

Community

E d u c a t i o n

Fall 2026

**PERSONAL
ENRICHMENT**



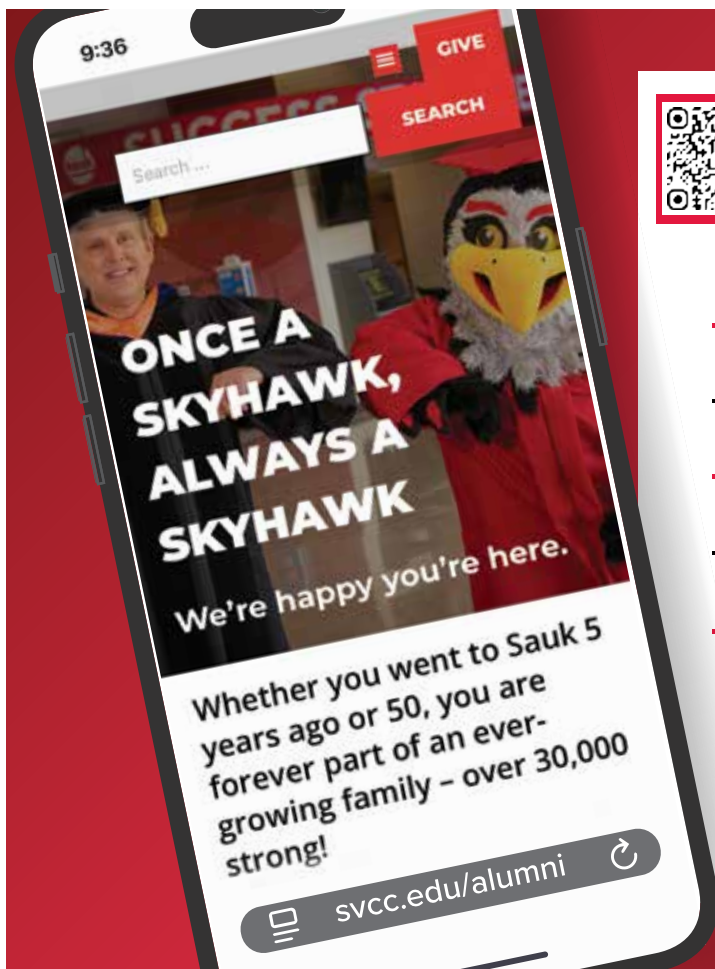
*AI Made Simple:
From Confusion to Confidence*

Find out more at svcc.edu/ced



Sauk Valley
Community College

Sauk makes it possible – You make it happen



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OTHER SVCC ALUM**



SIGN UP BY

SEPTEMBER 1

svcc.edu/impact

Make an Impact — On Your
Future & Your Community.

Earn Up To 3 Years of Tuition & Fees.

Sign Up Deadline is September 1.

Join the Impact Program today!



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to learn more and sign up.

PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

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5 WAYS TO REGISTER

Online: Visit svcc.edu/commedenroll

Mail: Complete the enclosed registration form and return it along with full payment to Community Education, Sauk Valley Community College, 173 IL Route 2, Dixon, IL 61021.

Fax: Complete the enclosed registration form and fax it to 815.380.6383.

In-Person: Complete the enclosed registration form and bring it to the Community Education Department on the first floor, office 1M04 (east end). Payment should be made at that time. In-person registration is open 8:30AM – 4:00PM Monday – Thursday, and 8:30AM – 1:30PM on Fridays.

Phone: Call 815.835.6258 or 815.835.6212 and have your debit or credit card number ready for payment.

SVCC PERSONAL ENRICHMENT CLASS & TRIP POLICIES

■ REGISTRATION & PAYMENT POLICY:

Registration is required to attend all classes and trips. Payment is due at the time of registration and may be made online, by mail, fax, phone, or in person.

■ CLASS & TRIP CANCELLATION POLICY:

The Community Education Department reserves the right to limit enrollment or cancel a class or trip due to insufficient enrollment. To help ensure your class or trip runs as scheduled, please register at least one week in advance. Every effort will be made to notify students & travelers if a class or trip is full or cancelled.

■ WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY:

If Sauk Valley Community College cancels classes due to severe weather, Community Education classes and trips will also be cancelled. Cancellation announcements will be posted on the College website and shared through local television and radio stations.

■ WITHDRAWAL & REFUND POLICY:

To withdraw from a class or trip, contact the Community Education Office by phone at 815.835.6258 or 815.835.6212, or visit Room 1M04 in person. Documentation is required to process a withdrawal. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave a message. Students and travelers will receive a full refund if a class or trip is cancelled due to insufficient enrollment.

Students must officially withdraw:

- At least five business days before a class begins.
- At least ten business days before a trip departs. For trips requiring advance ticket purchase, refunds cannot be guaranteed unless the vacated seat can be filled.

■ NO-SHOW / NON-PAYMENT POLICY:

Registered students and travelers who do not attend a class or trip are not automatically withdrawn and remain responsible for any applicable fees.

■ GIVE A GIFT OF LEARNING:

Looking for the perfect gift to give your spouse, children, friends, or relatives for birthdays, anniversaries or other special occasions? Do you want to reward your employees for a job well done? Call 815.835.6258 or 815.835.6212 to give a gift of learning.

INSTRUCTORS WANTED! SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE & EXPERTISE!

Do you have a special skill or deep knowledge in a particular subject? Join us and make a difference in the community by teaching a class in your area of expertise! We're looking for enthusiastic instructors to share their skills with the community on a flexible schedule that works for you.

Adults: Teach exciting subjects like Art, Culinary, History, Photography, Technology, and more!

College for Kids: Inspire young minds with topics like Computers, Creative Arts, Drones, Technology, Virtual Reality, and beyond!

Endless possibilities await. You pick the topic, day, and time, and we'll take care of the rest. Call Brenda Helms at 815.835.6212 or email brenda.helms@svcc.edu to learn more about this rewarding opportunity.



A Christmas Carol

Rediscover the magic of the holiday season with *A Christmas Carol*, the timeless tale that warms hearts and reminds us all of the true spirit of Christmas. Ebenezer Scrooge, a bitter and lonely miser, is visited on Christmas Eve by three ghosts who take him on a journey through his past, present, and future. Along the way, he learns how to once again experience joy, compassion, and the power of generosity.



All ticket sales are final; however, a substitute may be sent in your place. The show is a 1:30 p.m. matinee and the tickets are located on the Main Floor. The run time is 2 hours and 30 minutes with one intermission.

The trip is limited to 48 participants and includes transportation, show ticket, dinner, gratuities, and travel snacks. Lunch at the DeKalb Oasis is on your own. (Ages 10 & Up)

Motorcoach departs SVCC North Parking lot promptly at 10:30 a.m., arriving at the DeKalb Oasis at approximately 11:25 a.m. Motorcoach departs the DeKalb Oasis at approximately 12:10 p.m. and will arrive at the Paramount Theatre in Aurora at approximately 12:50 p.m. Motorcoach departs Aurora after the show at approximately 4:15 p.m. arrives back at SVCC at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Class ID:2306

Wednesday, December 2; 10:30AM-5:45PM

Paramount Theatre, Aurora, IL

\$79 per person

Self-Guided Chicago Bus Trip

Travel with us to enjoy the sights and sounds of Chicago. Explore the city's museums, shops, and eateries. This self-guided trip allows you and your friends to enjoy the city without bothersome schedules, stressful driving, and parking hassles. (All Ages)

Motorcoach departs SVCC North parking lot promptly at 8:00 a.m., arriving at Water Tower Place (North side of building) at 10:30 a.m. Motorcoach departs Chicago at 5:30 p.m. and will arrive at SVCC at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Class ID:2215

Saturday, December 12; 8:00AM-8:00PM

Chicago, IL

\$65 per person

DAY TRIPS

Lake Michigan Lunch Cruise

Step aboard the Lake Michigan Lunch Cruise for a memorable two-hour journey featuring the best views of Chicago's skyline. Relax with a delicious buffet lunch as you cruise along Lake Michigan, with unlimited coffee, tea, and soda to enjoy throughout. With stunning views, onboard entertainment, and a relaxing atmosphere, this cruise is the perfect way to enjoy Chicago from the water. This experience includes convenient round-trip transportation to and from Navy Pier, giving you time to explore its vibrant attractions after the cruise. *The trip is limited to 50 participants.* Trip includes motorcoach transportation, cruise ticket, lunch, driver gratuity, and travel snacks. (Ages 13 & Up)

Motorcoach departs SVCC North Parking lot promptly at 8:30 a.m. arriving at Navy Pier at approximately 11:00 a.m. Boarding for the Odyssey Lake Michigan Lunch Cruise will begin at 11:30 a.m. Motorcoach departs Navy Pier at 5:00 p.m. and arrives back at SVCC at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Class ID:2226

Thursday, August 27; 8:30AM-7:30PM

Navy Pier, Chicago, IL

\$129 per person

TRAVEL WITH SAUK

JOIN SVCC ON UPCOMING TRIPS IN 2026 & BEYOND!

DAY TRIPS

JERSEY BOYS

EXPERIENCE GALENA

JOSEPH & THE

TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

EXTENDED TRIPS

NEW YORK

ITALY

LONDON & PARIS

HAWAII

SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO [SVCC.EDU/TRIPS](https://svcc.edu/trips) TO VIEW MORE INFORMATION.

EXTENDED TRIPS WITH

Stop dreaming and start doing! Join Sauk Valley Community College on an upcoming trip through our travel partner Collette. Begin your adventure today! For more information about trip previews or to request a detailed trip itinerary, contact Brenda Helms at 815.835.6212.

Discover European Christmas Markets



Set out on a holiday adventure through the iconic capital cities of Central Europe – Prague, Vienna and Budapest. Tour the magnificent Prague Castle and explore its famous Christmas market at the Old Town Square. Experience the world's oldest Christmas market in Dresden. In Vienna, learn the secrets of confectionary at a candy workshop, and indulge in dinner at the famous Marchfelderhof. Travel via train from Vienna to Bratislava. Explore Budapest's

outdoor markets aglow with lights, where stalls of crafts and delicacies abound. Along the way, immerse yourself in festive Christmas markets, experience cultural traditions, sample local cuisine, and glimpse this region's rich history. **Visit gateway.gocollette.com/link/1288389 to view the online trip itinerary.**

Must-See Inclusions:

- Visit the magnificent Schönbrunn Palace, a summer retreat of the Habsburg dynasty.
- Discover Budapest's iconic sights through an expert's eyes
- Experience the world's oldest Christmas market in lovely Dresden, Germany.

Cultural Connections:

- Tour the majestic Prague Castle.
- Be whisked by train from Vienna to Bratislava.
- Visit 5 different countries filled with the holiday spirit.

Culinary Inclusions:

- Experience how to make typical Hungarian strudel.
- Learn the secrets of Viennese confectionary during a candy making demonstration.
- Dine at the famous Marchfelderhof, an iconic restaurant with a rich Viennese tradition.

Trip dates (9 days): Friday, December 4 – Saturday, December 12, 2026

Cost: \$4,449 (double/per person); \$5,149 (single person); \$4,399 (triple/per person)

11 meals included (7 breakfasts, 4 dinners)

- Activity Level 3 - Active
- Included in price: Round trip air from O'Hare Intl Airport, Air Taxes and fees/surcharges, hotel reservations.
- Not included in price: Cancellation waiver and insurance is an additional \$549 per person, and any gratuities.
- Deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation.
- Final payment due September 5, 2026



Discover Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria



Journey through spectacular mountain scenery and picturesque cities as you experience three Alpine countries. Spend four nights in the UNESCO World Heritage city of Bern and three nights in the charming Alpine city of Innsbruck. Get a taste of Switzerland when you meet a local alphorn maker & yodelers and enjoy a fondue lunch. Explore Lucerne, the "Swiss Paradise on the Lake." Visit

Mozart's birthplace and the Mirabell Gardens, featured in *The Sound of Music*, during your time in Salzburg. The hills are alive on this enchanting journey across Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria. **Visit gateway.gocollette.com/link/1288865 to view the online trip itinerary.**

Must-See Inclusions:

- Spend a day exploring Salzburg's historic past and charming old town.
- Enjoy a walking tour of Lucerne's Altstadt (Old Town).
- Tour Linderhof Palace and its beautiful gardens.

Cultural Connections:

- Witness the creation of Alpine music during an alphorn and yodeling demonstration.
- Experience a Tyrolean Folklore show in Innsbruck.

Culinary Inclusions:

- Savor lunch at the 1,200-year-old St. Peter's Restaurant, Austria's oldest.
- Experience a fondue lunch in a picturesque alpine town.
- Dine on Tyrolean cuisine at a local restaurant.

Trip dates (10 days): Wednesday, April 21 – Friday, April 30, 2027

Cost: \$5,299 (double/per person); \$5,899 (single person); \$5,249 (triple/per person)

- Activity Level 3 - Active
- Included in price: Round trip air from O'Hare Intl Airport, Air Taxes, hotel reservations, 13 meals (8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners).
- Not included in price: Cancellation waiver and insurance is an additional \$549 per person, and any gratuities.
- Deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation.
- Prices may increase after October 15, 2026
- Deposits are refundable up until October 22, 2026
- Final payment due January 21, 2027

Trip Preview

Class ID:2239

Tuesday, September 15; 6:00-7:00PM

SVCC-Hellmich Riverview Conference Center
FREE



Magical Rhine & Moselle Rivers



Glide along the enchanting Rhine and Moselle Rivers on a leisurely journey to the Netherlands, Germany, and France. Join a local expert for a tour of Amsterdam. Experience the storybook town of Cochem and the historic Reichsburg Castle, perched high above the banks of the Mosel River. Cruise past charming panoramas as you get to know the

culture and deep history of the region. Visit <https://groups.gocollette.com/en-US/link/1340497> to view the online trip itinerary.

Must-See Inclusions:

- Cruise the famous canals of Amsterdam.
- Stroll Cologne's Old Town during a walking tour.
- Explore the picturesque town of Cochem and Reichsburg Castle.

Cultural Experiences:

- Set out on a 7-night cruise along the Rhine and Moselle Rivers.
- Discover lovely Strasbourg on a guided tour and cruise its canals.
- Experience Speyer, one of Germany's oldest cities.

Culinary Inclusions:

- Enjoy a Captain's Gala Dinner aboard your ship.
- Sample famous Kölsch beer in Cologne.
- Enjoy unlimited regional wines with every dinner on board.

Highlights:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| • Amsterdam | • Moselle Rivers | • Speyer |
| • 7-Night River Cruise | • Cologne | • Strasbourg |
| • Rhine and | • Cochem | • Breisach |
| | • Lorelei Passage | • Freiburg |
| | • Mannheim | |

Trip dates (9 days): Tuesday, September 28 – Wednesday, October 6, 2027

Cost: \$5,599 (lower outside double/per person); \$7,599 (lower outside single); \$6,299 (stateroom double/per person); \$8,799 (stateroom single); \$7,299 (deluxe stateroom double/per person); \$10,299 (deluxe stateroom single); \$9,599 (suite double/per person); \$14,999 (suite single)

- Activity Level 2 - Moderate
- Included in price: Round Trip Group Transportation to O'Hare Airport, Round Trip Air from O'Hare Intl Airport, Hotel Transfers, 20 meals (7 breakfast, 6 lunch, 7 dinners).
- Not included in price: Optional Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$699 per person. Flight upgrades.
- Deposit of \$898 per person is due upon reservation.
- Prices go up \$50 per person after September 22, 2026
- Deposits are refundable after September 29, 2026
- Final payment due May 31, 2027



AVIATION

Aviation Private Pilot Ground Training

Learn to fly by preparing for the Private Pilot Knowledge Exam. At the end of this course, you will understand operations of the flight controls and instruments, airport and airspace considerations, aircraft weight and balance, aircraft performance tables, basic weather meteorology, Federal Aviation Regulations, flight physiology, and emergency preparedness. After successful completion of this course, the student will be eligible to take the F.A.A. Private Pilot Knowledge Exam (additional fee for F.A.A. Exam). If the student has previously purchased this exam, please advise the instructor before the first class for instructor evaluation and approval. Flying or airtime is not included in this class. Textbooks and supplies for this class are: *The Complete Private Pilot, Bob Gardner Fourteenth Edition and Test Prep 2026-2027, both published by Aviation Supplies & Academics (ASA). Students must possess an aviation E6B flight computer and an aviation rotating plotter. Students may purchase all supplies online or locally from M & M Aviation Services, Ltd. There will be no class on November 26. (Ages 15 & Up)*

Class ID:2295

(14 sessions), Thursdays, September 3 - December 10 (no class 11/26); 5:30-8:00PM

SVCC-Room 2L07 • Instructor-M & M Aviation \$325

COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY

File Management

Learn to manage your folders and files. We will review the cut, copy, paste, and rename commands. File management will allow you to store data (pictures, letters, recipes, etc.) on your PC in an organized manner which makes it easier to retrieve and it will enable you to backup data. Learn to copy or move data to

an external storage device. Get your photos off your memory card! Prerequisite: Basic computer knowledge and skills required. *Class size is limited to 10 students. (Ages 16 & Up)*

Class ID:2248

(1 session), Wednesday, September 9; 1:00-5:00PM
SVCC-Room 3K02 • Instructor-Marcy Lawrence \$75

Microsoft Word – Level One

Microsoft Word is a word processing program used to generate documents. You will create several documents as you learn about page definition, margins, tabs, editing, enhancing text, spell check, saving, printing, and retrieving documents. Learn about available shortcuts, basic editing techniques, paragraph and character formatting, and controlling page appearance. Prerequisite: Basic computer and typing skills required. Class size is limited to 10 students. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2249

(1 session), Thursday, September 10; 12:30-5:30PM
SVCC-Room 3K02 • Instructor-Marcy Lawrence
\$89

Microsoft Excel – Level One

Learn basic spreadsheet operations, spreadsheet design, layout, math operations, controlling page appearance, and printing spreadsheets. An emphasis is placed on writing formulas to obtain desired results. Use shortcuts to accomplish tasks as you set up several spreadsheets. A basic understanding of keyboard and mouse operations as well as the fundamental Windows operations is required to operate Excel. Prerequisite: Basic understanding of keyboard and mouse operations as well as the fundamental Windows operations is required to operate Excel. Class size is limited to 10 students. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2250

(1 session), Tuesday, September 15; 12:30-5:30PM
SVCC-Room 3K02 • Instructor-Marcy Lawrence
\$89

Class ID:2251

(1 session), Tuesday, September 22; 12:30-5:30PM
SVCC-Room 3K02 • Instructor-Marcy Lawrence
\$89

Microsoft Excel – Level Two

Take your knowledge of Microsoft Excel and maximize the power of this software as you explore linking, sheet management, and using advanced formulas to summarize data. Prerequisite: Basic computer and typing skills and knowledge of formula writing in Microsoft Excel required. Class size is limited to 10 students. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2252

(1 session), Thursday, September 24; 12:30-5:30PM
SVCC-Room 3K02 • Instructor-Marcy Lawrence
\$89

Microsoft Excel – Advanced Formulas

We will explore additional advanced formulas: use your vlookup formula to search, find, and input data automatically for you. If/then statements allow you to test your data: we will explore traditional if/then statements as well as the nesting of if/then in formulas. Conditional formatting will aid you in evaluating your data and we will use this feature in class. Prerequisite: Basic computer and typing skills and knowledge of formula writing in Microsoft Excel required. Class size is limited to 10 students. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2253

(1 session), Tuesday, September 29; 12:30-5:30PM
SVCC-Room 3K02 • Instructor-Marcy Lawrence
\$89

Microsoft Excel – Graphing

Set up and modify graphs in Microsoft Excel. Learn how to tie the graph to your data, generate different types of graphs, modify text and title, add legends, and messages. Prerequisite: Basic typing skills and knowledge of computers and basic knowledge of writing formulas in Microsoft Excel required. Class size is limited to 10 students. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2254

(1 session), Wednesday, October 7; 2:00-5:00PM
SVCC-Room 3K02 • Instructor-Marcy Lawrence
\$59

Microsoft Excel – Pivot Tables & Data Management

Manage data in Excel using Sorting and Filtering. Pivot tables in Microsoft Excel will allow you to extract some meaningful information from the data. Pivot tables allow you to quickly summarize and analyze large amounts of data in lists and tables independent of the original data layout in your spreadsheet. You can do this by dragging and dropping columns to different rows, columns, or summary positions. Learn to design pivot tables and customize their appearance for reporting purposes. Prerequisite: Basic typing skills and knowledge of computers and Microsoft Excel required. Class size is limited to 10 students. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2255

(1 session), Wednesday, October 14; 2:00-5:00PM
SVCC-Room 3K02 • Instructor-Marcy Lawrence
\$59

Microsoft PowerPoint – Level One

Microsoft PowerPoint is a program used to create slide show presentations. You will learn about backgrounds, colors, pictures, text, and transitions as you create your own slide show presentation. Learn all the basics. You will be making some impressive slide show presentations in no time! Prerequisite: Basic computer and typing skills required. Class size is limited to 10 students. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2256

(1 session), Thursday, October 15; 12:30-5:30PM
SVCC-Room 3K02 • Instructor-Marcy Lawrence
\$89



★ AI Made Simple: From Confusion to Confidence

NEW! AI is everywhere, but what does it really mean for you? This beginner-friendly session explains what AI is, how tools like ChatGPT work, and how they can be used in everyday life. Explore practical applications such as planning trips, organizing ideas, writing emails, and learning new skills while gaining a better understanding of AI's opportunities, limitations, and common misconceptions. Leave feeling more informed and confident about the future of AI. This session sets the foundation for the series by helping you see AI not as something to fear or overhype, but as a practical tool you can start using right away. No experience needed, just curiosity and a willingness to try. (Ages 13 & Up)

Class ID:2290

(1 session), Tuesday, September 15; 5:00-6:30PM
SVCC-Room 2M07 • Instructor-Ben Sondgeroth
\$35

★ Better Prompts, Better Results: Turning AI into a Thought Partner

NEW! Learn how to get more from AI by using it as a thought partner rather than just a search tool. This session explores how to use AI to brainstorm ideas, organize information, solve problems, and improve writing through effective conversations. Discover practical techniques for providing context, asking better questions, and guiding interactions to achieve more useful and meaningful results. This session builds directly on the ideas introduced on 9/15, but it is designed so anyone can jump in and start using AI more effectively right away. (Ages 13 & Up)

Class ID:2291

(1 session), Tuesday, October 6; 5:00-6:30PM
SVCC-Room 2M07 • Instructor-Ben Sondgeroth
\$35



★ AI Series

NEW! Register for all three of Ben Sondgeroth's AI Sessions for a discounted price.

Class ID:2293

(3 sessions), Tuesdays,
September 15, October 6, &
November 17; 5:00-6:30PM
SVCC-Room 2M07
Instructor-Ben Sondgeroth
\$90

★ Beyond Free: Unlocking the Power of Advanced AI Tools

NEW! Discover what paid AI platforms offer beyond the free versions and learn whether the upgrade is right for you. Explore advanced features such as file uploads, custom instructions, deeper analysis, and more powerful AI models. Through real-world examples, you'll see how these tools can save time, improve productivity, and tackle more complex tasks for personal, professional, or business use.

This session builds on the first two sessions (9/15 & 10/6), but it is designed so you can jump in and still walk away with clear, practical ways to get more value out of the tools you are already using. (Ages 13 & Up)

Class ID:2292

(1 session), Tuesday, November 17; 5:00-6:30PM
SVCC-Room 2M07 • Instructor-Ben Sondgeroth
\$35

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT — Ben Sondgeroth



Ben Sondgeroth is a technology consultant, speaker, and former educator with more than 15 years of experience helping people understand and use emerging technologies. A former high school history teacher and Director of Technology, Ben has spent his career supporting learning, innovation, and technology integration across a variety of educational and professional settings.

As the founder of Exploring EdTech, LLC, Ben provides keynote presentations, workshops, and consulting services

focused on artificial intelligence, educational technology, creativity, and digital learning. He has presented at state and national conferences and has led more than 150 AI-focused workshops and presentations for educators, administrators, school boards, business leaders, community organizations, and other professional groups.

Known for his practical and engaging approach, Ben helps audiences move beyond the hype of AI and discover meaningful ways to use technology as a thought partner for creativity, productivity, problem-solving, and lifelong learning. His sessions focus on real-world applications that empower people to work smarter, think deeper, and embrace innovation with confidence.

HELP US BUILD BRIGHT FUTURES
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SAUK VALLEY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION



■ DANCE

★ Boot Scoot Beginners

NEW! Kick up your heels and learn the basics of line dancing in a fun, welcoming environment! This class is designed for beginners and includes warm-up exercises, step-by-step instruction, and practice of easy-to-follow dances. Line dancers will receive handouts to help reinforce what they learn in class and continue practicing at home. No partner or previous dance experience is required; just bring your enthusiasm and get ready to dance! (Ages 12 & Up)

Class ID:2283

(5 sessions), Saturdays, September 12 - October 10;
10:30-11:30AM
SVCC-Dillon Mall (Theatre on 9/12)
Instructor-Cheryl Moeller • \$50

Class ID:2284

(5 sessions), Saturdays, October 24 - November 21;
10:30-11:30AM
SVCC-Dillon Mall (Theatre on 11/14)
Instructor-Cheryl Moeller • \$50

★ Movin' & Groovin'

NEW! "When in doubt, dance it out!" Come get your groove on in this low-pressure, high-vibe dance class. You do not have to be a dancer just have a love to move and enjoy good music! We focus on fun, not perfection, making it the perfect way to boost your mood, improve your coordination, and burn calories without even realizing you're working out. Seriously... just bring your sneakers and a smile!" (Ages 10 & Up)

Class ID:2281

(1 session), Tuesday, November 10; 5:30-6:45PM
SVCC-Dillon Mall
Instructor-Cheryl Moeller • \$10

■ FINANCE

Creating Your Estate Plan

Estate Planning is a topic people tend to put off or ignore, but one of the most important things you can do is develop a sound plan for your estate. This class is designed to help students understand the basics of estate planning. Students will learn what to consider when creating a will, the benefits of a trust in estate planning, and how to help reduce taxes on estates and how insurance can help protect your family. (Ages 18 & Up)



Class ID:2288

(1 session), Monday, September 28; 5:30-6:30PM
SVCC-Room 2M05 • Instructor-Anthony Sharp
\$15

★ Retirement: Making Your Money Last

NEW! This class is designed to help people prepare to live the retirement they have envisioned. Attendees will learn investment strategies to help build a strategy to last throughout one's retirement years. In addition, you'll explore how to address key concerns such as inflation, health care expenses and market volatility as well as ways to prepare in advance for things that may not go as expected. (Ages 18 & Up)

Class ID:2289

(1 session), Monday, October 5; 5:30-6:30PM
SVCC-Room 2M05 • Instructor-Anthony Sharp
\$15

Retirement Planning Today®

Retirement Planning Today® contains something for everyone. The course is designed to teach you how to build wealth and align your money with your values to accomplish your goals in life. Whether you plan to retire 20 years from now or have just recently retired, the information you learn in this class can deliver rewards throughout your lifetime. Course topics include:

- Determining the amount of money, you need to retire
- Properly convert your IRA to a Roth IRA
- Selecting the retirement plan distribution choice that is right for you
- Reduce or eliminate taxes expenses
- Delays and challenges with estate planning and much more

You will receive an easy-to-understand education on life planning and retirement planning strategies and two workbooks (one at each session) with real world examples and illustrations. (Ages 40 & Up)

Class ID:2261

(2 sessions), Tuesdays, October 27 & November 3;
6:00-9:00PM
SVCC-Room 2C08 • Instructor-Haley Herr
\$49 per couple

Social Security: Your Questions Answered

Social Security will likely be the foundation of your retirement income. During this class, the instructor help answer the following questions:

- How does Social Security fit into my retirement income plan?
- When should I start taking benefits?
- What about taxes?

Before you retire, it's important to understand your options regarding Social Security and the impact your decisions have on your retirement. Learn ways to maximize Social Security benefit amounts for the individual and spouse based on age, life expectancy, employment and need. *(Ages 55 & Up)*

Class ID:2286

(1 session), Monday, September 14; 5:30-6:30PM
SVCC-Room 2M05 • Instructor-Anthony Sharp
\$15

★ Investing with Purpose

NEW! Learn how to align your investments with the values and causes that matter most to you. This course explores purpose-driven investing, including sustainable and faith-based investment strategies, environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations, and ways to manage risks and opportunities while pursuing your financial goals. Participants will gain a better understanding of investment options that can help create a positive impact while reflecting their personal beliefs and priorities. *(Ages 18 & Up)*

Class ID:2287

(1 session), Monday, September 21; 5:30-6:30PM
SVCC-Room 2M05 • Instructor-Anthony Sharp
\$15

★ Investing After 55 & Beyond

NEW! Rethink your investment strategy for your later stage in life. Tax laws, retirement needs and market conditions change over time - your portfolio should too. Learn how to reduce risk, protect wealth, and make smart adjustments to support your financial goals. Take control now to build security and confidence for the years ahead. *(Ages 55 & Up)*

Class ID:2262

(1 session), Wednesday, September 23; 10:00AM-12:00PM
SVCC-Room 2C08 • Instructor-Mark Hunt
\$20

Understanding Shopping Auto & Home Insurance

Are you getting the best possible value from an insurance company? Will that company honor a claim? How do you get a great price when there are so many insurance terms to understand? Do you have too much or too little coverage? Why does your credit matter? Shopping insurance should be an annual event to ensure you are getting proper coverage from a solid company at a reasonable price. The insurance market is volatile and becoming a savvy shopper will help you understand your policy and put you in the driver's seat when shopping for auto, home or renter quotes. *(Ages 18 & Up)*

Class ID:2263

(1 session), Tuesday, September 29; 6:00-8:00PM
SVCC-Room 2C08 • Instructor-Mark Hunt
\$20

Building Wealth: Financial Independence for the Next Generation

Learn how to take charge of your financial future using AI tools, proven debt management strategies, and simple investment methods based on S&P 500 index funds. This class breaks down the path to financial independence into clear, achievable steps; showing how starting early can lead to lifelong wealth and stability. *(Ages 18 & Up)*

Class ID:2278

(2 sessions), Thursdays, September 24 & October 1;
5:00-6:30PM
SVCC-Room 2M07 • Instructor-Eric McDermott
\$25

Keep More of What You Earn Budgeting

Most people think budgeting is like a harsh diet. It's not about doing without the things you enjoy; it's about learning the importance of identifying cash flow within a flexible and personalized budget. Creating a realistic budget doesn't have to be painful! This is a fundamental class in documenting your expenses, learning to track with or without personal budgeting software and working together as a family to achieve common financial goals. Students might even find that they can start or increase their retirement savings! Take control of your money and avoid letting your money take control of you! *(Ages 18 & Up)*

Class ID:2264

(1 session), Saturday, October 10, 10:00AM-12:00PM
SVCC-Room 2C08 • Instructor-Mark Hunt
\$20

WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS!

Sauk Valley Community College's Community Education is looking for local businesses to collaborate on unique "experience-based" classes at your location. This is a great opportunity to:

Showcase your business • Connect with the community • Host fun, memorable events

Past experiences have included mixology, culinary demos, flower arranging, crafting, local history, and fitness; the possibilities are endless! Interested?

Contact Brenda Helms at brenda.helms@svcc.edu or 815.835.6212 and let's create something together!

■ FITNESS & RECREATION

Feel the Beat Fitness

Join us for a dynamic and energizing class designed to enhance your Cardiovascular health, strength, and aerobic fitness. Feel the Beat is a high/low impact Aerobic dance fitness class, very similar to Jazzercise/Zumba but with a twist. It's a mixture of Cardio hip hop dance, kickboxing, and Pilates to target all muscle groups. Students are recommended to bring a towel and water. (Ages 14 & Up)

Class ID:2302

(6 sessions), Saturdays, August 29 - October 3; 9:00-10:00AM
SVCC-Dillon Mall (Gym on 9/5 & 9/12)
Instructor-Laura Jackson • \$12

Class ID:2303

(6 sessions), Saturdays, October 10 - November 14; 9:00-10:00AM
SVCC-Dillon Mall (Gym on 11/14)
Instructor-Laura Jackson • \$12

Class ID:2304

(5 sessions), Saturdays, November 21 - December 19
(no class 11/28); 9:00-10:00AM
SVCC-Dillon Mall
Instructor-Laura Jackson • \$12

★ Sauk Stretching

NEW! Feeling a little more “crunchy” than usual? Trade the snaps, crackles, and pops for improved flexibility and mobility in a class designed for adult bodies. This isn't about gymnastics or turning yourself into a human pretzel; it's about moving more comfortably, easing everyday aches and stiffness, and improving overall mobility. Participants will focus on opening tight hips, relieving tension from tech-neck and prolonged sitting, and practicing mindful breathing techniques. A variety of seated and standing stretches will be incorporated to help increase flexibility, balance, and range of motion.

This class is perfect for anyone who spends long hours at a desk or simply wants to move and feel better. Come for the stretch, stay for the relief. All fitness levels (and stiff joints) are welcome! Students should bring a yoga mat or towel. (Ages 12 & Up)

Class ID:2279

(1 session), Tuesday, September 8; 5:30-6:45PM
SVCC-Dillon Mall • Instructor-Cheryl Moeller
\$10

■ HOBBIES & SPECIAL INTEREST

How to Use & You Store Fresh Garden Produce

You have grown fresh produce all summer long, now what do you do with the excess produce like onions, cucumbers, tomatoes and more? Explore simple ways of storing produce for longer shelf life and sharing resources for easy recipes like refrigerator pickles to make your produce go further. Supplies are included. Students are recommended to bring a box or canvas bag to take home their project. (Ages 12 & Up)

Class ID:2275

(1 session), Saturday, September 12; 9:30-11:00AM
SVCC Greenhouse • Instructor-Bruce Black, Illinois Extension Horticulture Educator
\$10

Pumpkin Planters

Fall pumpkins are a nice addition to any entryway. Learn how to intensify your planters with real and faux flowers for that boost of color for your entryways. Students will create a pumpkin planter of their own. It is recommended to bring a box or canvas bag to take home the finished project. Supplies are included. (Ages 12 & Up)

Class ID:2276

(1 session), Saturday, September 26; 9:30-11:00AM
SVCC Greenhouse • Instructor-Bruce Black, Illinois Extension Horticulture Educator
\$29



★ Pumpkin Succulent Centerpieces

NEW! Pumpkins decorated with succulents create an indoor arrangement for any tablescape. Join us to create a living arrangement that will last through the fall season and can be modified for any fall holiday. Perfect for individuals, groups, or family fun! Supplies are included. Students are recommended to bring a box or canvas bag to take home their project. (Ages 12 & Up)

Class ID:2277

(1 session), Saturday, October 10; 9:30-11:00AM
SVCC-Greenhouse • Instructor-Bruce Black, Illinois Extension Horticulture Educator
\$29

★ Creative Cooking with Cottage Cheese

NEW! Discover the versatility of one of the dairy aisle's most underrated ingredients! Participants will learn how to transform cottage cheese into delicious, protein-packed dishes that are both nutritious and satisfying. From creamy recipes to creative meal and snack ideas, students will explore ways to incorporate cottage cheese into everyday cooking while boosting flavor and nutrition. Whether you're looking for healthy alternatives, new recipe inspiration, or simply curious about this trending ingredient, students will leave with practical tips, tasty recipes, and a newfound appreciation for cottage cheese. Come ready to blend, create, and taste! (Ages 12 & Up)

Class ID:2280

(1 session), Tuesday, October 13; 5:30-6:45PM
SVCC-Room 1M24
Instructor-Cheryl Moeller
\$25

Create a Bird Feeder Wreath

Create a beautiful fall wreath that doubles as a bird feeder! In this hands-on class, students will learn step-by-step techniques for designing a seasonal wreath using sunflower heads and a variety of natural dried materials. Your finished creation will add autumn charm to your outdoor space while providing a food source for local birds. Students will need to bring scissors, hand pruners, a glue gun, and wire cutters. Supplies are included. *Class size is limited to 10 students.* **The registration deadline is October 15.** (Ages 16 & Up)



Class ID:2260

(1 session), Thursday, October 29; 6:00-8:00PM
SVCC-Hellmich Riverview Conference Center
Instructor-James J. Brown
\$75

★ Eating Through the Holidays with Colitis & G.I. Issues

NEW! The holiday season can be especially challenging when managing colitis or other gastrointestinal conditions. This informative class will explore practical strategies for navigating holiday meals, social gatherings, and seasonal treats while staying on track with your health goals. Students will learn tips for making informed food choices, managing symptoms, and enjoying the holidays with greater confidence. Students will also have the opportunity to share personal experiences and discuss strategies that have worked for them in a supportive environment. (Ages 12 & Up)

Class ID:2282

(1 session), Tuesday, December 8; 5:30-6:45PM
SVCC- Room 2C08 • Instructor-Cheryl Moeller
\$10

Introduction to Voiceovers (Getting Started in Voice Acting)

Have you ever listened to a commercial, animation, or audiobook and thought "I wonder if I could do that?" Voice acting can be a flexible way to earn from home. This introductory class answers questions about getting started, competition, and equipment. In a 90-minute, one-on-one session, you'll meet a professional voice actor via live video chat and learn industry trends and home setups. You'll explore voiceover styles, read a script, and receive coaching and feedback. Learn more: <http://www.voicesforall.com/000>. Upon registration you will be contacted by VFA to schedule your class, day and time of your convenience. **Sessions must be completed by Friday, December 4.** (Ages 18 & Up)

Class ID:2273

(1 session), Open Enrollment; 90 minutes
LIVE ONLINE • Instructor-Voices for All
\$50



■ LANGUAGE

Speaking Spanish is Fun!

Discover how enjoyable learning Spanish can be! In this interactive class, you'll practice basic conversation skills to help you socialize confidently in Spanish. Whether you're preparing for travel, expanding career opportunities, or simply exploring a new language, this class will make learning practical, engaging, and fun. (Ages 15 & Up)

Class ID:2300

(6 sessions), Thursdays, September 10 - October 15;
5:00-6:30PM
SVCC-Room 2M05 • Instructor-Ana Lara
\$119 (Textbook included)

Intermediate Spanish

Take your Spanish skills to the next level! This course is designed for learners who have a basic foundation in Spanish and are ready to build confidence in real-world communication. Through a focus on grammar, vocabulary, and conversation practice, students will strengthen their ability to speak, understand, and interact more effectively in Spanish. Whether for travel, work, or personal enrichment, this class will help you move beyond the basics and engage in more meaningful conversations. (Ages 18 & Up)

Class ID:2274

(6 sessions), Thursdays, October 22 - December 3
(no class 11/26); 5:00-6:30PM
SVCC-Room 2M05 • Instructor-Ana Lara
\$119 (Textbook included)



Content Creation for Cash: Social Media Writing that Works

Harness the power of social media to grow your audience and boost your brand one post at a time. This dynamic class dives deep into crafting scroll-stopping content tailored for each platform, from Instagram reels to Twitter threads. Learn how to write engaging captions, spark viral shares, and use storytelling to build authentic connections that keep followers coming back. You will also discover savvy strategies to turn likes and comments into real income by monetizing your social presence like a pro. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2270

(1 session), Wednesday, October 21; 4:00-6:00PM

LIVE ONLINE

\$45 includes material fee

Editing & Ghostwriting 101: Get Paid to Write Other People's Stories

Unlock the lucrative world of ghostwriting and become the invisible voice behind powerful stories. This comprehensive class reveals how to build strong client relationships, protect confidentiality, and capture your clients' unique voices with authenticity and flair. You will explore diverse ghostwriting projects, master pricing strategies, navigate contracts with confidence, and learn how to build a thriving, well-paid career that keeps the work and the income flowing. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2269

(1 session), Thursday, October 22; 6:00-8:00PM

LIVE ONLINE

\$45 includes material fee

Nonfiction Writing Essentials: Tell True Stories with Purpose

Ready to turn your real-life stories into unforgettable nonfiction? Whether you're crafting a memoir, how-to guide, personal essay, or narrative article, this class is your launchpad to powerful, authentic writing. Discover how to pick compelling topics, unleash your unique voice, and organize your ideas with clarity and punch. Explore every nonfiction format from blogs to books and master techniques for crafting openings that hook, weaving in research seamlessly, and polishing your work for maximum impact. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2267

(1 session), Friday, October 23; 4:00-6:00PM

LIVE ONLINE

\$45 includes material fee

How to Write Your Life Story

You don't need to be famous to have a legacy to leave behind. Create an inspirational autobiography for family, friends, and others. Learn how to recall vivid memories, analyze events and people that shaped who you are, and bring your story to life. Your handout, included in the class fee, will have an outline to help you organize and write your memoir step-by-step. Printing/publishing options will also be discussed. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2271

(1 session), Sunday, October 25; 10:00AM-1:00PM

LIVE ONLINE

\$55 includes material fee

WRITING

Instructor LeeAnne Krusemark is an author, speaker, business owner, and guest instructor at more than 200 colleges from Maine to Hawaii, as well as an adjunct online professor of publishing through Ed2Go at more than 2,000 facilities worldwide, including Harvard. (For more information, visit KrusemarkGrinnell.com) **All the Writing classes will be held online using a secure Zoom Education Account. The Zoom login information will be emailed the day before class to students.**

Write Your First Novel (in 90 Days!)

This intensive course provides a schedule of crafting a novel from start to finish, which you can finish in as little as 90 days! This class will also help you stay motivated throughout the journey. You will learn how to:

- select your novel genre and develop a compelling premise
- create multidimensional characters and immersive settings
- craft a detailed plot outline
- manage your time to keep your writing flow consistent
- combat common roadblocks including writer's block
- master the art of self-editing: refining your plot, and fixing pacing, dialogue, and characterization problems.
- receive constructive criticism from beta readers
- explore publishing options

By the end of this class, you will know how to complete your novel and have the knowledge and confidence to move forward with the publishing process. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2265

(1 session), Monday, October 19; 6:00-9:00PM

LIVE ONLINE

\$55 includes material fee

Creative Writing 101

You don't need a degree in creative writing to be an exceptional writer and get paid for it! Anyone with a passion for writing can learn and develop their fiction and non-fiction writing skills. Whether you're writing from your own life experience, creating new worlds, or informing readers about important information, this class will teach you about the different forms of creative writing, the top 10 creative writing tips for beginners, as well as how to brainstorm for new creative writing ideas, bring your words to life with engaging descriptions, develop your own writing style, and how to get paid for your creative writing. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2266

(1 session), Tuesday, October 20; 4:00-6:00PM

LIVE ONLINE

\$45 includes material fee

Beginner's Guide to Getting Published

If your goal is to become a published freelance writer by selling a magazine article, short story, poem, or even a novel to a traditional publisher, this comprehensive workshop will guide you to, then past the editor's desk. You will discover how to:

- Become a "published" writer overnight
- Submit manuscripts the correct way
- Find the right publisher for your work
- Write irresistible query letters
- Determine when and how to get an agent
- 100 ways to make money as a freelance writer

If you really want to succeed, this step-by-step workshop is a must! (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2272

(1 session), Friday, October 23; 6:00-8:00PM

LIVE ONLINE

\$45 includes material fee

Be a Better Writer: 10 Easy Tips to Improve Your Writing

We write everyday: emails, social media posts, work projects, and even non-fiction or creative writing. Improving is just a matter of knowing some simple tricks to make your writing more impactful and readable, and may help get you a promotion at work or avoid rejection from a publisher. In this hands-on session, there will be writing/editing examples and exercises so you can see in real time how to make sentences flow properly while still maintaining reader interest, and you will leave with a workbook full of writing tips and tricks, which is included in the class fee. (Ages 16 & Up)

Class ID:2268

(1 session), Saturday, October 24; 10:00AM-1:00PM

LIVE ONLINE

\$55 includes material fee



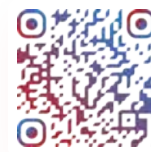
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★ Food Service Sanitation for Teenagers

NEW! Are you ready to level up your food safety skills and earn a nationally recognized certification? This class is designed specifically for teens interested in starting their own culinary business, food service careers, boosting their resumes, and college applications or leadership roles. Students will learn food safety principles, proper food handling and sanitation, prevention of foodborne illness, and leadership in food service environments. **The registration deadline is October 27.** (Ages 14-18)

Class ID:2296

(2 sessions), Wednesday, November 4 & Thursday, November 5; 4:00-8:00PM

SVCC-Hellmich Riverview Conference Center

Instructors: Kathy Book & Martha Ebbesmeyer, U of I Extension \$80



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Virtual S.T.E.A.M. Classes

Black Rocket presents fun, interactive classes online for the spring starting in January 2026. Classes are offered online for kids ages 8-14. **Classes include A.I. Adventures, Cyber Spies, 3D Game Design with Unity, Code Breakers, Minecraft Animators, Minecraft Modders ROBLOX® Coders, and much, much more! Save \$10 when you use the SVCC discount code. Enter "SVCC2026" into your registration form.** For more information or to register, visit <https://blackrocket.com/online/svcc/>



Caring Kids, Confident Sitters I

Learn how to become a Super Sitter! Join us to explore babysitting basics, gain fun activity ideas for engaging kids, and practice skills for communicating with parents. (Ages 10-14)

Class ID:2297

(1 session), Saturday, October 3; 10:00-11:30AM

SVCC-Hellmich Riverview Conference Center

Instructor-Martha Ebbesmeyer, U of I Extension \$10

★ Caring Kids, Confident Sitters II

NEW! Students will build on what they learn in session one. Join us to explore more ideas for babysitting, gain additional age-appropriate activity ideas for engaging kids, and explore available resources. *Students from fall 2025 are able to attend this session as well.* (Ages 10-14)

Class ID:2298

(1 session), Saturday, October 3; 1:00-2:30PM

SVCC-Hellmich Riverview Conference Center

Instructor-Martha Ebbesmeyer, U of I Extension \$10

COLLEGE FOR KIDS INSTRUCTORS WANTED!

SVCC's Community Education Department is seeking Non-credit Instructors for the College for Kids enrichment classes offered year round. If you have knowledge in a specific topic or are passionate about a hobby, you can share it with the community. A few examples are A.I., Creative Arts, Culinary, Photography, History, Math, and Technology. For more information or questions, call 815.835.6212.

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