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2019  
Sauk Valley  
Community  
College  
**REPORT  
TO THE  
COMMUNITY**

# From the President



President Hellmich

Sauk Valley Community College is proud to be your community college. Sauk's faculty and staff are dedicated to improving the lives of our students and enriching our communities. Sauk provides quality academic environments for professional and personal growth, and we believe opportunities for growth should be accessible to everyone with the desire to pursue them.

Here are just a few examples of how Sauk continues to meet the needs of the communities we serve:

- Sauk faculty and staff expanded their community service and leadership, volunteering nearly 250 hours through the Sauk Serves Program and serving on several area boards.
- The Sauk Valley College Foundation received its largest one-time gift of \$500,000 for nursing and electrical engineering students, held the second Annual Chocolate Rendezvous, and hosted Dr. Martha Kanter (the Executive Director of the College Promise Campaign and Senior Fellow at the Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy at New York University and the former U.S. Under Secretary of Education) who received an honorary degree at Sauk's graduation.
- Sauk's Small Business Development Center advised 187 unique clients who started 33 new businesses, created 49 new jobs, and generated \$3,080,601 in total client financing.
- Sauk added Track & Field to its list of successful intercollegiate sports, which produced 39 Academic All-Conference athletes, 10 NJCAA Academic All-Americans, 1 NJCAA National Championship qualifying team, and 3 NJCAA National Championship qualifying athletes.
- *The Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program* – a collaboration with area chambers of commerce – graduated its third class of community leaders from throughout the Sauk Valley.

As you learn more about the last year in the pages of this *Report to the Community*, we hope you share our appreciation for the many efforts of our students, faculty, staff, and community partners who made this another incredible year. We are always looking for additional opportunities to expand and improve our partnerships. Just give us a shout, and we will respond!

Sincerely,  
Dr. David Hellmich, President

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

# *From the Chair*

Dear Friends of Sauk Valley Community College,

Another high point, with a successful year at Sauk Valley Community College, was reached at our annual commencement ceremony in May. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I welcomed our 2019 graduates, their families and their friends, while emphasizing that our Board members were filled with both anticipation and elation for our new graduates.

Anticipation . . . because we want their unknown futures to be as bright as they have dreamed, and we want to see and hear about their dreams coming true. These graduates are what define success at Sauk Valley Community College. They are our story and our legacy.

Elation . . . because dreams of our graduates have been achieved. Their accomplishments are considerable, and their preparation for the future is secured. When we look back years from now, we will celebrate this graduating class for helping us achieve our institutional goal of serving our community in all aspects of education; life skills, four-year college transfer, vocational training, and life enrichment in general.

Our Board is grateful to Sauk's faculty and staff who assisted and challenged our students as they worked toward graduation. Our faculty and staff are the absolute best educators in the entire college system. They are not just here pursuing a career; they are here for our students.

The Board thanks our graduates' parents, grandparents, family, and friends for their support as our students diligently pursued their academic and career goals at Sauk. I am sure it was hard for them, as it was for me, to hold back a tear as their loved ones graduated from Sauk.

We have a special gratitude reserved for our graduates. Our most sincere appreciation that they cared enough about themselves and their families to take this great step toward enriching their lives. We thank them.

Through their accomplishments at Sauk Valley Community College, our graduates will be wealthier, both materially and spiritually; they will be stronger, both physically and intellectually; and, indeed, they will be happier, both in their hearts and in their minds.

***Thank you. You are always welcome here at Sauk!***

Sincerely,

Bob Thompson

Chair, SVCC Board of Trustees



Bob Thompson

## **Board of Trustees 2019-2020**

Bob Thompson, Dixon, Chair

Brian Duncan, Polo, Vice Chair

Margaret Tyne, Polo, Secretary

Ed Andersen, Sterling

Lisa Wiersema, Chadwick

Dennis P. Fulrath, Rock Falls

Kate Boyle, Sterling

Priscila Castillo, Student Trustee

# Students Shine at Sauk

On May 17, 2019, families and friends gathered in the SVCC gymnasium and proudly cheered on Sauk's amazing students and the accomplishments they worked so hard to achieve. Over 130 Sauk students participated in commencement.

During commencement, two Sauk Stars shone especially bright—2019 Student Commencement Speakers, Abby Castillo '18 and Jake VanDeWoestyne '18.

Castillo and VanDeWoestyne had different journeys through their educational careers thus far, yet both share one common denominator: joining the hundreds of proud Sauk alumni.

VanDeWoestyne spent time in the workforce exploring options before ultimately making the decision to attend college, again.

*"As I move on to the next promising phase of my education, it is tempting to wish that I had made the decision to go back to school sooner, or that I had made different choices immediately after high school. But I've come to think that that isn't right," he said. "The great jazz musician Miles Davis said, 'If you hit a wrong note, it's the next note that you play that determines if it's good or bad.'"* VanDeWoestyne will transfer to the University of Illinois to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Castillo, who will be transferring to Elmhurst College to study graphic design, ended her speech with a takeaway lesson for all students, instructors, and community members alike: *"I learned many things at Sauk, but something that has stuck with me is I learned that it's important to know what you believe – whether that be spiritually, socially, or politically,"* she said.



1674 Degree & Certificate seeking students enrolled in 2018-2019  
56% Enrolled in Transfer programs  
44% Enrolled in Career Technical programs



Dr. Martha Kanter

### A Special Commencement Guest

Sauk students weren't the only ones highlighted during the 2019 Commencement Ceremony. This year students were joined by Dr. Martha Kanter, keynote speaker and honorary degree recipient.

Dr. Kanter is the Executive Director of the College Promise Campaign and Senior Fellow at the Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy at New York University. During Dr. Kanter's exceptional 40+ year career as an educator, she served as an alternative high school teacher; established the first program for students with learning disabilities at San Jose City College; served as a director, dean, and vice chancellor for the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office; and was the president and chancellor of De Anza College. She is most proud of hiring and supporting extraordinary faculty and staff.

In 2009, Dr. Kanter was confirmed as the undersecretary of education. She is the first community college leader to serve in this position. In her first two years as undersecretary, the successful implementation of the Direct Student Loan program resulted in a 50-percent increase in college enrollment, growing from six to nine million students who are Pell Grant recipients.

In 2018, Dr. Kanter and the national College Promise Campaign began helping Sauk Valley Community College and our foundation develop a customized promise program by sharing research, best practices, and networking opportunities.

Kanter is SVCC's third honorary degree recipient. In her speech, she gave words of praise and encouragement to students, telling them their investment of time, energy, and effort is a threshold to a lifetime of benefits.

**Your education is a step to conquering the world . . .  
there are worlds left to conquer, and we need you to do that.**

# Student Impact

## Students Making a Difference

The students of Sauk Valley Community College live, work, and raise families in the Sauk Valley area. This is their home. Sauk students are actively engaged in their communities through the College's many student clubs and organizations. Some of the highlighted activities from SVCC's student clubs and organizations include:



- **SVCC ABC AmeriCorps** members presented 109 stars (from retired flags) to veterans and active military, assembled over 100 "We Care Kits" for the YWCA Women's Shelter, and provided games and prizes to over 400 children at the annual Child Fair.
- **Sauk Student Veterans** organized and hosted the second annual Freedom 5K run-walk in November to spotlight the sacrifices and accomplishments of Sauk Valley veterans and to raise funds for student veterans at SVCC.
- **Phi Theta Kappa** collected emergency supplies for the Leydig Center in Dixon. Over 40 care packages were assembled, containing items such as toothpaste, deodorant, and gently-used clothes.
- **Sauk Student Activities and Student Government Association** worked with the local American Red Cross to organize three blood drives to collect 87 pints of blood, which saves approximately 261 lives.



# Sauk Serves our Communities

**Sauk Serves** further demonstrates the College mission to engage in public service that benefits communities across the Sauk Valley area. SVCC employees served at more than a dozen events throughout the year, volunteering 246 hours of time to the causes that help build a true sense of community across the region.

Some of the **Sauk Serves** volunteer opportunities included:



Buddy Bags Program



Hometown Holidays



Manufacturing Dinner



Bell Ringing  
for the Salvation Army

Dixon Christmas  
Walk



# A Year In Review

## Sauk Renovations

Sauk completed updates on the original 1968 air conditioning units. Over the summer, the chillers and air handlers were replaced in a project set to save Sauk \$1 million.



## Budding Opportunities in Ag

In November 2018, the Sauk Ag program received \$1500 from DuPont Pioneer toward the construction of a high-tunnel greenhouse. The gift was part of the DuPont Pioneer Community Investment program. The greenhouse will allow Sauk students to learn about plant growth during non-traditional growing seasons.

## Academy Students Advance

The Academy of SVCC provides elite high school seniors access to engaging college experiences built on academic excellence and leadership principles. Of the eleven area high school students who participated in 2018-19

class, five advanced to enroll at SVCC in fall 2019 courses. Students hailed from high schools across the Sauk Valley, including Rock Falls, Newman Central Catholic, Morrison, Dixon, Oregon, Sterling, and Fulton.

## Sauk Bumps Up the Security

With the ever-increasing demand for safer school environments, Sauk took action. Starting January 2019, Sauk introduced the College's first College Resource Officer, Deputy Kyle Kellen. A native of Amboy, Kellen has been with the Lee County Sheriff's Department since 2006. With experience and many hours of training under his belt, Kellen has already begun implementing new security measures and procedures at Sauk.





## Featured Artists

Art Professor, Glenn Bodish, along with two students, Rebecca Cutinger-Cox and Alyssa Devine, showcased their artwork at the juried Community College Art Exhibit hosted at Northern Illinois University.

## Hamilton: An American Musical

SVCC Community Education planned three trips to Chicago to watch *Hamilton: An American Musical*

with a total of 164 people. One initial trip was scheduled for March 2019, which quickly sold out; blown away by the popularity of the trip, two more were set in April and June. With the excitement for the show continuing to grow, additional trips are planned for later in 2019.



## Skyhawks Abroad

In the fall of 2018, Sauk began offering study abroad options through the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP). Sauk student, Kallie Timmons, spent the Spring semester in Carlow, Ireland as the inaugural student of the Sauk Study Abroad Program.



# Partnerships

Sauk continues to expand relationships by partnering with local organizations, businesses, and educational entities.

## **Whiteside Area Career Center (WACC)**

SVCC and WACC are wrapping up the completion of the Machining Technology Center housed at WACC with the recent purchase of a heat treat furnace and EDM machine. With these last pieces of equipment, WACC and SVCC students can see the formation of a working part from start to finish. SVCC was also awarded a grant this past year to assist in funding internships for WACC students coming into the Multicraft Technology program. Since WACC students have already learned hands-on training in manufacturing, they will be able to start an internship and bring value to a company immediately upon starting their two-year program at SVCC.



## **Families United for a Strong Education (FUSE)**

In April of 2019, 71 participants enjoyed a fun, educational night at Sauk, thanks to the Walmart Community Grants Team and Facility #891. The FUSE program breaks down barriers to higher education by engaging Hispanic families in the student experience; motivating parents to take English as a Second Language (ESL) and General Education Development (GED) classes; and helping families feel welcome in the Sauk Community.



### Manufacturing Day

On May 3, 2019, Sauk hosted 160 high school students on campus for activities and discussion to celebrate Manufacturing Day. The students also toured 12 local manufacturing companies to see first-hand the need for skilled workers in the Sauk Valley area.



### EMT Basic Training

Starting in the fall of 2019, Sauk Valley Community College will offer an EMT Basic Training course. Through a collaborative effort with MercyHealth, students will gain the knowledge and skills to provide basic emergency medical assistance to people in need.

# SAUK VALLEY COLLEGE FOUNDATION



## 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award

Lifelong educator, Margo D. Empen, was chosen as the recipient of the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award that honors a particular achievement of noteworthy value, a series of such achievements, or a career of noteworthy accomplishments that brings honor to the College. Empen graduated from SVCC in 1989 with an Associate of Science degree in Elementary Education. She also received a bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University and two master's degrees from Western Illinois University.

Empen has served the Dixon Public School District for nearly 30 years as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and in her current role as superintendent. She demonstrates ongoing commitment to community service through her participation in organizations like the Rotary Club of Dixon, KSB Governance and Advisory Board, and CEO Board of Control and Executive Committee at Whiteside Area Career Center. In the words of her nominator, "Mrs. Empen's commitment to serve others, our community, and its students is an inspiration and representative of Sauk's mission to engage the community in lifelong learning, public service, and economic development."



## Alumni Achievement Award

This is the first year this award was bestowed in recognition of alumni 35 years and younger whose achievements, public service and/or volunteer activities bring honor to the College. SVCC's student commencement speaker in 2007, Rachel Kobus graduated from Sauk with an Associate of Science degree in general studies. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in public relations and master's degree in communication from Illinois State University. As the Marketing Coordinator for SVCC, Kobus developed successful marketing campaigns including Sauk Success and oversaw all public relations and communications efforts for the College.

Currently the Associate Director for Alumni Engagement at ISU, Kobus leads communications efforts directed toward over 210,000 alumni. An active member of the university and local community, Kobus serves on the ISU Administrative/Professional Council and in the McLean County Chamber of Commerce Leadership McLean County program and sits on the executive board for the Association for Women in Communication-Bloomington chapter. Recently, she was recognized for her dedication with the 2019 Illinois State University Emerging Leader Award.

## The Chocolate Rendezvous

On February 16, 2019, the Foundation hosted *The Chocolate Rendezvous*. With more than 500 hundred tickets sold, participants from across our region enjoyed scrumptious desserts, mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres from Smoked on Third, gourmet shakes from Dixon Culver's, wine and bourbon pairings, and hand crafted coffee. The evening raised \$25,000 to support the students and programs of Sauk Ag.



Sponsors included Sauk Valley Bank; Jensen Chiropractic Clinic; Compeer Financial, Famers National Bank; Dixon Culver's; Community State Bank; Tettens Grain Inc.; Borg Warner; Sterling Federal Bank; CGH Medical Center; Rotary Club of Sterling; Ehrmann, Gehlbach, Badger, and Considine; and Selmi's Greenhouse and Farm Market. Thank you to our energetic Foundation Board and volunteers who made the vision come to life.



*We invite you to mark your calendar for next year's event on Saturday, February 15, 2020.*

## Sauk Climbs to New Heights with Aviation Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous leadership challenge of \$10,000 and gifts by donors exceeding the challenge, an endowment was established to help defray private pilot certification tuition. An aviation student pursuing a Private Pilot Certificate will spend approximately \$9,000 for tuition, flight time and instruction, books, equipment, and FAA required testing. While this total cost is an educational bargain among flight training providers, many students still require financial assistance. Through this scholarship, students will have the opportunity to start or continue their education and begin productive and satisfying careers in aviation.

## KSB Classroom and Lab Dedication

In honor of KSB and in grateful recognition of their generosity, SVCC officially presented the KSB Classroom, KSB Moderate Fidelity Lab, KSB High Fidelity Lab, and KSB Debriefing Room to members of the KSB Board of Directors on April 24, 2019. The area, located on the second floor of the SVCC campus, is the epicenter for Sauk's health profession students. The gift will help support the Nursing program initiatives at SVCC for the next ten years.

## Foundation by the Numbers

In 2018-19, the Foundation awarded \$267,004 in scholarships and over \$139,917 to support student clubs and college projects.

To view a listing of the Sauk Valley College Foundation Board of Directors, please visit [svcc.edu/foundation](http://svcc.edu/foundation).



# Skyhawk Athletics



Coach Russ Damhoff

A man who is synonymous with Skyhawk Athletics, the former Athletic Director and Head Coach for men's basketball, Russ Damhoff, was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) Hall of Fame.

Boasting a career record of 592 wins and 392 losses, Damhoff wrote the record books with his Sauk Basketball coaching. His teams tallied two conference titles and one regional championship during his tenure at the helm.

During his 31-year career, Damhoff not only guided the men's squad, but also served as the institution's Director of Athletics. He guided 10 collegiate sports and oversaw all aspects of the College's athletic programs. Along with his

coaching and administrative duties, Damhoff taught courses in the Physical Education department at Sauk.

"Russ' contributions to the Sauk Athletic Department are immeasurable. It is doubtful that we will ever see another coach with his longevity in any of our programs, and his record will stand as a true testament to his dedication to the program and the players he coached," said current Director of Athletics, Michael Stevenson.

Coach Damhoff stepped down as the Head Coach and Director of Athletics following the 2016-17 season. He currently serves the Skyhawks as the assistant men's basketball coach.

## **Chris Byar Memorial Scoreboard Dedication**

A native of Sterling, Chris Byar '83, '94 was dedicated to the students, staff, and programs of Sauk. Chris was an essential part of Skyhawk Athletics for over 30 years, often seen at games staffing the admission table, advising the cheerleading squad, or using her love of photography to capture classic Skyhawk moments.

Chris received the 1999 SVCC Outstanding Alumni award and the 2008 SVCC Distinguished Service award—presented to the premier professional/technical staff person—for her enduring devotion to the College. In 2019 Chris posthumously received the Spirit of Achievement Award from the YWCA.

Chris exemplified the highest of Skyhawk values, and she leaves behind a legacy of commitment and compassion that will live on at Sauk.

Sauk is proud to pay tribute to Chris' many contributions to the College through the dedication of the Sauk Valley Community College Home of the Skyhawk scoreboard.

## **Skyhawks Hit the Track Running**

Track & Field makes a return at Sauk for Spring 2020 with practices beginning in the Fall of 2019. By adding track and field to the roster, SVCC becomes the only community college within a 50-mile radius to offer the sport. Student-athletes will have the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level, the chance to earn a performance-based scholarship to SVCC, and the potential to continue their career at a four-year university through the Outdoor Track and Field program.

## **2018-2019 Athletic Highlights**

### **Nine Athletes Named Academic All Americans**

#### **Cross Country:**

Region IV Champions

Competed in National Tournament

#### **Golf Nationals:**

- Cole Ruckman (placed 49th in Nation)

- Colton Guy (placed 73rd in Nation)

All Conference: Cole Ruckman

#### **Men's Basketball:**

1st Team All Conference: Trevon Adams

#### **Softball:**

1st Team All Conference: Sarah Bisland



#### **Women's Basketball:**

Region IV Runner-up

All Conference: Bre Scheidegger (1st team) and Karlee Doege (2nd team)

**Volleyball:** Region IV Runner-up

# Faculty & Staff Accomplishments



## YWCA Women of Achievement Awards:

Congratulations to Brenda Helms, Janet Matheney, Karen Abele, and Xena Trujillo for their nominations for the Women of Achievement Awards. Congratulations to Angie Delhotal for being awarded the L. L. Ely Award.



### 2019 Outstanding Employee Awards:

Amanda Eichman – Full-time Faculty  
Brant Clements – Part-time Faculty  
Kristina Fordyce – Full-time Staff  
Nancy Breed – Part-time Staff



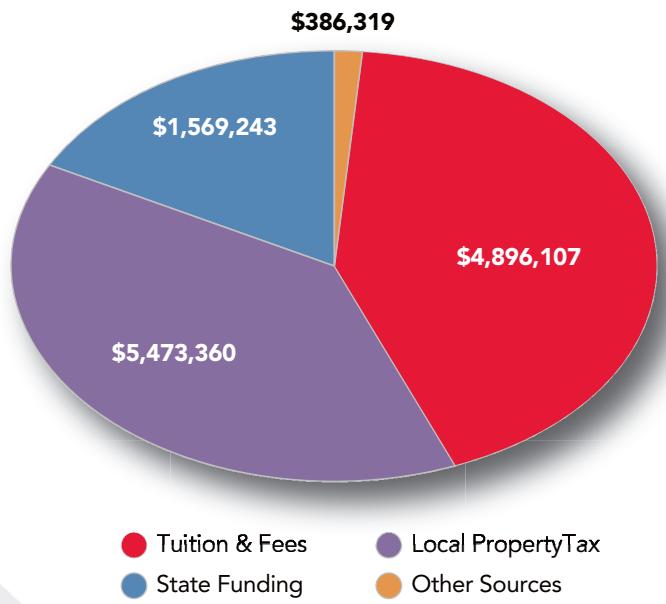
### Years of Service Recognized

Over 120 years of combined service to SVCC was celebrated at the 2019 Retiree Gathering. Thanks go to Janis Jones, Dr. Dennis Day, Judy Randall, Mike Sullivan, Mike Hunter, Dr. Mary Lou Kidder, and Lois Young, for their dedication to Sauk throughout the years.

# Sauk Finances

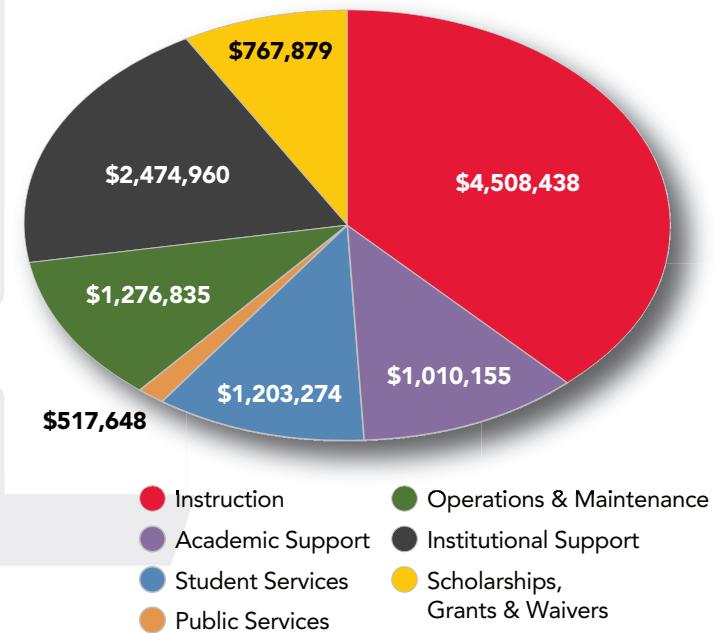
## Revenues:

Source: FY 2019  
Financial Records



## Operating Expenses:

Source: FY 2019  
Financial Records





# How to Enroll

## NEW STUDENTS

Contact Admissions & Records at 815.835.6273 for Enrollment Assistance

### Complete a Student Information Form

Submit a *Student Information Form* to Admissions & Records. Forms are available at the College, and on the College website svcc.edu/soar.

### Learn About SVCC Program/ Class Information

SVCC offers many types of programs to assist students in reaching their goals. This includes career and transfer programs, and individual class enrollment.

### Satisfy Class Placement Requirements

Placement testing in English/language arts and mathematics is required of all students wishing to register for any English/language arts class, mathematics class, or any other college class requiring a specific ENG/ELA/MAT co-requisite or pre-requisite. College staff will recommend needed placement tests and assist with arranging a testing time.

#### Placement Options:

- ACT/SAT scores
- SVCC placement test results
- Review of credit earned at the College level

### Submit Other Academic Records

Students should submit their official high school transcripts, GED scores, and college/university transcripts from institutions previously attended. Students submitting college transcripts should also file a *Transcript Evaluation Request Form* in Admissions & Records. Transcripts must be delivered in a sealed envelope.

### Learn About Tuition Costs & Payment Options

SVCC tuition is charged per credit hour based on residence. Fees are in addition to tuition for classes that have additional equipment or supply needs.

Students are encouraged to apply for financial assistance, scholarships, and/or veterans benefits as early as possible. Contact Financial Assistance at 815.835.6339 for more information.

### Meet With an Academic Advisor

Students will need to meet with an academic advisor to discuss their career plans, placement test results, and course/program requirements. Call Academic Advising at 815.835.6354 for more information.

### Register for Classes

Students register for classes with Admissions & Records staff. Summer/Fall registration begins in April; Spring registration begins in November.

### Learn About SOAR, Sauk E-mail & Other On-line Tools

Go to svcc.edu/student-login for assistance with accessing student accounts at SVCC.

### Pay Tuition & Fees

Students may pay by check, credit card, or apply for the deferred payment plan online at svcc.edu/soar. Students using financial aid should contact Financial Assistance at 815.835.6339 before making payment. Students may also pay by cash, check, or credit card in the Business Office. For additional information, call 815.835.6267.

### Buy Books & Supplies

Visit the SVCC Bookstore to buy textbooks, supplies, and other important items.



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