



# President's Report

February 2024

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



## EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

Trustees Patrick Kelsey, Tina Willson, and Student Trustee Jack McGreevy and I enjoyed a trip to Washington, DC for the AACC/ACCT National Legislative Summit. In addition to hearing from policy makers, we participated in a group meeting with Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth organized by the ICCTA, and met with Representatives Bill Foster and Lauren Underwood. The 2024 Community College Legislative Priorities can be found [here](#).



Here in the district, Dr. Diane Nyhammer and I had the opportunity to meet with Raymond Kennelly, Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer at Lewis University, to discuss their recent merger with St. Augustine College. St. Augustine is a bilingual two-year institution with their main campus in Chicago as well as a campus in Aurora.

As I shared last month, I've had a busy travel schedule to kick off 2024 that included the AGB Foundation Leadership Forum, the AACC/ACCT National Legislative Summit, and the Achieving the Dream (ATD) DREAM Conference. Next week, Kim Caponi, Terence Felton, Dr. Scott Peska, and I are traveling to Arizona for the Alliance for Innovation and Transformation (AFIT) CEO Forum and Reps Meeting for a preview of the 2024 AFIT Summer Institute. This meeting provides member colleges the opportunity to hear from the scheduled learning partners, make adjustments to the learning priorities, and determine our Waubonsee Summer Institute delegation. This year's theme is, "Looking Ahead to Empower the Future Today," and will focus on how artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies are reshaping jobs, organizations, and industries with unprecedented speed, why that matters to us, and how we apply AI and emerging technologies to our core business to enhance the student experience and operations.

Trustees Patrick Kelsey and his wife LuAnne, Greg Thomas and his wife Julie, and Tina Willson joined my wife Amy and me at the annual WinterFest event. We estimate that more than 300 employees and their guests attended. Our combined Board of Trustees and Office of the President basket, "You Rock," featuring a \$225 gift card to Starved Rock Lodge was won by Dr. Mary Beth Hutches.



We have also enjoyed welcoming the three finalists for the Chief of Staff and Vice President of Strategy position to campus. The finalists had a full day of interacting with students, faculty, and staff both in person and virtually. We look forward to having someone on board in this position in the near future as well as continuing our search for the Vice President of Finance and Administration and Vice President of Talent and Culture and Chief Diversity Officer positions.

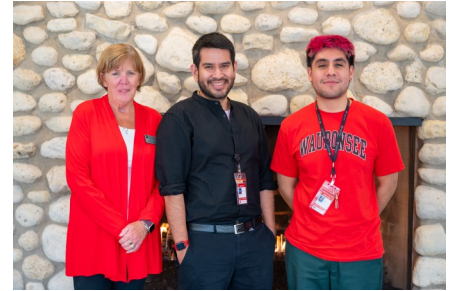
On February 14, we "showed some love" to our Campus Safety and Operations team for all that they do to protect and maintain the beautiful spaces where we work and learn. The importance of their work was highlighted again by the unusual start to our spring semester. Their dedication and commitment were on full display as they rose to meet each demand, often arriving in the very early hours, staying late, and leaving their families and homes to care for our campuses. Campus Safety and Operations employees were invited to a "Be Our Valentine" reception for light refreshments. Several administrators and staff joined us to express their appreciation.



## What I'm Reading

- *AI and the Future of Education: Teaching in the Age of Artificial Intelligence* by Priten Shah
- *College as a Public Good* by Karin Fischer, published by The Chronicle of Higher Education

## BE OUR VALENTINE



# Coming Up

### February 28-March 1

AFIT CEO Forum and Reps Meeting

### March 1

Waubonsee/VALEES Professional Conference

### March 2

CASA Kane County Change a Child's Story Gala

### March 5

Waubonsee Foundation Quarterly Board Meeting

### March 7

Business, Technology, and Workforce Education Open House and CTE Signing Day

### March 8

Illinois Council of Community College Presidents

### March 13

John J. Swalec, Jr. President's Achievement Award Judging



## What I'm Following

- @waubonsee social media channels
- Jobs for the Future (JFF) on LinkedIn