

Sauk Valley Community College
April 26, 2021

Agenda Item 7.1.2

Topic: **2021 Outstanding Awards**

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, Dr. Jon Mandrell, and Dr. Lori Cortez**

Presentation:

The College recognizes the honorees for the 2021 Outstanding Awards.

- Outstanding Full-time Faculty – Dr. Odile Blazquez, Associate Professor I – English Language Arts

Dr. Blazquez received a Master of Science degree in Written Communication and completed post Master’s degree work in Adult, Continuing and Literacy Education from National Louis University. She has received a Doctor of Medicine from the Technologic Institute of Santo Domingo. Odile does a remarkable job of reaching all students and being not only a great lecturer, but also hands-on with instruction and assistance to students. Her commitment to providing personal service and education to students is extraordinary. Odile has been highly regarded by the college community and regularly receives high praise and marks on feedback for her instruction.

- Outstanding Part-time Faculty – Lirim Mimini, Adjunct Faculty – Foreign Language

Lirim received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish Translation and Business and a Master degree in Foreign Language - Spanish from Northern Illinois University. He has done an excellent job at integrating online learning software into his in-person classes. The educational platform he uses allows students to work on grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary on their own time in a very structured format, so they are more comfortable with aspects of speaking in-person. Sauk’s only online language course is in introductory Spanish. Since Instructor Mimini uses the same software for his in-person upper level classes, it allows for a seamless transition for students coming out of the online introductory course.

- Outstanding Full-time Staff – Dallas Knack, Marketing Coordinator

Dallas’s nominator says, “When working with her on multiple projects, she is able to keep things organized, completed in a timely fashion and with excellence.” She represents her department, Sauk, and the community in a positive and uplifting manner. She is always willing to lend a hand and takes her job seriously. Her most significant accomplishment in 2020 is championing safety and civility. Dallas worked tirelessly to keep our students, employees, and communities safe and informed throughout the pandemic; she was available to send messages at all hours of the day and night.

- Outstanding Part-time Staff – Mary Huffman, Disability Support Services Assistant

Mary has a kind, compassionate and giving spirit. She is approachable to students, faculty, and staff. She supports students when they need someone to listen or give an encouraging nudge. She is always willing to take on tasks even outside of her comfort zone. Mary takes the initiative to ensure Disability Support Services records are organized and efficient. She has a positive attitude and believes in others' ability to succeed and accomplish their goals. Her willingness to tackle any task placed before her is remarkable. She truly keeps Disability Support Services running smoothly.

- Shared Team Achievement Award – Student Services

During the pandemic, the Student Services Department has worked tirelessly to modify numerous programs for students. Programming continues seamlessly in the remote environment including Jumpstart, FAFSA completion information, The Academy, New Student Orientation, student workshops, TRIO events/tutoring, student activities, and college-wide mindfulness moments as a result of creative staff problem-solving and reinvention of services in the virtual world. To better reach and serve students remotely, Student Services implemented the following changes:

- Used Virtual front desk on campus; Zoom drop in times while remote
- Established safe meeting spaces on campus
- Added a virtual New Student Orientation
- Delivered a non-cognitive survey to students with resources and services
- Distributed electronic and shareable resources to district high schools to assist with FAFSA completion
- Partnered with the Foundation to create student CARES Act application and distribution guidelines
- Provided virtual placement testing
- Partnered with other community colleges to expand online student events
- Recorded games posted to SVCC Athletics YouTube channel to view sporting events
- TRIO offered virtual campus visits, conferences, and cultural events
- Disability Support Services moved to sharing alternative format textbooks digitally