



(Left to right) Robert Strubinger, junior; Steven Lewis, freshman; Leanne Ketchum, senior; and Sarah Ketchum, sophomore, of Winfield High School make final adjustments at the 17th annual Robotics Challenge, March 6, at SCC.

### College and local organizations collaborate for Missouri STEM Week

STEM programs are on the rise as part of a national and regional effort to better prepare the workforce of tomorrow by encouraging students to engage in studies, events and careers involving science, technology, engineering and math.

St. Charles Community College (SCC), General Motors (GM), Partners for Progress of Greater St. Charles (PFP), St. Charles Economic Development Center (EDC), Masterclock, Great Plains Math League and area schools participated in Missouri STEM Week, March 6-7, to provide resources to students interested in the field.

Events kicked off with the PFP STEM Celebration Breakfast hosted by the EDC on Friday, March 6. The schedule continued on that same day at SCC with the 17th Annual GM Robotics Challenge. On Saturday, March 7, the college again played host to its 18th Annual Math Tournament.

The PFP STEM Celebration Breakfast honored 17 local high school students for their achievements in science, technology, engineering and math. Students received

recognition and listened to keynote speaker John Clark, a millennial business leader and the general manager of Masterclock, a high-tech company based in St. Charles.

"The PFP have been proudly promoting STEM since 2010 when we worked with state elected officials to have the first week of every March set aside as Missouri STEM Week," said Greg Prestemon, president of the Partners for Progress of Greater St. Charles. "We believe that an emphasis on STEM today means jobs and success tomorrow."

At the 17th Annual GM Robotics Challenge, 41 teams from 32 middle schools and nine high schools participated – an increase in participation over last year's event. Student teams used LEGO® MINDSTORMS® robotics kits and worked together to build a robot based on the challenge requirements.

"Students are able to gain real-life skills they don't necessarily get in a classroom environment at an event like this," said

Wait, there's more ...

SEE "Missouri STEM Week," p. 2



Liberty High School students learn what it takes to become an ARCH Air Medical Service flight paramedic during the Wentzville School District Biomedical Career Fair at SCC on March 19.

### SCC hosts Wentzville School District Biomedical Career Fair

Dedicated to implementing, growing and improving Wentzville School District's Biomedical Sciences (BMS) program, Timberland High School science teacher Meghan Aydelott coordinated a Biomedical Career Fair hosted at St. Charles Community College on March 19.

SCC was a perfect fit for the event, which brought more than 400 students to campus. "It is a great facility and it's close to our district," said Aydelott. Since its inception in 2011, Aydelott has led the charge in organizing the annual Wentzville

Continued ...

SEE "CAREER FAIR," p. 2

### SCC nursing student nets national scholarship

SCC nursing student Sarah Czarnecki, of St. Peters, was recently announced as one of three national winners of Job-Applications.com's \$1,000 Working Parent Scholarship.

"Winning this scholarship was both exciting and humbling. Knowing there is less of a financial burden my family has to face is a great feeling," said Czarnecki, who is married and has two children. She works full-time as a paramedic while enrolled as a nursing student at the college.

Keep reading ...

SEE "NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP," p. 3

## Financial aid literacy education pays dividends

The most recent report from the U.S. Department of Education finds that SCC's three-year Cohort Default Rate (CDR) on the repayment of certain student loans has dropped significantly from 14.3 percent to 13.3 percent.

The lower the default rate, the better the education institution is educating its student borrowers about student debt and the implications of defaulting on a student loan. It is typical for an institution's rolling three-year CDR to move over from one year to the next in increments of .1 or .2 percentage points.

In recent years, the college's Financial Assistance Office has increased its efforts in educating student borrowers about financial literacy, including implementing the SALT Program. SALT is a free, nonprofit-backed educational program that helps students who want a college degree to get it in a financially responsible way.

The U.S. Department of Education releases official cohort default rates once per year.

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### MISSOURI STEM WEEK *Continued from p. 1*

Brian Steber, senior manufacturing engineer at GM Wentzville and challenge creator for the Robotics Challenge. "When creating the challenge, I try to imitate real life applications we use at the General Motors plant."

On March 7, some 17 area high schools with 128 students competed at the 18th Annual Math Tournament – more than double last year's turnout – in cooperation with the Great Plains Math League. With the support of an SCC Foundation mini-grant, the registration fee was only \$1 per student. "We were truly fortunate to see such healthy participation and, we look forward to seeing everyone at next year's event," said Joe Howe, SCC professor of mathematics.

Students took up to four tests during the math competition – both individual and team. "It's great to see high school students attend and compete among their peers," said Howe. "Many of these students will become STEM majors one day."

Parkway Central High School finished first in the overall; Clayton finished in second; and Lutheran South High School finished third.



SCC participants listen to MCCA Rally Day kick-off speeches in the House Lounge. Pictured, from left: Samantha Schoonover, student; Mandi Smith, manager of Student Activities; Jennifer Kennedy, student; Brynne Cramer, PR coordinator; and SCC President Ron Chesbrough, Ph.D.

## SCC faculty, staff and students visit with state legislators at MCCA Rally Day in Jefferson City

Several members of the SCC community traveled to the state capitol to update area legislators on important issues during the Missouri Community College Association's Rally Day, Feb. 25.

The day kicked off with brief comments from Cliff Davis, MCCA president, Rob Dixon, MCCA CEO, and Sen. Mike Parson (R-28) that provided inspiration to the crowd representing 12 community college districts. After introductions on the House and Senate floors, teams of visited with legislators in the galleries.

Talking points included the A+ Program promise and the impact of community colleges. Students were encouraged to share their personal community college story, as well.

SCC participants who made the trip included: SCC President Ron Chesbrough, Ph.D.; faculty members Lisa Davis and Steve Randall; staff members Kathy Brockgreitens-Gober, Brynne Cramer, Heather McDorman, Ben Munson, Amanda Sizemore, Mandi Smith; and students Jennifer Kennedy and Samantha Schoonover.



## Food services receives top score from health department

Congratulations goes out to the SCC Food Services team and the two SCC dining facilities for scoring 100 percent on their March 6 health inspection. This is the second time in a row that both Scooter's Place and the Café have achieved a perfect score.

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### CAREER FAIR *Continued from p. 1*

School District Biomedical Career Fair. She received the Missouri Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Outstanding Biomedical Teacher Award in 2013 for her efforts.

"The students who attended the fair know they want to pursue some aspect of biomedical sciences as they leave high school – there are so many different jobs they could do," said Aydelott. "We try to expose them to some careers to help them decide which path they want to take."

As part of the fair, an ARCH Air Medical Service helicopter landed in the Purple Parking Lot of the SCC campus. Students were able to explore the helicopter on the ground and learn what it takes to work as a flight paramedic.





1. Pictured on right: Mandi Smith, manager of Student Activities; 2. Pictured on right: Brynne Cramer, PR coordinator; 3. Pictured, from left: Kathy Brockgreitens-Gober, dean of Enrollment Services; Ben Munson, director of creative services.

## DeLosSantos named to Zoo's Education Committee

Tammie De Los Santos, associate director of college and career readiness, has been named to Saint Louis Zoo's Education Committee. De Los Santos is one of two St. Charles County area residents serving on the committee; Dianne Garrison, SCC Foundation Board member and a St. Charles County resident, also serves on the committee.



Garrison nominated De Los Santos following a visit to the SCC Storybook Walk the two shared with Louise Bradshaw, the Fred Saigh Director of Education at the St. Louis Zoo.

The Education Committee provides the Zoo Board and Commission with insight and understanding of the educational role and mission of the Saint Louis Zoo. Committee members serve as liaisons and advocates to advance the Zoo's educational mission and objectives.

"The Saint Louis Zoo is filled with amazing resources, programs and opportunities to advance learning in our community," De Los Santos said. "I am honored and thrilled to serve as a member of the committee in order to bring these valuable services to the Child Development Center, the faculty and the students of SCC, as well as the students we serve in our K-12 educational partnerships."

### NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

*Continued from p. 1*

Applicants submitted a 600- to 1,000-word essay on how to successfully balance parenthood, working and excelling in school.

Job-Applications.com is a job application

resource available in the United States, created the Working Parent Scholarship as a way to help families obtain a better education to help build a career. *Source: Job-Applications.com news release.*

### MARK THE CALENDAR

#### SCC Art Faculty Exhibition

FAB Gallery and Annex, FAB 106  
Continues through April 2

#### "Killing Us Softly 4: Advertising's Image of Women"

10-11:30 a.m. March 24 | SSB auditorium

#### Student Music Recital

Noon March 25 | FAB 118

#### Andi Zeisler: "Don't Just Change the Channel: Why Pop Culture Matters to Feminism, Activism and Social Justice"

Noon March 25 | SSB auditorium

#### Backpack Project

March 30-April 3 | College Center and SSB sidewalks

#### Suicide: A Sociological Perspective

11:30 a.m. March 31 | SSB Auditorium

#### Campus Forum: Expand Federal, State, Local and Private Funding

2:40-4 p.m. March 31 | SSB Board Room

#### Tina Meier: Cyberbullying and Suicide

6:30-8:30 p.m. March 31 | SSB Auditorium

#### ALIVE! Mental Health Fair

10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 1 | SSB Auditorium and lounge

#### Mental Health Expo

10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. April 1 | College Center Rotunda

#### Nursing Students Presentations

##### On Mental Health Topics

11 a.m.-1 p.m. | SC Rooms 205-206

##### Test Success

Noon April 7 | SC Private Dining Room

##### Lunchtime Trivia

Noon April 15 | Scooter's Place (SC)

##### Student Awards Banquet

7-9 p.m. April 17 | College Center Gym



To view a full listing of events at SCC, visit [stchas.edu/calendar](http://stchas.edu/calendar).