

**Sauk Valley Community College**  
**February 27, 2023**

**Action Item 4.4**

**Topic:** Faculty Sabbatical Request

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

**College Health Metric:** Academics – The College provides quality, contemporary, and relevant educational opportunities to the community.

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

**Presentation:**

Professor Valerie Kern-Lyons, Mental Health and Academic Counselor, has submitted an application for consideration of sabbatical leave for the 2024 Spring Semester. Professor Kern-Lyons was recently honored through acceptance to a study abroad opportunity at Carlow College St. Patrick's in Carlow, Ireland, through the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP). The position is a residential position to support international students, providing leadership and instruction in psychology/mental health and serves as the connection between the study-abroad students and the Consortium.

As part of the eligibility process, a committee was composed of Joe Strabala-Bright, Dr. Amy Jakobsen, Emily Zimmerman, Geoff Bork, Dr. Steve Miko, Dr. Michael Selover, and Mandy Aldridge. The committee heard from Professor Kern-Lyons and her interests for the sabbatical. After discussion and review of materials, the committee approved of the sabbatical request.

**Recommendation:**

The administration recommends the Board approve the sabbatical request for Professor Valerie Kern-Lyons for the Spring 2024 semester.