

Building Knowledge, Capacity & Partnerships

FY2024 ushered in a new era of partnership between the Foundation and the College, as well as initiatives to ensure good governance and new measures to build knowledge and capacity in preparation for a major fundraising effort.

In July 2023, the Foundation's Revenue Generating Committee met with the College's Executive Director of Marketing and Communications, Ms. Stephanie Wennmacher, to learn how the College's marketing efforts support the work of the Foundation.



On Monday, September 25, the Foundation held its 36th annual golf outing at the Aurora Country Club. The outing was filled to capacity and raised \$75,000 for scholarships, a 20% increase from FY2023.

In September, to ensure full coverage for all committees, to provide more leadership opportunities for board members, and to build a pipeline for succession, the Foundation elected vice chairs to serve each committee.

In October, Development Manager Stephanie Carreno and Dr. Melinda Tejada, then serving as Vice President of Student Development and Executive Director of the Foundation, attended the CASE Conference for Community College Advancement in Palm Springs to explore best practices and new trends in community college fundraising.



On Friday, November 10, nearly 300 attendees gathered at Scholarship Fest to celebrate recipients and donors.

The annual appeal included targeted outreach to alumni, current and former College employees, scholarship providers, past donors, and the broader Waubonsee community as well as a Giving Tuesday campaign. These efforts led to \$183,980 in donations.

To increase capacity for future fundraising efforts, over the course of the fall and winter the Development Office was restructured. Representatives from the Foundation participated in the selection of Ms. Emma Donatille to fill a newly created Director of Development role.

On January 1, Dr. Tejada transitioned into a new role as Vice President of Community Engagement and Executive Director of the Foundation, a position dedicated to cultivating deeper relationships with local chambers and other community-based organizations.

In late January, College President Dr. Brian Knetl, Foundation Board President Ed Keating, and Dr. Tejada attended the AGB Foundation Leadership Forum in Los Angeles, gathering fresh ideas for good governance and increased impact.

In February, the Foundation received a second major gift from a couple who'd established a scholarship in FY2023. The couple, who wish to remain anonymous, met their recipient at Scholarship Fest and were moved by the student's story to contribute an additional \$40,000.

In March, the Foundation announced eight new scholarships: The Alumni Legacy Scholarship, the Connor Family Scholarship, the Cultivando El Futuro Scholarship, the Dean Hernandez Memorial Scholarship, the Harding Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship, the Kathryn Lacy Memorial Scholarship, the Nubel Family Endowed Scholarship, and the Timothy F. and Timothy M. Hill Memorial Scholarship.

Over the course of several months, Foundation board members participated in an AGB webinar series, *Collaborating for Fundraising Success*, to explore ways that the Foundation and College can work together to grow fundraising.

NEW DIRECTORS



Yonas Hagos Jessica Medrano Brian Schmidt

In FY2024 the Foundation bid a warm farewell to long-time board members Stan Free and Angelo Kleronomos and welcomed three new directors to the board: Yonas Hagos, a Yorkville entrepreneur and published author; Jessica Medrano, President and Owner of R.J. O'Neil Inc.; and Brian Schmidt, COO of Deep Coat Industries.



Despite heavy spring showers, more than 200 intrepid participants turned out to walk or run the fourth annual 5k/10k. They were supported by nearly 70 volunteers, including Waubonsee student athletes, faculty and staff, and external volunteers from the Yorkville chapter of Girls Run the World. The event netted more than \$10,000 for student scholarships.

On March 13, Dr. Tejada facilitated the judging of the annual President's Achievement Awards. The distinguished panel of judges included Michael Issacson, Executive Director of the Kane County Health Department; Jessica Medrano, President & Owner of R.J. O'Neil; Caroline Rossow, Vice President of Commercial Banking at Wintrust Financial; and alumnus Nicholas Scanlan '13, Commercial Real Estate Broker & Leasing Agent at BEI Properties. The selected recipients received awards between \$500 and \$1,500.

The Foundation held its third annual board retreat in April. Dr. Knetl, Dr. Tejada, and Ms. Donatille led discussions about the next steps in developing the Foundation's strategic plan, and John Bryant, then serving as Assistant Vice President of Finance and Executive Treasure of the Foundation, led an in-depth session on aligning strategies to maximize donations.

Nine Foundation board members took part in this year's scholarship selection: Marcia Ayala, Matt Dennison, Dr. Diane Homan, and Ed Keating in Round I, and Behati Hart, Dr. Diane Homan, Ed Keating, alumnus Kevin Pennington '91, Tim Tremain, Kris Wano, and Mike Williams in Round II.

To better equip board members as effective ambassadors, the Foundation's Executive Committee voted in April to adopt a consent agenda at future quarterly meetings, shifting the focus from committee reports to education and discussion, with speakers from across campus and a new emphasis on data.

In April, Waubonsee alumni Ray '70 and Diana Vickery '70 established two \$5,000 annual scholarships, the Foundation's largest.

At the June quarterly meeting, the board invited Bob Cofield, Dean for Health Professions and Public Service, to speak about the College's HPPS programs and how they meet the needs of the community. He and Dr. Mary Beth Hutches, Director of Nursing, led tours of the Fox Valley campus.

The recipient speaker at the June meeting was joined by an alumni speaker; following their presentations, the College's Marketing and Communications teams recorded interviews with both as part of a new effort to build a library of resources that tell the Foundation's story.

The Foundation received 598 scholarship applications in FY2024 and provided 377 scholarship awards totaling nearly \$367,000.

The Foundation board voted in June to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the College. The board also approved a board member job description and a mentoring program for new board members.

The Waubonsee Community College Foundation anticipates a clean audit for the year ended June 30, 2024, with total assets nearing \$7.4 million as of June 30, 2024.

The mission of the Waubonsee 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.



WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION