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Election Central 2015



[HOME](#) » [COLLEGE OF DUPAGE BOARD](#) » [MATT GAMBS](#)



Matt Gambs

Demographics

Affiliation:	Town:	Naperville
Education:	Bachelors Degree, Economics , Regis University Masters Degree, Masters in Arts, North Central College	
Career:	Banker, Wintrust Financial	
Marital Status:	Married, Chris Gambs	
Children:	Charlie, 14 Mike, 10	



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On The Record

What are the most pressing issues facing the college?

1. Improving accessibility of our finances: Every dime the College has belongs to the public taxpayers. The College is a massive institution with complex finances, but that doesn't mean we can't be open and honest with our spending. The policy should change so that the board, public and taxpayers can access and review for themselves where the College is spending its money. 2. Finding the right leader for a new era: I'm not running to micro-manage the College, its administrators or faculty. The board's job is to set the vision, direction and provide oversight of the College's administration. It is important as a board to develop consensus on how we will select and find our new College president and involve the College's students, faculty and staff, as well as the broader community. 3. Restoring credibility of the College and its board: The College of DuPage is one of the nation's premier community colleges; over the past few months its reputation has been diminished. Trust earned over the years has been squandered. I plan to help lead the board and the College in a new direction, earning back the trust of our broader community and restoring the credibility of the College. 4. Fixing a dysfunctional board communication process: The preeminent challenge for the next board of trustees is communication and trust-building within the College, its faculty, staff, and students, and with the broader community. We need to evaluate how, when and why we communicate with our staff. The faculty is the lifeblood of the College and they key to our students' success. As the board, we must lead by example, including how we communicate at the board with each other and accept differing points of view. We need to facilitate open and honest conversation with the faculty, and the College's students, staff and district taxpayers. 5. Career outcomes for students: Lost in all of the noise over the past several months is the ultimate mission of the College, providing the education to allow students to attain economic security and individual achievement in today's and tomorrow's economy. While financial and administrative oversight is critical, the board cannot fight endlessly over past decisions, we must remain focused on the future.

What specific experiences make you a good fit for the board?

I have an extensive record of business success and currently serve as an executive at one of Chicago's largest banks. I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after high school, where I served for six years before being honorably discharged. Like so many veterans, I was fortunate to be able to attend college through the GI Bill, and he graduated from Regis University in Denver where I studied economics and political science. This past year I completed my Masters in Arts from North Central College in Naperville. I have served as CEO and board member of two locally owned banks, Bloomingdale Bank and Trust, and Diamond Bancorp. These experiences helped me tremendously as a leader and manager of complex financial processes. In 2009, as a board member of the Independent Community Bankers Association I was invited to the White House to brief administration officials on the state of community banking in the

financial crisis. I currently serve as board chairman of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, bringing together businesses of every size, sector and background to work on common issues. I also served on the boards of numerous business and professional organizations. I currently serve as a trustee of Regis University. This leadership experience has made me well versed in issues in higher education management, audit over-site and communicating with the public. Servant leadership is an important part of my life, and I am past Chairman of the Heritage YMCA Group serving Aurora, and Naperville, where I lead the effort to create the organization's computer center for children at risk. My wife and I are founding members of the Board of Trustees at All Saints Catholic Academy in Naperville, and I currently serve as Chairman.

Does the board need to take action to improve financial oversight and transparency at the college? If so, what should that action entail?

I am running because I feel the board has exacerbated many of the problems and challenges confronting the College today. In too many cases they have decided to act in secret, make disclosure difficult and view the input of the taxpaying public as an annoyance. A community college is a public trust, and frankly, the current board members have not lived up to their responsibility as Trustees. I have experience, both in business and as a trustee at my alma mater in Colorado, that other board members and candidates do not. I decided to run because I believe I can help the board, and in turn the College, overcome the many communication and procedural deficiencies that are harming the reputation of the College. I would solicit the opinions and thoughts of the Faculty Association on how best to improve the transparency on campus. While on some issues we may not always agree, there is no reason to hide the board's decision making process. I have extensive background in business, as an entrepreneur and as a trustee of a higher education institution and I can say I find the boards previous approach to financial oversight troublesome and out-of-line with industry standards. As a trustee, it is your responsibility to ensure scarce resources are spent wisely to the penny and we should see every expense. Every dollar in revenue the College gets is taxpayer money, whether it is student fees, property taxes, or state grants. I support public votes on all spending. I would support live streaming of video of all board meetings. I support the appropriate release of some of the minutes for the Executive Sessions, as approved by counsel and in accordance with the law.

Do you support the severance package approved for President Breuder in January? Why or why not?

• The current administration can point to many successes it accomplished at the college during his time, but this package is inappropriate, and if I was a board member, I would vote against it. However, this race for trustee and the entire College of DuPage organization are not about Dr. Breuder or his administration. It's about the hardworking students, faculty and staff who are focused on economic mobility and educational attainment. • I have inherent concerns about the package and its terms, and [I believe the stakeholders of the College of DuPage deserve the whole story.](#)

Should the college raise, lower or maintain current tuition rates?

I believe the \$140.00 a credit hour rate should be held flat for more than this just one year. The current cash reserves that exceed \$170,000,000. should be used to offset any budget shortfalls before the current tax rate or tuition are increased. The board and administration must exhaust every other cost-control measure and continue to pursue alternative-revenue options before we seek additional taxpayer resources. It is very unfortunate that the State is not honoring its commitment to College, and offers pennies on the dollar that it should under the law. Over the years the College has done a good job managing its balance sheet and maintaining a AAA bond rating, but this can't be backstopped by higher property taxes in perpetuity. Unlike so many local K-12 school districts, I do not support maxing the property tax levy every year. With large cash reserves on the balance sheet the college has flexibility to manage any necessary changes in mission or short falls in revenue with out impacting the student experience.

Local Community Calendar

Wed [Alton Brown](#)

25 [Rialto Square Thea... | Joliet, IL](#)

Wed [West Side Story](#)

25 [Drury Lane Theatre... | Oakbrook Terrace, IL](#)

Wed ["Water Exercise Techniques" pool workout](#)

25 [Riverside Brookfie... | Riverside, IL](#)

Fri [Fish Fry](#)

27 [K of C 3738 | Westmont, IL](#)

Sun [Area Toastmasters Contest March 15](#)

29 [Hinsdale Public Li... | Hinsdale, IL](#)

Wed

25

Local Business Guide

Featured Businesses

[Mattress Outlet - Crystal Lake](#)

[The Lodge of Antioch](#)

[Cy Financial](#)

[American Mattress, Inc.](#)

[Marengo Community High School](#)

Nightlife/Bars & Restaurants ▾

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Reader Poll

What is the best part of spring?

- Going on spring break
- Breaking out the grill
- Warm weather
- Longer days

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