



WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President's Report

October 2025

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



2025 Waubonsee Foundation Golf

The 38th annual Waubonsee Foundation Golf Outing broke a record in support of student scholarships. Over 125 golfers participated, along with more than 25 sponsors, leading to more than \$113,500 raised to help Waubonsee students pursue their educational goals.

The work of the Waubonsee Foundation is so important, as it opens doors for many deserving students to access college. In the past several years, we've had more students applying than ever before. The foundation scholarship application for the 2026-2027 academic year will open on November 1.



Forum on Future of Higher Education: Changes, Challenges, and Choices

The only constant, as Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, observed, is change. The truth behind this saying resonates well with what we are currently seeing in higher education. I was able to talk more about these changes at my recent forum exploring "The Future of Higher Education." This event grew out of an idea from the college's Lifelong Learning Institute, with other members of the community, students, faculty, and staff also invited. My presentation focused on change factors highlighted in "The Great Upheaval" book, including technology, globalization, and demographics, along with exploring other challenges like funding and public perception. Through the work of our strategic plan, RISE 2030, we are continuing to address these challenges and capitalize on opportunities to continue helping students succeed and communities thrive.

Current Conversations

As we work together to shape the future of Waubonsee, we recognize the importance of making space for meaningful, honest conversations about the external factors and current events impacting our community. At our recent Current Conversations event, we covered a wide range of topics, including the challenges of complexity and context in our daily operations, the important work of our Incident Management Team, and campus protocols surrounding immigration activity. Rich Kiefer, Professor of Political Science and History, offered valuable expertise as we discussed the parameters and practices surrounding freedom of speech on campus. As we move forward, an emphasis on patience, flexibility, and grace will continue to guide our efforts.

Strengthening the Student Experience - Reset Room and Interfaith Prayer Room

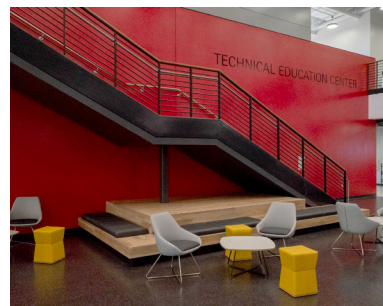
We are proud to share, as part of our efforts to strengthen the student experience, that we now have two new inclusive spaces for students: The Reset Room (BDE 220) and the Interfaith Prayer Room (AKL 205).

The Reset Room provides a quiet, comfortable, and restorative space where students can pause, decompress, and recharge. Designed to support mental well-being and balance, the room offers a calm environment that promotes relaxation, mindfulness, and emotional reset. The Interfaith Prayer Room is a quiet, inclusive space for students of all faiths to pray, meditate or reflect. Both spaces are open to students from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



I had the honor of participating as a panelist with Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch and State Representative Matt Hanson at a Leadership Roundtable discussing partnerships and shared priorities across the region.

At the recent Student Senate Town Hall Meeting, students engaged in thoughtful discussions with administrators, asking important questions and sharing ideas on how to keep our campus community safe. The open conversation encouraged respectful dialogue and underscored the importance of working together to create a supportive, inclusive, and connected environment at Waubonsee.



For the first time in over 10 years, we opened a brand-new facility with the unveiling of the Technical Education Center (TEC). More than 750 community members, students,

and local leaders gathered on our campus to celebrate a milestone in technical education across the region.



Back on the Sugar Grove Campus, we enjoyed unseasonably warm temperatures during our annual All Employee Picnic.

Coming Up

October 16

Biscuits with the Boss

October 22-25

ACCT Leadership Congress

November 5-6

ATD Coaches Visit

November 7

Scholarship Fest

November 8

Bike the Burbs and

Tennis/Pickleball

Courts Ribbon Cutting