

**Sauk Valley Community College  
March 16, 2026**

**Action Item 5.6**

**Topic:** Outstanding Adjunct 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:**

Elisa Gatz is SVCC’s Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award winner and is being nominated for the 2026 ICCTA Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award.

*Education and professional background:* Professor Gatz received her Bachelor's in Physics from the University of Northern Iowa. She earned her Master of Science in Education of Physical Science from Eastern Illinois University.

Elisa Gatz has been a dedicated member of SVCC for 22 years, developing a deep understanding of the college’s mission, ethics, and values. She previously taught physics at the high school level for 34 years and began her career at SVCC in January of 2004 as an adjunct physics faculty member. In 2024, she expanded her role by accepting a part-time position as a Learning Commons Instructional Assistant, continuing her commitment to supporting student success.

*Comments from Nomination:* Elisa is one of the most creative teachers I have ever had the chance to observe. Her most recent project is utilizing 2,000 donated quarter-pounder cheeseburger boxes to create a cardboard person representing the weight of a real person in Newtons. Elisa's creativity reaches from the far west end of the building in the Physics classroom to the heart of the Tutoring Center. She enhances SVCC classes and tutoring experiences by bringing in her many years of teaching experience to her lessons and labs. Her lecture classes are engaging and meaningful. Her labs are always hands-on and thoughtful. She makes herself available to students so they can seek help outside of the classroom. Elisa creates a successful learning environment by helping students understand difficult concepts through practical, relatable ideas.

**Recommendation:**

The administration recommends the Board approve the nomination of Professor Elisa Gatz for the 2026 ICCTA Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award.