

**Sauk Valley Community College  
January 24, 2022**

**Action Item 4.2**

**Topic:** Administrator Appointment – Dean of Student Services

**Mission:** Sauk Valley Community College is dedicated to teaching and scholarship while engaging the community in lifelong learning, public service, and economic development.

**Presented by:** Dr. David Hellmich and Dr. Jon Mandrell

**Presentation:**

The administration has been in the process of hiring a Dean of Student Services with the retirement of Janet Matheney. The position was advertised on-line on Sauk Valley Community College’s website, *Glassdoor.com*, *Higherjobs.com*, *Indeed.com*, and in Sauk Valley Media (the *Dixon Telegraph* and the *Daily Gazette*). The College received thirty applications, ten candidates were requested to submit a taped interview, and four candidates were invited to interview on-campus. A committee was composed of Ana Salgado, Sasha Logan, Rose Starbuck, Jennifer Schultz, Valerie Kern-Lyons, Thomas Irish, Michael Stevenson, Jonathan Devereueawax, and Abril Vazquez-Tapia. Dr. Jon Mandrell, Vice President of Academics and Student Services, served as chair.

*Academic background:* Joe Strabala-Bright graduated from Augustana College with his bachelor’s degree in Political Science and International Business and from Northern Illinois University with a Master of Public Administration.

*Professional background:* Joe began employment in November 2014 at Sauk Valley Community College as a Tutoring and Career Advisor for the TRIO Grant. In January 2018, he was promoted to the Academic Support Coordinator for the TRIO Grant and in September 2018, he was promoted to the Director of Institutional Research and Planning.

**Recommendation:**

The administration recommends the Board approve the appointment of Joe Strabala-Bright for the 2021-2022 academic year as the Dean of Student Services beginning February 21, 2022 at an annual base salary of \$87,339.60.

Joe Strabala-Bright

joebright4@gmail.com

Sauk Valley Community College Hiring Committee:

I am writing in the hopes of obtaining an interview for the position of Dean of Student Services. Currently, I am the Director of Research and Planning at Sauk Valley Community College. I graduated *cum laude* from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois in May of 2013. While at Augustana, I majored in Political Science and International Business with concentrations in International Relations and Finance. In December of 2017, I completed my Masters in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University with an emphasis in Strategic Public Management and Leadership. My employment history, academic qualifications, and my experience working with students and stakeholders from various backgrounds help make me a strong candidate for this position.

In my current role as Director of Research and Planning I have helped guide the college through operational planning, assessment, program review, and accreditation. Through my work in these areas I have been able to gain a broad base of knowledge related to federal, state, and HLC requirements and procedures. While the majority of my work focuses on data analysis, reporting, and compliance, I have also been fortunate enough to work alongside SVCC faculty and staff on a variety of projects and on numerous committees. Additionally, through my work with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee as well as the faculty and staff development committees, I have experience with providing high quality professional development on a variety of topics to both faculty and staff.

My prior role as an advisor with the TRIO program at Sauk Valley Community College has given me the opportunity to work with hundreds of low-income and first-generation students, as well as students who have documented disabilities. My advising work focused on assisting students with career planning, financial aid, the transfer process, and in developing academic success skills and strategies. Additionally, I managed the TRIO Academic Coaching program.

Along with my experience at Sauk, I have also worked as a Community Outreach Worker with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission where I helped students apply for college and understand the financial aid process. In addition to this, I developed programming based on FAFSA completion data and input from area counselors in order to better meet the needs of students and families.

Attached you will find a copy of my resume that will provide you with more information about my qualifications and experience. I would enjoy the opportunity to interview for this position and discuss it with you more in depth. I look forward to an interview and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Strabala-Bright

# Joe Strabala-Bright

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## Education

**Northern Illinois University**, Dekalb, IL Dec 2017  
*Master of Public Administration*  
Specialization: Strategic Public Management and Leadership

**Augustana College**, Rock Island, IL May 2013  
*Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude*  
Majors: International Business, Political Science  
Concentrations: Finance, International Relations

## Employment

**Sauk Valley Community College**, Dixon, IL Sep 2018 - Present  
*Director of Research and Planning*

- Oversees operational and strategic planning activities for the college
- Serves as liaison between the college and its accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- Responsible for ensuring quality and accuracy of data reported to the Illinois Community College Board, the Department of Education, the HLC, and other organizations
- Provides guidance on legislative issues and serves as a member of the college's legislative outreach team
- Leads the college's institutional research and program review efforts
- Represents the department of Research and Planning on President's Cabinet

**TRIO SSS at Sauk Valley Community College**, Dixon, IL Jan 2018 – Sep 2018  
*Academic Support Coordinator*

- Provided high impact academic advising services to one hundred at-risk students
- Managed TRIO Academic Coaching program that focused on providing tutoring and mentoring services to over thirty students each semester

- Collected and analyzed data on Academic Coaching program in order to measure effectiveness of services and implemented changes based on collected data and program goals
- Monitored academic status and progression of TRIO students, and ensured they were receiving appropriate academic support and resources

**TRIO SSS at Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon, IL** Nov 2014 – Jan 2018

*Tutoring and Career Advisor*

- Provided high impact academic advising services to one hundred at-risk students
- Managed TRIO tutoring program that consisted of six tutors and logged more than six hundred contact hours every year
- Developed surveys and framework to collect and monitor information related to student success and satisfaction within the TRIO tutoring program
- Presented and advised on a variety of topics including transferring, financial literacy, career planning, and academic success skills and strategies

**Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Sterling, IL** Jun 2013 – Oct 2014

*Community Outreach Worker*

- Assisted students and families with the process of searching for and applying to colleges and other post-secondary credential programs
- Organized and planned events and delivered presentations related to financial aid and college preparedness
- Administered advice concerning the FAFSA, grants, scholarships, and federal loans
- Collected and monitored data related to FAFSA completion and core ISAC services at area high schools in order to better tailor services to the needs of area students

## **Community Work**

**City of Sterling, Sterling, IL** Jul 2020 – Present

*Planning and Zoning Commission Member*

**Sauk Valley Keystone Group, Sterling, IL** Jan 2020 – Jun 2021

*Steering Committee*

**Sterling Main Street, Sterling, IL** Sep 2018 - Present

*Board Member*

- Economic Vitality Committee Chair
- Sterling “Welcome Home” Committee

**PFLAG Sauk Valley**, Sterling, IL Jan 2018 – Sep 2020  
*Board Member*

**Whiteside County Senior Center/Public Transit Agency**, Sterling, IL Jan 2017 – Present  
*Board Member*

- Finance Committee
- Executive Committee

*Treasurer* Aug 2017 – Aug 2018  
*President* Sep 2018 - Present

## **Committee Work**

**Sauk Valley Community College**, Dixon, IL

- Diversity and Inclusion Committee May 2019 – Present
- President's Cabinet Sep 2018 – Present
- Institutional Research Board Sep 2018 – Present
- Staff Development Committee Sep 2018 – Present
- Emergency Preparedness Committee Sep 2018 – Present
- Faculty Development Committee Sep 2018 – Present
- Assessment Committee Sep 2018 – Present
- Operational Planning and Improvement Committee Sep 2018 – Present
- Program Review Committee Jan 2016 – Present
- Single Parent Scholarship Committee Aug 2015 – Dec 2018
- Developmental Education Task Force Nov 2015 – Mar 2016

## **Conference Presentations**

**College Changes Everything Conference**, Tinley Park, IL Jul 2016

**Title:** *High Impact Practices for Improving Retention & Success: Assessment & Focus Groups, Conference Style Programming and Motivational Interviewing*