



WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President's Report

November 2025

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



Scholarship Fest Celebrates Generosity and Achievement

Nearly 300 donors, recipients, and college staff recently gathered for the Waubonsee Foundation's annual Scholarship Fest. Professor of English Gary Clark spoke on behalf of scholarship donors, while WCC student Alexandra Lemke—recipient of both the El Corazón Scholarship and the James E. Meier Memorial Awards—spoke via recorded video as she was competing at the NJCAA Division II National Championship Cross Country Meet in Iowa during the actual event. For the current academic year, the Foundation gave 426 awards totaling more than \$438,000.



New Court Complex Opens During Annual Bike the Burbs Event

This year's Bike the Burbs, the third annual, had added excitement as it also served as the official grand opening for the college's new court complex, with six pickleball and six tennis courts for community and athletic team use. The complex also includes a shelter and restrooms that can serve all outdoor athletic fields on the north side of campus. As the college looks to redefine its relationship with the community, we anticipate this new space will serve as a welcoming wellness resource to district residents for many years to come.



Wintrust Donates to Help Students Facing Challenges

We are grateful to Wintrust for their recent three-year pledge. This generous donation will benefit the WCC Foundation's Student Support Fund, which helps students who experience an unexpected emergency that jeopardizes their financial ability to continue their academic studies.

Achieving the Dream Coaches Visit to Discuss Strategic Plan Metrics

Achieving the Dream (ATD) coaches Leon Hill and Dr. Cheryl Calhoun visited the Sugar Grove Campus in early November. During their time here, they met with each of the RISE priority teams (priority leads, goal champions, and data liaisons) to talk through the plan's metrics. As always, they provided valuable guidance, shared best practices from a national network of community colleges, and helped navigate challenges. Dr. Calhoun also posed a few central question to each team that can help guide and keep us motivated through all the hard work: Five years from now, what wins do you want to be celebrating? If a reporter wrote an article about the college's RISE work, what do you hope the headline would be?

**Achieving
the Dream**



Celebrating and Supporting First-Gen Students

As part of first generation college student week, WCC welcomed Dr. La'Tonya (LT) Rease Miles - a pioneering educator, engaging speaker and author who has empowered thousands by reshaping the story of what it means to be the first in your family to attend college. At the event, students heard her personal stories, got a chance to have a personal conversation with her, and received a signed copy of her book "Smart Girl."



Celebrating and Supporting Veterans

Waubonsee is proud to serve the more than 225 service members, veterans and military dependents who are currently starting or continuing their college journeys here, and we were proud to celebrate all veterans at our annual observance event on Nov. 11. WCC Director of Emergency Management and US Air National Guard/Air Force veteran Aaron Stevens was the featured speaker.

WCC Attends ACCT Leadership Congress

I, along with trustees Patrick Kelsey, Greg Thomas, and Daniel Jaquez, and Dr. Toya Webb, were able to attend the recent Association of Community College Trustees Leadership Congress. The theme was Reimagining Community College: Innovation for a Changing World. This event serves as a gathering ground for over 1,500 community college trustees and presidents to exchange initiatives, successes, and concerns crucial to leading community colleges.

Coming Up

Dec. 4

All Staff Holiday Open House

Dec. 6, 7, 10, 12, 13

End-of-Semester Concerts and Recital