



WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President's Report

December 2025

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



Waubonsee Showcases TEC, Talks Economic Growth at Two Recent Legislative Events

We were honored to welcome several state and federal legislators to campus this month. Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives Emanuel Chris Welch visited the Technical Education Center on December 4, with a focus on the critical role community colleges play in rapidly training a highly skilled, high-wage workforce across Illinois. Speaker Welch was able to tour the building, meet with students and engage in conversation with WCC leadership.

Then on Dec. 8, the college hosted a legislative roundtable, with eight legislators and several staffers in attendance, including Congressman Bill Foster, State Senators Donald DeWitte, Linda Holmes, and Karina Villa, and State Representatives Matt Hanson, Barbara Hernandez, Jeff Keicher, Dan Ugaste, and Maddie Mattson from Representative Jed Davis' office.

Bringing these decision-makers face-to-face with the people and the purpose behind our work is powerful and helps ensure our students' needs remain at the center of the conversation at state and federal levels.

Wastewater Program Featured in National Magazine

The college's inaugural Water/Wastewater Technology Certificate of Achievement class recently got a chance to watch the Water Environment Federation's Operations Challenge, where the sector's top operations talents compete. Their visit - and the program - were then featured in the federation's monthly members-only magazine Water Environment & Technology or WE&T.

Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Sheela Vemu accompanied the students and is quoted in the magazine, saying, "We're focused on employability. The skills our students are looking to build can be leveraged in other areas. If they learn the water skill sets, they can do environmental work, policy, microbiology..."



Employees Enjoy Annual Holiday Open House's Return to Remodeled Dickson Center as Waubonsee Together

After a few years in the Academic and Professional Center, this year's holiday open house moved back to the recently remodeled second floor of Dickson Center, with additional celebrations at Aurora Downtown, Aurora Fox Valley, and Plano.

Annual traditions like good food and good music were upheld, with the addition of a hot cocoa bar, RISE fireplace display, coloring sheets, photo booth and more. Thanks to all who attended and to all those who worked to plan this successful and celebratory event!



Waubonsee Marks Holiday Season with Engagement, Performance, and Generosity

Along with the Community Engagement team, WCC cheerleaders, and other employees, I was proud to represent the college at the City of Aurora's annual Winter Lights parade last month. It also gave us another great opportunity to feature our RISE-branded vehicle.

We've also spread the holiday spirit through our annual holiday concerts, held on the Sugar Grove Campus and showcasing our students' talent and hard work.

And I'm very proud of the generosity shown by our campus community as they "adopted" and donated holiday gifts to 50 children and siblings of Waubonsee students, along with grocery gift cards. Thanks to all of the individuals and departments whose kindness is making a real difference this holiday season.

Coming Up

Dec. 23, 4:30 p.m.

Start of Winter Break

Jan. 20

First Day of Spring Semester Classes

Jan. 16

8-9 a.m., All College Breakfast

9-10:15 a.m., President's All College Address

Sharing Our Work With Our IL Colleagues

Several administrators were able to attend this year's Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA) conference. Chief of Staff and Vice President of Strategy Dr. Toya Webb and I presented on the RISE 2030 plan, while Assistant Dean for Industry/Technology and Business/Social Science Dr. Jeanine McMillen and Dean for Business and Social Science Dr. Tamekia Smith also gave presentations.