



# President's Report

December 2023 Revised

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



## EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

We had a wonderful time renewing and creating relationships across the college at our annual All Staff Holiday Open House. This year's Comfy and Cozy theme created a warm and casual atmosphere as we celebrated the holidays and the end of the semester with colleagues, retirees, and trustees.



We are wrapping up the fall semester and spring enrollment looks positive with headcount and credit hours both up approximately 10% from this time last year. It is still somewhat early as many students wait to register until after the holidays. As you know, percentages are often skewed when there are lower numbers so we expect those percentages to dip somewhat however we are up just over 300 students at this point and that's great news.

Engagement within the community is strong and I had the opportunity to tour Weldstar in Aurora through the Valley Industrial Association, provide college updates to the Rotary Club of Aurora United, attend the Life-long Learners Institute Holiday Luncheon, and welcome the Compañeros en Salud/Partners in Health to the Aurora Downtown Campus. I had the opportunity to meet with the new CEO of the Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce (ARCC), Antonio "Tony" Rivera. Amy and I also enjoyed attending the ARCC Holiday Celebration. In addition, I had opportunities to reconnect with Liz Moe-Garcia and Cathy Russell with the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin, Joel Friend with the Paramount Theatre, and Dr. Susana Rivera-Mills at Aurora University. It was also a pleasure to join our Admissions team in welcoming district high school counselors for the annual High School Counselor Breakfast. Our high school counselors are important partners and I appreciate that we have a tradition of bringing them together to share updates and to network. These efforts and my work on various boards and committees contributes to our continued partnerships and impact on our community.

Around campus, I have had opportunities to engage with students at a Vision Board session sponsored by our Tutoring Center, serving as a "civilian" judge for the Auto Body Hood Refinishing Competition, and meeting with our Student Trustee, Jack McGreevy, and Student Senator, Lesli Herrera. Likewise, I enjoyed engaging with faculty and staff at the Counseling and Advising Coordinating Council meeting, and a Faculty/Administrator After Hours. In addition, I enjoyed concerts by our Waubonsee Steel Band and Chorale and Chamber Choir.

Our participation in the Aurora Downtown First Fridays events is always a great way to engage with employees and community members and our Holiday Pottery Sale and holiday music this month made it extra special. The Foundation Board met at the Aurora Downtown Campus for their Quarterly Board meeting this month and it is great to have all of this activity in the heart of Aurora.



## What I'm Reading

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

## AROUND THE COLLEGE

Waubonsee was one of 10 schools invited to participate in the [University of Illinois Undergraduate Sustainability Competition, Reimagine our Future](#), in which students research and develop a solution to a main problem connected to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Coordinated by Steve Zusman, Associate Professor of Philosophy, seven Waubonsee teams participated. In addition to the 10 participating students, 10 faculty members and the Student Life Department provided resources and support and we have been invited to compete again next year.

# Coming Up

### January 10

President's All-College Address

### January 19

Boys and Girls Club New Board Member Orientation



## What I'm Following

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

