

**Myrna Nunez**

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**From:** Waubonsee Community College <alumni@waubonsee.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 6:01 PM  
**To:** Myrna Nunez  
**Subject:** Meet the Staff | Did You Know | Upcoming Events



**WAUBONSEE**  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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*ALUMNI*

## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER

Waubonsee is proud to be your alma mater!

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

**January 2024**

With the new year, I am excited and, a bit sad, to share news with you all of a change to Alumni Relations. Myrna and I will no longer be working directly with you, and we will begin the process of transitioning alumni support to our new Director of Development, Emma Donatille. This is part of a larger institutional change as the college combines many units under a new provost model. Dr. Melinda Tejada, Vice President of Community Engagement and Development will continue to have Alumni Relations as one of her areas. We directly reported to Melinda, as Emma will now, and Melinda has extensive experience at Waubonsee and knows many of our alumni.

A few highlights as we reflect back on our brief two years working with Alumni Relations:

- We held the first alumni listening tour and had nearly 50 of our alumni participate in small group interviews to share feedback and thoughts as we created a new strategic direction for alumni relations;
- We created the Alumni Card and related alumni benefits;
- We improved our monthly newsletter with more feature stories and alumni specific events;
- We held more alumni events and hosted our first alumni celebration dinner;
- We partnered with the NSLS to provide leadership development, which 200 of you signed up to participate in!

- We created an [Alumni Legacy Scholarship](#), and from our partnership with the [NSLS](#) raised over \$10,000 for it! Thank you for all that chose to give to support future students who are related to Waubonsee alums.

While these are great accomplishments, the most rewarding experiences we cherish are the lunches, coffees, and one-on-one conversations with alums. We have loved hearing your stories and the meaningful, positive impact Waubonsee had in your life. We are very thankful for our time working with you all.

We hope you will read and learn more about Emma Donatille (below) and look forward to connecting with her. We have full confidence that she will only build upon what we have done to continue to strengthen our alumni engagement!

## Meet the Staff

### Waubonsee Welcomes Director of Development

Waubonsee Community College welcomes Emma Donatille, of Gilberts, to the position of Director of Development.

"Our alumni are a valuable resource and provide insight for our students on what awaits them after graduation. I am looking forward to meeting and interacting with Waubonsee Alumni and to provide ways for them to engage with each other and with the current students."

Learn more about [Donatille](#).

## Did You Know?

### Distinguished Alumnus and Distinguished Contributor Awards

#### Accepting Nominations for 2024

Nominations are currently being accepted for Waubonsee Community College's 2024 Distinguished Alumnus and Distinguished Contributor Awards. Nominations must be received by Wednesday, January 31, 2024 to be considered. The nomination process can be found at [Distinguished Alumnus Award](#).

To learn more about last year's Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient, please visit [2023 Distinguished Alumnus](#).

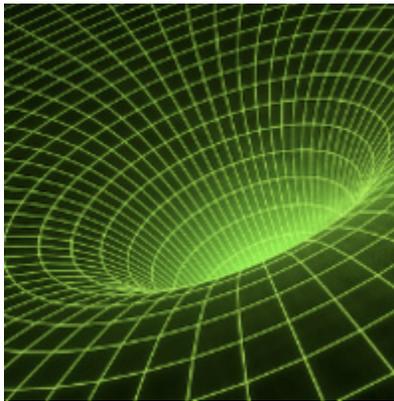
## **Waubonsee Foundation Scholarship Application Now Open; Priority Deadline Feb. 5**

In the pursuit of higher education, finances prove to be a difficult hurdle for many students. However, at Waubonsee Community College, scholarships offered through the Waubonsee Foundation offer assistance to students unsure of how to balance the cost of college with their academic and professional dreams.

By completing one online application, now open for the 2024-2025 academic year, eligible applicants will be considered for more than 160 scholarships, many with multiple awards ranging from \$250 to \$3,500. During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Waubonsee Foundation provided 364 scholarship awards totaling almost \$363,000.

Learn more [here](#).

### **Upcoming Events**



#### **BIPOC STEM Series**

**Save the Date: February 8, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.**

#### **Latinx Resource Center, Aurora Downtown Campus**

Join us for an enlightening event focused on the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, (and) People of Color) experience in the STEM field featuring keynote speaker Cortez Watkins, a Waubonsee alum and the Senior Workforce Pathways and Partnerships Liaison at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. This gathering offers valuable insights into diversity, equity, and inclusion within STEM disciplines. Connect with professionals and peers, engage in meaningful discussions, and expand your understanding of the challenges and opportunities in STEM for BIPOC individuals.

Learn more about the [Latinx Resource Center](#).

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!



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