

**Sauk Valley Community College
June 15, 2026**

Action Item 4.2

Topic: Faculty Appointment – Nursing

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

Presented By: Dr. Jon Mandrell

Presentation:

The administration has been in the process of hiring Nursing Faculty. The position was advertised on-line on Sauk Valley Community College’s website. The college received five applicants. Two candidates were invited for an on-campus interview. A committee was composed of Kimberly Cole, Megan Dempsey, Mary Beth Oswald, and Jessica Wilkin. Pamela Eubanks, Dean of Health Professions, served as Chair.

Academic Background: Cara Widolff received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Edgewood College and her Master of Science in Nursing Education from Capella University.

Professional Background: Currently Cara is an Adjunct Faculty member for Nursing here at SVCC. She also is the Allied Health Instructor at Whiteside Area Career Center. Prior to that, she was a Registered Nurse for KSB Hospital from 2013 to 2025. Cara was also a CNA/Nanny to a special needs child and nurse technician intern.

Recommendation:

The administration recommends the Board approve the appointment of Cara Widolff as Nursing Faculty beginning August 3, 2026 at an annual base salary of \$59,417.64.

Cara Widolff



February 2, 2026

Sauk Valley Community College

Health Professions

173 IL-2

Dixon, IL 61021

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my interest in the Nursing Faculty position at Sauk Valley Community College. With thirteen years of clinical nursing experience, and recent experience teaching high school students in a healthcare focused setting, I am eager to continue my career educating and mentoring future nurses at the collegiate level.

My nursing background has provided me with a strong clinical foundation in fast paced, high acuity environments where critical thinking, teamwork, and patient advocacy are essential. Throughout my years in the emergency department, I trained new nurses and students. I found it fulfilling to guide them as they developed confidence, mastered their skills, and learned clinical judgement. These experiences sparked my passion for nursing education and reinforced my desire to transition into formal teaching roles.

In my current teaching role, I have further developed my instructional skills by designing engaging lessons, assessing student performance, and supporting learners. Teaching has strengthened my desire to motivate young students who are at the very beginning of their healthcare journeys.

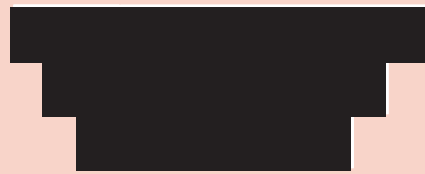
As a Dixon native, I have always been drawn to Sauk Valley Community College because of the important role it plays within our local community. Having a community college that offers such a wide range of high quality programs is invaluable, particularly in preparing students for meaningful careers in healthcare. I value the mission of community colleges to support diverse learners and meet local workforce needs, and I would be proud to contribute to an institution that provides so much opportunity to its students and the community it serves.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to speak with you.

Sincerely,

Cara Widolff, MSN, RN

CARA WIDOLFF



cwidolff@gmail.com

Work Experience

2020 - Present

**Whiteside Area Career Center - Sterling, IL
Allied Health Instructor**

- Teaching, mentoring, and motivating students in the lab and in the classroom
- Administrative duties
- Supervise and evaluate students as they practice clinical skills

2023 - Present

**Sauk Valley Community College - Dixon, IL
Adjunct Professor - School of Nursing**

- Clinical Supervision
- Laboratory instruction
- Assessment and evaluation

2015 - 2025

**KSB Hospital - Dixon, IL
Registered Nurse -- Emergency Room**

- Consistently delivered high quality care
- Utilized critical thinking
- Demonstrated expertise in physical and clinical skills
- Precepted new nurses
- Worked as a charge nurse

2013 - 2015

**KSB Hospital - Dixon, IL
Registered Nurse -- Medical/Surgical Floor**

2010 - 2012

**Private Home - Waunakee, WI
Certified Nursing Assistant/Nanny to Special Needs Child**

Summer 2012

**KSB Hospital - Dixon, IL
Nurse Technician Intern**

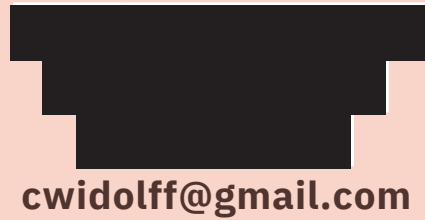
Education

**April 2022 -
December
2022**

Capella University - Minneapolis, MN
Master of Science in Nursing Education
Graduation - December 2022

Edgewood College - Madison, WI
Graduation - December 2012
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
RN License #041409990

CARA WIDOLFF



cwidolff@gmail.com

Certifications - current

- **Advanced Cardiac Life Support**
- **Basic Life Support**
- **Pediatric Advanced Life Support**
- **Trauma Nursing Core Course**
- **Crisis Prevention Intervention**
- **Emergency Communications Registered Nurse**
- **Certified CPR Instructor**
- **Certified CNA Instructor**
- **Certified Phlebotomy Instructor**
- **Illinois Career and Technical Educator**

References

Sheila Fane
CNA Instructor Whiteside Area Career Center
sfane@wacc.cc
Sterling, IL
[Redacted]

Alyssa Mairs
Charge Nurse - OSF Saint Katharine's Hospital
diehlyssa@gmail.com
Sterling, IL
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