



President's Report

August 2023

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

As part of the official recognition of our Support Staff Award recipients, I enjoyed hosting our 2023 recipients, Deb Chan, Ronald Rithaler, Ellen Rogers, and Dr. Marleigha Evans and their direct supervisors for a celebration lunch. I am also looking forward to recognizing them during our August board meeting.



L to R: Ronald Rithaler, Advanced Manufacturing Lab Coordinator (Part-Time), Service and Quality Award; Deb Chan, Library Technology Specialist Aurora Fox Valley Campus, Service and Quality Award; Dr. Brian Knetl, President; Dr. Marleigha Evans, Senior Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator, Diversity and Inclusion Award; and Ellen Rogers, Bookstore Technology Coordinator, Innovation and Creativity Award.

We have been busy closing out the summer semester and getting ready for the fall semester. All faculty and employees are invited to attend my All College Address where I will provide important updates and we will also recognize all of our employee award recipients including our 2023 Support Staff Award recipients, our Outstanding Faculty and Adjunct Faculty Members, and our very first Dr. Christine J. Sobek Outstanding Administrator Award recipient. Later that morning and throughout the rest of the week, faculty will be participating in the Fall Faculty Development Days. As part of our welcome to our new and returning students, I visited with students at our various welcome tent locations and provided thoughts on leadership at the Student Life Student Organization/Student Leader Training.

This month I have enjoyed connecting more with community members at various events. Kim Caponi and I attended the Sugar Grove Corn Boil as part of our sponsorship of that event. I also attended my first events as a member of the Batavia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Valley Industrial Association Board of Directors. As part of these boards, I attended the Tri City Mayors' Manufacturing and Distribution Leadership Breakfast. It was great to hear perspectives from area business leaders on current and anticipated challenges and opportunities.

This summer the Waubonsee Community College Foundation welcomed a new director: [Wamecca Rodriguez](#), Library Media Specialist at CUSD 115 in Yorkville. Ms. Rodriguez facilitates programming for young women in the community as lead sponsor of the Yorkville chapter of Girls Run the World.

AROUND THE COLLEGE

We were pleased to learn that Waubonsee student Olivia Nieves, has been selected as a 2023 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The Leaders of Promise Scholarship, sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, recognizes 200 Phi Theta Kappa members with awards totaling \$200,000. A panel of independent judges selected this year's recipients from nearly 1,100 applicants. Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars are selected based on outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated leadership potential.

And, congratulations to Dr. Marleigha Evans on successfully defending her dissertation, "The Experiences of Black Women at Predominately White Institutions," and earning her doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi.



Coming Up

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

September 6

Aurora Education Commission

September 7-8

Illinois Council of Community College Presidents

September 11-12

AACC Future Presidents Institute Presentation

September 14

Investiture of Dr. Chuck Lepper, President,
Grand Rapids Community College

Save the Date

September 15-September 21

Presidential Inauguration Activities

September 17

Bike the Burbs

September 18

Community Reception, Aurora Fox Valley Campus

Community Reception, Plano Campus

September 19

State of the College (Community Event)

September 21

International Day of Peace Observance

Investiture



What I'm Following

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