



THINK FIRST

SVCC.EDU

2025 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
2026 Calendar

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. David Hellmich



Drs. Linda & Dave Hellmich



Drs. Hellmich with First Cohort Impact Students

For 60 years, Sauk Valley Community College has taken pride in being your community college, and the 2024–2025 academic year was one of our best with our faculty and staff working diligently to improve the lives of our students and enrich our communities.

Last year's most notable highlight was our ongoing expansion of the Impact Program, which is the most important educational and economic development initiative in the Sauk Valley since the founding of the college in 1965.

SVCC's Impact Program provides every young person in the Sauk Valley with the opportunity to earn their tuition at SVCC. Impact students throughout the Sauk Valley continued to volunteer thousands of hours of community service annually while they learned about their communities, learned about the importance of service, and gave nonprofits the help they desperately needed. We welcomed our first Impact students to the college this year where they can get their transfer and technical degrees while accruing little-to-no debt. Impact students from across the Sauk Valley will join these students at SVCC to the following year and every year thereafter.

In addition to the Impact Program, a few of last year's highlights included completing the West Mall Plaza outdoor project, which is being dedicated this year as the Rotary Plaza; earning the recognition as the most energy-efficient community college in the state according to the Illinois Green Economy Network's energy survey; graduating 96 EMT Basic Training students since 2018; graduating and certifying 100 Police Academy recruits with 100% state exam pass rates; holding another successful Chocolate Rendezvous; launching the Sonography program; and continuing our faculty and student exchange with Kinnaird College in Pakistan.

As you learn more about 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,

David M. Hellmich

President



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Robert Thompson

Dear Friends of Sauk Valley Community College,

Thank you for taking the time to review our Report to the Community and recognize all of our students' accomplishments and opportunities at Sauk. We are proud to be your community college with course offerings and partnerships that enrich every walk of life.

Community Education

Everyone is welcome to take a course in personal enrichment. Want to learn a new hobby, become a skilled computer user, or even learn aviation instrument training? Sauk offers expertise in a broad range of topics, and we have a course for you!

Adult Education

Since opening our doors more than 60 years ago, Sauk has empowered individuals to earn their Illinois High School Diploma and to learn English as a second language. Our students have gone on to excellent employment opportunities and immersion into our society with confidence and hope.

Impact Program through Earned Tuition

Our inaugural class of Impact Students is enrolling at Sauk during the 2025–2026 academic year. They will be the 1st-year students to enjoy a tuition-free education by earning it first! Our Impact Program kicked off in 2022 with the first class of high school freshmen, and to date, they have donated over 80,000 community service hours to our district. It is an exciting time to consider Sauk as a high school student!

Career Education

Thanks to the cooperation from local businesses, thousands of Sauk students have graduated from our career technical programs and gone on to rewarding careers in commercial truck driving, HVAC, welding, and electronics. Sauk Success Stories are born every semester on our campus!

Financial Aid and Student Life

Student success is our top priority. Sauk has significant financial aid resources to assist most students. We also offer programs to help our students engage in community service, student clubs and organizations and build lasting friendships. Small investments at Sauk reap tremendous rewards in life!

Faculty and Staff

Student success at Sauk is fantastic, thanks to our esteemed faculty and staff. Did you know Sauk students who transfer to universities excel and often graduate at higher rates and higher GPAs than their peers? This academic success rounds out what we stand for here at Sauk – strong foundations in academics and unrivaled student success.

HEALTHCARE Prioritizing Healthcare

The SVCC EMT program has graduated 96 EMT Basic Training students since 2018. SVCC is thrilled to watch the healthcare programs expand as youth interest in these fields continues to grow.

Over 25% of SVCC's student body are currently studying healthcare.

In March, the College formally recognized Radiologic Technology Professor Dianna Brevitt with the 2025 SVCC Outstanding Faculty Award for her contributions to the Sonography program, specifically regarding its initial development and her mentorship of the program's instructor, Elyn Horn. Professor Brevitt's dedication to this program will be appreciated by students and faculty for years to come.



To ensure peak education for these young professionals, the Sonography program purchased new equipment, including two GE LOGICQ E10 ultrasound machines, phantoms, carts, and Sonography chairs. To make room for these additions, the College built a new lab and classroom for students to utilize in Fall 2025.

2026 January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
			New Year's Eve	SVCC CLOSED New Year's Day	SVCC CLOSED	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
					SVCC CLOSED Spring In-Service	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	SVCC CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. Day	SVCC Classes Resume (Spring)				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

WELCOME TO THE NEST

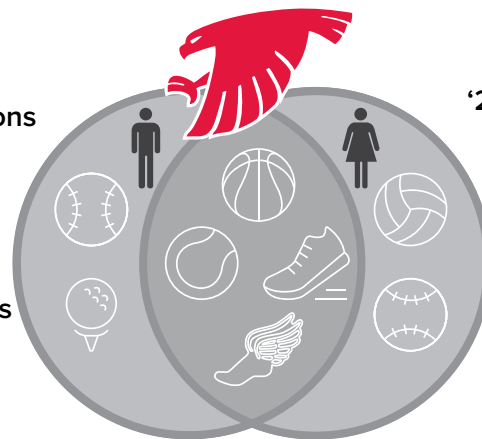
Lacey Eissens was awarded MVP of the All-Arrowhead Conference for Volleyball, recognized for her dedication and skill. Golfer Katie Drew placed fifth at the NJCAA National Golf Championship and is the first golfer to achieve such a record in the past eight years at SVCC. We're always excited to cheer on our Skyhawks and can't wait to see what the next season brings.

SKYHAWK ATHLETICS

'24-'25 Arrowhead Conference Champions
Men's Cross Country

'24-'25 NJCAA Region 4 Champions
Men's Cross Country

Qualify: '24-'25 NJCAA Championships
Cross Country: 10 Men
Track: 9 Men



'24-'25 Arrowhead Conference Champions
Women's Volleyball

NJCAA Region 4 Player of the Year
Women's Golfer

Qualify: '24-'25 NJCAA Championships
Cross Country: 3 Women
Track: 2 Women
Golf: 1 Woman

'24-'25 ACADEMIC AWARDS SKYHAWK ATHLETES

75 Academic All Conference and All Region • 39 Academic All-American
23 SVCC President's List • 24 SVCC Dean's List



2026

February

SKYHAWK ATHLETICS

Sporty Skyhawks

The SVCC gymnasium received some well-deserved updates, such as the newly installed bleachers, refinished Russ Damhoff court, and a new press box.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Spring SaukFest			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
						Valentine's Day
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Presidents' Day					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Visit svcc.edu/athletics to learn more.

HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS

At SVCC, we believe that persistence yields success. Across our campus, we are seeing this come to fruition through the honors and achievements of our community.



Our campus' Phi Theta Kappa chapter obtained a five-star status due to the dedication of its student members and faculty advisors. Dr. Jon Mandrell was honored with an Administrator of the Year Award at the PTK annual convention for his dedication to "supporting high-achieving students and developing student leaders." PTK students are invited, based on their proven academic excellence, to participate in service projects and leadership development. Additionally, maintaining membership at SVCC opens access to thousands of dollars of scholarship money, designated specifically for PTK members.



SVCC received recognition as an energy-efficient community college in the state by the Illinois Green Economy Network. Facilitated by Dave Habben, Director of Infrastructure & Network Services, 2,000 light fixtures and 4,000 bulbs were converted to LED across campus. This upgrade reduces daytime energy consumption by approximately 100 kW, equivalent to the output of our current solar array. By remaining energy efficient, we can reduce operating costs, and these savings enable the College to reinvest in academic programs, campus improvements, and student services.



The College is honored to be acknowledged as a Military-Friendly School. Our Veterans' implementations provide students with the support they need to succeed, like assistance with understanding educational benefits, counseling, job placement, and readjustment services. Each year, SVCC also hosts the Freedom 5K, held on Veteran's Day weekend. The proceeds raised from this race support the SVCC Student Veterans Organization and SVCC student veterans in need.

2026
March



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	SVCC NO CLASSES Spring Break	SVCC NO CLASSES Spring Break St. Patrick's Day	SVCC NO CLASSES Spring Break	SVCC NO CLASSES Spring Break	SVCC CLOSED	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	SVCC Classes Resume					
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

IMPACT A Lasting Impact

In the past four years, the Sauk Valley has recognized the significance of the Impact Program through volunteerism in our local community. This year, SVCC witnessed the lasting impact this opportunity has on our youth. The College enrolled its first cohort of Impact students in the Summer 2025 term and eagerly welcomed the 17 Impact students enrolled for the Fall 2025 term.



“...That’s why the program continues to earn recognition. It delivers results and sends a clear message:
**OUR COMMUNITY BELIEVES
IN ITS YOUNG PEOPLE.**”

-Ashleigh Sorenson
Executive Director of Student Recruiting and Impact Program



2026
April



Impact Program Honors & Awards

- Lieutenant Governor Award for Excellence in Revitalization
- Innovation of the Year Award
- Rock Falls Chamber Shoulder to the Wheel - Youth Award
- Dr. Hellmich was invited to visit the White House and represent the Impact Program in the Classroom to Career Pathways Summit.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 SVCC Impact Sign-Up Opens	2	3	4
5 Easter	6 SVCC Web Registration Open	7	8 SVCC Walk-In Registration Open	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Tax Day	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

Visit svcc.edu/impact to learn more.



DR. HELLMICH'S RETIREMENT A Fond Farewell

Sauk Valley Community College would be remiss not to express our deepest gratitude to Dr. Dave Hellmich for his intentional care and steadfast dedication to the good of our community. His recognition with the ICCTA's (Illinois Community College Trustees Association's) Gary W. Davis Ethical Leadership Award calls attention to Dr. Hellmich's integrity as a leader.

Dr. Hellmich has transformed the Sauk Valley area tremendously during his time as President, providing expanded opportunities for those who build our communities. He shares that his time beyond SVCC will be spent with his family, in particular his grandchildren.

The Hellmich Legacy at Sauk Valley Community College

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

From 2015 – 2025, on behalf of Sauk Valley Community College, Dr. David Hellmich has certified **2,295** Associate Degrees, **1,132** Certificates & **305** General Educational Development Certificates (*GEDs*).



This year, the **SAUK ACADEMY** introduces its 9th cohort.

This program has had 129 students enrolled since 2016. Sauk Academy has increased its leadership coursework, and in 2019, the program added a course taught by Dr. Hellmich.



The **SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM** launched to positively impact the economic vitality and civic well-being of our Sauk Valley communities by identifying emerging leaders, broadening their knowledge of our communities, and motivating them to become business and community leaders.

Over its 9-year span, the Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program has had 137 graduates.



Formed during the vulnerable 2016–2017 Illinois state budget crisis, the **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC)** delivered sustainable, long-term economic development to the Sauk Valley.

Since 2017 SBDC has delivered:

1,008 clients advised
440 jobs created
295 jobs retained
154 new businesses launched
22 business expansions



The **IMPACT PROGRAM** will remain one of Dr. Hellmich's most enduring legacies. The program reflects his deeply held belief that higher education should be accessible, transformational, and rooted in civic responsibility.

Since 2021 Impact has created:

277 local volunteer partners
80,000+ volunteer hours done
19 schools participating
1,889 students registered



With 208 graduates since 2023, the **SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE POLICE ACADEMY** is helping meet the growing demand for law enforcement professionals.



SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HEALTH PROFESSIONS programs continue to grow and evolve to meet the healthcare needs of the Sauk Valley region. Most recently, in 2024, SVCC officially announced its new Diagnostic Medical Sonography program.

SVCC Health Professions graduates since 2015:

348 Associate Degree in Nursing
205 Radiologic Technology
639 Nursing Assistant Certs.
185 Practical Nursing Certs.

2026
May



“ I am proud of what we and community leaders have accomplished together over the past ten years. ”

- Dr. Dave Hellmich

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12 SVCC Final Exams	13 SVCC Final Exams	14 SVCC Final Exams	15 SVCC COMMENCEMENT	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 SVCC CLOSED Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

We thank Dr. Hellmich for his care, trust, commitment, and visionary thinking provided to the College, and we wish him a restful retirement.

WELCOME DR. JON MANDRELL

A New Beginning

Sauk Valley Community College is excited to welcome its seventh President, Dr. Jon Mandrell. SVCC has been part of Dr. Mandrell's life journey since the beginning, as he is the first president who is an alumnus of Sauk and has experienced the College firsthand. Drs. Jon and Kelly Mandrell first met while both were students at Sauk. Among her community contributions, Dr. Kelly Mandrell serves on the Sauk Valley Foundation. Shown below is Jon as a child attending the Sauk childcare center, as a SVCC faculty member, as SVCC administration and as incoming SVCC president.



“ Sauk has been a part of my life's journey from the beginning, shaping who I am, and it is a great honor to now serve as president as we celebrate 60 incredible years. ”

- Dr. Jonathan Mandrell



2026
June



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 SVCC Classes Resume (Summer)	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Flag Day	21	22	23	24	25	26
	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day	28	29	30	1	2	3
	29	30	1	2	3	4

SVCC CLOSED
Juneteenth

SVCC
Mid-Semester

WEST MALL

An Up-and-Coming Campus

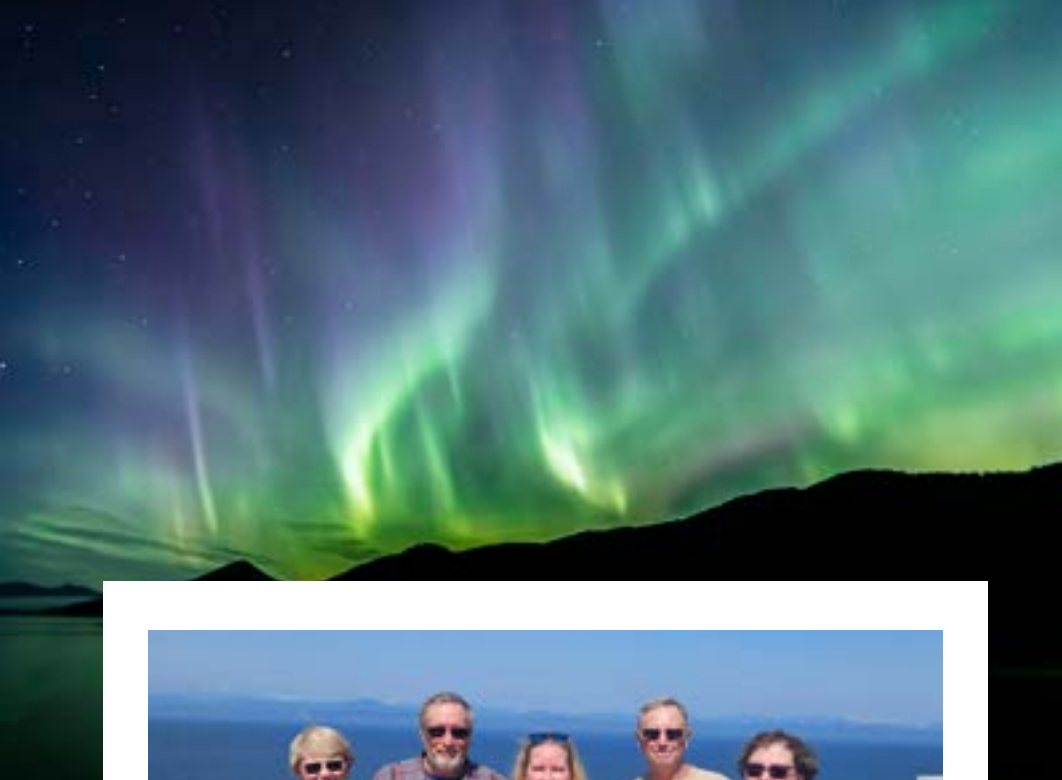
SVCC is always searching for ways to improve the campus and create an engaging space for students. The West Mall was the focus of most campus development this past year, including the completion of the Rotary Plaza, the grand opening of the Skyhawk Coffee Bar, and the installation of three visiting artist sculptures. The Rotary Plaza offers new spaces for students to unwind and connect, featuring fun additions like hammocks and, of course, the beautiful art installations loaned to SVCC by local and national artists.



2026 July



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
					SVCC CLOSED Independence Day Observed	Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			SVCC Final Exams	SVCC Final Exams		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1



 **collette**
celebrating 100 years of travel together



BACE Trips & Travel

SVCC's Business and Community Education Department offers extended trips through our travel partner Collette. SVCC traveled to Iceland in November 2024 to witness the magic of the Northern Lights. Then it was off to Tropical Costa Rica in February 2025, where travelers explored the lush rainforest. The most recent trip took place in June 2025, when travelers visited Alaska via cruise, observing the beauty of both land and sea.

The Business and Community Education Department is always thinking of other exciting places to visit. If you have any suggestions, contact Brenda Helms at brenda.helms@svcc.edu.



2026 August



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

SVCC Classes
Resume (Fall)

SVCC CLOSED
Fall In-Service

Fall SaukFest

For details regarding future trips, visit svcc.edu/trips.



2026 September

SBDC Growing the 815

The Small Business Development Center at Sauk Valley Community College is dedicated to helping Sauk Valley businesses start, grow, and thrive. Over the past year, through professional guidance from our team of experienced individuals, 70 jobs were created, 44 jobs were retained, and 24 businesses found homes in our local community. Since its inception in 2017, the SBDC has advised over 1,000 clients, with 200 alone occurring in the past year.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		SVCC Impact Sign-Up Closes				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	SVCC CLOSED Labor Day					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

POLICE ACADEMY

Our Contribution to Public Safety

We are proud to have the responsibility of educating the next generation of protectors and public servants.

Additionally, a new Transfer Pathway from SVCC's Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice to Northern Illinois University's Bachelor of Science in Public Service Leadership has been established. We hope those interested in public safety continue to choose Sauk Valley Community College for the next step in their education.



2026 October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Columbus & Indigenous Peoples' Day	13	14	15	16 SVCC Mid-Semester	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

APEX

American Pakistan Exchange Program

Sauk Valley Community College is grateful to partner with Bristol Community College of Fall River, Massachusetts, and Kinnaird College for Women of Lahore, Pakistan, to form APEX (American Pakistan Exchange Program). This program allows students to connect culturally while building academic and professional opportunities.

The program has allowed SVCC faculty members and students to visit Kinnaird College and experience the educational and cultural significance of learning in a new setting. APEX travelers visited rural villages and historic monuments, participated in cultural celebrations and student-faculty debates, and integrated themselves into the educational community at Kinnaird.

Students and faculty from Kinnaird also visited the Sauk Valley, making homestays with SVCC faculty and staff and visiting places such as the Art Institute of Chicago, the Nachusa Grasslands, and local farms.



2026 November

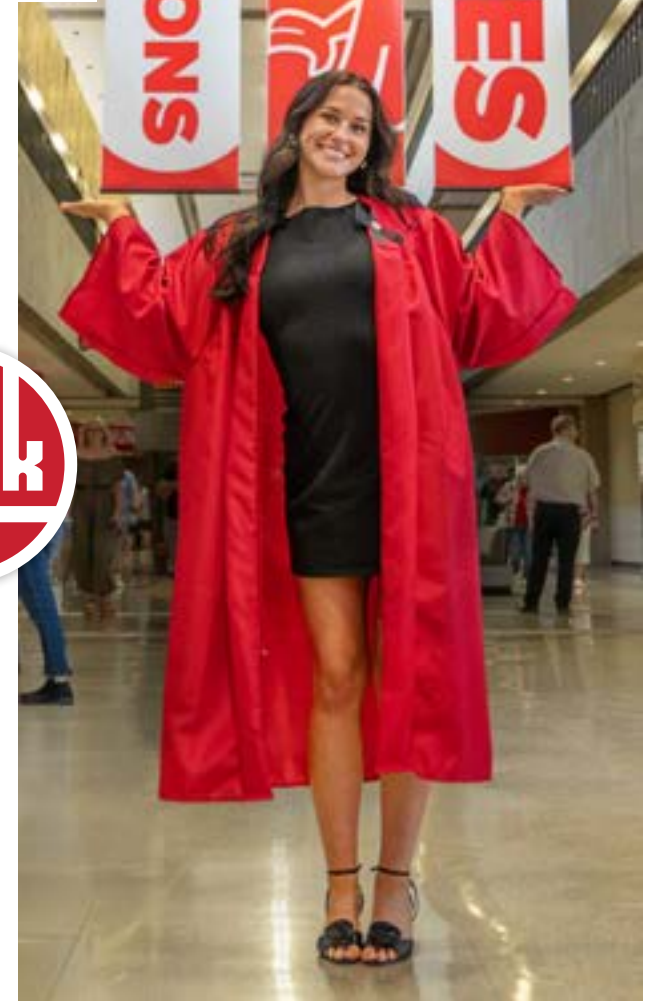
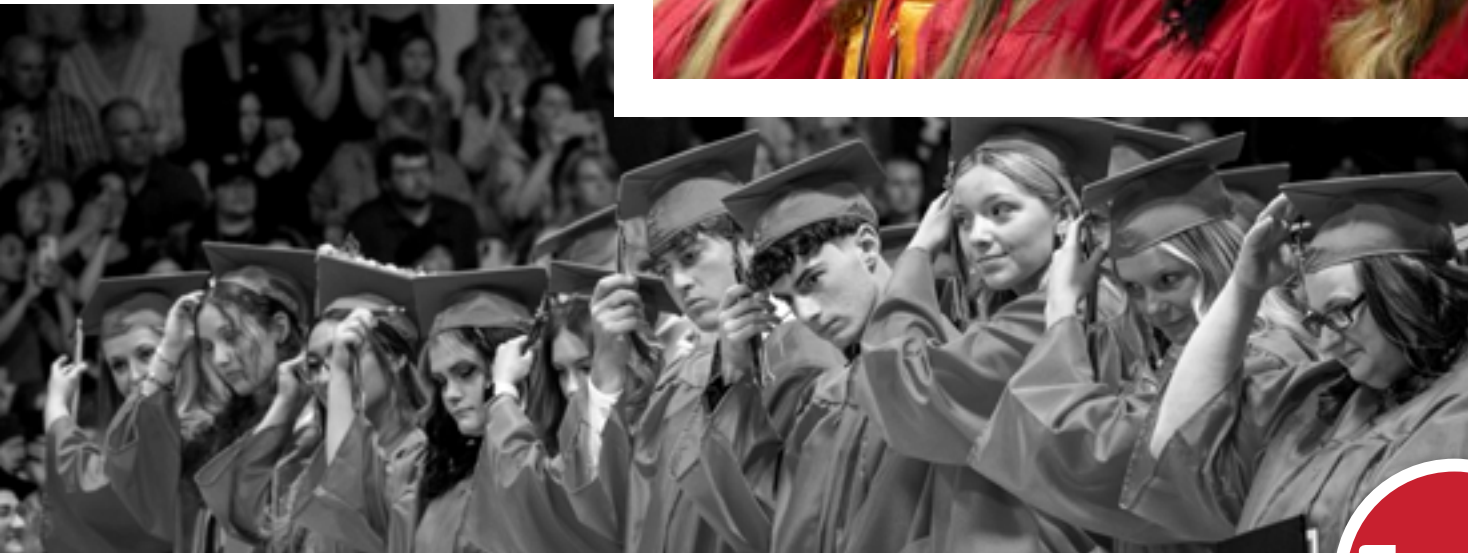


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	SVCC Web Registration	Election Day	SVCC Walk-In Registration			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Veterans Day			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	SVCC NO CLASSES Fall Break	SVCC NO CLASSES Fall Break	SVCC CLOSED	SVCC CLOSED Thanksgiving Day	SVCC CLOSED	
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
	SVCC Classes Resume					

GRADUATION Celebrating our Students

Sauk Valley Community College takes pride in the accomplishments of our students.

SVCC is dedicated to teaching and engaging the community in lifelong learning. We'd love to help you further your educational journey.



2026 December



SVCC Class of 2025 Stats

247 Associate Degrees
446 Career-Technical Certificates
129 Credentials

Adult Education Class of 2025 Stats

20 Illinois High School Diplomas
79 Adult Ed Students
17 Project VITAL Reading Level Advances.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
					Hanukkah Begins	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		SVCC Final Exams	SVCC Final Exams	SVCC Final Exams	SVCC Final Exams	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			SVCC CLOSED	SVCC CLOSED Christmas Eve	SVCC CLOSED Christmas Day	Kwanzaa Begins
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	SVCC CLOSED	SVCC CLOSED	SVCC CLOSED	SVCC CLOSED New Year's Eve	SVCC CLOSED New Year's Day	

Visit svcc.edu to learn more or plan your campus visit at svcc.edu/visit.



Changing Lives for 60 years



In 1965, the citizens of Lee, Whiteside, Ogle, Bureau, and Carrol counties came together to establish a college that would strengthen the region. For six decades, Sauk Valley Community College has evolved to fulfill the changing needs of its communities.

Sauk has remained dedicated to teaching and scholarship while engaging the community in lifelong learning, public service, and economic development. This is a place where futures are shaped, skills are developed, and where dreams begin.

As we commemorate this remarkable 60th anniversary, we do so with great honor. This milestone is a testament to the support of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and communities. Without your trust, passion, and commitment, this occasion would not have been possible.

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

173 IL ROUTE 2 • DIXON, IL 61021

svcc.edu • 815.288.5511