



WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President's Report

June 2025

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



Foundation Trail Run

The annual Waubonsee Foundation Trail Run has become one of my favorite Waubonsee traditions – and this year didn't disappoint. It was great to join students, employees, families, and community members for fun, fitness, and fundraising. The weather was beautiful, and it was a fantastic turnout, all in support of student scholarships through the Waubonsee Foundation.

[Click here to see more photos.](#)



Campus Highlights and Celebrations

On May 22, I had the pleasure of attending Waubonsee's Retirees' Luncheon hosted by the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA), a meaningful gathering to celebrate those who helped shape Waubonsee's legacy. The State Universities Annuitants Association remains a strong voice for public higher education and retirement benefits.

At the Annual Support Staff Meeting on June 11, I shared a powerful reminder: support staff represent more than half of Waubonsee's workforce. That figure speaks volumes about the vital role these team members play in moving our college forward, especially as we bring our RISE initiatives to life. Congratulations to this year's award recipients: Becky Goode, Library Services Coordinator, Support Staff Award for Excellence for Innovation and Creativity; Jamie Feiza, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Support Staff Award for Excellence for Diversity and Inclusion; and Sol Briceno-Santos, Administrative Coordinator Health Professions and Public Service, Support Staff Award for Excellence for Service and Quality.



To all who earned degrees, completed certifications, received special honors, or stepped into new roles, congratulations. Through our RISE priority, Enriching the Employee Experience, we are deepening our investment in professional development, employee support and well-being.

As the community's college, it was inspiring to celebrate more than 90 Adult Education students who earned certificates in English Language Acquisition, earned their Illinois high school diploma, and earned certificates in career training. These graduates embody our mission and the future we are building through RISE—for communities to thrive and students to succeed.



Honoring Student-Athletes

At Waubonsee we proudly celebrate the achievements of our student-athletes. The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Student-Athlete Recognition Banquet was held on May 22. This year's Hall of Fame Inductees included the historic 1970–1971 Men's Basketball Team and record-setting standout Julianna Wadsworth from the 2014–2016 Women's Basketball Team. The following student-athletes were also recognized with the Athletic Department awards: Freshman Female Athlete of the Year: Josie Rader (women's soccer and basketball), Freshman Male Athlete of the Year: David Valkanov (men's cross country), Sophomore Female Athlete of the Year: Alyssa Perkins (women's softball), Sophomore Male Athlete of the Year: Christian Meeks (men's basketball), and Vermillion and Gold Award: Joselyn Roche (women's volleyball). Morgan Iwanski (women's softball) was presented with the S.T.A.R. (Students Taking Academic Responsibility) Award.



Dr. Scott Peska (center), and Waubonsee Students Moo Paw (left), Truc Tran (right).

ICCTA Student Recognition

On June 6, two outstanding Waubonsee students, Truc Tran and Moo Paw, were named finalists in the Illinois Community College Trustees Association's (ICCTA) statewide essay scholarship competition. Their voices reflect the strength and promise of our student body. Special thanks to Dr. Scott Peska for representing Waubonsee at the ceremony.

Coming Up

June 26

Aurora Regional Economic Alliance Legislative Recap and Luncheon (Aurora DWNTN)

June 26

RISE Community Partners Mixer

July 9

WCC Industrial Maintenance Summit

July 30-August 2

Alliance for Innovation & Transformation (AFIT) Summer Institute