

# FOUNDATION UPDATE

SEPT 2024

## COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Dr. Brian Knetl, College President*

Waubonsee's enrollment is up this year, with more than 8,600 total students, 80% of who are taking courses for credit. Those numbers include an 8% increase in new students seeking a degree or certificate.

Construction of the 100,000 square foot, \$60 million Technical Education Center is on schedule, with a target opening date of fall 2025. The new center will allow the College to expand its Auto Body, Auto Tech, and other programs. In her new role as Assistant Provost of Workforce Development, Ne'Keisha Stepney will focus on developing industry partnerships and providing new opportunities.

Through Achieving the Dream, Waubonsee is now part of a network of 300+ community colleges nationwide who are doing exciting, innovative work to promote student success. Two coaches will serve as thought partners as we seek to use data to identify, track, and inform student success.

## BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Edward Keating, Foundation Board President*

The board recognized outgoing directors Jimi Allen, Colette Rozanski, and Dr. Gina Santori and voted to create an Honorary Council to provide meaningful opportunities for former directors to remain engaged. The board has also begun looking more closely at the engagement levels of current board members and will conduct a comprehensive board assessment later this year. Two Foundation directors are invited to attend the AGB Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C., in January.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Dr. Melinda Tejada, Vice President of Community Engagement & Executive Director of the Foundation*

The MOU signing ceremony in July celebrated the relationship between the Foundation and the Trustees, who serve different roles but work as a team in support of the College. The Foundation will begin developing its own strategic plan as soon as the College's is finalized, and the Development team has been laying the groundwork for increased fundraising.

*The Foundation's annual and quarterly meetings were held on September 10 at the Sugar Grove campus.*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Finance and Audit

*W. Richard Hoster III, Chair*

Contributions and fundraising were strong in FY2024, and the Foundation paid out more in scholarships than any year since 2020. FY2024 ended with total assets of \$7,375,000, compared to \$6,681,000 at the end of FY2023.

### Investment

*Dr. Thomas Huberty, Chair*

Investment returns were approximately \$250,000 more in FY2024 than in FY2023. The portfolio has returned 7.34% net of fees so far this year and was valued just over \$7.2 million as of July 31.

### Nominating and Governance

*Dale Berman, Chair*

The committee has identified candidates to fill the seats vacated by Mr. Allen, Ms. Rozanski, and Dr. Santori. Names will be brought to the full board in December.

### Revenue Generating

*Matt Winkle, Chair*

The committee welcomed all board members to its July meeting for a robust discussion of how to build and sustain fundraising capacity. The discussion will continue at the October meeting.



WAUBONSEE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

## EXECUTIVE TREASURER'S REPORT

*John Bryant, Interim Vice President of Finance & Administration  
& Executive Treasurer of the Foundation*

The preliminary draft of the audit is in final review. No material changes are anticipated, and there has been no indication of any deficiencies or concerns; the Executive Committee will approve the final audit. Contributions and fundraising in FY2024 were strong.

## DEVELOPMENT OFFICE REPORT

*Emma Donatille, Director of Development*

A student worker now supports the Development team, and a Development Engagement Manager will soon be hired to oversee alumni relations, annual giving, employee giving, and events. The 2024 golf outing will welcome 10 first-time sponsors, thanks in part to outreach via local chambers of commerce.



## STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

*Desiree Quintero '23, AAS Auto Body Repair  
2024-25 Recipient of the Land Development  
& Construction Industry Endowed Scholarship*

When Desiree Quintero enrolled in Waubensee's Auto Body Repair program in 2022, her goal was to help her father in his automotive repair shop. When he told her that automotive work was inappropriate for a woman, that inspired a new goal: To open a women-only body shop.

Ms. Quintero completed her program requirements in December of 2023. She wanted to pursue additional degrees but worried that she should find a full-time job instead; she found herself searching for a sign. Her answer came in the form of an email informing her that she'd been awarded the 2024-25 Land Development and Construction Industry Endowed Scholarship. "This scholarship is one of the reasons I will have reached my goals," she says. "This scholarship is now part of my story."

## COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONT)

### Scholarship

*Dr. Diane Homan, Chair*

The Foundation received 598 scholarship applications in FY2024 and provided 377 scholarship awards totaling nearly \$367,000. The Foundation now offers one donor-funded multiyear scholarship and plans to establish three board-designated multiyear scholarships this year.

## EDUCATION & STRATEGY: STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT & DATA PARTNERSHIP

*Dr. Stacey Randall, Executive Dean  
for Institutional Effectiveness  
& Title V Project Director*

The College's strategic planning partner, Huron Consulting, has followed a multi-pronged approach to engaging internal and external constituents. Several key themes have coalesced into four priorities: Invest in Academic Innovation, Create an Excellent Student Experience for All, Engage the Community, and Enhance the Employee Experience. Now in the development phase, the plan will be circulated for feedback before approval by the Trustees.

The College's labor market analysis partner, Lightcast, has added a module that will provide new insight into alumni outcomes.

**The mission of the Waubensee Community College Foundation is to cultivate philanthropic donors, to responsibly steward its assets and to equitably award scholarships to students to help them achieve their educational goals.**