

**Sauk Valley Community College**  
**June 26, 2023**

**Action Item 4.2**

**Topic:** Administrator Appointment – Impact Program Director

**Strategic Direction:** Impact Program – The Impact Program harnesses the collective power of regional partners to create a sustainable path for students to pursue a college education and achieve career success.

**Presented By:** Drs. David Hellmich and Lori Cortez

**Presentation:**

One of the College’s strategic initiatives is the implementation of the Sauk Valley Community College Impact Program. SVCC’s earned-tuition program provides eligible students who graduate within the Sauk district the opportunity to earn tuition and fees for up to three years at SVCC, or until they earn their certificate or degree, whichever comes first. The SVCC Impact Program will harness the collective power of Sauk Valley partners and communities to create an effective, supportive, sustainable path for students to pursue a college education and achieve career success through lifelong learning, public service, and economic advancement.

*Academic background:* Ashleigh Sorenson has a Master of Science in Education in Adult and Higher Education/Student Affairs and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Northern Illinois University.

*Professional background:* Ashleigh began employment with Sauk Valley Community College in January 2018 as an Academic Advisor. She was promoted to Academic Advisor for SHARP in March 2020 and became the Impact Program Coordinator in April 2022.

**Recommendation:**

The administration recommends the Board approve the appointment of Ashleigh Sorenson as the Impact Program Director beginning June 26, 2023, at an annual salary of \$69,867.20.

# Ashleigh Sorenson

  
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## Education

Master of Science in Education, 2013  
Adult and Higher Education/Student Affairs  
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Bachelor of Science in Psychology, 2009  
Minor in Sociology  
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

## Impact Program Coordinator

Sauk Valley Community College  
March 2022 – Present

- Partner with non-profits, places of worship, community event coordinators, community organizations and school administrators and staff to onboard organizations as volunteer partners
- Promote the program at community organization, local government, and school sponsored meetings
- Provide program updates to the Sauk Valley College Foundation Board and the SVCC community
- Coordinate with students and families, volunteer partners, and school administrators on various aspects of the program
- Collaborate with the SVCC Information Technology Services (ITS) Department to maintain and update the program website
- Update program materials and resources
- Oversee the Impact Program app development process in conjunction with SVCC ITS Department
- Develop and implement the marketing and outreach plan for student recruitment
- Prepare and monitor the annual Impact Program budget
- Create volunteer partner newsletters to provide updates and important program information
- Report on Impact students', parents/guardians', and volunteer partners' survey results

## SHARP Academic Advisor and Transfer Coordinator

Sauk Valley Community College  
March 2020 – February 2022

- Empower, encourage, and support students while developing action plans for academic success
- Implement proactive advising strategies for at-risk students
- Collaborate with campus and community resources to refer students to appropriate services
- Represent the SHARP program at college-wide events to promote the services provided to students
- Recruit new and returning students to join SHARP
- Advise the Academy students and partner with their high school counselors regarding high school graduation requirements
- Create and update the Transfer Center website including all of SVCC's transfer guides
- Prepare annual budget related to the SHARP program
- Administer College Student Inventory (CSI) and promote SHARP at new student orientation
- Present on the transfer process to current students
- Prepare annual report for SHARP

## Academic Advisor and Transfer Specialist

Sauk Valley Community College  
January 2018 – February 2020

- Met with prospective students and families to guide them through the college exploration phase and answer any questions regarding their potential future at SVCC
- Provided career advising for students enrolled in SVCC's transfer, career, and technical programs; researched career opportunities for students based on program and intended transfer major
- Provided one on one academic advising for all programs, specializing in transfer degrees

- Created academic plans with students that included all of their degree requirements, customized to their intended transfer institution's requirements, ensuring that they are taking appropriate pre-requisite coursework to meet their academic and career goals

### **Academic Advisor**

College of Engineering and Engineering Technology (CEET), Northern Illinois University (NIU)

March 2017 – December 2017

- Provided developmental advising to all CEET students who had not passed the math milestone to receive advising in their major department
- Generated reports and other records for Central Advising Office students, using the Educational Advisory Board (EAB) Student Success Collaborative, PeopleSoft or other databases as needed; created, updated and maintained all advising materials and filing systems for the Central Advising Office
- Worked with students to develop an individualized plan to achieve goals related to their major and minor selection, and career objectives
- Created, developed, and implemented orientation presentations and advising sessions for incoming freshmen and transfer undergraduate students
- Represented CEET at various student recruitment functions, including open houses and other Admissions events

### **Student Success Specialist**

Office of Student Academic Success (OSAS), Northern Illinois University

July 2013 – February 2017

- Coached College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, College of Visual and Performing Arts, and Undecided students on topics such as; goal setting, time management, study skills, test anxiety, getting involved, organizational skills, and reading strategies
- Advisor for Northern Lights Ambassadors student organization; prepared the training manual and training program, organized monthly meeting with guest speakers based on learning outcomes specific to professional development, and coordinated events for the students
- Fostered and maintained partnerships with campus resources, including faculty and staff, in order to make intentional and direct referrals for students as well as to receive referrals
- Provided academic intervention for at-risk students through various OSAS programs including; Early Alert Referral System, Mapworks, and Faculty/Staff Referrals to provide academic support

### **University 201 Instructor & Graduate Student Leader**

First- and Second-Year Experience, Northern Illinois University

August 2013 – December 2014

- Taught transfer undergraduate students' academic skills to assist in acclimating to campus life at NIU
- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with students to make appropriate campus resource referrals

### **Office Support Associate**

Office of Student Academic Success, Northern Illinois University

April 2012 – June 2013

- Oversaw and managed the schedules of ten professionals and two graduate assistants
- Managed the administrative operations of the department including purchase requisitions, travel vouchers, payroll, and benefits reporting
- Monitored departmental expenses and analyzed budgetary variances

### **Leadership Opportunities & Awards**

- Organizational Planning and Improvement Committee at SVCC, 2023-Present
- Sauk Valley Leadership Program, 2022-2023
- Curriculum Committee at SVCC, 2021-2022
- Student Success Committee at SVCC, 2020-2022
- Impact Implementation Committee at SVCC, 2020-2021
- Developmental Education Committee at SVCC, 2018-2020
- Academic Advising Council at NIU, 2017-2018
- Chair - OSAS Green Office Initiative at NIU, 2016-2017
- A Huskie You Should Know recipient at NIU, 2016
- Co-Chair - Midsemester Check Committee at NIU, 2013-2014
- Co-Chair - Edible Education Committee at NIU, 2013-2014
- Member - NIU Cares Day Community Outreach Committee at NIU, 2013-2015
- OSAS Champion Award recipient at NIU, 2013

### **Professional Advising Presentation**

- “Student Success Coaching: Helping Students Move Towards Graduation”  
National Academic Advising Association Region 5 Conference, Madison, WI - March 5-7, 2014