



President's Report

June 2023

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



COLLEGE ENGAGEMENT

My family and I had a great time at the [3rd Annual Walk, Run and WIN with Waubonsee 5K/10K!](#) This is a great new tradition that brings our Waubonsee community together while raising money to support student scholarships. Thank you to our Foundation directors, employees, and volunteers who made this event such a success!

My wife Amy and our three youngest children, Jack, Lily, and Charlie, as well as my mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law (and alum) and 2-year-old niece all got into the spirit with custom t-shirts.

Since accepting the position as Waubonsee's fifth President, I have had several opportunities to engage with our fourth President and President Emeritus, Dr. Christine Sobek. It was great to see Dr. Sobek and her husband, Dr. Paul Anderson, at our Walk, Run and WIN with Waubonsee 5K/10K event earlier this month. In addition, I had the opportunity to meet with Waubonsee's third President and President Emeritus, Dr. John Swalec. I am so fortunate to have access to these two incredible leaders and their direct institutional knowledge covering 41 of Waubonsee's 57-year history. And, it was a privilege to be at the June Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference (ISCC) Board of Presidents and Board of Control meeting last week where Dr. Sobek was inducted into the ISCC Administration Hall of Fame joining Dr. Swalec who was a member of the 2001 ISCC Hall of Fame class.



Dr. Sobek and Dr. Scott Peska at the ISCC Hall of Fame Induction.

I have been spending time each week in my Aurora Downtown office and enjoy getting to know the personality of our 2nd largest campus and the downtown Aurora area. I enjoyed joining our Juneteenth celebration at the Aurora Downtown Campus. I have also had the opportunity to spend some time at the Plano Campus as our June Waubonsee Foundation Quarterly Board Meeting was held at Plano and featured a tour of our Innovation and Design Center. I am looking forward to the upcoming Pride Party at Plano next week.

Since my last report, I have had the opportunity to enjoy lunch and engage with members of our Lifelong Learning Institute partners as well as Jerry Rich and other staff of Rich Harvest Farms. Amy and I attended Rush Copley Medical Center's "From Roots to Wings" gala last Friday evening. I have also been learning more about proposals for the Sugar Grove area from Crown Community Development through meetings and attending town hall events. And, it's not too late to get your tickets to come out to watch me throw out the first pitch during Waubonsee Night at the Cougars! [Use code WCC to get \\$5 tickets.](#) Fittingly, I met with our Waubonsee Athletics and coaching staff to kick-off our 2023-2024 athletic season earlier today.

In addition to engagement within the college and our local community, I have enjoyed connecting with many of my presidential and former Illinois colleagues across the state. Of course the highlight was the Illinois Com-

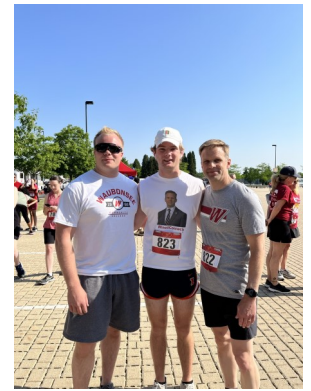


munity College Trustees Association (ICCTA) Awards Banquet at which our own Mary Baccheschi received the 2023 ICCTA Professional Board Staff Member award! It was bittersweet to bid farewell to retiring president Dr. Sylvia Jenkins from Moraine Valley Community College. And Dr. Diane Nyhammer and I had the opportunity to attend a symposium on the Illinois Workforce Equity Initiative. This statewide grant program focuses on expanding training opportunities for minority students in at-risk communities.



L to R: Dr. Avis Proctor, President, Harper College; Dr. David Sam, President, Elgin Community College; Terry Wilkerson, President, Rend Lake College; Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, President, Moraine Valley Community College; Mary-Rita Moore, President, Triton College; Dr. Brian Durham, Executive Director, Illinois Community College Board; Dr. Pamela Haney, incoming President, Moraine Valley Community College; Dr. Brian Knetl, President, Waubonsee Community College; Dr. Brian Caputo, President, College of DuPage

Walk, Run and WIN with Waubonsee 5K/10K



AROUND THE COLLEGE

Waubonsee alumni Carlos Gomez and Juan Chiu, former Student Trustee, were two of 16 high achieving community college students to receive a 2023 Southern Illinois University Carbondale 2023 Provost's Scholarship valued at more than \$31,000 which covers tuition and mandatory fees for two years.

The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and the Student-Athlete Recognition Banquet was held May 18 in the Academic and Professional Center on the Sugar Grove Campus. The 2023 Hall of Fame class included Haley (Kilbride) Jochim, Women's Soccer Athlete, 2013-2014; John Sjudges, Baseball and Men's Basketball Athlete, 1984-1985; and Perry Clark, Softball Coach, 1998-2018. Also, student-athletes were honored for their academic and athletic accomplishments throughout the year from the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference and the National Junior College Athletic Association. The following student-athletes were also recognized with Athletic Department awards: Emily Hurst – Freshman Female Athlete of the Year (women's basketball and softball), Matt Bivens – Freshman Male Athlete of the Year (baseball), Brooke Heiman – Sophomore Female Athlete of the Year (women's basketball), and Joey Niesman – Sophomore Male Athlete of the Year (men's basketball). Taylor Warren (softball) was also presented with the Vermillion and Gold Award, and Chazz Crook (baseball) was presented with the S.T.A.R. (Students Taking Academic Responsibility) Award.



What I'm Reading

- Administrator and Manager
Summer Read: *The Great Upheaval: Higher Education's Past, Present, and Uncertain Future* by Arthur Levine and Scott Van Pelt
- *Credentials: Understand the Problems. Identify the Opportunities. Create the Solutions.* by Paul L. Gaston and Michelle Van Noy



What I'm Following

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

Coming Up

June 27

Illinois Senator Linda Holmes, 42nd District

June 28

Annual Support Staff Meeting

June 30

Illinois Representative Jed Davis, 75th District

July 11

Invest Aurora Board of Directors Meeting

July 12-15

Alliance for Innovation and Transformation (AFIT) Summer Institute

Save the Date

September 15-September 21

Presidential Inauguration Activities

September 17

Bike the Burbs

September 19

State of the College (Community Event)

September 21

International Day of Peace Observance

Investiture