



WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2026

Dr. Brian Knetl



NEW NURSING TRANSFER PARTNERSHIP WITH NIU



Waubonsee Community College and Northern Illinois University have established a new transfer pathway, giving eligible graduates of Waubonsee's Associate of Applied Science in Nursing program guaranteed admission to NIU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

The partnership creates a clear and seamless path for Waubonsee nursing students to continue their education, advance their careers and help meet the growing demand for skilled nurses in our region. Students who meet the established admission requirements will benefit from a streamlined transition, dedicated support and access to NIU's respected nursing program, opening the door to expanded opportunities and leadership roles in the healthcare field.

GOLF OUTING RAISES \$100K+ FOR SCHOLARSHIPS



Waubonsee's 39th Annual Golf Outing brought together friends, supporters and members of the #Waubonsee community for a beautiful day of fun, connection and friendly competition.

Together, the event raised more than \$101,000 for Waubonsee Foundation scholarships, helping students offset the cost of their education and reducing financial barriers to earning a degree or certificate. The funds directly support scholarships that help Waubonsee students pay for college and stay on track toward achieving their educational and career goals.

MORE THAN \$65K RAISED FOR CASA



Waubonsee President Dr. Brian Knetl joined 10 other local stars at CASA Kane County's Dancing with the Local Stars on October 7. The sold-out event packed hundreds of guests into the historic Arcada Theatre and raised more than \$65,000 to support CASA's work on behalf of local children.

Knetl took the stage with dance partner Cristina Ochoa for an energetic, crowd-pleasing cha-cha-inspired routine featuring quick footwork, partnered turns and plenty of personality. Proceeds will help CASA recruit, train and support volunteer advocates who ensure children in the foster care system have safe, supportive and permanent homes. Waubonsee is proud to stand with CASA and its mission.

COLLEGE NIGHT SETS RECORD NUMBERS

Nearly 1,000 guests attended College Night 2026 at Waubonsee, meeting representatives from more than 100 colleges and universities from across the country. The event gave students and families the chance to explore academic programs, learn about admissions and financial aid, and get answers to their most important questions.

In addition to the college fair, attendees participated in three popular informational sessions: Choosing a Major, Financial Aid and Helpful Advice for Choosing Your College, each offered at two different times. College Night continues to grow each year and remains one of Waubonsee's largest and most impactful community events, helping students take the next step toward a bright future.



WAUBONSEE SHARES PROGRESS AT WARD 6 MEETING



Waubonsee brought college updates and resources directly to residents at Aurora's Ward 6 Annual Meeting, hosted by Alderman Michael Saville. President Dr. Brian Knetl highlighted the college's progress over the past year, including Waubonsee's 60th anniversary, the RISE 2030 Strategic Plan and emerging academic programs. The meeting strengthened community connections and expanded awareness of Waubonsee as a resource for education, careers and opportunity.

RISE HIGHLIGHTED AT REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Waubonsee's RISE 2030 strategic plan took center stage at the NCMPR District 3 Conference in Madison, where EVP/Chief of Staff Dr. Toya Webb delivered a standing-room-only session, "RISE 2030: How Branding Transformed a Strategic Plan into a Campus Movement."

Her presentation highlighted how Waubonsee is bringing its strategic plan to life through intentional branding, storytelling and meaningful engagement. Attendees from across the region praised the session for its practical insights and real-world examples of how to turn a strategic vision into measurable momentum.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS CONVENE IN AREA



Waubonsee President Dr. Brian Knetl joined fellow presidents at the recent Illinois Council of Community College Presidents Retreat, held October 7–9 in Kane County. The retreat brought together presidents from across the state to discuss key issues, share best practices and strengthen collective advocacy for community colleges.

Sessions focused on advancing student success, workforce development, funding and policy priorities, and the important role community colleges play in meeting the needs of their communities. The gathering provided valuable opportunities for collaboration, learning and continued leadership on behalf of Illinois students.

INAUGURAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY A HIT



Waubonsee's inaugural Staff Development Day on October 9 brought employees together for a morning of learning, reflection and connection focused on strengthening communication and collaboration. Sessions explored personal communication values, emotional intelligence and practical approaches for navigating courageous conversations with confidence and intention.

Employees identified their core communication values and gained strategies for building trust and working more effectively across teams. A panel featuring Waubonsee colleagues shared experiences and practical insights, helping make the first-ever Staff Development Day an engaging investment in professional growth, stronger relationships and our employees.

ON THE HORIZON

OCTOBER 15	Life Raft Debate
OCTOBER 16	Retirement and Service Awards Ceremony
OCTOBER 30	Scholarship Fest Brunch
OCTOBER 26–27	NASAD Institutional Accreditation Site Visit
NOVEMBER 7	Bike the Burbs
NOVEMBER 9–11	HLC Comprehensive Accreditation Visit