

**Sauk Valley Community College
March 18, 2024**

Agenda Item 3.1.2

Topic: 2024 Faculty and Staff of the Year Recipients

College Health Metric: Human Resources – The College hires qualified employees and provides competitive benefits to attract and retain faculty and staff; departments provide professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.

Presented By: Dr. David Hellmich

Presentation:

The College recognizes the recipients of the 2024 Outstanding Awards.

Outstanding Full-time Faculty – Dr. Stephen Miko, Professor, Criminal Justice

During his first year at SVCC, Steve completed program review on the Criminal Justice program and made significant updates to the program that support student success. He is very active in the SVCC Police Academy, where he teaches Stress Management, Police and Community Relations, Officer Wellness and Procedural Justice. Additionally, he has worked to update various simulation equipment including a staged crime scene room. Under his leadership, student involvement in the Criminal Justice Club has drastically increased due to his incorporation of a wide variety of speakers and field trips.

Steve assists in recruiting by regularly attending events on campus, in the local communities, and at the schools in our district. Additionally, he provides employment recruiting opportunities for students through his partnerships with police agencies throughout the state. To increase access for dual credit students, he is teaching sections dedicated just to Sterling High School students. Steve has taken on the role of Faculty Leader. He is participating in the 2023 cohort of the Chair Academy where he is working on expanding his higher education leadership skills.

Outstanding Full-time Staff – John Rumley – Custodial Supervisor

John always works with a smile; he never complains when asked to work on a project; and he will move his schedule around to accommodate what needs to be prioritized. He knows the college and what needs to be taken care of when it is time for certain meetings and will take care of the setup without being asked. John routinely takes part in gatherings at the college and attends and contributes to many of the college events. Part of John’s customer service is his positive attitude towards everyone as he goes about his daily tasks. Knowing he needs to do things without being asked is his “above and beyond.”

Outstanding Part-time Faculty – Sherry Dimmig, Adjunct Faculty – Adult Education

Sherry was an employee of SVCC from 1991 to 2000 as an adjunct faculty member teaching English. From 1994 to 2002, she was employed by Roosevelt University as a program advisor for the Dixon Correctional Center. She returned to SVCC in 2010 as an adjunct faculty member in Adult Education.

Sherry was instrumental in helping Adult Education transition to a new ELA/ESL curriculum, and she helped to review various curricula. She also completed the ESL Standards Proficient Instructor course to become helpful in training ESL faculty on how to best utilize the new standards-based curriculum. Sherry has helped students by explaining to them what to expect in her class and thereby eliminating their uncertainty and anxiousness. She is a caring instructor who helps students be successful.

Outstanding Part-time Staff – Lexi Vickrey, Accounting Assistant/Cashier

Lexi always has a positive attitude. She has formed good relationships with the members of her team and her colleagues. Lexi strives for a high level of customer service, which shows through her interactions with students, employees, and community members. She is a great representative of Sauk by attending and participating in college events. She is dependable, respectful, and friendly. Since her workspace is at the front of the Business Office, she regularly assists community members who come to campus with questions. Lexi is willing to take on extra responsibilities to assist her department and the college and does so in a time efficient and calm composed manner.

Shared Team Achievement Award – Sauk Valley Police Academy

The Sauk Valley Police Academy has surpassed its goals for the first year, particularly in building a diversified workforce pipeline in public service within the Sauk Valley. The academy is dedicated to upholding the worth and dignity of all individuals in the Sauk Valley and beyond. The mission of the Academy is grounded in the principles of worth, dignity, integrity, and fairness. The academy has enrolled over 100 officers this year with the third class having 12 female recruits out of the total 33 officers. This achievement exemplifies the college's commitment to responding to community needs, expanding access, and promoting diversity. At a time when interest in law enforcement was believed to be declining rapidly, Sauk's academy classes have been full with outstanding officers.

Led by Jason LaMendola and Rebecca Flynn, the Academy's leadership team emphasizes high ethical standards, equal opportunity, transparency, and respect for all citizens and professionals in the field. It is evident that the leadership team and faculty conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the standards of the profession. We are honored to hear the feedback from departments that our graduates treat individuals with respect and demonstrate competence in their duties, fostering a positive and professional learning environment.

The Academy's community policing approach is deeply embedded into its values and curriculum. Police recruits on campus are caring and helpful, which translates well to our communities by building trust and fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and the public. The leadership team and faculty have a steadfast commitment to training our officers with the utmost professionalism, care, and support. Leading by example is a hallmark of the SVCC Police academy.