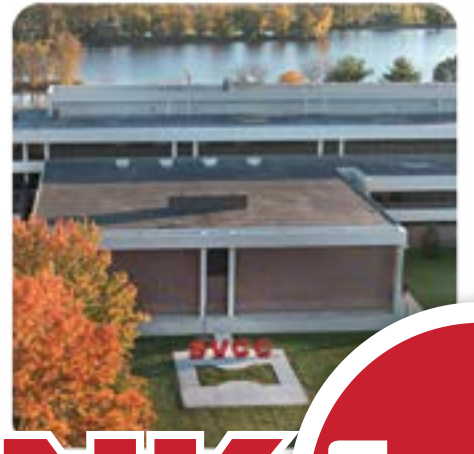






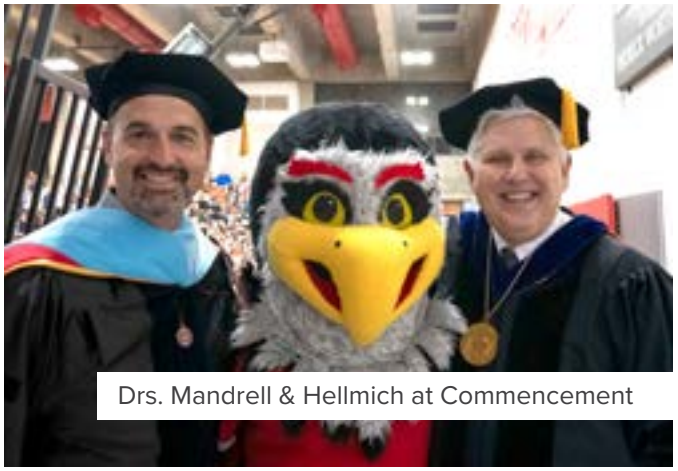

THINK Sauk FIRST

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2026 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
2027 CALENDAR

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Jon Mandrell



Drs. Mandrell & Hellmich at Commencement



Drs. Mandrell & Family

It is a great honor to succeed Dr. David Hellmich as the seventh president of Sauk Valley Community College. For 11 years, Dr. Hellmich led this institution with integrity, vision, and a deep commitment to students. Because of his leadership, SVCC is stronger and well-positioned for the future. We are grateful for his service and lasting legacy.

The Sauk Valley is a special place, made extraordinary by its people. For more than 60 years, SVCC has been privileged to serve, partner with, and learn alongside our communities. I am continually inspired by stories of individuals—and generations of families—whose lives have been transformed through a Sauk education.

This past academic year, we served approximately 2,500 students through transfer programs, career and technical education, workforce development, adult education, and dual credit partnerships. Our students come to us as recent high school graduates, working adults, parents, veterans, and first-generation college students. Each arrives with hopes for the future, and our faculty and staff work every day to help turn that hope into achievement.

This fall, we proudly welcomed 235 Impact Program students from area high schools. These students enter SVCC not only as learners, but as community servants who have already demonstrated their commitment through volunteer service. We would like to thank our many donors and partners who have made this vision possible.

Our programs also continue to evolve with the needs of our region. Our Sonography program celebrated its first graduating class in May, while the Sauk Valley Police Academy has now graduated more than 300 local law enforcement officers. These programs join our longstanding strengths in nursing, radiologic technology, agriculture, manufacturing, business, education, and other fields essential to our communities.

As we look ahead, I am filled with confidence and optimism. Together, we will build upon Sauk's tradition of excellence, create opportunities that transform lives, strengthen our communities, and help shape the future of our region.

Go Skyhawks!

Jon Mandrell

President, Sauk Valley Community College



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR
Bob Thompson

Dear Friends of Sauk Valley Community College,
Thank you for taking the time to review our Report to the Community and to recognize the accomplishments and opportunities here at Sauk for all of our students. We are proud to be your community college, offering courses that enrich every walk of life.

Impact Program through Earned Tuition – Welcome to our inaugural class of 235 high school graduates who have earned free tuition through the Impact Program! Our Impact Program kicked off in 2022 with its first class of high school freshmen, and to date they have contributed over 137,000 community service hours to our district. There's never been a better time to embrace Sauk after high school graduation!

Community Education – Everyone is welcome to take a course in personal enrichment. Want to learn a new hobby, become a skilled computer user, plan your retirement, or even learn how to raise a garden? See svcc.edu/ced for our extensive personal development offerings. Sauk offers expertise within a broad range of topics, and we have a course for you!

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

Adult Education – Since opening our doors through a district-wide referendum in 1966, Sauk has continued to empower individuals with high school equivalency diplomas and learning English as a second language. Our students have gone on to great employment opportunities and to immerse themselves in our society with confidence and hope.

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

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

We are so proud of our students and their diverse accomplishments. Please know that you are always welcome here at Sauk Valley Community College!

Bob Thompson

Board Chair, Sauk Valley Community College

SKYHAWK ATHLETICS

'25–'26 Arrowhead Conference Champions
Men's Cross Country

Qualified: '25–'26 NJCAA Championships
Cross Country: 3 Men

'25–'26 Arrowhead Conference Champions
Women's Volleyball

'25–'26 NJCAA Region 4 Champions
Women's Volleyball

Qualified: '25–'26 NJCAA Nationals
Women's Volleyball
Women's Tennis
Cross Country: 3 Women

'25–'26 ACADEMIC AWARDS SKYHAWK ATHLETES
23 Academic All Conference and All Region • 2 Academic All-American
37 SVCC President's List • 25 SVCC Dean's List



Volleyball Coach of the Year
Skyhawk Volleyball Head Coach Jay Howell was awarded the Arrowhead Conference Coach of the Year. Howell is a seven-time Region 4 Coach of the Year awardee and has compiled a stunning record of 398 wins and 197 losses in his time at SVCC. He has led the Skyhawks to victory in eight Arrowhead Conference regular-season championships. Congratulations to Coach Howell!

January 2027

Damhoff Dedication

SVCC honored former athletic director and head men's basketball coach Russ Damhoff for more than thirty years of dedicated service and leadership to Skyhawk athletics. To commemorate his commitment, the refinished basketball court was named the Russ Damhoff Court and now proudly features his signature. On November 1, 2025, the Sauk Valley community, along with Damhoff's close family and friends, gathered to celebrate his legacy at a special dedication ceremony. The night concluded with our men's basketball team defeating Richard J. Daley College in a close 67–65 game.

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





As we said farewell to former President Dr. David Hellmich, we honored his service with a renaming of the Riverview Conference Rooms to the Hellmich Riverview Conference Center. Room 1H16 was painted blue and now displays the new name in chrome lettering.



Our campus continues to evolve to serve its students, faculty, and staff. After an eight-month renovation, SVCC introduced new faculty offices, a meeting room, a Sonography lab and classroom, and a transformed ITS Server Room to its second floor.

February
2027

The Information and Planning Department officially opened their ITS Help Desk in Spring 2026, a facility designed to streamline in-person technology service requests. Room 2F01, a newly established meeting space on campus, is adorned with an intricate and personalized frosted glass design. The artwork on the window provides privacy for the individuals meeting and depicts an abstracted version of the Rock River and the in-district communities SVCC serves.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3 Spring SaukFest	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Presidents' Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 SVCC Mid-Semester	13

STUDENT ACTIVITIES/MENTAL HEALTH/CLUBS







SVCC Student Activities and Mental Health Counseling partnered to host programs throughout the semester that highlight mental health awareness. The IMALIVE Mental Health Fair visited campus to educate students on a multitude of highly relevant mental health disorders, while engaging them with new information to help break the stigma associated with addressing mental health. Guest speakers Wes Woodson and Brittany Piper visited campus to share their stories and experiences with anxiety, bullying, and sexual violence. They empowered our students and discussed ways to take brave action in day-to-day life.

March 2027

SVCC's clubs and student organizations are always expanding. SVCC's Theatre Club is on the rise, providing opportunities for students to engage in all aspects of performing arts. The club held a Student Variety Show for performers to showcase their talents, as well as a full-length play, Fallen Apples, written by SVCC student playwright Sam Mauch. Each show has allowed students to pursue their passion for the performing arts and gain further experience in putting on a full production.

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

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

HEAP Seal Recipient

The core of our mission is dedication to teaching and learning. This past year, SVCC was awarded the HEAP Seal, honoring campuses for their commitment to nonpartisan democratic engagement through campus action planning. This seal reflects the supportive space we aim to provide for our students. As we continue to educate the next generation of voters, we look for new ways to encourage nonpartisan civic engagement across campus.

Military Friendly/Spouse Friendly

SVCC is proud to be recognized as a 2026–2027 Military Friendly Gold school. This designation is granted to schools that show commitment to their military students and families. SVCC is also designated as a Military Spouse Friendly school. We strive to create a sustainable learning environment where military families will succeed and receive the guidance they need. To learn more about our Military and Veterans' Services, visit svcc.edu/veterans or see Eric Valdez in Student Services.

Aspen Award

SVCC received recognition from The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program as one of the top 200 U.S. community colleges. This honor is awarded to colleges based on student outcome data, including retention, completion, transfer, and bachelor's attainment rates. This recognition marks the second time since 2019 that SVCC has been invited to apply for this distinguished honor. SVCC is dedicated to serving its students and helping them achieve their academic and professional goals.



April 2027

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 SVCC Impact Sign-Up Opens	2	3
4	5 SVCC Web Registration Open	6	7 SVCC Walk-In Registration Open	8	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	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8

COMMENCEMENT



SVCC's Commencement ceremony truly "flipped the script" this past year. For the first time, the stage was positioned against the east wall in the gymnasium to showcase the large Skyhawk graphic. Dramatic red-and-white lighting enhanced the atmosphere, introducing a new aesthetic and marking a new era for the ceremony's production. The ceremony ended with an exciting surprise for graduates and guests, as streamer cannons were launched for the first time in commencement history.



Madison Krum delivered an inspiring speech, reminding her fellow graduates that graduating from Sauk marks the end of one journey and the beginning of another.



Briah Merriman shared an inspiring message with her peers, encouraging them to embrace the next chapter as they celebrate the end of their Sauk journey.



Joyce Schamberger was honored as Distinguished Alumni. As she addressed the graduates, we celebrated her lifelong commitment to education, leadership, and community service in Amboy.



This year also saw the first group of Impact students graduate, their dedication to service represented by their Impact Program stoles.

May 2027

Employee Recognition

Each year, the College nominates and votes for SVCC employees and teams who make the campus thrive. During the ceremony, the College took a moment to acknowledge and celebrate these dedicated and hardworking faculty and staff members:

Full-Time Faculty: Therese Wood
Adjunct Faculty: Elisa Gatz
Dual Credit: Gina Cole

Full-Time Staff: Shaunna Zettle
Part-Time Staff: Lindsay Good
Team Achievement: Marketing Department

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

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



We're proud to collaborate with our Illinois colleges and universities to develop programs that provide students with the education needed to earn their degrees and transform lives. In August 2025, SVCC partnered with Northern Illinois University through the LEAP (Licensed Educator Accelerated Pathway) Program. This initiative is currently helping two dozen paraprofessionals from school districts throughout Northwest Illinois earn licensure as special education teachers.







June
2027



Our partnerships keep us rooted; we build bridges with local organizations and community members to support the Sauk Valley beyond our walls. SVCC partnered with the Dixon Family YMCA this summer to provide space for their Summer Day Camp. This partnership fostered new connections with 150 local children and families.

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





AMERICA'S SBDC ILLINOIS
at Sauk Valley Community College

Sauk

The Early Years
ACADEMY







July
2027

The Early Years Academy

The Small Business Development Center at Sauk Valley Community College is dedicated to helping small businesses in our region succeed. The SBDC team recently helped Jennifer Humphrey turn her vision for The Early Years Academy in Morrison into reality. The Academy now offers licensed child care services for children ages six weeks to 12 years old. Through her partnership with the SBDC, Jennifer secured SBA financing to acquire her facility. She worked alongside Justin Bergman to develop a sustainable business plan, ensuring The Early Years Academy will thrive for years to come while serving the Sauk Valley community.

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

TRANSFORMED EXPERIENCES

The Admissions and Advising Department reimagined New Student Orientation in response to student disengagement during lengthy presentations. Dakota Geesey, Enrollment Management and Dual Credit Specialist at SVCC, led the redesign, collaborating with departments across campus to create a more engaging, interactive experience. When asked about their transformed experience, one student noted, “I’ve never been this excited to start the school year before.” Overall, 96% of students rated their New Student Orientation experience a 4 or 5 out of 5.

Students now participate in Sauk Start Stations, where they connect with key departments and staff, learn essential information, and explore campus.



First, with assistance from the SVCC Help Desk and Student Services, students have their ID badge photos taken and log in to their SVCC email accounts and Navigate 360.



Then, students attend an information fair, visit booths hosted by SVCC departments and services, and collect passport stamps along the way.



Next, representatives from multiple departments deliver a presentation covering essential information students need to navigate their first year at SVCC.



Last, students can choose to embark on a self-guided campus scavenger hunt, exploring departments, offices, and other key spaces throughout the college.

August
2027



The College also introduced Navigate360, software available to all college employees and the student body for student support services. The software provides a shared platform for scheduling, communication, retention efforts, and connecting students with college resources. Navigate360 has been instrumental in streamlining processes and consolidating systems that increase the amount of support available for students.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 **SVCC CLOSED** Fall In-Service	14
15	16 SVCC Classes Begin (Fall)	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1 Fall SaukFest	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

SAUK ACADEMY'S TENTH YEAR



"I participated in the Sauk Academy program during my senior year (F23–S24). Thanks to those credits, combined with the ones I earned during my junior year of high school, I was able to graduate debt-free from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural and Consumer Economics in just two years."

-Former Academy student Trent Heller



SINCE Sauk 2016
THE ACADEMY

The Academy at SVCC is celebrating its 10th anniversary! Since 2016, The Academy has provided an engaging and rewarding college experience to high-achieving high school seniors. Sauk Academy students are challenged with rigorous college classes during their senior year, completing prerequisite courses for their college major a year in advance. The Academy has had the great honor of graduating 129 students.

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September
2027

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

IMMERSIVE/HANDS-ON EDUCATION

SVCC is home to many immersive and hands-on learning experiences for our students.







The SVCC Police Academy recently partnered with OSF to invite a helicopter to campus for landing zone training near the SVCC letters. This training is vital, as it teaches our recruits to deliver rapid and effective emergency care to the community we serve.









Our Greenhouse provides agricultural students with the resources to learn how to grow hydroponic plants in a controlled environment and how to produce a variety of crops through hands-on learning. The Greenhouse is a learning lab in partnership with the University of Illinois Extension, providing educational experiences for the Sauk Valley.

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October
2027

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

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE





November
2027

There are many developments on the horizon for SVCC. In the next year, the softball field, baseball fields, and track will see some major improvements. We're excited to bring resurfaced fields, new parking lots, and refreshed dugouts to our campus.

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



This past year, the Impact Program reached incredible milestones. SVCC welcomed its very first cohort of students onto campus, celebrating their success in earning their tuition and marking the start of their journey in higher education. Impact students at SVCC are preparing for careers in high-demand fields, with 93% pursuing programs in areas such as healthcare, education, business, agriculture, and multicraft.

"I've also had the opportunity to talk with the next group of children who will be joining the Impact Program. I explained to them how important it is to get out into your community and help out when needed. I made a point to mention that they should not always wait to be asked to do something, but rather go out into the community, find someone or something that needs help, and jump right in." - Paige Ledergerber

IMPACT EARNED TUITION

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



"I was torn between attending a 4-year school or attending Sauk first. The Impact Program heavily influenced my final decision. Although I had a fairly good financial aid package for the 4-year school I was looking at, I was not entirely sure if I wanted to attend that school. In the end, I decided it would have been a worse decision for my career to turn down my 100% free education at Sauk." - Quinn Stahr

December
2027



Over 1,800 Impact students participated in the program, and 85% completed their commitment of at least 25 volunteer hours, contributing an incredible 46,920 hours of service throughout the region. The Sauk Valley community remains committed to and invested in the success of Impact. Polo, Fulton, Milledgeville, Prophetstown, and Morrison are among the fully funded schools, and the campaign to fully fund Amboy nears completion.

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



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

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