

**Sauk Valley Community College**  
**August 26, 2024**

**Agenda Item 5.1.2**

**Topic:**                   **Early Childhood Education Program**

**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:**       **Drs. David Hellmich and Jon Mandrell**

**Presentation:**

Under the leadership of Mary Beth Smaka, Professor of Early Childhood Education, the College provides degrees and certificates for students interested in careers in education, including infant, preschool, and school-age child care in early childhood centers and facilities. Over the past three years, the program has administered the Illinois Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity grant, which concluded this summer. The goals of both the program and the grant have focused on growing and strengthening the workforce. A report on the Early Childhood Education Program and its initiatives will be provided.