

# **IMPACT** IN ACTION

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES  
THROUGH SERVICE



# **EARNED TUITION**

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**2024 – 2025**



### **A Message from the Impact Program**

The 2024–2025 Impact year was a powerful reminder of what’s possible when students, families, schools, and communities come together in service of a shared goal. Through the Impact Program, over 1,200 students completed at least 25 hours of volunteer service, demonstrating their commitment to education and the communities that support them.

This year, we continued to strengthen partnerships, expand support systems, and increase access to meaningful volunteer opportunities. The Impact Program is especially proud of the continued growth in completion rates, consistent collaboration with our high school and nonprofit partners, and the remarkable stories of students who are building brighter futures through service.

We are deeply grateful to all who make this program possible—from families and schools to community organizations and donors. Together, we are creating a culture of giving back while opening doors to higher education.

**—The Impact Team**

## Impact Program (District-Wide)

**266 nonprofits** Volunteer Partners – Participating Nonprofits  
**over 80,000 hours** Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Impact Students  
**35,871 hours** Total Volunteer Hours Completed 2024–2025 by Impact Students  
**1,454 students** Total Students Registered for the 2024–2025 Impact Year

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**85%** Impact students district-wide persisted to the 2025–2026 program year  
**86%** Impact Class of 2025 persisted to year 5 in the program (Pilot cohort - Fulton & Prophetstown)  
**93%** Impact Class of 2026 persisted to year 4 in the program  
**88%** Impact Class of 2027 persisted to year 3 in the program  
**76%** Impact Class of 2028 persisted to year 2 in the program



**EARNED  
TUITION**  
SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## Year in Review

The SVCC Impact Program continues to create transformative opportunities for students across the Sauk Valley region through an earned tuition pathway to college, gained through community service. During the 2024–2025 academic year, 1,454 students were registered in the program, completing a remarkable 35,871 volunteer hours, contributing to the over 80,000 hours served since the program's inception.

The program now partners with 266 nonprofit organizations and maintains high levels of student persistence and satisfaction. These outcomes demonstrate the growing strength of the Impact Program in fostering educational equity, civic engagement, and college access for all students willing to serve their community.

## Student Feedback and Skill Development

Feedback collected through the 2025 SVCC Impact Survey shows overwhelmingly positive sentiments from both students and parents.

### PARENT FEEDBACK

#### ***IS COLLEGE MORE ACCESSIBLE?***

A large majority of parents agreed that the Impact Program has made college more accessible by:

- Reducing the financial burden of tuition
- Providing a feasible option for families with multiple children
- Creating local opportunities for college and career preparation

#### **Parent Comments:**

*"This allows her to get her AA [Associate in Arts Degree] without being in debt."*

*"Trying to pay for three kids in college at once would be impossible without this."*

*"As a single parent, this made college accessible for him."*

#### ***HOW HAS IMPACT AFFECTED YOUR STUDENT?***

Parents reported that their students developed:

- Greater confidence when communicating with adults and peers
- Stronger time management, responsibility, and leadership skills
- Faster career readiness through exposure to real-world work settings

### STUDENT FEEDBACK

Students cited the following benefits:

- Communication and teamwork
- Time management and dependability
- Leadership and public speaking
- Technical skills (AV, food handling, mentoring, coaching)

#### **Student Comments:**

*"I've learned to help kids and give back to the community."*

*"I earned my food handler's certificate through volunteering."*

*"Volunteering has helped me become more confident in public settings."*

These responses confirm the program's dual focus: expanding access to college while fostering personal growth and civic engagement.



## TOP 10 VOLUNTEER PARTNERS\*

**TEEN TURF**  
Amboy, IL



**1,132 HOURS**

**SAWMILL MUSEUM**  
(Fulton District)



**1,052 HOURS**

**DIXON FAMILY YMCA**  
Dixon, IL



**975 HOURS**

**DE IMMIGRANT WIND MILL**  
Fulton, IL



**772 HOURS**

**REAGAN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
(Dixon Public Schools)  
Dixon, IL



**738 HOURS**

**OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Sterling, IL



**677 HOURS**

**DIXON CHAMBER AND MAIN STREET**  
Dixon, IL



**668 HOURS**

**PROPHETSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL**  
Prophetstown, IL



**565 HOURS**

**FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
(Sterling Public Schools)  
Sterling, IL



**549 HOURS**

**ROCK RIVER VALLEY SELF HELP ENTERPRISES**  
Sterling, IL



**523 HOURS**

## Volunteer Contributions

The Impact Program would not be what it is without the support of our incredible volunteer partners. These organizations open their doors to students, providing meaningful service opportunities that help shape future careers, build character, and strengthen our communities.

These organizations play a crucial role in the program's success, providing accessible and meaningful volunteer experiences for students across all participating schools.

*\*by hours hosted*

## Conclusion

The 2024–2025 academic year demonstrates the power of combining education with service. With more than 35,000 volunteered hours, over 1,400 students enrolled, the SVCC Impact Program is delivering on its mission to make college more accessible through community service. Persistence remains strong with the majority of students returning year after year, progressing toward program completion.

Looking ahead, the program will continue to strengthen outreach, expand partnerships, and focus on improving clarity around requirements to ensure every student has the support they need to succeed. The future is bright for the SVCC Impact Program and the students it serves.

Together, we are creating a culture of giving back—and making college possible for every student willing to earn it through service.



## Pilot Students Begin Their Journey at Sauk

In Summer/Fall 2025, the Impact Program proudly welcomes its first cohort of pilot students to *Sauk Valley Community College*, marking a major milestone in the program's vision. These students—primarily from Fulton and Prophetstown High Schools—are the first to complete all four years of the program and transition directly into college with their tuition and fees covered through Impact.

This pilot group represents the realization of the program's core mission: to create a pathway to higher education through community service. Having earned their scholarships through four years of dedication, volunteerism, and personal growth, these students now step into the next phase of their educational journey better prepared and debt-free.

Their transition to Sauk has also helped inform onboarding practices, build college-level support systems, and deepen partnerships between SVCC and local high schools. These students are not only pioneers of the program—they are ambassadors of what's possible when a community invests in its youth.

As we support these pilot students through their time at Sauk, their experiences will continue to shape how the Impact Program evolves, expands, and empowers future cohorts.

## Parent Survey

### HOW HAS THE IMPACT PROGRAM AFFECTED YOUR STUDENT?

*"My daughter has enjoyed completing Impact hours at CGH—this has helped her achieve her yearly requirement and build confidence in a hospital setting."*

*"My son has learned the value of serving his community and has connected with several amazing elders in our town, whom he now considers mentors. [The Impact Program] is an enriching program."*

*"My daughter volunteered as a mentor for the Penguin Project of the Sauk Valley. She gained innumerable skills with this volunteering choice. It was a fantastic experience for her."*

*[My Impact student] "is less shy when talking to adults. The Impact Program has made her a better communicator, and not just with her peers. I'm thrilled that this program has helped her."*

## Student Survey

### WHAT SKILLS OR EXPERIENCES HAVE YOU GAINED THROUGH YOUR VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES?

*"I have developed leadership and communication skills and taken on greater responsibility."*

*"I have learned to work with community leaders and learned how to improve my communication skills."*

*"I have grown into a hard worker and a better leader."*

*"My time management and communication skills have improved."*



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### AFC High School

- 9 nonprofits** Volunteer Partners in Ashton or Franklin Grove
- 2,614 hours** Total Volunteer Hours Completed by AFC Students
- 1,060 hours** Volunteer Hours Completed by AFC Students during 2024–2025
- 85%** AFC Impact students persisted to 2024–2025 in the program
- 75%** AFC Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
- 78%** AFC Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
- 95%** AFC Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program



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### Amboy High School

- 7 nonprofits** Volunteer Partners in Amboy
- 3,341 hours** Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Amboy Students
- 1,697 hours** Volunteer Hours Completed by Amboy Students during 2024–2025
- 85%** Amboy Impact students persisted to 2024–2025 in the program
- 75%** Amboy Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
- 90%** Amboy Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
- 90%** Amboy Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program



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### Bureau Valley High School

- 13 nonprofits** Volunteer Partners in Bureau Valley School District
  - 2,774 hours** Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Bureau Valley Students
  - 1,363 hours** Volunteer Hours Completed by B.V. Students during 2024–2025
  - 89%** Bureau Valley Impact students persisted to 2024–2025 in the program
  - 86%** Bureau Valley Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
  - 92%** Bureau Valley Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
  - 90%** Bureau Valley Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program
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## Dixon High School

<b>47 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Dixon
<b>9,918 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Dixon Students
<b>4,831 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by Dixon Students during 2024–2025
<b>86%</b>	Dixon Impact students persisted to 2024–2025 in the program
<b>80%</b>	Dixon Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>90%</b>	Dixon Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>91%</b>	Dixon Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program

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## Faith Christian School

<b>47 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Dixon
<b>2,079 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Faith Christian Students
<b>1,184 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by F.C. Students during 2024–2025
<b>97%</b>	Faith Christian Impact students persisted to 2024-2025 in the program
<b>100%</b>	Faith Christian Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>94%</b>	Faith Christian Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>100%</b>	Faith Christian Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program

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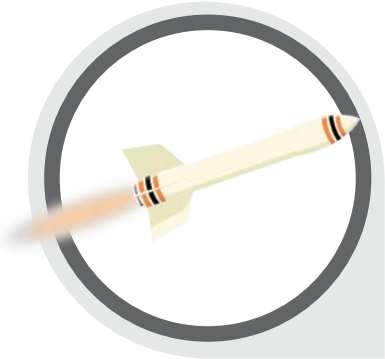
## Fulton High School

<b>10 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Fulton
<b>5,504 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Fulton Students
<b>2,524 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by Fulton Students during 2024–2025
<b>88%</b>	Fulton Impact students persisted to 2024–2025 in the program
<b>77%</b>	Fulton Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>92%</b>	Fulton Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>95%</b>	Fulton Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program
<b>91%</b>	Fulton Impact seniors persisted to year 5 in the program

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### Milledgeville High School



<b>9 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Milledgeville
<b>2,009 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Milledgeville Students
<b>1,036 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by M-ville Students during 2024–2025
<b>97%</b>	Milledgeville Impact students persisted to 2024–2025 in the program
<b>100%</b>	Milledgeville Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>83%</b>	Milledgeville Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>100%</b>	Milledgeville Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program

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### Morrison High School



<b>26 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Morrison
<b>5,073 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Morrison Students
<b>2,589 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by Morrison Students during 2024–2025
<b>87%</b>	Morrison Impact students persisted to 2024–2025 in the program
<b>73%</b>	Morrison Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>96%</b>	Morrison Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>100%</b>	Morrison Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program

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### Newman Central Catholic High School



<b>53 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Sterling
<b>3,975 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Newman Students
<b>2,025 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by Newman Students during 2024–2025
<b>84%</b>	Newman Impact students persisted to 2024–2025 in the program
<b>74%</b>	Newman Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>90%</b>	Newman Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>92%</b>	Newman Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program

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### Ohio High School

<b>0 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Ohio
<b>468 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Ohio Students
<b>240 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by Ohio Students during 2024–2025
<b>67%</b>	Ohio Impact students persisted to 2024–2025 in the program
<b>43%</b>	Ohio Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>100%</b>	Ohio Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>100%</b>	Ohio Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program

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### Oregon High School

<b>11 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Oregon
<b>3,453 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Oregon High School Students
<b>1,764 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by Oregon Students during 2024–2025
<b>71%</b>	Oregon Impact students persisted to 2024–2025 in the program
<b>62%</b>	Oregon Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>74%</b>	Oregon Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>85%</b>	Oregon Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program

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### Polo High School

<b>10 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Polo
<b>3,929 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Polo Students
<b>1,924 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by Polo Students during 2024–2025
<b>85%</b>	Polo Impact students persisted to 2024–2025 in the program
<b>77%</b>	Polo Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>82%</b>	Polo Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>100%</b>	Polo Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program

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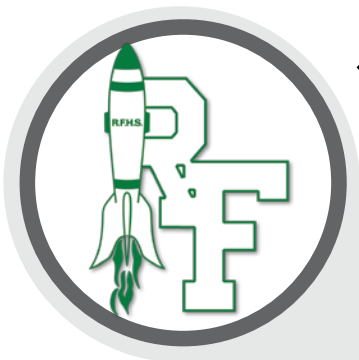


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## Prophetstown High School

<b>18 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Prophetstown, Lyndon, and Tampico
<b>3,452 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Prophetstown Students
<b>1,592 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by P-town Students during 2024–2025
<b>80%</b>	Prophetstown Impact students persisted to 2024-2025 in the program
<b>68%</b>	Prophetstown Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>100%</b>	Prophetstown Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>88%</b>	Prophetstown Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program
<b>75%</b>	Prophetstown Impact seniors persisted to year 5 in the program

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## Rock Falls High School

<b>18 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Rock Falls
<b>6,862 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Rock Falls Students
<b>3,625 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by Rock Falls Students during 2024–2025
<b>83%</b>	Rock Falls Impact students persisted to 2024-2025 in the program
<b>71%</b>	Rock Falls Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>89%</b>	Rock Falls Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>95%</b>	Rock Falls Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program

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## Sterling High School

<b>53 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Sterling
<b>12,319 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Sterling Students
<b>6,218 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by Sterling Students during 2024–2025
<b>83%</b>	Sterling Impact students persisted to 2024-2025 in the program
<b>77%</b>	Sterling Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>87%</b>	Sterling Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>89%</b>	Sterling Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program

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### Unity Christian School

<b>10 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Fulton
<b>637 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Unity Students
<b>398 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by Unity Students during 2024–2025
<b>86%</b>	Unity Impact students persisted to 2024-2025 in the program
<b>75%</b>	Unity Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>100%</b>	Unity Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>100%</b>	Unity Christian Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program



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### West Carroll High School

<b>2 nonprofits</b>	Volunteer Partners in Savanna
<b>1,315 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by West Carroll Students
<b>667 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by W.C. Students during 2024–2025
<b>86%</b>	West Carroll Impact students persisted to 2024-2025 in the program
<b>70%</b>	West Carroll Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>91%</b>	West Carroll Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>100%</b>	West Carroll Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program



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### Homeschool

<b>2,112 hours</b>	Total Volunteer Hours Completed by Homeschool Students
<b>1,095 hours</b>	Volunteer Hours Completed by H-school Students during 2024–2025
<b>92%</b>	Homeschool Impact students persisted to 2024–2025 in the program
<b>100%</b>	Homeschool Impact freshmen persisted to year 2 in the program
<b>86%</b>	Homeschool Impact sophomores persisted to year 3 in the program
<b>92%</b>	Homeschool Impact juniors persisted to year 4 in the program

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## April 2025 – Survey Feedback

The 2025 SVCC Impact Survey collected feedback from students and parents to evaluate satisfaction, program awareness, and areas for improvement within the Impact Program. A total of 101 responses were received, offering valuable insights into the program's reach and effectiveness.

### Respondent Demographics

61% of respondents identified as parents or guardians, while 39% were students. The majority of student respondents were sophomores (40%) and freshmen (27%), aligning with the program's primary target group.

### Program Satisfaction

Satisfaction with the Impact Program remains high, with 97% of respondents reporting that they are either “satisfied” or “very satisfied”. Respondents appreciated the financial support, access to college resources, and community engagement opportunities the program provides.

### Awareness and Communication

Most students learned about the Impact Program through school counselors and classroom presentations, emphasizing the importance of continued school-based outreach.

Respondents expressed appreciation for clear communication, but requested earlier and more frequent reminders about volunteer hour requirements and deadlines.

### Volunteer Experience

Students reported feeling well-supported by volunteer partners and found their experiences to be meaningful.

A few noted scheduling challenges or difficulty finding opportunities in smaller communities, suggesting a need for more diverse or flexible options.

## Conclusion

The survey results reflect strong community support and high levels of satisfaction with the SVCC Impact Program. Continued investment in communication, early engagement, and diverse volunteer opportunities will help maintain momentum and ensure equitable access across all participating schools. These insights will inform program planning, outreach strategies, and enhancements as we head into the 2025–2026 academic year.



## **A Message from the Sauk Valley College Foundation**

At Sauk Valley Community College, we believe in a bold idea: every student in our region should have the opportunity to earn a college education, tuition-free, through service to their community.

Thanks to the generous support of local donors like you, this vision is becoming reality. The Impact Program is now 80% of the way toward our \$10 million goal, a milestone that ensures continued access to higher education for all Sauk Valley students: however, we are not done yet.

### **We Need You.**

To fully fund this transformative program, we need your help. Your gift today isn't just a donation—it's an investment legacy.

When you give to the SVCC Impact Program, you are investing right here in your home, where your generosity is visible, powerful, and deeply personal:

- You are training the nurses who will care for you and your family.
- You are educating the teachers who will inspire your grandchildren.
- You are supporting local truck drivers and manufacturers, who fuel the region's economy and keep our lives moving.
- You are growing farmers who grow the food that feeds our families.
- You are shaping a future that believes in hard work, service, and opportunity.

The Impact Program is about rewarding work ethic, empowering dreams, and removing financial barriers that hold talented young people back.

### **Inspire the Next Generation. Invest Locally Now.**

A gift to the Impact Program is more than charity; it is a declaration that you believe in our kids, our community, and our future. Your support in this final stretch can secure free college for every local student who is willing to earn it. Make your donation today and be a part of something that will last for generations.



**Dr. Lori Cortez**

*Vice President of Advancement*  
**815.835.6260 • [svcc.edu/give](http://svcc.edu/give)**



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