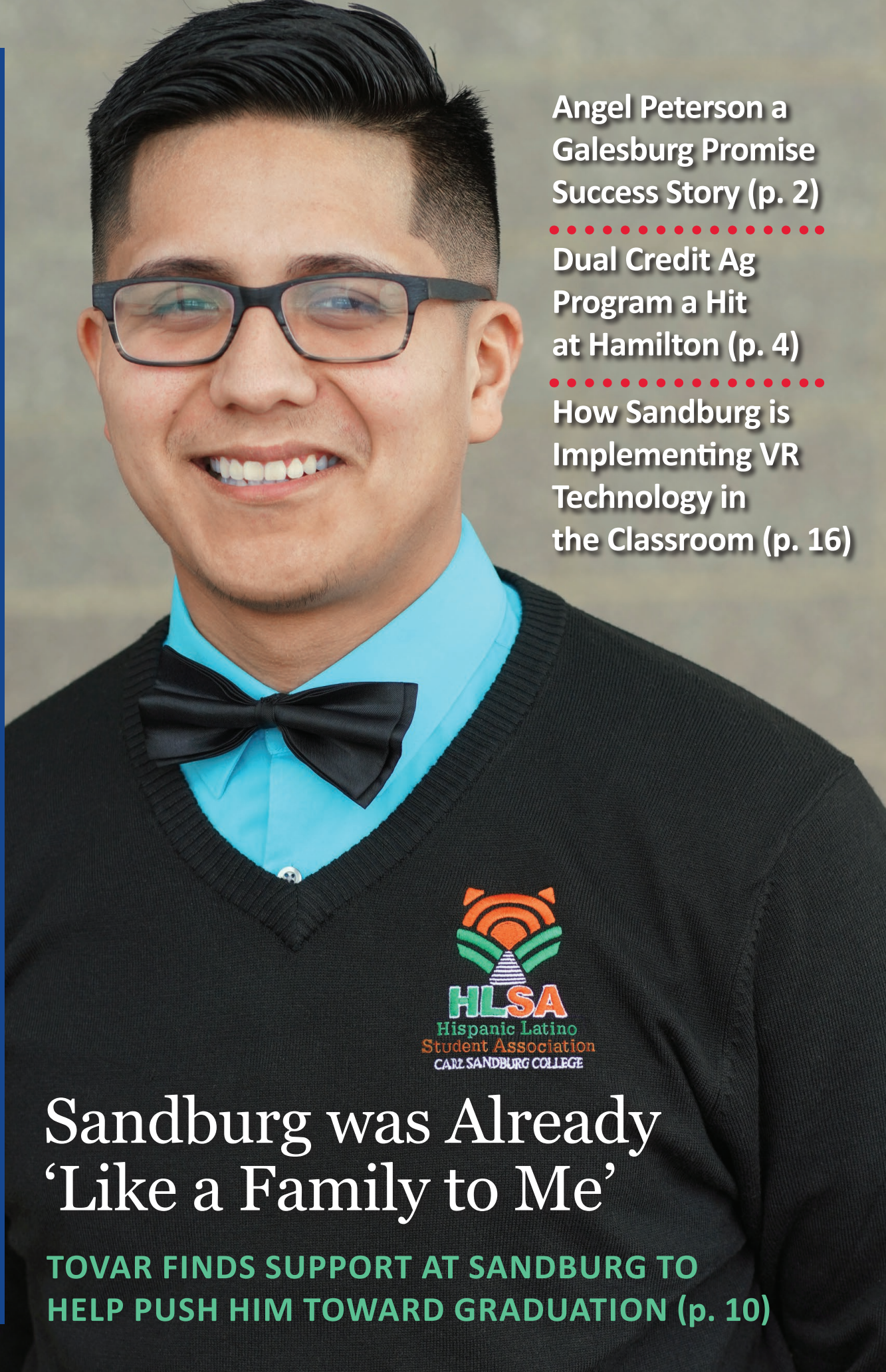


# SANDBURG

SPRING 2020

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CARL SANDBURG COLLEGE



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**Vision**

Where dreams come to life, and lives come to change.

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The College will direct individuals to resources for English language proficiency so that the lack of English proficiency will not be a barrier to future employment, admissions and participation in CTE programs. Career and technical education courses/program offerings and admission criteria are on our web site, [www.sandbug.edu](http://www.sandbug.edu), or by calling 309.341.5234.

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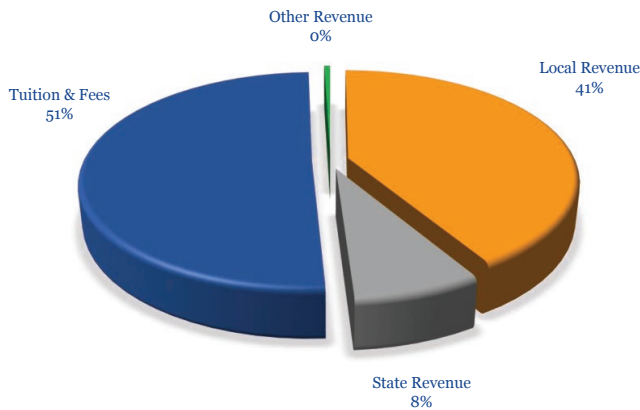
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# President's Message

## FY 2020 PERCENT OF TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS REVENUE BY SOURCE



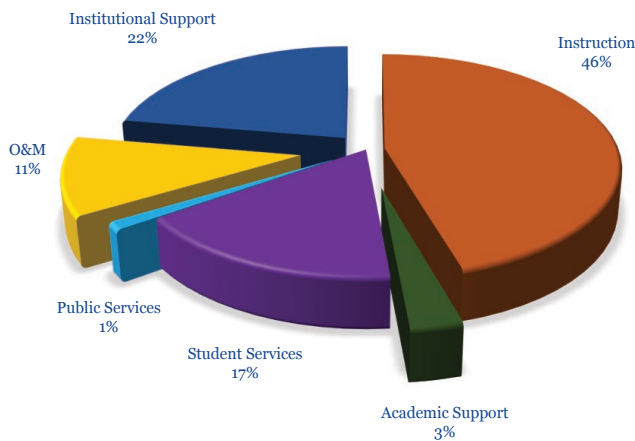
This edition of the Sandburg Magazine celebrates the importance of “lifelong learning” and the role that Carl Sandburg College plays in helping our students gain the education they need no matter where they are in life. Carl Sandburg provides opportunities for students to follow the traditional transfer path or provides the skills needed to allow them to enter the workforce. Some students come back to be upskilled in their current job or because they have decided to change their careers. Some students love learning for its own sake, and we recognize some of those students who regularly take advantage of the courses offered through our Corporate & Leisure program.

One reason to return to Sandburg, or attend for the first time, is to keep pace with the rapidly changing world due to technological advances. This edition showcases the work we are doing in the field of virtual reality. Our faculty are experimenting with this technology and creatively adapting it for use in our classrooms. VR and AI (artificial intelligence) are expected to transform many aspects of our work and leisure life in the very near future. Carl Sandburg was the first community college in the state to develop an esports team, and we reflect on the progress that we have made in our first year.

Mortuary science is one of a handful of programs in the state and celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, and we profile a graduate working locally. Carl Sandburg provides dual credit opportunities for students throughout the district. Hamilton High School students are among the first to benefit from our new agriculture certificate program

These stories celebrate many different paths that students take in pursuing their dreams. Carl Sandburg provides opportunities for students no matter where they are in their journey. Many of our students work in our district, and in some cases even work at the College. These individual stories are proof that everyone in our district can benefit from what the college has to offer.

## FY 2020 PERCENT OF TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM



We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have supported us in many ways. We are pleased to showcase a Galesburg Promise program recipient. Since its inception, Galesburg Promise has supported 460 students who have earned 155 degrees and 43 certificates.

No matter where you are in your journey, Carl Sandburg College is ready to help you achieve your dream.

*Seamus Reilly*  
 —Dr. Seamus Reilly, President

# ‘These Are My Roots’

## Peterson points to Galesburg Promise as reason she wanted to return to hometown

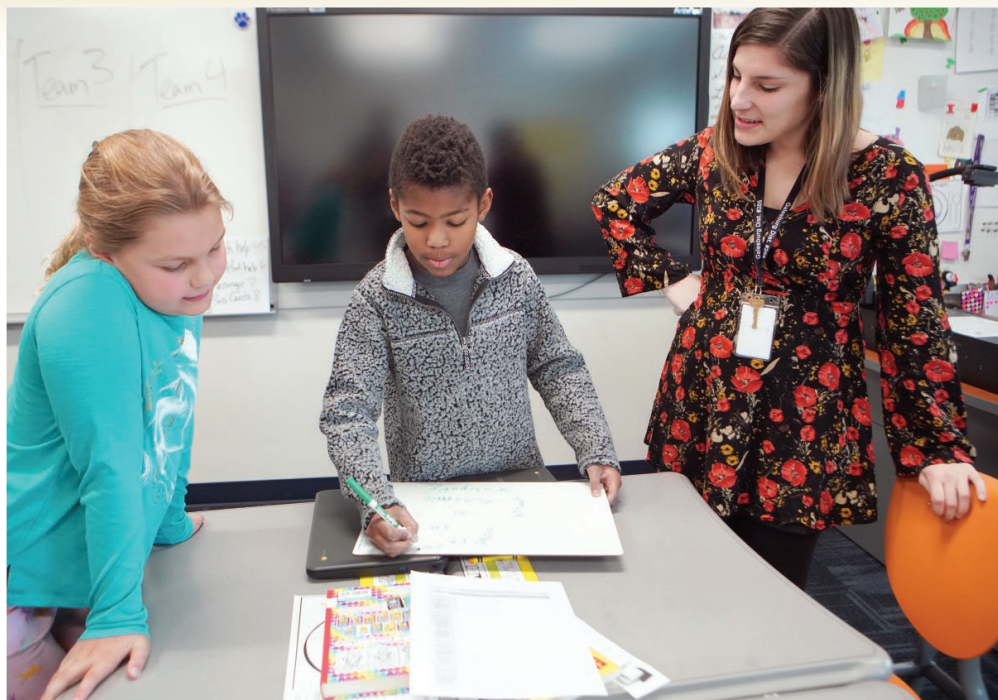
**A**ngel Peterson understands the desire for most teenagers to escape their hometown after graduating.

“By all means,” Peterson said, “I was one of them in high school.”

But rather than giving in to that urge, Peterson is back to her hometown of Galesburg. She has a job as a third grade teacher at Silas Willard Elementary School, bought a house earlier this year and can point to one reason all those things happened: Galesburg Promise.

Galesburg Promise is one of two promise programs available to students who attend Carl Sandburg College. It started in 2014-15 — Peterson’s first full year at Sandburg — and is open to students who graduate from Galesburg High School, Galesburg Christian School or are home-schooled in Galesburg. It covers a percentage of a student’s tuition at Sandburg, based on their length of attendance at Galesburg schools. A

similar program, Sampson Promise, is available to students who graduate from Monmouth-Roseville High School, United School or are home-schooled in those districts. Peterson, having spent all of K-12 in Galesburg District 205, had 100 percent of her tuition covered through Galesburg Promise.



“If I had started at a four-year college, I don’t think I would have been able to be as successful outside of the classroom”

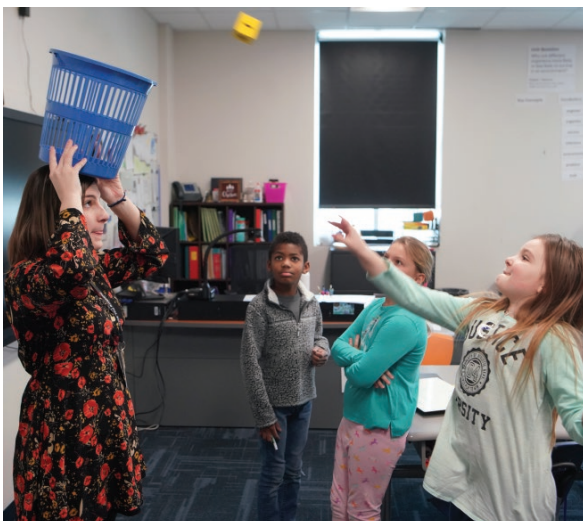
“That just sealed the deal for the reason why Sandburg would be a great place to start,” said Peterson, a 2016 Sandburg graduate.

While seven out of 10 graduates leave Sandburg debt-free, Peterson said she knows people who have more debt from one year of college than she did through all of hers. She credited Galesburg Promise and attending Sandburg with putting her in a position financially to afford purchasing her own home at 23 years old.

“I can’t emphasize that enough,” Peterson said. “Galesburg Promise really took off that burden that many students feel

when they're going to college to financially afford it. I didn't have to worry about that component so much. I hear other people's debts, and it just stresses me out for them. I don't think they understand the weight of that."

Peterson used her time at Sandburg to explore what field she wanted to eventually go into and was actively involved on campus. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, TRIO Students Support Services, Women of Character, a student ambassador and a student worker. The money she saved from Galesburg Promise also helped her take part in several of Sandburg's study abroad opportunities.



"If I had started at a four-year college, I don't think I would have been able to be as successful outside of the classroom," Peterson said. "I wouldn't have been able to join as many clubs and really figure out who I was outside of academia."

After graduating from Sandburg, Peterson transferred and earned her bachelor's in elementary education from the University of Northern Iowa. She spent time student teaching in Iowa, Texas and even Costa Rica, where she lived for four months, but she found herself wanting to come back home.

"These are my roots, and I wanted to come back and serve my roots, where I started," Peterson said. "I think it's a cool, full-circle thing, and I get to grow more here. I'm putting down my own roots and continuing my own story. I'm just continuing on where I left off."

**If you would like to support the Galesburg Promise or Sampson Promise programs, contact the Carl Sandburg College Foundation at 309.341.5349 or [foundation@sandburg.edu](mailto:foundation@sandburg.edu).**

## Sandburg's One-Button Studio Inspires ROWVA

Traci Johnson saw Carl Sandburg College's One Button Studio and was ready to do whatever it took to get one of her own.

Johnson, an English teacher and instructional coach at ROWVA Junior/Senior High School, recognized it could be a simple, new way for herself and her co-workers to implement video into their teaching.

"Many of our teachers have shown interest in using video in the classroom," Johnson said. "However, taking the time to teach students video skills in order to do so makes it less enticing."

The One Button Studio alleviates that concern.

All users have to do is walk into the studio, install a flash drive and press a button that starts a countdown to begin recording. Once done, users just need to press the button again to stop

the recording and can have their video ready just seconds later.

Sandburg opened its One Button Studio in 2015. ROWVA — with the help of Johnson's inspiration from Sandburg and funding from the ROWVA Public Schools Foundation — unveiled its own in time for the start of the current school year. Johnson said it has been used "almost daily" since. ROWVA students (and even Superintendent Joe Sornberger) have used it for green screen productions, showing science experiments, recreating scenes from books and producing district media broadcasts.

"Our students live and breathe videos," Johnson said. "Whether it be TikTok, Snapchat or YouTube, they are fluent in video. It only makes sense that we give our students and teachers a simple way to show their learning using this media."



# Ag Program

**Students at HS in Hancock Co. can earn ag certificate from Sandburg through new dual credit offerings**

Justin Reneau was signing up for classes for his senior year at Hamilton High School when he heard about a new set of dual credit agriculture courses offered there through Carl Sandburg College.

“I was at registration and said, “Take me out of the other classes and put me into these,” Reneau said. “I figured these classes would help me later on in life.”

Because dual credit classes allow students to earn high school and college credits for the same class, the swap has Reneau on track to earn a certificate in agriculture from Sandburg at the same time he graduates from Hamilton later this spring.

“That was just double the reason to do it, because I get two credits for something I can take one time,” Reneau said. “And it’s better to take it now than have to take it later or look it up online and try to figure it out that way.”

Brad Hartweg, a member of the Hamilton School Board, helped spearhead the movement to bring the classes to Hamilton after seeing the shop building at the school was unused last year.

Ellen Burns, Sandburg’s dean of career and technical education, and Ellen Henderson-Gasser, director of Sandburg’s Branch Campus in Carthage, worked with the district to help implement the agriculture certificate program. They also revived dual credit classes at Hamilton in Sandburg’s automotive technology program. A selection of the automotive technology classes are available at Hamilton, and students can continue at Sandburg after finishing high school if they want to earn a certificate.

“If it’s hands-on and you can see it and feel it and do it, it’s just way better than looking at pictures and trying to read about it”



# ..... a ‘Step Up’ at Hamilton

“The shop was empty for a year, and there were too many kids who were missing out on opportunities if this sat here empty,” said Hartweg, who now teaches the agriculture courses. “I looked into what it would take to come here and teach something.”

“Most everything around here is ag-related in one form or another”

Hamilton students can enroll in any of the seven agriculture classes offered there: Introduction to Agriculture Industry, Agriculture Sciences, Agriculture Cultivation, Introduction to Natural Sciences, Computer Application in Agriculture, Agriculture Machinery & Technology and Agriculture Welding. If they complete six of the courses, they’ll also walk away with a certificate from Sandburg.

“Welding is something hands-on, and I thought it would be kind of fun,” Hamilton senior Addison Monroe said. “This is my first time welding, ever. It’s been really fun, and I’ve learned a lot. You actually learn something that you can use in the real world.”



In addition to learning skills like welding in the shop, Hartweg makes it a priority to take students on as many excursions as possible.

“Any excuse to get out of the classroom,” he said, “we like to jump on it.”

Within the first few months of the class, students had gone to a water plant to learn about soil erosion and electrical safety, visited the site of a grain bin being constructed, toured a hog confinement,



saw a tile machine in action and explored an auction site the day before a sale.

“If it’s hands-on and you can see it and feel it and do it, it’s just way better than looking at pictures and trying to read about it,” Hartweg said. “Even understanding the little pieces and parts. You drive by and see a tile machine running, and now the kids in their minds can picture what they’re actually doing.”

It’s especially helpful in an area like Hancock County — where the number of farmable acres greatly outnumbers the population — and for students like Reneau, who hopes to become an electrician and one day take over his father’s farm.

“Most everything around here is ag-related in one form or another,” Hartweg said. “If you can work it around to where you understand the whole picture better, it helps you more in the future.”

“When it’s all said and done, they’ll be able to get a certificate with just the dual credit classes. It was huge because that gives the high school kids a place where they can go and learn, and it gives them a step up if they go to college. Or, if you get a certificate, that helps in the workforce when you go to get a job.”



To learn more about dual credit opportunities at Sandburg, visit [sandburg.edu/DualCredit](http://sandburg.edu/DualCredit)

# Feeling Right at Home

After being home-schooled, Annie McKim adapting to life in the classroom (and on the court) at Sandburg

Annie McKim had been home-schooled until this year, but the Carl Sandburg College freshman said her biggest adjustment hasn't been in the classroom. It's been on the court.

"I was planning on taking just classes," McKim said. "I had no idea I would be able to play sports anywhere."

McKim had limited experience playing organized athletics prior to this season, but she turned into a key contributor on both the Chargers' volleyball and women's basketball teams. McKim, who lives near Yates City, spent the previous season playing volleyball and basketball with Galesburg Christian School, and she had played in a handful of volleyball tournaments the past few years with an area club team.

When Sandburg volleyball coach Todd Winkler asked Galesburg Christian coach Rick Ruhl last year if he knew anyone who could play middle hitter for the Chargers, Ruhl mentioned McKim. Winkler recruited her to the team, and Sandburg women's basketball coach Mike Bailey offered to have her to join his squad as well.

"It was a huge leap. When I played for Galesburg Christian, I was one of the tallest girls in the conference," the 5-foot-10 McKim said. "Here, I'm really kind of short for a middle. I definitely grew a lot in the first month of volleyball."

She ended up being one of just five Chargers to play in all 45 matches this season, finished second on the team in blocks and helped Sandburg win its second straight Arrowhead Conference title in volleyball. She went straight from that to basketball, where she developed into a key forward off the bench for the Chargers.

"I didn't really get that break, but I'm definitely glad I did both of them," McKim said. "I really love it. I've gotten to meet some pretty cool people. It's very busy, but it's all blended in together."

“I’ve gotten to meet some pretty cool people. It’s very busy, but it’s all blended in together”

Her crowded schedule hasn't had an effect on her academics, though, as she finished her first semester at Sandburg on the dean's list. Learning is still learning, no matter the setting.

"It's not a whole lot different with the schooling academic-wise, but it's definitely a new environment with, obviously, a lot more people around," McKim said. "A lot of people thought it was really cool — way cooler than I thought it was — when they found out I was home-schooled. Moving from class to class and having multiple teachers is definitely new for me, but overall, it's the same work."



McKim said her experience being home-schooled actually prepared her well for life in a college classroom. Her mother taught her through her sophomore year of high school, then McKim spent more time doing independent learning through online classes and teaching herself through textbooks.

"I'm glad that I was home-schooled now that I'm in college," McKim said. "Being able to teach myself, I feel like I learned better because I was home-schooled. They expect you to take more responsibility in college, and I feel like I already kind of had that responsibility while I was home-schooled."



**NEW & IMPROVED**

# Resource Room Combats Food Insecurity

Students can pick up fruits, veggies, meat for free at campus food pantry

**D**aryan Bryant was blown away the first time someone mentioned Carl Sandburg College's Resource Room Campus Food Pantry.

"I was so shocked. I was like, 'A resource room? What is that?'" recalled Bryant, a first-year student. "They said you can go get groceries or mouthwash. I couldn't believe it."

Thanks to a donation from Mike and Mary Panther, Bryant and other Sandburg students don't have to worry about going hungry or running out of essential supplies. The best part? It's free.

"That's a blessing," Bryant said.

Because of the Panthers' generosity, the Resource Room moved to a larger location for the start of the 2019-20 academic year, added a freezer and refrigerator, and has regular deliveries from River Bend Foodbank that include fresh produce, meat and other food for students to help combat food insecurity.

The revamped room averaged 180 visits per month during the first semester and was used by an average of 90 students each month. Sandburg received six food deliveries during the fall semester and picked up two more orders at River Bend Foodbank's location in Davenport, Iowa. It added up to more than 7,600 pounds and \$12,000 worth of food.



"It's food that you can get real nutrients from," Bryant said. "You can go get some chicken that you can cook up and make chicken and pasta or fry it up."

Deliveries arrive the third Wednesday of each month, and it doesn't take long for students to start trickling in once the room has been restocked. All they need to do is present a current Sandburg ID.

"They know exactly when it's delivery day, and it's neat to see how they excited they get from seeing the new items that came that month," Stevens said. "The great thing is that nobody feels like it's something to be ashamed of if they use it. They just know it's something available to them, and it's been a great addition to our campus."

For students like Bryant — who came to Sandburg from Gary, Ind., and is a member of the women's basketball team, Women of Character and Black Student Association — it's been invaluable.

"By the time I get out of classes, do homework and go to practice, everything's closed. And I don't have a way to Walmart because I don't have a car," Bryant said. "My mom helps me when she can, but when I don't have that, I know I can always turn to the resource room and go there."

**To contribute to the Resource Room Campus Food Pantry, contact [pantry@sandburg.edu](mailto:pantry@sandburg.edu)**



"It's been a game-changer for our students," coordinator of student life Genny Stevens said. "They can pick something up to get them through the day or load up a few bags full of food to get them through the week."

Previously, the Resource Room was largely stocked with things like macaroni and cheese, canned food and peanut butter donated by Sandburg faculty and staff members. Now students can take home other items like fresh fruit, vegetables and even cuts of meat.

# Fulfilling His Dream

## Kenyan Kiptoo finds his future with Sandburg's computer programs

**D**ixon Kiptoo grew up wanting the American dream. Now he's living it. A native of Eldoret, Kenya, Kiptoo came to the United States in 2018 when he joined the Carl Sandburg College men's cross country team. He'll graduate this spring with five certificates and an associate in applied science degree from Sandburg in just two years.

"Since I was young, I wanted to be in America to see the culture, the people," Kiptoo said. "I had a dream since I was young to come here."

Watching American movies and listening to American pop music (the Marvel Cinematic Universe films and Katy Perry are among his favorites) in Eldoret, Kiptoo fantasized about living in a large city across the Atlantic. While Galesburg won't be confused with New York or Chicago anytime soon, it does remind him of life in Kenya.

"It's just like back home because you have cornfields," he joked.

He's transitioned well to his new home, to say the least. Kiptoo has made the dean's list each of his first three semesters at Sandburg. He also was named a 2018 Scholar All-American by the NJCAA Cross Country Coaches Association, earned a spot on the 2019 NJCAA All-Academic Second Team and received 2019 Academic All-Arrowhead Conference honors.



Kiptoo also earned certificates in computer technician and computer support associate in his first year at Sandburg. He'll add network security associate, cybersecurity specialist and CISCO network security associate certificates as well as an IT/ LAN & security specialist AAS this year. He also finds time to work in the Sandburg Tutoring Center.

“I know my future is going to be good too, because of coming here”

Kiptoo originally planned to study nursing but soon switched to Sandburg's information and communication technology programs, where he found common ground and a strong bond with instructor Dr. Suvineetha Herath, who also has spent time in Japan and the Middle East.

"She's a great instructor. She understands me more than anyone because she is originally from Sri Lanka," Kiptoo said. "She knows how difficult it is for international students to adjust to U.S. life, so she has been great helping me out a lot."

Kiptoo hopes he can earn a scholarship to a four-year school to continue running cross country and earn a bachelor's degree in information systems. But before that, walking across the stage when he graduates this May, he said, "will be something big in my life."

"I'm so grateful. So, so grateful," Kiptoo said. "This gave me a chance to be in America and gave me a chance to get my American education. I know my future is going to be good too, because of coming here."



# Pulling Double Duty

## While working at Sandburg, Williams studying to become paramedic

“I really wanted to get out there and be in a more fast-paced setting”

When Allen Williams first went to college in 1997 right out of high school, he wanted to study art and had his sights set on becoming a graphic designer. But after a year, he left school for what he hoped would be greener pastures.

“When I got in, it wasn’t what I thought it was going to be,” Williams said. “I just got tired of going to school at that age and was ready to get out in the workforce and start making money.”

Williams bounced around jobs for several years before getting hired as a custodian at Carl Sandburg College in 2014. In addition to working his shift, he took a couple classes each semester, trying to pinpoint his passion. He found it last year in an emergency medical technician (EMT) course.

“I wanted to do something in the medical field, but I wasn’t sure exactly what. Once I went through that, I found it very intriguing and interesting,” said Williams, now 41. “I decided that I wanted to take the full route and become full a paramedic.”

Williams earned his EMT license, then got accepted into Sandburg’s EMS-paramedic program and started it in the 2019 fall semester. The workload can be daunting, even for someone who’s not working full-time. Classes for the program meet twice a week in the evening for five hours at a time, and the curriculum also includes hundreds of hours of ride time in ambulances and observation at hospitals.

“I really wanted to get out there and be in a more fast-paced setting,” Williams said. “Nursing can be fast-paced, but this is never the same. You’re constantly moving and doing different treatments. That drew me in because I like to problem-solve on the run.”

He’s also on the run quite a bit as he works toward finishing the program.

Williams, who lives in West Peoria, typically wakes up at 5:30 a.m., works at Sandburg from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. and goes to class until 9 p.m. before making the 50-minute drive back home. If he doesn’t have class that day, he either gives himself an hour break before doing a six-hour hospital shift or is nose-deep in a textbook at home. No wonder it’s not unusual for him to try to sneak in a nap during his lunch break.



“What makes me so mentally and physically drained,” Williams said, “is because I am focused and paying attention so much that I want to take in everything that I can because I know with the type of field I’m going into, if you screw up in one area or the other, you could do damage to somebody.”

Williams is on pace to earn his Associate in Applied Science this fall, and he has every intention of walking across the stage at Commencement the following spring. It will be a hard-earned payoff for numerous long days and nights.

“When you’re not getting home until 11 or 12 o’clock at night and then you have to get back up early in the morning to go to work, there’s times where it’s like, ‘Man, why am I doing this? Why am I putting myself through this so late in life?’” Williams said. “But I’m always one of those people that pushes past that and thinks once I do get the degree and I do get my license, I’ll be out there, serving people and helping people and hopefully saving lives.”

# ‘Sandburg was Already Like a Family to Me’

## Tovar finds support to help push him toward graduation

Jesus Tovar has faced his share of challenges, but he’s always found a way to get back up.

“The world can be a bad place, but it’s up to you if you let it keep you down,” Tovar said. “If you let it hit you, it can bring you down to your knees, but it’s up to you to stay on your knees.”

The support he’s found at Carl Sandburg College has helped Tovar stay upright.

Just months before graduating from Monmouth-Roseville High School, Tovar went back to his native Mexico to help his mother take care of a family issue. He thought he’d be in Mexico for two months. It turned into two years.

When Tovar finally returned to Illinois, he finished his high school equivalency at an alternative school before taking classes at Sandburg, but after a semester he headed off to Indiana to assist another family member in need. He also enlisted in the Army Reserve during that time and spent 20 weeks at basic

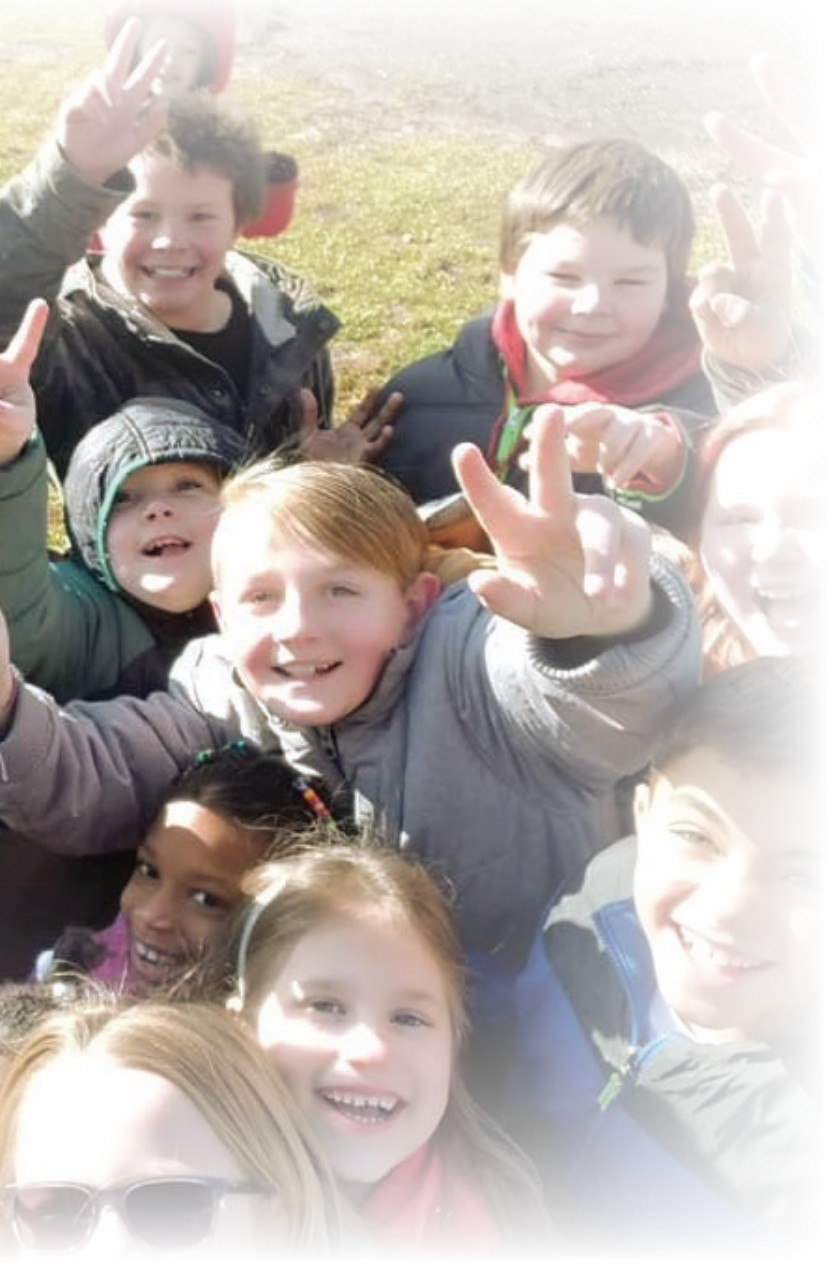


training. But while away, he continued to receive emails and see social media posts about things taking place at Sandburg. When he completed basic training, he knew his next stop.

“Sandburg was already like a family to me,” Tovar said. “I knew what was the plan of action, and I’d already started it. I’m not the type of person to start something and just drop it. It keeps plugging in the back of my head, ‘You need to finish something.’”

“To me, Sandburg is like a second home”

Tovar, now 23, came back to Sandburg last fall and stays plenty busy on campus, not to mention working a third-shift job in Monmouth. He’s president of Sandburg’s Hispanic-Latino Student Association in addition to being a member of Men of Distinction, TRIO Student Support Services, a student ambassador and a student worker.



“He was the first person to push me to take a step forward,” Tovar said.

Tovar also highlighted his relationship with Anthony Law, who serves as MOD’s advisor and Sandburg’s coordinator of diversity and inclusion.

“He’s my boss, but he’s also like a father to everybody,” said Tovar, a student worker in Law’s office. “He’s seen different points of me, like the frustrated, I-don’t-want-to-talk-to-any-of-you point to the yeah-I’m-totally-just-crushed-I-need-help point. He’s always been there and helped me out.”

Tovar is on track to graduate this fall with his Associate in Science, then go into nursing school (“Anything in the medical field for me feels amazing. I just watch too much ‘Grey’s Anatomy,’” he joked). But before that, he’ll make sure to savor his moment of walking across the stage at Commencement.



“I tell everybody Sandburg is not just your normal college where it’s just come and sit and listen to lectures,” Tovar said. “It’s more like a family and you see the teachers out there and they’re more interactive.”

One of the instructors Tovar credited with helping him was Keith Williams, coordinator of Sandburg’s business programs. Williams sponsored Tovar’s pledge to join Men of Distinction, a campus service organization.



“Graduating will be a big, big moment since I couldn’t do it in high school,” Tovar said. “That opportunity unfortunately got taken away from me going to Mexico. I’ve always had that dream of grabbing my little hat and throwing it up. It’s an accomplishment in my family.”

He’ll have achieved it with the support of his family at home and at Sandburg.

“To me, Sandburg is like a second home,” Tovar said. “I know I can come to Sandburg and be having the worst day of my life, but I come in here and somebody can get a smile out of me.”

# Honoring the Dead by Taking Care of the Living

Following her brother's murder, Saudia Carson cares for other families during their hardest moments

Saudia Carson met tragedy five days before her 19th birthday, when her brother Malo was murdered in 1998.

But after first trying to escape the pain it had caused, Carson wanted to face it head on and help others who had experienced the same heartache from the loss of a loved one.

"I had a lot of questions and no answers," Carson said. "My brother was more than my brother. He was my father. He was my mother. He was my friend. So the questions I had weren't being answered, and I just didn't want people to feel that. I wanted to find some type of way to make somebody not have to feel what I went through."

It sent her on a winding path that included leaving for the West Coast, time as a homeless single mother, coming back to Illinois and working throughout much of the central part of the state. She finally landed back where she began — Galesburg.

Carson, a 2012 graduate of Carl Sandburg College's mortuary science program, is now a funeral director and embalmer at Watson-Thomas Funeral Home and Crematory in Galesburg. She's also the first African-American deputy coroner and first female African-American mortician in Knox County history.

"That means the beginning," Carson said of her historic roles. "The beginning for someone else to come behind me."

But before coming back home, Carson wanted to get away in the years following her brother's death. With \$20 in her pocket and two young children in tow, Carson got on a train and headed for the West Coast.

"One thing about grief people don't really explain to you is there's no time," Carson said. "For everyone else, they just seem to keep going so fast, but for me, everything was so slow. So in order for me to join the world again, I had to remove myself from what was familiar."

She lived there for a decade, working as a certified nursing assistant. When patients died, Carson always had questions for the funeral directors who would arrive. They encouraged her to go to school, but with

“I wanted to find some type of way to make somebody not have to feel what I went through”



the cost of living so high on the coast, she wanted to find somewhere less expensive to attend classes and raise her family. Sandburg and Galesburg, coincidentally, happened to be the perfect fit.

“I just felt like it was a sign so I came back home,” Carson said. “It’s something I knew I wanted, and it just so happened that Galesburg had it. And not only did they have it, they had a whole building for it.”

Now a mother of four, Carson enrolled at Sandburg in 2010. It made for a lot of late nights with little sleep after spending hours learning from mortuary science program director Tim Krause and associate professor Matt Kendall.

“And they were special to me, because I knew their feeling,” Carson said. “And I wanted to find a way to make it easier for the beginning of their mourning process, not to be rocked in life.”

She spent two years in Peoria with Service Corporation International, the largest funeral company in the world, before hearing about an opening at Watson-Thomas and coming back to Galesburg last October.

Carson, who hopes to operate her own business someday, said she knows she’s in the profession meant for her when she sits with families to hear stories of their loved one and empathizes with their grief. The biggest compliment she can receive, she said, is when they see their loved one in a casket for the first time and remark that they look beautiful.

“It’s something I knew I wanted, and it just so happened that Galesburg had it”



“I’d come home from school late because I was in the accelerated program, make dinner for my kids, help them, get them all ready for bed,” Carson said. “And then I’d sit at that laptop with my little study cards and my highlighters. And then before I know it, the sun was coming up and it was time to do it all over again.”

Carson graduated in 2012 and became a licensed funeral director and embalmer the following year. She worked anywhere she could to gain experience, even for free at times. Carson spent time in Peoria, Decatur and Springfield. She would go to Chicago just to get more experience embalming. Throughout those jobs, she dealt with 118 homicides.

“Because that’s the beginning of your mourning process. That’s what you’re going to stick with,” Carson said. “I tell people I’m honoring the dead by taking care of the living, because that’s what we do.”

After leaving Galesburg more than two decades ago to try to flee her darkest moment, Carson is back to help others cope with theirs.

“This is home,” Carson said. “I just had bad memories, so it feels good to let those go and replace them with something.”

## Carl Sandburg College’s Mortuary Science Program is Celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2020!

To learn more about this specialized program, contact our: Welcome Center at 309.345.3500 or [welcomecenter@sandburg.edu](mailto:welcomecenter@sandburg.edu).

# Finding a Home for Students on Stage

New theater instructor shapes teaching philosophy through his learning experience



Originally from Decatur, Robert Thompson moved to Galesburg when he was 18 years old.

He kept finding his way back to Knox County, even while attending Western Illinois University, going to graduate school at the University of Connecticut and living in New York as working actor.

“I would always come back to Galesburg,” Thompson said. “Even though I was born in Decatur, this was my home. It’s hard to explain, but I always wanted to make this my home.”

He got that chance last summer when he was hired as a theater instructor at Carl Sandburg College.

“The commitment this community has to its arts is unparalleled,” said Thompson, who taught for four years at Western Nebraska Community College prior to coming to Sandburg. “I’ve never been to a town this size that supports the theater and the arts as much as this community does. They love it, and I love performing for them. There’s so much community involvement. I’ve loved it from afar, and now I get to love it from up close.”

In addition to his passion for the stage, Thompson always knew he wanted to be a teacher, even though school, as he said, “just didn’t fit for me.” He dropped out of high school on three occasions before earning his high school equivalency the fall following his senior year.

“I would go to school just to be in the play, and once the play was over, I’d drop out and get spring fever and leave,” Thompson said. “And so I figured that there’s got to be a different way, a different approach to education than what I was being hit with.”

It’s a philosophy he’s carried with him to the classroom and the stage. There’s a focus on empowering students through practical, hands-on work and an emphasis on class participation. Often times, the student who appears least eager to sing or play a role in class is the one Thompson selects.



“I just felt that I could help students like me that were interested in theater that didn’t have the quite linear process, memorize something to the test and then forget it,” Thompson said. “That’s exactly why I wanted to teach at a community college, because there are people like me.”

He also wanted to make sure students got a full theater experience rather than pigeon-holing themselves to reciting lines once the curtain goes up. As Thompson learned through his experience as an actor, it’s important to be a jack-of-all-trades rather than a master of one. He wants his students to have a hand in set-building, costume design, lighting, sound and everything else that takes place behind the scenes.

“It’s what I call it being a theatrician,” Thompson said. “You’re not just limited to just acting, but all of theater is the profession.”

For Thompson, the finished product of putting all those elements together creates a sensation that rivals anything else we can experience.

“It uses all of the art forms that we know of — music, painting, carpentry — and then combines everything in a way that creates this super-feeling,” Thompson said. “Theater combines it all into one big, major moment, major event that we all experience. That event, I think, can change a community.”



# Learning for Enjoyment

With its selection of non-credit courses, corporate training opportunities and youth programs, Carl Sandburg College's Corporate & Leisure College is dedicated to lifelong learning in a non-academic setting.

## 'Unencumbered Fun'

**NAOMI LAW, retired administrator**

Naomi Law's first Corporate & Leisure College experience was a day trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie.

At one point, another trip-goer, whose mother was a Holocaust survivor, turned to Law and asked, "Would you like to hear my mother's voice?" They stood and listened together to a display that had a recording of the women's mother describing her experiences.

"It was even more meaningful," Law said. "It was almost like a family experience. The main thing about the trip I went on was that it's fun, and a lot of older people haven't had fun for a long time, and it's unencumbered fun. You don't have to do anything except go and enjoy yourself. It was the kind of thing that everybody should do."



## 'I Keep Feeling Young'

**SUE SPERRY, retired teacher**

As a former teacher, Sue Sperry knows the value of learning — even in retirement.

Sperry has taken Corporate & Leisure classes for several years on a wide variety of topics such as genealogy, drawing, crocheting, landscaping and digital photography.

"It keeps your mind active. I keep feeling young. It's a joy, basically," Sperry said. "Expand your world and see. It's amazing what's out there."

As soon as Sperry gets the email with what the next batch of Corporate & Leisure offerings will be, she passes it on to her friends and invites them to join her.

"I just like that there's no pressure," Sperry said. "It's not like back in college or taking classes for school that you have to continue on or get a certain grade. This is just for pure enjoyment. I

don't think there are people out there who really realize what a gem this is. It's very economical and the hours are flexible, I love learning, and this is such a safe environment. They take care of you. It's like family here."

## 'It Opens Your Eyes Up'

**IONA BOONE, landscaper and master gardener**

When Iona Boone isn't tending to her garden, you can often find her on a Corporate & Leisure day trip. Boone has traveled with Sandburg groups to places such as Janesville, Wis.; Dubuque, Iowa; Princeton; Lincoln; Bloomington; and Rockford. She views them as a great opportunity to discover new places and meet new people.

Boone said another of her favorite Corporate & Leisure experiences was the "In Your Own Backyard" offerings that included a trip to the Knox County Museum in Knoxville.

"I went by that a zillion times and it never sparked my interest to go in there, but I found it very interesting and very fascinating," Boone said. "There are points that we're so used to seeing and we don't really think about them, but once you investigate them a little bit more it opens your eyes up to them."



To learn more about opportunities through Sandburg's Corporate & Leisure College, visit [www.sandburg.edu/Academics/Corporate-Leisure-College](http://www.sandburg.edu/Academics/Corporate-Leisure-College).

To join their mailing list, email [community@sandburg.edu](mailto:community@sandburg.edu) or call 309.345.3501.

# A NEW REALITY

## How Sandburg is ..... implementing VR technology in the classroom

Nancy Kartawich finished giving a speech and turned to the person next to her.

“The lady in the first row doesn’t like me,” Kartawich said.

But this was no ordinary presentation and no ordinary woman in the front row. Kartawich had been using a headset with a virtual reality technology software called Ovation. The woman in the first row was one of the avatars Kartawich had been speaking to in the virtual space.

“That’s how realistic she was to reacting to everything I did and said,” Kartawich said. “I thought it was absolutely incredible.”

Kartawich, an adjunct instructor at Carl Sandburg College, knew right away she wanted to incorporate it in her Intro to Public Speaking class the following semester.

“This was absolutely irresistible because it seemed like such a painless way or even a fun way to get people in there and using it,” Kartawich said.

“The first time I saw it, I knew: Get them in there.”

Coordinator of instructional technology Cindy Arthur purchased the Ovation software after testing it out at a conference last year. In it, users put on a headset and hold a controller in each hand while giving a speech or presentation in front of a virtual reality audience. Afterward, they can play back their speech and receive a report with grades and analytics for things such as their use of filler words, a breakdown of their gaze distribution and the amount of eye contact they made. Arthur knew immediately it could be a popular and useful tool for students, and Kartawich felt the same after Arthur showed it to her last year.

“I think (students) go in thinking this is not going to be a big deal,” Arthur said, “but once they put the headset on and see people staring at them and can look around in a 360-degree environment, they still have this ‘wow’ moment. To still get that sort of reaction from an 18- or 19-year-old is pretty cool.”

The software — which is set up in a room inside the Sandburg library — is customizable, allowing the user to select from settings such as a one-on-one meeting, board rooms, lecture halls and large conventions. It also gives feedback in real-time. Ignore an area of the room for too long or use a filler word such as “um” or “uh” and a notification will pop up on the screen. Even a speaker’s hand gestures are analyzed.



# IN EDUCATION

“I found out that my right hand goes crazy when I’m presenting and moves all over the place, but my left one doesn’t at all,” said Brayden Bledsoe, whose public speaking class with Kartawich in the fall semester was one of the first to use it in a classroom setting. “I didn’t even think about it, but now I do and I’ve gotten better.”

Kartawich had everyone in her class practice giving a speech using Ovation during the first part of the semester and had them review their report. They used Ovation again later in the semester to measure their progress, and she asked them on the final exam to discuss the strides they thought they made. The students, Kartawich said, took to it “like little duckies to the pond.”

“It gave me the mentality that if I can do it in front of a fake audience, I can do it in front of a real audience,” said Clara Cramer, another one of Kartawich’s students.



Caleb Plattner, also from Kartawich’s class, said the VR experience was valuable, especially since he plans to become a pastor. Plattner said the data he got back from Ovation was more helpful than simply practicing in front of a mirror or recording himself in front of a computer.

“Normally I think of VR as some sort of gaming system or entertainment that you explore with, but combining it with speaking was a really strange combination that worked quite well, actually,” Plattner said. “You never realize how realistic the graphics are until you actually put it on. This felt like you were in an actual classroom instead of just in the library with the headset on.”

Kartawich said the ability to get instant notifications and a follow-up report with objective data makes the VR software a more reliable judge than someone a speaker may have an existing

relationship with. Virtual reality, after all, doesn’t have to worry about being dishonest.

“Where do you get that? Not from grandma, not from your roommate. This is real stuff that’s going to make a difference,” Kartawich said. “That virtual reality has no skin in the game. It’s not worried about complimenting you or hurting your feelings.”

Using the software in a public speaking class was logical, but the next step, Arthur said, is to expand it to other classes and departments at the College. Creating mock job interviews or having criminal justice students use it as a virtual courtroom are some of the possibilities. Cramer, a dual credit student from Galesburg High School, said using Ovation would be helpful for her to prepare for college entrance interviews and that she would “hands-down” use it again.

“It is a learning experience like no other,” Cramer said. “You have the ability to create a virtual reality that you can use to gauge learning over periods of time, from start to end. It’s important to have that timeframe to see how far you’ve come.”

“ It gave me the mentality that If I can do it in front of a fake audience, I can do it in front of a real audience ”



# GETTING AHEAD OF THE GAME

Carl Sandburg College this year became the first Illinois community college to field an intercollegiate team in the booming world of esports. The team has talent scholarships available to students, and an “arena” with 12 gaming computers was created on campus for the team to practice and compete in. We sat down with Julian Harris, one of the team’s captains, to learn more about esports, what people may not realize about it and what the future of esports might look like.

Follow Sandburg esports on Twitch, Twitter and Facebook @SandburgEsports



## For people who don’t know, what is esports?

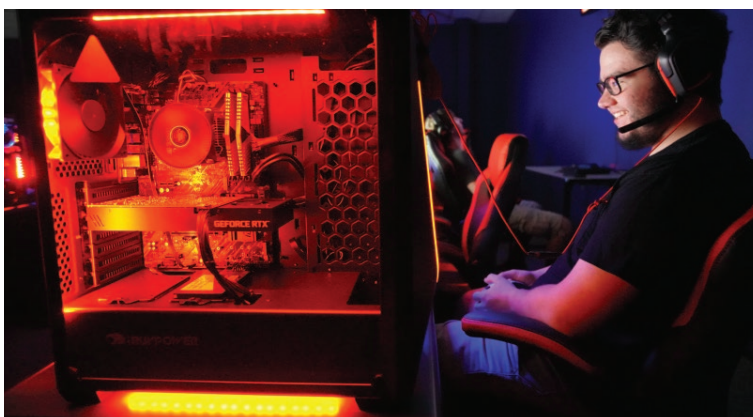
Esports is competitive video gaming. You have a team and you play competitively just like any other sport. It’s starting to become really big right now. It’s made more money than the Stanley Cup, NBA Finals and Super Bowl combined. A lot of popular games right now would be “Counter-Strike,” “Call of Duty,” “Overwatch” and “League of Legends.”

## What are some misconceptions people might have about esports?

Some people think we might be lazy, smelly, large, don’t have any ambition and all we do is lock ourselves in a room and play games. But we do have drive and goals and ambitions. The way we look at the video gaming isn’t how people perceive it. We can see a future with it, and it’s something we love and like to work as a team. I think that’s a wall that, as esports starts getting bigger and more organized, people will start to see.

## What would you say to people who may not consider esports a sport?

That the world changes, and it’s OK to change with it. Before you have an opinion of something, you should try to learn about. If you are a person who’s played a video game, you can understand and appreciate how hard it really is. I would challenge people who might have preconceived notions to try to understand it as a sport, because it’s very intricate and it’s a growing industry.



## Why do you think it’s important for Sandburg or other schools to have esports teams?

I think it’s the future. Whether people like it or not, people my age enjoy gaming, and esports might turn into virtual reality or augmented reality where you have sensors and it might become more physical. I also think it gives a chance for people who want to compete but don’t have the physical strength. I see a lot of kids who you can tell have never played a sport, or they did but they never played. It gives “nerds” a chance to actually be a part of something and compete and get that sense of spirit. I think that it’s really good for colleges to do that, because some of these athletes can grow up to be event coordinators, team owners, pro players, and it just gives someone an outlet to do so.



# PHIZZOGS Poetry Excerpts

## Student Literary Magazine

### My Life

by *Ronnie Newcomer III*

My life is a constant reminder that good things happen to bad people.  
 My life is an unsolved Rubik's Cube, that God is too lazy to solve.  
 My life is looking sadness up in a thesaurus and never finding happiness.  
 My life is different.  
 People say life is what you make of it,  
 but how can I make something out of nothing,  
 when I always settle for making nothing out of something.  
 My life,  
 is an iPod put on shuffle,  
 playing the same song over and over again,  
 eventually you'll get tired of me.  
 My life is a sales pitch to Satan for depression.  
 My life is trying to get your approval because, for some reason,  
 that is all that mattered to me.  
 Sometimes I can't get out of bed.  
 Have you ever dreamed of falling?  
 That sudden rush you feel?  
 Like it's actually real?  
 Some people don't hit the ground.  
 I stay in bed hoping that one day,  
 I hope I will.



### Concept

by *Shamus McElhiney*

I was born at the wrong time,  
 Should have been a Conceptual Artist.  
 A piece for you,  
 I'm picturing charcoal on coarse paper.  
 Right of center, occupying the lower three quarters of image  
 Male figure standing in read two thirds profile,  
 Open book held in hand with right arm extended,  
 As if sermonizing.  
 Left of center, filling the upper half of image  
 Half a dozen dogs of various shapes and sizes,  
 Attentively regarding the man.  
 Title: Reading Poetry to Dogs

### Beautiful Creature

by *Omobolanie Agboke*

Take the peacock from the animal realm  
 And animals are robbed of a beauty second to none  
 Take the stars from the sky  
 And the nights look less magical  
 If even the blind can tremble while sensing your beauty  
 How much more a person with clear sight?  
 A beautiful and rare creature ravages the mind  
 The most unique animal of all

# Hellos & Goodbyes

Carl Sandburg College has welcomed several new full-time employees since July 1, while others have announced their retirement.

## New Hires

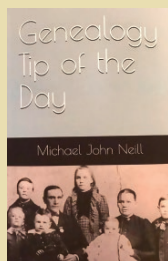
- Ellen Burns, dean of career and technical education
- Jay DeFord, computing infrastructure specialist
- Renee Eickman, sociology faculty
- Taylor Finch-McVay, grant writer and researcher
- Zoe Kudla-Polay, director of recruitment
- Tammi Lewis, associate degree nursing faculty
- Teslin Penoyer, office assistant for math and natural science/academic support
- Carol Rogers, benefits manager
- Angel Rohrig, executive assistant to the vice president of academic services
- Kathleen Smith, human resource generalist
- Robert Thompson, theater faculty
- Sharon Trotter-Martin, English faculty
- Marla Turgeon, coordinator of library instructional services/librarian
- Cassandra Tyler, coordinator of scholarships and donor relations

## Retirees

- Donna Damitz, public safety officer
- Keith Williams, economics/business administration faculty (effective June 30)

## Neill Publishes Book of Genealogy Tips

In addition to his position as a developmental mathematics professor at Sandburg, Michael Neill has spent decades as a genealogical researcher. Neill hosts a blog called Genealogy Tip of the Day and published a book by the same name in December. In it, Neill takes his years of experience and offers practical pointers based on actual research, families and problems. To learn more, visit [genealogytipoftheday.com](http://genealogytipoftheday.com).



# Choose Your Path to Success

## General University Transfer Programs

### Associate in Arts (A.A.)

- Broadcasting
- Communications
- Creative Writing
- Education
  - Early Childhood
  - Secondary Education
  - Special Education
  - Bilingual Education
- English
- History
- Geography
- Graphic Communication
- Journalism
- Law
- Law Enforcement & Justice Administration
- Liberal Arts
- Library Science
- Music
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Public Relations
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Speech Communication
- Theater Arts

### Associate in Science (A.S.)

- Accounting
- Architecture
- Athletic Training
- Biology
- Biochemistry
- Business Administration
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Dietetics
- Economics
- Engineering
- Environmental Health
- Environmental Science
- Exercise Science
- Forensic Chemistry
- Health Sciences
- Human Resource Management
- Management
- Mathematics
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Physical Education
- Pre-Physical/Occupational Therapy

## Specialized University Transfer Programs

### Associate in Fine Arts (A.F.A.) Art

### Associate in Science in Agriculture (A.S.A.)

This program is through the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## General Degree Program

(This degree is not transferable to a college or university)

### Associate in General Studies (A.G.S.)

Individually Designed Degree

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

### Certificates

- Accounting
- Administrative Office Assistant
- Agriculture
- American Welding Society-Level I
- Automotive Technology
- Basic Industrial & Manufacturing Maintenance
- CISCO Network Associate
- Computer Numeric Control Operator
- Computer Support Associate
- Computer Technician
- Criminal Justice
- Cybersecurity Specialist
- EMS Emergency Medical Maintenance
- Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
- Health Care Assistant
- Industrial Mechanical Maintenance
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Office Assistant
- Network Security Associate
- Patient Care Technician
- Phlebotomy Technician
- Practical Nursing (L.P.N.)

### 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)
- EMS Emergency Medical Services - Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Please refer to the online catalog at <http://catalog.sandburg.edu> for a complete listing of all pertinent College information, including course descriptions, program requirements, College services and general information.

### Associate in Applied Science Degrees (A.A.S.)

- Accounting
- Administrative Office Professional
- Business Administration
- Criminal Justice
- Dental Hygiene
- EMS Emergency Medical Services-Paramedic
- LPN to RN Articulation
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Office Professional
- Mortuary Science
- Mortuary Science Accelerated Program
- Nursing (R.N.)
- Process Maintenance Technician
- Radiologic Technology
- Surgical Technology (offered by ICC)

### Advanced Certificates

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

# Steps to Enroll

1

## **Submit an Application**

Go to [sandburg.edu/apply](http://sandburg.edu/apply) and complete your free online application.

2

## **Apply for Financial Aid**

Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [FAFSA.ed.gov](http://FAFSA.ed.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 the FAFSA prior to Dec. 1 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.

3

## **Request Official Transcripts**

Request official final high school transcripts from your graduating high school. If you have attended multiple high schools, request official transcripts from all schools attended. If you took dual credit in high school, request transcripts from the college that awarded the credit. If you have completed a high school equivalency exam (GED, HiSet, etc.) request that your results be sent. Send all transcripts and exam results to Carl Sandburg College's Office of Admission.

4

## **Placement Testing**

Take the Accuplacer Placement Test — an untimed assessment test that covers reading and math — to determine the level of classes you may begin. Practice tests and sample questions are available on our website. To make an appointment at the Main Campus in Galesburg, register online or contact the Welcome Center. To make an appointment at the Branch Campus in Carthage, contact the Branch Campus directly. If you require reading assistance, contact Disability Support Services. ACT/SAT scores may be used in lieu of a placement test. For more information, contact the Welcome Center.

5

## **Register for Classes**

To schedule a registration appointment, contact Student Services. We must have scores from your placement test(s), valid ACT/SAT scores or college transcripts on file prior to meeting with an advisor.

## **File Your FAFSA for Financial Aid**

Have you filed your FAFSA? Students are encouraged to file the Federal Application for Financial 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 2020-21 should use their 2018 tax information. When filling out your FAFSA, use Sandburg's college code, 007265. File the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov), and if you need assistance or have any questions about the FAFSA, call our Financial Aid Office at 309.341.5283.

## **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 2020-21 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 Cassie Tyler, coordinator of scholarships and donor relations, at 309.341.5215 or [ctyler@sandburg.edu](mailto:ctyler@sandburg.edu).

## **Important Dates for 2020 Summer Session and 2020-21 Academic Year**

	<b>Summer Session '20</b>	<b>Fall Semester '20</b>	<b>Spring Semester '21</b>
Registration Begins	Available now!	Available now!	November 2, 2020
Registration Ends	June 5, 2020	August 14, 2020	January 8, 2021
Tuition Due	May 5, 2020	August 4, 2020	December 8, 2020
Class Begins	June 8, 2020	August 17, 2020	January 11, 2020

## **FASFA & Scholarship Applications**

**Open each year from**  
October 1 - March 15

*Interested in registering to take classes at Carl Sandburg College? Contact the Sandburg Welcome Center at 309.345.3500 or [welcomecenter@sandburg.edu](mailto:welcomecenter@sandburg.edu) to begin the enrollment process.*

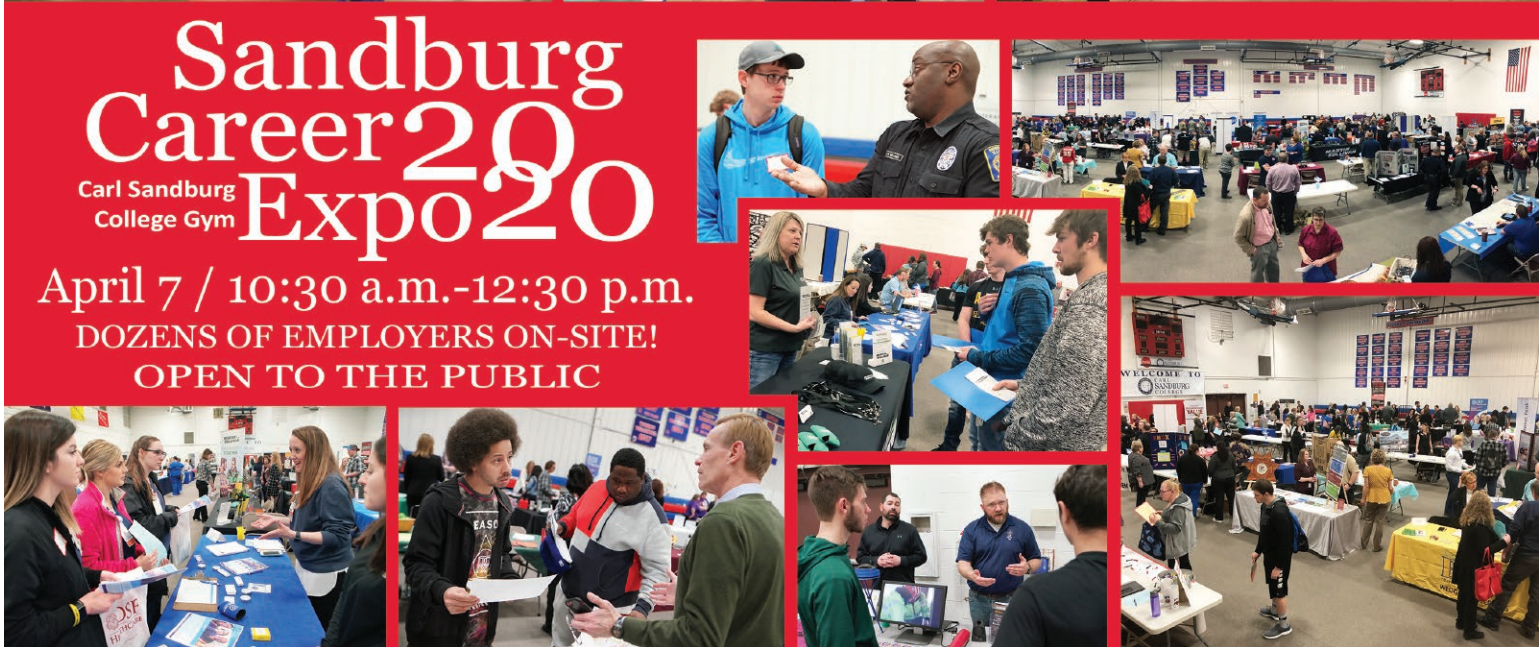
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# See What's Ahead at Sandburg



## YOUTH MANUFACTURING CAMP JULY 27-31

For more information,  
call: 309.341.530



## Sandburg Career 20 Expo 20

Carl Sandburg  
College Gym

April 7 / 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
DOZENS OF EMPLOYERS ON-SITE!  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC