

PHILOSOPHIES. *The philosophies we adopted in 2004 describe our commitment for evolving into a learning college.*

As a quality learning institution, we accept the following principles:

- As a learning college, we create an environment that promotes substantial development in individual learners.
- As a learning college, we engage our students as full partners in the learning process.
- As a learning college, we recognize our diverse population of learners and will therefore create and offer a variety of diverse options for learning.
- As a learning college, we promote collaborative learning activities.
- As a learning college, we recognize that everyone employed by the college is a learning facilitator.
- As a learning college, we succeed when improved and expanded learning can be documented.

Adapted from: O'Banion, Terry, *A Learning College for the 21st Century*, American Council on Education and the Oryx Press, 1997

Sauk Valley Community College is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to an effective policy of non-discrimination and equal opportunity in all employee and student relations. Except to the extent and subject to the exemptions permitted by law, no qualified employee or student shall be excluded from the employment or educational opportunity, be denied benefits, or be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation (as that term is defined in the Illinois Human Rights Act), marital status, handicap, military status or unfavorable discharge from military service classified as Re-3 or the equivalent thereof.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sauk Valley Community College is located in a changing, rural area of northwest Illinois. During the past few years, the Sauk Valley has been hit hard with the closing of several prominent companies and the downsizing of others, which resulted in the displacement of hundreds of workers. These economic factors are compounded by anticipated funding reductions from State, Federal and private funding sources.

However, the people of the Sauk Valley are resilient and continue to move forward. New employers have been attracted to the area. The quality of life has been bolstered by new services and recently constructed facilities. Organizations have crossed the lines which used to divide them and now work together to grow the area and keep it strong.

We at Sauk Valley Community College are proud to be a part of that resilient spirit. I believe our greatest strength is in our highly skilled and dedicated staff. We are committed to serving our community by adapting to the changes and focusing on providing the highest quality learning opportunities possible.

As the president of Sauk Valley Community College, it is my pleasure to share with you this strategic plan which describes the values we adhere to and the goals we strive to attain.

Dr. George Mihel

Strategic Plan

July 2005 - June 2006



Sauk Sauk Valley
Community College

173 IL Route 2, Dixon, IL 61021

MISSION. *The College's mission statement describes the institution as it is today. It grew out of previous mission statements and was approved by the Board of Trustees on March 22, 2004.*

Sauk Valley Community College is an institution of higher education that provides quality learning opportunities to meet the diverse needs of its students and community.

VALUES. *College employees identified the characteristics that serve as the guiding principles for conducting ourselves as an institution, and are summarized in our shared ethical values.*

Recognizing that education is the single best means of improving the quality of people's lives, we the people of the SVCC Learning Community commit to living these shared ethical values:

Respect	We respect the worth and dignity of all people
Responsibility	We value and advocate that all take responsibility for themselves, their learning, and the environment.
Fairness	We advocate fairness and just treatment of all people.
Integrity	We expect and constantly stand for integrity, honesty, and ethical treatment of all people.
Caring	We value the creation of opportunities in a caring environment.

Sauk Valley Community College will be known as a Learning Community that exemplifies quality education and adheres to these shared ethical values.

STRATEGIC GOALS and OBJECTIVES. *Our strategic goals describe the broad actions required to fulfill the College's mission. The objectives describe the key components of each goal and serve as the basis for each department's annual operational plan.*

Goal 1: We will provide quality learning opportunities.

1. Advance the culture of a Learning College that supports continual improvement in learning and services.
2. Maintain academic integrity and standards.
3. Offer programs and services that are responsive to learners.
4. Expand access to learning opportunities.
5. Recruit, develop, and retain qualified and dedicated people.
6. Utilize emerging technologies appropriate for supporting a learning institution.
7. Maintain a physical and social environment that is conducive to learning.

Goal 2: We will be fiscally responsible.

1. Budget strategically incorporating a data-driven decision-making system.
2. Examine processes and systems continuously to apply the best ways to meet the College's goals.
3. Improve student enrollment and retention.
4. Seek additional funding sources aggressively that are consistent with the College's goals.
5. Maintain an awareness of peer institutions, trends, and benchmarks.
6. Be fiscally accountable while considering educational quality.

Goal 3: We will represent SVCC positively.

1. Provide a welcoming environment for learners.
2. Recognize that all employees are ambassadors for the College.
3. Foster a positive, supportive environment that encourages creativity and innovation.
4. Promote an inclusive environment that fosters respect for diverse populations.
5. Maintain involvement with professional organizations, legislators, and governing bodies.
6. Practice effective marketing strategies.

Goal 4: We will respect all SVCC stakeholders.

1. Collaborate with our stakeholders in alliances that are mutually beneficial.
2. Promote shared governance within the institution.
3. Communicate decisions and resolution of issues to those affected.
4. Recognize efforts and celebrate achievements.
5. Encourage wellness practices that promote a healthy lifestyle.
6. Respond to local, regional, national, and world needs for educational and training competencies.
7. Offer services to lessen barriers and foster increased accessibility.