

Sauk Valley Community College
March 22, 2021

Action Item 4.3

Topic: Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award

Strategic Vision: 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 Kathryn Snow

Presentation:

The SVCC Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award recipient is, in turn, nominated by the College for the 2021 ICCTA Outstanding Part-time Faculty Award. This year's recipient and nominee is Lirim Mimini.

Academic background: Lirim received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish Translation and Business and a Master degree in Foreign Language – Spanish from Northern Illinois University.

Professional background: Lirim is a dedicated life-long learner. Despite an extremely busy professional life as a grocery store and restaurant owner in Ashton, he continues to expand his knowledge into different languages that allows him to relate to his students. He looks for a variety of ways to practice his Spanish, including serving as a Spanish language translator.

Comments from Nomination: Lirim fosters a comfortable learning environment for his Spanish language students. Learning a new language is a humbling experience, and many students are hesitant to participate in fear of making mistakes. However, Lirim nurtures his students so they are active participants, which is a core aspect of learning. Lirim is also great at finding different opportunities for his students to integrate into other departments at the College. He teamed up with our Diversity Coordinator, Ana Salgado, to have his students complete a three-minute information session with Spanish speakers in the community. This sessions served as invaluable experience for his students, as well as a chance for Spanish speakers to learn about college programs in their native language. Lirim has an increased presence on campus relative to most adjunct instructors. As there is no full-time instructor in the language department, he has taken it upon himself to update outlines and syllabi per ICCB requirements. He has also served as a mentor for the other adjunct instructor in the department by teaching the aspects of the educational platform, as well as aligning curriculum between beginning and intermediate level courses.

Recommendation:

The administration recommends the Board approve the nomination of Lirim Mimini for the 2021 ICCTA Outstanding Part-time Faculty Member Award.



March 22, 2021

Illinois Community College Trustees Association
401 E. Capitol, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701-1711

Dear Trustee Association:

The Sauk Valley Community College Board of Trustees would like to nominate Mr. Lirim Mimini for the 2021 Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Member Award.

Mr. Mimini immigrated to the United States from Albania. Since that time, Mr. Mimini has received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish Translation and Business and a Master degree in Foreign Language – Spanish from Northern Illinois University.

Instructor Mimini is a dedicated life-long learner. Despite an extremely busy professional life as a grocery store and restaurant owner in Ashton, Illinois, he continues to expand his knowledge into different languages that allows him to relate to his students. Mr. Mimini looks for a variety of ways to practice his Spanish, including serving as a Spanish language translator.

Lirim is also great at finding different opportunities for his students to integrate into other departments at the College. He teamed up with our Diversity Coordinator, Ana Salgado, to have his students complete a three-minute information session with Spanish speakers in the community. This served as invaluable experience for his students, as well as a chance for Spanish speakers to learn about college programs in their native language.

He has also 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.

Instructor Mimini has an increased presence on campus relative to most adjunct instructors. As there is no full-time instructor in the language department, Mr. Mimini has taken it upon himself to update outlines and syllabi per ICCB requirements.

On behalf of the Sauk Valley Community College Board of Trustees, I respectfully request that you consider Mr. Lirim Mimini as a candidate for 2021 ICCTA's Part-Time Faculty Member Award.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Thompson, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Sauk Valley Community College District No. 506

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

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