

2022  
Sauk Valley  
Community  
College  
REPORT  
TO THE  
COMMUNITY





## Letter from the President

Dr. David Hellmich, President

### MISSION

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

Sauk Valley Community College is proud to be **your** community college. SVCC's faculty and staff – be it on campus, in the community, or via virtual technologies – are dedicated to improving the lives of our students and enriching our communities.

We are proud to introduce our new strategic plan that renews the college's commitment to making the Sauk Valley a great place to live, a great place to work and to raise a family, and a great place to retire. The Impact Program is a cornerstone of this strategic plan.

Sauk Valley Community College's Impact Program provides every young person in the Sauk Valley with the opportunity to earn their tuition at SVCC, and the Impact Program is the largest driver of economic development the Sauk Valley has ever known. When the Impact Program is fully implemented, more than 4,000 high school students throughout the Sauk Valley will be volunteering more than 100,000 hours of community service annually (learning about their communities and the importance of service; giving nonprofits the help they desperately need). When the Impact Program is fully implemented, thousands of high school graduates throughout the Sauk Valley will have earned their tuition at SVCC so they can get their transfer and technical degrees leaving SVCC with little-to-no debt, landing a great job in the Sauk Valley, paying taxes in the Sauk Valley, buying homes and raising families in the Sauk Valley, and being the next generation of leaders in the Sauk Valley.

The Impact Program is a reality now! More than 750 high school freshmen and sophomores are enrolled and already volunteering thousands of hours. A year ahead of schedule, the college has raised half of our goal of \$10 million to endow the Impact Program forever.

The Impact Program is but a part of SVCC's commitment to making the Sauk Valley a collection of thriving, economically developed, exceptional communities. As you learn more about the last year in the pages of this *Report to the Community*, we hope you share our appreciation for the many efforts of our students, faculty, staff, and community partners who made this another incredible year. We are always looking for additional opportunities to expand and improve our partnerships. Just give us a shout, and we will respond!

Sincerely,  
Dr. David Hellmich, President



# Letter from the Chair

Bob Thompson

Dear Friends of Sauk Valley Community College,

Thank you for taking the time to review our annual report and to recognize the accomplishments of our students. We are proud to be your community college with course offerings that serve our entire community.

We are excited to usher in a new era at SVCC with a strategic plan that is unlike any other in our history. Of course we will continue our focus on our university-bound students who will earn associate degrees in Arts, Science, Engineering Science and Fine Arts. Yet, our plan will expand to offer earned tuition (yes, tuition at no cost) through our Impact Program launched just this year for incoming high school freshmen!

We will continue to meet the workforce needs of our district through corporate partnerships and programming that serve our career-minded students. Encompassing all of this will be our visible outreach to our community to let you know that your community college is accessible and inclusive.

Truly, it must be a near certainty that every family in our district has been touched by our community college in a positive way. It is our honor to be here for you and your family. Whether you know someone thinking of advancing their life through a transfer degree or a career certificate - to learning computer skills or simply how to operate their smartphone, we are here for you. You are always welcome here at Sauk Valley Community College!

Sincerely,  
Bob Thompson  
Chair, SVCC Board of Trustees

## Board of Trustees

2021-2022

- Bob Thompson, Dixon, Chair
- Brian Duncan, Polo, Vice Chair
- Margaret Tyne, Polo, Secretary
- Lisa Wiersema, Chadwick
- Kate Boyle, Sterling
- Sam Ramirez, Sterling
- Danelle Burrs, Dixon
- Caitlin Cheatham, Student Trustee

# SVCC is a Vital Economic Resource

Fall of 2021 saw the results from a statewide Economic Impact Study on community colleges. The study, last issued in 2014, assessed the value of Illinois' community college system, bringing to light good news for the Sauk Valley region.

According to the report issued by the Illinois Community College Board, Illinois' 48 community colleges boost local Illinois economies and are important sources of revenue and employment for the communities and regions they serve.

"This study confirms that Sauk Valley Community College is a vital economic resource for the Sauk Valley region with an economic output of \$15.9 million in the last fiscal year," commented Dr. David Hellmich, SVCC President. "Investing in SVCC and Illinois' other public community colleges helps ensure the state has a well-trained workforce, pumping billions of dollars back into local communities."







# Updates Around Campus

SVCC's campus saw updates and improvements in 2021-2022 for both students and community members.

The fall semester kicked off with the unveiling of an electronic message center to mark the college's location along Route 2. The original Sauk Valley Community College sign was retired and replaced with a marquee designed to be updated with information to keep the community up-to-date.

Spring came along, and so did updates geared toward improving student experiences. The second floor, west end, underwent construction to update classrooms and add a student lounge space. The student area has been well received, allowing for individuals to gather between classes to study, collaborate, and form connections.

A study space in the Learning Commons Library received upgrades in March 2022. Study pods in the library replaced tables to provide a quiet and private space for students to focus comfortably on their studies.







# A Lasting Impact

In 2018, SVCC, the Sauk Valley College Foundation Board of Directors, and external community leaders began work to develop and customize an earned-tuition program that would open doors of access to higher education for thousands of prospective students. Based on national promise program models, but unique to the Sauk Valley, the college and foundation designed the Impact Program with specific regional needs in mind.

- September 1, 2021 marked the end of the sign up for the pilot program in Fulton and Prophetstown. 80 students registered for the pilot program and 67% of students completed their 25 hours and progressed within the program.
- The Impact Team hired two additional Impact Coordinators before launching the district-wide sign up period in April 2022.
- Within the first month of launching the sign-up period, 220 students opted into the program.
- The SVCC Impact Program has more than 750 students enrolled.







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### KEEP UP-TO-DATE

with the SVCC Impact Program!

Follow [@svccimpact](https://www.instagram.com/svccimpact) on

social media or visit

[svcc.edu/impact](https://svcc.edu/impact).

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# Growing the 815

Fiscal year 2022 was another productive year for the Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at SVCC, advising over 198 new clients in the Sauk Valley area with 987 total advising hours. The team at the SBDC also helped start 20 new businesses, created 34 new jobs, retained 28 existing jobs, and generated \$1.84 million dollars in economic impact in the Sauk Valley region. For every local dollar invested into the SBDC program, over \$43.75 was generated in economic activity that spurs positive growth of the Sauk Valley regional economy.

The staff at the Illinois Small Business Development Center continue to operate in a hybrid mode with most advising taking place virtually, as it allows more flexibility for clients. Whether you need assistance applying for a business loan or are interested in starting a new business, growing an existing one, or even reviewing an existing plan to help streamline expenses or find new revenue streams, the SBDC team is ready to assist you!





Photo credit: Debora Proctor, owner of The Barkery on Science Ridge

## SBDC SUCCESS STORY

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 that need a temporary place to stay. Their slogan “The Place to Stay when Family’s Away” exemplifies the idea that her building and space cater to a small, home-like setting for dogs to feel cared for and safe while their family is away. The Barkery on Science Ridge is a newly constructed building with all considerations and amenities directly focused on providing a luxury kennel experience for dogs and their owners. The Illinois SBDC has advised Deb throughout her journey of starting her new business in her newly constructed luxury kennel facility!

## SBDC SUCCESS STORY

Chris Schueler and Tony Walters, owners of **Brother Daryl’s**, came to the Illinois SBDC at Sauk Valley Community College looking for assistance in starting a new business. Chris and Tony had played in a Gus Macker basketball tournament and they would often call each other Daryl to throw off the other team. This is where their team name and business name was derived. For over 20 years, these two best friends dreamed of opening a food truck in the Sauk Valley area to fill the need for hot breakfast items aside from typical fast food options, and the Illinois SBDC helped them take the steps needed to achieve that goal!

Photo credit: Chris Schueler and Tony Walters, owners of Brother Daryl’s

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## REACH OUT TODAY

by calling 815.835.6244,  
 emailing [sbdc@svcc.edu](mailto:sbdc@svcc.edu), or visit us  
 on our website at [sauksbdc.com](http://sauksbdc.com)  
 to schedule an appointment

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# Sauk Valley



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svcc.edu

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