



WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President's Report

July 2023

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

More than 400 Waubonsee employees, students, alumni, and their families joined us for Waubonsee Night at the Kane County Cougars. Our Steel Band performed a pre-game concert as well as the National Anthem. Several staff members handed out Waubonsee swag at a table on the concourse near the concessions area and I saw a lot of Waubonsee light-up bracelets throughout the stadium as the sun went down. Thanks to some coaching and practice with some of our Athletics staff, my ceremonial first pitch made it across home plate.



In addition to a great night engaging with our community at the Kane County Cougars game, I have had the opportunity to meet with a number of community leaders and elected officials. I have started building a relationship with the new President of Aurora University, Dr. Susana Rivera-Mills, at a recent Breakfast/Conversation meeting the university held for several area leaders. I am also scheduled to meet with Dr. Rivera-Mills again tomorrow. I have also had the opportunity to meet with Jim Di Ciaula, Executive Director of CASA Kane County; Tim Rater, President/CEO of the Paramount Theatre; Bob Vaughan, Dunham Foundation Board Member; Kathy Gilmore, President of the Valley Industrial Association; and Ellen Von Ohlen, daughter of founding Board Chair Dale Von Ohlen, and her husband Lyle Rosine.

My outreach to our elected officials continues with a meeting with Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda Holmes, 42nd District, and attendance at a legislative update from U.S. Congressman Bill Foster, 11th District. I also met with Illinois Representative Jed Davis, 75th District, and provided a tour of our Plano Campus.

Some of the highlights from my college engagement include our Juneteenth Celebration at the Aurora Downtown Campus and the Pride at Plano event in recognition of Pride month. It was also a pleasure to share some brief remarks at the annual Support Staff Meeting at the Sugar Grove and Aurora Downtown Campuses and join in celebrating the many accomplishments of our support staff and recognize our Support Staff Award recipients.



Several of us attended the Alliance for Innovation and Transformation (AFIT) Summer Institute in Denver, CO. In addition to hearing about innovation from other industries and institutions, events like this provide an opportunity to get to know colleagues in a different setting which deepens connections and grows working relationships.

As we prepare for our next Strategic Plan, we have developed a Statement of Work to provide some strategic focus for FY2024.



Waubonsee Night at the Kane County Cougars

Juneteenth



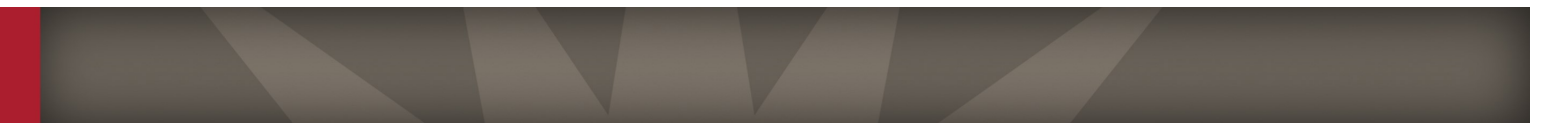
AROUND THE COLLEGE

At the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference annual awards banquet, Waubonsee was officially presented with the 2022-2023 Dave Rowlands All-Sports Trophy. In addition, baseball player Michael Mumme received the Dick Durrant Award for achieving a 4.0 GPA with a minimum of 48 credit hours of college-level classes.

Emily Hurst was named to National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II Softball All-American Third Team and was also named as the NJCAA Region 4 Player of the Year.

Several staff earned degrees from Waubonsee during the 2022-2023 Academic Year: Stacey Lynn Borrego, Part-time Access Center for Disability Resources Interpreter, Associate in Applied Science; Breanna Carr, Part-time Supplemental Instruction Student Leader Academic Support, Associate in Science; Ariel Del Villar, Part-time Information Technology Computer Lab Assistant, Certificate of Achievement and Associate in Applied Science; Benjamin John Kovack, Part-time Campus Safety Officer, Associate in Arts; Edith Rojas, Workforce Education Coordinator, Certificate of Achievement; Joanna Alejandra Sanchez Rocha, Part-time Paraprofessional Tutor Academic Support, Associate in Science; and Julia Rachelle Vasquez, Part-time Campus Safety Officer, Associate in Arts. Congratulations to everyone on this significant achievement.

Registration is now open for the Waubonsee Community College Foundation's [annual golf outing](#), scheduled for Monday, September 25, at the Aurora Country Club. The college's Trustees are cordially invited to join the golfers, sponsors, and Foundation board members at the 11 a.m. luncheon to celebrate our accomplishments and to hear from one of this year's scholarship recipients.





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

August 7

Batavia Chamber of Commerce Breakfast

August 8

Invest Aurora Board of Directors

August 11

Ryan Kauffman, Village President, Village of Owego

August 16

All College Breakfast
President's All College Address
Recognition of Outstanding Administrator, Faculty Members, and Support Staff Award Recipients

Save the Date

September 15-September 21

Presidential Inauguration Activities

September 17

Bike the Burbs

September 18

Aurora Fox Valley Campus Reception

Plano Campus Reception

September 19

State of the College (Community Event)

September 21

International Day of Peace Observance

Investiture