

President's Report to the Community



Mission

Oakton is the community's college. By providing access to quality education throughout a lifetime, we empower and transform our students in the diverse communities we serve.

Vision

Dedicated to teaching and learning, Oakton is a student-centered college known for academic rigor and high standards. Through exemplary teaching that relies on innovation and collaboration with our community partners, our students learn to think critically, solve problems, and to be ethical global citizens who shape the world. We are committed to diversity, cultural competence, and achieving equity in student outcomes.

Values

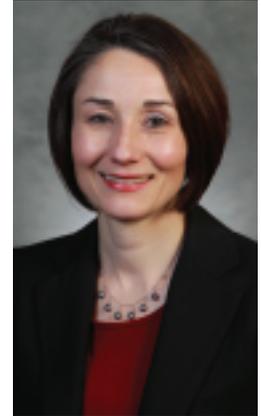
A focus on Oakton students is at the core of each of these values.

- We exercise responsibility through accountability to each other, our community, and the environment.
- We embrace the diversity of the Oakton community and honor it as one of our college's primary strengths.
- We advance equity by acknowledging the effects of systemic social injustices and intentionally designing the Oakton experience to foster success for all students.
- We uphold integrity through a commitment to trust, transparency, and honesty by all members of the Oakton community.
- We cultivate compassion within a caring community that appreciates that personal fulfillment and well-being are central to our mission.
- We foster collaboration within the college and the larger community, and recognize our interdependence and ability to achieve more together.

A large, illuminated sign for Oakton Community College at night. The sign is rectangular and features the college's name in a white, serif font against a dark background. The sign is lit from below, creating a warm glow. The background of the entire page is a dark, blue-toned photograph of evergreen trees at night.

Oakton Community College

Message from the President



During the 2016-2017 academic year, Oakton Community College embarked on a comprehensive effort to examine its role within the communities the college serves and update its mission, vision, and values statement in addition to its plan for the future.

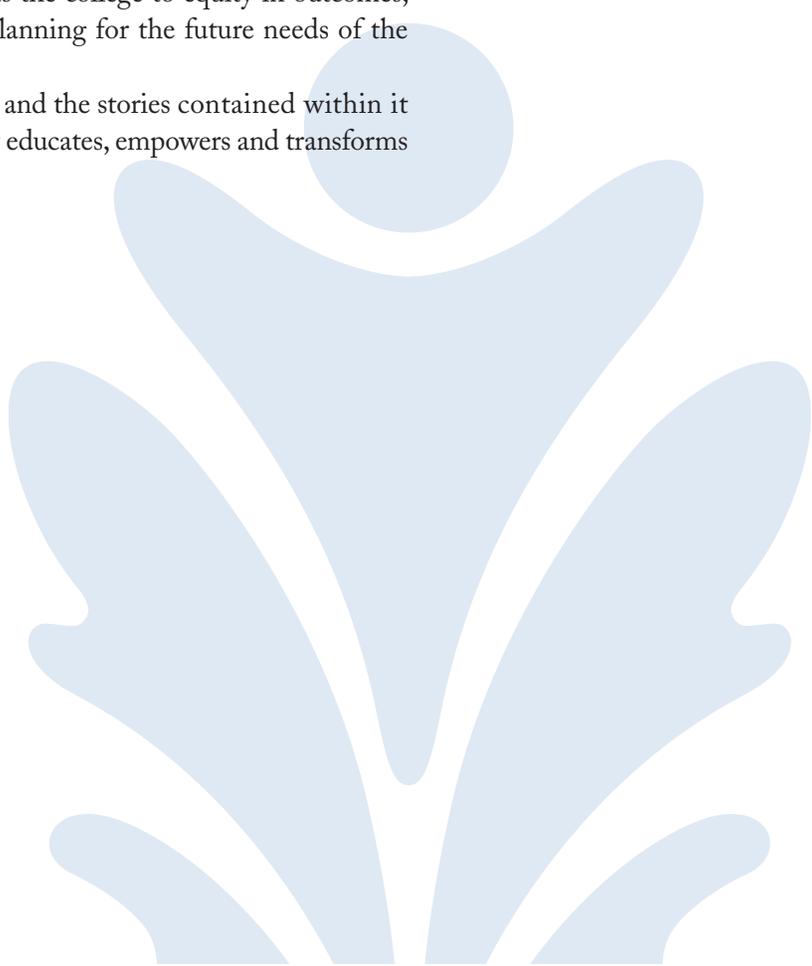
The college closely examined the internal and external environments in which it functions, reviewing past successes and shortcomings, as well as opportunities and challenges. Competitive pressures, reduced state investment, public expectations, and rapidly-changing technology put nearly every aspect of higher education under the microscope.

The result of this work is a revised mission, vision, and values statement that serves as the foundation for the college's identity, purpose, and work with students at the center of each of the college's core values and institutional commitments made in Oakton's strategic plan, "Success Matters." The plan commits the college to equity in outcomes, teaching and learning, fostering community, and planning for the future needs of the college and its stakeholders.

The 2017 President's Report to the Community and the stories contained within it reflect Oakton's role as the community's college as it educates, empowers and transforms lives in the diverse communities we serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joianne L. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Joianne L. Smith, Ph.D.
President



Success Matters



Oakton's new strategic plan, *Success Matters*, is an outgrowth of the college's mission, vision, and values.

Ratified by the Board of Trustees in March 2017, the strategic plan was nearly two years in the making. Oakton conducted surveys to review what it does well and what it needs to improve. With more than 1,000 survey responses, focus group participants, and meeting attendees, the plan represented the collective wisdom and vision of the college's students, employees, faculty, and community.

Oakton also contracted Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies to conduct an environmental scan within Oakton's district to gain a better understanding of statistical changes and trends within our community. The external scan identified key factors that will affect educational programming in the years ahead:

- An aging population
- Increasing levels of educational attainment
- Increasing diversity of people, cultures, and languages
- Rebounding housing market
- Greater employment and labor force participation
- Smaller households with fewer children
- Increased economic stability in manufacturing, professional and technical services.

The findings led to new focus, objectives, goals, and strategies that are broken into four main commitments:

Equity Matters. Student success must include all students. The college will work to break down individual, social, cultural, and institutional barriers that limit the success of students of color, first-generation students, low-income students, students with different abilities, international students, military-connected students, adult learners, LGBTQ students, religious minorities, and undocumented students.

Teaching and Learning Matter. The college will build its commitment to academic excellence through innovative pedagogical practices and develop a more supportive environment for students.

Community Matters. Oakton will increase its positive impact on the community by deepening relationships with district schools, community organizations, businesses, charities, community leaders, transfer institutions, as well as fostering our students' sense of social responsibility and engagement.

Planning Matters. Oakton will plan for long-term effectiveness, student success, safety, sustainability, and be transparent and accountable to our constituents for the plan.

Equity Matters

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Students Visit Dakota Access Pipeline Protest Site

In November 2016, seven students and six faculty members, spurred by an honors core seminar research project, made a four-day service trip to the Cannonball River in the Oceti-Sakowin Reservation where the Sioux Nation was engaged in a protest over the routing of an oil pipeline.

The Standing Rock Group helped protesters prepare for winter by splitting and stacking wood and by assisting a newly-organized medical facility. The group also raised over \$3,000 to buy gift cards at Menards and Lowe's to help protesters supply the camp. More importantly, the group learned about the issues involved and met with leaders on the challenges and successes of conducting a peaceful protest. One honors student, Christopher Hummel, used his research to create a website, The Oil Spill List (usosl.com), that helps conservationists understand and track the historical frequency and impact of oil spills.

The Standing Rock Group earned the Honors program's Public Intellectual Award for its efforts.

Educational Foundation Covers State Funding Gaps

The Educational Foundation committed to funding \$225,000 to cover Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants for students in financial need. The foundation commitment filled in for a lack of state funding due to the state budget impasse to help 141 MAP-eligible students enrolled at Oakton. Twenty-nine students also received an Oakton Foundation Retention Grant. The money was later covered by the State of Illinois when a budget was passed.

The Oakton Educational Foundation typically makes available \$600,000 in student scholarships and \$200,000 in grants for college programs each year. For the 2016-2017 academic year, the funds provided from the foundation for MAP grants, student scholarships, and program grants exceeded \$1 million.

Oakton's employee annual giving campaign, "Around the World," also helped raise a record \$76,000 in just five days.

Inclusive Restrooms Installed

Oakton recognizes the need for a welcoming campus where members of the diverse LGBTQ+ community are respected, valued, and supported. In spring 2017, the college installed gender-inclusive restrooms at both its Des Plaines and Skokie campuses. Gender inclusive, unisex restrooms provide facilities that can be inclusive to all individuals, regardless of their gender identity or presentation.

Oakton is committed to maintaining a peaceful and comfortable environment for all students to achieve their goals. The college strives to promote, foster, and support a safe and inclusive campus community for students, employees, and guests.

New Initiative Promotes Persistence by Strengthening Student-Faculty Connections

The Persistence Project provides a framework of specific classroom activities that foster connections between faculty and students. Faculty members who volunteered for the project agreed to incorporate four activities based on best practices of highly effective classrooms. These activities included:

- Learning the names of students as quickly as possible and to create a feeling of community within the classroom
- Asking students to learn the names of peers;
- Scheduling a fifteen minute conference with each student;
- Presenting class requirements clearly at the outset with high academic standards; and
- Making an appropriate assignment as early as possible in order to give students early feedback.

In the fall 2016 semester, 132 faculty participated in the initiative, which impacted over 1,200 students and 25 percent of course sections. Evidence of the importance and impact of faculty connections can be found in the data. Students who were enrolled in a course section following the Persistence Project protocol had a 17 percent higher fall-to-spring persistence rate. The impact on fall-to-spring persistence rates for students of color was especially noteworthy.

Fall-to-Spring Persistence for Persistence Project Students

Race/Ethnicity	Participated in Project	Did Not Participate in Project
Asian	80%	66%
Black	68%	55%
Latino	79%	64%
White	79%	62%
Other	81%	61%
Total	79%	62%

Teaching and Learning Matter

The college will build its commitment to academic excellence through innovative pedagogical practices and develop a more supportive environment for students.



Completion Matters

The college received petitions for 1,395 certificates and degrees for summer, fall, and spring, including 388 certificates and 1007 degrees. Spring 2017 graduates aged 18 to 67 accumulated 36,553 institutional credit hours at Oakton. One graduate attended the college on-and-off since summer 1978.

The spring class included 198 who graduated with honors, and the grade-point-average for spring petitioners was 3.12.

People, Place, and Purpose: Oakton Earns \$99k NEH Grant

Oakton was one of only four community colleges nationwide to earn a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant. “The grant allows Oakton to expand upon its course offerings and student experiences,” said Roxann Marshburn, director of grants and alternative funding.

The grant will be used to fund “People, Place, and Purpose: Fostering an Understanding of a Complex World,” an interdisciplinary collaboration that will enhance the college’s new environmental studies concentration. Marian Staats, professor of English; Paul Gulezian, assistant professor of biology; and Thomas Bowen, professor of philosophy, developed the program, which includes a summer field experience for Oakton students to help them understand how the natural environment links with art, literature, religion, philosophy, and music in a variety of cultural settings.

Faculty, Staff, Administrators, and Trustee Earn Awards for Outstanding Performance

Vice President for Student Affairs **Karl Brooks, Ed.D.**, was recognized with the national NASPA Community College Professional Award at the NASPA Annual Conference in March 2017. He previously was selected Region IV-East Outstanding Community College Professional by NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. “Building a culture where students are not only held to high expectations, but supported in their journey, is among the most important things we do at the college, and Karl’s leadership is pushing us forward,” President Joianne Smith said of Brooks.

Former Oakton chief human resources officer **Mum Martens** was awarded the American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) 40 Under 40 Award at the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Conference. With each employment search and new hire, Martens helped transform the student experience by creating a more diverse, talented, and compassionate workforce at Oakton.

Oakton trustee emeritus **Jody Wadhwa** was awarded the Illinois Community College Trustees Association’s (ICCTA) highest honor—Honorary Member—at the organization’s annual convention in Normal. The designation is reserved for individuals who have established the highest standard of service and have benefitted the entire Illinois community college system. Since joining Oakton’s board in 1987, Wadhwa established the Wadhwa Endowed Scholarship in 1989, which awards financial assistance to Oakton engineering students. In 2010, he created the Gandhi-



Top: Peter Kolos, recipient of the Ray Hartstein Award for part-time faculty.

Above: Living Diversity Award recipients Krissie Harris (left) and Mohammed Mehdi (far right) with Educational Foundation Director Howard Singer and President Joianne Smith.

Opposite page: Bill Strond, recipient of the Ray Hartstein Award for full-time faculty.

King Peace Essay Endowment, which recognizes Oakton students who exemplify the beliefs and practices of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. Four years later, he endowed the Gandhi/King Peace Scholarship, awarding a \$500 scholarship to the Illinois community college student who best conveys the peaceful messages of Gandhi and King in an essay contest.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Sociology **Megan Klein**, a doctoral student from Evanston, was awarded Loyola University’s President’s Medallion as the student in the graduate school who best exemplifies the qualities of leadership, scholarship, and service. It is the highest award the university bestows on a student.

Bill Strond, professor of biology, won the Ray Hartstein Award for full-time faculty; **Peter Kolos**, Division of Social Sciences and Business, won the Ray Hartstein Award for part-time faculty; **Gloria Liu**, STEM coordinator, received the Classified Staff Excellence Award; and **Krissie Harris** and **Mohammed Mehdi** shared the first-ever Living Diversity Award.

Teaching and Learning Matter

Oakton Meteorology Instructor Delivers the Weekend Forecast for Fox 32 News

Oakton meteorology lecturer Rick DiMaio has returned to his television roots, filling in as a weekend meteorologist at Fox-owned WFLD-TV 32 in Chicago. “The best teachers are the ones that never stop being students. I was a student for two days, learning the new system so I can go back to being a TV teacher,” DiMaio said.

DiMaio, who has taught meteorology at Oakton since 2009, was a TV weatherman for 11 years, including eight as chief meteorologist. He began his meteorology career at United Airlines, where he was a weather forecaster for domestic and international operations for 11 years.

Oakton’s introduction to weather and climate is one of eight different earth science courses offered at the college. In addition to surveying the world’s climates, the course examines the elements of weather and atmospheric processes.

Oakton Team a Top 10 Finalist for National Community College Innovation Challenge

The National Science Foundation (NSF) announced Oakton was among 10 finalists in the third annual Community College Innovation Challenge (CCIC). Teams were challenged to innovate a solution within one of three themes: Maker to Manufacturer, Energy and Environment, and Security Technologies. Working within the Energy and Environment category, Oakton’s project, Evaluation of Baking Oven Exhaust Recovery, evaluated how exhaust from various bakery processes can be used to conserve water and energy at Highland Baking Company.

Led by Oakton lecturer Helen Skop, Ph.D., members of Oakton’s team were students Harry Budge (Chicago); Eduardo Jimenez, Jr. (Lincolnwood); and Rahim Sajwani (Niles).

As finalists, the team earned an all-expense-paid trip to attend an Innovation Boot Camp in Arlington, Va., where students met with science and engineering experts to learn how to put their proposals to work to make real-world innovations.

Oakton Among Top 15 in NASA Robotic Mining Competition for Fourth Straight Year

Oakton’s robotics team finished 13th overall in the 2017 NASA Robotic Mining Competition at Florida’s Kennedy Space Center. Oakton robotics finished second in 2016, eighth in 2015 and 12th in 2014. The competition pits teams from some of the best engineering schools in the world in a head-to-head battle for supremacy.

Gustav Showley Recognized as Oakton Honors Student of the Year

Oakton’s top honors award went to Gustav Showley (Niles). The spring 2017 graduating class included 198 petitioners from the Honors Program at Oakton. In addition to the Honors Student of the Year, awards were presented to the following students: Engineering: Tyler Melnick (Chicago) ■ Environmental Studies: Christopher Hummel (Evanston) ■ Mathematics: Summer Naqvi (Skokie) ■ Peace and Social Justice: Gustav Showley (Niles) ■ Philosophy: Christopher Hummel (Evanston) ■ Science: Frank

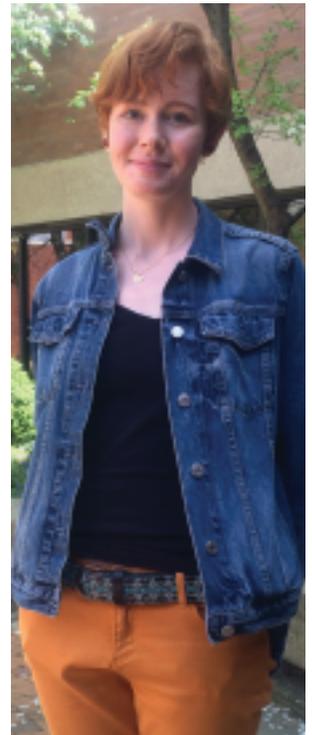
Lato (Chicago) ■ Social Science: Dominique Tuszynski (Elmwood Park) ■ Women’s and Gender Studies: Jirah Capungan (Arlington Heights), Sophia Marchionne (Northbrook), Brigid Martinez (Des Plaines) and Sunayna Punjabi (Des Plaines).

Oakton Student Receives Prestigious \$40,000 Cooke Foundation Scholarship

For the second straight year, an Oakton Honors Program student was awarded the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Dominique Tuszynski (Elmwood Park, Elmwood Park High School) will receive up to \$40,000 a year to complete a bachelor’s degree at a four-year college or university.

Tuszynski was one of 55 community college students chosen from a nationwide pool of nearly 3,000 applicants. Cooke scholars are chosen based on financial need and a strong record of academic achievement as shown by grades, awards, leadership skills, extraordinary service to others, and perseverance in the face of adversity. Oakton alumna Roxana Berinde of Morton Grove received the scholarship in 2016.

Tuszynski, who is pursuing a degree in international studies from University of Wisconsin-Madison, took advantage of many of the opportunities Oakton provided, as she was involved in the Students for Social Justice organization, Ecology Club, and Oakton Pride.



Sheetal Singh Named 2017 New Century Scholar



Sheetal Singh (Des Plaines, Maine West High School) was named a 2017 New Century Scholar by achieving the state’s highest score in the All-USA Community College Academic Team competition. Singh, who now studies engineering at Northeastern University, boasted a 3.77 GPA.

Each New Century Scholar received a \$2,000 scholarship and was recognized at Phi Theta Kappa’s Presidents Breakfast in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 24 during the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Convention. Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of community college students to grow as scholars and leaders. The society is made up of more than 3.2 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in nine nations.

In addition to being founding president of Oakton’s chapter of the Society of Women Engineers, Singh has served as a senator in Oakton’s Student Government Association, a board member for the college’s Educational Standards Review Board, a peer

mentor for Oakton's TRiO program geared toward first generation college students like herself, and community engagement programs such as Futures Unlimited, the St. Emily Parish music choir, and the Historic Methodist Campground in Des Plaines. She was also named to the Phi Theta Kappa Illinois All-Academic Team.

Two Oakton Students Named to Illinois All-Academic Team



Filza Ali (Chicago, Lane Technical College Prep High School) and Sheetal Singh were named to the Phi Theta Kappa Illinois All-Academic Team.

Ali served as president of both Phi Theta Kappa and the Muslim Student Association.

Both students overcame adversity in their lives in pursuing their educational goals.

Singh served in multiple Oakton student leadership positions.

Oakton Introduces New Academic Programs

New courses and programs of study were developed and implemented in the past year to meet the needs of community employers and student ambitions.

Nearly every decision in business, technology, and public service has a geographic or spatial dimension. Oakton Geographic Information Systems (GIS) courses allow students to use mapping technology with ESRI ArcGIS® software to explore geospatial modeling techniques for analyzing spatial data, patterns, and databases to build relevant maps in various disciplines. Employment for GIS specialists and cartographers is projected to grow 20 percent from 2012 to 2022 across all occupations. Median salaries are in the mid-\$50,000 range.



The new, interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Concentration allows students to prepare to transfer into a variety of majors such as sustainability; environmental philosophy, law, and policy; environmental art and literature; environmental engineering and chemistry; conservation biology and natural resource management; and environmental journalism. The 19-semester-hour concentration promotes the importance of sustainability and an understanding of humanity's impact on the natural environment and how the natural environment impacts human development.

Logistic and Supply Chain Management prepares students for careers in logistics automation, transportation analysis, and materials coordination. With one of the world's largest transportation hubs, O'Hare International Airport, at the doorstep of Oakton's district, this new program helps employers meet the need for well-trained logistics staff. Courses provide background in managing and coordinating all logistical functions in an enterprise, including acquisitions and purchasing, inventory control, storage and handling, just-in-time manufacturing, logistics planning,



transportation, quality control, budgeting, internal allocation of resources, freight handling, and the delivery of output.

Oakton's 44-credit-hour Medical Assistant certificate prepares students for a wide variety of roles in the health care field. Graduates may work in a medical office or ambulatory care setting. The medical assistant performs a variety of administrative and clinical skills to assist physicians or other health professionals. The goal of the program is to provide students with training that meets the standards and guidelines recommended by the Medical Assistant Education Review Board. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are prepared to take a national certification exam.

Community Matters

Oakton will increase its positive impact on the community by deepening relationships with district schools, community organizations, businesses, charities, community leaders, transfer institutions, as well as fostering our students' sense of social responsibility and engagement.



Service Learning and Generosity

Students, faculty, and staff gave time and talent, and treasure throughout the year to the college, the community, and the world.

- The Black Student Association collected supplies for 400 blessing bags, packages that contained warm socks and personal supplies for homeless people. A coat drive organized by Emerging Leaders and Reaching Out to Others clubs collected 118 coats.
- The Habitat for Humanity chapter provided a fresh-paint makeover to Curt's Café in Evanston. They also volunteered over spring break to build affordable housing for a single mother and her infant in Starkville, Mississippi. On the college's Day of Service, the Habitat Club helped stock shelves at Chicago's Northside Habitat ReStore.
- More than 50 students, faculty, and staff also participated in Day of Service, volunteering at the Salvation Army, Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook, Historic Methodist Campground of Des Plaines, Emily Oaks Nature Center of Skokie, Wings of Elk Grove Village, and the aforementioned ReStore. They also helped beautify the grounds around Oakton's campus.
- During 2016, Oakton was also named one of LifeSource's top 10 organizations in Chicagoland for blood donations. In the fall semester alone, Oakton donated 144 pints of blood.
- As it has been doing for more than 10 years, the Ceramics Club made and sold ceramic bowls filled with fresh homemade soups in December's Empty Bowls event to collect donations. This year they collected and donated \$26,282 for area food pantries.



Abt Electronics Partners with Oakton for Training

Even for individuals with strong technical skills, being able to communicate effectively with customers and coworkers is a crucial job requirement. Nine Abt Electronics employees enrolled in and completed the ESL (English as a Second Language) certificates in an Oakton Workforce Solutions program taught at their workplace in Glenview.

Six Piano Ensemble Performs at World Conference

Oakton's Six Piano Ensemble, conducted by Glenna Sprague, performed at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for the 32nd World Conference of the International Society for Music Education (ISME) in Glasgow, Scotland.

From left, Marianne Pyster, Beatriz Levi, Garfield Sallman, Greg Luberda, Glenna Sprague, and Jeff Blaine.



Trieschmann Headlines Distinguished Alumni Awards

Oakton honored five alumni at the college's first Distinguished Alumni Awards on May 3. Presented by the Oakton Educational Foundation and Office of Alumni Relations, the awards recognized former Oakton students who have excelled professionally and provide inspirational service to the community.

Before enrolling at Oakton at the age of 48, **Susan Trieschmann** (*below right*) was a high school graduate who worked to become the head of catering at Chicago's Pump Room and co-founder of Food for Thought, the third largest caterer in Chicagoland. After Oakton, the Wilmette resident wanted to make a greater difference in the world. She earned a bachelor's degree in social justice from DePaul and now provides workforce and life-skills training for at-risk youth as the founder and executive director of Curt's Café in Evanston. Her work has brought recognition as a L'Oréal Paris' Woman of Worth, 2014 Illinois Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers Public Citizen of the Year, Open Communities Jean R. Cleland Social Action Award recipient and the Corrine Passage Spirit of Evanston Award winner. As Oakton's 2017 distinguished alumna nominee for the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, Trieschmann was also the commencement keynote speaker on May 16, 2017.



The four additional honorees were:

- **Marc Hornstein**, deputy chief of the Winnetka Police Department.
- **Felicia Kurkowski**, director of project development at Pathways.org.
- **Marc Menet**, cinematographer and DePaul University adjunct faculty member.
- **Steven Swanson**, dean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Pharmacy.

Arts Programs Flourish Thanks to Oakton Educational Foundation Grants

The Chicago Writer's Series (*right, Jamila Woods and Kevin Coval*) brought renowned novelists and poets to campus for readings and discussions. And *Beyond Rosie the Riveter* displayed works of more than 70 professional women artists in the Koehnline Museum of Art.



The college purchased cameras, editing computers, and professional editing software so students could learn video production.

The third annual Pop-Up Film Festival brought award-winning independent films to campus, as well as film directors and actors for live discussions.

Planning Matters

Oakton will plan for long-term effectiveness, student success, safety, sustainability, and be transparent and accountable to our constituents for the plan.



College Adopts Five Year Facilities Master Plan

After a needs assessment involving the Oakton community, a facility master plan was approved in June 2017. The master plan represents an important component in the college's overall integrated planning efforts. It provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the facilities needs of the college for the benefit of its students, dedicated faculty and staff, and the people in the diverse communities served by the college. The plan will assist in



building and maintaining a sustainable infrastructure that provides an optimal learning environment for students, an inspiring place in which to teach and learn, and a valuable resource for the community.

Priorities for improvement in the next five years are identified as follows:

- Create more connections between students and faculty.
- Update and modernize public spaces including collaborative space and student dining facilities.
- Update classrooms to allow for collaborative flexibility.
- Provide clearer wayfinding and signage throughout the college.
- Address the capital backlog through systematic replacements that will reduce facilities operating costs, energy use, and risk, while at the same time supporting institutional recruitment and retention efforts.
- Focus on infrastructure that provides life/safety enhancements (upgrades to physical plant, code compliance, energy conservation, etc.) through a state-of-good-repair program that aims to undertake work necessary to keep buildings open and infrastructure operating in support of the educational mission.
- Undertake natural areas conservation to remove fallen trees throughout the campus which pose a safety hazard and perform prescribed burn management to remove invasive vegetation.

Several projects were done in parallel with the development of the plan and have been completed.

Student Center an Investment in Collaboration

A stipulation from the Office of Student Life came early in the planning: “We do not want this to be a space where students sit by themselves with their technology in a room full of people and call it engagement. The design must create interaction.”

Oakton's Student Center, which opened in January 2017, is a gathering place for students to relax, study, play, get to know each other, as well as to engage with visiting speakers, such as poets, authors, activists, scholars, and entertainers.

The space, located at the heart of the campus, offers casual seating, views of Oakton's lake, collaboration spaces, and even a fireplace. In addition, it provides office space, technology, and meeting rooms for the college's more than 50 clubs and organizations.

Oakton students and staff heavily influenced the architects' planning and design. Their ideas are embedded in everything from the layout and furniture to the vibrant colors and materials. “It's not only a place for students, it was created by students,” said Krisi Aglikin, former president of Oakton's Student Government Association.

The 5,900-square-foot renovation, designed by Legat Architects and built by Riley Construction, finished on time and under budget.

Oakton Receives IGEN Award

The Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN) College Leadership and Sustainability Award was presented to the college at the IGEN annual conference in March—recognizing Oakton as “an outstanding example of a college that embodies the collaborative spirit of the network leading by example, sharing expertise and resources, and contributing to the collective impact our network has across the state.”

Oakton has long been a leader in sustainability. Recent efforts include launching a new environmental studies concentration, preservation and restoration of campus natural areas, diversion of more than 36 percent of waste from landfills by recycling, reuse, and reduce programs, and a student-led initiative to use refillable water containers to eliminate the sale of single-use plastic water bottles on campus. The college also installed a new solar array at its Skokie campus, in addition to an electric vehicle charging station at the Des Plaines campus.

Oakton Receives Accolades for Financial Reporting

Oakton received national recognition for its financial reporting and budget presentation practices (including last year's edition of this *President's Report*) by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), a non-profit professional association serving more than 17,600 government finance professional throughout North America.

The GFOA presented Oakton with three prestigious honors—the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) and the Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR) Award.

“We're proud to receive these awards as they are major accomplishments,” said Oakton Controller Andy Williams. “Residents of the college district should look at these reports as an indicator that Oakton is implementing best practices as an organization.”

Oakton received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its presentation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, marking the 21st year the college has earned the distinction.

Financial Report

Oakton remains fiscally sound. The college's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is available at www.oakton.edu/cafr for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, and for the other four fiscal years included in this report.

Condensed Statement of Net Position and History

as of June 30

(In thousands)	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
Current Assets					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$4,396	\$11,169	\$9,494	\$9,988	\$7,965
Short-term Investments	91,279	83,407	95,081	99,865	88,134
Property Tax Receivable, net	22,987	23,307	23,908	24,008	24,167
Student Tuition and Fees, net	6,322	6,353	6,507	7,108	7,453
Other Accounts Receivable	3,228	2,043	2,375	2,040	7,158
Inventory	1,272	1,085	661	741	694
Other Prepaid Expenses	2,153	967	953	776	428
Noncurrent Assets					
Long-term Investments	32,993	31,660	16,618	10,064	21,291
Student Loans	53	(6)	12	29	158
Capital Assets	115,499	142,360	150,625	151,750	160,910
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(34,132)	(36,475)	(40,280)	(45,681)	(51,729)
Total Assets	246,050	265,870	265,954	260,688	266,629
Deferred Outflows of Resources					
SURS Pension Contribution	—	—	45	37	29
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	246,050	265,870	265,998	260,725	266,658
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	8,185	6,728	4,533	2,126	4,179
Accrued Salaries	930	1,597	1,647	1,728	965
Accrued Interest Payable	87	86	122	115	108
Other Accrued Liabilities	980	808	969	999	963
Unearned Revenues	10,590	10,498	10,472	11,149	11,924
Current Portion of Long-Term Obligations	2,030	2,110	2,195	2,619	2,284
Noncurrent Liabilities					
Accrued Compensated Absences	1,365	1,426	1,426	1,669	1,298
Other Accrued Liabilities	5,824	5,773	5,579	5,326	4,219
Unearned Property Tax Revenues	—	—	—	—	—
Long-Term Debt Obligations	26,248	38,440	37,037	34,079	31,795
Total Liabilities	56,239	67,466	63,980	59,809	57,735
Deferred Inflows of Resources					
Unearned Property Tax Revenues	23,089	23,720	24,250	24,743	25,140
Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$79,328	\$91,186	\$88,230	\$84,552	\$82,875
Net Position					
Net Investment in Capital Assets	60,780	71,264	71,113	69,371	75,102
Restricted	23,366	20,539	24,603	27,023	23,949
Unrestricted	82,576	82,881	82,053	79,779	84,732
Total Net Position	\$166,722	\$174,684	\$177,769	\$176,173	\$183,783

Assets

Current assets are resources that are reasonably expected to be available within one year. Unlike other forms of assets, cash and cash equivalents, such as checking account balances, can be used immediately for current operational needs, including payroll and payments to vendors. Short-term investments represent Oakton's holdings in allowable financial instruments due within one year including certificates of deposit and The Illinois Funds. Receivables represent those monies due to the college that are not yet available for use, including property taxes not yet collected from the current levy, amounts owed by students for tuition and fees, and accrued interest.

Noncurrent assets are Oakton's long term financial and plant resources. Long term investments represent the college's holdings in allowable financial instruments due in more than one year, such as T-Notes and GNMA's. The net investment in capital assets includes Oakton's equity in land, buildings, real estate improvements (such as roads and security lighting), and capital equipment expenses (such as computer network servers and vehicles). Property tax receivable includes the second half of the estimated levy for the coming year. Depreciation is the recovery of plant and equipment costs over their expected useful lives.

Deferred Outflows of Resources

Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an expense until then.

Liabilities

Current liabilities are short term obligations. Accrued salaries, accounts payable, and other accrued liabilities represent amounts due to employees or vendors for services, supplies, or equipment provided to Oakton. Unearned revenues are primarily summer and fall semester tuition and fees—which are not recorded as income until after the end of the fiscal year. The current portion of the long term debt and related accrued interest payable relate to debt financing the Lee Center, remodeling of campus buildings, and infrastructure improvements—part of Building Together, the college's five year Facilities Master Plan.

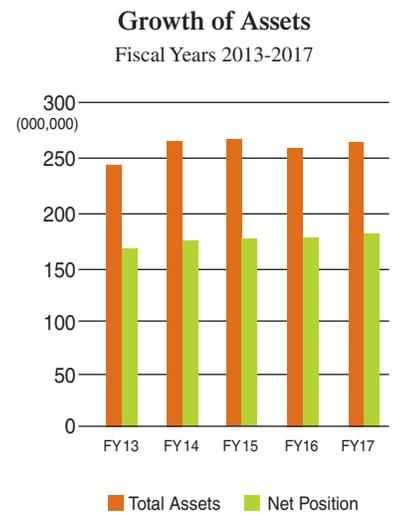
Noncurrent liabilities represent long term obligations, usually due over a number of years. These include estimated amounts of accrued compensated absences, net other post employment, health care benefits (OPEB), and principal payments on the long-term debt that are due beyond the next fiscal year.

Deferred Inflows of Resources

Deferred inflows of resources represent unearned property tax revenue which is recognized as income in the period it is intended to finance.

Net Position

Net position is either the accumulated resources invested in plant and equipment, or resources available with or without restriction; the latter generally are available for payment of future expenses. Net position increased \$7.6 million from FY 2016 to FY 2017.

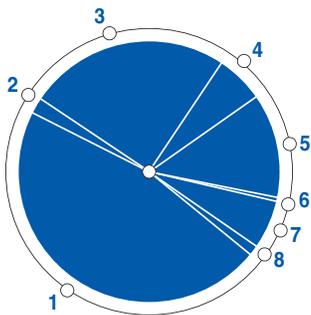




2016 Property Tax Rates for a typical homeowner in Oakton's district

Taxing Body	Rate*	% Total
County	1.012	10.34%
City	1.807	18.46%
Township	0.191	1.95%
Grade School	4.04	41.28%
High School	2.507	25.62%
Oakton	0.230	2.35%
Total Rate	9.787	100.00%

*In dollars per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation



Revenues by Source

1. Property Tax	41.07%
2. Local	0.81%
3. State	32.03%
4. Federal	6.11%
5. Students	14.60%
6. Chargebacks	0.05%
7. Auxiliary Enterprises	4.69%
8. Other	0.65%

Property Taxes

Property taxes accounted for 41 percent of Oakton's funding sources for fiscal year 2017. For the 2016 tax year, the college's property tax rate for a typical homeowner was .23 of the property's assessed value—making up about 2.4 percent of the homeowner's total property tax bill. For the 2017 tax year, this rate is projected to increase to .236 of the property's assessed value. However, Oakton's tax rate is the lowest among nine peer community colleges within the Chicago collar counties.

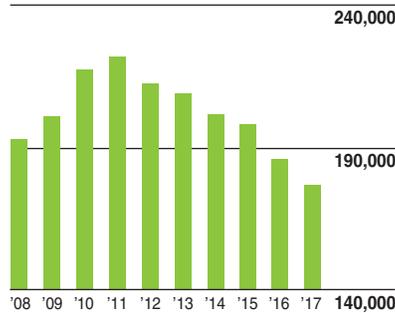
Revenues for the years ended June 30

(In thousands)	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY16	FY 17
Operating Revenue					
Student Tuition and Fees	\$16,097	\$15,835	\$17,007	\$17,517	18,181
Chargeback Revenue	75	69	60	59	67
Auxiliary Enterprises	6,655	6,370	6,515	6,145	5,836
Other Sources	1,320	1,231	871	868	809
Total Operating Revenues	24,147	23,505	24,453	24,589	24,893
Total Operating Expenses	96,406	98,849	106,549	111,553	116,172
Operating Loss	(72,259)	(75,344)	(82,096)	(86,964)	(91,279)
Non-operating Revenue					
Property Taxes	46,590	48,002	49,004	49,820	51,156
Local Grants and Contracts	1,004	1,274	805	825	1,010
State Grants and Contracts	24,257	24,750	27,364	26,920	39,896
Federal Grants and Contracts	9,647	9,576	9,357	8,555	7,606
Investment Income Earned	406	492	(104)	336	216
Interest on Capital Asset Related Debt	(848)	(789)	(1,247)	(1,088)	(994)
Non-operating Revenues, Net	81,056	83,305	85,180	85,368	98,890
Change in Net Position	\$8,797	\$7,961	\$3,084	\$1,596	\$7,611

Credit Hour Enrollment History

Fiscal Years 2008-2017

Some of the factors impacting enrollment include declining birth rates in Cook County, Illinois residents leaving the state, and an improved economy over the past few years.



Revenues by Source

Local residential and business property owners continue to be the primary source of revenue for the college, followed by state grants and contracts, student tuition and fees, and federal grants and contracts. However, the property tax cap law will limit increases from this revenue stream in the future and will require Oakton to actively seek other avenues of funding to support educational and community services to students and district residents.

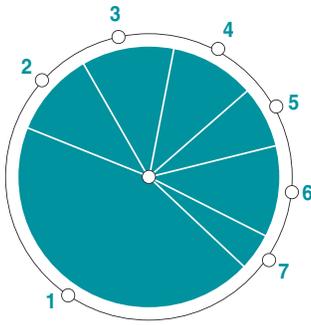
Operating Revenue for the 12 months ending June 30, 2017, increased by \$300,000—from the prior year’s \$24.6 million to \$24.9 million—for the reasons detailed below. Operating revenues stem from Oakton’s provision of instructional and related services to students. Non-operating revenues derive from sources unrelated to Oakton’s core mission.

- Tuition and fees revenue increased by \$700,000. Oakton increased the per credit hour tuition rate from prior year’s rate of \$111.25 to the fiscal year 2017 rate of \$123.25. Revenues were impacted by declining enrollment. The reported credit hours declined from prior year’s hours of 195,601 to the current year’s hours of 185,545.
- Auxiliary revenue decreased by \$300,000 primarily due to continued declining bookstore sales.

Non-operating Revenue for the 12 months ending June 30, 2017, increased by \$13.5 million—from prior year’s \$85.4 million to \$98.9 million—for the reasons detailed below.

- State grants and contracts increased by \$13 million because of an increase in unrestricted and restricted state grants of \$5.3 million and an increase in state payments to the SURS pension plan of \$7.7 million. Based on the special funding situation, Oakton recognizes a pension expense and related revenue from the state. The pension expense and related revenue was \$32.1 million in fiscal year 2017 as compared to contributions of \$24.4 million in fiscal year 2016.
- Property and replacement taxes increased by \$1.3 million due to inflation-based property tax increases.
- Federal grants and contracts decreased by \$900,000 primarily related to a reduction in federal financial aid under the Pell Grant Program based on lower credit hour enrollment.
- Investment income decreased by \$120,000 primarily because cash and investment balances declined from the prior fiscal year since state payments to the college were delayed and capital expenditures increased as part of the Master Plan.

Tuition and Fees (per credit hour)				
Fiscal Years 2012-2017	Student Activities Fee	Construction Fee	Tuition (In District)	Total
2012	\$2.60	\$2.00	\$91.00	\$95.60
2013	\$2.60	\$2.00	\$93.75	\$98.35
2014	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$95.34	\$100.34
2015	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$103.25	\$108.25
2016	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$106.25	\$111.25
2017	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$118.25	\$123.25



Expenses by Type of Service

1. Instruction	47.36%
2. Academic Support	12.07%
3. Student Services	10.98%
4. Operations and Maintenance of Plant	9.29%
5. General Institutional Support	6.45%
6. Auxiliary Enterprises	8.65%
7. Depreciation	5.21%

Faculty (FTE) for credit and continuing education programs

Fiscal Years 2012-17	No. of Faculty
2012	497
2013	467
2014	494
2015	459
2016	461
2017	442

Operating Expenses: Type of Service

Instruction includes those activities that deal directly with or aid in the teaching process. Instruction expenses include not only personnel costs and supplies but also the personnel and materials required to plan, implement, and manage the instructional programs. Academic support comprises those programs that directly support the instruction process, such as tutoring, library operations, and instructional media services. Student services include registrar services, student financial assistance, advising, and other activities that provide non-academic support to students. Operation and maintenance costs relate to maintenance, housekeeping, public safety, and other costs necessary for the proper and safe operation of Oakton's physical plant. General institutional support encompasses general regulation, direction, and administration, as well as those costs applicable to the college on an institution-wide basis, such as commencement and accreditation activities. As noted above, auxiliary enterprises are activities that charge a fee for service, such as the bookstore, food services, the Early Childhood Education Center, and other business-type activities. Depreciation represents the financial acknowledgement of the costs of fixed assets prorated over their estimated useful service lives.

Operating Expenses for the 12 months ending June 30, 2017, grew by \$4.6 million—from the prior year's \$111.6 million to \$116.2 million—for a number of reasons.

- Instruction expenses increased by \$3.1 million mainly due to recognizing pension expense and contributions by the state of Illinois to the State Universities Retirement System of Illinois (SURS) pension plan on behalf of Oakton employees; these are reflected as employee benefit expenses by Oakton. Additionally, contractual salary increases contributed to the increase.
- Academic support expenses increased \$1.5 million. This increase is attributable to an increase in SURS expense and contractual salary increases.
- Operations and maintenance of plant costs increased \$700,000 attributable to an increase in SURS expense and contractual salary increases.
- Depreciation increased \$600,000 as major construction projects such as the Student Center were completed during the fiscal year.
- General administration and Institutional expenses decreased by \$800,000. This decrease is comprised of a variety of components including: employee vacancies during the fiscal year, new administrators hired at lower salaries than previously, and non-personnel cost containment during fiscal year 2017.
- Financial aid expenses decreased by \$800,000 driven by the decline in our student enrollment.
- Auxiliary enterprises expenses decreased by \$100,000 due to continued declining bookstore sales, as well as close monitoring of expenses due to the state's financial situation.

The CAFR provides more detailed information about the college's financial condition including its assets, liabilities, and net position for all funds. The information provided herein derives from the CAFR and is consistent with generally accepted accounting principles with one exception: the Oakton Educational Foundation, a 501(c)(3) component unit of the college, reports its finances separately. To view the foundation's statements, see Oakton's CAFR or contact the foundation at 847.635.1893 to receive a copy.

Use of Resources by Type of Service for the years ended June 30

(In thousands)	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
Instruction	\$45,094	\$43,718	\$46,510	\$51,885	\$55,022
Academic Support	9,858	11,045	11,300	12,508	14,018
Student Services	13,097	13,150	13,556	13,432	12,751
Operations and Maintenance	8,619	9,358	10,516	10,099	10,798
General Institutional Support	7,751	8,740	10,477	8,266	7,491
Auxiliary Enterprises	9,439	10,050	10,264	9,935	10,044
Depreciation	2,548	2,788	3,926	5,427	6,048
Total Expenses	\$96,406	\$98,849	\$106,549	\$111,552	\$116,172



Men's Tennis Goes to Nationals

The Owls men's tennis team punched its ticket to nationals in Plano, Texas, finishing among the nation's top 25 in 2017. Oakton finished third at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region IV Men's Tennis Tournament and second in the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference.

"This puts Oakton on the map in the state and shows we are a force to be reckoned with—that will only help with recruiting," said head coach Kelly Johnson.



Oakton Golfers Bukielski and Blaha in National Tournament

Freshman golfers Stephen Bukielski (Niles, Schaumburg High School) and Chris Blaha (Hoffman Estates, Conant High School) competed in the 2017 National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Men's Golf Championship May 23-26 at Longbow Golf Course in Mesa, Arizona.

Smart an NJCAA All-American

Infielder Tom Smart (Evanston, Loyola Academy) was named to the NJCAA Baseball Division III All-American First Team. The freshman led the Owls in several offense categories during the 2017 season, including runs batted in (53), batting average (.424), home runs (4), hits (75) and slugging percentage (.667). The All-Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference (ISCC) first teamer compiled a .394 batting average and 24 RBI in ISCC play. He is pursuing a degree at UIC after receiving a scholarship offer from the Flames.



Oakton's Beckford Named NJCAA All-American

Oakton Community College freshman **Tafari Beckford** (Skokie, Niles North High School) was named National Junior College Athletic Association second team basketball All-American. The 2016-17 Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference (ISCC) player of the year averaged a double-double in ISCC play, en route to earning first team all-conference honors with an average of 21.5 points, 11.4 rebounds, 5.3 assists and 1.6 blocked shots per conference game. Beckford earned all-region accolades, shooting 53.3 percent from the field, including 38.1 percent three-point shooting in 24 games.



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