

2015  
Report  
to the  
Community

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
CHANGING LIVES FOR 50 YEARS

## MISSION

Sauk Valley Community College is an institution of higher education that provides quality learning opportunities to meet the diverse needs of its students and community.

## VISION

Sauk Valley Community College will be recognized as a benchmark institution of higher education that provides exceptional learning opportunities in response to the diverse needs of its students and community.

## SHARED ETHICAL VALUES

Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Integrity, Caring

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- Goal #1** The College will expand and improve the quality of programs & services.
- Goal #2** The College will continue to emphasize lifetime student success.
- Goal #3** The College will maintain an appropriate operating fund surplus.
- Goal #4** The College will be proactive and responsive to community needs.
- Goal #5** The College will enhance community awareness through a comprehensive marketing plan.
- Goal #6** The College will seek to maximize performance-based funding.





# From the President

What an amazing year for Sauk Valley Community College! During the 50th anniversary of the College, we have had many opportunities to reconnect with old friends and create enduring new connections with our alumni, friends and the Sauk Valley community.



The past year has seen a whirlwind of unique events for the College...each designed to spotlight the special connections between Sauk and the people we serve. The SVCC Retiree and Staff Breakfast brought former students and teachers back together; music lovers of all ages were *Rockin' on the River*; we sprinted and strolled a 5k for Sauk scholarships; dunked a few with our alumni basketball players; and even played with the lions at the Sauk Family Safari.

In addition to the special events held throughout the year, Sauk continued to bring value to the community by providing opportunities for academic, professional and personal growth. From the Academic Leadership Conference, Careers Fair, and Corporate Training Programs, to the 31st annual Child Fair, Community Theatre production of *Meet Me in St. Louis* and the opening of the Sauk Art Gallery...Sauk continued to change lives for the better.

This year has not only been a year of celebration for me, but also one of reflection. Looking back on my time as president of Sauk Valley Community College, I have seen a tremendous amount of change and progress. Sauk has made a true and lasting effect on the people of this area. For half a century, Sauk has improved the lives of our students, contributed to the success of local business and industry and helped drive progress in our communities. I am truly proud to have been a part of such an important legacy.

Although the 50th anniversary will come to an official close on December 31st, Sauk will continue to play a vital and irreplaceable role in the future strength of our area. As always, I invite you to visit Sauk, take a class, explore our many programs and see for yourself how extraordinary your community college is.

Here's to Sauk's next stellar 50 years and beyond.

Sincerely,  
Dr. George Mihel  
President Emeritus

# From the Chair

Andrew Bollman '96  
Chair, SVCC Board of Trustees

Dear community members,

The SVCC Board of Trustees is privileged to be part of such a historic year. Sauk Valley Community College has been celebrating 50 years of changing lives, families and the community. Sauk has played a key role by helping students achieve individual potential and the skills they need to have fulfilling and prosperous careers.

Today, the College remains strong due to a balanced budget. This responsible stewardship allowed the College to provide much-needed upgrades to stay actively competitive, including state-of-the-art science labs, upgrades to the computer information systems infrastructure, and a modern, hands-on precision welding workshop. We have been fortunate to continue to attract top-notch faculty who add to our quality educational core.

The Board announced in April the selection of Dr. David Hellmich as its sixth president. After an intensive selection process, the Board is confident they have chosen the best candidate to build on past achievements and lead SVCC into the next exciting phase of its development. Dr. George Mihel's presence will be missed, but his imprint on the facility will stand the test of time as he leaves this institution both strong and revered.

Whether one is pursuing a certificate, degree, or transferring to a 4-year institution, Sauk offers many opportunities for success. Student success has an immediate and permanent effect on the economic and social strength of our community. With an alumni base of over thirty-thousand strong and growing, the impact of our graduates remains undeniable.

It is an honor to be part of such an amazing institution, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for your continued support of a community asset that continues to transform the landscape of this area.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Bollman



# A Year of Celebration



## Sauk Celebrates 50 Years!

Our *Business After Hours Open House* in July kicked off events with a joint effort between the Dixon Area, Rock Falls, and Sauk Valley Area Chambers of Commerce. Community business professionals from throughout the Sauk Valley took part in this unique networking opportunity at SVCC.

In August, more than 250 past and present faculty and staff gathered on campus for the *SVCC Retiree and Staff Breakfast* to reconnect and reminisce about 50 amazing years at the College.



As summer transitioned into fall, we celebrated on Sauk's south lawn, along the beautiful Rock River, for the *Rockin' on the River* concert. The crowd enjoyed a beautiful late summer evening and the music provided by the Dixon and Sterling Municipal Bands, and the Rock River Jazz Band was spectacular.

April showers took a break for one beautiful day on April 11 as the College offered not one, but three 50th anniversary events designed to appeal to all ages. The day began with the 5.0k Sprint & Stroll for Scholarships, followed by the Sauk Family Safari, and ended with the Alumni Basketball Classic.

Hundreds of competitors, families, and alumni visited the campus and enjoyed a great day of Sauk fun.



If you enjoyed a parade in the Sauk Valley area, chances are you saw current and past employees, alumni, friends, the President, board members, and the Skyhawk mascot, Slammin' Sammy waving back at you. Sauk was proudly represented in parades in Polo, Dixon, Sterling-Rock Falls, Oregon, and Fulton.



Sauk has laid the foundation that made all of these amazing opportunities a possibility for me, and for that I will always be proud to be a Sauk Alumni.

**Curt Cheffer, A.S.**

**2015 • Dixon, IL**

# Recognition & Awards

## Institutional Excellence & Impact



Sauk continued to demonstrate excellence on state and national levels, garnering recognition for its programs and initiatives.

Winner of the 2014 Noel Levitz Retention Award for its First Year Experience (FYE) program, Sauk's FYE connects students to resources, tools, and the critical individuals on campus that provide valuable everyday support to set them up for success in their first year and beyond.

SVCC ranked third among community colleges in the State of Illinois by CNNMoney for student success rates. This ranking was based on the percentage of students who graduated within three years or transferred to four-year colleges.

Sauk ranked fifth out of 39 community colleges in Illinois for performance-based funding.

Sauk earned the distinction of a Veteran-Friendly campus for the sixth year in a row. The Military Friendly Schools® list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus. Sauk celebrated this

accomplishment with Congresswoman Cheri Bustos.

According to the 2014 SVCC Economic Impact Report, prepared by the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University, a Sauk program graduate can expect a total lifetime earnings gain, over a 40-year career, of about \$600,000. In addition, Sauk students and graduates contribute millions of state and federal tax dollars to the economy. Visit [svcc.edu/economic-impact](http://svcc.edu/economic-impact) to view the complete report.







# Athletics **An Amazing Year for the Skyhawks**

It was a phenomenal year for SVCC Athletics, “Maybe the best year ever!” shared Russ Damhoff, Athletics Director. From trips to nationals and conference title wins, to All-American honors, the Skyhawks dominated the Arrowhead Conference in 2014-15, culminating in the prestigious Arrowhead Conference All-Sport award.

**Volleyball**—Region IV Tournament winners, first-time NJCAA National Tournament qualifiers, Arrowhead Conference Champions.

**Golf**—Individual qualifier, Jarred Hippen, sent to NJCAA Nationals where he finished tied for ninth, and was named to the All-Tournament Team and second Team All-American.

**Women’s Basketball**—Arrowhead Conference Champions.

**Cross Country**—Individual qualifiers were sent to Nationals: Aubrey Johnson and Cody Sondgeroth.

**Athletic Recognition**—Thirty five student-athletes were named Arrowhead Academic All-Conference with three student-athletes named All-American: Jordan Giddings, Second Team All-American, Volleyball; Jarred Hippen, Second Team All-American, Golf; Stephanie Kester, Third Team All-American, Softball.

Congratulations to the Skyhawk student-athletes and staff for a truly amazing year!



**Softball**—Arrowhead Conference Champions and winners of the Region IV Championship to qualify for the NJCAA National Softball Tournament.

**Women’s Tennis**—Region IV Tournament hosts finished second overall to qualify for the NJCAA Nationals.



# Presidential Search

## The Search for Sauk's New President

In 2014-15, another milestone for the College came to pass. After ten years of service to the College, Dr. George Mihel, Sauk's fifth president, announced he would retire in July of 2015.



In the wake of Dr. Mihel's announcement, Sauk's Board of Trustees formed a presidential search committee, created a special website and dedicated themselves to the mission of finding the exceptional man or woman who would lead the College into the next 50 years. The committee sought a candidate who embraces the community college mission, believes in the transformative power of education and exhibits a deep commitment to the Sauk Valley area.

In April, the Board announced the selection of Dr. David Hellmich as Sauk's sixth president. Dr. Hellmich will have many opportunities to build on the successes of the past fifty years and create more avenues of growth for SVCC and the Sauk Valley region. In his acceptance letter to the Board, Hellmich stated, "I am honored to have been selected as the next President of Sauk Valley Community College. The college has a proud 50-year history, and I look forward to working with the Board, students, faculty, staff and community members to ensure the college extends its tradition of serving the citizens of the Sauk Valley area for the next 50 years." Dr. Hellmich has been the Vice President of Academics at Bluegrass Community and Technical College in Lexington, Kentucky since 2006.

The Board looks forward to introducing Dr. Hellmich to SVCC students, staff and the Sauk community in the coming months. As the 50th anniversary continues, the Board is confident they have chosen the best candidate to lead Sauk Valley Community College into the next exciting phase of its development.

# Capital Improvements

## Improving the Face of Sauk

The Skyhawk Gymnasium received a facelift this year, including the addition of a new sound system.

Sauk's Phi Theta Kappa organization worked with the Board of Trustees to create a scenic new gathering spot for students and visitors to the campus. The stone fire pit, located on the patio off the East Mall, overlooks the scenic Rock River and highlights not only the beauty of the Sauk campus, but the ongoing partnerships between our students, faculty and staff.

The Art Gallery celebrated its official opening as the premier location on campus for student art work, visiting artist showings, student and community performances and special events.

New, energy-efficient lighting was installed throughout the main areas of campus.

Newly branded tables were added to the cafeteria, highlighting the 50th anniversary and the brilliant red Sauk logo.

## Future Projects

The coming year will see exciting improvements and additions to the Sauk campus. New sidewalks and entranceway landscaping will be created to improve the look and usability of exterior entrances.

The Jerry Weston Mathis Theatre will re-open in the fall with new lighting to enhance performances and special events.

Currently under construction is the new "One Stop" Student Success Center designed to provide an all-in-one area for students to seek services, from enrollment through graduation. Construction is due to be completed by September of 2015.



At Sauk you can find great people to lead you toward success. I don't see a difference between going to Sauk and going to a university.

**Laura Cabrera, A.S.**

**2015 • Dixon, IL**

# Accomplishments

## Faculty and Staff Excellence

Sauk's faculty and staff continue to demonstrate the importance of life-long learning through their own educational and professional accomplishments.

## Education Highlights

- Catherine Akker, Assistant Professor of Nursing, earned her DNP, Graceland University.
- Melanie Armstrong, Director, Learning Resource Center, earned her Certificate of Advanced Study - Library & Information Science, University of Illinois.
- Dr. Christopher Carlson, Associate Professor, HVAC, earned his Ed.D. - Educational Technology, Northern Illinois University.
- Melissa Dye, Dean of Business Services, earned her MBA-Finance, Columbia Southern University.
- Roxanne Finneran, Instructor, Welding, earned her Welding Inspector and Educator Certification.
- Robin Fisch, Instructional Designer, earned her certificate from Illinois Online Network, Certified Online Learning Administrator.
- Kristina Fordyce, Technical Support Specialist, Banner, earned her Bachelor's in Business Administration, University of Springfield.
- Scott Gillihan, Instructor, Welding, earned his Welding Inspector and Educator Certification.
- Dr. Jon Mandrell, Dean of Academics & Student Services, earned his Ed.D., Ferris State University.
- Dr. Steve Nunez, Dean of Institutional Research and Marketing, earned his Ed.D., Ferris State University.
- Lisa Peck, Director, ABC AmeriCorps, earned her B.S.- Organizational Leadership - Columbia Southern University.
- Deanna Stees, Accounting Assistant, earned her B.S. - Accounting - Western Governors University.
- Christine Vincent, Assistant Professor, Nursing, earned her Master's in Nursing Education - Western Governors University.



## Professional Highlights

- Alan Pfeifer, Provost, was honored for his many years of service to the College with the official naming of Alan Pfeifer Drive (the main entrance leading into campus). In addition, Mr. Pfeifer was presented with the SVCC Alumni Association, Outstanding Alumni Award.
- Daniel McCollum, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice, a retired chief of police for LaGrange Park, is the president of the Illinois Association of Law Enforcement Executives.
- Tom Irish, Assistant Professor, English, was published in *Vine Leaves Literary Journal* and book-length *Best of Vine Leaves Literary Journal*.
- Dr. Nina Dulabaum, Assistant Professor, Psychology, was invited to speak as part of the official summer colloquium at the University of Leipzig, Germany.
- Mary-Ann Hurd, Assistant Professor, Office and Administrative Services, represented Sauk as the Northern Illinois Business Education Association secretary and treasurer.
- Jenny Bumba, Sr. Graphic Designer, received a GD USA American Inhouse Design Award for the 2015 Commencement Magazine. This is Jenny's fourth consecutive win for Sauk since she joined SVCC in 2011.
- Ed Andersen, SVCC Board of Trustees member, was honored for his nearly 30 years of service to the community college system. Michael Monaghan, Illinois Community College Trustees Association executive director, presented the award to Mr. Andersen adding, "you can't serve that length of time without being a stellar trustee to the community college and the students."
- Dr. George Mihel was presented the special distinction of President Emeritus by the SVCC Board of Trustees. Dr. Mihel was also honored by the State of Illinois House of Representatives with House Resolution No. 506., recognizing him as a model of hard work, integrity and dedication for the people of the State of Illinois.





## Sauk Valley College Foundation

### ▪ Sauk Alumni Association ▪

#### Giving and Reconnecting

With a current endowment valued at \$2M, the SVC Foundation focused on building existing funds, while also working with donors to create new and lasting awards. These awards will benefit students in immeasurable ways for years to come.

The Foundation board of directors created the \$50 for 50 campaign in celebration of half a century of changing lives in the Sauk Valley area. Alumni, friends and Sauk employees gave generously to the campaign throughout the year. The result is nearly \$13,000 raised!

Scholarships like the Alan Pfeifer Natural Science Scholarship and Dr. William J. Simpson Scholarship were created to help hard-working students realize their academic and professional goals. In addition, The Joanie Hipple Caring Fund was created to assist SVCC employees, including work-study and student workers, during times of great need or hardship.

The students pictured on these two pages represent just some of the many recipients helped by generous donors every year: top picture, the SVCC Science Transfer Scholarship, recipient **Julieta Cervantes**; middle picture, the SVCC Business Scholarship, recipient **Daniel Fredrickson** with Chick West, Dr. George Mihel, and John Nelson; and bottom picture, the A.G. Oetting Fire Service Scholarship, recipient **Matt Oswalt** with former Sterling Fire Chief, Arlyn Oetting.

In the coming year, the Foundation and Alumni Association will continue to create new opportunities for the community to contribute to the College. To learn how to make a gift to support Sauk's students, programs and initiatives, please contact the SVC Foundation, [svcc.edu/foundation](http://svcc.edu/foundation), 815.835.6345.





▲ **Dr. William J. Simpson Scholarship –**  
Recipient Haylee Altenburg with Dr. George Mihel  
and Foundation Manager, Sharri Miller

◀ **SVCC Single Parent Scholarship –**  
Recipient Kristin Bowman



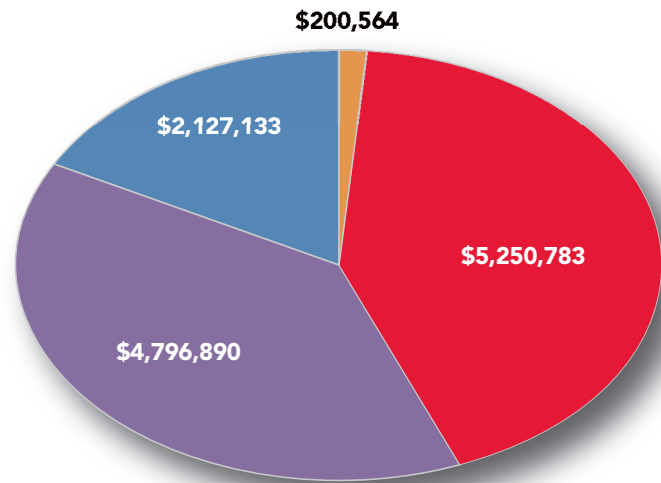
◀ **The American Legion Post 12  
Endowment for Teaching –**  
Recipient Cassey Kerchner

**The Sims-Hilton  
Nursing Scholarship –** ▶  
Recipient Jessica Whetsel



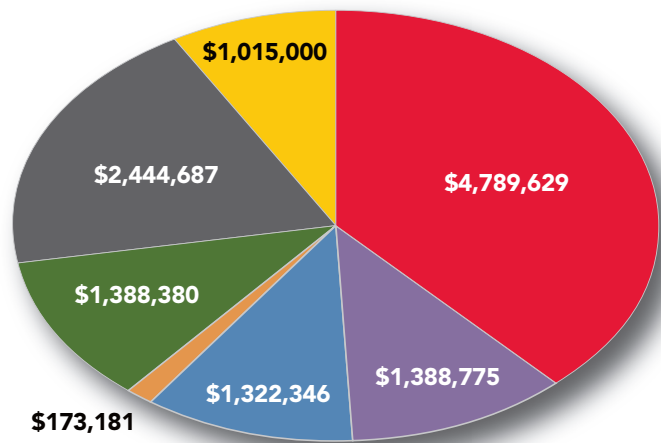
# Finances

## Revenues by Source Source FY 2015 SVCC Budget



- Tuition and Fees
- State Funding
- Local Property Tax
- Other

## Operating Expenses Source FY 2015 SVCC Budget



- Instruction
- Academic Support
- Student Services
- Public Services
- Operations and Maintenance
- Institutional Support
- Scholarships, Grants and Waivers





## Did You Know

- The College was founded in 1965 and is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.
- The main building on campus was opened in 1970 and has more than 450,000 sq. ft. of space.
- SVCC serves nearly 150,000 people in six Illinois counties including Whiteside, Lee, Ogle, Bureau, Carroll and Henry.
- Sauk has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission since 1972.
- For the 2015 50th anniversary commencement, 551 students received a total of 601 awards, including degrees and certificates. A record 159 graduates participated in the commencement ceremony.
- Sauk employs 46 full-time faculty and 114 adjunct faculty to maintain a 21-1 student to faculty ratio.
- Sauk is a member of the Arrowhead Athletic Conference and participates in five men's and women's sports.
- About 4,000 students enroll each year with 46% entering career-technical programs, 47% into transfer degrees and 7% for personal goals.

Sauk really helped me get ready to transfer. My instructors made learning chemistry a lot of fun.

**Kerri Foster, A.S.**

**2015 • West Brooklyn, IL**





# How to Enroll

## NEW STUDENTS

Contact Admissions & Records at 815.835.6273 for Enrollment Assistance

### Complete a Student Information Form

Submit a *Student Information Form* to Admissions & Records. Forms are available at the College, and on the College website [svcc.edu/soar](http://svcc.edu/soar).

### Learn About SVCC Program/ Class Information

SVCC offers many types of programs to assist students in reaching their goals. This includes career and transfer programs, and individual class enrollment.

### Satisfy Class Placement Requirements

Placement testing in English/language arts and mathematics is required of all students wishing to register for any English/language arts class, mathematics class, or any other college class requiring a specific ENG/ELA/MAT co-requisite or pre-requisite. College staff will recommend needed placement tests and assist with arranging a testing time.

#### Placement Options:

- ACT scores
- SVCC placement test results
- Review of credit earned at the College level

### Submit Other Academic Records

Students should submit their official high school transcripts, GED scores, and college/university transcripts from institutions previously attended. Students submitting college transcripts should also file a *Transcript Evaluation Request Form* in Admissions & Records. Transcripts must be delivered in a sealed envelope.

### Learn About Tuition Costs & Payment Options

SVCC tuition is charged per credit hour based on residence. Fees are in addition to tuition for classes that have additional equipment or supply needs.

Students are encouraged to apply for financial assistance, scholarships, and/or veterans benefits as early as possible. Contact Financial Assistance at 815.835.6339 for more information.

### Meet With an Academic Advisor

Students will need to meet with an academic advisor to discuss their career plans, placement test results, and course/program requirements. Call Academic Advising at 815.835.6354 for more information.

### Register for Classes

Students register for classes with Admissions & Records staff. Summer/Fall registration begins in April; Spring registration begins in November.

### Learn About SOAR, Sauk E-mail & Other On-line Tools

Go to [svcc.edu/student-login](http://svcc.edu/student-login) for assistance with accessing student accounts at SVCC.

### Pay Tuition & Fees

Students may pay by check, credit card, or apply for the deferred payment plan online at [svcc.edu/soar](http://svcc.edu/soar). Students using financial aid should contact Financial Assistance at 815.835.6339 before making payment. Students may also pay by cash, check, or credit card in the Business Office. For additional information, call 815.835.6267.

### Buy Books & Supplies

Visit the SVCC Bookstore to buy textbooks, supplies, and other important items.

# 2015

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All materials printed in-house at Sauk Valley Community College