

# FOUNDATION UPDATE

JUNE 2025

## COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Dr. Brian Knetl, College President*

Rick Guzman, Daniel Jaquez, and Tina Willson have been reelected to the Board of Trustees, and Maria (Mari) Santillan has been elected the 2025-26 Student Trustee. John Bryant has been chosen to fill the role of Vice President of Finance and Administration, and executive searches are underway for a new Provost and Chief Human Resources Officer.

Multiple events across campus celebrated the 986 students who received degrees this year, many of whom were supported by Foundation scholarships. The new TEC building will open in August, the newly renovated boardroom in September, and the new tennis/pickleball court complex in October.

Executive Orders and other proposed legislation have put Pell grants, TRIO, and Adult Education at risk. Proposed changes to the Pell program would leave an estimated \$3 million institutional aid gap and would affect approximately 80% of the Waubensee students who depend on Pell grants.

More than 150 employees have joined action teams to help implement RISE 2030 through 13 strategic action task plans. Board members will receive invitations to an upcoming RISE Community Partners Mixer and to the TEC opening.

## BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Edward Keating, Foundation Board President*

All directors are encouraged to view a recent AGB Webinar series on Foundation Board independence. Three quarters of the board have made their annual donations to the Foundation; those who haven't are encouraged to do so by June 30.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

In view of recent challenges to DEI, the Development team has reviewed selection criteria for all existing scholarships, and new scholarships will eschew language that could invite challenges. The College's attorneys have reviewed and approved the Foundation's selection process.

*The Foundation's quarterly meeting was held on June 3 at the Plano campus, followed by a tour.*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Finance & Audit

*Matthew Dennison, Chair*

The investment portfolio showed positive growth for the nine months ending March 31. Contributions and fundraising event proceeds are well ahead of last year's, putting total contributions nearly 20% ahead of March 31, 2024. Scholarship awards are also ahead of last year's, with spring scholarships expected to post in May. Despite the volatility of the quarter, total assets increased to just under \$7.8 million, with no liabilities.

### Investment

*Dr. Thomas Huberty, Chair*

The Foundation portfolio was valued at \$7.35 million at the end of March and \$7.37 million as of April 30. The portfolio is positioned to take advantage of any potential opportunities that may arise amid volatile markets.

### Revenue Generating

*Matt Winkle, Chair*

This year's Waubensee Trail Run took place on June 7, and the Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for September 15. In addition to an anticipated \$10,000 from LLI and \$31,500 in event sponsorships, the Foundation brought in more than \$37,500 in new scholarships this quarter.

## EXECUTIVE TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Effective June 2, Mr. Bryant has stepped into his new role as Vice President of Finance and Administration. The new Assistant Vice President, when hired, will assume the role of Executive Treasurer of the Foundation; Mr. Bryant will also remain involved.

## DEVELOPMENT OFFICE REPORT

*Emma Donatille, Director of Development*

A newly developed Waubonsee Foundation Development Dashboard provides a visual representation of investment portfolio performance, contributions, and fundraising dollars. A Foundation Scholarship Presentation has been created for use with local service clubs, businesses, and other organizations. "Foundation Director: Ask a Question" buttons have been created to invite conversations at the Trail Run and other events about the Foundation's mission and why board members choose to serve.

## EDUCATION & STRATEGY:

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRY PROGRAMS

*Dr. Jeanine McMillen, Assistant Dean for Industry/Technology  
& Business/Social Science  
Suzanne Markin, Workforce Education Manager*

The workforce development and industry programs address a growing demand in fields such as automotive technology, collision repair, refinishing, and welding. Many of the programs, such as the cybersecurity program and the newly developed wastewater technology certificate program, were specifically designed to fill gaps in the local labor market.

A work-based learning program places apprentices with community partners, and a new micro-credentials program will provide focused, credentialed training in as little as eight weeks, either on campus or at partner locations. "Adventure Academy," another new program, is a 10-session series offered in English and Spanish to teach the skills needed to launch a new business.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONT)

### Scholarship

*Dr. Diane Homan, Chair*

By the secondary deadline of May 5, a total of 749 applications had been received (a 48% increase over last year), including applications from 415 new students (a 54% increase). Recipients will be selected on July 1. This year's Scholarship Fest will take place on November 7.

### Nominating & Governance

*Kris Wano, Chair*

With the aid of newly developed resources and increased candidate research, the committee is becoming ever more strategic about recruiting new directors based on board needs. All Foundation committees will soon be charged with drafting charters, which will be a useful tool for aligning talents and interests with needs and for guiding committees' work.

The board has elected five new directors: Dan Berendt '15, Project Engineer at R.C. Wegman; Melissa Dempsey '00, Grants Manager at Mutual Ground; Mike Douglas '84, President and CEO of Douglas Flooring and owner of Bliss Creek Golf Course; Fatima Garcia, Tax Attorney at the IRS Office of Chief Counsel and founder of the Mi Camino Scholarship; and Katrina Henderson, Vice President and Director of Operations at the Quad County Urban League. All board members are encouraged to join the new directors at Waubonsee Night at the Kane County Cougars on August 14.

**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.**