

2020  
Sauk Valley  
Community  
College  
REPORT  
TO THE  
COMMUNITY



# From the President

Sauk Valley Community College is proud to be your community college. Sauk's faculty and staff – be it on campus, in the community, or via virtual technologies – are dedicated to improving the lives of our students and enriching our communities. Sauk provides quality academic environments for professional and personal growth, and we believe opportunities for growth should be accessible to everyone with the desire to pursue them.

Here are just a few examples of how Sauk continues to meet the needs of the communities we serve:

- Assisted seven new business expansions and helped in the creation of 18 new businesses through the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Sauk Valley Community College.
- Completed the Impact Campaign planning phase and had its first donation from Bubba Bug Popcorn Company.
- Continued with our student athlete success, including several national qualifiers.
- Executed a COVID-19 response plan, which included quickly moving to an on-line instruction format complete with newly developed online labs and establishing virtual student services with advising, financial aid, and counseling.
- Graduated the fourth class of the Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program, a collaboration with area chambers of commerce for community leaders throughout the Sauk Valley
- Held a record-breaking third annual Chocolate Rendezvous with 800 guests.
- Held our first virtual Commencement.
- Partnered with Northern Illinois University, the Whiteside County Economic Development office, and area industries to create an engineering initiative.
- Provided more than \$217,000 in scholarships.
- Worked with high schools in the western part of our district to create Sauk Block dual credit center at Morrison High School.



President Hellmich

## Mission

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

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 another incredible year. We are always looking for additional opportunities to expand and improve our partnerships. Just give us a shout, and we will respond!

Sincerely,  
Dr. David Hellmich, President

# From the Chair

Dear Friends of Sauk Valley Community College,

Sauk Valley Community College's annual commencement ceremony in 2020 was literally like no other. For the first time in our illustrious history, Sauk held a virtual commencement. Even though we could not be together on campus for this celebration, I was proud to welcome our graduates, their families, and their friends on behalf of the Board of Trustees. I emphasized that I and our Board members were filled with anticipation and elation for our new graduates.

**Anticipation** . . . because we want their unknown futures to be as bright as they have dreamed, and we want to see and hear about their dreams coming true. These graduates are what defines success at Sauk Valley Community College. They are our story and our legacy.

**Elation** . . . because dreams of our graduates have been achieved. Their accomplishments are considerable, and their preparation for the future is secured. When we look back years from now, we will celebrate this most special graduating class for helping us achieve our institutional goals of serving our community in all aspects of education – life skills, four-year college transfer, vocational training, and life enrichment in general.

Our Board is grateful to Sauk's faculty and staff who assisted and challenged our students as they worked toward graduation. Our faculty and staff are the absolute best educators in the entire college system. They are not just here pursuing a career; they are here for our students.

The Board thanks our graduates' parents, grandparents, family, and friends for their support as our students diligently pursued their academic and career goals at Sauk. I am sure it was hard for them, as it was for me, to hold back a tear even with the graduation being virtual.

We have a special gratitude reserved for our graduates – our most sincere appreciation that they cared enough about themselves and their families to take this great step toward enriching their lives.

We recognize at Sauk that we are living in what the world considers the *new normal*. Yet, we strive on behalf of our students to live in the *new exceptional* in fulfilling dreams and endeavors that can only be achieved through our proven and principled community college experience.

**Thank you. You are always welcome here at Sauk!**

Sincerely,  
Bob Thompson  
Chair, SVCC Board of Trustees



Chair Bob Thompson

## Board of Trustees 2019-2020

Robert Thompson, Dixon, Chair  
Brian Duncan, Polo, Vice Chair  
Margaret Tyne, Polo, Secretary  
Ed Andersen, Sterling  
Lisa Wiersema, Chadwick  
Dennis P. Fulrath, Rock Falls  
Kate Boyle, Sterling  
Abril Vazquez-Tapia, Student Trustee

# Students Shine at Sauk

Sauk Valley Community College's 2020 Commencement was special in many ways. It was a reminder that hard work and dedication pay off no matter the circumstances. The 2020 Commencement was celebrated virtually, with an outpouring of support for our Skyhawks on the College's Facebook and YouTube live streams.

During commencement, two Sauk Stars shone especially bright—2020 Student Commencement Speakers, Nolan Halla and Crystal Collinson.

Even though Nolan and Crystal have had different journeys through their educational careers, both share one common denominator: joining the hundreds of proud SVCC alumni.

Nolan Halla, who is continuing his education in Engineering at University of Wisconsin, Platteville noted, "The experiences that we have gained here, in this time, in this place, combined with the things that we have learned from our books, will not just enable us to move forward, they will drive us forward through the years to come."

Crystal Collinson, who earned her Welding Certification and is currently employed at Etnyre, gave an important reminder to us all: "It is never too late to go back and start again and finish what we start, no matter how much time or how many lives we live in between."

*1596 Degree and Certificate-seeking students enrolled in 2019-2020  
59.1% Enrolled in Transfer programs  
40.9% Enrolled in Career Technical programs*

**It is never too late to go back and start again  
and finish what we start, no matter how much  
time or how many lives we live in between.**

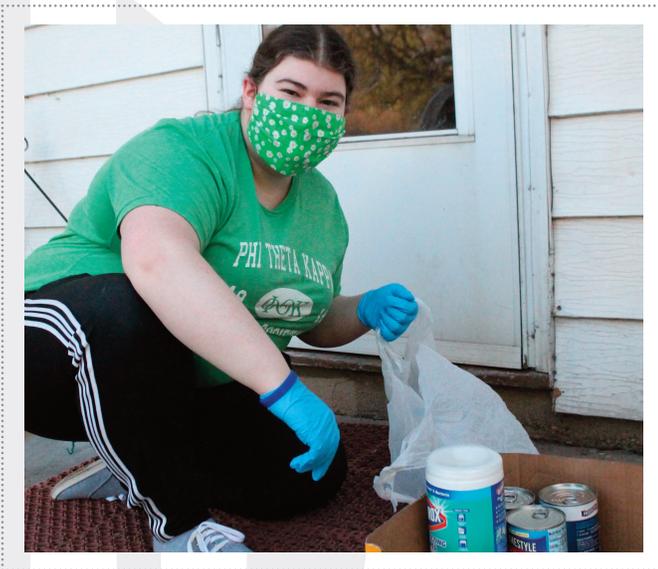
~ CRYSTAL COLLINSON ~



## Students Making a Difference

The students of Sauk Valley Community College live, work, and raise families in the Sauk Valley area. This is their home. Students are actively engaged in their communities through the College's many student clubs and organizations. Some of the highlighted activities from SVCC's student clubs and organizations include the following:

- **SVCC ABC AmeriCorps** members presented 100 stars (from retired flags) to veterans and active military for Veterans Day. Members also collected, sorted, and delivered books to nine Little Libraries in the Sauk Valley area.
- **Sauk Student Veterans** organized and hosted the third annual Freedom 5K run-walk in November to spotlight the sacrifices and accomplishments of Sauk Valley veterans and to raise funds for student veterans at SVCC.
- **Phi Theta Kappa** held a no-contact supply drive in response to COVID-19. The organization collected essential supplies and delivered them to local food banks and nursing homes in the Sauk Valley area.



**I have always had a passion for leading and serving in my community and being at Sauk has really helped that passion grow.**

~ ANAH CHAMBERLAIN ~  
Vice President of Service in SVCC's  
chapter of Phi Theta Kappa

# Sauk Serves our Communities

*Sauk Serves* further demonstrates the College mission to engage in public service that benefits communities across the Sauk Valley area. While opportunities to serve were limited for Spring 2020 due to COVID, SVCC employees served at more than a dozen events throughout the year, volunteering 113.5 hours of time to the causes that help build a true sense of community across the region.

Some of the *Sauk Serves* volunteer opportunities included:

- Petunia Fest
- Lee County Fair
- Masquerade Mystery
- Fiesta Day Parade
- UNITED to End Hunger
- Taste of Fiesta
- Walk to End Alzheimer's
- Festival of Trees
- Holiday Bingo Clean Up
- Bell Ringers for the Salvation Army
- Sights & Sounds
- Dixon Christmas Walk
- Shamrock Shuffle



# *A Year In Review*

## **SVCC Awarded Title III Grant**

October 2019 brought exciting news to SVCC in the form of a \$2M Title III Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. With the aid from the grant, SVCC set sights on hiring additional advisors to aid in academic advising and mental health advising. Additionally, SVCC began the Learning Commons Writing Center, which supports academic student writing and personal writing for scholarship essays, cover letters, and resumes. Writing, tutoring, and support are free and open to all students.

## **Advances Online Learning**

In response to COVID-19, SVCC faculty and staff banded together to quickly transition to an online learning environment. Keeping students safe while providing a high quality learning experience is the top priority of the college.

# Partnerships

## Educational Pathways Grant

SVCC, with the help of ROE #47, was awarded a grant to fund educational pathways for local high school students. As one of 11 grant recipients, SVCC is proud to announce that this \$249,000 grant is phase one of a four-phase grant cycle that will allow the College to better aid area students interested in careers in the education field. High school pathway is a project Sauk has been working on for two years with area partners such as ROE #47, Fulton High School, Morrison High School, and Rock Falls High School.



## Sterling Federal Bank Aids Students

The Sauk Valley area rallied together to help students financially impacted by the pandemic. Generous gifts to the Chris Byar Student Emergency Fund helped students cope with urgent and unexpected circumstances. In May, Sterling Federal Bank stepped up to contribute \$5,000 to this essential fund. This gift represents the largest contribution toward the SVCC Leadership matching gift challenge, which matched every gift up to five thousand dollars.

## SVCC Hosts FFA Soil Judging Contest

In fall 2019, SVCC hosted 60 students from eight schools in the district for a Future Farmers of America (FFA) Soil Judging Contest. The Soil Judging Contest educates students on how to evaluate soil for agricultural purposes. Teams of students took to the pits to determine slope, erosion, soil texture, drainage, and many other useful tidbits that determine how the land can best be utilized.



## Culver's Cultivates Funds for a Tractor

Culver's of Dixon generously donated funds to aid the SVCC Ag Program in the purchase of a tractor, which is used for maintaining plots, teaching agriculture mechanics, and promoting the SVCC Ag program at the area county fairs, tractor shows, and tractor rides. Thank you to Culver's of Dixon for supporting the SVCC Ag Program!



# SAUK VALLEY COLLEGE FOUNDATION & Alumni Association

## 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award

Sauk Valley Community College, through the Sauk Valley College Foundation-Alumni Association, recognized Sauk alumnus Michael T. Friedlein '76, Colonel, USAF (Ret) as the 2020 Distinguished Alumnus.

Friedlein graduated from SVCC in 1976 with an Associate of Science degree in Biology and was a top player on the 1974-1976 basketball teams under Coach Palumbo. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Master of Arts in Industrial Psychology and Management. Michael served in the U.S. Air Force with distinction for 27 years including his command of the 4th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron at Rhein-Main Air Base Germany which he took to the Gulf War, Somalia and the former Soviet Union. He also led the 621st Aerial Port Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base New Jersey to Bosnia.

Friedlein's decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters. Colonel Friedlein and his wife Janie retired to Nellysford, Virginia where he volunteers as a firefighter, first responder and member of the board of directors for the Wintergreen Fire and Rescue Squad.

## The Chocolate Rendezvous

On February 15, 2020, the Foundation hosted more than 800 guests from across our region. Guests enjoyed scrumptious desserts, mouthwatering hors d'oeuvres from Smoked on Third, gourmet shakes from Dixon Culver's, wine and bourbon pairings, and hand-crafted coffee. The evening raised \$25,000 to support the earned tuition initiative—the SVCC Impact Program. Many thanks to the Foundation Board, generous sponsors, and volunteers who made the vision come to life. We invite you to mark your calendar for next year's event on Saturday, May 8, 2021.



### **Sauk Summits**

The development of the SVCC Impact Program ramped up over the course of thirteen summits last fall. Attendees voiced high levels of support for the earned-tuition initiative and shared inspiring words about the transformative potential of the program to reverse the negative trends facing our region. On September 25, 2020, the region was again invited to attend a virtual summit with keynote speaker, Dr. Martha Kanter, Executive Director-College Promise Program, and former U.S. Under Secretary of Education.

The SVCC Impact Program will harness the collective power of Sauk Valley partners and communities to create an effective, supportive, sustainable path for students to pursue a college education and achieve career success through lifelong learning, public service and economic advancement. SVCC's earned-tuition program will provide eligible students, who graduate within the SVCC district, the opportunity to earn tuition and fees for up to three years at SVCC, or until they earn their certificate or degree—whichever comes first.



### **Foundation by the Numbers**

In 2019-20, the Foundation awarded over \$217,477 in scholarships and over \$101,244 to support college projects and student clubs.

To view a listing of the Sauk Valley College Foundation Board of Directors, please visit [svcc.edu/foundation](http://svcc.edu/foundation).

# Skyhawk Athletics

## 2019-2020 Athletic Highlights

SVCC had 51 student athletes named to the *Academic All Conference* list for the 2019-2020 season. Thirteen Skyhawks were named NJCAA Academic All Americans. SVCC also received Top Ten in the Nation in grade point average for Women's Track & Field (ranked 3rd) and Women's Cross Country (ranked 7th).

### Women's Basketball

NJCAA Region IV Runner up  
NJCAA Region IV Team: Shian Galbreath and Noelle Jones  
Arrowhead All Conference: Shian Galbreath

### Men's Cross Country

2 individuals qualified for NJCAA National Championships:  
Dillion Forbeck and Ruben Leal

### Women's Cross Country

4 individuals qualified for NJCAA National Championships:  
Haley Weidner, Xheneta Beqiri, Kelynn Boyle and Nataleigh Nugent

### Men's Golf

Qualified for National Championship:  
Runner-up NJCAA Region IV

### Men's Tennis

NJCAA Region IV Team: Andrew Morrissey  
Arrowhead All Conference: Andrew Morrissey and Markel Hudson  
Arrowhead Conference Player of the Year: Andrew Morrissey

### Women's Tennis

Qualified for NJCAA National Championship:  
Third place NJCAA Region IV

### Volleyball

Arrowhead Conference Champions  
Arrowhead All Conference:  
Hannah Wilson, Lexi Greve, Aleah Wight, Jaida Dean  
Arrowhead Conference Coach of the Year: Jay Howell  
NJCAA Region IV Team: Aleah Wight

# Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

## **2020 Outstanding Employee Awards:**

Rachel Brunner – Full-time Faculty

Audrey Smith – Part-time Faculty

Angie Delhotal – Full-time Staff

Mike Santos – Part-time Staff

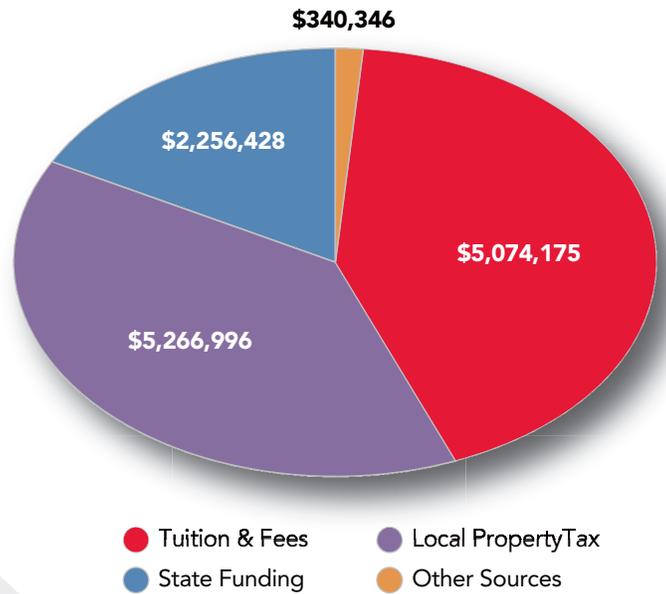
## **YWCA Women of Achievement Awards:**

Congratulations to Sarah Partington, Dianna Brevitt, Sandra Geiseman, Emily Blackert and Danae Cadenas for their nominations for the Women of Achievement Awards. Congratulations to Therese Wood for winning the L.L. Ely Award.

# Sauk Finances

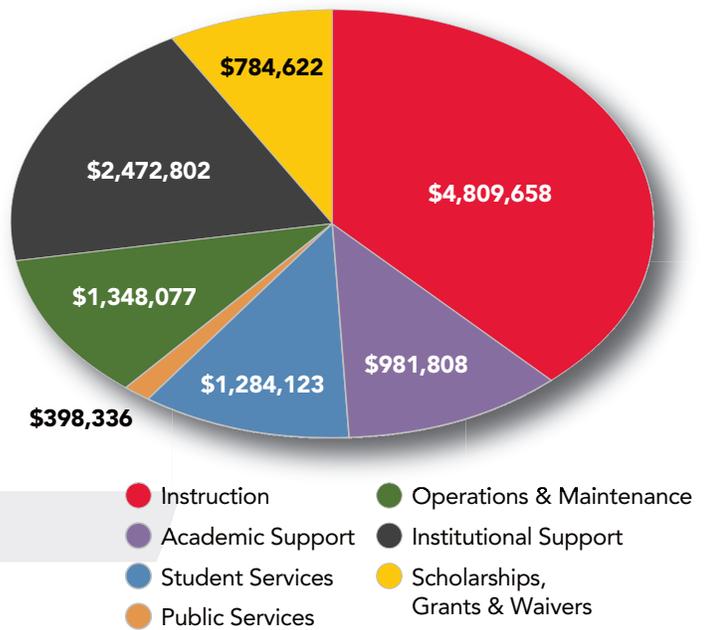
## Revenues:

Source: FY 2020  
Financial Records



## Operating Expenses:

Source: FY 2020  
Financial Records



# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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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815.288.5511 • [svcc.edu](http://svcc.edu)