

Sauk Valley Community College
April 22, 2024

Action Item 4.2

Topic: **Honorary Degree**

Shared Ethical Values: **Sauk Valley Community College respects the worth and dignity of all people; stands for integrity and fairness; and encourages responsibility, accountability, and persistence in a caring, supportive environment.**

Presented By: **Dr. David Hellmich**

Presentation:

Per Board Policy *109.02*, an Honorary Degree is a high form of recognition offered by Sauk Valley Community College to persons of exceptional distinction. To be awarded the honorary degree, the nominee must have made exceptional and lasting contributions as a notable life achievement to the College, to the Sauk Valley community, or to the state community. Linda Giesen is such a person.

Linda has a distinguished professional career in criminal justice, education, and law and has been very active in community service in the Sauk Valley. After earning her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Southern Illinois University and her Master of Science in Criminology from Indiana State University, Linda began her eleven-year career with the Illinois Department of Corrections, which included being the Warden of the Dwight Correctional Center and being the Warden of the Dixon Correctional Center, where she was the Illinois' first female warden of an all-male prison.

From 1986 to 1992, Linda was an Assistant Professor of Criminology at Sauk Valley Community College and served as the Advisor to the Criminal Justice Students while at SVCC.

Linda earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Iowa in 1991 and began her career in law, which included being the Lee County State's Attorney from 2000 to 2004 and being an attorney with three different Dixon firms.

Linda has been a member of the Dixon Rotary Club since 1996, serving as President and Chair of the Rotary District Annual Foundation Fund and participating in a Rotary Service Trip to Nigeria. She is the Past President of the United Way of Lee County and the Past President of the Dixon Club of the American Association of University Women. In 2012, Linda received the YWCA Jane Reid Keefer Award.

Recommendation:

The administration recommends the Board, per Board Policy *109.02*, award an Honorary Associate in Arts Degree – Criminal Justice to Linda Giesen for exceptional and lasting contributions to her profession and community.