Bauer has been a member of the association’s governing board since he became president of East Central College on July 1, 2012. He is a product of Missouri’s community college system, graduating in 1984 from Jefferson College in Hillsboro.

He holds a bachelor’s degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, an MBA from Fontbonne University and earned his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

As president of East Central College, Bauer recently completed work as a member of the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) steering committee for the new Blueprint for Higher Education.  He also serves as a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission.

Bauer started at East Central in 1995, as director of public relations. He assumed additional responsibilities in 1999 as the director of college relations.  In 2001 he was promoted to dean of enrollment management.  He spent one year as dean of ECC’s satellite location in Rolla and served as chief financial officer from 2005 to 2012.

Before joining the ECC staff, Bauer was assistant news director and news director at KLPW Radio.  He then went on to serve as editor of the Union Missourian from 1989-1995.

He has served on the boards for Mercy Health East Communities in St. Louis, Mercy Hospital Washington, the Washington Civic Industrial Corporation & 353 Redevelopment Corporation. He is past president of the Washington Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors and the Washington Public Library Board.

Bauer is also a past board member and current advisory board member for the Franklin County Area United Way.  He is past president and Paul Harris Fellow in the Union Rotary Club. Bauer is a past member of the Franklin County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy committee and the Union Highway 50 committee.