



President's Report

February 2023

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

During the Association of Community College Trustees/ American Association of Community Colleges National Legislative Summit, Trustee Tina Willson, Student Trustee Juan Chiu and I met with U.S. Representative Bill Foster, 11th District, and U.S. Representative Lauren Underwood, 14th District, to discuss student and community college legislative priorities for the 118th Congress. In addition, I joined a weekly legislative virtual meeting for the Illinois Community College Council of Presidents to review Illinois current and potential legislation.

During my first few weeks, I spent time getting familiar with the Sugar Grove Campus and meeting as many students, faculty, staff, and community partners as possible. I had an opportunity to stop by several departments and offices, attend various events, and continue the process of learning more about Waubonsee.

During Administrative In-service, I shared introductory remarks and facilitated an information gathering activity while getting to know our administrators. Later that day, several administrators and I joined faculty for an informal "After Hours" gathering at the Fireside Grill at the invitation of the Faculty Development and Engagement faculty liaisons. I also met with Dr. Jeanne McDonald, Professor of English, in her role as Faculty Council President, had an introductory meeting with Chief J. C. Paez and Dan Larsen as well as Waubonsee Foundation President Edward Keating.



It was great to stop by the Spring 2023 Welcome Back TRIO event and engage with several students and employees.

I attended the monthly Aurora Education Commission meeting which provided the opportunity to meet several area educational leaders. We are temporarily hosting these meetings at our Aurora Downtown Campus through April due to construction at the City of Aurora City Hall. Following the meeting, DiDi Foley, Campus Services Manager, provided a tour of the campus.

My second week closed with several fun events including our annual WinterFest, some WCC basketball featuring a performance from the West Aurora High School Gospel Choir, and several excellent performances as part of our Day of Jazz event.

AROUND THE COLLEGE

For the second time in the 2022-23 women's basketball season, Brooke Heiman was named National Junior College Athletic Association Region 4 Player of the Week with a 3-game total of 64 points and 31 rebounds.



Dr. Brian Knetl, President; Juan Chiu, Student Trustee; U.S. Representative Bill Foster, 11th District; Tina Willson, Trustee



Coming Up

What I'm Reading

- January 2023 Jobs Report
- The Empowered University: Shared Leadership, Culture Change, and Academic Success by Freeman Hrabowski III
- WCC web site

February 20

Kane County Farm Bureau's 22nd Annual Food Check Out Challenge Shopping Spree at 10:30 a.m. at the Batavia Jewel-Osco. Representing Two Rivers Headstart in Aurora, I will be competing against Illinois Representative Matt Hanson, 83rd District, who will be representing the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry. We will have five-minutes to load our carts with our selected pantry receiving a minimum of \$500 in groceries or more. This event is held to raise hunger awareness in our communities and restock the shelves of local food pantries. Spectators are encouraged.

March 1

Aurora Education Commission meeting.

March 2

Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce Regional Economic Pulse event moderated by Dr. Jamal Scott.

March 3

I am looking forward to providing a welcome at the Building Partnerships for America's Future: A CTE Professional Development Conference, a joint VALEES and Waubonsee professional conference for regional educators, at the Sugar Grove Campus.

March 3

Several administrators, staff, and I plan to attend the virtual 2023 Illinois Equity in Attainment (ILEA) Equity Institute, "Reimagining the Transfer Experience with an Equity Lens."

March 8-10

Dr. Scott, Suzette Murray, and I are scheduled to attend the Alliance for Innovation and Transformation (AFIT) CEO Forum and Reps Meeting in Greeley, CO.



What I'm Following

- Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs Act
- @waubonsee social media channels
- *Follow me on Twitter at @WCCPresident*