

**Sauk Valley Community College
October 26, 2026**

Agenda Item 3.1.1

Topic: **Acknowledgement – Fred Turk**

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

Presented by: **Dr. Jon Mandrell**

Presentation:

The Sauk Valley Community College community mourns the passing of Frederick “Fred” George Turk, who passed away at the age of 88 on September 25th. Fred was a deeply dedicated educator, advocate, and lifelong learner whose kindness and global perspective left a lasting impression not only on his local community but wherever his travels had taken him.

Fred’s career in education spanned the globe – from teaching math in Cleveland to serving as a Papal Volunteer in Peru, working with UNESCO in Chile, and teaching at Fluminense Federal University in Brazil. After relocating to Rock Falls in 1980, Fred brought his deep passion for teaching and community service to the Sauk Valley area.

During his time at Sauk Valley Community College from August 1982 to October 2004, Fred served in several meaningful roles. He taught math and GED courses, empowering adult learners and traditional students alike. As a faculty advocate, Fred organized part-time instructors to support and advocate for adjunct faculty across campus.

Beyond SVCC, Fred was a tireless community champion. He served as Principal of St. Andrew’s Grade School and the Campus Minister, a board member for Rock Falls High School, a domestic violence counselor at the YWCA, an advocate at Winning Wheels, and an active leader in local voter registration, interfaith dialogue, and peace initiatives.

Fred was known by all who worked with him for his warmth, quick humor, boundless curiosity, and genuine care for others. The College extends its deepest sympathies to his wife of 58 years, Kay; his children and grandchildren.