



# President's Report

August 2025

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



## Kicking Off the Fall Semester, Evolving to a Community College 3.0

It is always an honor to officially kick off the fall semester with my [All-College Address](#). This year, I wanted to show how all our strategic plan goals, Achieving the Dream participation, and other efforts are aligned, leading to something truly transformative — Waubonsee as a 3.0 community college, as defined by the Aspen Institute. Not only are we working to drive student access and completion but also on tangible outcomes once they leave - like a living wage and higher quality of life. And we'll soon be getting additional support for this evolution as WCC is slated to be one of 50 colleges nationwide in the next cohort of Aspen Institute's Unlocking Opportunity program, which has one goal: substantially increasing the number of community college students entering and completing programs that lead directly to sustaining-wage jobs or completion of a bachelor's degree.

The ["Rising Together" faculty programming](#) included a State of Education address from Kaneland Superintendent Dr. Kurt Rohlwing, as well as workshops focused on faculty/student/tech support and learning improvement.

**Community College 3.0**  
Access, Completion,  
Post-College Success

## P.A.S.O.S. Prepares and Empowers Incoming Students

I was happy to connect with incoming students taking part in our three-day P.A.S.O.S. Summer Transition Program earlier this month. "Pasos" is a Spanish word that translates to "steps" in English, but also an acronym that stands for Preparing and Advancing Students for Opportunities and Success. It is designed to foster a strong sense of community and provide students with a solid foundation as they start their journeys here.

I was part of the group's informal lunch with WCC administrators, while other program highlights included a panel of current WCC students offering practical tips and encouragement, a resource fair that introduced key campus services, campus tours, and workshops around a variety of topics, including academic honesty and responsible use of AI.



## Free On-Campus After-School Care Gains Momentum

As part of our strategic priority to strengthen the student experience and remove barriers inside and outside the classroom, we're proud to partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Central Illinois to provide free, on-campus after-school care for children of WCC students at the Aurora Downtown Campus this fall. The program will serve elementary-aged children, kindergarten through fifth grade, Mondays through Thursdays from 3:45 to 9:30 p.m., aligning with evening class schedules. So far, there are 10 families interested, with more anticipated to utilize the service as the semester gets underway.



## WCC Night at the Kane County Cougars

WCC Night at the Kane County Cougars was a success as students, alums, staff, and others came together to enjoy the game. Current WCC softball player Bree Crosby threw out the game's first pitch, with the WCC Chorale singing the national anthem and performing during the pre-game festivities.



## Alliance for Innovation and Transformation Conference Offers Timely Development to Support Staff

Twelve Waubonsee team members, including 10 support staff, recently attended AFIT's annual Summer Institute, "Leading at the Speed of Change." Among the many topics and takeaways were how to define what skills are necessary for future-ready leadership, ways to better foster collaboration and inclusion, keys to unlocking team potential, and in an echo of Waubonsee's recent summer read, how to lead with an infinite mindset.

## Touring Theater Production Helps WCC Connect with the Community

I had the pleasure of serving as the emcee at a recent performance of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" at Geneva's Island Park, which drew almost 1,000 audience members. Our community engagement team was on site to share college information and helped coordinate the opportunity with the Geneva Park District and the Geneva Fine Arts group, where Assistant Professor of Art Heather Weber serves as a board member.



*Coming Up*

### September 12

Board Retreat (tentative)

Technical Education Center  
Grand Opening Activities

### September 15

Foundation Golf Outing