

FOUNDATION UPDATE

JUNE 2024

COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Brian Knetl, College President

The college strives to provide holistic support to students, such as through peer mentoring and the addition of Hope, a comfort dog. Efforts to meet community needs include the new TEC building and proposed new programming in aviation technology. The Executive Leadership Team has been restructured, and progress continues on the college's strategic plan. Many employees and student groups were recognized this spring, and more than 900 students graduated.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Edward Keating, Foundation Board President

The Foundation's third annual board retreat focused on the next steps in developing a Foundation strategic plan, empowering board members, and aligning strategies to maximize donations. Beginning with the June quarterly meeting, the Foundation has moved to a consent agenda. The Foundation board approved the proposed MOU, which will be brought to the Board of Trustees in June. The board also approved a board member job description and a mentoring program for new board members.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Melinda Tejada, Vice President of Community Engagement & Executive Director of the Foundation

The Development Office is actively working to capture the stories of current and former students, which will be critical to fundraising success. The Foundation will hold its next retreat in February.

EXECUTIVE TREASURER'S REPORT

John Bryant, Interim Vice President of Finance & Administration & Executive Treasurer of the Foundation

The Foundation received more than \$110,000 in contributions this quarter, which aligns with historical trends. Expenditures are in line with last year, and there are no liabilities. One of the Foundation's life insurance policies has matured.

The Foundation's quarterly meeting was held on June 4 at the Aurora Fox Valley campus.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Audit

W. Richard Hoster III, Chair

The committee is exploring ways to ensure that the Foundation's spend rate aligns with the investment portfolio's expected rate of return. The FY2026 spend rate will be determined in November. The Chair of the Investment Committee has agreed to serve on the Finance and Audit Committee to promote coordination.

Investment

Dr. Thomas Huberty, Chair

The portfolio returned 3.49% net of fees in the first quarter of 2024, ending the quarter just under \$7 million.

Nominating and Governance

Dale Berman, Chair

Jessica Medrano has been elected to the Foundation board. Ms. Medrano served as a judge for the John J. Swalec Jr. President's Achievement Awards and is the President and Owner of R.J. O'Neil, a mechanical contractor in Montgomery.

Revenue Generating

Colette Rozanski and Matt Winkle, Co-Chairs

Board members are encouraged to support upcoming events by spreading the message to their personal and professional networks. The long-term focus continues to be laying the groundwork for a capital campaign.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONT)

Scholarship

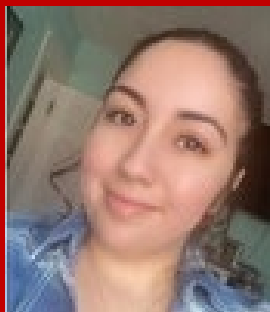
Dr. Diane Homan, Chair

The Round I Selection Committee reviewed 280 applications and granted 89 awards totaling \$89,050 to 88 students. Round II Selection will take place on June 28. An analysis of the Emergency Needs Fund Scholarship indicated that students who are struggling with personal and financial challenges are often unable to succeed in summer courses, so emergency funding will be discontinued during the summer session.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Claudia Rivera, Nursing Student, 2024-25 Altrusa Scholarship Recipient

As a single mother, Claudia Rivera is driven by the desire to provide a better quality of life for her two daughters. She works full time as a CNA during the summer but has to cut back her hours during the school year, which puts her on a very tight budget. Her Foundation scholarship helps to pay for school so that she can use her saved money to cover the mortgage, bills, and food.



"I can't describe how grateful I am," she says. "It reduces all the stress and a lot of the anxiety and brings me confidence and stability for my family."

Ms. Rivera is pursuing an associate's degree in nursing, with plans to obtain her bachelor's and ultimately become a nurse practitioner in hospice.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE REPORT

Emma Donatille, Director of Development

The Development Office will mail each of our 900 new graduates a welcome flier, alumni card, and sticker. The team is also working with Institutional Effectiveness to develop surveys for graduates and alumni, and an alumni dinner is planned for the fall.

ALUMNI STORY

Juan 'JJ' Martinez, Alumnus, Gustafson Scholar

JJ Martinez grew up in government-subsidized housing, facing racism, homophobia, and the effects of gang violence. "I knew that I was not ever going to be able to afford college," he says. "It just didn't seem realistic to set a goal that high."

Receiving a Gustafson scholarship changed his world. He held multiple leadership roles in extracurriculars at Waubensee, but when he transferred to North Central College, as a low-income, commuter, transfer student, he struggled to get involved. Eventually he found his place. "Now, after everything," he says, "I realized the effects of a feeling of belonging in higher education."

He made that the subject of his senior honors thesis. What he found was no surprise: A marginalized identity, as indicated by race, sexuality, and income, correlates to a significantly lower sense of belonging and much lower GPA. But scholarships allow marginalized students to get involved in the student experience – to find that sense of belonging – in a way they might not be able to otherwise. "Not only are they just money, or are they education," says Mr. Martinez, "but they are *time*."

Mr. Martinez holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in ethical leadership. He will continue his studies at Wake Forest University with a full scholarship to the Master of Science in Management Program.

The mission of the Waubensee Community College Foundation is to cultivate philanthropic donors, to responsibly steward its assets and to equitably award scholarships to students to help them achieve their educational goals.