

Strengthen the Student Experience



WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Agenda

Overview of progress

- Redefine
- Invest
- Enrich

RISE Summit Video

Strengthen presentation





Redefine Our Relationship with the Community

RISE 2030 Goal: Identify three existing or new regional employers to model new upskilling relationships that include defined pathways and encouragement of self-advocacy for personal development

Goal Completion Status

Partnership 1
Tangent Technologies

Partnership 2
Freudenberg

Partnership 3
TBD



Redefine Our Relationship with the Community

- **Tangent Technologies: Premium plastic lumber manufacturer**
- **Location: Montgomery, Illinois**
- **Partnership Type: Emerging-Upskilling Workforce Pipeline**
- **Programs: CNC Technology, Industrial Maintenance**
- **Initial Training: Non-Credit Smart Automation Certification Alliance (SACA) Basic Operations at Plano Campus**
- **Number of Employees: 6**
- **Focus: Internships, apprenticeships, and customized training pathways for incumbent workers and new hires**



Redefine Our Relationship with the Community

- **Freudenberg Household Products: Aurora, Illinois**
- **Leading manufacturer of household cleaning products**
- **Partnership Type: Mature — Comprehensive Workforce Development & Assessment Model**
- **Programs: Workplace Communication and Industrial Maintenance**
- **Number of Employees: 155 employees have completed English Language Acquisition (ELA) training and 37 employees have participated in Spanish for English Speakers (75 total enrollments).**
- **Focus: Internships, apprenticeships, and customized training pathways for incumbent workers and new hires**
- **What's next: Launch Industrial Maintenance training, after employee assessments are completed. Approx. 25 internal technicians are expected to participate**



Invest in Academic Innovation

RISE 2030 Goal: Develop new programs that align with workforce and transfer demands

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Radiologic Technology

Dental Hygiene

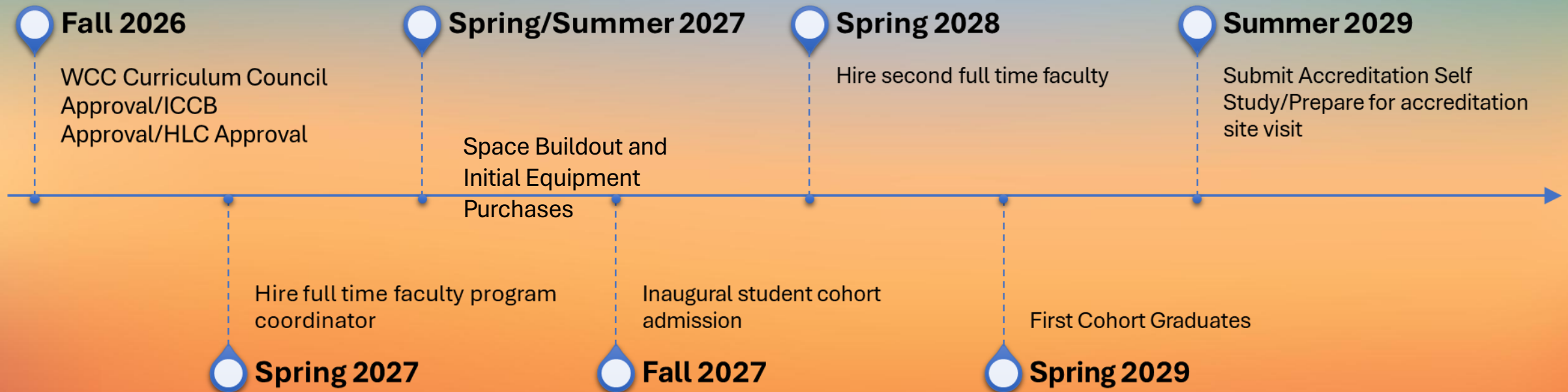


Diagnostic Medical Sonography

- Considered a high wage/high value program
- In the 12-county area surrounding WCC there were 1,019 unique jobs posting
- The median salary for Sonographers in our area is \$91,417
- Over the past five-year period 75 students have transferred to other community colleges to pursue this program
- Hospital partners have expressed workforce need for more sonographers
- We have an administrator on staff who is a sonographer and is assisting in curriculum development



Diagnostic Medical Sonography





Radiologic Technology

- Considered a high wage/high value program
- In the 12-county area surrounding WCC there were 442 unique jobs posting
- The median salary for Radiologic Technologists in our area is \$74,248
- Over the past five-year period 47 students have transferred to other community colleges to pursue this program
- Program offers a pathway to other certificates; MRI, Computed Tomography(CT), and Mammography
- Hospital partners have expressed workforce need for more radiologic technologists



Dental Hygiene

- Considered a high wage/high value program
- In the 12-county area surrounding WCC there were 88 unique jobs posting
- The median salary for Dental Hygienists in our area is \$96,826
- Position often comes with generous signing bonuses
- Over the past five-year period 23 students have transferred to other community colleges to pursue this program
- Members of the Fox River Valley Dental Society (Kane, Kendall, and DeKalb Counties) have expressed support for a new dental hygiene program at Waubonsee

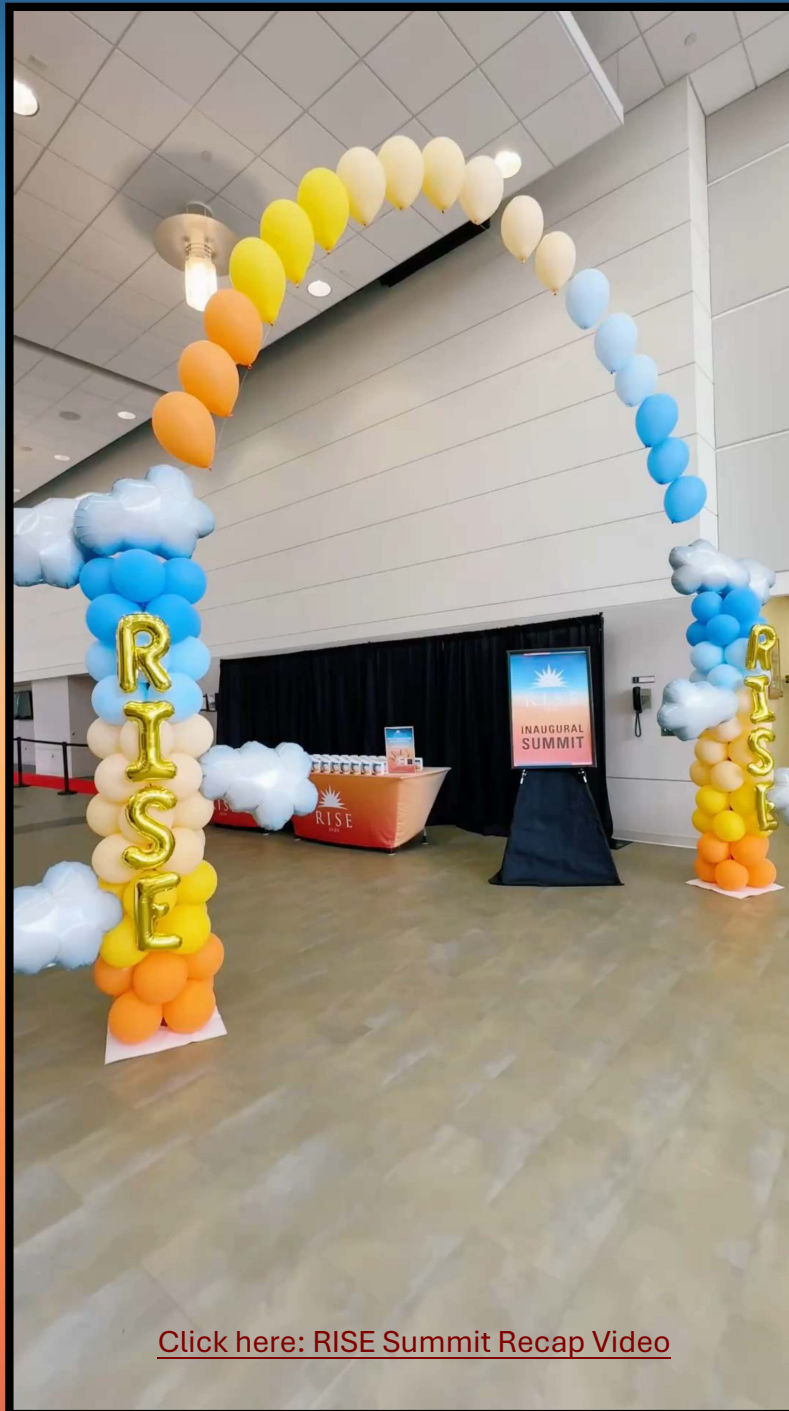


Enrich the Employee Experience

RISE 2030 Goal: Begin the process of establishing defined career pathways that include aligned competencies and the self-guided or Waubonsee-sponsored professional development that will promote employee growth among these pathways.

Staff Professional Development Day (10/9/26)

- Serves as a bridge between the current state and the future career pathway framework envisioned in RISE 2030.
- Addresses an existing gap in professional development opportunities for staff.
- Uses employee feedback from the Summit survey to guide programming, focusing on the three highest-interest topics: Career Growth & Advancement, Waubonsee Knowledge, and Communication.
- Establishes a foundation for future career pathway initiatives



[Click here: RISE Summit Recap Video](#)





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**Strengthen
Priority Leads**

Dr. Scott Peska

Assistant Provost of Academic
and Student Success

**Dr. Lisa
Richardson**

Executive Dean for Student
Success and Retention

Jo Lynn Theobald

Associate Professor of
Mathematics, Developmental
Education



**Strengthen
Goals**

Goal 1: Map Student Journeys to Enhance Support Experience

Strategic Action:

Map student journeys to understand how Waubonsee may realign our organization or change roles and responsibilities to make it easier for students to know where to go and are not lost in “handoffs” throughout their support experience.

Goal Champions:

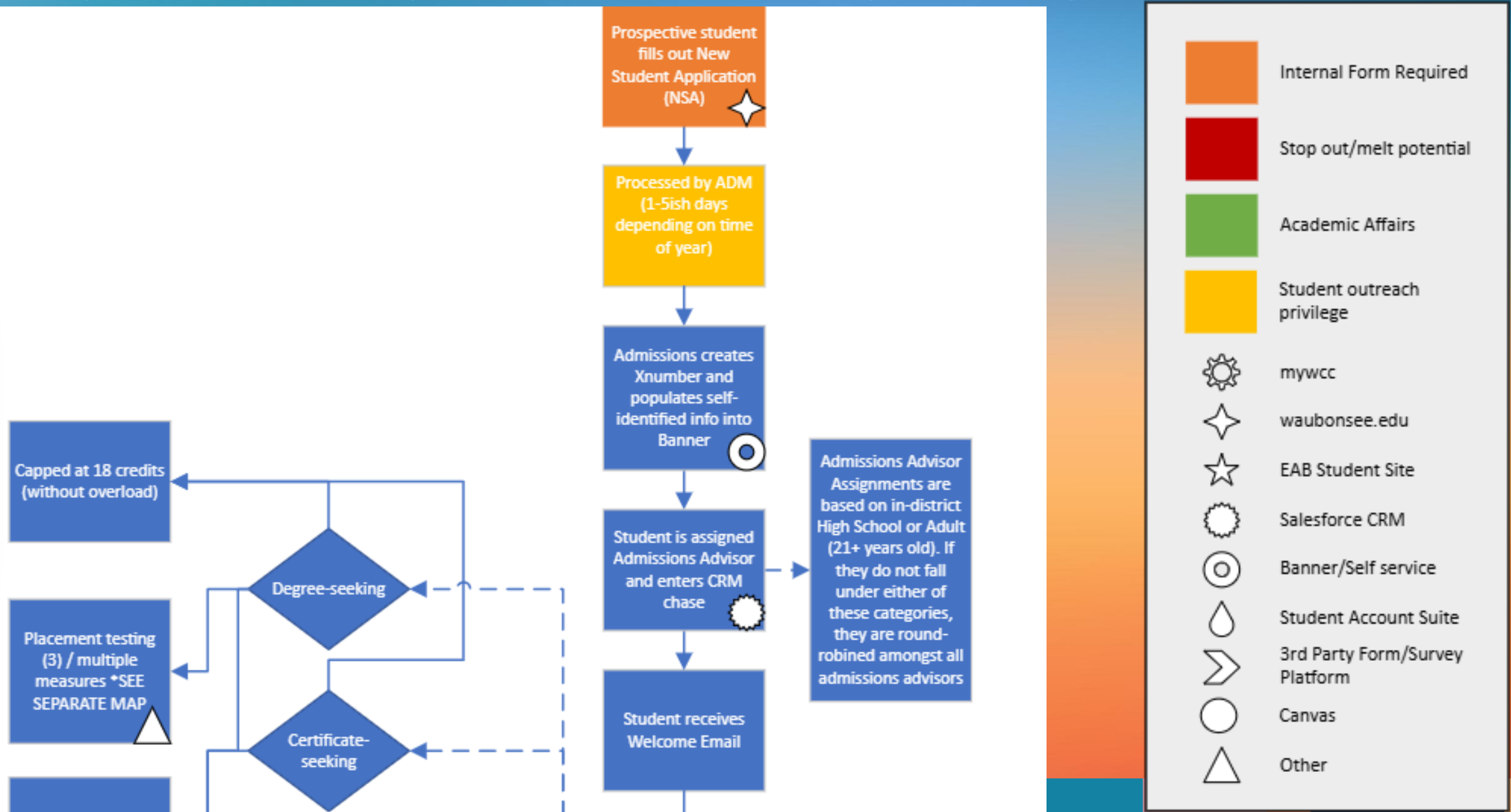
Daniela Salazar de Luna

Senior Student Retention Advisor

Alec Muschong

Senior Admissions Advisor

Progress: Journeys Mapped and Key Findings Identified



Progress: Data-Informed Student Personas Created

New to College Jules



AGE 18

LOCATION Oswego

ROLE New to College

ED. LEVEL High School

FIRST GEN? No

ETHNICITY Latina

INTENT Full Time

FA APP? Yes

FA OFFER? Grant

STORY

Jules is a recent Oswego HS graduate. She was an active student in high school and currently works part time. She worked closely with her high school counselor and admissions advisor through the registration process. She is very tech savvy but did not attend NSO because her brother also attended Waubensee.

GOALS

- Looking to decide on a major/career path
- Interested in transferring after completing general education requirements
- Intends to complete all of her courses at the Sugar Grove Campus
- Interested in scholarships but missed the deadline
- Looking to get involved

PRIMARY INTERFACES

- Transactional experience not transformative
- Admissions Advisor
- HS Transition Advisor
- .edu website/mywcc and email
- Front-line staff - Testing Center, College Info Center, Student Life, etc.

PRIMARY CHALLENGES

- Transportation - does not have her driver's license
- Work-life-school balance
- Transition from high school to college
- Tested into developmental education which negatively impacted her confidence



**Strengthen
Goals**

Goal 3: Support the Whole Student

Strategic Action:

Assess the extent to which students require assistance with basic needs for well-being or access to campus facilities (i.e. transportation, health services, food) and identify opportunities to mitigate potential barriers, including identifying community partners that may provide resources to students

Goal Champions:

Mary Greenwood

Director of Financial Aid Services

Jami Hinshaw

Dean for Student Engagement

Imelda Kohler

Counseling and Student Support Manager

Student Services Survey

A survey was created to assess college students' perceptions of their basic needs and availability of related support services.

60%

of respondents engaged with students regarding a basic needs request in the past year.

TOP THREE BASIC NEEDS ISSUES WCC ENGAGES WITH MOST FREQUENTLY:
Percentages of those who encounter these issues "often" or "very often" with students:



Mental Health and Wellness (46%)



Technology/Internet Access (42%)



Transportation Barriers (33%)

FOOD AND FINANCIAL



were identified as the most important supports needed by students.

Waubonsee Shuttle Bus

Preliminary data shows strong signs for support to provide transportation to and from the downtown Aurora campus.

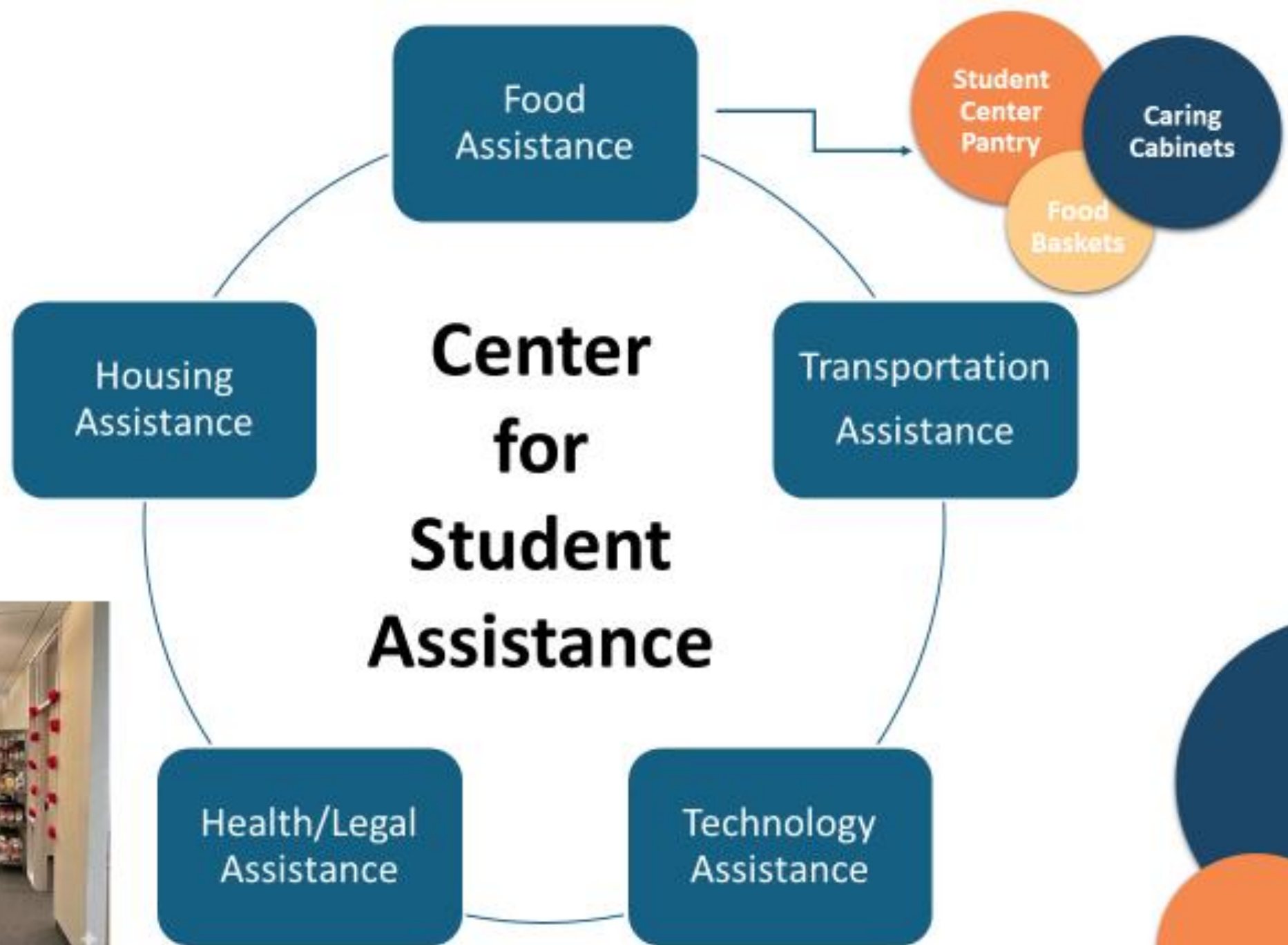
108 unique riders

1601 rides during the semester

Average of **73** rides per day



SHUTTLE BUS



Strategic Enrollment Management Plan

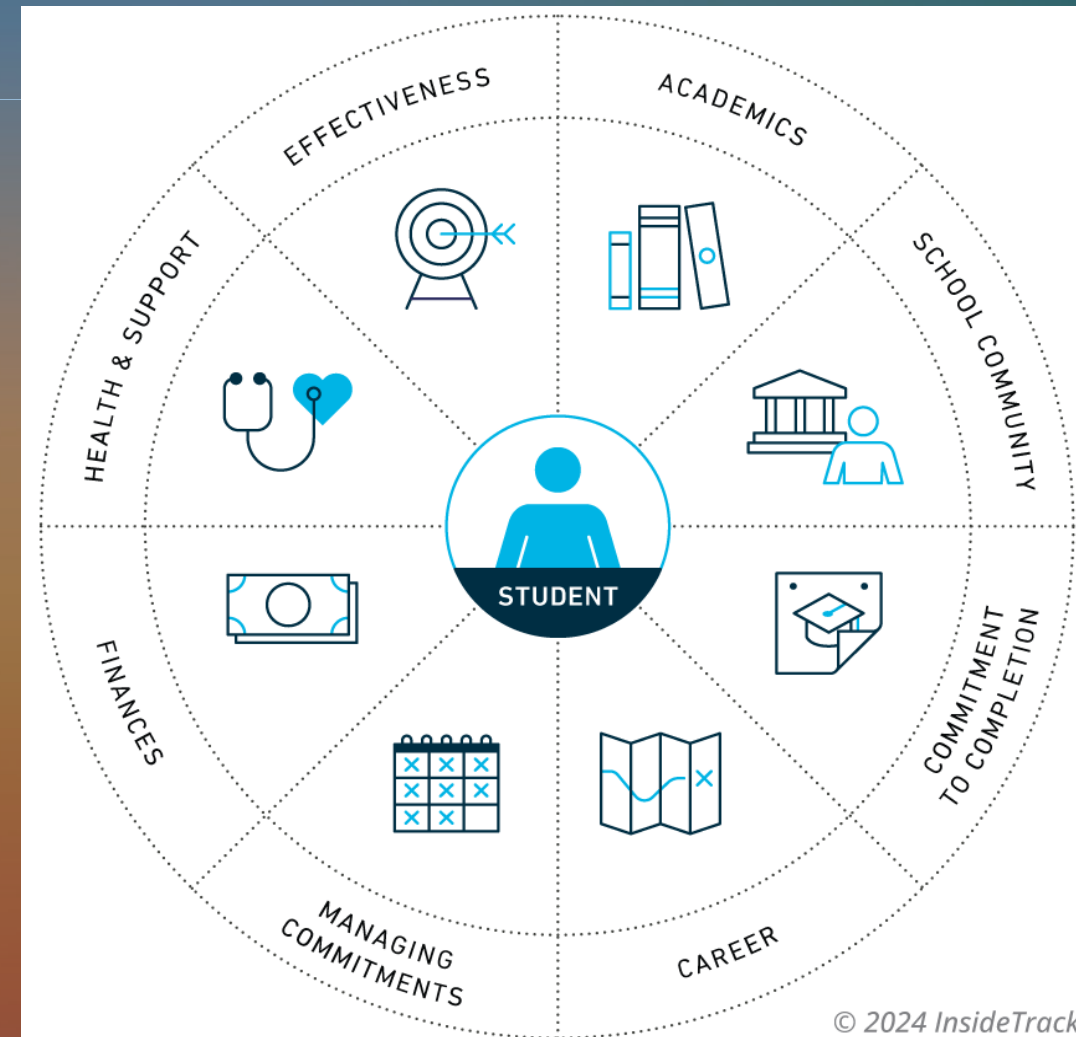
Goal – Strengthen the brand and develop effective student communications

Brand Audit

- Vendor ADV has completed internal discovery meetings and focus groups
- External perception study underway
- Competitor analysis, personas to follow
- Final report shared out with the board in the fall

Communications Audit

- Audit/Inventory completed across several departments
- Analysis resulting in shared content calendar, purpose and practices guide, and other recommendations
- Using InsideTrack Focus Wheel as guiding framework



Strategic Enrollment Management Plan

Goal - Enhance access and support for adult learners

Short-Term Career Certificates – Target 75 Learners in FY27

- New \$500K WIOA grant to expand Waubensee Works to adults and dislocated workers
- Adult Ed Bridge/ICAPS pathways enrollment increased 400% (14 in FY25 to 60 in FY26)
- Provides free tuition, fees, books, supplies, and wraparound supports
- Adult learners (18+) with barriers to employment who meet WIOA eligibility requirements

Post-Secondary Credit Pathways – Target 60 Learners in FY27

- New \$141K state grant to support adult transitions to credit programs
- Launching ENG101 and BUS100 evening cohorts at Downtown Aurora (2 sections per semester)
- Provides free tuition, fees, books, supplies, and wraparound supports
- Adult learners (18+) transitioning from Developmental Ed and Adult Ed

Thank you!
waubonsee.edu/rise



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