

Sauk Valley Community College
April 21, 2025

Agenda Item 5.1.3

Topic: Spring 2025 Retirees

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: Drs. David Hellmich, Jon Mandrell, and Patrice Hess

Presentation:

The College fulfills its mission through the faculty and staff who dedicate their professional lives to being Sauk Valley Community College educators. The following retirees have been among the College's most dedicated staff.

Karen Abele began working at Sauk in 2002 as a Student Needs Tutor and taught English as an adjunct faculty member. In 2009, she was hired as a temporary Assistant Professor. In 2015, she became a full-time Assistant Professor. For two years, 2019-2021, she was promoted to Assistant Professor I. Continuing her career at Sauk from 2021 until her retirement in 2025, she was promoted to Assistant Professor II in English. Professor Abele has always been a model employee. She is a professional, competent, and supportive colleague with a positive disposition, professionalism, and work ethic. Sauk thanks Karen for her service to SVCC and our community.

Odile Blazquez started working at Sauk in 2000 as a part-time faculty member. She continued as an adjunct until 2015. In 2016, she was promoted to Assistant Professor in ELA. She continued as an Assistant Professor until 2019 when she was promoted to Associate Professor. From 2023 until her retirement in 2025, she was promoted to Professor of English. Dr. Blazquez is one of the hardest-working and friendliest faculty members on campus. She has a heart for developing learners and has been described as patient, kind, and respectful. Sauk thanks Odile for her service to SVCC and our community.

Julie Cecchetti started working at Sauk in 2017 as the part-time VITAL Administrative Assistant. Julie is an asset to the program and is always looking at ways to improve data and record-keeping in order to effectively keep the program running. She always acts in the best interest of the program and Sauk. Her positive attitude is very welcoming on the phone or in person to all who enter the office. We appreciate all of Julie's knowledge and assistance. Sauk thanks Julie for her service to SVCC and our community.

Ronald Hobson started working at Sauk in 2013 as a Coordinator in the Math Lab. In 2016, he was promoted to an Associate Professor of Mathematics. From 2019 until his retirement in 2025, he was promoted to Professor of Mathematics. Ronald is a team player, stepping up to support his department where needed. He is an excellent teacher and a great asset to SVCC and the math department. We appreciate the countless ways Ron has made selfless choices within his department. Sauk thanks Ronald for his service to SVCC and our community.

Rachel Medina began her journey at Sauk in 1997 as a second-shift custodian. She has great job knowledge and overall thoroughness and cleanliness of her entire area. She goes above and beyond what is expected. Her ability to be minimally supervised, her performance to high standards, and her dedication to the job make it easier for her first-line supervisor to concentrate on areas needing more attention. Sauk thanks Rachel for her service to SVCC and our community.

Steve Sloan began at Sauk in 2017 as SVCC's part-time Maintenance Technician. Steve has the uncanny ability to work on several tasks at the same time and finish them ahead of schedule while maintaining quality workmanship. He is a very knowledgeable and versatile person who adapts well to any given task. Steve has participated in several large in-house remodeling projects. His greatest strengths are his job skills, the speed at which he accomplishes tasks, and his desire to always do his best. He never complains, and his personality and attitude are always positive. Sauk thanks Steve for his service to SVCC and our community.

Kathryn Snow began at Sauk in 2004 as the Coordinator of Personnel Services. In 2005, her was promoted to the Director of Human Resources. She has been a part of President's Cabinet since 2004. Kathryn's performance is consistently excellent. She is the quintessential professional who is highly skilled and who always does her best. Nothing more can be hoped for in a professional colleague. Sauk thanks Kathryn for her service to SVCC and our community.

Scott VanZuiden started working at Sauk in 1992 as an Adjunct. From the years 2006-2014 and 2017, he continued his service as an Adjunct. In 2018, he became a full-time Professor of Mathematics. He has a very positive approach in his teaching strategies, and his students are actively engaged in the courses. He has always created an exceptional learning environment for our students. Scott has been a tremendous instructor here at SVCC. He will be greatly missed. Sauk thanks Scott for his service to SVCC and our community.