

**Sauk Valley Community College
December 21, 2020**

Agenda Item 3.1.1

Topic: **Acknowledgments – Former President Dr. George Cole, Former Criminal Justice Instructor John Roe, Former Secretary Lena Merlo, Former Ground Lead Gary Drew, and Former Welding and Multicraft Adjunct Instructor Steve Bierdeman**

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

Presented By: **Dr. David Hellmich**

Presentation:

Sauk Valley Community College remembers Dr. George Cole, who was the former Sauk President from 1972 until his retirement in 1980. During this time, he was successful in annexing several school districts to the College and held annual art festivals. He received his Bachelor's in Social Science, his Master's Degree in Philosophy, and his PhD in Administration and Higher Education. Dr. Cole left Sauk to live a semi-retired life that focused on tree management and farming. In 1988, he accepted a position at Bay De Noc Community College until his official retirement in 2006.

Sauk Valley Community College remembers John Roe, a former Criminal Justice instructor. John served Sauk for five years. He enjoyed horse racing, golf, reading, and traveling. John graduated from Centre College of Kentucky in 1964. He continued his education at American University, George Washington University, and the University of Illinois Law School. He was elected Ogle County State's attorney in 1968 and was the youngest State's Attorney in Illinois History. In 1969, John was admitted to practice in the United States' Supreme Court. From 1973-1979, he served two terms in the Illinois Senate.

Sauk Valley Community College remembers Lena Merlo, who served Sauk from 1967-1990 as the Secretary to the Dean of Career Education and the Secretary of Assistant Dean of Business Technology. Lena was a member of St. Patrick Church in Dixon and the Catholic Women's Club. She was also active in the Loaves and Fishes Ministry.

Sauk Valley Community College remembers Gary Drew, a former Grounds Lead. Gary served Sauk from 1988 until his retirement in 2010. He was promoted to Grounds Lead in 1994. Prior to working at Sauk, Drew served in the Army where he drove for a general and was injured in Vietnam.

Sauk Valley Community College remembers Steve Bierdeman, who taught as an adjunct instructor in the Welding and Multi-Craft program from 2005- 2008 and 2017-2020. Steve was also a long-time Whiteside Area Career Center Welding Instructor.