



SAUK VALLEY COLLEGE 
FOUNDATION

Endowment Financial Report & Year in Review

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



To the friends, supporters, and donors of the Sauk Valley College Foundation,

thank you for your continued patronage. Because of you, Sauk Valley Community College students are able to pursue their academic journeys that lead to local, strong careers and therefore, a better Sauk Valley that never would happen without you!

As you look through this annual report you will learn about our hardworking scholarship recipients and how courageous donors are helping students get closer to building their careers. You will also read about alumni who continue to make their impact on the Sauk Valley and beyond.

Your gifts help address student emergency needs including, food scarcity among our student population; when rent cannot be paid or a course book is just too expensive, your generosity helps students overcome the financial burdens that threaten to derail academic progress; and when our athletes need updated equipment to compete at a high level, your support makes their victories possible.

Most significantly, you will read about an important update on our first multiyear, multi-million dollar campaign meant to not only provide thousands of students with an EARNED full-ride scholarship to SVCC, but also serve over 200 local nonprofit organizations, and create skilled and qualified workers that will retain and attract local employers. This Impact program is on track to improve the Sauk Valley in a multitude of ways.

I look forward to collaborating with you in 2025 to help ensure brighter futures for SVCC's students, programs, and initiatives. As the region's largest workforce training system, our communities are stronger because of Sauk students, and our students are stronger because of you.

Sincerely,

Lori Cortez, Ed.D.
Vice President of Advancement

A Year in Review

February 11

2024 Chocolate Rendezvous



Over 500 guests enjoyed an evening of live music, mouthwatering hors d'oeuvres, scrumptious chocolate desserts, and fireworks. A total of \$51,500 was raised to support the earned tuition initiative-the SVCC Impact Program. The 2025 Chocolate Rendezvous is scheduled for the evening of February 15, 2025, so mark your calendars to get tickets while they last!

June 25

Edward Jones Event

The Foundation hosted representatives from the Sauk Valley area Edward Jones investment firms to provide information on the Impact Program and SVC Foundation giving options available to their clients. Please reach out to your local Edward Jones agent to learn more.



Edward Jones[®]
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

September 9

Second Annual Yogi Cox Golf Outting



The Second Annual Yogi Cox Golf Outting was held September 9th at the Lake Erie Golf Course, with special guest Hall of Fame Pitcher Fergie Jenkins. A long-time friend of Yogi, Fergie shared stories of their time together while playing in the MLB. A total of \$5,369 was raised for the Coach Yogi Cox Memorial Endowment.

Recipient Spotlight

Sharon U Thompson Single Parent Scholarship



Kaylah Greul

“Thank you very much for selecting me. This scholarship will bring me closer to achieving my goal of becoming a social worker. Being a single parent is extremely difficult, but it’s also the most amazing thing I’ve ever done. It’s nice to be recognized for the hard work I’ve put in for the last two years—raising a child on my own while attending Sauk and working at a substance abuse treatment center. My academic journey invests not only in my future but also in my daughter’s as well. Thank you for investing in students like me.”

Dorothy K Engel Music Scholarship



Giovanni Cantu

“It is an honor to be chosen as one of the recipients of this scholarship. I’m currently working towards my associate’s degree for my major in fine arts. I’m working on my own photography business and plan on pursuing that after my education. I am truly grateful for this scholarship.”

Ann Margaret Brockwell Trust Scholarship



Sara Hintz

“Thank you for awarding me this scholarship. I plan to complete an Associate’s Degree in Science before moving on to study at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where I plan on majoring in Forensic Science. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to pursue my dreams and study something that I am very passionate about.”

SVCC Alumni Scholarship



Liam Johnson

“I am sincerely honored to have been chosen for this scholarship. Your generosity has allowed me to be part of the Agriculture Production Technology certification program. I look forward to starting my journey to learn more about agriculture so that I can take back to the family farm I hope to join. Thank you for your time, consideration, and generosity.”

Shapiro Scholarship Endowment



Trent Heller

“I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for being selected for this scholarship. With a strong commitment to my education, I plan to take 18 credit hours per semester while at Sauk and have these hours transferred to the University of Illinois. I am dedicated to my dream of becoming a financial advisor or an accountant. Beyond academics, I am deeply engaged in a multitude of activities that shape my character and aspirations. This scholarship goes beyond mere assistance; it is an investment in my future, and I am determined to honor your faith in me.”

Alumni Awards & Honorary Degree

The following individuals were honored at the Sauk Valley Community College commencement ceremony, May 10, 2024.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Robert “Bob” Sondgeroth



Robert “Bob” Sondgeroth received his Associate in Arts from SVCC in 1976. He continued his education, receiving his Bachelor’s Degree from Illinois State University and a Master’s in Education from National Louis University. He served 10 years as the Regional Office Superintendent for Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside counties before retiring in 2021. His parents encouraged Bob and his siblings to attend Sauk, and that encouragement continued with Bob’s children, who also attended Sauk. “I owe a lot of my happiness to Sauk. I have lifelong friends from my time here, and if it weren’t for Sauk, I wouldn’t have met my wife.” He commended the graduating class, stating, **“You are the smart ones. You chose to begin your career path through Sauk.”**

Rising Star Award

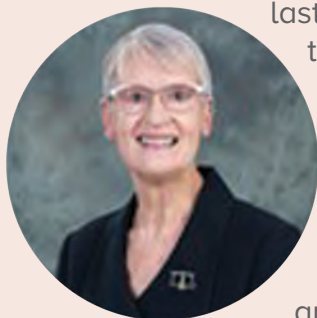
Karli Ewaniuk



Karli Ewaniuk received her Associate’s Degree in Accounting in 2023 and is currently attending Northern Illinois University, majoring in Finance. A member of TRIO, Rotaract Club, and Business Club while at Sauk, she learned the importance of stepping outside her comfort zone to explore new cultural experiences, which contributed to her diversity as a student. **“My time here at Sauk was memorable and has had a lasting impact on my future endeavors.”**

Honorary Degree in Applied Science

Linda Giesen



Linda Giesen was awarded an honorary Associate in Applied Science for her lasting contributions to the College and the Sauk Valley community. As the first female warden of an all-male institute at the Dixon Correctional Facility until 1986, she transitioned to the position of Associate Professor of Criminology at SVCC. After receiving her degree in law, she served as the Lee County States Attorney from 2000-2004 and practiced law with her husband, Henry Dixon. “I am deeply grateful to receive this degree. I never imagined who or what would shape my life, and I hope to continue to shape the lives of those who cross my path. She encouraged the graduates to **“shine your light; it is a gift you have to share.”**

Impact Program (District-Wide) 2023-2024

The SVCC Impact Program continues to show strong engagement across participating students and nonprofit partners.

- 229 Nonprofits** Volunteer Partners – Participating Nonprofits
- 24,754 Hours** Total Volunteer Hours Completed 2023-2024 by Impact Students
- 1,144 students** Total Students Registered for the 2023-2024 Impact Year
- 77%** overall retention rating from the program's first through the fourth year.



SVCC Impact Program Update

We are less than a year away from welcoming our first Impact students on campus to begin their journey of working towards a certificate or associate degree from Sauk Valley Community College!



Parents and students have reported positive outcomes from the program. Students indicated they gained valuable social, leadership, and community service skills. Parents noted that the program helped their children become more active in the community and bolstered their confidence and college readiness. Progress has also been made in the Foundation's efforts to secure the necessary funding to create a permanent endowment for this Program.

Beginning in the summer of 2023, the Foundation launched small-town challenges in Polo and Ashton/Franklin Grove to secure funds for the Impact students in these communities.

The response from community members has been great, with over \$600,000 in gifts and pledges received so far. More small-town challenges are planned for 2024-25 and beyond to ensure that all Impact students within the district are fully funded.

A Legacy Gift of over \$390,000 was received from the Ruth and Stan Mitick Trust. Lifelong residents of Morrison, Ruth, and Stan were civic-minded individuals who volunteered for many local community projects. Ruth, a teacher for over 30 years, and Stan, an engineer with General Electric in Morrison, understood the importance of education. Their gift to the Foundation was just one of many provided to educational institutions throughout the Sauk Valley area.

Now is the time.

With only 30% still needed of the \$10 million goal, now is the time to give to ensure that the Impact students in your community are fully funded.

To learn how you can give to the Impact Program or how you can transfer your current endowment into the Impact Program while retaining your original scholarship criteria and identity,

please contact Lori Cortez at (815) 835-6260 or lori.a.cortez@svcc.edu.

2024 Endowment Report

On November 4, 1965, the Sauk Valley College Foundation was officially incorporated with the State of Illinois as a not-for-profit corporation “operated exclusively for educational purposes to assist in . . . the educational functions of Sauk Valley Community College.” We are in awe of the vision and foresight of the original 14 Board members to realize the importance of establishing the foundation from the very beginning of the College.

The Foundation is now comprised of 13 volunteer Board members who live within the College district. They assist with developing relationships and capital that support the college’s initiatives and provide scholarships and other forms of support to SVCC students.

The Sauk Valley College Foundation has earned a 96% rating for cost effectiveness and overall health of our programs from Charity Navigator, a free, independent organization that evaluates US-based charities and provides resources to help people support causes they care about.

Endowment Overview

The Foundation maintains 62 endowed funds designated by donors for specific purposes such as scholarships, program support, and capital improvements.

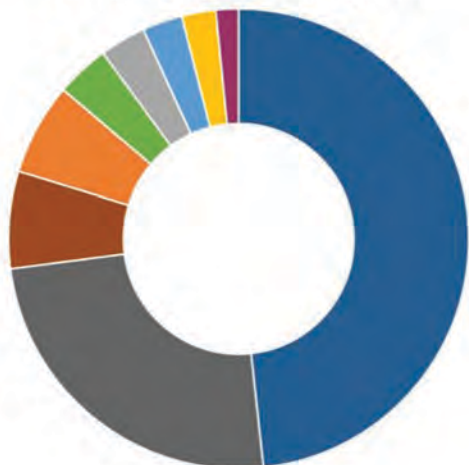
As of June 30, 2024, the Foundation had received **endowment gifts totaling \$971,772 from donors.**

\$683,185 designated as one-time gifts

\$288,587 as pledge and recurring gift contributions

A total of \$106,573 was awarded in endowed scholarships and assistance to students during fiscal year 2024.

**Total Distributions for
Year Ending June 30, 2024**



\$51,449 20 Health Careers

\$3,000 4 Agriculture/Sciences/Engineering

\$6,900 5 Athletics

\$3,450 4 Business

\$2,549 2 College Programs/Staff

\$1,700 2 Criminal Justice

\$4,000 4 Fine Arts/Liberal Arts/ Foreign Languages

\$7,250 1 Student Assistance

\$26,275 20 General Scholarships

\$106,573 62 TOTALS

Thank You



We are grateful for the generosity of the many donors like you, who believe that Sauk Valley Community College is worth their investment. Every gift contributes to the people, programs, and places at Sauk. On behalf of the Sauk Valley College Foundation Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support of Sauk Valley Community College.

SVC Foundation Board

William Wescott President
Michael Clark Vice President
David Abele Secretary
Suzanne Ravlin Treasurer
Michael Briscoe
Marcia Jones
Nicole Jones
Kelly Mandrell
Laura Oquendo
Angela Rivera
Lauren Roth
Robert Sondgeroth
John Thompson
Lisa Wiersema College Board Liaison

SVCC Staff

Dr. David Hellmich President
Dr. Lori Cortez Vice President
of Institutional Advancement
Kim Ewoldsen Executive Director of Regional
Economic Development & Donor Relations
Angie Delhotal Stewardship Coordinator
Nancy Breed Foundation Assistant