

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AUGUST 2026

Dr. Brian Knetl



ALL-COLLEGE ADDRESS & FACULTY DEVELOPMENT DAY

Faculty and staff were welcomed back for the 2026–2027 academic year with a high-energy All-College Address on Friday, August 14. The morning began with a catered breakfast in the Student Center, complete with a DJ, dancing, and plenty of smiles.

The celebration continued in the Auditorium, where Dr. Brian Knetl reflected on Waubonsee's 60th anniversary, highlighted achievements under the RISE 2030 strategic plan, and shared a look at the exciting progress ahead.

After the Address, Faculty Development Day commenced with the Provost's Address where Dr. Kim Chavis presented the distinguished awards: Outstanding Faculty of the Year – Dr. Emily Heller and Outstanding Adjunct Faculty of the Year – Holly Schmidt.

PLANO COMMUNITY CONNECTION WORKSHOP



The Community Engagement Department wrapped up its Community Connection series at Plano City Hall, where residents gathered to learn more about Waubonsee and connect with college leaders.

Special guest State Senator Sue Rezin shared her admiration for community colleges and provided updates on happenings in Springfield.

The Plano gathering concluded a successful series that visited nine cities across the district and brought together **188** community members to strengthen connections between Waubonsee and the communities it serves.

THE GROVE FOOD PANTRY LEADERS BREAKFAST



Waubonsee soft-launched its new student food pantry, The GROVE, during the first week of August. As part of the launch, the college hosted a First Look Breakfast for area food pantry leaders, giving them an opportunity to tour the space, learn about its mission, and provide valuable feedback.

Representatives from **eight** organizations, including the Northern Illinois Food Bank, attended and expressed their commitment to partnering with Waubonsee to help The GROVE support students facing food insecurity.

PASOS PROGRAM RECOGNITION

Incoming students, many of whom are first-generation college students, participated in the four-day PASOS Program, which helps students prepare for a successful transition to college.

The Preparing and Advancing Students for Opportunity and Success Summer Transition Program builds the skills, knowledge, and confidence students need to thrive at Waubonsee.

Dr. Knetl, Dr. Ramos, Mr. Muhammad, and Mr. Ortega-Palaguachi joined students and program leaders for a recognition ceremony, sharing encouragement and advice as participants begin their Waubonsee journey.



WAUBONSEE NIGHT AT THE KANE COUNTY COUGARS

Waubonsee continued its 60th anniversary celebration with a special Throwback Night at the Kane County Cougars. Hundreds of faculty, staff, alumni, and families gathered at Northwestern Medicine Field for an evening of baseball, community, and Waubonsee pride.

The Waubonsee Chorale opened the night with a performance of the National Anthem, while staff members Dana Wagner and Clayton Muhammad took the field to represent the college by throwing out ceremonial first pitches.



SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK



Waubonsee served as the primary sponsor of Shakespeare in the Park, a family-friendly event presented by the Geneva Foundation for the Arts and Geneva Park District at Island Park in Geneva.

Community members gathered for a comedic performance of *As You Like It*, which proved to be a crowd favorite.

Dr. Brian Knetl also joined the festivities as the pre-show emcee, bringing his customary humor and energy to the community celebration.

RISE ON THE ROAD



As Waubonsee continues to (R)edefine Our Relationship with the Community, the college is launching a new series this fall:

RISE ON THE ROAD!

College officials will get behind the wheel of the RISE-mobile and take community leaders from municipalities across the district on a journey to their nearest Waubonsee campus.

Along the way, conversations, trivia, and fun surprises will help us learn more about our community leaders while giving them an opportunity to discover more about Waubonsee.

ON THE HORIZON



AUGUST 22
60th Anniversary Celebration



SEPTEMBER 9
The GROVE Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



SEPTEMBER 28
Foundation Golf Outing



WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



BACK TO SCHOOL!
BACK TO COOL!



A COMMUNITY-WIDE CELEBRATION HELD ON THE DATE OF THE FIRST
WAUBONSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING ON **AUGUST 22, 1966!**

SATURDAY
AUGUST 22, 2026

4-8 p.m.

WAUBONSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUGAR GROVE CAMPUS
Route 47 at Waubonsee Drive