



# WAUBONSEE

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*ALUMNI*

### ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER

Waubonsee is proud to be your alma mater!

[Meet Our Alumni](#) | [Alumni Benefits](#) | [Waubonsee LinkedIn](#)

**September 2023**

September has been a great month for Alumni Relations. We hosted our first Alumni Celebration Dinner, and we hope it will become an annual event. We also have secured an opportunity and benefit for our alumni by partnering with the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS). Be sure to check it out.

We have some great news to share regarding one of our students and a new partnership with [Endiro Coffee LLC](#) in Aurora to offer food and beverage service for our Aurora Downtown Campus.

In this edition of the e-newsletter, we also highlight several exciting upcoming events and opportunities that we think our alumni might really enjoy. Just head to our “Just For Fun” section to learn more.

**Where Are They Now?**



## Alumni Leadership Benefit

Coming in October

Are you looking for Leadership Development? We are pleased to announce that we partnered with the National Society of Leadership and Success to offer our alumni access to their keynote speaker series and opportunities to gain leadership development. It is \$199 for a lifetime membership, and the NSLS will give a \$50 donation to Waubonsee's Foundation for scholarships. We hope you consider taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

**Stay Tuned!**

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## **Alumni Celebration Dinner 2023**

On Saturday, September 16, we held our first alumni celebration dinner. There were more than 80 alumni and guests in attendance to share this momentous occasion.

Our 2023 Distinguished Alumnus, Dr. Scott Mertes shared his Waubonsee experience, and the Waubonsee Student Jazz Club played some smooth sounds.

### **Congratulations to our alumni swag winners!**

**Cynthia Gamboa (2005)**

**Katherine Draper (2016)**

**Puamuh Ghogomu (1998)**

**Faces and Places**



## **Endiro Coffee LLC**

**Opening October 2023**

### **Aurora Downtown Campus**

Waubonsee Community College has contracted with [Endiro Coffee \(LLC\)](#) to provide food and beverage service for our Aurora Downtown Campus from October 2023 through May 2024.

Endiro will be located at the Waubonsee Café space on the first floor and open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. In collaboration, Waubonsee's Campus Operations, Marketing and Communications, and Endiro Coffee (LLC) are working toward a tentative soft opening date in early October. Please stay tuned these next few weeks as we update our [website cafe page](#) with information on Endiro's menu, pricing, etc.

When you visit the Sugar Grove Campus, if you haven't visited [Paisano's](#) on campus this year, check them out! They have new tasty menu options we think you might enjoy (wraps, walking tacos, pasta). You can even order in advance for pick up at a particular time via their [online ordering form](#). They also offer [catering and have an extensive menu](#) beyond what they serve at the Waubonsee Café. We encourage you to consider them for your future catering needs!

Lastly, we are still working towards providing recommendations for future food service at Waubonsee's Sugar Grove Campus. [Please take this brief survey](#) (1-2 minutes) to share feedback on what is important to you for food service.

Thank you, and we look forward to continuing to enhance our food and beverage experience!





## Waubonsee Student Receives Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship

Waubonsee Community College Student Olivia Nieves, of Plano, has been named a 2023 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship program by recognizing 213 new Phi Theta Kappa members with nearly \$200,000 in scholarships annually, with \$25,000 set aside for members who are veterans or active members of the United States military. Students are selected based on their scholastic achievement, community service, and leadership potential.

“Earning these scholarships has proved to me that if I work hard, I can accomplish my goals,” said Nieves.

Learn more about [Nieves](#).

### Did You Know?



### College Night

**Monday, October 2, 2023**

Waubonsee’s annual College Night is designed for students and parents who want to get as much information as possible about choosing a college. There will be representatives from more than 100 schools and informational presentations.

Please visit [college night](#) for event details.

## Waubonsee Announces Inaugural Recipient of Dr. Christine J. Sobek Outstanding Administrator Award

Waubonsee Community College has announced Jessica Moreno, Dean for Academic Support, as the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Christine J. Sobek Outstanding Administrator Award. Moreno has served the college since 2009.



"It is an honor to be recognized. I have grown mentally and professionally at Waubonsee, but never once did I imagine receiving this award," said Moreno. "I share this award with all of my colleagues who deserve it. We work tirelessly to ensure our students, faculty, and staff feel seen, heard, and welcomed."

Learn more about [Moreno](#).

**Just For Fun**





## **Waubonsee Chiefs Alumni Baseball Game**

**Saturday, October 14, 2023**

Waubonsee Community College's Baseball Alumni Game will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023 on the Chiefs' baseball field. The game will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the Sugar Grove Campus. Alumni are asked to bring both a red shirt and a black shirt, as well as any necessary baseball gear if they want to join in the game. All former players will receive a Waubonsee Alumni t-shirt, a Chiefs' keychain and an alumni card.

Whether you are planning on participating, or just attending, please click on the link below and fill out the basic information form to register for the event. Come join your former teammates and other former Chiefs' ballplayers to toss the ball around, take some swings and reminisce (and/or tell some tall tales). In case of inclement weather, the event unfortunately will be canceled.

To register, [click here](#).



## **Waubonsee Celebrates Impact and Influence of Latinx Heritage as a Hispanic Serving Institution**

Waubonsee Community College will host a series of engaging events to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and National-Hispanic Serving Institutions Week. These events seek to recognize and honor the contributions and profound influence of Latinx culture on both American society and the college as a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). These free events are open to the public and will take place from September 15 to October 15.

Learn more about [Latinx Heritage Month](#).

WAUBONSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND  
THE AURORA FILM SOCIETY PRESENT

# COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT

Celebrate Latinx Heritage  
Month with a  
**FREE** award-winning  
film and snacks!

***About the movie:***

After the death of his grandmother, a Mexican biologist living in New York returns to his hometown nestled in the monarch butterfly forests of Michoacán, Mexico. He is forced to confront his past traumas, launching him on a metamorphosis.

**Thursday, Oct. 5 at 6 p.m.**

Waubonsee Community College  
Aurora Downtown Campus  
18 S River St, Aurora  
Room 160

Scan for your  
**FREE** tickets!



This event is  
open to the public.



For more info or to get your tickets,  
visit [waubonsee.edu/community](http://waubonsee.edu/community)

Thank you to our  
community partner

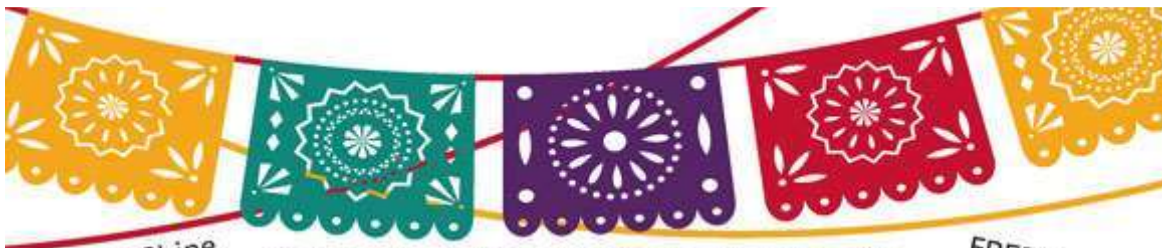


**WAUBONSEE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HISPANIC SERVING  
INSTITUTION

**AURORA**  
FILM SOCIETY

Virtual events are auto captioned. If you need professional captioning, a sign language interpreter or other accommodations for an event, please contact Marleigha at [marleigha@waubonsee.edu](mailto:marleigha@waubonsee.edu). Five business days' notice is requested. Waubonsee does not discriminate on the basis of any individual's actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, gender, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, veteran's status, military status, unfavorable discharge from military service, marital status, order of protection status, pregnancy, disability, citizenship status or any other characteristic protected by law in its programs or activities. Inquiries regarding this policy may be directed to Michela Needham, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, Route 47 at Waubonsee Drive, Sugar Grove, IL 60554, [compliance@waubonsee.edu](mailto:compliance@waubonsee.edu)



Rain or Shine

Celebrate Latinx Heritage Month with

FREE Event



# Fiesta y KERMES



Friday, Oct. 6 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Waubonsee Aurora Downtown Campus  
18 S River St, Aurora

*Join us for an evening of art and music  
held in conjunction with Downtown Aurora First Fridays.*



**Ven con tu familia**

**HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION**

- Cultural Performances and Live Music
- FREE Food for the first 200 guests
- Kids Activities
- Student Art Exhibition
- Ceramics Sale and Throwing Demo
- Silkscreen a Free T-shirt to Take Home
- Vendor Fair



### Hablamos Español

The U.S. Department of Education has designated Waubonsee a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

[waubonsee.edu/community](http://waubonsee.edu/community)

If you need professional captioning, a sign language interpreter or other accommodations for an event, please contact Marleigha at [mevano@waubonsee.edu](mailto:mevano@waubonsee.edu). Five business days' notice is requested. Waubonsee does not discriminate on the basis of any individual's actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, gender, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, veteran's status, military status, unfavorable discharge from military service, marital status, order of protection status, pregnancy, disability, citizenship status or any other characteristic protected by law in its programs or activities. Inquiries regarding this policy may be directed to: Michele Needham, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, Route 47 at Waubonsee Drive, Sugar Grove, IL 60554, [compliance@waubonsee.edu](mailto:compliance@waubonsee.edu).



## LGBTQ+ History Month 2023

Waubonsee Community College in celebration of LGBTQ+ History Month brings back *Pridepalooza*, which provides an opportunity for organizations to showcase their valuable resources and services to our students. *Pridepalooza* is Waubonsee's biggest pride party where we celebrate our LGBTQ+ community.

Visit the [Pride web page](#) for this year's LGBTQ+ events.

We love learning more about our alumni and sharing their inspiring stories with you. If you or someone you know should be highlighted in our next Alumni Newsletter, please email us at [alumni@waubonsee.edu](mailto:alumni@waubonsee.edu).

We hope you enjoyed this edition of our monthly e-newsletter. Remember, if you have a story of news going on about your life - please share it with us. You can do so by submitting it [online](#), giving us a call, or scheduling a visit to allow us to treat you to coffee or lunch in the [Waubonsee Café](#) and a tour of the [Sugar Grove Campus](#).

May all your days be Waubonsee days!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Peska".

Scott Peska, Ed.D.  
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