



SEPTEMBER 2024

# President's Report

## FALL ENROLLMENT EXCEEDS PROJECTIONS

SCC welcomed new and returning students to the fall semester which began August 19. And more students arrived than expected. Exceeding the budget projection which called for enrollment to be flat as compared to last year, the college saw an increase of more than five percent. The parking lots are full, and throughout the day it appears every bench, picnic table, study space is populated by our students.

We appreciate the efforts of our Student Affairs staff who helped greet and register students. Special appreciation is also extended to our tutoring staff, academic deans, and faculty who also played a key role assisting with enrollment processes. Certainly, it took a team effort to add additional sections of classes, respond to students' needs, and staff special Saturday registration days.

SCC also hosted the annual Cougar Comeback on August 14. This event brought faculty and staff together in the gymnasium to welcome students, share information about programs and services, and provide campus tours. Many positive comments were received from students about the excellent services provided by SCC's faculty and staff. Thanks to everyone for your good efforts.

# HOLOGRAM TECH AND 'DREAMSCAPE LEARN' INTRODUCED AT ALL COLLEGE DAY

All College Day on Thursday, September 19, went high-tech this year, as Cabinet updated faculty and staff on new initiatives.

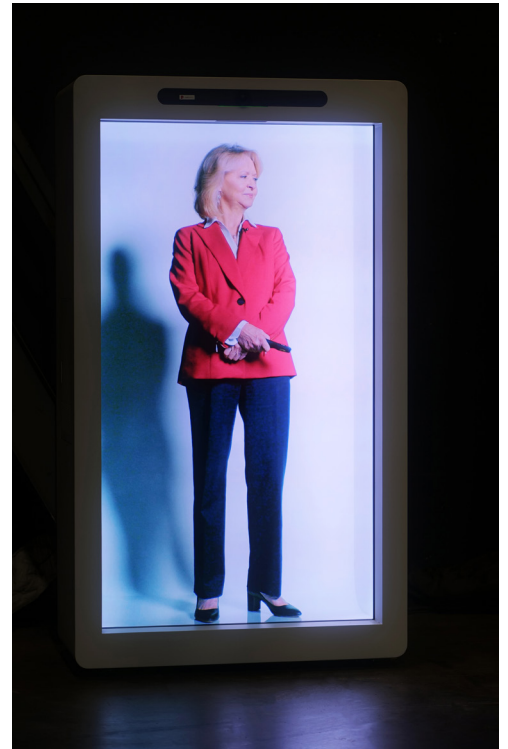
Dr. Barbara Kavalier, SCC President, presented an update on student success data and shared information related to future trends in higher education. The presentation also introduced to the college several new and innovative initiatives for SCC, including plans to create a virtual/augmented reality/AI Learning Lab. This new lab will be located in Conoyer Hall and include "Dreamscape Learn," a fully immersive and interactive learning platform. Faculty and staff were also introduced to SCC's new hologram from Proto which housed a virtual Dr. Kavalier.

Dr. Amy Koehler, Provost, announced updates to academic and support services, including an overview of new technology to support students and organizational processes. She also shared improvements to the academic calendar to allow students to plan for current and future enrollment.

Todd Galbierz, Executive Vice President, and Ken Kershaw, Chief Financial Officer, presented an update on the college's budget, reporting a strong financial position, compared to many other colleges in our area, and in the country.

John Wiemann, Vice President of Operations and Strategic Initiatives, and Shelley Machens, Executive Director and Chief Officer for External Campuses, presented plans for a new building adjacent to the Field to Table Institute, on the Dardenne Creek Campus, to accommodate growth of Agriculture and Culinary Arts programs, and add a restaurant for both students and the community. They also presented an update on the progress of the Regional Workforce Innovation Center in Wentzville.

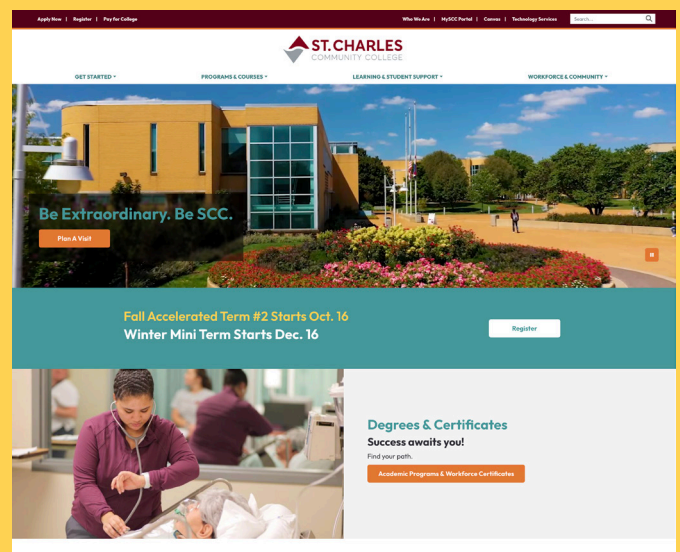
The overall theme of All College Day celebrated the many innovative and successful initiatives that ensure SCC is well-prepared for the future of higher education.



## NEW SCC WEBSITE IS LIVE

SCC launched its new website on Monday, June 21, switching from DotCMS, to Modern Campus CMS and Catalog. The new Content Management System, coupled with the online catalog, allows for many improvements, including the ability to show potential and current students academic offerings in real-time, as they are updated through the curriculum process. Improved video capabilities, shared calendars, and easier editing also are among the improvements.

Marketing and Communications, Academic Affairs, IT, and many groups on campus worked together to select the vendor through an RFP, and change the site, based on feedback from students, faculty, and staff.



## SCC ENSURES STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH INNOVATION

Higher education is undergoing significant transformations driven by a variety of factors, including technological advancements, changing societal needs, and evolving student expectations. In this fast-changing environment, community colleges are uniquely positioned to meet the needs of students, businesses and the communities they serve.

Early on, St. Charles Community College (SCC) recognized the importance of providing value to its community and identified key areas for growth. This type of change is essential, but it takes time and a resolute attitude for any organization to advance. To meet post-graduate and community needs, SCC added programs in high job demand areas, such as welding and commercial truck driving. It has invested in facilities, such as the soon-to-be-completed Regional Workforce Innovation Center, that are focused on workforce training. And, SCC is investing in the technology that will transform higher education and society into the future, such as holograms, virtual reality and artificial intelligence. The goal is to meet the needs of employers and workers, while giving students a chance at a bright future.



SCC has also focused on making meaningful structural changes to its academic departments. These adjustments have resulted in the reduction of administrative time full-time faculty experience, allowing them to focus their energy and talent on teaching. These changes resulted in increased student success, including an increase in course completions, retention and enrollment. Student success is key to students achieving their educational goals quickly and benefiting the community with their enhanced skills and talents.

With these changes, St. Charles Community College continues to have the highest median earning potential for graduates combined with the lowest average annual cost to attend. According to the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard, the average cost of attendance for Missouri community colleges is \$7,000, compared to SCC's average cost of \$4,000. Conversely, students who graduate from SCC earn a median wage of at least \$42,000 as compared to \$37,500 for all other community colleges.

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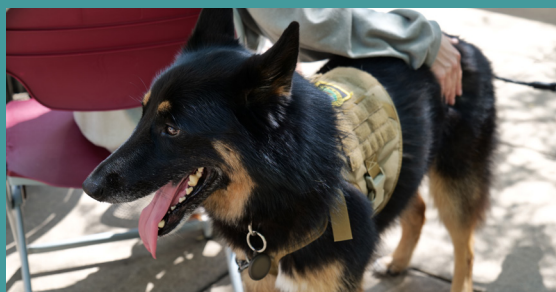


## VETERANS SERVICES HOSTS 9-11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

On Wednesday, Sept. 11, we remembered and honored those lost and affected by the events that took place 23 years ago. SCC's Veterans Services coordinated the event that included a speaker, Chamber Choir, and SCC Color Guard.

## FOOD, FUN, AND FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

The Employee Cookout, held Friday, August 17, brought employees, friends, family, and pets together for an outdoor cookout on the plaza before the semester started.



## WELCOME INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



SCC welcomed over 160 international students this fall, one of our largest cohorts. The orientation was organized by Brian Wiltowski, Manager of International Student Services. Brian was joined by Dawn Huffman, Mandy Rose, Jenny Hahn Schipper, and Lindy McGuire.



# SCC FULFILLS PROMISE TO VOTERS

St. Charles Community College has completed several projects supported by Proposition Community College, known as PropCC, the \$30 million-bond issue passed by voters in 2020 to help the college expand and modernize its facilities.



## STEM and Academic Program Enhancements

Students are benefiting from five new science labs, additional classrooms, offices, and student study areas in the Life Sciences Building, formerly the 'Café Bookstore.' The renovations, completed in fall of 2022, provide a more expansive learning environment for students while also creating room for growth in STEM programs.

## Comprehensive Student Services

SCC now is welcoming students in a newly renovated, student-centric space on the first floor of the SCC Main Building, also completed in fall of 2022, for admissions, advising, financial aid, student wellness and more. The design creates a state-of-the-art environment for students to easily access key enrollment and advisement functions.

## Infrastructure and Modernization of Facilities

If you travel along the I-64/40 corridor through St. Charles County, you have likely noticed the new digital sign at our Dardenne Creek Campus. This is just one of the infrastructure modernization projects made possible by PropCC— enabling us to reach new and bigger audiences than ever before. We have also completed signage projects on SCC's Main Campus and at the Field to Table Institute to improve safety, accessibility, and the campus experience. PropCC also funded critical upgrades to other vital services, including the HVAC systems on the Main Campus, something we were especially grateful for during the summer's heat waves and the below-zero temperatures of winter.



## Campus Safety Improvements

In 2021, SCC's Police Department moved into a new, 2,400-square-foot building on the west side of main campus, near campus housing. The facility gives the Police Department a more visible presence at SCC and makes accessing services easier for all members of the community.



Architectural Rendering

Coming in 2025

## Expansion of Workforce and Technical Programs

The largest project of our campus improvements already is under way. In October 2023, SCC broke ground on the new Regional Workforce Innovation Center in Wentzville, a project funded by PropCC as well as the American Rescue Plan Act and the MoExcels Workforce Initiative. This future-focused facility will train students for high-demand jobs in advanced manufacturing and technology, sustainable energy, and robotics. Construction is expected to be completed by May 2025.

## \$1,000 DONATION HELPS LAUNCH ENTREPRENEURIAL INSTITUTE

Inspired by our partnership with Confluence Tech Hub, a nonprofit coalition in St. Charles County creating and fostering a thriving ecosystem of technology and entrepreneurship, SCC's Business Department is developing an Entrepreneurial Institute.

The mission of the institute is to serve as a resource for students, faculty, staff, and the community, with an interest in entrepreneurship, working with startups, leveraging leading-edge technology, along with business partners in the SCC region and service area. The Entrepreneurial Institute will provide an incubator center focused on new and emerging businesses and innovative technologies in alignment with instructional programming.

The vision is to provide a thriving community of starters, builders, advisors, and early-stage investors, committed to transforming the St. Charles region through innovation and collaboration, to recruit and retain students and businesses, which possess an entrepreneurial mindset.

The goals are: (1) To identify opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and business partners to explore and pursue opportunities. (2) To establish entrepreneurship advisory groups. (3) Become a resource and research hub to help advance entrepreneurship. (4) Pursue an entrepreneurial incubation center focused on advancing collaboration and innovative technology.

Dr. Kavalier established a new workgroup that will focus on advancing this new initiative, to pursue additional partnerships, including John Wiemann, Jeri Pilarski Schultz, Ken Kershaw, Rex McKanry, Shelley Machens, Steven Oberg, Thomas Rodgers, and Ed Weber.

The first event will be for select high school students, including CAPS program students. The Aspiring Entrepreneurial Symposium will be held Friday, November 1. It will feature four speakers who are business leaders in our community, and will give real-world insights, networking and mentorship opportunities, skill development, and career exploration.

SCC received \$1,000 from Thomas Kelly to help launch the program.



## ANNUAL DEMOCRACY DAYS HELD IN MEMORY OF FOUNDER, EMERITUS ENGLISH PROFESSOR MICHAEL KUELKER

Held annually around Constitution Day on Sept. 17, Democracy Days was held Sept. 16-19. The interdisciplinary forum for students examines the history, health and functioning of democracy in America and abroad. The full schedule is available online at [www.stchas.edu/democracysdays](http://www.stchas.edu/democracysdays).

