

Sauk Valley Community College
March 17, 2025

Agenda Item 3.1.4

Topic: 2025 Faculty and Staff of the Year Recipients

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:

The College recognizes the recipients of the 2025 Sauk Valley Community College Outstanding Awards.

Outstanding Full-time Faculty – Dianna Brevitt, Professor, Radiological Technology

Dianna has been instrumental in providing high-level radiologic technology instruction since she was hired in 2003. Her commitment to the program is shown by the success rates of her students. Dianna is determined to help students achieve their goals, both in the classroom and in the workforce.

Dianna has served on many radiology associations throughout her career. She has been a great help in bringing the new Sonography Program to the College, from initial application and approval by ICCB to course development, and to the hiring of faculty. Diana has provided guidance in determining the program objectives and student outcomes. She has received numerous local, state, and national awards for her work and dedication to Radiological Technology.

Outstanding Full-time Staff – Devon Plachno, Software Application Support Specialist

Devon has been an exemplary leader since he began at SVCC in 2021. He is the first member of the ITS team in each day and pursues excellence in all of his work. Devon is kind and professional with everyone he meets. He is dependable, respectful, and friendly. Devon is the first individual to volunteer when help is needed. When work is assigned to him, he readily takes on the responsibility and is always accountable.

Outstanding Part-time Faculty – Dr. James Sanders, Adjunct Faculty, Biology

Dr. James Sanders has been teaching Biology at SVCC for over 15 years and has played an integral role in shaping the lives of healthcare professionals and biology students. He has instructed over 400 students in Biology, providing both lecture and lab in the evenings. His real-world experience as a local doctor of chiropractic adds to his outstanding instruction and preparation for students pursuing healthcare fields. Workforce development is a core part and challenge of a community college, and Dr. Sanders is always ready and prepared to assist his students for classroom success.

Outstanding Part-time Staff – Ken Burn, Foundation Coordinator

Ken consistently goes above and beyond his job description, embodying selflessness in every interaction. He approaches each day with an uplifting attitude, a willingness to assist others, and a genuine enthusiasm for helping students and colleagues succeed. Whether mentoring prospective students, guiding volunteers, or collaborating with faculty and staff, Ken has an infectious positive outlook that inspires those around him. He ensures that every interaction – whether in-person, over the phone, or via email – leaves a lasting positive impression.

Shared Team Achievement Award – Financial Assistance

The Financial Aid Office fosters financial responsibility among students by providing education, personalized advising, and clear communication. The Financial Aid team is committed to integrity and fairness, ensuring that all students receive unbiased and transparent support in accessing financial resources for their education. Additionally, the Financial Aid team is committed to upholding ethical practices by protecting students' personal and financial information, ensuring confidentiality, and guarding against fraud or misrepresentation.

The Financial Aid Office promotes smart borrowing and monitors Satisfactory Academic Progress and the Federal Work-Study Program, which helps empower students to make responsible financial decisions. By balancing accountability with encouragement, the Financial Aid Office plays a vital role in student success, ensuring students feel supported through every step of their SVCC journey.