



Vicki Daggett

CAS Dean's Office; Office: (618) 650-5067

January 5, 2020

SEGUE: Welcoming Mayer, Brant Walker

This weekend on Segue, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's premier radio show that discusses the lives and work of the people on campus and beyond, SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembroke, PhD, interviews Mayor of Alton since 2013.

This episode of Segue aired at 9 a.m. this Sunday, August 4, 2019, on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound and siue.edu/wsie.

Walker was an award-winning salesperson, a former entrepreneur, and finally became a local politician.

Chancellor immediately asked about "Alton Works" projects, which encompasses millions of dollars in grants for cultural enhancements through infrastructure. Among other elements, the Jacoby Art Museum will have a new park as part of its grounds.

Alton Works is dedicated to showcasing Alton's unique topography and its riverfront views. The downside to the omnipresent river presence is flooding. There have been improvements in the levees and floodwalls to manage the river effectively.

In flood emergencies, there is extreme stress on city departments, public works and public safety offers are performing critical services 24/7 when the river is in crisis stages.

The casino is critical to Alton's financial success, but is the first place to be stressed in emergencies when people lack the time or money to gamble.

SIUE just approved a pediatric sedation clinic for Alton. This adds another dimension to one of the top dental schools in the nation. It dramatically helps the clinic to provide more critically needed community care. It will dramatically reduce the wait time for minors from months of waiting, to a matter of weeks.

Chancellor Pembroke reflects also on the Successful Communities Collaborative, which has been influential in Alton. SIUE students helped build a GIS mapping capability, and simultaneously improved systems in a variety of city offices. It is also a way to encouraging promising young people to set roots in the Alton community, potentially deciding to pursue careers locally.

To hear this episode in its entirety, return to the College of Arts and Sciences website and choose the "Segue" button or read other articles and synopses at the "College Talk" button for episode archives. Or, follow this link: http://www.siue.edu/artsandsciences/CASsegue_prevshows.html .