



President's Report

May 2023

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

I was thankful for a warm, sunny day for our Student Life Carnival. I spent 45 minutes in the dunk tank as students, and a few employees, attempted to send me into the icy cold water. Many were successful! It was a great opportunity to engage with students informally.

Later that day, I enjoyed welcoming our incoming class of Gustafson Scholars and their families at the annual Gustafson Banquet. In addition, I was able to visit a few of our area high schools to present Gustafson Scholarships as part of their Awards Programs.

May has been a whirlwind of activity as we wrap up my first semester at Waubonsee. I have enjoyed interacting with students at our Skyway Art Selections Reception and serving as the keynote speaker for the National Society of Leadership and Success Induction Ceremony as well as at various concerts and a Cheer competition. I also had the opportunity to see our Medical Assistant, EMT, and Nursing students collaborate in our Health Care Team Based Challenge Event at the Fox Valley Campus. In addition to my Tour de Waubonsee listening tour sessions, I have been out and about the college at employee events such as the Retirement and Service Awards Banquet, our Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony, and the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) Class of 2023 Pinning Ceremony. In addition, I learned more about the great work of our faculty by experiencing a [wood firing at our Wood Kiln](#) and an Anatomy and Physiology cadaver demonstration. And I shared information on stakeholders with our New Faculty Learning Academy. Of course, the recognition of our students at the end of the academic year is always the highlight of every year. Our Adult and Workforce Education Recognition Ceremony was truly inspirational and I enjoyed being part of my first Waubonsee commencement, and gauntlet!



Health Care Team Based Challenge Event



Dr. Knetl with incoming Gustafson Scholars

To maintain the College's visibility within the community, I continue to meet with leaders such as Margaret Perreault, President/CEO of the Batavia Chamber of Commerce, David Dibo, Executive Director of the Aurora Mayor's Office of Economic Development, as well as representatives of partner organizations such as the Partnership for College Completion, Excelencia in Education, VNA Health Care, and the Dunham Foundation. Many of our community partners also hosted events this spring. I was happy to attend the Invest Aurora Annual Meeting and the Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce 2nd Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala. In addition, I was introduced at a Batavia City Council meeting on May 1 and was officially appointed to the City of Aurora Education Commission by Mayor Irvin at the May 9 Aurora City Council meeting.



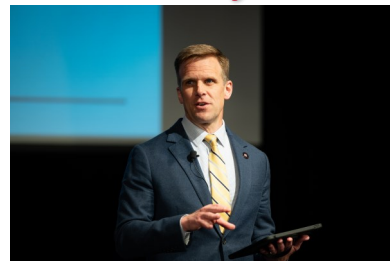
Illinois Representative Dan Ugaste, 65th District, and Dr. Knetl

Our legislative advocacy continues. Trustee Willson and I had the opportunity to interact with members of the new Illinois Community College Caucus as well as visit with Illinois Representative Jed Davis, 75th District, and Assistant Majority Leader/Illinois Senator Linda Holmes, 42nd District, during the ICCTA Lobby Day in Springfield. I also met with Illinois Representative Dan Ugaste, 65th District, at our Sugar Grove Campus.

Student Life Carnival



All-Employee Meeting



AROUND THE COLLEGE

On April 29, Trustee Tina Willson earned her Master of Public Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Faculty Counselor Christian Locke presented virtually to Illinois General Assembly on May 5. He discussed the Peer Support Leader program at Waubonsee and advocated for continued support and funding for the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act.

Waubonsee student, Joanna Sanchez, has been offered a fellowship at the National Institute of Innovation and Manufacturing of Biopharmaceuticals for the 2023 academic year. This student-focused program provides real-world insight into biopharmaceutical industry careers through hands-on learning and mentoring by industry professionals. The program is specifically for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous students as it strives to diversify the school-to-industry pipeline for the biopharmaceutical manufacturing industry. Her student research poster will be showcased at the National Academies Bioscience Summit, June 2023. As faculty advisor, Dr. Sheela Vemu, Associate Professor of Biology, will also attend the summit.

Dr. Sheela Vemu, Associate Professor of Biology, and Evelyn Cassano, Adjunct Instructor for Adult Education, have been selected as the Outstanding Faculty Members for 2022-2023. Both recipients will be recognized during the 2023 Fall Faculty Development Days program and honored at the August Board of Trustees meeting.



Coming Up

What I'm Reading

- *Inclusive Directions: The Role of the Chief Diversity Officer in Community College Leadership* by Clyde Pickett, Michele Smith, and James Felton
- Administrator and Manager Summer Read: *The Great Upheaval: Higher Education's Past, Present, and Uncertain Future* by Arthur Levine and Scott Van Pelt



What I'm Following

- Illinois SB1907
- @waubonsee social media channels
- Follow me on Twitter at @WCCPresident

May 23

Lifelong Learning Institute Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon

May 31

Meeting with Jerry Rich and Jonathan Meagher, Rich Harvest Farms

June 2-3

ICCTA Annual Convention

June 3

Waubonsee Foundation 3rd Annual Walk, Run and WIN with Waubonsee 5K/10K

June 8

Workforce Equity Initiative Symposium

June 13

Invest Aurora Board Meeting

June 15

Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference Board of Presidents/Board of Control Meetings and Awards Ceremony