



# ALUMNI



Sauk makes it possible – *You make it happen*



# WELCOME

Dear SVCC Alumni,

It is an honor to welcome you to the Alumni Association of Sauk Valley Community College. Wherever you are and whatever commitments you have made in life, we appreciate you being part of our growing alumni community. The Alumni Association Committee was created to connect and support a network of former graduates while raising the profile of the college.

The SVCC Alumni Association was established to provide you, as alumni, a way to stay connected to Sauk Valley Community College by providing updated information about your fellow Skyhawks, networking opportunities, and invitations for SVCC events. As the co-chair of the Alumni Association Committee, I am pleased to present the first of our reinvisioned newsletters. I hope that the content in these pages allows you to reconnect with your alma mater, and fuels your Skyhawk pride.

Sauk Valley Community College has certainly been positively impacted by many individuals sharing their time and resources both at the college and community levels. We hope that you will join us as an esteemed alumnus to further impact the college and the community. Through the SVCC Alumni Association we hope to maintain a connection and bolster the bond between the college and its alumni while creating an environment that encourages commitment, connection and support of our community's college.

We look forward to hearing from you and learning your story and connection to Sauk Valley Community College.

Dana Chacon  
*Career Services & Community Education Program Coordinator*

 [facebook.com/SVCCalumni](https://facebook.com/SVCCalumni)

 [linkedin.com/saukvalleycc](https://linkedin.com/saukvalleycc)

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



**SVCC Alumni Magazine**

# 2022 ALUMNI WINNERS

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**AT SVCC**, we know our people have the potential to impact their communities in countless ways. Annually, we recognize those alumni who best represent our college and their communities, and are committed to creating a vibrant future for all. The alumni association nomination committee selected recipients based on peer recommendations and notable accomplishments. All award winners were recognized during the Commencement ceremonies held in May.

We are proud to announce the 2022 Alumni Award recipients.

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## Matt Prescott



*Matt Prescott* was chosen as the Distinguished Alumni recipient. He graduated from SVCC in 1995 with an associate's degree in business. Matt learned at an early age the importance of serving the community. He became involved in his family's

restaurant business in 2000, and since then, he has opened Candlelight restaurants in Rock Falls and Clinton as well as entered into partnerships and/or purchased other restaurants in the Sauk Valley area. His generosity to the community has not gone unnoticed. He has developed the Candlelight Gives Back program to reward loyal customers for their patronage while providing funds to various nonprofits and schools, with over \$250,000 given back. He continues to support the community by donating space, time, and energy to a number of events throughout the Sauk Valley.

## Matthew Lenox



The Alumni Achievement Award was *Matthew Lenox*. Matthew graduated from SVCC in 2015 with an associate's degree in science. After attending Sauk Valley Community College he spent the next two years attending Illinois State University. He

received a Bachelor of Science degree from ISU. Matthew is passionate about his role as Marketing and Business Services Director for the Dixon Chamber of Commerce and Main Street. He has recently been awarded two national advertising awards for the Discover Dixon commercial. Matthew is an active participant in the Sauk Valley community and has strengthened the area.

## Meg Frank



The Rising Star award recipient is *Meg Frank*. She played a very active role while at SVCC. She was the 2021-22 Rotaract Club president, social media ambassador, and is currently in the business club. Meg has taken the

initiative of getting ahead on her college career as she was enrolled in the Sauk Academy program. She graduated from Rock Falls High School while simultaneously completing her first year of college this spring. "Her dedication to her education and work ethic is astonishing," said Dr. Lori Cortez, Dean of Institutional Advancement.

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**NOMINATION FOR THE  
2023 ALUMNI AWARDS  
CAN BE MADE AT  
[saukfoundation.com/alumni-awards](https://saukfoundation.com/alumni-awards)**

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## THE ILLINOIS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

SBDC at SVCC was established in 2017 as part of a statewide Illinois SBDC network initiative. Along with the support of the Sauk Valley area counties, cities, banks, and community organizations, Sauk Valley Community College entered into a cooperative agreement and received grant funding from the Small Business Administration and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish the SBDC Center on the campus of Sauk Valley Community College.

**CLIENTS ADVISED**  
**187**

**CLIENT ADVISING HOURS**  
**795**

**ADVISOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS**  
**177**

SBDC offers no-cost advising to individuals and businesses who are seeking assistance with business development. The Center advises entrepreneurs and small businesses at all stages of business development, including conceptualization and feasibility, business startup, growth and expansion, and business exit and succession planning.

SBDC offers professional training and workshops that are designed and delivered by subject matter experts in the Sauk Valley area. Workshop topics range from those relevant to startups to those needed by experienced business professionals. The Center even offers multiple on-demand free workshops that can be accessed at any time.

To learn more about the Illinois SBDC at SVCC or to request a no-cost appointment with an advisor, visit [sauksbdc.com](http://sauksbdc.com). You may also reach out via phone at 815.835.6244 or via email at [SBDC@svcc.edu](mailto:SBDC@svcc.edu).

**\$2,470,539**  
IN CLIENT DEBT & EQUITY FUNDING GENERATED

**PITCH**  
**24**  
FORMAL PITCHES/PRESENTATIONS TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS

**6** SUCCESS STORIES  
**SUCCESS STORIES**

**20**  
NEW BUSINESSES STARTED

**25** TRAINING WORKSHOPS PRESENTED  
**WORKSHOPS**

**30**  
JOBS CREATED

**29**  
JOBS RETAINED

FOR EVERY LOCAL DOLLAR INVESTED = **\$43.75** GENERATED IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

# Spotlight on Success

The SBDC lends a hand to many businesses in the Sauk Valley area. **The Barkery on Science Ridge LLC** is one of several success stories.

Deb Proctor established *The Barkery on Science Ridge LLC* with the dream of providing luxury kennel suites, play areas, and training spaces for all dogs in the Sauk Valley area who need a temporary place to stay. Their slogan *“The Place to Stay when Family’s Away”* exemplifies the idea that her building and space caters to a small, home-like setting for dogs to feel cared for and safe while their family is away. The Barkery on Science Ridge LLC is a newly constructed building with all considerations and amenities directly focused on providing a luxury kennel experience for dogs and their owners.

**CHALLENGE:** Deb Proctor came to the Illinois SBDC at Sauk Valley Community College back in 2017 looking for assistance on how to build her luxury kennel space as well as how to properly establish her business in Illinois, create a formal business plan, and obtain financing.

**HOW ILLINOIS SBDC HELPED:**

The Center and her advisor have helped in numerous areas, such as business licensure, obtaining an FEIN, establishing tax accounts, creating several comprehensive business plans with financial projections, zoning, building and construction budgeting, market research, and operational planning.

**RESULT:** Deb Proctor was able to start and build her business and will officially open in July 2022. When reflecting on her experience of working with Justin at the Illinois SBDC, she said, *“It has been an exciting and growth-filled journey. Thank you, Justin and the Illinois SBDC, for guiding and supporting me along the way.”*

**LEARN MORE:** Visit *The Barkery on Science Ridge LLC* via Facebook or at their address 25689 Science Ridge Road, Sterling, IL





# EARNED TUITION

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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 provides eligible students, who graduate within the Sauk Valley Community College 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. Students need to complete the following five criteria to be eligible for the Impact Program,

- 1 Register for the program by September 1 of their freshman year of high school
- 2 Graduate on time or early from an in-district high school or homeschool program
- 3 Participate in 100 hours of community service before high school graduation (25 hours per year)
- 4 Apply for at least one other local/state/national scholarship
- 5 Complete the FAFSA

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To learn more about the SVCC Impact Program, enroll your student; sign up as a volunteer organization, or donate, please visit [svcc.edu/impact](https://svcc.edu/impact).

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Since April 27, 2022, 772 students representing every in-district high school as well as home-schooled students have signed up for the SVCC Impact Program. Since June 1, 2022, Impact students have volunteered over 5,000 hours! Additionally 121 organizations have signed up to be a volunteer partner requesting nearly 500 volunteers each month at about 90 individual events.

