



SANDBURG BREAKS GROUND
ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

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The mission of Carl Sandburg College is to provide all students with opportunities for success.

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# President's Message

t gives me great pleasure to share the transformative change happening on our campus, and to spotlight the ways in which our students and faculty are reimagining the future every day.

This year marked a watershed moment in Carl Sandburg College's history as we held the groundbreaking for the first major construction project on campus in decades. The Science & Technology Center will provide state-of-the-art facilities for our natural science, criminal justice, information technology, health professions, nursing, and dental hygiene classes and programs. Opening in August 2024, the building will serve as a focal point for our campus.

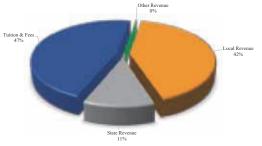
The construction of the new building was preceded by the renovation of the Center for Manufacturing Excellence (Building G) on campus to accommodate our reimagined automotive facility. It connected our career and technical programs in one space and allows students to work in a spacious modern facility,

mirroring the workspace where they will continue their careers.



TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS
REVENUE BY SOURCE

FY 2023 PERCENT OF



While we are always looking to the future, we are also constantly reminded of those who have contributed to our college in the past. Jason and David Hise represent the third generation of their family with ties to Sandburg athletics, and two of our outstanding alumni, Distinguished Alumni Award winner Anya Pshenychny '10 and Pacesetter Award winner Angel Peterson '16, were recognized at the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) banquet.

The Carl Sandburg College Foundation also initiated a 100 Extraordinary Women campaign to

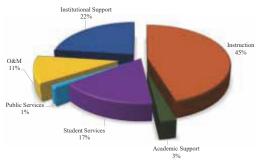
The Carl Sandburg College Foundation also initiated a 100 Extraordinary Women campaign to support our nursing students, which reminds us of the many ways in which people have been impacted in our district. These donations will support our students for years to come, and the donors will be memorialized in the new Science & Technology Center. The Vitale Foundation and the Carl Sandburg College Foundation innovation grants promote inventive approaches to teaching and learning. Our 50 Alumni, 50 States campaign highlights the impact Sandburg graduates have across the nation and the world.

The Carl Sandburg College Foundation also benefitted from donors seeking to help international students and support our workforce partners in bridging the language barrier. We have seen significant growth in our international student population, which is reflective of the growth in our district. This magazine celebrates the college's impact on these students' lives, and it also underscores how much we have been impacted by their presence on our campus.

Finally, this issue focuses on the impact students are making during their time at Sandburg — whether it be Samantha Cozad working to provide support to women dealing with period poverty; celebrating the incredible achievements of our student athletes; Kathryne Herslow, who has set her sights on becoming a nurse inspired by the support she received from student groups such as Women of Character; or SkillsUSA competition winners Gavin Gerard and Faith Kiprop.

I hope you enjoy reading more about the transformative changes taking place and the transformative impact our faculty, staff, and students bring to our lives every day.

## FY 2023 PERCENT OF TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM



Seaws Reilly, President

# **Chu Serving Up More Than Food**

# Tres Café owner creates scholarship to assist students with international ties

In hirley Chu smiled and recalled her father making the same statement on more than one occasion.

"Education," he told her, "is the one thing they can't take away from you."

That was one of the reasons Chu established the Tres Café International Scholarship last year through the Carl Sandburg College Foundation in honor of her family members. The scholarship is awarded to international, foreign-born or first-generation American-born students with a passion for engaging in community service.

"I decided to create a scholarship because of my kids and for their love of studying," Chu said.

Chu's daughter is a lawyer, her middle son a filmmaker and her youngest son is studying electrical engineering with a focus on robotics.

Chu, the owner of Tres Café in Galesburg and Abingdon, was born and raised in the Philippines with her four older sisters. Her father served in the Philippine Air Force. The five daughters wore clothing designed and sewn by their mother.

"My dad was very strict when it came to school," Chu said. In the Philippines, Chu's school day started at 7 a.m. and concluded at 5 p.m. Students graduated from high school at age 16. All of Chu's

sisters attended and graduated from college. Before moving to the United States, Chu graduated with her bachelor's degree in political science.

In 2017, Chu joined Tres Café on Lincoln Street, and this past May she added a second Tres Café location in Abingdon. Growing up with limited means, Chu values education and the importance of giving back to the community.

"Kids from other countries do not realize how difficult it is with no help," Chu said. "Scholarships give you the chance to do better."



## Ready to become a scholarship donor?

The Carl Sandburg College Foundation has an exceptional group of donors who are dedicated to making a direct impact on students' lives. To become part of this legacy, email the Sandburg Foundation at foundation@sandburg.edu or call 309.341.5349.

# **Growing Number of International Students Thrive at Sandburg**

Although Sandburg is a community college, its doors are open to anyone around the world.

That has especially been the case recently, as the college has seen its international student population more than double from 17 in 2020-21 to 38 in the 2022-23 academic

"Our college is not a huge institution; so when students get here and get connected with the right offices, they really feel like they're part of the community. It's like their family they belong to," said Veronica Thor, director of international student services.

In the most recent school year, Sandburg

had students from 13 countries who were here on an academic student visa: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, India, Israel, Kenya, Panama, South Korea, Spain, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and Venezuela.

The International Student Services Office serves as the primary support for those students, assisting them throughout the admissions process, with their visa application, during their arrival and the rest of their time at Sandburg.

"It's already a bit intimidating trying to go to the U.S. and understanding all the requirements," Thor said. "Just like normal college students have their own issues, [international students] have this added part because their family's not here."

Sandburg also has an International Club, and this past year the college started its Home Away From Home program in which international students are connected with volunteer families in the community to foster supportive relationships and cultural exchange.

To learn more about Sandburg's international program, visit sandburg.edu/international.





# **Breaking the Language Barrier**

# Sandburg provides assistance to non-native English speakers

ith more than 60 percent of its employees being non-native English speakers, Carthage System wanted to find a way to help more of its workers learn more of the English language.

The swine production company discovered the perfect partner in Carl Sandburg College's Workforce Development & Community Education Department. What began as Carthage System enrolling employees in English Language Acquisition (ELA) courses through Sandburg eventually grew into a training opportunity designed specifically for the company.

"We made it every way possible to make no excuses for our team members not to take the course," said Carlos Himan, a human resources recruiting specialist for Carthage System, which has 180,000 sows and produces 4.2 million pigs each year across facilities in six Midwest states. "It was a lot of people calling into the office. It was a very good partnership from the beginning."

Sandburg's Workforce Development & Community Education Department has a wide variety of non-credit offerings — such as driver improvement programs, food service certification courses, day trips and youth programs — in addition to providing business training opportunities. When a significant number of enrollees in the department's ELA classes started coming from Carthage System, the two sides worked together to create a course solely for the company's employees.

ELA instructor Margarita Patton and Kang

Hee Hong, Sandburg's director of workforce and community education, toured Carthage System's farm site in Hancock County to gather information to design a curriculum with the company's employees in mind. In addition to standard ELA content, material taught in the class was formed out of words and phrases that workers regularly communicate during their shifts.

66 It was a very good partnership from the beginning.

—Carlos HimanCarthage System

"I think that made Carthage System very appreciative that we were very serious about how much we want to help them," Hong said. "It was more like, 'Let us learn what your needs are so we can really customize the training.' It made a really strong connection."

"It was a great opportunity for them to say, 'Where is it we're having barriers?""
Himan said. "It just gave the instructor the opportunity to really get introduced to the swine industry and what the lingo should be."

The course was offered virtually, giving employees at any of Carthage System's facilities the opportunity to participate. The response was so overwhelmingly positive and successful that Sandburg and Carthage

System then teamed up to offer an English-to-Spanish course this past year for employees in management positions. It had so much demand that Carthage System had to select which employees could participate in the first offering.

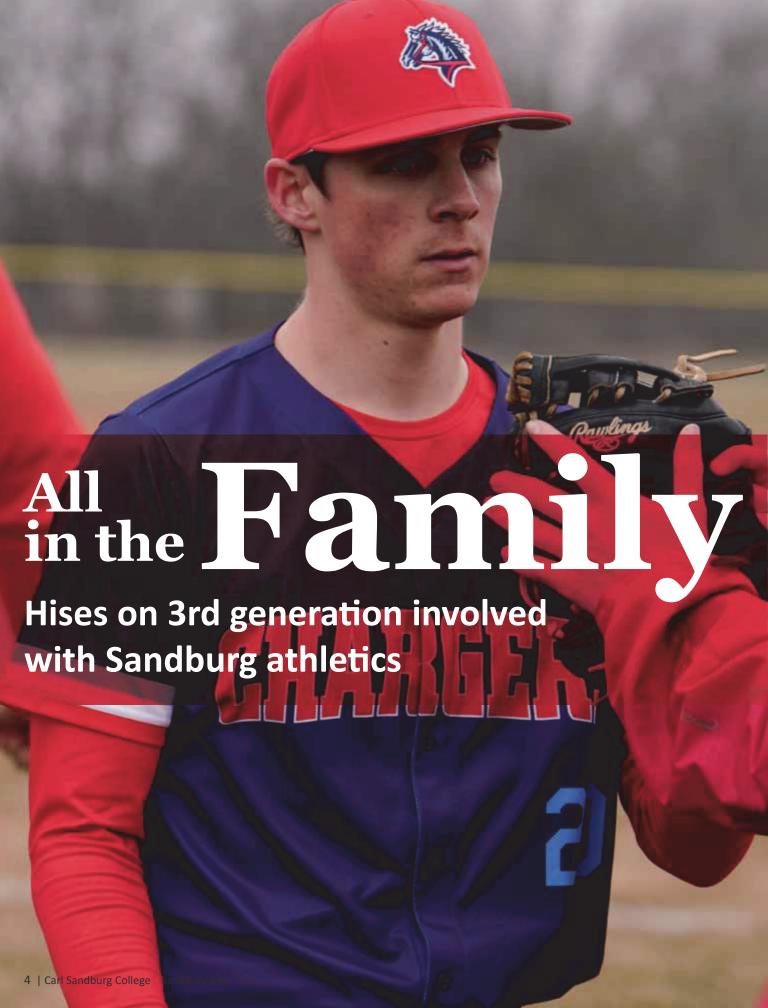
"Our feeling was that if we had the opportunity to have an individual meet halfway with another individual," Himan said, "then the communication would just be opened up so much more, and then you really break down barriers."

Sandburg and Carthage System plan to continue offering the ELA and English-to-Spanish classes, and Himan, a first-generation Mexican-American and bilingual speaker himself, will be one of the instructors. In addition to being a great resource for employees on the job, Himan said they offer a way for workers to feel like a more connected part of their community.

"We thrive on bringing individuals here from other parts of the world for labor, but we really want to connect them to the community," Himan said. "It's the acceptance that individuals are coming in, and then the community partakes in that as well and sees that as a positive thing. Having Sandburg on board just makes it more even positive."

To learn more about corporate training opportunities through Sandburg, email community@sandburg.edu.





hen David Hise joined the Carl Sandburg College men's basketball team last season, he was keeping up with a family tradition.

Hise, who will be a sophomore this fall for the Chargers, is part of the third generation of the Hise family with ties to Sandburg athletics. His grandfather, Jerry Hise, coached the Chargers' women's basketball team in the early 1980s, which included leading the program to its first Region IV championship and national tournament appearance in 1985.

David's father, Pat Hise, was a two-sport athlete who played baseball and basketball for the Chargers in 1984-85, winning an Arrowhead Conference title on the hardwood. And David's older brother, Jason Hise, graduated in May after spending two years with the Sandburg baseball team. Jason also played basketball in his freshman season and was an all-conference pitcher in his first year on the diamond at Sandburg.

A big reason why David and his brother came to Sandburg was because of its location. They grew up in nearby Knoxville and graduated from Knoxville High School, just like their dad.

"It's in our backyard," Pat said. "You see if they can move on from here and get the experience. With both my sons, it's been ideal."

Pat, David said, has always been his sons' "second coach at home."

"He tells me what I need to do every game or even at practice what I should improve on or work on," said David, who also joined the Chargers men's golf team in the spring. "But I trust him. He knows what he's talking about."

Jerry — ever the coach — can be found in the bleachers next to Pat at Chargers home games, keeping a close eye on how his grandsons are performing.

David's favorite memories with his family are playing basketball in their driveway, usually one-on-one against his father or brother. They would also have family games with mom Jodi and Pat teaming up to take on the sons.

When asked who wins one-on-one between him and his father these days, David said he does most of the time. Pat joked that he usually gives up midway through the game when he is up by one and the game starts to get close. David also said he has the edge on his older brother now that he plays college basketball and has outgrown him.

"It's almost worth it to charge admission to watch these two play one-on-one in the driveway," Pat said of his sons.

Thinking back to his own playing days, Pat described his game as a 6-foot-1 player who loved to slam dunk because there was no 3-point line at that time. He recalled that one of his most memorable moments on the court at Sandburg was matching up with former NBA player Kevin Gamble in a game against Lincoln College.

"Coach Barry Swanson put me in for one play to guard him," Pat said. "It was an unbalanced play. They set a double screen and bounce passed to him. He dunked on me, and I fell."

Pat described David on the court as "very skilled, very talented, very unselfish."

"He can score and he can shoot free throws, get to the lane," Pat said. "He's got all the skills."

It fits right in line with the family lineage.

"I don't really think about trying to follow in their footsteps or do what they did," David said. "I just kind of pave my own path and do me, basically."



Jerry Hise (center) had a successful run as the Chargers' women's basketball coach, including leading the program to its first national tournament appearance in 1985.



Seated between his parents and in front of coach Barry Swanson, Pat Hise signs to play basketball and baseball at Sandburg in the 1984-85 season.



David Hise (left) followed in the footsteps of his father, Pat (right), in playing for the Chargers and is part of the third generation in his family involved with Sandburg athletics.



ith the purr of diesel engines hard at work and humming in the background, one of the most momentous occasions in Carl Sandburg College history took place on a sun-drenched, late-April afternoon as it hosted a ceremonial groundbreaking for its new Science & Technology Center.

"Carl Sandburg has been called a favorite son of Galesburg, Illinois," trustee Rev. Lee Johnson told a crowd of students, faculty, staff and community members. "One of his favorite sayings, which has kind of become a motto here, is, 'Nothing happens unless first a dream.' And what we're doing today is the culmination of many, many dreams by many different people over a lot of years."

Designed by Farnsworth Group and built by River City Construction, the 47,000-square-foot, \$30 million facility is scheduled to open in time for the start of the 2024 fall semester. It marks the first new building on Sandburg's Main Campus in several decades and will be the largest construction project undertaken there since the campus opened in 1969.

The Science & Technology Center will serve not only as a physical focal point

for the college but also as its academic aorta. Sandburg's dental hygiene classes and clinic will move from their location at the Annex in downtown Galesburg to the new building, meaning all of the college's academic programs will be located on the Main Campus. The Science

# 66 Nothing happens unless first a dream.

-Carl Sandburg

& Technology Center will also be home to Sandburg's other health professions programs, such as nursing. Classes for math, natural sciences and information and communication technology also will take place in the new building.

"This groundbreaking here today," President Dr. Seamus Reilly said, "represents a step in supporting some of the greatest assets in our community, in our health care facilities and in our associated science facilities, which of course support every single aspect of the life that we lead here in western Illinois."

To make room for the new building. the area that housed the automotive technology program in Building B was torn down and the program moved across the street to the Center for Manufacturing Excellence (Building G), putting all of Sandburg's industrial arts programs under one roof (see Page 8). In addition to classroom areas, the Science & Technology Center will include meeting rooms, academic offices and a wellness lounge for students to address their mental and emotional needs. The two-story facility will offer views of Lake Storey on the inner edge of the campus.

"This is a celebration of not just the future and what's to come," Reilly said, "but also a rededication of the vision of those who came before us."

Visit sandburg.edu/ construction to take a virtual walk-through of the new Science & Technology Center.













hen Mike Hagedorn joined Carl Sandburg College last summer as an automotive technology instructor, he knew he was going to have a major project on his hands in the first few months.

To make way for the college's new Science & Technology Center, the existing automotive area in Building B was going to be torn down after the fall semester, and the program would be moved about 300 yards across the street to the Center for Manufacturing Excellence (Building G), which is home to Sandburg's other industrial programs.



"Some people cringed at that like, 'Oh my gosh, how are you going to move that shop?"" Hagedorn said. "For me, it was perfect. It's a reset. It gave the students coming in there a kind of new ownership to that, because they got to choose where stuff went."

The result is a setup that looks like a mechanic's dream.

"You walk into this one now," Hagedorn said, "and it feels like a dealership service facility."

Sandburg worked with Snap-on's Build-a-Bay team to design a space that was not only ideal for teaching but also replicates what students will see once they enter the workforce. Just a few of the features of the new space include six hoists (five two-post and a 14,000-pound four-post), wheel balancers, a tire machine, a front-end alignment machine, on- and off-car brake lathes, a tire pressure monitoring kit and

"It really closely emulates a service environment. I want that type of environment where we can turn them loose to work and then have the ability to completely stop it," Hagedorn said. "In other words, just pause it and say, 'OK, everybody come here and look at this.' You've got to be able to press pause on things and slow it down and stop where they can take a look at the stuff that matters."

Sandburg's automotive technology program is a certificate that can be completed in two semesters and gives students the opportunity to complete a host of Automotive Service Excellence-certified tasks that prepare them to work in independent repair facilities. According to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median pay for automotive service technicians and mechanics was \$46,880 annually (\$22.54 per hour).

"There's this old adage that you're not going

to make money turning wrenches on a car, but the industry has changed quietly," Hagedorn said. "In the automotive industry, the last 15 years have been incredible from a technological standpoint. There's been more changes in the last 15 years than probably in the last 50 before

Hagedorn hopes to integrate more nationally recognized certifications into Sandburg's program, giving students even more credibility once they start their job search. The program added an S/P2 safety certification this past year, and thanks to a \$235,000 grant from the Illinois Community College Board, it acquired multiple tool kits from Snap-on for certifications from the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3).

"Any dealership you walk into, any repair facility you walk into in this country is going to know Snap-on, and it probably has a Snap-on deal," Hagedorn said. "If you walk in there, they may not know Sandburg, but they're going to know who Snap-on is, and you're going to show them, 'I've taken their course. I've got their certification. Here's my paperwork to show it.' That's something that not everybody has. That increases their employability."

To learn more about Sandburg's automotive technology program, visit sandburg.edu/automotive.



# 'The Best Decision I've Ever Made'

A Congolese immigrant with just \$120 to his name when he arrived, Josue Bashombe found the perfect fit at Sandburg

For Josue Bashombe, graduating from Carl Sandburg College in May was the culmination of a journey that spanned four years and two continents. Here is his story, in his own words.

n May 15, 2019, I traveled by myself over 8,000 miles to the United States with one suitcase, \$120 and little knowledge of how to speak English. But I arrived in America to pursue my dreams, my goals and my education.

As a child growing up in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I loved to work with things to build or fix, and that led to me wanting to become an engineer. My first step was to get to America, so in October 2017, I applied for the US Diversity Immigrant Visa Program, a lottery that allows immigrants to become an American resident and possibly a citizen. The following May, I learned I had been selected, and over the course of the next year, I had to provide proof of my birth certificate, my high school diploma, a clean criminal record, medical records and my passport before an interview with the consul at the US embassy and ultimately receiving my visa.

I arranged to find housing in Galesburg with other Congolese immigrants who had been living here for a few years. But before I could go to school, I knew I had to learn how to speak English and be able to pay for college. I got a job at a meat processing factory in a nearby







town as I worked tirelessly to support myself. After work,I would take English Language Acquisition classes at Carl Sandburg College to learn English. After about a year of living here, I felt like I was prepared to take the next step and go to college.

I looked for a school that could meet my needs financially and asked for advice on social media from people who went to college in the US. Attending a community college seemed to be the best way to save money. Sandburg was the best fit, and as a bonus, I did not have to move out of my new home in Galesburg. I enrolled at Sandburg for the fall 2020 semester, and it turned out to be the best decision I've ever made.

Sandburg helped me grow as a student and as a person. In May, I graduated with my associate in science degree with a 3.6 grade point average. During my time at Sandburg, I served as president of the Student Government Association and of the Men of Distinction in addition to being a member of the Black Student Association, Hispanic-Latino Student Association, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, TRIO Student Support Services and a student ambassador. In 2022, I was honored to be chosen as Sandburg's Student Leader of the Year and the college's nominee for the Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureate. This year, I was chosen as Sandburg's Math Scholar of the Year, was one of the recipients of the inaugural Spirit of Sandburg Award and had the incredible privilege of being the student speaker at Commencement.

I also became an active volunteer and committed member of my community. I have served at the United Way, the National Stearman Fly-in, the Knox County YMCA and for several other organizations and events. Last summer, I was one of the organizers of Galesburg's first Lipanda Day in which we brought together Congolese and Americans on June 30 — the Congo's Independence Day — to share culture and make our community a place for everybody.

Sandburg meant a lot to me because it was my first school in the US, and it helped me realize what I was capable of. I remember my first year at Sandburg, I used to be very quiet and not say a word. I just took my classes and left. After I started being involved, I wasn't like that anymore.

This fall I'll continue toward my bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering at the University of Illinois. My goal is to build airplanes and missiles, and my greatest dream is to be the first Congolese-born American citizen to become an astronaut, an achievement that would make both of my countries proud.



Carl Sandburg College classmate asked Samantha Cozad last fall if there was a place students could go on campus if they needed a regular bulk supply of menstrual products.

When Cozad realized the answer was "no," she sprang into action. "I took that to heart," Cozad said. "Things like that, they are not cheap at all. I can understand not being able to have those things. Being able to have it free and available for students, I just thought it was a very big need."

That need has now been met, as Sandburg began a partnership in the spring with Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank to offer free period kits and tampon kits as well as baby diapers and wipes in its Resource Room Campus Food Pantry on the Main Campus in Galesburg. Sandburg already offered free feminine products in its restrooms, but the partnership with Loving Bottoms allows students to receive a regular monthly supply at one time.

Cozad took her classmate's question to Anthony Law, Sandburg's coordinator of diversity and inclusion, and then to coordinator of student life Genny Stevens. Those talks led to Sandburg becoming the first community college to serve as a partner agency with Loving Bottoms, which covers 13 counties in west-central Illinois and has donated more than 1.5 million diapers since it was founded in 2015. The Galesburg-based organization's mission is to end diaper need and period poverty through access, education and advocacy. Lee Ann Porter, the



founder and executive director of Loving Bottoms, said adding a location at Sandburg was a natural fit for students and others in need.

"We want them to go places that they're already going to be or where they can receive other help," Porter said. "To put it right on campus, where they already are, where they can get other services, it's kind of a no-brainer."

While Cozad's initial inquiry addressed period products, Sandburg's conversations with Loving Bottoms expanded the offerings to include diapers and wipes for parents on campus. According to Loving Bottoms' website, it costs families about \$100 each month to diaper a child.

"It's not just for moms. It's also for dads," Cozad said. "There's a need from them as well, and we wanted to make sure that we could branch out that way. The fact that we could expand and do it for diapers and things for parents as well was amazing."

Sandburg's supply includes period kits (which include 10 daytime pads, five overnight pads and five liners), tampon kits (which include five tampons, 10 daytime pads, five overnight pads and five liners), diapers that range from newborn size to Size 6 and baby wipes.

The display is part of the college's Resource Room Campus Food Pantry, which is restocked each month with supplies of fresh produce, freezer items, refrigerator items and shelf items from River Bend Food Bank.

"It gets a lot of foot traffic," Cozad said. "A lot of people will get to see it and be able to ask about it. I'm happy that it's in such a big spot where many students come in to get resources."

One question sparked a discussion that turned into a solution for Sandburg students.

"It's not talked about very much, and I'm glad that we have something like this right smack dab in the Resource Room," Cozad said. "Hopefully it can bring more conversation, more awareness to it."

> For more information, visit lovingbottoms.org, riverbendfoodbank.org or email pantry@sandburg.edu.









# With Student Organizations as Her 'Backbone,' Herslow Sets Sights on Nursing School

athryne Herslow was in grade school the first time she remembers being at Carl Sandburg College. Her mother, Veronica, was a student at the time and on her way toward graduating with her nursing degree in 2014.

"I don't know why, but I liked it. I really wanted to go here at that moment in time, and I was only like 10 years old," Herslow said. "My mom just walked around the school with me, and she's like, 'You're going to go here one day."

Mother knew best.

Herslow, a 2020 Galesburg High School graduate, earned her first degree from Sandburg during the spring, and she'll follow in her mother's footsteps by going to nursing school here this fall at her hometown college.

Herslow's first year at Sandburg coincided with the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. With all her classes taking place online, she noticed she became less outgoing. She started spending more time to herself and began having anxiety around others.

Then she got an email from Genny Stevens, Sandburg's coordinator of student life, inviting Herslow to become a student ambassador. Student ambassadors serve and represent the college in a variety of ways, including giving tours to prospective students and assisting with orientation sessions.

Then she met with Anthony Law, Sandburg's coordinator of diversity and inclusion. He told Herslow about Women of Character (WOC), a service and leadership group on campus. Joining those two organizations, Herslow said, changed her experience at Sandburg and made her a better leader.

"They were kind of like my backbone," said Herslow, who served as the president of WOC this past year. "I became more outgoing. I just started loving Sandburg more, in a sense. It wasn't the same routine over and over again."

Being back on campus and taking classes in person also helped change Herslow's outlook.

"Before when we weren't here, I was always at home stuck on the laptop, and I'd never done online classes before," Herslow said. "It was harder for me. When the transition to come back to the college came, it was easier because everyone was helpful. If you asked anyone at the college for help, they'd help you immediately."

That support system was one reason Herslow decided to apply for Sandburg's nursing program. When she told Stevens back in March that she'd been accepted to it for the 2023-24 academic year, the two screamed together over the phone. Law has already talked to Herslow about her pinning ceremony for when she graduates from nursing school.

While May marked the first time Herslow got to walk at her own graduation (her high school ceremony was reconfigured because of COVID), she's saving her biggest celebration for her next degree from Sandburg. She even has a Pinterest board with nursing-themed party ideas, and her cake is already picked out.

"I guess it gives me a sense of motivation," Herslow said, "the feeling of succeeding."

# 2 Students Win Gold at SkillsUSA Illinois Championships

pair of Carl Sandburg College students were named gold medalists at the SkillsUSA Illinois Championships this spring. Gavin Gerard of Oneida took first place in the Job Interview category, and Faith Kiprop of Iten, Kenya, won in Technical Computer Applications.

More than 2,000 students took part in the state championship event in Peoria, which serves students at the college, high school and middle school level who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled-service occupations and for further education.

As state champions, Gerard and Kiprop qualified to compete at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in June in Atlanta, which featured more than 100

trade, technical and leadership career competitions.

The job interview competition includes completion of an application, a preliminary interview with a receptionist and an in-depth interview. Competitors are evaluated on their understanding of employment procedures in the occupational areas in which they are training.

In the technical computer applications competition, competitors performed in teams while demonstrating individual technical skills in installation, configuration and use of Windows, Mac OS X and Linux operating systems as well as one or more integrated office suite packages. The competition also included an oral presentation, a hands-on skills demonstration and a written examination.



# **Chargers Athletics**

## THE NUMBERS

### **All-Region IV selections**

Men's cross country, women's cross country and women's golf each had four all-region recipients.

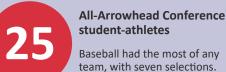
Region IV and Arrowhead Conference titles won by Chargers teams and athletes

- The men's and women's cross country squads took home their region and conference championships.
- Women's golf won its first-ever Region IV title.
- Volleyball dropped just one set while completing a perfect run to the Arrowhead championship.

• On the individual side, Babra Jepkirui won the Arrowhead women's cross country title, Emmanuel Kiprop was the men's cross country conference champion and Calton Kibet won the Region IV men's cross country title.



• Volleyball right side Gracie Rademacker finished 15th in the country with 483 kills and 17th nationally





Teams represented at NJCAA national championships

NJCAA All-America nominees

- Both cross country squads reached the national meet, with the men placing 15th and the women 25th.
- The Chargers women's golf team finished 15th at its national tournament, and men's golfer Clayton Phillips competed at nationals for the second straight year.

**Arrowhead Conference MVPs** 

Setter Carmyn Baldwin became just the second Chargers volleyball player to be named the conference's Most Valuable Player, and third baseman Jack Shields won the honor in baseball after hitting .435 and driving in 29 runs in 20 conference games.

NJCAA All-American

Emmanuel Kiprop placed eighth at the NJCAA national meet to earn Second-Team All-America honors. He became the second Sandburg men's cross country All-American in as many seasons, joining teammate Calton Kibet, who was a firstteamer in 2021.

Visit sandburgchargers.com for the latest Chargers news, schedules, photo galleries and more, and be sure to follow Sandburg Athletics on social media!



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@SandburgNJCAA

Smash that subscribe button! Subscribe to the Sandburg Athletics Podcast, giving you an inside look at the coaches, athletes and others associated with Chargers sports! Available wherever you listen to your favorite shows, including Spotify and Apple Podcasts!

# 2023 Sandburg Alumni Award Winners

# Distinguished Alumni Award: Anya Pshenychny '10

rom an early age, it was evident Anya Pshenychny had a passion for pursuing her ambitions, a determination to succeed and a positive outlook to make her dreams a reality.

Born in Kyiv, Ukraine, Pshenychny and her family came to the United States in 1994. At age 15, Pshenychny began working in the food service industry to support herself. She later worked more than 40 hours a week while completing her studies at Carl Sandburg College. In 2010, she graduated from Sandburg with an associate in applied science in marketing/mid-management and with no student debt.

After graduating from Sandburg, Pshenychny earned her bachelor's degree in marketing communication from Columbia College Chicago. Pshenychny has been employed with Paramount since 2012 in various roles, currently as a senior account executive.

Last November, she returned to Sandburg for an in-residence program where she connected with current students and participated in a panel discussion. She has volunteered her time at animal shelters and additional humanitarian organizations. In 2022, Pshenychny was named a Chicago Advertising Federation Rising Star, which honors the difference makers propelling the communication industry forward.

"My life has been shaped by a community college education by providing me the opportunity to transfer to a four-year college debt-free. The affordability and flexibility at Sandburg allowed me to have the opportunity of balance and financial security, which was important to me when I was selecting a school," Pshenychny said. "I was initially interested in nursing, then dental hygiene, but ultimately decided on marketing/mid-management. Having the flexibility to explore these options made it much easier for me to



find what I was most passionate about while pursuing my education.

"Sandburg prepared me with general education courses (math, science and English) and courses more aligned with marketing and business (economics, marketing and management), giving me a well-rounded education. Sandburg was a great foundation for general education courses before I transferred to Columbia College Chicago. By focusing on marketing/mid-management, I was able to get my credits transferred and finish my BA at Columbia in two years. Today, I regularly mentor young professionals and college students interested in the media industry, and with younger students, I emphasize the value and impact my experience at Carl Sandburg provided me."

# Pacesetter Award: Angel Peterson '16

s a Carl Sandburg College student, Angel Peterson fell in love with education and the process of learning. She continues to carry that same passion into her own classroom as a teacher striving to push students to new academic heights.

After graduating from Sandburg in 2016 with an associate degree, Peterson transferred and earned her bachelor's in elementary education from the University of Northern Iowa. Today, she is a third-grade teacher at Silas Willard Elementary in Galesburg. She's also working to complete her master's in education this December in curriculum and instruction at Western Illinois University.

Along with her time devoted to teaching, Peterson serves on various school committees, including Social Emotional Learning, Curriculum Leaders and Family Event Planning. In 2022, Peterson was one of 16 selected nationwide to participate in the highly competitive and prestigious Fulbright-Hays Program, which gave her the opportunity to travel to the Philippines for a one-month immersive cultural and educational experience.

In her community, Peterson serves as president of the local Prairie Players Civic Theatre and has opened her own home as a foster parent to children in need of a loving



environment. She has cared for youth ranging from ages 3-16, children with limited English proficiency and children working through traumatic situations.

"Originally, I did not intend to do more than the minimum at Sandburg to get on with my college and career life. However, a friend pointed out my dislike for the college stemmed from this attitude. She challenged me to join one thing just to see what would happen," Peterson said. "This one thing snowballed into many opportunities, including Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, TRIO Student Support Services, Women of Character, student ambassadors and work-study programs. The community I was building also translated into the classroom. While I knew I wanted to be a teacher due to my love of working with children, it was not until Sandburg that I fell in love with education and the process of learning.

"Most distinctly, it was my class led by Kylie Price, assistant professor of developmental English, that influenced my trajectory. She inspired me to consider a world where I took myself seriously through pursuing higher degrees, prestigious programs and lofty career goals. I also took advantage of the travel opportunities available. I enrolled in classes that paired with field research experiences in New York, China and Europe. Sandburg got me my start in traveling the world! I owe a great deal of appreciation to Sandburg, which invested in me and provided the opportunities to truly find who I am as a person."

# Honoring Extraordinary Women

early 4,000 Carl Sandburg College nursing graduates have changed lives through research, education, practice, policy and countless other ways as leaders in the profession and society. Now, the Carl Sandburg College Foundation and Sandburg's College of Nursing want to spotlight some of those difference makers as they have joined the national initiative 100 Extraordinary Women, engaging women to pledge their support toward nursing student success and Sandburg's new Science & Technology Center.

The Sandburg Foundation is seeking a minimum of 100 women to each donate or pledge \$1,000 over five years (\$200 per year or \$16.67 per month). Donors can make their payment in one amount, donate annually or make bimonthly gifts by credit card at bit.ly/sandburg100. Individuals may also group together to share their pledge, and anyone may give in honor or in memory of a special woman.

These donations will help remove educational barriers such as

daycare costs and availability, reliable transportation and fuel prices. They also will relieve the financial hardship related to the inability for students to work many hours during the program as well as the initial textbook costs and fees for stethoscopes, uniforms and clinical supplies. Commitments also will assist with end-of-program costs like board fees and fingerprinting.

The name of every donor or every woman honored as part of the 100 Extraordinary Women campaign will be permanently listed in the College of Nursing as part of Sandburg's new Science & Technology Center, scheduled to open in 2024. The building will house all health professions programs and include a simulation lab, skills labs and collaborative classroom settings for up-to-date workforce learning.

Here's what inspired some who have already contributed to the 100 Extraordinary Women campaign to pledge their support.



## Susan Buck '12

"We are all part of a wonderful world of women leaders, and I am proud to represent. I feel it is my duty to help pay it forward through this wonderful initiative of 100 Extraordinary Women."



# Jeannine McCullough '82 & '94 "I have been very appreciative of the education I received from

Carl Sandburg College. The need for nurses is a growing concern. If my donation to the 100 Extraordinary Women initiative can ease the ability for someone to complete their education, I want to support them."

# Ashley Myler '17, honoring her mom, Becky Marshall '08

"Mom was diagnosed with uterine cancer in 2013. She underwent many surgeries and several forms of chemotherapy and radiation, but nothing even stopped her from caring for her patients. She treated all her patients with the utmost care and compassion. She never complained and always had a smile on her face. Mom was always willing to help. She loved working with nursing students on the floor and was supportive of their learning. She was a role model as a professional and as a person. I look up to her in so many ways."

Make your contribution to our 100 Extraordinary Women campaign at bit.ly/sandburg100.





arlier this year, the Carl Sandburg College Foundation awarded nine innovation grants totaling \$33,425 to be used toward new initiatives that drive student success. All Sandburg faculty, staff and instructional departments were invited to submit proposals for projects designed to launch new and innovative ventures. Proposals then went through a committee review before being awarded.

To learn more or to make a gift in support of this initiative, contact Chief Advancement Officer Eric Johnson at ebjohnson@sandburg.edu or 309.341.5349. Innovation grant funds were awarded for the following projects:

# Astronomy Night Sky Viewing Software & Equipment — Math & Science, Stewart Ferrell

Allows students a chance to view the night sky with the instructor without having to travel at night to a remote location. Using new technology and instruments, the view can be livestreamed, and it is also possible to capture astrophotography.

# DiSC Assessment & Pryor Learning Systems Implementation — Institutional Development

This assessment tool highlights users' individual personality styles, with the four predominant styles being dominance, influence, steadiness and conscientiousness. The DiSC assessment helps individuals identify their styles and what learning and working environments are the most productive with their qualities. It also enables them to better understand coworkers' styles to improve collaboration and communication.

# Synergy Camera/Radar Gun — Athletics (baseball)

Synergy is a video logging platform that allows teams to upload film, scorebooks and charts from games to Synergy's servers. Synergy quickly logs and sorts the information and makes it easily accessible. It can be used as a recruiting tool to for coaches at four-year programs to see actual game film of potential recruits and not just the highlight reels that are sent.

#### Veo Camera — Athletics (men's soccer)

Veo detects in-game events like goals, corner kicks, shots on goal and more. Feedback can be provided to players with a feature that allows shapes, lines and arrows to be drawn on screen, providing a more visual and engaging learning experience. Players can be tagged in highlights, and coaching comments can be created for players to help them reach their potential.

## Nikki the Nursing Manikin — Nursing

Used to improve students' patient-care skills, train auscultation and assist instructors on evaluating nursing skills and bedside competencies, Nikki the Nursing Manikin has a sound library that includes 21 heart sounds, 15 lung sounds and six bowel sounds. The manikin can also be used to teach patient, personal and medical care such as prevention of bedsores, oxygen inhalation, use of ventilation bags and injection sites. The manikin includes removable organs for additional patient-care training.

# eSkill — Workforce Development & Community Education

A collaboration between local companies and the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development, this assessment platform will assist with entrance test preparation for employment enhancement. eSkill allows the proctor to customize the questions based on each company's specific operation-relevant test and diagnostics. The eSkill platform can analyze the testers and provide specific training needs.

#### Sensory Room — Student Services

This grant will support the creation of an oncampus sensory room to help students regulate their emotions. A recent study found that 1 in 3 college-aged students endure significant anxiety and depression symptoms, leaving them feeling overwhelmed, having a sense of panic and feeling emotionally dysregulated, which can affect their personal lives and academic performance.

# Accuplacer — Workforce Development & Community Education

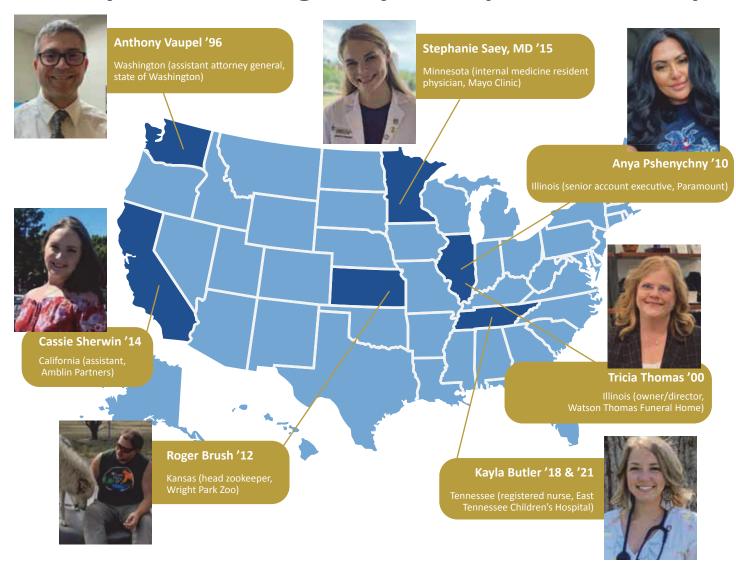
Prospective students not receiving a passing score on Sandburg's placement exam due to insufficient literacy skills will have access to a course to help prepare them for the exam. The Accuplacer course will have service components in which students are exposed to the enrollment process, including visiting the Welcome Center as well as meeting potential advisors and recruitment staff.

# TrainHeroic Athletic Program Technology — Health & Fitness/Athletics

The TrainHeroic application allows access to customizable, online training programs along with an exercise library that can assist with learning via repeated exposure. A studentathlete can watch these videos to help them become more proficient and safer with their training, ultimately guiding them toward their end goals.

# 50 Alumni, 50 States

# Share your Sandburg story to help fill in the map



Our graduates will forever be part of the Sandburg family. With more than 22,000 Carl Sandburg College alumni, our network reaches coast to coast and even beyond the United States. To celebrate, honor and have a bit of fun along the way, the Sandburg Alumni Relations office is kicking off a new initiative entitled 50 Alumni, 50 States. We want to discover where our alumni members are living, working and making a difference in their communities. Our goal is to have at least one alumnus or alumna from each state share their story. However, it doesn't have to stop at one. We know there are amazing work and personal achievements taking place all over that

make us proud to call you a Sandburg graduate. Join us, stay connected to your alma mater and inspire the next generation of graduates by including your journey from Sandburg to where you are today. Help us fill in our map by dropping us a line that identifies where you live, and tell us a bit about your path. We want to hear from you!

To share your Sandburg story or let us know about personal and professional updates, contact 309.341.5330, alumni@sandburg.edu or scan the **QR** code now to share your information.





# For Vitale, Education Remains Vital

## Former Galesburg HS teacher honors husband with scholarship to assist students

I give because I value

my education, and it

is good for students

to have a good start.

Ithough neither of Andrea Vitale's parents graduated from high school, that didn't stop them from stressing to her and her five sisters the significance of getting an education.

"It was important for our parents to see us all complete school," said Vitale, the youngest of six girls.

Now she's helping others cross that finish line.

In 2016, Vitale established the Guy L. Vitale Jr. Scholarship through

the Carl Sandburg College Foundation in honor of her late husband. Students must maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA and have a financial need to be eligible. Sandburg students can also complete a textbook and course supplies grant application sponsored by the Sandburg Foundation and G.L. Vitale Foundation, which assists students with the costs of renting or purchasing textbooks and course supplies.

As a Sandburg Foundation board member, Vitale realized how much

need existed and was inspired to make an impact in students' lives.

"Sandburg offers opportunities to students they may not otherwise have," Vitale said. "I give because I value my education, and it is good for students to have a good start."

To afford furthering her own education, Vitale worked summer jobs, including at factories and later as a college residence hall assistant. Following her high school graduation, Vitale joined one of her sisters by enrolling in classes at Ottawa University in Kansas. Her initial interest was to become an English teacher, but she discovered a passion for journalism after completing one class. She decided to change her major and transfer to the University of Missouri.

"The thought that teaching would be good was always in the back of my head," Vitale said.

Ready to graduate from college, a classmate of Vitale's mentioned a job opening at The Register-Mail in his hometown of Galesburg.

One year after moving to Galesburg, she met Guy, and they went on to have three children. The thought of teaching never left Vitale. She took a career preference test at Carl Sandburg College and

another at Bradley University.

"They came back with focus areas in journalism, English teacher and science teacher. I liked science but never would have thought about becoming a teacher in the subject," Vitale said.

She enrolled at Sandburg to complete a few courses before transferring to Western Illinois University to obtain her bachelor's degree in education. While working full-time as teacher, Vitale returned to the classroom to obtain her master's degree. Vitale taught at Galesburg High School from 1997-2009,

—Andrea Vitale

also serving as the advisor for the school newspaper.

"I planned to stay in Galesburg for two years," Vitale said, "and it has been 50 years."

For more information about how you can establish annual and endowed scholarships, contact the Carl Sandburg College Foundation at 309.341.5215 or scholarships@sandburg.edu.



# Thank you to our FY2023 donors!

Giving to Carl Sandburg College makes a profoundly positive impact on the Sandburg community — our students, our faculty, our curriculum and our programs. To show your support of Sandburg's mission of providing all students with opportunities for success, visit sandburg.edu/qivenow, or contact the Carl Sandburg College Foundation at 309.341.5349 or foundation@sandburg.edu.

## PRESIDENT'S CLUB (\$5,000+)

Larry & Regine Benne Sara Buchen-Ray Charles "Rocky" Caulkins '00 Dr. James Cecil Shirley Chu

Dave's Auto Body Edward Arthur Mellinger Educational

Foundation **Edward Jones** 

G.L. Vitale Family Foundation Galesburg Cottage Hospital School of Nursing

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Rev. Lee Johnson John Kraus

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Ryan Ricketts

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Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association

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Nicole Doud Jeffrey Dowell Gary Duden J. Nell Duden

Tracy '92, '02 & Alexander Engstrom

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Candace Fones '12, '17, '18, '20

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VFW Auxiliary #2301

Lisa Walker

Jacqueline Wasson Lori & James Webb

Western Illinois Builders Association

Marianne Wiesen Jessica Wiley April Wilson Debra Wilson Kathleen Wilson Krista Winters '06

Faye Yarde

Nancy & Gene Youngquist

Justina Zismer



# And the Award Goes to...

# 2023 Faculty of the Year Tina Braun-Smith, nursing

Tina Braun-Smith joined Sandburg as a nursing instructor in 2020 after nearly 15 years in health care and four years as an educator. In addition to her role at Sandburg, Braun-Smith teaches students at Woodruff Career & Technical Center in Peoria about entry-level health careers and assists with the school's certified nursing assistant program. A licensed nurse in Illinois, Arizona and Texas, Braun-Smith also cares for critically ill patients as an RN with UnityPoint Health.

"I teach to give back to the community, as my education has provided me an opportunity to give back what was provided to me by the community college," Braun-Smith said. "As an initial GED graduate, remedial courses and educators that took time to explain and provide objective feedback have guided my goals."



# 2023 Adjunct Faculty of the Year Ashley Reaves, dental hygiene

A 2008 graduate of Sandburg's dental hygiene program, Reaves returned to the college in 2013 as an adjunct instructor. Reaves maintains dental hygiene licensure in Illinois and Iowa and has 15 years of clinical experience in both public and private health sectors, including currently practicing pro re nata for Dr. Adam Sanberg in Monmouth. She credits her decade of teaching success to her clinical experiences.

"I strive to be the type of instructor that my studies at Sandburg provided me: Positive, supportive and informative," Reaves said. "I aim to provide a mentally healthy learning environment where each student is encouraged to show up uniquely and comfortably. I want all of my students to be reassured that their overall wellbeing is as important as their progression through any course or program."



# 2023 Staff Member of the Year **Erin Carder**

An academic advisor and retention coordinator with Sandburg's TRIO Student Support Services program, Carder first began working at Sandburg in 2014 as a student herself. She became a full-time employee in September 2018 as an advisor for TRIO Upward Bound until moving to her current role in April 2021.

"Under the guidance of my college mentors, I realized I wanted to enter a helping profession where I could serve as a mentor to others as they pursue their goals," Carder said. "Working with TRIO Student Support Services has provided me with a wonderful opportunity to share my knowledge, experience and skills with students who are facing similar challenges to those I faced as a student, and it has been such a rewarding experience to build meaningful relationships with my students and provide support for them throughout their educational journeys."



# Steps to Enroll

## Submit your free application.

Complete your free online application at applications.sandburg.edu/apply.

## Apply for financial aid.

Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at studentaid.gov. This will qualify you for federal and state aid (use Carl Sandburg College's code, 007265). Funding is need-based and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. If possible, submit early to ensure the aid you qualify for is available. There is a separate online scholarship application. For more information, contact the Carl Sandburg College Foundation.

### Provide course placement documentation.

To register for classes, you must meet one of the following three requirements for both math and reading:

- Send official or unofficial high school/college transcripts from all institutions attended, or high school equivalency exam results (GED/HiSET), which show sufficient coursework for college placement.
- Send official ACT/SAT scores directly from the testing agency (ACT or College Board) that meet our minimum score requirements. Note: Scores must be from an ACT/SAT test that was administered within the past five years.
- Sit for placement testing (Accuplacer), and meet our minimum score requirements.

For more information, email the Sandburg Welcome Center at welcomecenter@sandburg.edu or call 309.345.3500.

## Register for classes.

Once you've submitted your scores from your placement test(s), valid ACT/SAT scores or college transcripts, schedule a registration appointment by emailing Student Services at studentservices@sandburg.edu or by calling 309.341.5237.

### File Your FAFSA for Financial Aid

Have you filed your FAFSA? Students are encouraged to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible each year because some funding is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. While state funding may already be exhausted, you can still apply for federal aid. Students filing the FAFSA for 2023-24 should use their 2021 tax information. When filling out your FAFSA, use Sandburg's college code, 007265. File the FAFSA online at fafsa.gov, and if you need assistance or have any questions about the FAFSA, call our Financial Aid Office at 309.341.5283.

# Get started at Sandburg!

Contact the Sandburg Welcome Center at 309.345.3500 or welcomecenter@sandburg.edu to learn more about our programs!

#### **General University Transfer Programs** Associate in Arts (AA)

Associate in Science (AS)

#### **Specialized University Transfer** Program

Associate in Fine Arts (AFA)

#### **General Degree Program**

(This degree is not transferable to a college or university.) Associate in General Studies (AGS) Individually Designed Degree

#### **Career Certificates, State Certification Courses, Associate** in Applied Science (AAS) Degrees, **Advanced Certificates**

#### Certificates

Accounting Administrative Office Assistant Advanced Agriculture Advanced Industrial Maintenance Advanced Welding Agribusiness Agricultural Mechanization **Automotive Technology** Basic Agriculture Basic Industrial Maintenance **Basic Welding CISCO Networking Security** Computer Numeric Control Operator **Computer Support** Computer Technician Criminal Justice **Entrepreneurship and Small Business** Management Medical Assisting

Medical Office Assistant

Practical Nursing (LPN)

**Network Security** 

#### **State Certification Courses**

These are only courses that are offered. Upon successful completion students are eligible to apply to become state certified. Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)

#### **Associate in Applied Science Degrees** (AAS)

Accounting Administrative Office Professional Agribusiness Agricultural Mechanization **Business Administration** Criminal Justice Dental Hygiene Information Technology & Cyber Security Industrial Maintenance LPN to RN Articulation

Medical Assistant Medical Office Professional Mortuary Science Mortuary Science Accelerated Program Nursing (RN)

Radiologic Technology Surgical Technology (offered by ICC)

Welding

#### **Advanced Certificates**

Computed Tomography (CT) Computer Numeric Control Programmer Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

## Scholarship Opportunities Through the Carl Sandburg College Foundation

Each year the Carl Sandburg College Foundation supplies thousands of dollars in scholarships to Sandburg students in need to help them achieve their dream of becoming a college graduate. While the deadline to apply for scholarships for the 2023-24 academic year has passed, scholarship applications for the following year will open Oct. 1. If you've already applied to Sandburg, just log in to mySandburg, go to "Student Apps" and click on the "Scholarship Application" button. For more information about scholarships through the Foundation, contact Kassidy Klinedinst, coordinator of scholarships, donor relations and annual giving, at 309.341.5215 or kklinedinst@sandburg.edu.

## **Important Dates for 2023-24 Academic Year**

|                     | Fall Semester '23 | Spring Semester '24 | Summer Session '24 |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Registration Begins | Available now!    | Nov. 6, 2023        | Nov. 6, 2023       |
| Registration Ends   | Aug. 18, 2023     | Jan. 12, 2023       | June 7, 2024       |
| <b>Tuition Due</b>  | Aug. 8, 2023      | Dec. 12, 2023       | May 7, 2024        |
| Classes Begin       | Aug. 21, 2023     | Jan. 16, 2024       | June 10. 2024      |

## **Scholarship Applications**

Open each year from Oct. 1-June 15

Priority deadline: March 15 Final deadline: June 15

Interested in registering to take classes at Carl Sandburg College? Contact the Sandburg Welcome Center at 309.345.3500 or welcomecenter@sandburg.edu to begin the enrollment process.

Carl Sandburg College 2400 Tom L. Wilson Blvd. Galesburg, IL 61401

