

Sauk Valley Community College
January 23, 2023

Action Item 4.4

Topic: **Honorary Degree**

College Health Metric: **Financial Stability – The College uses its revenue prudently while pursuing and utilizing alternative revenue streams. Investment in programs, personnel, processes, and infrastructure are carefully considered and supported by College Planning.**

Presented By: **Dr. David Hellmich and Dr. Lori Cortez**

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 and/or to the Sauk Valley community. Bill Wescott is such a person.

Bill Wescott has served on the Sauk Valley College Foundation Board since 2013. He served on the executive and finance committees, as Vice President, and currently as President. He plays an integral role in assisting with strategies and connections for the Impact campaign to support the SVCC Impact Program.

Bill served as mayor of Rock Falls from 2013-2021 and for two years as the president of the Northern Illinois Mayor's Association. Prior to his election as mayor, he served as the City Clerk for 13 years and was an alderman for two years, holding the position of Finance Chairman. He served seven years in the United States Air Force Medical Corps. From 1979-1989, he was the co-founder/owner of Twin City Ambulance and worked in Emergency Medical Services for 43 years. Bill attended Sauk Valley Community College in 1982.

Bill is very active in the community, serving 12 years on the East Coloma School Board, past president of the Rock Falls Rotary Club, past president and current member of the Optimist Club of Rock Falls, Executive Team Treasurer for Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, and church choir member. Bill also served for 20 years on the Rock Falls Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter and serves as a volunteer instructor teaching Junior Achievement classes in the local schools.

Recommendation:

The administration recommends the Board, per Board Policy 109.02, award an Honorary Associate in Arts Degree – Social Science Major to Bill Wescott for his exceptional and lasting contributions to Sauk Valley Community College, the Sauk Valley College Foundation, and the Sauk Valley.