization's first club at a community college; an event to celebrate this unique spot will be held in September, with details and an invitation coming soon.



## 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

## Coming Up

### August 22

Representative Jed Davis, 75th District

### August 23

Dr. Lisa Freeman, President, Northern Illinois University

### August 28

Batavia Chamber Retreat

### August 29

Dr. Susana Rivera-Mills, President, Aurora University  
Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin and Chief Communications and Equity Officer Clayton Muhammad

### August 30

Senator Dave Syverson, 35th District

### September 5-6

Illinois Council of Community College Presidents Retreat

### September 11

Senator Karina Villa, 25th District

### September 12

19th Annual Aurora Hispanic Pioneers Breakfast

### September 16

Foundation Golf Outing