



President's Report

September 2023

Dr. Brian Knetl, President



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

We had a great start to the 2023 Fall Semester! It's another bright "New Dawn" as students choose to either begin or continue achieving their goals at Waubonsee. It was wonderful to see so much life and energy on our campuses as I spent time visiting the Welcome Tents staffed by our wonderful faculty, staff, and students. I also enjoyed welcoming our student athletes at the Fall Student-Athlete Kick-off. The increased traffic, full parking lots, and busy sidewalks reflect our positive enrollment trend. We are currently up approximately 14% in headcount and 6% in credit hours. We also have the potential for more students to join us this semester as our 12- and eight-week courses roll out.

Just as we have been excitedly welcoming students for the fall semester, our educational partners are busy with fall events and I enjoyed attending the East Aurora High School Red & Black Welcome Back Staff Celebration. I was also pleased to tour the Boys and Girls Club of America in Elgin and have been asked to serve on their board. While there is an official application, their upcoming board meetings have already been sent for my calendar and I look forward to exploring new collaboration opportunities with these new partners.

Appropriately, our Inauguration activities coincide with the start of National Latinx Heritage Month which is September 15 through October 15. We have a number of events and activities planned in recognition of this month and as a Hispanic Serving Institution. @

As you know, we are now near the end of our Inauguration activities. It has been a whirlwind of activity and I have enjoyed every minute of interaction with employees, students, alumni, retirees, and community members. I am reminded again of how honored and humbled I am to have been selected to serve as the fifth president of Waubonsee Community College. We have realized that September is a popular month for presidential inauguration activities. Last week, I returned to Grand Rapids Community College for the Investiture of Dr. Charles Lepper. Next week, I am looking forward to attending the Investiture of Dr. Susana Rivera-Mills, President of Aurora University.

It has been a busy time within the community as well as I have been attending board meetings and other events through the Batavia Chamber of Commerce and the Valley Industrial Association. I am also looking forward to meeting with administrators from the Village of Oswego, and attending community events including the Aurora Chamber Legislative Luncheon, the AID Benefit Auction, the Rush Copley Rock the Heart Fundraiser, and the Batavia Cheers to 70 Years Celebration. In addition, I welcomed Kevin Burns, Mayor of Geneva, to our Sugar Grove Campus and met with U.S. Congressman Bill Foster, 11th District, to discuss development of a water treatment program at Waubonsee and request support for a National Science Foundation grant that some of our faculty members are pursuing to support this effort. I'm looking forward to meeting more community members at our Waubonsee Foundation Golf Outing on Monday.

And, our congratulations to Trustee Rick Guzman on being one of three Family Focus honorees at their Roots Aurora event.





What I'm Reading

- *America's Hidden Economic Engines: How Community Colleges Can Drive Shared Prosperity* edited by Robert B. Schwartz and Rachel Lipson
- *Credentials: Understand the Problems. Identify the Opportunities. Create the Solutions.* by Paul L. Gaston and Michelle Van Noy



What I'm Following

- @waubonsee social media channels
- Follow me on Twitter at @WCCPresident

AROUND THE COLLEGE

Dr. Sheela Vemu, Associate Professor of Biology, has been selected as the recipient of the 2023 Two-Year College Biology Teaching Award. The Biology Teaching Award is sponsored by the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) Two-Year Section and CellZone, and includes an NABT membership, awardee plaque, and \$500 honorarium. Dr. Vemu also recently presented, "[*Science is for everyone, and everyone can do science*](#)" on National Public Radio's Teachers' Lounge podcast.

City of Aurora Ward 2 residents and Waubonsee students Erin Watkins, Lesli Herrera, Carlos Vasquez Acosta, Daniel Arceo, September Paw, Eh Hser, and Osvaldo Cepeda were recognized as scholarship recipients at the 18th Annual Aurora Hispanic Pioneers Breakfast. The scholarships were funded and awarded by City of Aurora, Juany Garza, Alderwoman of Ward 2, and other community organizations.

Coming Up

September 25

Waubonsee Foundation Golf Outing

September 28

Waubonsee Joint Honors Induction Ceremony

September 29

Investiture of Dr. Susana Rivera-Mills, President Aurora University

October 4

Aurora Education Commission

October 5

Biscuits with the Boss
(Employee meeting for updates and questions)

October 9-12

ACCT Leadership Congress

LATINX HERITAGE MONTH

HISPANIC SERVING
INSTITUTION

For more details on these events, visit waubonsee.edu/LHM

Loteria
Thursday, Sept. 14
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Latinx Resource Center, Aurora Downtown Campus
BINGO in the Latinx Resource Center with refreshments!

Raices (Roots)
Monday, Sept. 25
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Latinx Resource Center, Aurora Downtown Campus
Focused on family and heritage, you will have the opportunity to create an "Ojos de Dios" and sample delicious Latin American food.

Community Movie Night
Thursday, Oct. 5
6 - 10 p.m.

Click here
to RSVP
today!

Aurora Downtown Campus, Room 160
The Aurora Film Society and Waubonsee are hosting a Community Movie Night showing *Son of Monarchs* (Rated R).

Kermes at First Fridays
Friday, Oct. 6
5 - 8:30 p.m.

Aurora Downtown Campus Indoors & Outdoors
An exciting event filled with free food from local food trucks, resources, live entertainment, special alumni social hour, and more!!

Poet Laureate Ada Limón
Tuesday, Oct. 10
6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

Virtual via Zoom

A reading and discussion with Poet Laureate Ada Limón, the first Latina Poet Laureate of the United States.

Opportunities for Faculty and Staff:

Almuerzo y Aprende (Lunch and Learn)

Join us for a stimulating and informative Almuerzo y Aprende Professional Development series:

Friday, Sept. 22 at Noon via Zoom
Dr. Kristina Garcia, Dean of Communication and Behavioral Sciences, Elgin Community College

Wednesday, Sept. 27 at Noon via Zoom
Josh Villalobos, Instructional Dean, Mission del Paso Campus - El Paso Community College

Wednesday, Oct. 4 at Noon via Zoom
or attend in-person at the Latinx Resource Center
Dr. Francisco Gaytan, Vice President of Student Engagement, North Park University

Botanas (Appetizers)

Tuesday, Oct. 10
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in BDE 150

Faculty and staff are invited to come enjoy a variety of delicious botanas (appetizers) and connect like amigos. This event will have a vibrant atmosphere with lively music and dancing! **Click here** to sign up to show off your best botana for a chance to win prizes!

GET
INVOLVED



WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Virtual events are auto captioned. If you need professional captioning, a sign language interpreter or other accommodations for an event, please contact mevans@waubonsee.edu. Five business days' notice is requested. Waubonsee does not discriminate on the basis of any individual's actual or perceived characteristic protected by law in its programs or activities. Inquiries regarding this policy may be directed to: Michele Needham, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, Route 47 at Waubonsee Drive, Sugar Grove, IL 60554, compliance@waubonsee.edu.