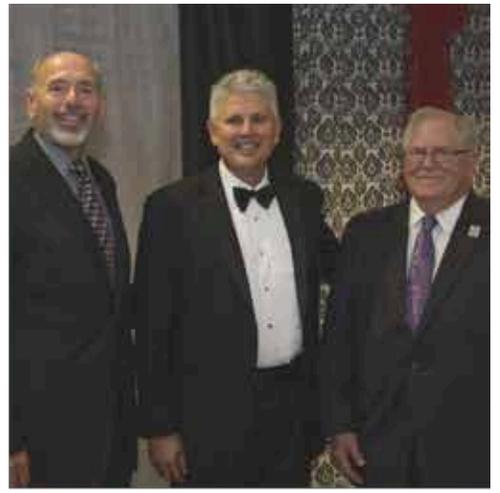


Amboy Fire Protection District, © Kimberly Watley



2016
Sauk Valley
Community
College
REPORT
TO THE
COMMUNITY



From the President



At Sauk Valley Community College, community is rooted in the shared idea of life-long learning. Our goal is to provide quality academic environments for personal and professional growth. We believe these opportunities should be accessible to everyone with the desire to pursue them. This idea of community has been a driving force for those who helped build and grow Sauk – people like the late Andrew Bollman. As Chair of the SVCC Board of Trustees, Andrew served as a representative to Sauk’s students and staff. As president of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, he worked to protect the mission and vision of community colleges throughout Illinois. Andrew believed strongly in the power of education to transform lives and the responsibility we all have to help each other. Andrew believed strongly in community. Sauk will endeavor to honor Andrew’s legacy of leadership and commitment by continuing to set high institutional standards of performance, engage local industry and small businesses, and create pathways for student success.

As I reflect on my first year as president, I am overwhelmed by how much our Sauk community can accomplish in such a short time. From opening our new Student Services Center and preparing to open our new Fitness Center in partnership with the Dixon Family YMCA and the Sterling-Rock Falls Family YMCA, we are witnessing profound changes to the physical look of the campus.

Sauk’s programs continue to expand to meet the needs of the communities we serve. We celebrated the opening of the Center for Small Business Development —a program that has the potential to impact thousands of small business owners and their employees in the Sauk Valley area. We celebrated the formation of the Multicraft Extended Internship Program – a partnership between Sauk and area industry that is helping to create a highly skilled, in-demand labor force to drive the economies of the Sauk Valley.

Sauk’s mission is to provide accessible opportunities that improve lives. As you learn more about the last year in the pages of this *Report to the Community*, we hope you share our appreciation for the many efforts of our students, faculty, staff, and community partners who made this an amazing year.

Sincerely,
Dr. David Hellmich
President

Mission

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

From the Chair

SVCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear community members,

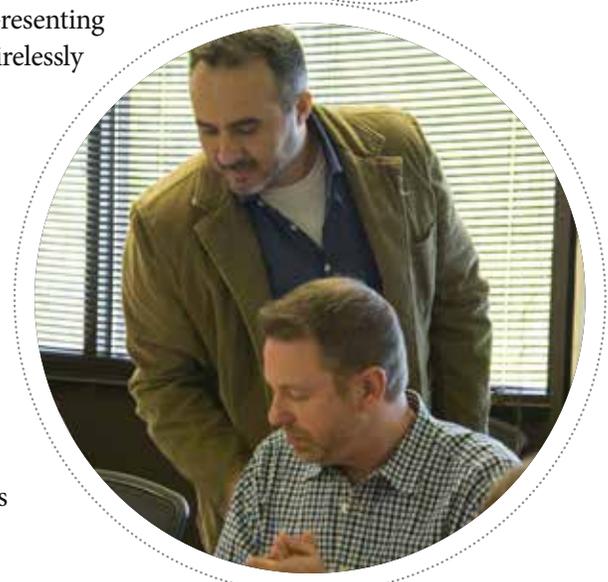
It is with great pride, yet with a heavy heart, that I write this letter to the Sauk Valley community. This past July, we lost a husband, father, son, friend, Board Chair, and Sauk leader in Andrew Bollman. Andrew's commitment to the College, and Sauk Valley area and his work advocating for those in need, have been widely praised and sorely missed since his passing.

As the recent past president of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, Andrew brought a calm and steady hand when representing our community colleges in the middle of the budget crisis. He tirelessly lobbied on Sauk's behalf with state and congressional legislators from both sides of the aisle. Andrew's commitment to affordable higher education and to Sauk in particular helped advance the dreams and goals of many. . .he was truly a Sauk Success.

One year ago, Andrew stood beside us as Sauk turned the page in its 50-year history. Moving forward, his legacy will be an integral part of Sauk's next 50 years and beyond. Reflecting on this past year, I am very pleased to add SVCC's 6th president, Dr. David Hellmich. Despite the challenges facing higher education, the Board, College, and greater Sauk community have great confidence in Dr. Hellmich's ability to lead Sauk in the next phase of our development.

The partnerships Dr. Hellmich and his administration have already helped forge and their continued pursuit of new opportunities make this an exciting time for Sauk and the communities we serve. Thank you for your support of Sauk Valley Community College and don't forget that ***"Sauk makes it possible, you make it happen!"***

Sincerely,
Scott Stoller
Chair, SVCC Board of Trustees



Start Here, Finish There

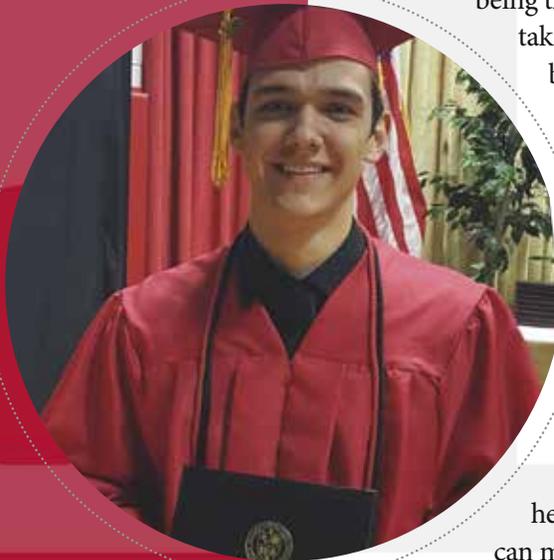
“You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world.”

–Tom Brokaw

Sauk awarded 278 associate degrees and 487 certificates in the 2015-2016 academic year. More importantly, Sauk created highly trained and educated graduates who will become pharmacists, engineers, computer scientists, high-tech welders, versatile maintenance technicians, nurses, accountants, and so much more. Our graduates contribute to our local communities by filling high-paying jobs and providing to our local tax base.

Michael Barth '16

If you've walked the halls of Sauk sometime in the last 3 years, chances are you saw Michael Barth. From the Student Government Association, to TRIO, to being the Slammin' Sammy mascot, Michael seemed to be everywhere, taking full advantage of the many opportunities offered, including being a Sauk Scholar.

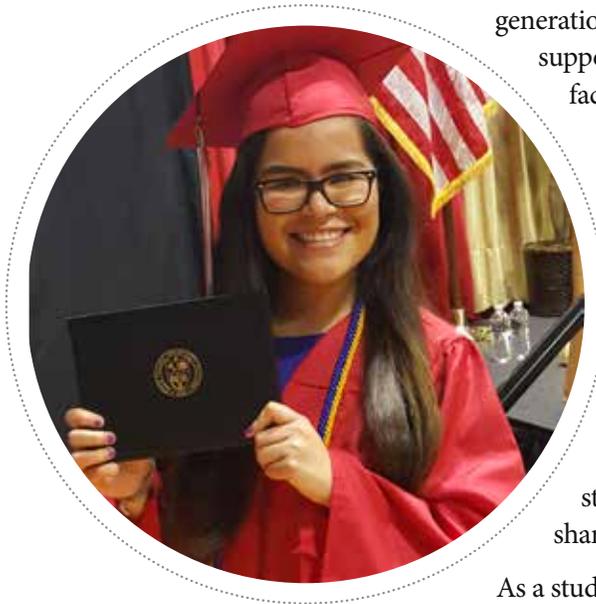


The Sauk Scholar award allowed Michael to attend SVCC tuition-free and to work toward his goal of transferring to a university, debt free. Although undecided about his career path, Michael was confident Sauk would help guide him in the right direction. By the time he donned his red Sauk cap and gown, he had been accepted to Northern Illinois University's competitive computer science program.

During his commencement speech, Michael thanked many at Sauk for their support, caring, and even humor. Michael reaffirmed the Sauk mission of dedication to community when he said, “If the faculty and staff at Sauk Valley Community College can make a difference in our lives, then we can make a difference in someone's life too. We can be a part of something bigger than ourselves.”

Deisy Diaz '16

SVCC is crucial to the educational and personal development of many first-generation college students in the Sauk Valley region. The services and support they find at Sauk help them overcome the many challenges facing these students and their families.



First-generation student, Deisy Diaz, was committed to making her dreams a reality despite the obstacles. Ranked first in her class, Deisy graduated from Sterling High School and earned the prestigious Sauk Scholar award, which allowed her to attend Sauk tuition-free.

While at Sauk, Deisy participated in organizations like the Association of Latin American Students and tutored others to reach their potential. “I am grateful for the opportunity of having met and served so many wonderful students. My co-workers taught me how to help others and share the gift of knowledge,” commented Deisy.

As a student commencement speaker, Deisy brought the crowd to tears as she humbly described her family’s struggles and achievements and how Sauk helped her on her journey to the University of Illinois as an Engineering major. With her parting words, Deisy shared, “I thank Sauk for the investment they made in me and especially to all the professors sitting here today who put time and energy into preparing us to become the future professionals we aspire to be.”

Comencé a venir con mi familia a Sauk de pequeña por medio de las oportunidades que ofrecía el programa FUSE. Oradores invitados nos daban información sobre temas para Hispanos y del colegio.

[I started coming to Sauk with my family as a kid through opportunities offered by the FUSE program. Speakers would give us information on Hispanic issues and college.]

Deisy Diaz, A.E.S.
2016 • Sterling, IL

In the end I know I made the right decision coming to Sauk. This is an experience I’m glad I had and I don’t know that I would be as happy doing it anywhere else.

Michael Barth, A.S. • Certificate, PC Technician
2016 • Dixon, IL

Sauk Welcomes...



Dr. David Hellmich, President

“The leader has to be practical and a realist yet must talk the language of the visionary and the idealist.” –*Eric Hoffer*

In August of 2014, Sauk Valley Community College formed a presidential search committee of members of the College faculty and staff, the community, and members of the SVCC Board of Trustees. This committee laid out an ambitious goal of finding a president who is a:

- Visionary and strategic thinker
- Team builder
- Community ambassador, focused on building long-lasting relationships with community, education, and government leadership, and
- A person who supports excellence in academics and student services



After an eight-month search process, the College found its new president in Dr. David Hellmich, previously the Chief Academic Officer at Bluegrass Community and Technical College in Lexington, Kentucky for nine years. Dr. Hellmich assumed his role as Chief Executive Officer on July 18, 2015 and recently completed his first year of College service.

As you will read throughout this *Report to the Community*, Dr. Hellmich's first year was eventful and successful as the College focused on providing quality educational opportunities and community outreach.



Sauk Does Community Service

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” –*Margaret Mead*

As part of Dr. Hellmich’s new emphasis on community service, College employees expanded their community networks in 2015-2016.

Karen Abele: Wish Granter and Speaker’s Bureau volunteer for Make-A-Wish Illinois; **Michelle Barkley:** PRISM of Lee County; **Dana Chacon:** PWN Sauk Valley, Dixon Petunia Festival Executive Board; **Lori Cortez:** Whiteside County Public Transportation Board, Whiteside County Senior Center Board; **Denise Deter:** Program Development Committee Woodlawn Arts Academy, Reagan Middle School Band Boosters; **Linda Dhaese:** Oregon Chamber of Commerce; **Eric Epps:** Twin City Farmer’s Market; **Sandra Geiseman:** Sauk Valley Interagency Council; **David Hellmich:** Sterling Noon Rotary; **Emily Kruger:** Project VITAL, Lee County Networking Council; **Janet Lynch:** Health Educators of the Rock River Valley, Home of Hope; **Jon Mandrell:** Sauk Valley Chamber of Commerce, Twin Cities Sunrise Rotary, YMCA Board; **Janet Matheney:** Salvation Army Advisory Board; **Kimberlee McClanahan:** Lee County 4-H; **Pam Medema:** Sterling Moose Club, Rock River Officials Association;

Tedra Mewhirter: PWN Sauk Valley, YMCA/PADS; **Sharri Miller:** Dixon Elks Lodge, Dixon Petunia Festival Board; **Greg Noack:** River Valley Church Council; **Sarah Partington:** United Way of Lee County Board, Dixon Chamber Ambassador; **Lisa Peck:** April House Child Advocacy Center Board, Whiteside County Healthier Communities Partnership; **Steve Nunez:** Dixon Rotary, Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce Ambassador; **Ana Salgado:** SVACC Hispanic Business Leaders, 4-H Expansion and Review Committee; **Jennifer Schultz:** PWN Sauk Valley, United Way; **Audrey Smith:** United Way, Lee County Networking Community Member; **Kathryn Snow:** Employer Coalition on Health, Dixon Kiwanis Club; **Kim Toole:** Leader of Mills-Petrie Library Book Discussion Group; **Josh West:** Morrison Chamber of Commerce Board, Rotary Club of Morrison, Morrison Parks and Recreation.



A Year In Review

“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.” –*Henry Ford*



The new year began with a sentimental look back and an enthusiastic look forward as we bade fond farewell to retiring president, Dr. George Mihel, and warmly welcomed Sauk’s 6th president, Dr. David Hellmich. During the July 50th Anniversary Community Gala, the naming of the **Pete Dillon Mall** was announced to honor Mr. Dillon’s key role in the College’s establishment and success. Later in the year, the Board of Trustees approved the creation of a commemorative **Founder’s Wall** to honor the dedicated individuals who made Sauk possible. The commemorative piece will be installed in the fall of 2016.



Capital Improvements— Many more events and improvements were celebrated throughout the year like the grand opening of the Student Services Center and the Center for Small Business Development. Construction began for a number of projects around campus including new Physics and Biology labs and a large West Mall renovation to house a new bookstore, testing center, and YMCA Fitness Center.





Programs— Adding to its already highly respected reputation, Sauk’s Multicraft program continued to provide cutting edge instruction with the addition of a robotic welder. The Multicraft program was also awarded a \$20,000 grant from the ICCB that improves instruction and student academic assessment. Elsewhere, Project VITAL (*Volunteers in Teaching Adult Literacy*) celebrated 30 years of improving literacy in the Sauk Valley.



Youth Engagement— The College continued to engage Sauk Valley youth through informative and fun events like STEM Day and National Manufacturing Day, hosting a total of over 350 middle and high school students.

Around Town— Skyhawks of both the two and four-legged variety enjoyed participating in several community parades in Dixon, Sterling-Rock Falls, and Fulton.



Expanding Partnerships



“Both NIU and SVCC are committed to providing affordable access to high-quality educational opportunities and we are delighted to partner with them on these initiatives, which eliminate barriers and foster innovative educational pathways between levels of higher education”.

–*Dr. Doug Baker-President • Northern Illinois University*

As the communities’ college, SVCC has formed many new relationships with local and regional educational, community, and economic organizations. These collaborations allow Sauk to bring its resources to bear to help solve local challenges more quickly and efficiently.

Northern Illinois University P-20 Initiative: This partnership, which includes NIU, seeks to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with post-secondary degrees and credentials to 60% by 2025.

3+1 Degree with Northern Illinois University: NIU and Sauk have agreed to a new 3+1 degree in Applied Manufacturing Technology, which will allow those who complete certain A.A.S. degrees at Sauk to finish a bachelor’s degree at NIU entirely online.

Reverse Transfer Agreement with Northern Illinois University: NIU agreed to transfer credits back to Sauk so that former SVCC students could earn their associate’s degree if they had not formerly completed an associate’s degree at Sauk.

Partnership Advocating for Student Success:

PASS is a partnership between Sauk and area high schools, vocational centers, regional offices of education, and community businesses. This partnership works to ensure that high school students of our area are college and career ready.

Multicraft Extended Internship Program: Local manufacturers have formed a partnership with Sauk that allows students to complete an A.A.S. degree in Multicraft Technology while earning work experience and a paycheck at these local manufacturing partners.

YMCA Wellness Center: The Sterling-Rock Falls and Dixon YMCAs have partnered with Sauk to bring state-of-the-art fitness equipment and wellness programming to the College. This new facility, opening fall of 2016, will provide services to Sauk students and employees.

Sauk Valley Community Leadership

Program: To engage the community in developing local leadership, Sauk is collaborating with the Dixon, Rock Falls, and Sauk Valley Chambers of Commerce to develop local community leaders. The first cohort of 15 students has enrolled.

Center of Small Business Development:

Receiving tremendous support from local chambers of commerce and banks, the College officially opened the doors to the CSBD in February. The Center provides business entrepreneurs and regional small businesses with the resources needed to solve business-related problems.

Woodlawn Collaboration: Sauk and the Woodlawn Arts Academy have collaborated to strengthen the music, theatre, and art programs offerings for the community.

Lee County Sheriff: Over the past year, Sauk and the Lee County Sheriff's Department have worked together to strengthen training, communications, and emergency planning procedures.

Friends of the Sauk Valley Prairie:

The Friends of the Prairie is a collaboration between Sauk faculty, staff, and students, the Natural Area Guardians, and community members. It was formed to restore existing prairie landscapes on campus grounds and to develop and expand those landscapes to improve local ecology, reduce costs to the college, and offer educational opportunities for our campus community and the community at large.





Sauk Valley College Foundation

▪ Sauk Alumni Association ▪

“Wealth is not to feed our egos but to feed the hungry and to help people help themselves.” –*Andrew Carnegie*



▲ **Clark Kelly Memorial Scholarship –**
Student Trustee recipient Molly Waasdorp

The Sauk Valley College Foundation continued to expand the resources available to SVCC’s students and programs. Among the Foundation’s accomplishments were updates to the Foundation’s web page which provided an easily accessible, comprehensive database of scholarships for students and giving opportunities for donors.

The Foundation reached out to all district high schools with new promotional scholarship materials resulting in marked increases in applications. Board members volunteered many hours to assist with judging scholarships, sharing information at campus events, and presenting at scholarship awards ceremonies to raise awareness of the opportunities available to prospective Sauk students.

In the past two years, the Foundation processed over \$535,000 in scholarships to students directly (\$282K in 2015 and \$255K in 2016). The first Foundation Scholarship Reception was held to thank Sauk donors and connect them with the students whose lives they so positively impacted. Over 80 students and donors were in attendance at the reception.

The Foundation continued to demonstrate its commitment to supporting the arts at Sauk. A much needed facelift was supplied to the theatre through Foundation funding for new sound equipment, lighting, and stage curtains. In addition, the Foundation funded Art Gallery receptions which helped bring visiting artists to campus and supply cash and gift certificates to students in recognition of their art work.

Annual fundraising events provided considerable support to the College. In 2016, just under \$10,000 has been provided to support these areas: Phi Theta Kappa, *The Works*–Literary Magazine, Pep Club, ALAS Club, Skyhawk Softball, Social Justice Club, Learning Commons, Administrative Art Contest, Student Services, Criminal Justice Club, FaCIT, Tech Club, and Commencement equipment.



▲ Family members of Doris Welty visit during the 2016 Scholarship Reception.



**Sterling-Rock Falls
Community Trust Scholarship –**
Recipient Manuel Mooney ▶



◀ **CGH-KSB Scholarship –**
Recipient Sara Bearman

Outstanding Alumni – ▶
Recipient Kim Gaffey



In the spirit of engaging and welcoming back Sauk alumni, the SVC Foundation and Alumni Association continues to strengthen relationships with current students and graduates.

And finally, the Alumni Association was very proud to select Kim Gaffey, class of '76, as the 2016 Outstanding Alumni recipient. During her moving speech to the graduating class of 2016, Gaffey shared that her passion for nursing was kindled as a student at Sauk and that deciding to attend the College was one of her best choices in life.

Athletic Accomplishments

“What is learned on the athletic field is not forgotten, nor are the lessons of character that are forged there ever lost. Consider the contributions in the field of public life, business, law, medicine, and the military of those who actively participated in athletics.” *–Robert Kennedy*



The Sauk Athletics program had another successful year highlighted by winning the Arrowhead All-sports Award. ***Congratulations Skyhawks!***

Golf— The golf team won the Arrowhead Conference Championship. Jarred Hippen won the Region IV Golf Championship, qualified for the NJCAA National Tournament, and was named 2nd team All-American.

Volleyball— The ladies volleyball team won the Arrowhead Conference Championship and qualified for the NJCAA National

Tournament for the second straight year. Skyhawk Tressa Schuler was named NJCAA Division II Volleyball 2nd Team All-American for her outstanding play. Jay Howell was named Arrowhead Coach of the Year after leading the team to a 33-10 season.

Cross Country— Women’s cross country finished second overall in the Region IV Championship to qualify for the NJCAA Nationals. Mercedes Sanchez won the Region IV Championship and then placed 31st out of 303 runners at the NJCAA Cross Country National Championships. Men’s Cross Country qualified both Peter DeLaFuente and Scott Heath for the NJCAA Nationals.

Men’s Basketball— The Skyhawk men’s basketball team posted an excellent record of 26-7 and won the Region IV Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament. Guard Isaiah Box was named NJCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Third Team All-American for his outstanding play. Coach Russ Damhoff was named Region IV Coach of the Year.





Athletic Recognition— Sixteen Skyhawk athletes were named Arrowhead Academic All-Conference. Five Skyhawk athletes were named NJCAA Academic All-Americans for their outstanding work in the classroom: Rebecca Arnolts, Cross Country; Elliott Frankfother, Men's Tennis; Derek Kennell, Baseball; Alexander Knack, Men's Tennis; and Julio Sepulveda Baseball.

Sauk Staff Accomplishments

“Accomplishments will prove to be a journey, not a destination.”

—*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

Ryan Becker— Passed the REG, BEC, and AUD sections of the Uniform CPA Examination

Andrew Bollman— Elected President, Illinois Community College Trustees Association

Jenny Bumba— Graphic Design USA magazine awardee for 5th straight year

Kim Cole— Bachelor of Science, Nursing, Indiana Wesleyan, awarded Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing; Eta Chi Chapter

Brady David— Bachelors of Business Administration, Chicago State University

Denise Deter— Masters of Music Education, Northern Illinois University

Amy Jakobsen— Selected for the 2016 Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Award

Tedra Mewhirter and **Joe Bright** presented at the *College Changes Everything* Conference in Naperville on *Promising Practices in Student Engagement*

Audrey Smith— Bachelors of Arts–Psychology, Waldorf College

Therese Wood— Selected for the 2016 Outstanding Staff Member Award

Sauk Valley Community College—

- The Higher Learning Commission reaccredited SVCC during a comprehensive mid-cycle review.
- G.I. Jobs recognized Sauk as a Military Friendly School for the 7th straight year.
- SVCC AmeriCorps was awarded a \$200,000 grant by the Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service.



Sauk Events

“Events become feelings, feelings become events.” –*Jerry Spinelli*

Sauk hosted a variety of entertaining and thought-provoking free performances from nationally recognized and local up-and-coming comedians, musicians, vocalists, lecturers, and artists.



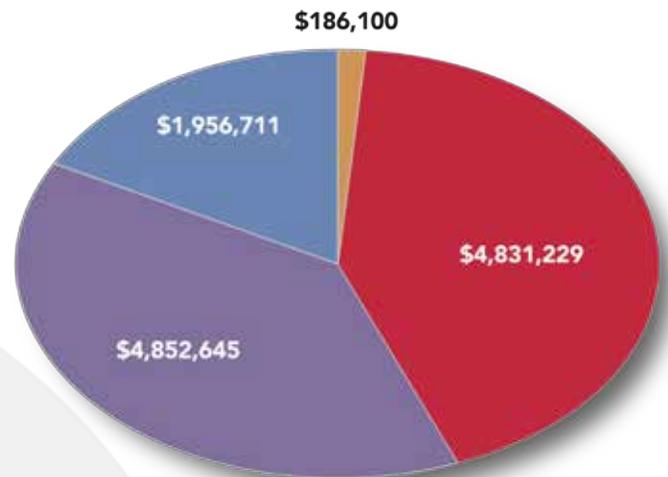
Finances

“Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” – *Warren Buffett*

Responsible long-term fiscal stewardship, targeted budget reductions, ongoing partnership creation, and thoughtful budgeting has allowed the College to weather the current Illinois budget impasse.

Revenues:

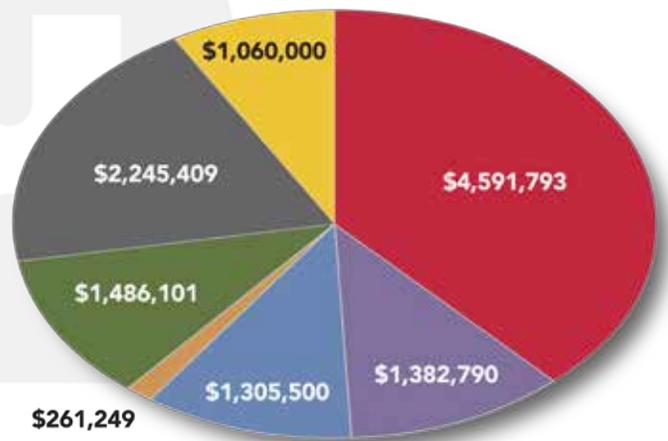
Source FY 2016
SVCC Budget



- Tuition & Fees
- State Funding
- Local Property Tax
- Other Sources

Operating Expenses:

Source FY 2016
SVCC Budget



- Instruction
- Academic Support
- Student Services
- Public Services
- Operations & Maintenance
- Institutional Support
- Scholarships, Grants & Waivers

“Education is the most powerful
weapon you can use to change
the world.” –*Nelson Mandela*



How to Enroll

NEW STUDENTS

Contact Admissions & Records at 815.835.6273 for Enrollment Assistance

Complete a Student Information Form

Submit a *Student Information Form* to Admissions & Records. Forms are available at the College, and on the College website svcc.edu/soar.

Learn About SVCC Program/ Class Information

SVCC offers many types of programs to assist students in reaching their goals. This includes career and transfer programs, and individual class enrollment.

Satisfy Class Placement Requirements

Placement testing in English/language arts and mathematics is required of all students wishing to register for any English/language arts class, mathematics class, or any other college class requiring a specific ENG/ELA/MAT co-requisite or pre-requisite. College staff will recommend needed placement tests and assist with arranging a testing time.

Placement Options:

- ACT/SAT scores
- SVCC placement test results
- Review of credit earned at the College level

Submit Other Academic Records

Students should submit their official high school transcripts, GED scores, and college/university transcripts from institutions previously attended. Students submitting college transcripts should also file a *Transcript Evaluation Request Form* in Admissions & Records. Transcripts must be delivered in a sealed envelope.

Learn About Tuition Costs & Payment Options

SVCC tuition is charged per credit hour based on residence. Fees are in addition to tuition for classes that have additional equipment or supply needs.

Students are encouraged to apply for financial assistance, scholarships, and/or veterans benefits as early as possible. Contact Financial Assistance at 815.835.6339 for more information.

Meet With an Academic Advisor

Students will need to meet with an academic advisor to discuss their career plans, placement test results, and course/program requirements. Call Academic Advising at 815.835.6354 for more information.

Register for Classes

Students register for classes with Admissions & Records staff. Summer/Fall registration begins in April; Spring registration begins in November.

Learn About SOAR, Sauk E-mail & Other On-line Tools

Go to svcc.edu/student-login for assistance with accessing student accounts at SVCC.

Pay Tuition & Fees

Students may pay by check, credit card, or apply for the deferred payment plan online at svcc.edu/soar. Students using financial aid should contact Financial Assistance at 815.835.6339 before making payment. Students may also pay by cash, check, or credit card in the Business Office. For additional information, call 815.835.6267.

Buy Books & Supplies

Visit the SVCC Bookstore to buy textbooks, supplies, and other important items.



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