ONE OF THE
MOST INNOVATIVE COLLEGES
IN THE MIDWEST



ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM

DR. BARBARA KAVALIER

PRESIDENT OF ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Student success remains at the heart of everything we do. In 2025, SCC achieved the highest graduation rate in the college's history. Through academic excellence, athletic achievement, and in-demand workforce-ready programs, we are helping students build the skills and confidence needed to achieve their goals.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

To meet our region's growing workforce needs, SCC launched the Innovation West Campus, opened the state-of-the-art Regional Workforce Innovation Center (RWIC), and started construction on the new Cafe Market at SCC's Field to Table Institute.

LEADING INNOVATION

As one of the most forward-thinking community colleges in the Midwest, SCC continues to lead with transformative initiatives such as the Center for Immersive Learning and the EXCELerator, our newest student support resource. These investments are redefining how students learn, engage, and succeed.

DRIVING REGIONAL IMPACT

Through strategic partnerships, SCC is helping to strengthen the region's workforce and economy. We are also inspiring future innovators by hosting robotics and science competitions, as well as manufacturing events, that encourage creativity and career exploration.

INVESTING IN TOMORROW

SCC continues to make strategic investments that support innovation, workforce development, and student success. Responsible stewardship of Proposition Community College (Prop CC) resources, grants, and Foundation support, combined with strong financial management, positions SCC for long-term growth.

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

I'm incredibly proud of the accomplishments of our Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and community supporters. In celebration of SCC's 40th anniversary, we recognize the collaborative efforts that have helped shape our college into a vibrant hub for learning and innovation.

On behalf of the SCC community, we look forward to serving you.

Barbara R. Kavalier, Ph.D.

"As artificial intelligence and immersive technologies redefine higher education, St. Charles Community College (SCC) is committed to leading in this innovation and preparing students for the opportunities of tomorrow." — Barbara R. Kavalier, Ph.D.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

STUDENT STORIES



DRAKE WALTERS

President's Rising Star Award & Scholarship winner Drake Walters was recognized for leadership, dedication, and academic and civic achievement.



BERNARD "JACK" GOUGHENOUR

Earned his Criminal Justice degree with a Law Enforcement concentration. Accepted as a St. Louis County Police cadet while at SCC, he will enter the Police Academy in 2026.



RIVER HATHCOCK

Earned his Substitute/Paraprofessional Teaching Certification at SCC. Soon after a local school district hired him, his principal recommended him for a long-term position.



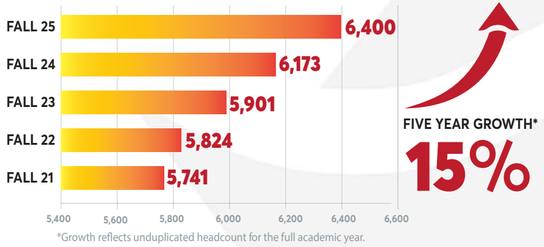
ANNA RICKS

Anna Ricks, a leadership award winner, leads SCC's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapter and its community service efforts. She plans to complete her bachelor's degree at Lindenwood University this fall.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Demand for affordable, high-quality education is rising. **SCC enrollment** grew by **20%** in summer 2025, **3.7%** in fall 2025, and **4.6%** in spring 2026. SCC is among just **27% of community colleges nationally** to fully recover pre-pandemic enrollment.

FALL ENROLLMENT GROWTH



*Growth reflects unduplicated headcount for the full academic year.

PREPARING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE

SCC's accredited nursing program prepares students for healthcare careers. The college's commitment to excellence was recognized when SCC was ranked tied for third among Missouri nursing schools by Nursing Explorer two years in a row.

Students can also earn industry-recognized credentials through SCC's industrial trade programs. SCC is among a small group of Missouri colleges recognized as a National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) school. The NC3 network connects industries and educational institutions to create highly specific, standardized technical certifications.

SCC recorded the highest graduation rate in the college's history, reaching 32% in 2025.

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

From academic achievement to athletic success, SCC students demonstrated remarkable accomplishments. At the **Student Awards Ceremony**, students were honored for their outstanding achievements. Student achievement was also celebrated at the state level through the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-Missouri Academic Team.



STUDENT-ATHLETES

SCC's **student-athletes** also experienced a successful year. The **Esports** team placed among the top two at the **NJCAA Region 16 Tournament**. The baseball team captured the **Region 16 Championship**, while the softball team placed fourth at the Region 16 Tournament. Track and Field delivered one of the most successful seasons in its history, the women's team placed seventh nationally, while the men's team earned 10th place. **Women's soccer captured the Region 16 Title** for the fourth consecutive year and finished fifth in their division–the highest in program history.

Cougar athletes earned 23 NJCAA All-American honors, set school records, and one Cougar captured a **national championship** for long jump.



BUILDING THE FUTURE





REGIONAL WORKFORCE INNOVATION CENTER

SCC opened the 48,000-square-foot Regional Workforce Innovation Center (RWIC), the first facility on our new 72-acre **Innovation West Campus** in Wentzville. Funded through **Prop CC**, the **American Rescue Plan**, and **MoExcels Workforce Initiative**, it prepares students for in-demand careers.

Modern classrooms, advanced labs, and industrial equipment support hands-on learning in manufacturing, robotics, electrical, plumbing, and skilled trades.

As an **NC3 Leadership School**, SCC offers industry-recognized certifications from **Snap-on®**, **Trane®**, and **Lincoln Electric®**, giving graduates practical experience and valuable credentials.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

FIELD TO TABLE INSTITUTE

At **SCC's Field to Table Institute**, agriculture and culinary programs are aligned to promote learning and contribute to healthy living. Offering associate degrees, workforce-ready certificates, and community education opportunities, the Field to Table Institute prepares students for careers in the growing culinary and agriculture industries.

As demand for these programs continues to grow, SCC is investing in the future with a **second building**, expanding the Field to Table Institute to include additional classrooms, learning labs, and a **new Cafe Market facility.** This project is supported through the **MoExcels Workforce Initiative**, which facilitates development of employer-driven education programs.

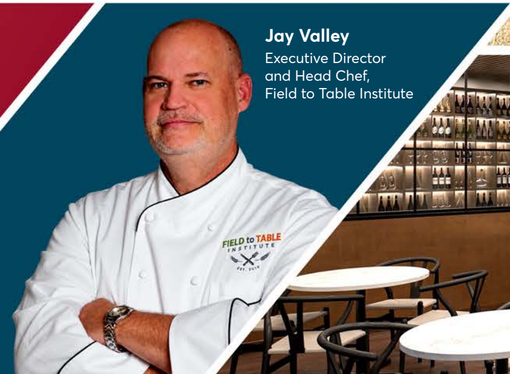
By connecting culinary arts and agriculture together, the Field to Table Institute continues creating the perfect recipe for students to learn and prepare for in-demand careers.





"A unique feature of this building will be a state-of-the-art market and cafe, which will serve as a learning lab for culinary students."

— Barbara R. Kavalier, Ph.D.



Jay Valley
Executive Director
and Head Chef,
Field to Table Institute



A MESSAGE FROM

DR. AMY KOEHLER

PROVOST & CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

Innovation is more than an aspiration at St. Charles Community College—it is an essential part of who we are and how we serve our students and community. Throughout the academic year, SCC transformed ideas into opportunities by expanding academic pathways, embracing emerging technology, and creating engaging learning experiences.

SCC introduced **eight new academic programs**, including Biotechnology and Electrician programs. These additions demonstrate our commitment to meeting the needs of regional employers and creating educational pathways for students that lead to in-demand careers.

Innovation continues to flourish in our classrooms. The **Fueling Innovative Technology (FIT) Academy** provides opportunities for faculty to explore and implement creative approaches that enhance teaching, strengthen student engagement, and improve student learning.

The launch of SCC's **Center for Immersive Learning (CIL)** marked another significant milestone, giving students the opportunity to examine complex concepts through interactive virtual reality experiences. This advanced technology brings learning to life for our students.

Our innovative work extended well beyond the traditional classroom. Business and Technology departments connected students with emerging industry practices and provided hands-on experience through a student-produced podcast. SCC's mobile welding trailer introduced students throughout the region to welding careers. Our health care programs integrated tools such as Meta smart glasses and holographic simulations to enrich clinical instruction and prepare students for a technology-driven workplace.

Each of these accomplishments reflects the talent, creativity, and dedication of our faculty and staff. Together, we are building an institution that is responsive to change, willing to explore new possibilities, and deeply committed to student success.

As technology advances and workforce needs continue to evolve, SCC will remain focused on delivering exceptional and innovative learning experiences. We are passionate about preparing students for the future and helping them **shape the modern workforce**.



+8

NEW PROGRAMS

- **Electrician, AAS**
- **Electrician, CA**
- **HVAC, AAS**
- **HVAC, CA**
- **Plumbing, AAS**
- **Surgical Technology**
- **Commercial Driving, CS**
- **Biotechnology**



The EXCELerator, an innovative new study space, celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting. The space offers academic coaching, career services, an interactive computer lab, and more.

LEADING INNOVATION

Leading innovation means **creating solutions that help students succeed**. This year, SCC expanded our student support with the launch of the **EXCELerator**, a dynamic study space designed to connect students with the resources they need to achieve their academic and career goals.

Originated from the support of **Proposition Community College (Prop CC)**, the EXCELerator serves as a unique space for academic coaching, career services, an interactive computer lab, and other student support resources. Since its opening, the EXCELerator has served over **12,000 students**.



CHRIS CROSS

During the 2025-26 academic year, **Director of the EXCELerator Chris Cross** received the **Pinnacle of Excellence Award**, the highest recognition given by the college for extraordinary service.





LEADING INNOVATION



Dreamscape Learn's Frogcats

> "Our students aren't just observing the world, they're experiencing it, gaining a deeper understanding of complex subjects."
>
> - Andrea Compton, Assistant Vice President, Learning Enterprises and Engagement

CENTER FOR IMMERSIVE LEARNING

As technology continues to reshape the way we live and work at an unprecedented pace, SCC is helping students develop the skills needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world. In partnership with Dreamscape Learn®, SCC became the **first higher education institution in the Midwest** to open a Center for Immersive Learning, integrating virtual reality and cinematic storytelling into education.

Designed to complement traditional teaching methods, the Center for Immersive Learning allows students to learn complex concepts in innovative ways. From exploring virtual worlds to participating in simulated environments, students gain a deeper understanding of their classes through experiences that are interactive and entertaining.

"We are taking education beyond the textbook and transforming the student experience. By immersing students through virtual experiences, we provide depth to their coursework and bring learning to life in ways pictures and videos simply cannot," said Assistant Vice President, Learning Enterprises and Engagement, Andrea Compton.

By embracing technology and innovation, SCC continues to redefine what's possible in higher education while preparing students for the workforce of tomorrow.

At SCC, **DON'T JUST LEARN IT. LIVE IT!**

LEADING INNOVATION

FUELING INNOVATION IN TECHNOLOGY

SCC continues to advance innovation in higher education through the Fueling Innovative Technology (FIT) Academy. FIT is a faculty development program that supports instructors in exploring meaningful uses of technology in the classroom. Through the academy, faculty research emerging teaching strategies, develop and test innovative projects, and share their findings with colleagues across the college.



DR. FELICIA EMERY

Associate Professor, Microbiology • Micro Minis with Dr. Emery

After observing that students were entering the lab with less hands-on preparation, Dr. Emery developed *Micro Minis with Dr. Emery*. These short videos demonstrate essential lab techniques, allowing students to visualize procedures in advance.

"The goal was simple: help students walk into the lab feeling prepared."



DR. STEVEN OBERG

Associate Professor and Chair, Business • Exploring Personal Privacy: The Privacy Paradox

Dr. Oberg developed an interactive instructional module exploring digital data privacy and social media. He adapted the project into professional development on protecting student data. His work demonstrates how FIT Academy supports innovation.

"The FIT Academy reflects SCC's investment in its people, while empowering faculty to enhance student learning."



DR. NICOLE PINAIRE

Professor and Chair, Biology • Tutorial Videos for Anatomy and Physiology

Dr. Pinaire built a robust collection of interactive video tutorials to strengthen student comprehension in Anatomy and Physiology. Her innovative teaching strategies were also shared with regional educators.

"Students say this collection of tutorials is informative, accessible, and improves their ability to learn."

Academic Program Coordinator, Molly Meyer's *Let's Have "The Talk"* project uses artificial intelligence to help medical assisting students strengthen their professional communication skills. Through an AI-powered patient simulation, students practice realistic conversations in a controlled and supportive learning environment, better preparing them for interactions in clinical settings.

The project addresses an important need in professional communication while demonstrating how AI can be thoughtfully and intentionally integrated into teaching and learning. Meyer's work has also inspired faculty across disciplines to consider similar approaches, further reinforcing SCC's commitment to innovation, academic excellence, and student success.

EMERSON EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Grace Moser
Professor, History



MOADN FACULTY OF THE YEAR

Sara Hemmann
Assistant Professor, Nursing



FACULTY ASSOCIATION - FACULTY OF THE YEAR

Kara Boyd
Associate Professor, Communications



MCCA - FACULTY OF THE YEAR

Heather Stueben
Professor, Chemistry



"At St. Charles Community College, an unwavering commitment to student learning and success is at the heart of our faculty's work. Their dedication extends far beyond the classroom, shaping the educational experiences, aspirations, and futures of the students we serve. Through their expertise, mentorship, and genuine investment in each student's potential, our faculty leave an enduring impact that reaches well beyond a student's time at SCC." — Barbara R. Kavalier, Ph.D.

DRIVING REGIONAL IMPACT

Through strategic partnerships, community education programs, and workforce development, SCC plays an important role in the region. SCC generates approximately **$95.3 million** in total county output annually. For every $1 of direct spending, **an additional $0.56 ripples through the economy**.

Beyond annual spending, SCC creates lasting economic value through degree and certificate completion. A Georgetown University ROI analysis identified SCC as having one of the highest returns on investment for a higher education institution in the state.

The college has established partnerships with leading industries throughout the region, including General Motors®, Boeing®, Craftsmen Industries, True Manufacturing®, and many others. SCC also works closely with all hospital systems, including Mercy Health®, BJC Health®, and SSM Health®.

The college's commitment to innovation is demonstrated through events such as Manufacturing Day, which highlights advanced manufacturing careers. Through accessible education and career pathways, SCC helps build a skilled workforce and serves as a conduit for economic growth.

SCC'S REGIONAL IMPACT

$95.3 MILLION

For every $1 of direct spending, an additional $0.56 ripples through the economy.

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS

BJC HealthCare · True · Seyer Industries · MercyIT · Boeing · GM · Craftsmen Industries, Inc. · SSMHealth · MEMC (A GlobalWafers Company)

DRIVING SUCCESS



ANDREW MILLIKEN

Andrew Milliken, a mechatronics student, has been hired at Boeing as an Electrical Assembly Mechanic. This employment is a direct result of the RWIC Career Fair, where he met with Boeing for the first time.



XENA CASTELLANO

After graduating with an Associate of Applied Science in Mechatronics, Xena Castellano launched her career at Boeing. SCC's hands-on training prepares students for the region's high-demand industries.

18%
real GDP growth
St. Charles County is the fastest growing large county in Missouri.

47% of Missouri's economic growth

SCC serves a region generating **almost half of the state's economic growth.**

SCC's service area's **real GDP growth outpaces the state.**

INVESTING IN TOMORROW

PROPOSITION COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Proposition Community College (Prop CC) was a no-tax-increase bond to support workforce readiness, student services, infrastructure, and security at SCC. Through these initiatives, SCC is creating modern spaces to support students today while preparing for the future.

Thanks to the support of community funding, SCC continued to innovate and expand programs, services, and resources that empower student success.

We are grateful to our supporters and partners for investing in SCC while helping us build the community college of tomorrow.

Community funding supported the following campus improvement projects:

- Center for Immersive Learning Enhancements
- Discovery Lab
- HVAC Infrastructure Modernization
- Library Improvements
- Science Lab Improvements
- Signage
- Student Service Center Enhancements







INVESTING IN TOMORROW:
SCC FOUNDATION

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers, the **St. Charles Community College Foundation**, a non-profit organization, continues to expand access to education and student success. This past year, the Foundation **provided more than $175,000 in scholarships and program enhancements** to SCC students, helping them pursue their academic and career goals.

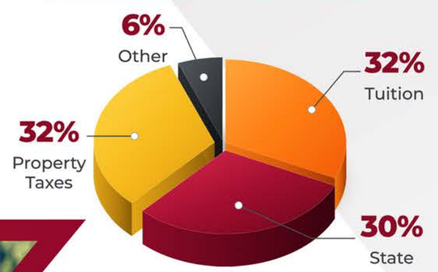
The St. Charles Community College Foundation received an unexpected and extraordinarily generous estate gift of nearly **$5 million** from the late **Norman and Linda Leaf**, whose commitment to education will leave a legacy.

"We are deeply humbled and grateful for the Leaf's incredible generosity. It's a powerful testament to the difference someone can make when they choose to leave a legacy." — Barbara R. Kavalier, Ph.D.

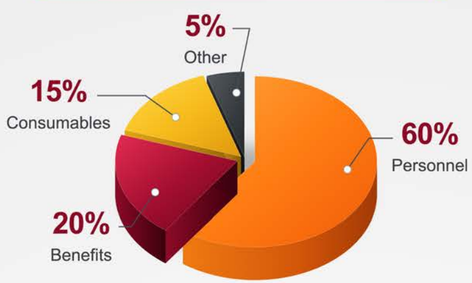


INVESTING IN TOMORROW:
COLLEGE FINANCIALS

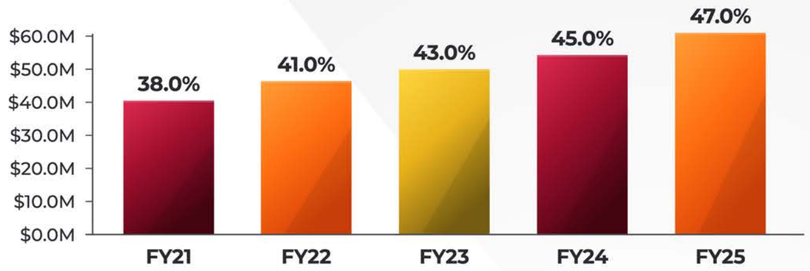
OPERATING REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENSES



Five-Year Budget Growth



SHAPING OUR FUTURE

SCC's progress is made possible by people who believe in the power of education. We are grateful to the St. Charles Community College Board of Trustees for its steadfast commitment to our college. Through thoughtful leadership, the Board has helped SCC achieve historic milestones, expand opportunities, and advance innovation while keeping student success at the center of it all.

The SCC community is especially grateful for the dedicated service of former trustees Rose Mack and Pam Cilek. Their leadership helped shape SCC through a time of tremendous growth. We also welcome Seth Peimann and Bob Ronkoski to the Board. Seth brings 14 years of experience with the SCC Foundation Board, while Bob brings a deep understanding of the college from his years of service as SCC's Police Chief and Assistant Vice President.

As we honor those who have served and welcome new Board members, we look ahead with confidence in what we can accomplish together. The SCC community is grateful for a Board that continues to support people, programs, and infrastructure that prepare students for tomorrow's possibilities.

Thank you, Board of Trustees, for believing in what is possible when we innovate for the future.



MIKE LISSNER
President



JEAN EHLMANN
Vice President



SETH PEIMANN
Trustee



MARY SCHNARE STODDEN
Secretary



SHIRLEY LOHMAR
Treasurer



BOB RONKOSKI
Trustee

Since opening our doors in **1987**, SCC has proudly educated and served the community.

Thank you for being part of our **40-year history** and helping us shape the community college of tomorrow.

CELEBRATING 40th ANNIVERSARY



ST. CHARLES
COMMUNITY COLLEGE