



FEBRUARY 2025

President's Report

MISSOURI COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS MEET WITH GOVERNOR KEHOE

Barbara Kavalier, Ph.D., SCC President, joined Missouri Community College CEOs at the Missouri Capitol on Monday, Jan. 24, for a meeting with Governor Kehoe as he took office in January.

Pictured (left to right) are Ben Boggs, Commissioner, Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, Barbara Kavalier, Dennis Lancaster, Chancellor, Missouri State University – West Plains, Shawn Strong, President, State Tech, Wes Payne, President, Three Rivers College, Joe Gilgour, President, Mineral Area College, Jeff Pittman, Chancellor, St. Louis Community College, Katricia Pierson, President, Crowder College, Jon Bauer, President, East Central College, Todd Martin, President, Moberly Area Community College, Larry Rideaux Jr., President, Metropolitan Community College – Maple Woods, John Linhorst, Vice President of Finance and Administration, Jefferson College.

GOVERNOR KEHOE PROPOSES BUDGET

Governor Mike Kehoe presented his first Executive Budget in February that recommends his administration's funding priorities for Fiscal Year 2026. The new Governor's spending priorities make up a \$53.7 billion spending package, which includes utilizing \$2.5 billion of the state's \$4 billion surplus. It is a bold move for the first budget of his term, but one that would allow significant increases to specific areas of government designed to produce improved outcomes for Missouri through education, childcare, and state government. (Governor Kehoe has created a taskforce charged to revise the state's twenty-year-old elementary and secondary education funding formula.)



Some major components of Kehoe's budget include:

- \$200 million in new funding to support the foundation formula.
- \$161.5 million for the Child Care Subsidy Program.
- \$60 million to continue improvements to rural roads.
- \$15 million in one-time funding to support capital and equipment needs for career centers across the state.
- \$16.8 million (1.5%) increase for all four-year public universities, community colleges, and State Technical College of Missouri.
- \$60.3 million for continued support of A+ program.
- Community College Reappropriations for Capital Improvement Projects. (\$20 million for SCC)

NEW EMPLOYEES JOIN SCC LEADERS FOR LUNCH

SCC's newest employees joined Dr. Kavalier and members of Cabinet on Tuesday, Jan. 28, in the Private Dining Room for lunch and an introduction to the college. The lunch was organized by Terri Edrich, Executive Director of Employee Engagement, Development and Compliance.

Welcome to our newest employees!



EMPLOYEE CULINARY COLLECTIVE CONTINUES WITH VALENTINE'S THEME IN FEBRUARY

SCC's culinary students continued to delight employees at their February "Employee Culinary Collective" event on Thursday, Feb. 13. This time they prepared a fun Mediterranean influenced menu with cheeky nods toward foods that are associated with love, to brighten our Missouri winter. The menu included Moroccan Roast Salmon, Roast Chicken and Piperade, Queen of Sheba Torte, and more. Designed to engage employees, the events also offer culinary students the opportunity to experience serving clients. All current SCC employees are eligible to reserve one seat (first come, first served) at the Culinary Collective.



SCC INTRODUCES COMPETITIVE ESPORTS

SCC is pleased to announce the first season of competitive esports. With 28 students competing in the games of Overwatch, Fortnite, Rocket League, Valorant, League of Legends, and Super Smash Brothers, students saw their first National Junior College Athletic Association competition on February 14.

Esports meets in the recently redesigned Technology Building. The cutting-edge gaming center doubles as a classroom, where students learn animation and gaming technology. It is equipped with the latest Alienware computers, 75-inch display monitors, gaming chairs, and power lift tables.

"Esports offers career opportunities in technology, business and marketing," said Rex McKanry, Dean. "It encourages teamwork, critical thinking and strategic problem-solving skills that translate into future success for our students." Esports Head Coach James Lewallen started at SCC in November 2024 with a background in esports coaching and cycling coaching.

Esports joins SCC's other official NJCAA sports (Baseball, Softball, Men's and Women's Soccer, and Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track and Field). SCC is starting at NJCAA's tier 3 level of activity, where anyone you consider a part of your community can enjoy playing. The college hopes to move to tier 2 in the near future.

Zoe Risley, SCC student athlete, said, "I joined the SCC team to improve my level of play, meet people, and possibly even qualify for a scholarship when I transfer to a four-year university." Risley plans to pursue a career as a UX designer and is taking multimedia classes at SCC.



ARTS FOR LIFE NOMINATES YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE FOR MULTIPLE AWARDS

Arts for Life nominated Young People's Theatre for several awards in 13 categories. There will be an award ceremony in June where the winners will be announced, and YPT will perform a song from "Seussical."

In addition to the performers, Josiah Haan, YPT Director, was nominated in four categories for his contributions to various shows.

Best Youth Musical: Seussical

Youth Direction of a Musical: Josiah Haan (Seussical)

Youth Choreography: Abby Turner & Caroline Geringer (Anastasia)

Lead Actress: Anna Stichter (Anastasia)

Lead Actor: Riley Will (Anastasia) Jacob Kolb & Fynn McDermott (Seussical)

Youth Supporting Actor: Fynn McDermott (Anastasia), Jack Christlieb (Seussical)

Youth Supporting Actress: Ellie Hodges (Anastasia), Savannah Ehrke (Seussical)

Scenic Design: Josiah Haan (Seussical, Anastasia, Into the Woods)

Lighting Design: Josiah Haan (Seussical & Anastasia), Ryan Luedloff (Into the Woods)

Costume Design: Josiah Haan (Seussical, Anastasia, Into the Woods)

Direction of a Musical: Josiah Haan (Into the Woods)

Featured Actress: Gia Danhoff (Into the Woods)

Non-Singing Actor/Actress: Riley Rebores (Into the Woods)



SCC MUSIC STUDENTS SELECTED TO STATEWIDE BAND

Two music students were selected to perform as part of the Missouri Music Educators Association All-Collegiate Concert Band at the 87th Annual MMEA Conference on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the Tan-Tar-A Conference Center in Osage Beach.

Hayley Alexander (percussion) and Emma Thornburgh (tuba) were chosen by audition to perform in the group.



SCC PURCHASES PROPERTY

On Monday, Feb. 3, SCC closed on five additional acres near the construction site for the Regional Workforce Innovation Center in Wentzville. The additional acres are across the street from the 67 acres the college purchased for its campus.

"Safety was the primary motivation behind this property purchase," explained Todd Galbierz, SCC Executive Vice President. "By acquiring the property directly across from the west entrance of the new SCC campus, we aim to provide a safer entry and exit for everyone."



SCC is expanding west, with its new campus at the corner of Interstate Drive and Schaper Road (near the David Hoekel I-70 interchange). The new center, located at the campus, will be future-focused on innovation, and meeting the needs of business and industry. The anticipated opening for the Regional Workforce Innovation Center is in the fall of 2025.

