

Sauk Valley Community College
March 16, 2026

Action Item 5.5

Topic: Outstanding Full-time Faculty Member Award

College Health Metric: Human Resources – The College hires qualified employees and provides competitive benefits to attract and retain faculty and staff; departments provide professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.

Presented By: Dr. David Hellmich, Dr. Jon Mandrell, and Patrice Hess

Presentation:

Professor Therese Wood is SVCC’s Outstanding Faculty Award winner and is being nominated for the 2026 ICCTA Outstanding Full-time Faculty Award.

Educational and professional background: Professor Wood received her Bachelor's in Biology with a Chemistry minor from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She earned her Master in Biology from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Professor Wood has been a dedicated member of Sauk Valley Community College since January 1992. She began her career at SVCC as a Natural Science Laboratory Assistant, serving in that role from 1992 to 2014. She then transitioned to Health Professions and Natural Science Assistant, a position she held from 2015 to 2021. In August 2020, while continuing in that role, she began teaching as an adjunct instructor. Her commitment to education and student success led to her appointment as a full-time Biology faculty member in 2021. Throughout her tenure, Professor Wood’s dedication to excellence has remained steadfast.

Comments from Nomination: Therese demonstrates excellence in teaching through her content, her instruction, her connection with students, and her collegiality. She prepares organized, substantive instructional materials and facilitates her classes and labs in a structured but casual way. Therese's students have clear directions, meaningful tasks, and significant support while they are working in labs. Therese is present and engaged on campus, working among her colleagues in any department and collaborating with the Learning Commons team. She maintains the supplies, inventory, and purchasing for the SVCC science labs, which requires her to be highly organized to constantly ensure that faculty, students, and lab users have what they need.

Therese models the behavior of a highly engaged full-time faculty member. She makes herself accessible to students and goes out of her way to make sure students feel connected and supported. She models SVCC's shared ethical values, respecting the worth and dignity of all.

Recommendation:

The administration recommends the Board approve the nomination of Professor Therese Wood for the 2026 ICCTA Outstanding Full-time Faculty Member Award.