



Elgin  
Community  
College

## 2022 Report to the Community



ASPEN TOP  
25 IN THE  
NATION



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Elgin Community College publishes the Report to the Community annually to share the primary news, accomplishments, and financial reports of the previous year.

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### FOLLOW US ON:



## MISSION

To improve people's lives through learning.

## Dear ECC Community,

Elgin Community College is proud to be your community college since 1949. After all, the community is at the heart of our work. It is whom we serve. It is our identity. It is you, our friends, neighbors, and anyone seeking to gain new skills, knowledge, and opportunity. We are here for you.

Part of this service to our community is a commitment to improvement, a commitment to elevating the image of the entire district. To that end, it was ECC's honor to receive two prestigious acknowledgments this past year. Achieving the Dream, an organization that supports a national network of community colleges, named ECC a Leader College of Distinction, determined by rigorous metrics demonstrating sustained improvements in student outcomes and reduced equity gaps. Additionally, the Aspen Institute, a global nonprofit, named ECC a top 25 semifinalist out of 1,047 community colleges nationwide for the 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. ECC is one of only two community colleges in Illinois recognized with this prestigious honor. These acknowledgments are a direct result of ECC's strategic focus and progress in achieving successful and equitable outcomes for students and are testaments to the exceptional work of our faculty, staff, administrators, and board of trustees. We invite you to read more about this work in the pages of this report.

In May, we eagerly returned to in-person commencement ceremonies for the first time since December 2019. There is just something electric about being in the Events Center with more than 500 graduates and their families and friends, hearing the cheers as their names are called, and seeing the looks on their faces as they receive the degree or certificate for which they worked so hard.

This energy carried over into the fall when the college saw a double-digit increase in enrollment. More than 8,900 students enrolled for the fall semester, representing a 10.8% increase over the previous fall, which outpaced the state average of 1.5%. ECC's flexibility and affordability were critical factors in this growth. For the sixth consecutive year, the board of trustees voted to keep tuition flat for in-district students.

Of course, the most important highlights of 2022 are the stories of our students — their accomplishments, perseverance, and ability to adapt and overcome all obstacles. Employers are ready to recruit and hire our students to fill in-demand jobs. In fact, we even added three new programs — medical assisting, ophthalmic technician, and recovery support specialist — to meet local demand and began training students in those programs last fall. Furthermore, our internship and apprenticeship programs continue to help students gain hands-on experience and earn while they learn.

And finally, last year was the start of our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. Strategy is the key to helping us fulfill our mission and achieve our vision. This plan is the result of a yearlong collaboration among a team of faculty, administrators, staff, students, and trustees, along with community input and feedback. This team engaged in critical reflection on our data, accomplishments, and opportunities for growth. You can read more in this report about the strategic plan and the key imperatives that will guide our initiatives to continue our mission of improving people's lives through learning.

We appreciate you and your support.

**David Sam, PhD, JD, LLM**  
President



**Jennifer Rakow, BA**  
Chair, Community College  
District 509 Board of Trustees



# ASPEN TOP 25 DISTINCTION

**E**lgin Community College is part of an elite group of 25 community colleges nationwide, and only one of two community colleges in Illinois, as a semifinalist for the 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. Awarded by the Aspen Institute, the award aims to celebrate excellence, advance a focus on equitable student success, and stimulate the replication of effective culture and practice.

The \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence is the nation's signature recognition of community colleges. Awarded every two years, the prize honors colleges with outstanding performance in five critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, and equitable outcomes for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds.

In years past, only 10 community colleges earned semifinalist status. This change of recognizing the top 25 highlights the increased number of colleges across the country doing excellent work. ECC received the Top 150 Aspen Prize honor in 2015, 2019, 2021, and 2023.

"This recognition results from the dedication that permeates all areas of the college to dismantle barriers, expand access, and improve student success. We are incredibly proud and humbled by this recognition and will continue to serve the diverse needs of our students with excellence in the classroom and beyond," said President David Sam.



## Aspen Fellowships



**Peggy Heinrich**, EdD, vice president of teaching, learning, and student development, is one of 31 leaders in the nation selected for the 2022-23 class of the Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship. This program, delivered in collaboration with the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative, prepares the next generation of community college presidents to transform institutions to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success.



**Kristina Garcia**, PhD, dean of the communications and behavioral sciences division, accepted the offer to serve as an inaugural Aspen Index Impact Fellow. This fellowship will bring together more than 90 community stakeholders in a movement to advance the future of youth leadership development. Fellows include college presidents, senior leaders, educators, and youth from across the United States.



**Hailey Hall, '22**  
**Associate in Arts**

# STUDENT ENROLLMENT 10.8%

Elgin Community College's fall enrollment reflects a 10.8% increase over fall 2021. More than 8,900 students enrolled for the beginning of the fall 2022 semester, with more than 9,200 students in total enrolling through late fall start dates for 12- and 10-week courses.

## FLEXIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY ARE KEY FACTORS IN ENROLLMENT GROWTH:

- The college has held tuition flat for the past five years at \$132 per credit hour for district residents, reinforcing our commitment to keeping access to higher education affordable.
- The number of in-person class options for students increased to 60% primarily due to lifting social distancing requirements related to COVID-19.
- To ensure we are meeting the diverse learning needs of our students, the college will continue to offer classes that can be taken online synchronously, asynchronously, or in a hybrid format.

"We continue to prioritize taking time to understand where every individual is in their unique educational journey so we can meet them at that same place and guide them forward with the resources and supports they need to succeed," said President David Sam. "I believe we are seeing the results of this deliberate and targeted outreach in the positive enrollment trends across all programs and student demographics."



## By the Number Increases

42% ▲ in transfer students

40% ▲ in reverse students who already earned a bachelor's degree or higher

84% ▲ in students enrolled in adult basic education programs

85% ▲ in students 55 years and older

78% ▲ in dual-credit program students

### 12,663

students enrolled (21-22 academic year)

### 2,201

degrees/certificates awarded  
(21-22 academic year)

### 25 years old

average student age  
58% under 23 years old

### 1,422

dual-credit students  
enrolled in fall 2022

## Top 10 Degree/Certificate Programs (21-22 academic year)

1. AA - Associate in Arts
2. AS - Associate in Science
3. AES - Associate in Engineering Science
4. AAS\* - Nursing
5. AAS\* - Management
6. AAS\* - Criminal Justice
7. AAS\* - Computer Information Systems
8. AAS\* - Accounting
9. AAS\* - Early Childhood Education
10. AAS\* - Culinary Management-Culinary Arts

*\*Associate of Applied Science*



# COACHING CREATES CHANGE

## Student Success Coaches aid achievement

Elgin Community College's new student success coaches are proving to be key to student achievement. The primary goals of the student success coaching program are to increase course success, course progression, and student retention for targeted populations.

Eligible students include Black and Latinx students, those enrolled in an online or hybrid course, students in developmental education classes, and those referred from the Student Access and Disability Services Office. The program, established in the fall of 2021, shows early positive qualitative and quantitative data. Students who received coaching services outperformed their peers in key persistence metrics, and met or exceeded the original goals for the program. Persistence from fall 2021 to fall 2022 among non-coached Black students was only 69%, whereas coached students persisted at a rate of 95%. Coached students in English and math courses persisted at 93% and 95%, respectively, compared to 75% and 83% of non-coached students.

And student feedback indicates that the student success coaches provide more than just the necessary academic support, they provide social-emotional support for the students' overall well-being.

"The first few semesters of the coaching program proved extremely valuable to vulnerable student populations," said Peggy Gundrum, associate dean of student success. "The results illustrate the need for additional coaches, which would open the coaching program to more students struggling to persist through their college education."

The college used Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act funding to establish a professional ECC Student Success Coaching Program within the Division of Student Services & Development to provide holistic support to vulnerable students in the COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 educational landscape.

### ECC'S STUDENT SUCCESS COACHES:



Victor Brito



Bianca Diaz



Chiquita Hallom

### Survey Says...

**98%**

of students feel welcomed and respected when visiting their coach

**95%**

of students believe that attending a coaching session positively impacted their experience or success at college

**92%**

of students believe that the coaching sessions helped them be more successful in class

**94%**

of students said that the coaching experience helped them better advocate for the support they need

**100%**

of students agree that the success coach provided them with an appropriate resource and/or referral

# EXPLORE AND THRIVE

## Center for Undergraduate Research, Innovation, and Creativity

In 2022, Mia Hardy, PhD, assistant professor of sociology, approached five of her faculty cohorts with an idea: a mentoring program for women of color interested in research. "People of color, especially young women, are still underrepresented in the research pipeline for both academic and scientific research," said Hardy. Called Spartan Women Achieving Greatness (SWAG), this collective gave women of color the opportunity to design and conduct a research project under the supervision of a faculty member – something that is usually only seen at a four-year college. Due to the pilot program's success, ECC institutionalized the program in the fall of 2022 as the Center for Undergraduate Research, Innovation, and Creativity (CURIC). The college paired those selected as fellows with an ECC faculty member in their area of interest. These student/faculty research pairs spent the fall developing research projects based on the students' interests and passions. "Institutionalizing this program creates a unique opportunity for students at ECC to participate in a student-centered environment featuring faculty-mentored research and engagement opportunities," said Hardy. Projects include environmental impact studies, neuroscience of addiction, recidivism and injustice in the juvenile justice system, gender fluidity, and more. CURIC Student Fellows will have the opportunity to present their research to the broader community in 2023. CURIC will continue to expand and connect students with research opportunities in the communications and social sciences disciplines, liberal and performing arts, STEM, and health profession fields. Any ECC student with an interest in research can apply to CURIC.

"Institutionalizing this program creates a unique opportunity for students at ECC to participate in a student-centered environment featuring faculty-mentored research and engagement opportunities."

— Mia Hardy



# SUPPORTING STUDENTS' NEEDS

## Spartan Success Early Alert improves retention

The Spartan Success Early Alert program promotes student retention and success by engaging in proactive student interventions and fosters personal connections between students, faculty, and advisors. Faculty submit alerts to connect vulnerable and struggling students with the people and resources they need to be successful. The Academic and Transfer Advising Department launched a new customer relationship management software to streamline student success efforts, which increased communication

between faculty and advisors. In the past year, faculty members submitted 2,715 early alerts. With an emphasis on positive encouragement, the new system recorded 705 formal notes of positive encouragement, which academic advisors passed on to the students. Students who follow through with an early alert, by meeting with their advisor to review and adjust their plan, are more likely to earn passing grades in the alerted class and more likely to continue in the next semester.

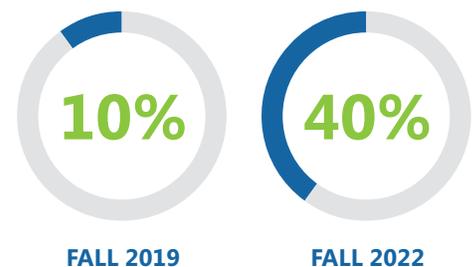


## Adult education students benefit from online delivery

Elgin Community College continues to grow and improve its online course offerings to provide students flexibility in how they learn. In the fall of 2022, enrollment in adult basic education increased by 84%, largely due to the expansion of online course offerings, including the ability for students to take their entire high school equivalency prep program online. This modality allows students facing transportation or child care barriers to attend classes virtually. ECC's success with synchronous online classes is due to the intentional design by faculty members in creating active learning environments through breakout rooms, checklists, and real-time support. Students are able to share their experiences, learn, and grow together. Faculty reported a high level of engagement with their students, sometimes higher than in face-to-face classes.

### ONLINE OFFERING INCREASE

In the fall of 2019, only 10% of ECC courses had an online section; in the fall of 2022, 40% of all courses offered an online section.



# ECC ADOPTS INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Elgin Community College District 509 Board of Trustees approved the college's first Indigenous Land Acknowledgment Statement in December. ECC students researched and drafted the statement in the new History of Native America course (HIS-150) taught by Antonio Ramirez, PhD, assistant professor of history and political science.

"This is an important first step toward building more awareness of Indigenous people and issues, past and present, on ECC's campus," said Ramirez. "I believe the students learned a lot through this process, and so did I."

The students in Ramirez's class engaged in discussions and field trips to local Indigenous culture centers and events, learning about the history and current issues facing indigenous people, and reflected on these conversations to develop and revise their statement.

"It was important to understand the original inhabitants of the land we stand on; learning the history of who lived here has been eye-opening. I've lived my entire life in the same hunting/fishing grounds of the Sauk, where Black Hawk and many tribes thrived. It's amazing ECC took the opportunity to share our land acknowledgment," said Dario Bartucci, a student in Ramirez's class.

Ramirez emphasized that this is not the end of their work, but only the beginning. "A formal land acknowledgment sets the stage for future engagement with local indigenous groups as we continue to learn and grow as a campus community."

## Indigenous Land Acknowledgment Statement reads:

*We acknowledge that Elgin Community College currently sits on the traditional homelands of Anishinaabe peoples, also known as the Three Fires Confederacy: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. Many other Native peoples also lived on this land and in this region.*

*Forced removal and violence, including the 1804 Treaty of St. Louis and the 1829 Treaty of Prairie du Chien, made way for European settlements which eventually included the land where our campus sits.*

*Native peoples have survived attempts to erase their culture, language, and heritage but continue to thrive on this land.*

*Elgin Community College commits to sharing this history and promises to help cultivate a bright future for Native peoples on campus and beyond.*

*Let this statement allow us to open our ears and sincerely listen to the voices of Native peoples. Let it be the beginning of a continuing, deep, and respectful relationship between ECC and Native peoples.*



# STUDENT EXCELLENCE IN AND OUT

## Homegrown: Tomorrow's educators

In May, the second cohort of students from the PLEDGE Elgin (Partnering to Lead and Empower District-Grown Educators) program celebrated the completion of their bachelor's degree. A partnership with Northern Illinois University (NIU), PLEDGE Elgin develops teachers directly from and for the community, expanding and diversifying the educator workforce. These 20 students joined the 15 graduates of the 2021 cohort in earning their Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education with bilingual/ESL endorsement from NIU without leaving ECC's campus. Many graduates will teach in the same schools and communities where they grew up, and 80% of the graduates have jobs within the D509 K-12 school districts.

## A path forward: From ECC to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Luis Moran, of Bartlett, is the first ECC graduate to transfer to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) through the Engineering Pathways Partnership. This program offers guaranteed admission to the university's Grainger College of Engineering upon completing the Engineering Pathways Plan of Study at ECC.

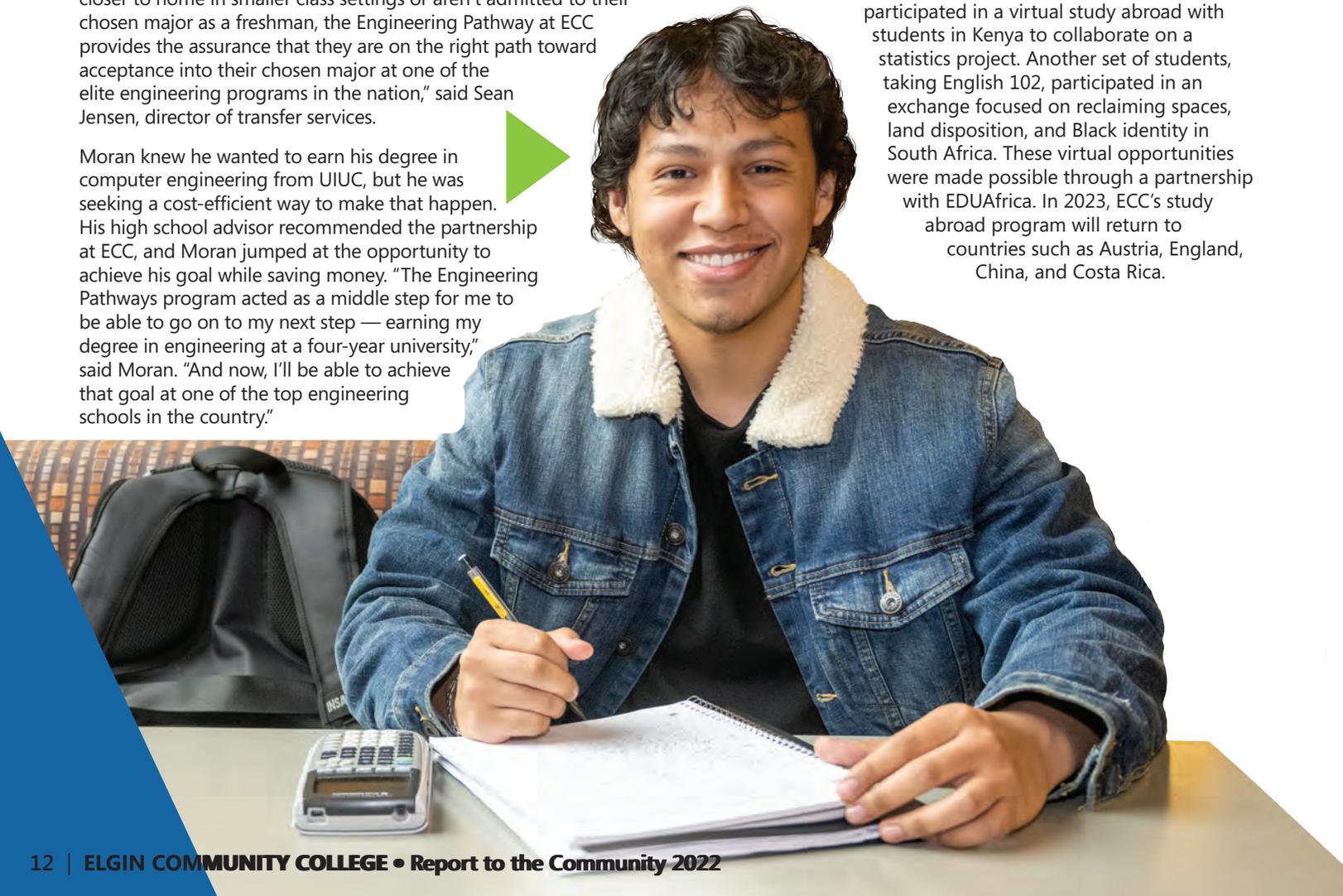
Entrance into some of UIUC's competitive engineering majors is only available to freshmen or through Engineering Pathways partnerships. "For students who prefer to start their college career closer to home in smaller class settings or aren't admitted to their chosen major as a freshman, the Engineering Pathway at ECC provides the assurance that they are on the right path toward acceptance into their chosen major at one of the elite engineering programs in the nation," said Sean Jensen, director of transfer services.

Moran knew he wanted to earn his degree in computer engineering from UIUC, but he was seeking a cost-efficient way to make that happen. His high school advisor recommended the partnership at ECC, and Moran jumped at the opportunity to achieve his goal while saving money. "The Engineering Pathways program acted as a middle step for me to be able to go on to my next step — earning my degree in engineering at a four-year university," said Moran. "And now, I'll be able to achieve that goal at one of the top engineering schools in the country."



## Return to study abroad

After a two-year hiatus, 13 culinary and pastry arts students traveled abroad and studied for two weeks in Italy over the summer. The students spent time with Centro Studi Italiani in Urbania, Italy. Students learned firsthand about the processes of making Italian staples, such as balsamic vinegar, prosciutto, and Parmigiano-Reggiano. In the spring of 2022, students in Math 102 participated in a virtual study abroad with students in Kenya to collaborate on a statistics project. Another set of students, taking English 102, participated in an exchange focused on reclaiming spaces, land disposition, and Black identity in South Africa. These virtual opportunities were made possible through a partnership with EDUAfrica. In 2023, ECC's study abroad program will return to countries such as Austria, England, China, and Costa Rica.



# OF THE CLASSROOM

## ECC Speech Team dominates tournaments

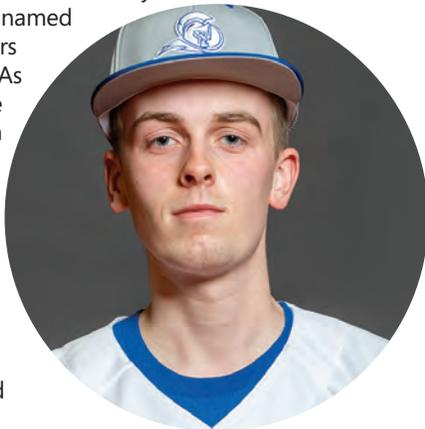
The ECC Speech Team competed at regional and international tournaments in 2022. Team members include Aleah Janae, Melissa Fessler, Hannah Carpenter, and Damaris Zamudio-Hernandez. Results include Illinois Intercollegiate Forensics Association Tournament: Team – State champion in Debate and third place in Individual Events Sweepstakes and Overall Sweepstakes. Aleah Janae: State champion in Extemporaneous Speaking; top score in International Public Debate (speaker); semi-finalist in IPDA (debate); third place in Informative Speaking; fifth place in Prose Interpretation; fifth place in Persuasive Speaking; and second place in Individual Sweeps. Melissa Fessler: Sixth place in Dramatic Interpretation and fifth in Poetry Interpretation. Hannah Carpenter: Sixth place in Extemporaneous Speaking. Damaris Zamudio-Hernandez: Two bronze medals in Impromptu Speaking.

International Forensics Associate National Tournament: Team – Third place in the Community College Division. Aleah Janae: Tournament champion in a special event titled “Mexican Media” and fourth place in Impromptu Speaking.

Phi Rho Pi National Tournament: Team – Silver medal in Debate Sweepstakes, Bronze medal in Event Sweepstakes, and a silver medal overall. Aleah Janae: National champion in International Public Debate, silver medal in Extemporaneous Speaking, bronze medal in Impromptu Speaking, and fifth place in Individual Sweepstakes. Damaris Zamudio-Hernandez: Bronze medal in Extemporaneous Speaking.

## ECC student-athletes shatter academic records

The ECC Athletic Program had 35 student-athletes earn Academic All-Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference (ISCC) honors for the 2021-22 school year, completing the year with a 3.0 or higher grade point average. Volleyball player Adelyse Gonzales was one of several athletes to make the President’s list, earning a 4.0 for the spring 2022 semester. ECC baseball player Sam Bonick received the prestigious Dick Durrant Award, given annually to the ISCC male and female student-athletes with the highest grade point average after four semesters. Bonick maintained a 4.0 throughout his entire career at ECC. Forty-two student-athletes were named to an ECC Academic Honors list for the spring of 2022. As part of a strategic initiative to increase the completion rate of student-athletes, ECC hired a dedicated academic support specialist to advise and coach students. Additionally, the Athletes Committed to Excellence program is required for all first-semester students and those whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0.



**Sam Bonick**

## ECC STEM team takes first place at Illinois Skyway Competition

Elgin Community College math, science, and engineering students won first prize at the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference 2022 STEM Poster Competition for their project titled “Green Synthesis of Noble Metal Nanoparticles for Biomedical Applications.” The competition was split into environmental science projects and projects in the STEM field. ECC won first in the STEM grouping out of seven other participating schools. The four participating students were Mack Vongsa, Malyika Hussain, Reese Scarnato, and Brillina Wang.

## ECC students are state champions at SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference

Elgin Community College career and technical students competed at the SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference. ECC took gold in each contest entered. The following nine students won gold in their respective categories: Brendan Schoneberg, Culinary; Meralia Gomez, Customer Service; Debora Culajay and Yeung Ming Li, Cyber Security; William J. Lietzow III, Welding; Nicholas Grobe, Noah Hercl, and Travis Jones, Welding Fabrication Team; and Saffron Bruno, Welding Sculpture. Taking silver in Welding Sculpture was Christian Cruz, and placing fifth in Welding was Zachary Kuhlman.

SkillsUSA is an organization for technical, skilled, health, and personal service occupations students in high school and college. More than 394,000 members belong to over 12,000 chapters in 53 U.S. states and territorial associations.



# ECONOMIC IMPACT

## The future of manufacturing

Progress on the new manufacturing and training center continues, as the District 509 Board of Trustees approved architectural and engineering services and construction management fees. In the summer, the site was cleared of the former Colonial Café building and the space along McLean Boulevard in Elgin now sits ready for the center's construction, scheduled to begin in 2024.

The new \$55 million building will house ECC's programs for heating, air conditioning, ventilation, and refrigeration (HVAC-R); energy management; industrial maintenance; mechatronics; and CNC (computer numerical control) and create space to add new programs, including pipe welding and quality technician programs.

Of the procured funding, \$28 million will come from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, secured during fiscal year 2022 with the help of legislators representing the District 509 communities. For the new mechatronics and automation program, ECC received \$936,000 in federal funds through Senator Richard Durbin and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi.



## Community demand drives new programs

The Illinois Department of Human Services awarded Elgin Community College a state grant to support a new program for certified recovery support specialists. ECC is one of 11 Illinois colleges to receive this grant. The program launched in the fall of 2022 with a full cohort of 46 students. This unique program is an opportunity for individuals who want to pursue a career in human services and have lived experience of recovery from mental health disorders, substance abuse disorders, or both.

Two additional health profession programs also launched in the fall: medical assisting and ophthalmic technician. Local health care employers expressed a need to have more trained workers in these fields, which are currently facing staffing shortages. These health care professions are both expected to see double-digit growth by 2030, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. ECC's Medical Assisting Program is a three-semester vocational certificate, which will prepare students to sit for the Registered Medical Assistant exam. The ophthalmic technician program is a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree. After completing a degree, students can take the Certified Ophthalmic Technician exam through the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology.



## PATH Program opens opportunities

To help meet the demand for qualified health care professionals, ECC received a \$695,000 grant from the state of Illinois for the Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce (PATH) Program. This program expands opportunities for individuals to obtain degrees and certificates in select health care fields and provides current health care systems the ability to upskill or reskill their workforce. "The goal of PATH is to remove barriers and encourage more people to train for and enter health care fields," said Lauren Nehlsen, PhD, associate dean of recruitment, outreach services, and global engagement.

PATH provides extra wraparound support, such as tuition or textbook assistance and child care, for qualified students pursuing credentials for in-demand health care careers. ECC has 19 PATH-eligible program paths, including all of the college's health professions degrees or certificates and non-credit training in EKG technician and pharmacy technician careers.



# ECC, Smithfield Foods, Inc., partner on new apprenticeship program

In January 2022, ECC and Smithfield Foods, Inc. signed 10 student apprentices to the first cohort of a new maintenance technician apprenticeship program. This partnership provides hands-on engineering and mechanical training to Smithfield employees at the company's Bolingbrook, Monmouth, and St. Charles facilities as they work toward an Associate of Applied Science degree in integrated systems/maintenance technology.

Apprenticeships combine classroom instruction with on-the-job training. Employers hire apprentices and agree to sponsor them in their desired program of study. Under this learn-while-you-earn model, apprentices earn wages for their work while the employer covers their ECC tuition and fees. After graduation, apprentices are guaranteed full-time employment with their sponsoring company for up to two years. ECC has 50 apprentices working with 17 local employers, including Smithfield Foods, Inc., in fields including CNC machining, industrial/maintenance technology, basic nurse assisting, and fire science.

# Free training connects job seekers to in-demand careers

ECC partnered with the Kane County Office of Community Reinvestment to offer free career training for in-demand jobs through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA is a federally funded program that helps individuals start, continue, or finish their education. More than 276 people expressed interest and more than 100 people applied for the training.

The partnership includes ECC, Kishwaukee College, and Waubesa Community College and allows each institution to share resources and connect job seekers in Kane, Kendall, and DeKalb counties. Training is available in growing career fields, including automotive, construction, environmental services, health professions, information technology, manufacturing production, and more. The programs also offer career counseling and support to match job seekers with local employers based on skills. Participants can receive books, course materials, uniforms, transportation, child care costs, or other needs related to program completion at no cost.

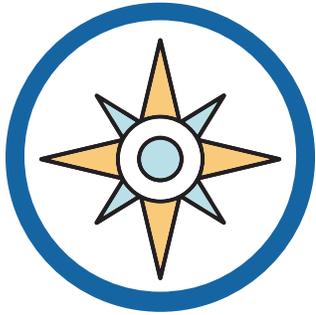
# Swiss Automation gift gives CNC students a competitive edge

In February, ECC's Industrial Manufacturing Technology/Computer Integrated Manufacturing (IMT/CIM) Program received a boost in the form of a 9-axis computer numeric control (CNC) machine donated by Swiss Automation, Inc., of Barrington. The donation, valued at more than \$175,000, brings ECC close to \$1.4 million worth of donations from Swiss Automation and several other local manufacturing companies over the last few years.

ECC can now offer more robust CNC training to our students, giving them a competitive edge and setting us apart from most community colleges nationwide. ECC students can build a comprehensive career platform with the knowledge and skills they need, making them more marketable and qualified job candidates. "With mastery of the CNC setup and programming and their CNC certification, students can secure jobs that pay in the six figures," said Umberto Tinajero, instructor of IMT/CIM and program coordinator.



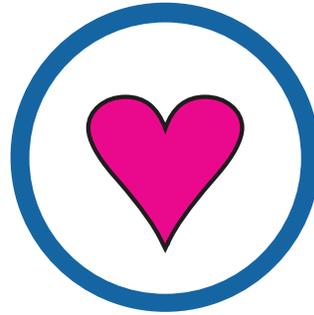
# STRATEGIC PLAN



**Vision**



**Mission**



**Values**



**Philosophies**

**T**he Elgin Community College Strategic Plan for 2023 through 2027 is the culmination of a nearly yearlong period of self-study that began in the fall of 2021 and continued through the spring of 2022. During this time, a strategic planning team of faculty, administrators, staff, students, and trustees engaged in critical reflection on our past and current data; accomplishments and successes; present actions and decisions; and future opportunities and aspirations to envision ECC five years into the future.

The strategic planning team relied on techniques borrowed from appreciative inquiry and continuous quality improvement to recast our Vision, our North Star, as advancing access, innovation, and success. Then, the team reaffirmed our MVPs: Mission, (Shared) Values, and

Philosophies. We expanded our Mission to improve people's lives through learning to include our promise for students, employees, and communities. We refined our Shared Values to support our belief in supporting the whole person. We set our Philosophies to reaffirm our approaches on learning, equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice in guiding our work. With these directions defined and outlined, the team then identified four Key Imperatives to frame annual goals for the next five years:

- Teaching and Learning Excellence
- Lifelong Connections
- ECC Experience
- Fortify Our Future



**THE STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM** front row left to right: Toya Webb, Lisa Wuest, Yolonda Barnes, Maureen Jouhet, Laura Haske, Philip Garber, Anthony Ramos, Trustee Donna Redmer, Susan Taylor-Demming  
Back row: Annamarie Schopen, Kayla Palmisano, Peggy Gundrum, Josh Worsham, Heather Scholl, Deborah Orth, Cathy Taylor, Tim Whitney, Peter Gray

# TEACHING AND LEARNING EXCELLENCE

## DELIVER INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES AND CURRICULUM TO ENSURE STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING

Learning is fundamental to everything the college does and to everyone the college serves. Under Teaching and Learning Excellence, we develop goals to ensure that everyone has a role to play in advancing student-centered work. Goals under this imperative ensure that students not only learn but excel; faculty not only teach but innovate; and administrators and staff not only support but enact vital decisions and actions.



# LIFELONG CONNECTIONS

## CREATE A LIFELONG MEANINGFUL AND MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COLLEGE

Lifelong Connections encompasses the various ways that ECC interacts with students: from initial contact with the college; through orientation and admission; enrollment in programs and courses; and on to graduation and beyond. Regardless of where students are in life, whether they enroll for an entire program or only take a course or two, we want to build relationships that meet their current learning needs. As the same time, we want to be a trusted lifelong resource for their future needs as students or as community partners.



# ECC EXPERIENCE

## CULTIVATE A WELCOMING DESTINATION FOR STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND OUR COMMUNITY

We want ECC to be an engaging and welcoming culture. This imperative captures this quality and gives life to our institutional identity. The ECC Experience means for:

- Students — a college that remains open and accessible to all, supports their academic success, and advances personal and professional growth.
- Employees — a college that rewards excellent service; cares about their professional development; and values their talents through hiring, retention, and succession planning.
- Community — a college that designs programs and services that are responsive to their needs and delivered with a spirit of excellence.



# FORTIFY OUR FUTURE

## POSITION THE COLLEGE TO REMAIN AFFORDABLE WHILE ENSURING LONG-TERM FINANCIAL STABILITY AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

Fortify Our Future is a three-pronged imperative. First, from a student perspective, this imperative ensures that we keep ECC affordable and that we support students' goals while setting them on a path toward financial success. Second, from an institutional perspective, Fortify Our Future ensures the financial health of the college and a future in which we manage budgets well, reduce costs, decrease overhead, and increase revenues. Third, from an efficiency standpoint, this imperative ensures our efforts pay off; funds and outcomes meet intended targets; and we consider internal and external opportunities to streamline and synergize for optimum efficiency.

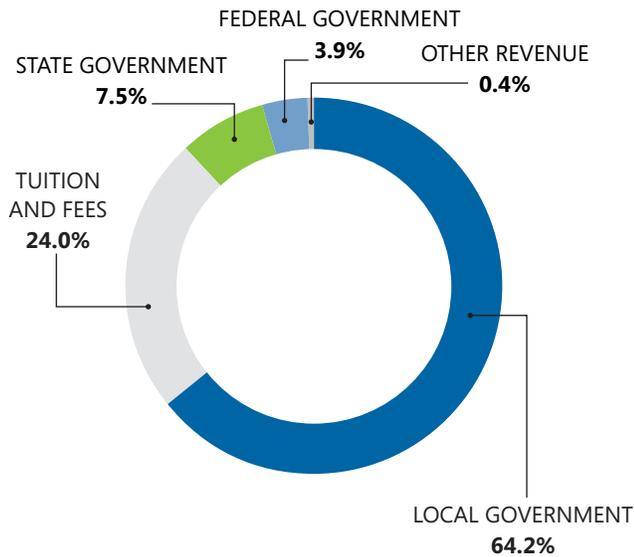


# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Elgin Community College uses a conservative budgeting and financial management model that emphasizes fiscal responsibility while providing for the college's focus on teaching and learning. For fiscal year 2022, ECC again received a clean, unmodified audit opinion from its external auditing firm. ECC has always maintained a balanced budget and continued its strong financial position in 2022 by providing ample liquidity as demonstrated by six months of operating expenses in reserve (as mandated by the Community College District 509 Board of Trustees).

ECC's business offices employ knowledgeable and experienced financial experts who apply industry-wide best practices to the stewardship of community resources. ECC received the Certificate for Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for 19 consecutive years. This is the highest form of recognition for governmental accounting and financial reporting.

## 2022 OPERATING REVENUES

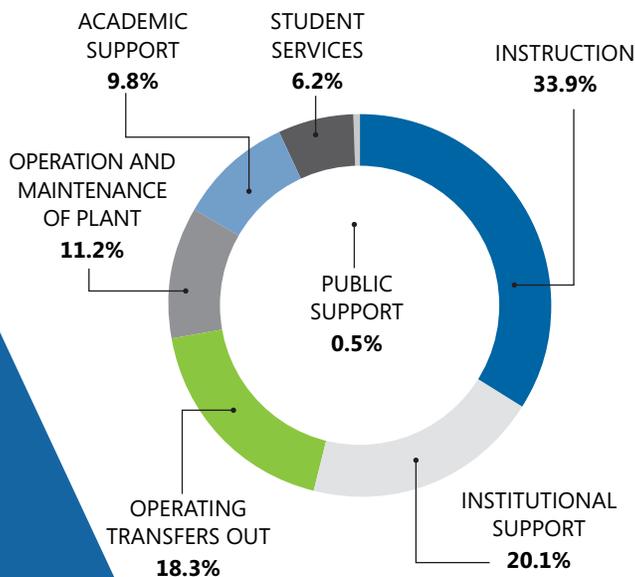


## Operating Revenues\* by Source for the Years Ended June 30

	2022	2021
Local Government	\$ 54,672,001	\$ 52,972,017
Tuition and Fees	20,419,228	21,065,357
State Government	6,408,469	5,970,956
Federal Government	3,349,632	2,428,633
Investment Income	(2,389,365)	317,959
Other Revenue	350,396	283,815
<b>TOTAL REVENUES*</b>	<b>\$ 82,810,361</b>	<b>\$ 83,038,737</b>

\*Operating Funds include the Education Fund and the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

## 2022 OPERATING EXPENDITURES



## Operating Expenditures\* by Function for the Years Ended June 30

	2022	2021
Instruction	\$ 30,502,464	\$ 29,510,310
Academic Support	8,802,192	8,241,987
Student Services	5,600,228	5,416,553
Public Support	470,804	466,256
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	10,103,686	9,781,823
Institutional Support	18,106,651	18,690,774
Operating Transfers Out	16,423,719	20,361,682
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 90,009,744</b>	<b>\$ 92,469,385</b>

\*Along with additional institutional support expense in 2022, transfers to other funds also increased within operating expenditures (transfers accounted for approximately \$16.3M in 2022 and \$20.4M in 2021). Within these transfers are board-approved allocations of unrestricted fund balance to the college's capital projects fund for current and future construction and development of capital needs.



## OPERATING FUNDS AT A GLANCE\*

■ Revenue ■ Expenditures

**2022**



**2021**



\*Operating expenditures include fund transfers of unrestricted fund balance to the capital projects fund for future capital needs of \$16.3 million and \$20.4 million in 2022 and 2021, respectively.

## Grant Revenues for the Years Ended June 30

	2022	2021
<b>GRANTS</b>		
Federal Financial Aid	\$ 18,353,887	\$ 13,592,659
Federal Grants	11,620,696	9,409,857
State and Local Grants*	2,210,655	2,200,597
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>\$ 32,185,238</b>	<b>\$ 25,203,113</b>

\*Local grants include donor-supported funding from the ECC Foundation.



# SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

## Awards, Accomplishments, Accolades

### Chicagoland Transfer Award

ECC's Devin Flores, of St. Charles, received a \$12,000 Chicagoland Transfer Award from Columbia College Chicago. The award provides ten \$12,000 scholarships and one full-tuition scholarship to students transferring from Chicago-area community colleges to Columbia. Flores is pursuing his bachelor's in film and television. This is the fifth year Columbia offered this merit-based scholarship, which requires students to submit an essay and to have a 3.0 grade point average or greater.

### Board of trustees grants tenure

ECC awarded tenure in 2022 to the following faculty members: Kellen Bolt, PhD, assistant professor of English; Sara Burkhart, instructor of English as a second language; Aja Ferguson, instructor of nursing; Chasity Gunn, instructor of English; Margaret Le Moyne, assistant professor of nursing; Eva Rudzinski, instructor of mathematics; Mia Hardy, PhD, assistant professor of sociology; Roxana Idu, PhD, assistant professor of economics; Tracy Meyer, associate professor of mathematics; Geoffrey Pynn, PhD, associate professor of humanities; and Adam Schlipmann, instructor of music.

### Taylor recognized by YWCA Elgin for commitment to students

Cathy Taylor, dean of sustainability, business, and career technologies, received the 2022 Harriet Gifford & Hattie Griffin Award for Education at the YWCA Elgin's 38th annual Leader Luncheon for her strong commitment to helping students reach their academic and career goals. The event honors deserving women for their outstanding accomplishments and raises funds to support the organization's work.

### Fisher Nuts scholarship

Eight ECC culinary arts and hospitality students participated in the annual Fisher Nuts Recipe Competition. Riley Bartlet received the top recipe award and a \$1,000 scholarship. Other \$1,000 scholarship recipients included Andrea Morales Cortes, Anthony Catavu, and Bryan Guido. Students who received \$250 scholarships included Christopher Canaday, Ely Greenfeld, and Gabriela Vega. This was the 11th year ECC partnered with Fisher Nuts products of Elgin-based John H. Sanfilippo and Son, Inc., which provides students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in their culinary education.

### 2022 Orrin G. Thompson Teaching Excellence Award

The recipients of the 2022 Orrin G. Thompson Teaching Excellence Award are Parul Raval, EdD, professor of education, and John Karnatz, communications studies adjunct faculty. Raval received the full-time faculty award and Karnatz received the part-time faculty award.

### Luptak and Aguirre receive awards through IACEA

The Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association (IACEA) awarded ECC Associate Dean of Adult Education Marcia Luptak with the Administrator of the Year Award and ECC student Aurora Morales Aguirre, of Streamwood, with the annual Outstanding Adult Learner of the Year Award. The IACEA — the voice of adult education in Illinois — provides leadership, representation, and advocacy for adult education and literacy practitioners to advance, unify, and professionalize the field.





### 2022 NISOD awardees

The winners of the 2022 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development are (from left to right): Erin Vobornik, ESL adjunct faculty; Natalie Leisering, director of academic advising; David Strossner, emergency services adjunct faculty; Liddy Hope, PhD, assistant professor of human services; and Debra Norden, office coordinator, sustainability, business, and career technologies (SBCT) division.

### Thompson named Instructor of the Year

In 2022, Brian Thompson, an adjunct faculty member in emergency services, received the 2021 Instructor of the Year award from the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors. Thompson has been an instructor of fire science and safety at ECC since 1998 and also serves as the emergency services instructional coordinator. He currently works for the Sycamore Fire Department, is finishing his doctorate in organizational leadership from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, and serves as president of the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors.

### Tarver honored with IPTA Outstanding Academic Educator Award

Kimberly Tarver, professor of physical therapist assistant, is the recipient of the 2022 Illinois Physical Therapy Association (IPTA) Outstanding Academic Educator Award. Established in 2019, the award recognizes a physical therapist, or physical therapist assistant, who demonstrates excellence as a faculty member in preparing entry-level physical therapist students or entry-level physical therapist assistant students.

### Dr. Sam Scholarship recipient

Tyler Garza, of Streamwood, is the 2022 Dr. David Sam Honorary Scholarship at Elmhurst University recipient. This scholarship, by Elmhurst University, recognizes Sam's passion for education and his dedication to students, providing a \$3,000 annual award to an ECC student pursuing a bachelor's degree at Elmhurst. Garza graduated in the fall of 2021 with an Associate in Arts degree and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in clinical psychology.



# SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

## Awards, Accomplishments, Accolades

### Owens receives President's Award

Kelly Owens, financial aid technical specialist, received the President's Award at the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators' annual conference. The President's Award is considered to be one of its highest awards. The criteria used are based on the president's discretion or initiative and may also be based on the completion of a special task, publication, survey, or a host of other criteria.

### Kojzarek receives National Rising Star Award

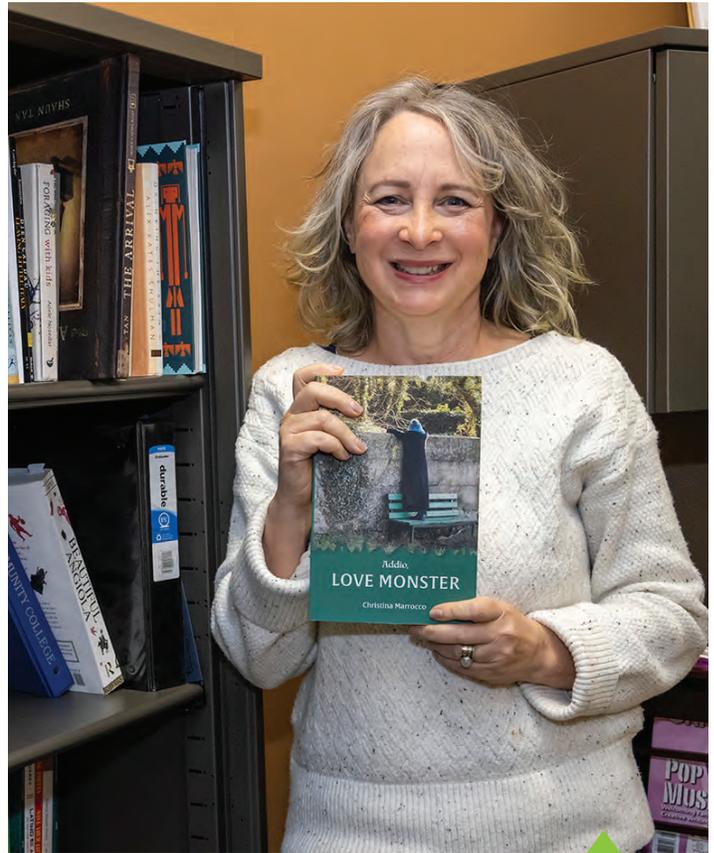
Elissa Kojzarek, communications and social media manager, received the National Rising Star Award at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) national conference. This award acknowledges newcomers who demonstrate special creativity or ability in marketing and public relations and show evidence of a promising future in the field. Kojzarek started at ECC in the fall of 2019, bringing more than ten years of non-profit experience to the college.

### Hensel recognized by Chicago Cabaret Professionals

Senior Director of Performing Arts Tommy Hensel received the Chicago Cabaret Presenter Award from the Chicago Cabaret Professionals (CPP). CPP is an alliance of advocates for the art of cabaret who have come together to promote its public appreciation. Hensel has more than 30 years of working professionally as a director, actor, and arts presenter. He began at ECC as the senior director of the ECC Arts Center in February 2022.

### Moushon first community college professor to win state math award

Catherine Moushon, professor of mathematics, received the Max Beberman Mathematics Educators Award this past October through the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics. This award honors one outstanding person each year who made significant contributions to the field of mathematics education through research, curriculum design, or teacher training. In addition to being a member of ECC's Math Department, Moushon served as the Phi Mu Epsilon faculty advisor and president of the Illinois Mathematics Association of Community Colleges.



### Marrocco's "Addio, Love Monster" wins Chicago Writers Association Book of the Year Award

Christina Marrocco, PhD, associate professor of English, is the 2022 winner of the Chicago Writers Association Book of the Year Award for Indie Fiction. Marrocco's "Addio, Love Monster" novel tells a series of linked stories spanning generations about the 'regular' yet remarkable Singer Street of fictional midcentury Mulberry Park, just outside of Chicago.

### Habitat for Humanity 2022 Women Build Event

A group of ten ECC administrators and staff participated in the Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley 2022 Women Build Event. Elizabeth Hobson, EdD, dean of adult education, served as co-chair of the event. Hobson has been on the board of Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley since September 2021. Women Build is a monthlong event that invites women to help families build strength, stability, and independence through housing. Women Build volunteers work under the guidance of construction professionals and alongside other volunteers and future Habitat homeowners.

## Largest firefighter graduating class

ECC celebrated a historic fall Basic Operations Firefighter class. With 27 graduates, this class was the largest in the academy's 5-year history. ECC's Center for Emergency Services strives to be the premier emergency services education and training provider in Illinois. The program partners with local fire, police, EMS, and 911 agencies to train current and future first responders. This class size is a great indicator of future enrollment and provides excellent recruitment opportunities for our partner agencies.

## Center for Emergency Services Open House

Elgin Community College's Center for Emergency Services hosted an information session and community open house in Burlington for those interested in emergency services. The event featured demonstrations of fire, police, and paramedic equipment, opportunities to explore various emergency vehicles, and the chance to meet local firefighters, police officers, and paramedics.

## ECC student wins statewide physical therapy scholarship

The Illinois Physical Therapy Foundation and PT Solutions Physical Therapy (PTS) selected physical therapist assistant student Natalia Martinez, of Streamwood, to receive a one-time \$3,000 scholarship on behalf of the PTS Future Leadership Scholarship Program. The scholarship selection is based on several factors, including clarity/completeness of application, goals, interest in leadership, and recommendations from instructors.



## Dear ECC Friends,

As we welcome students to campus for the start of the 2023 spring semester, gratitude is the sentiment that readily comes to mind. Gratitude and wonder as we recall the start of the academic year last fall, entering our campus parking lot with excitement as student cars filled almost every space, a sight not experienced since early 2020. Thankfulness that students eagerly returned in person to continue their education and pursue their dreams. And as a foundation focused on providing financial resources for students in need, grateful that our donors' generosity remained unwavering amid and post the tumultuous crest of our global health challenge.

Your investment in our students undergirds the support many need from the first day they step on campus. We are reinforcing strategies to equip students with personalized coaching, financial support, and invaluable resources to ensure they are better prepared to successfully navigate the collegiate environment and boosting the likelihood of student retention, persistence semester-over-semester, and ultimately, matriculation. We use predictive analytics to ensure that those who will most benefit from these resources receive access to them.

We know the work the foundation does is important for our students, and we thank you for joining us on this critical path as we strive to help student dreams come to fruition.

Often our students balance personal life challenges while attending school, navigating financial obstacles impacting the potential for them to complete their programs and walk across the graduation stage. The gifts you help us provide are transformative, not only for our students' lives but most assuredly for their families as well.

ECC student success also has a positive impact on our community, as higher educational attainment enhances the workforce opportunities and contributions our students offer as vibrant members of our local employment market. We are investing in priorities that are critical for the future workforce in our area by building advanced new facilities and enhancing our technology to develop and expand pilot programs that train our students in emerging industries. Workforce innovation at ECC ensures our students lead and thrive in the fastest-growing industries in our region.

We are thankful your commitment allows us to bolster scholarship opportunities and help shape a brighter future for our students and community by opening the door for students each year.

If you're wondering how you can make an even larger impact, we invite you to consider including the ECC Foundation as part of your estate plan. Planned giving allows you to create a perpetual gift, a legacy that will speak volumes. Over the last two years, the foundation experienced exponential growth in our endowment giving. We welcome you to be a part of our students' futures as you consider your higher educational legacy. Please contact the ECC Foundation staff for a free copy of our estate planning guide, *Planning Your Legacy*.

The Elgin Community College Foundation board and staff are indeed grateful for the doors you will continue to open for our students. Author Melody Beattie shares, "Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." We share our gratitude as you help create a vision of tomorrow for ECC students.

Regards,



Elgin  
Community  
College  
Foundation

**Susan Taylor-Demming**  
Executive Director



**Eric Larson, EdD**  
Chair, Board of Directors



# Elgin Community College Foundation

## IMPACT REPORT

(JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022)

# \$786,272

TOTAL AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED IN DIRECT SUPPORT TO ECC

**\$368,227**

ECC student scholarships

**\$220,217**

Gifts in-kind for programmatic,  
leading-edge technology

**\$197,828**

Academic program  
support and grants

# 724

DONORS

# 3,675

DONATIONS

# \$1,538,414

TOTAL GIVEN TO THE ECC FOUNDATION



# Elgin Community College Foundation

## Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2022

### Balance Sheet

ASSETS	FY2022	FY2021
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,310,586	\$1,074,452
Pledges Receivable	491,529	40,983
Prepaid Assets	14,875	32,875
Cash Surrender Value of Life Insurance	54,633	51,062
Investments	9,173,627	10,413,270
Fixed Assets, Net	20,256	33,760
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$11,065,506</b>	<b>\$11,646,402</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$28,733	\$49,290
Due to Elgin Community College	248,969	23,748
Deferred Revenue	34,700	15,450
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$312,402</b>	<b>\$88,488</b>

### Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions:		
Undesignated	\$850,855	\$1,595,805
Board Designated	654,291	119,708
With Donor Restrictions	9,247,958	9,842,401
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$10,753,104</b>	<b>\$11,557,914</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$11,065,506</b>	<b>\$11,646,402</b>
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### Revenue and Expenses

REVENUES	FY2022	FY2021
Contributions	\$1,141,959	\$803,617
Special Events	176,238	102,701
Investment Return, Net of Fees	(1,238,232)	2,086,710
Contributed Services	430,140	439,660
Gifts In-kind	220,217	67,716
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$730,322</b>	<b>\$3,500,404</b>

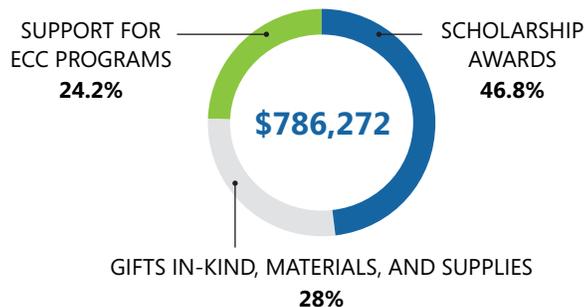
### EXPENSES

Program Services		
Scholarship Awards	\$368,227	\$374,176
Support to Elgin Community College	197,828	133,695
Gifts In-kind, Materials and Supplies	220,217	67,716
Contributed Services	47,004	38,658
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>\$833,276</b>	<b>\$614,245</b>

Management and General	\$544,822	\$385,954
Special Events - Cost of Direct Donor Benefit	80,747	52,536
Fundraising	76,287	114,324
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,535,132</b>	<b>\$1,167,059</b>

<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$(804,810)</b>	<b>\$2,333,345</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$11,557,914</b>	<b>\$9,224,569</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$10,753,104</b>	<b>\$11,557,914</b>

### AWARDS DISTRIBUTED



- The Foundation's investments are guided by a board-approved investment policy. The Foundation has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by its endowment while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets. The endowment assets are invested in accordance with predetermined asset allocation and performance benchmarks.
- The Foundation's endowment, comprised of permanently restricted and related temporarily restricted funds, was valued at \$8,609,360 and \$8,905,044 on June 30, 2022, and 2021, respectively.
- Scholarship Awards, Support to Elgin Community College, and Gifts In-Kind comprise the total resources expended to directly support the organization's mission through the scholarship program, and project support during the fiscal year. In FY22 and FY21, this totaled \$786,272 and \$575,587, respectively.
- Contributed Services represent the staff expense provided by ECC to the Foundation without charge. The estimated value of these services is a gift-in-kind and reflected as both revenue and expense on the Revenue and Expense statement.
- The ECC Foundation received an unmodified audit opinion from our independent audit firm Sikich, LLP, in 2022 and 2021.

# ECC Foundation Honor Roll of Lifetime Contributors as of June 30, 2022

The ECC Foundation recognizes and appreciates the outstanding generosity of those individuals, families, private foundations, businesses, and organizations who made it possible to support so many worthy students and college programs.

## Lifetime Giving Through June 30, 2022

### **PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE (\$500,000 and more)**

Estate of Karl M. Lehr  
Robin and Mark Seigle

### **CENTURY CIRCLE (\$100,000-\$499,999)**

Anonymous  
Richard and Marilyn Alberding  
Estate of Ralph and Ethel Apple  
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JP Morgan Chase Foundation  
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Lamp Incorporated  
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Dr. David and Mrs. Julie Sam  
Harry and Susan\* Seigle  
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Sigrid F. Wonsil

### **DEAN'S CIRCLE (\$50,000-\$99,999)**

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Sysco Chicago, Inc.  
Thomas and Barbara Wahl  
Werner Manufacturing Services (Knaack LLC)  
Thomas and Linda Youngren

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Teena and Daniel Bergsma  
Katherine Sawyer and Mark Bisailon  
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Constellation  
Bashar Danial  
Paul A. Dawson and Joyce Nerem Dawson

Estate of Viola Dunning Duck  
Early, Tousey, Regan, Wlodek & Wong, LLC  
Denny and Carol Graeff  
Richard and Cindy Green  
Clark Hallpike  
Dr. Mary F. Hatch  
Dr. Linda C. Hefferin  
Hoffer Foundation  
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Ms. Sharon A. Fisher-Larson  
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Joan Longmire  
Brett and Rachel Lundstrom  
Middleby Corporation  
Morgan Stanley (BMO Harris Bank)  
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Robert Olsen, Trustee  
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Marilyn A. Westerhoff  
WET Solutions, Inc.  
Women in Management-Fox Valley  
Suliu Zhou

\*Deceased

**DONOR LIST** continued on **PAGE 28**

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Gary and Marsha Vanek  
W.R. Meadows, Inc.  
Walker Parking Consultants  
Wal-Mart Foundation  
Mary Willig

**DIRECTOR (\$5,000 - \$9,999)**

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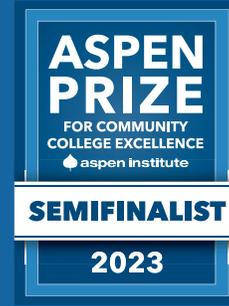
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