



# President's Report

October 2023

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



## EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

My first “Biscuits with the Boss” event was held in the Auditorium. After I shared some updates on our Food, Fitness, and Family initiatives, along with our strategic planning process, including the Data Summit on October 27, there was plenty of time left for a Q&A session. Lots of great questions and casual conversation took place. And, I’m certain everyone enjoyed the biscuits (and cookies) too! The highlights will be posted to the Office of the President page on mywcc. Looking forward to more engaging events with employees.



I might say this all the time, but I am truly honored and fortunate to serve as the fifth President of Waubonsee Community College. I enjoyed engaging with employees, students, alumni, retirees, and community members during the week-long showcase of special inauguration events that preceded the investiture ceremony. The ceremony was an amazing experience for me because there were many special people in attendance, including my family and colleagues. The entire Waubonsee community celebrated a new dawn at the college. More information, photos, and videos from all the inauguration events and the investiture ceremony have been posted to the Waubonsee [website](#).

I attended the Waubonsee Foundation’s 36th Annual Golf Outing at the Aurora Country Club. Allen Mateo Irizarry, recipient of the Rex C. Knapp Memorial Award and the Marie E. Von Ohlen Memorial Endowed Scholarship, spoke about the impact of Foundations scholarships. The outing was filled to capacity and raised \$75,000 for scholarships. This fall, the Foundation welcomed two new directors: Yonas Hagos, a Yorkville entrepreneur and published author, and Brian Schmidt, Chief Operating Officer of Deep Coat Industries. Both served as judges for the John J. Swalec Jr. President’s Achievement Awards last spring.

October is LGBTQ+ History Month. It was a pleasure to provide the opening remarks for the Pride Flag Raising Ceremony. Several [events and activities](#) are planned in recognition of this month.

October has been a busy month within the community. I attended Batavia Chamber of Commerce, Valley Industrial Association, and Aurora Education Association board meetings, and other local events including the Aurora Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce “A Night in Guatemala” Annual Gala Celebration, and the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley’s Lasting Legacy Gala. The Men’s Breakfast Club of Carillon at Stonegate, which is a community of active seniors that meet weekly to stay engaged and informed regarding the welfare of the greater Aurora community, invited me to be a featured speaker at one of their meetings. Dr. Diane Nyhammer, Sharon Garcia, and I enjoyed receiving a tour of the Paramount School for the Arts. I am also looking forward to meeting with Corrine Pierog, Kane County Board Chair. I always enjoy connecting with my presidential colleagues, and look forward to a meeting and campus tour with Dr. Laurie Borowicz, President of Kishwaukee College, and I will also be participating in the Investiture of Dr. Pamela Haney, President of Moraine Valley Community College.

Several board members, staff, and I attended the annual Association of Community College Trustees Leadership Congress in Las Vegas last week. I want to give a special thanks to Board Chair Rebecca Oliver, Ne’Keisha Stepney, and Megan Jones for participating with me in our presentation, “One Door: Integrating Adult Education, Workforce Development and Credit Programs.”



## What I'm Reading

- *America's Hidden Economic Engines: How Community Colleges Can Drive Shared Prosperity* edited by Robert B. Schwartz and Rachel Lipson
- *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

## AROUND THE COLLEGE

I'm proud to announce that the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Waubonsee Community College for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. This Certificate is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This is the 24th consecutive year the college has been recognized with this award.

Daniel Avila was named the National Junior College Athletics Association Division II Men's Soccer Player of the Week for the third week of September. Avila scored seven goals during a pair of Chiefs' victories. For the season, Avila has 14 goals in nine matches placing him fourth nationally in scoring. He is also sixth nationally in points with 33 and tied for fifth with three game-winning goals thus far.

# Coming Up

### October 25

Investiture of Dr. Pamela Haney, President  
Moraine Valley Community College

### October 27

Data Summit and kickoff of Waubonsee's engagement with  
Achieving The Dream

### October 28-30

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)  
Annual Conference

### November 1

Aurora Education Commission

### November 10

Scholarship Fest