

# SLOC

MAGAZINE



He lost his sight,  
*but never his vision.*





1. A spring luau to celebrate Polynesian culture at SLCC. L-R, student Iliganoa Morris-Utu; student Nei Taufagu; student Rachael Tapu; SLCC Pacific Unity Association co-advisor Antoinette Fauatea; student Kehaulani Dennis.
2. Technical writing students, and one furry friend, gather before an event to highlight writing skills in the AAB atrium of the Taylorsville Redwood Campus.
3. Student Adawn San hits the books.
4. Students hang out between classes at Alder Amphitheater.
5. A performance of "Peter and the Starcatcher" at the college's Black Box Theatre.
6. SLCC alumna Lynae Om performs at SLCC Dance Company rehearsal in the Grand Theatre.
7. Student Association President Aynoa Rincon.
8. A high school student competes at Skills USA, a technical and professional skills training program held at SLCC.
9. Student senators share a light moment.

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## COVER

A debilitating disease left Jim Reed without sight, but not without vision: He enrolled at SLCC to become a chef. **P. 8**



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### NCMPR PARAGON AWARD



**SLCC Magazine** was recognized as one of the top three community college magazines in the nation, winning a bronze Paragon Award from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in design and communication. It's the only national competition of its kind that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and PR professionals at two-year colleges.



## CIVIL RIGHTS:

## Freedom is an action word



Civil Rights activists, L-R, Margaret Burnham, Angela Davis, Kathleen Cleaver and moderator Michele Bratcher Goodwin.

The event had all the earmarks of a sold-out rock concert: long lines; anxious fans clamoring for an autograph or photo; and a standing ovation before anyone on stage even spoke a word. The “rock stars” who appeared in February before a capacity crowd at Salt Lake Community College’s Grand Theatre, however, were scholars and activists, who spoke about significant roles black women played during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

The Women In Freedom Movement Forum, with panelists Margaret Burnham, Kathleen Cleaver, Angela Davis and moderator Michele Bratcher Goodwin, included a public appearance at the packed 1,100-seat Grand Theatre and a meeting the following day with Salt Lake Community College students.

Burnham drew applause at the Grand when she talked about traveling around the country and

not having seen a school quite like SLCC. “You see it in the halls, you see it in the students,” she said. “It’s hard to hold on to our central values about what education should be, what we should do for our students. But it strikes me that you are really doing that here.”

## VIGILANCE

The focus during their two-day visit to SLCC was on activism,

which during the Civil Rights Movement landed Davis behind bars on federal charges over an armed takeover of a courtroom in Marin County, California in 1970. Davis, then a member of the Communist Party USA and involved in the Black Panther Party, recounted being put on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list, fleeing California and being arrested in New York, where



Civil Rights activist Kathleen Cleaver greets fans at SLCC’s Grand Theatre.

Burnham was the first to visit her in jail. Burnham at the time was an attorney with the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund.

Davis, who had songs written about her by musicians that included the Rolling Stones and John Lennon, recalled the support she received throughout the U.S. and around the world for her release. She eventually was acquitted in federal court. "Freedom is a constant struggle," she said at the Grand Theatre, reminding students to, "take note of the fact that it is possible to study and be an activist at the same time," a comment that drew applause.

Cleaver's mother earned her master's degree in mathematics by 16, and both of her parents were activists. She convinced her father to let her quit college and fund her own activism. "He said, 'Ok, I'll do it for one year. But you have to promise to go back to school,'" she said. She left college in 1966, but in the 1980s enrolled in Yale University and earned a bachelor's degree in history and later a law degree from Yale Law School. Davis and Burnham talked about growing up with the segregation and racism in Birmingham, Alabama that fueled their activism.

## COURAGE

In a discussion the following morning with about 100 students inside the Center for Arts & Media at SLCC's South City Campus, the women spoke about courageous times in their lives.

Davis' mother was a foster child who ran away from her rural home to attend high school in Birmingham, taking a job as a domestic worker to pay for a room at the YWCA and eventually moving on to college and a graduate degree. When Davis was being extradited from New York to California to stand trial, she was taken from jail in New York to a military airport in New Jersey, where an imposing "corridor" of armed National Guard soldiers stood between the plane and car. She had to walk the gauntlet of soldiers, with weapons ready. "I realized if I had stumbled, or if anything happened, probably all of the guns would start going off," she said. "At that moment, I remembered my mother, I kept my head up with my hands cuffed behind me, and I walked straight out to the plane for the flight to California."



Top: Fans take selfies with Civil Rights activist Angela Davis.  
Middle: Activists interact with students.  
Bottom: A capacity crowd at SLCC's Grand Theatre.



Former Vice President Al Gore speaks at SLCC during the Sundance Film Festival.



# Al Gore, other stars visit SLCC; students are big winners

## Sundance Film Festival: 18,000 visit South City Campus

The star power was evident. The energy was palpable. The crowds returned to Salt Lake Community College's South City Campus. And for the third year in a row during two weekends, the movie screen above a darkened Grand Theatre stage flickered with 19 premieres during the Sundance Film Festival.

A few celebrities added to the star-studded atmosphere, such as former Vice President Al Gore who stopped in for the premiere of his film, "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power." "For me getting to meet Ray Romano and Holly Hunter was a highlight," said Grand Theatre Director Seth Miller. "It was also an honor to get to shake Al Gore's hand."

When the festival ended and

all the filmmaker awards were handed out, it was SLCC students who also came away winners. This year, filmmaking and animation students were treated to two private screenings followed by Q&A sessions with industry experts.

Film curator Ron Diamond met with film and animation students from SLCC and the University of Utah after showing them the "Animation Show of Shows," which featured 29 of the best animated short movies from 2016. "Attendees were eager to ask questions on the creative and technical experiences of the filmmakers and animators," said Josh Elstein, program manager at SLCC's Center for Arts & Media at South City Campus.

Students in Assistant Professor Tyler Smith's directing class and

Adjunct Professor Steve Williams' screenwriting class were among those who watched "I Know You From Somewhere" and then visited with filmmaker Andrew Fitzgerald. "This screening lets them pick the brain of a filmmaker who has gone through the process of creating and submitting a piece to the Sundance festival," Elstein said. "Andrew spoke of the complex process he took to create his film from conception to being in the festival."

This was SLCC's third year hosting the film festival. "Local patrons have come to know this venue as one of the great spots to catch films and conversations about cinema," Elstein said. About 18,000 people saw screenings at the South City Campus during the film festival.



# SLCC film student debuts film at Salt Lake City Library

Students and faculty bring production to life on college soundstage

**T** rue story. A man's beloved pet dies. He preserves it in a freezer until a proper burial can be arranged. His family holds an elaborate backyard ceremony for the deceased. If you're Salt Lake Community College film student Keenan Panti, that's material for a short movie, one that debuted at the Salt Lake City Main Library.

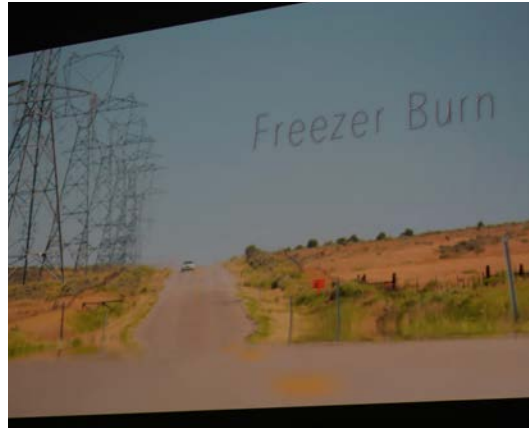
The movie, "Freezer Burn," is based on a childhood experience of a close friend of Panti's. It's billed as a family comedy and stars professional actors. It focuses

*"I'm really proud of what we have and I'm excited to get this out in the festival circuit."*

on the difficulty of dealing with the loss of life. In this case, that loss is Dad's pet poodle. It's up to 10-year-old Dillon to hold together the hodgepodge of personalities he calls family.

The film was shot in 2016 in Salt Lake City and at SLCC's 3,000-square-foot sound stage in the Center for Arts & Media. Performing Arts assistant professors Channing Lowe and Jon Clark were among faculty who helped on the project.

Panti shot "Freezer Burn" on a shoestring budget, using college resources for equipment, lighting, set design and materials and a crew of fellow film production students at SLCC. He hopes the film will have legs beyond SLCC and online. "I'm really proud of what we have and I'm excited to get this out in the festival circuit."



Film production student Keenan Panti, upper right, made "Freezer Burn" at the college's Center for Arts & Media soundstage with help from students and faculty.



# Vision *to* Succeed

**Blind student pursues dream of becoming chef:**  
*"I'm not going to let much get in my way."*

**T**he big guy, Jim Reed, with the booming voice and dark sunglasses, feels around a shiny silver table, taking inventory of tools and ingredients he'll need to make a quiche and apple beignets. A bearded man wearing a black chef's toque and double-breasted jacket stands close by, watching and waiting. "Rick," Reed calls above the din of a commercial kitchen at Salt Lake Community College's Culinary Institute. He does not know that Rick Tuttle, his assistant, is looking right over his shoulder. There's a brief exchange and Tuttle, a lab specialist with SLCC's Disability Resource Center, is off to retrieve an item from a walk-in refrigerator. Reed grabs a long cane, waves the tip left and right across the floor and takes off for different parts of the kitchen to find other items, a sharp knife, a whisk and a strainer. The clock is running, and he must have his entrée cooked, plated and explained before the end of class — no exceptions, not even for the blind.



Reed, 35, was born and raised in the Chicago area and could see just fine as a child. He encountered vision problems in high school, but nothing a pair of glasses couldn't remedy. He headed west for college and didn't want his academic path to lead to a desk job, so he pursued forestry classes at the University of Montana and as an undergrad took a job with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. In 2006, at age 24, he earned a bachelor's degree in recreation management from UM College of Forestry & Conservation. During college he worked at fast food restaurants, a pizza joint and in the main cafeteria at the University of Montana, with a growing interest in culinary skills.

His vision was getting progressively worse as he entered

*"This is exactly what we're talking about when we discuss inclusivity at the college."*

– Candida Darling, interim associate vice president for student success and completion

I thought I'd kill myself," Reed admits, citing media portrayals of blind people as unable to do anything, go anywhere or work. "That's kind of what I thought my future was going to be."

### FINDING HIS WAY

In 2011, he completed the thesis for his master's degree, thanks in part to the Louisiana Center for the Blind, which he chose because no such facility existed in Montana. In Louisiana, over the course of nine months, he learned Braille,

says. Regardless, he moved up from small jobs such as peeling shrimp and gathering ingredients for other chefs to making soup, side dishes, sauces and appetizers. He eventually was promoted to the sauté station, where he used a partner to read incoming orders posted on a display and to help crank out orders.

Reed later landed a job in Baltimore, teaching people everything he learned as a newly blind person in Louisiana. A friend told him about a job doing the same thing in Utah, and he went for it. Now he works for the State of Utah's training center for blind adults, passing on skills he learns at SLCC's Culinary Institute to his students at the center.

Learning to cook in Bayou country lit a fire in Reed, and he wanted to go to culinary school full time, yet was reluctant because he believed it to be a very visual profession. "I've always liked cooking," he says. "I've always been good at it." He heard about SLCC's Culinary Institute and learned he could afford it. Reed was unsure about the logistics of getting to and from class in Sandy and sharing a big kitchen with other students, but in 2015 he signed up for his first class anyway.

### MAKING IT WORK

During his first class, Reed stood and asked if anyone lived downtown and would give him a ride, says Anthony Webster, who volunteered to help him. Without the free ride, Reed would be forced to pay for cabs or ride services. Webster picks up Reed from work before every class and takes him home each night. They



SLCC Disability Resource Center Assistant Rick Tuttle, left, watches student Jim Reed prepare crust.

Montana State University's master's program in public administration. Doctors said he had a recessive gene that causes retinitis pigmentosa, an incurable degenerative retinal disease. Night blindness was followed by a loss of peripheral vision and eventually Reed lost almost all visual acuity. Today he can't see his hand in front of his face. "There was one point when

how to use a cane to help him navigate while walking, how to clean, use a computer, work with wood and, of course, cook. He went into the center still able to see a little and left legally blind, with some functional vision. He got a job as a prep cook at a high-end restaurant. "I don't think the chef really had a lot of expectations of me and my performance," Reed

talk about life, home brewing beer, swap recipes and cooking ideas and fantasize about opening a restaurant together. “I think he’s a fantastic human,” Webster says. “He’s extremely smart.” As a home brewer, Reed won third place in the 2016 Beehive Brewoff with his Wheatwine With Wildflower Honey beer in the Alternative Fermentables category. He is also a certified beer judge through the international sanctioning body Beer Judge Certification Program and, “of course, I am the only blind one,” he says.

Reed had his transportation for culinary school, but still needed someone to help him in the kitchen. That’s where SLCC’s Disability Resource Center came in, providing Tuttle as Reed’s assistant. “I think it’s really unique having Jim,” says Interim Associate Vice President for Student Success and Completion Candida Darling. “I think it shows that the culinary program is thinking outside of the box to find a way to accommodate a student and still meet the needs of the course. We don’t want to compromise any of the academic integrity of the course. I think they’ve really shown openness.”

Tuttle was retired when he applied with the DRC. “I just wanted a part-time job where I could feel like I could provide a useful service to somebody,” he says. He was advised to do whatever Reed asks, let him be independent and work things out on his own. “He’s very good at that,” Tuttle says. “As a helper for him, I appreciate that he’s very direct with me.” Tuttle doesn’t help, for example, as Reed feels around a white plate, arranging his quiche and beignets for presentation in front of the class. “It’s been a lot of fun, really educational for me,” Tuttle says.

### A KINESTHETIC APPROACH

One of the first people at SLCC’s Culinary Institute to believe in Reed was Assistant Professor Franco Aloia. He thought: “How am I going to be able to instruct 15 to 20 other students effectively while having a blind student?” But after he met Reed, Aloia knew it was going to be a special experience. Teaching Reed meant taking a more kinesthetic approach, understanding how a more tactile experience and a lot more detailed instruction would not only help a blind

## NO CHALLENGE TOO BIG:

### *In their own words*

In spring 2017, SLCC’s Disability Resource Center served 45 blind and low-vision students; Jim Reed was the only one learning to be a chef. Here’s what people have to say about Reed.



“I thought that I knew and could anticipate what a blind person’s problems could be, but I was wrong about that. For me, it’s been a real education of how really capable he is. Part of his struggle is convincing people he can even do this. Once you see how capable he is, I don’t know anyone who doesn’t believe he can do it.”

— Rick Tuttle, Reed’s DRC assistant



“I could see him excelling at any restaurant, brewpub or hospital. But with so much ambition, I see him opening up a place or running his own place in no time.”

— Franco Aloia, Culinary Arts assistant professor



“He doesn’t back down from any challenge. He gives everything — 110 percent — and most of the time he comes out on top. It’s inspiring. Every single day I meet with him or hang out with him, I learn something new.”

— Anthony Webster, Culinary Arts student and friend

student but others in his class.

In a butchery lesson, for example, where students have to prepare cuts of meat before cooking, Reed's ability to feel certain subtleties in texture — particularly the “silver skin” or sinew — helped him excel above others as they carved away

unwanted portions. “His drive for learning and not getting distracted, it brings everybody up,” Aloia says. “His willingness to do anything, it makes it so the other students realize there shouldn't be anything getting in the way of their success.”

Aloia is already thinking about

who might be willing to take on Reed as an intern to meet the 1,000 hours of food service work he will need to graduate. “He'll be a huge asset wherever he goes,” Aloia says. Reed points to the success of famous blind chefs as he charts his path. Chef, writer and TV host Christine Ha was the first blind contestant of *MasterChef*, winning the show's third season in 2012. Laura Martinez was hired out of culinary school by the renowned, late chef Charlie Trotter and now runs her own restaurant, La Diosa, in Chicago.

### THE FINAL TEST

On the night at the end of a semester when Reed's quiche — with Reed's own homemade andouille sausage, a staple in Cajun-style cooking — and beignets were up for close scrutiny by Aloia and classmates, he passed with flying colors. “The flavors in this quiche are fantastic. The sausage makes it,” says Aloia. “I really loved that quiche.” Reed's dish was the final tasting of the evening. Aloia urged his students to stay true to themselves and thanked them for a fun semester. With Tuttle's help, Reed cleans up his station and puts everything away. He's back for the spring semester and the next step, resolute, with Tuttle close by his side in the classroom and in the kitchen. “This is what I want to do,” Reed says. “I'm not going to let much get in my way.”



## ON HIS OWN TERMS

### *Jim Reed, 35*

Grew up near Chicago

Legally blind with retinitis pigmentosa

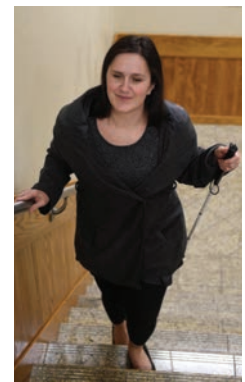
Bachelor's degree, Recreation Management,  
University of Montana

Master's degree, Public Administration, Montana  
State University

Working toward an associate's degree, SLCC  
Culinary Institute

On becoming a chef: ***“This is what I want to do. ...  
I'm not going to let much get in my way.”***

Learn how SLCC's  
Disability Resource  
Center assists  
students. P. 32



# STANDING TALL AND ON HER OWN



**E**very morning before class, Marissa Zwhalen puts on her left leg. She attaches the prosthetic with a strap that goes around her waist and finishes getting ready. Most days go off as normal as anyone's. But that's the short, humble version of what it's like to be her.

It took a lot of work to become a self-assured 19-year-old, now a sophomore at Salt Lake Community College who loves math and science and likes to be involved at school. The Bountiful resident was born without a left femur and hip joint. Throughout childhood, Shriner's Hospital in

Salt Lake City made new prosthetics for Zwhalen as her body grew. She learned to walk and when she was 3 learned to ski through the National Ability Center. Today, she still hits the slopes, using outrigger skis to balance herself as she speeds down the mountain.

As a child, Zwhalen lamented her condition. There were the stares, and the questions, mostly from other children. Today, she's "very open with children when they get that way and their parents don't shoo them away," she says.

Attending elementary school and junior high was hard, but by ninth grade, Zwhalen had flipped her own switch. "I just said, 'You have to get over this. You're going to have this your whole life.'"

At Woods Cross High School, she led her sophomore class as president. When it came time for college, she looked into SLCC for its smaller campuses and class sizes and decided to attend. "I've loved it. I'm so grateful I came here."

Zwhalen receives a scholarship and volunteers for about 10 hours a week to fulfill the leadership requirements of her academic stipend. She helps plan and promote advocacy events at the college, and in the past helped organize a children's trunk or treat, a Halloween blow-out party and movie events, as well as volunteering at Camp Kostopulos, which offers recreational opportunities for teens and adults

with disabilities or special medical needs. She also works in ticket sales and customer service for athletic events at the University of Utah. The income helps pay for her education.

She interned in high school at a prosthetics and orthotics center, and



**"I like when people ask questions and don't just stare. I don't want people to think like it's a super hush-hush thing to talk about."**

— STUDENT MARISSA ZWAHLEN

is leaning toward a college major in biomedical engineering, to one day design parts for prosthetics. She plans to earn a master's degree before starting her career.

"I forget that I'm considered disabled," she says. "I do whatever I want. If someone tells me I can't do something, I do it anyway. I don't really see myself as being super amazing and inspirational. I just see myself as normal, in a lot of ways."

# Cultural diversity on display at art show

Several student-artists were recognized for their talent during the Multicultural Student Art Show. The event highlighted different cultures and talents of SLCC students.

First place in the show went to Israel Alejandro Martinez for “King Fisher” and “Mayan Mask (Tlaloc).” Second place was awarded to Nour Ahmed for his artwork, “Identity.” Two students tied for third place: Heydar Rasoulpour for “Dream of Peace” and Joshua Watts for “Ocean Village.”



Jeovanni Xavan Xoumphackdy



Mayan  
Mask  
(Tlaloc)



Joshua Watts



Heydar Rasoulpour



# SLCC donations grow by 50 percent



SLCC Foundation awarded nearly \$680,000 in scholarships in 2016-2017, an increase of 50 percent from the prior year. The funds provide tuition for 380 students. The rise is due to more donors giving to the college, as well as investment growth in the college's endowment.

"Many of our students are the first in their families to attend college," says Nancy Michalko, executive director of the SLCC Foundation. "Lives are changed for generations to come through our partner donors. They enrich students' lives, bringing the American dream within reach."

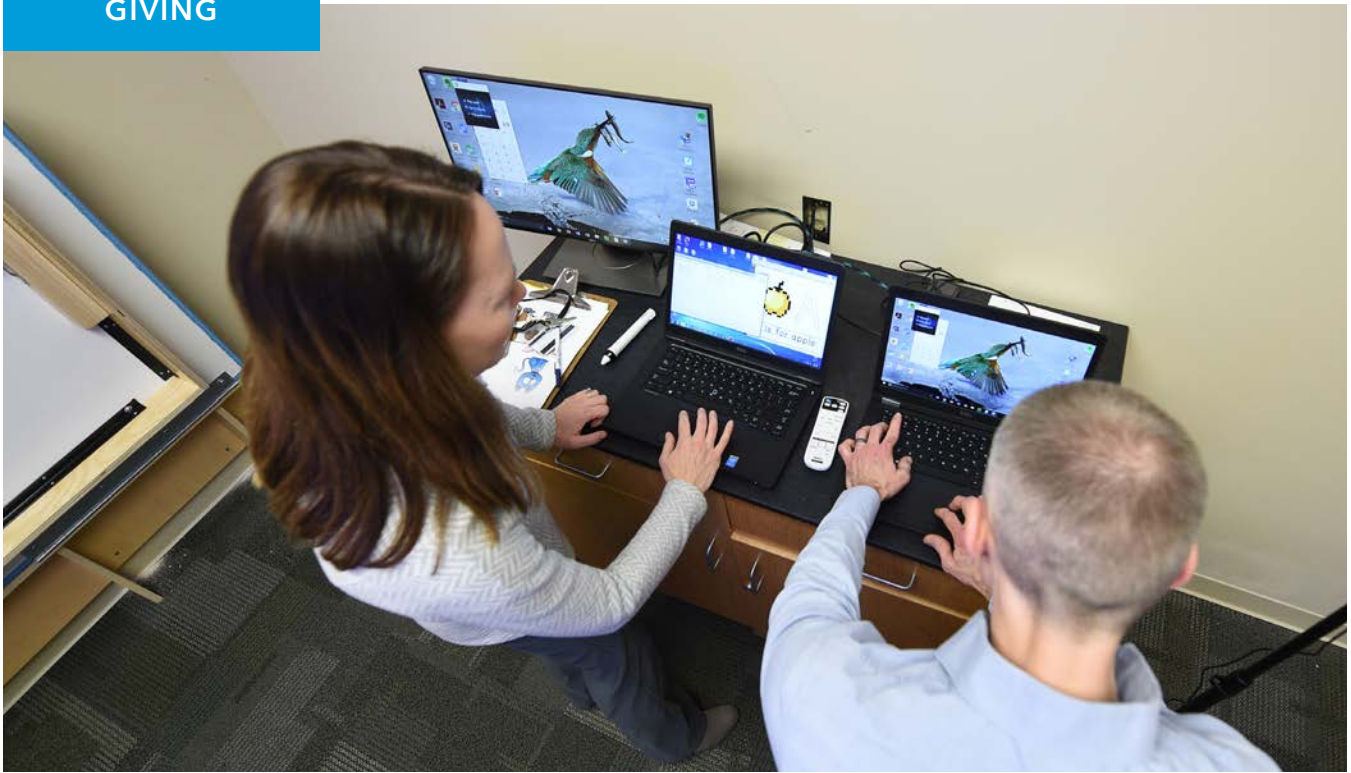
At the annual scholarship luncheon, student scholars expressed gratitude and noted positive changes from attending SLCC. Donors, some who are SLCC alumni, said attending the college is foundational to lasting success.



## SLCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

- 2015-2016 - \$452,210
- 2016-2017 - \$679,046

Student scholarship recipients and donors gather at a March luncheon to recognize student achievements. Alumnus and keynote speaker Chris Conde, second row, left, praised students and donors.



SLCC Occupational Therapy clinicians Robyn Thompson, left, and Gabe Byars provide therapy services via the college's innovative telehealth program.

## Kahlert Foundation funds groundbreaking telehealth to serve patients, students, communities

**T**he little boy with autism spectrum disorder from Moab hams it up for the camera on his mom's computer before starting his exercise.

A man who had a stroke in Salt Lake City waves and smiles into the computer camera, ready to begin therapy for his shoulders.

On the other end of those cameras, Salt Lake Community College instructors and occupational therapy (OT) practitioners, along with their students, are ready to provide life-changing advice.

In separate sessions with each patient, Kahlert Foundation Vice President Heather Kahlert looks on and sees her foundation's donation in action, from a small room in SLCC's Health Sciences building on the Jordan Campus.

It's groundbreaking in Utah as the only program that utilizes

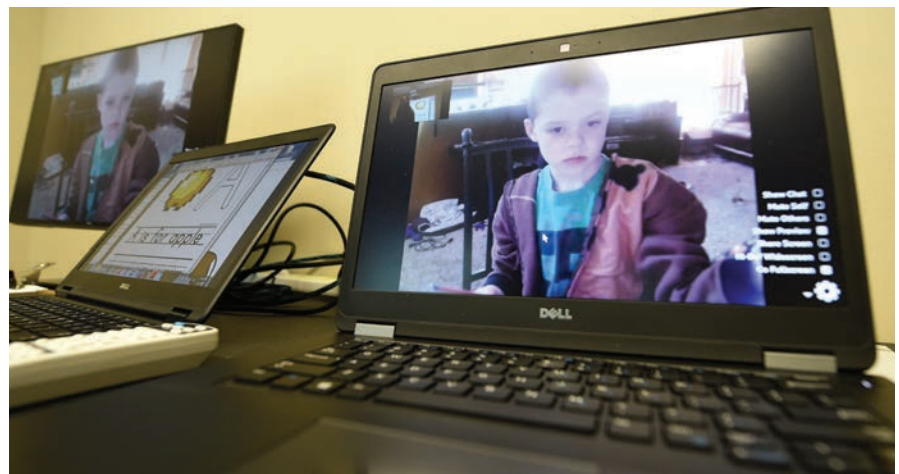
licensed practitioners doing telehealth, using computers and cameras to provide occupational and physical therapy to patients in rural areas.

Patients across the state conveniently receive services and SLCC students receive hands-on training and clinical hours. "It's a

beautiful symbiosis where everyone wins," says Kahlert.

### THE FUTURE IS NOW

The telehealth concept at SLCC was two years in the making, propelled by Physical Therapy Assistant Program Director Diana Ploeger and Associate Dean of



A young boy in Moab receives occupational therapy through SLCC's telehealth program.

the Division of Health Professions Brenda Lyman. “We try to stay progressive in the therapies,” says Lyman. “Telehealth is the future. This is where therapy is going to go.”

Most OT and PT services — stretches, exercises, activities — can be demonstrated in front of a camera. Telehealth saves time and money by allowing



Heather Kahlert, vice president Kahlert Foundation

patients to receive therapy at home, while under the guidance of practitioners. Patients don’t have to purchase special software or extra bandwidth, and so far, telehealth services are free because of the Kahlert donation. Lyman points out that success stories from SLCC’s program will help build a body of evidence to justify state funding of similar projects on a larger scale in the future.

### MAKING IT WORK

The SLCC model has relied primarily on instructors and OT clinicians Gabe Byars and Robyn Thompson and their students, who learn and earn credit while helping patients.

Byars has been working with the stroke victim, a husband and father who stopped working after his stroke. During one session, Byars

notices the man’s shoulders are out of alignment. He takes a digital marker, approaches the patient’s image projected on a wall in the small clinic and electronically draws a straight red line across his shoulders. Byars turns to the camera, points to the computer-generated line and tells his patient to lower his right shoulder so that both sides are level with the red mark. The man views the line on his computer screen at home and complies. “That’s how I want your

autism patient from Moab with handwriting, fine motor abilities and emotional- and sensory-regulation issues brought about by his autism. As word of what she’s doing at SLCC spreads, colleagues elsewhere are taking notice, referring people to her and observing how she, Byars and others at SLCC are providing life-changing services through telehealth.

Thompson notes that the boy’s mother doesn’t need to pay for

“The decision to fund this program came easily, as the telehealth program touches on several areas of focus of the Kahlert Foundation — healthcare, higher education and an element of human services.”  
— Heather Kahlert

shoulders to look,” Byars instructs.

Communicating is done via a dedicated webpage where no private information is exchanged, making the process fully compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The SLCC telehealth program serves the uninsured, underinsured, underserved and rural patients.

### SUCCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

So far, SLCC’s telehealth has helped patients young and old with challenges from stroke, expressive aphasia, homonymous hemianopia, anxiety and autism spectrum disorder. In some cases, the telehealth clinic at SLCC can be an alternative for a patient who is on a wait list for an in-person clinic visit. For someone hundreds of miles away, SLCC’s telehealth is a big deal.

Thompson, who specializes in the pediatric side of OT, has been helping her pint-sized

childcare with these telehealth visits and that she is better able to maintain continuity and regularity of his exercises. And she is extremely grateful for services that just aren’t available in Moab. “What has really helped is using a curriculum to address emotional and sensory regulation in sessions,” Thompson says. “I’m able to give curriculum to Mom to implement at home. We’re able to keep things consistent and not just reserved for 60 minutes one time a week. Mom said her son was experiencing meltdowns almost daily when we started, and now we’re down to two a month.”

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Donation: \$75,000 from The Kahlert Foundation
- Purpose: Telehealth services to remotely provide OT/PT through 2017



## Dumke Center for STEM Learning launched



Scott Thornton of the Katherine W. Dumke and Ezekiel R. Dumke, Jr. Foundation and spouse Carly Lane Thornton at the center's ribbon cutting.

Davies Young spent 10 years between high school and college searching for something, a path that seemed right. In between, he lost his mother and grandmother, two people who had the biggest influence in his life. He learned a strong work ethic as an oil roustabout in North Dakota and a welder in Salt Lake City. But an admittedly depressed Young wanted more, and a friend recommended enrolling at Salt Lake Community College. He doubted himself, but the friend told Young, “You can do anything.”

With a stellar aptitude for science, he enrolled and earned a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) scholarship through SLCC. Davies spoke about his path to SLCC when college officials gathered to open the doors of the new Dumke Center for STEM Learning on

the flagship Taylorsville Redwood Campus. The college made room for the 6,000-square-foot, two-story center by renovating a three-story atrium in its Science and Industry Building.

“I am glad that we now have a space here for students interested in STEM where we can coalesce and come together on what’s really important — our ideas,” Davies said. “This center is going to bring together a multitude of people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.” Davies is majoring in chemical engineering and nanotechnology, with plans to transfer to the University of Utah.

It’s anticipated that the center will receive about 10,000 visits by students seeking free tutoring and advising, study space, workshops and collaboration.

“With an open space like this,



any student can come in and share these resources with anyone,” said SLCC student Miguel Ruiz Carpio, a STEM scholarship recipient majoring in electrical engineering. “It’s going to bring all of us together so that we can push one another to achieve our dreams.” Carpio, a first-generation college student originally from Mexico, is majoring in electrical engineering, with plans to transfer to the University of Utah.

“One of SLCC’s institutional priorities is to develop new approaches to supporting, assessing and improving achievement in mathematics and science,” said

STEM Learning Center Director Jose Crespo. “Along with the other STEM learning centers located on different campuses, this new center will result in more effective tutoring and learning support for all math and science students.”

A major donation for construction of the Center came from The Katherine W. Dumke and Ezekiel R. Dumke, Jr. Foundation. Dumke Board Member Scott Thornton was on hand for the opening. “I can’t believe how well-utilized every nook and cranny is,” he said. “I think it’s going to be really exciting to see how the students use this space going forward.”

## DUMKE CENTER FACILITIES

- Two interactive workshop rooms
- Two study rooms
- A large open space for tutoring and reception areas
- Computers on both levels and spaces for students to collaborate
- Three staff offices
- Future expansion: A third level for seminars, STEM professionals and expanded student services

## DUMKE CENTER FUNDING

- Donors: The Katherine W. Dumke and Ezekiel R. Dumke, Jr. Foundation; George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation; Sorenson Legacy Foundation; and Jeff Nelson.
- Private – \$802,861
- Federal – \$397,139



A ribbon-cutting ceremony using a mock-DNA strand to open the Dumke Center for STEM Learning. L-R, student Miguel Ruiz Carpio; SLCC President Deneece G. Huftalin; student Davies Young; Scott Thornton of the Katherine W. Dumke and Ezekiel R. Dumke, Jr. Foundation; and SLCC Provost Clifton Sanders.

COMMENCEMENT





## Record number of students graduate from SLCC

The largest class in Salt Lake Community College's history – more than 4,700 students – graduated before a crowd of 10,000 at the Maverik Center in May.

Included among graduates were students from 22 Utah counties, 36 states and 86 countries. They collectively earned 5,766 degrees and certificates from the college.

"You have the ability to do great things," keynote speaker Diane Guerrero told graduates assembled at the annual Commencement. The author and immigration activist is known for her roles in the Netflix series "Orange is the New Black" and The CW Network series "Jane the Virgin."

"This is the time to be extraordinary. This is the time to do good. This is the time to let love be the force," Guerrero said. She asked graduates to reflect community values learned at SLCC. "Because we need you," she said.

"Let's always remember how we feel right now," said Arturo Salazar, outgoing SLCC Student Association president. "Let's commit to be the best we can, to proudly represent the values of this institution and to always fight for what is right."

SLCC President Deneece G. Huftalin encouraged students to be a force for change and goodness. "I hope that as you move onto your next job or your next degree, you are taking your next steps with gentleness, reflection and humility. Our world, our nation, our state, our country, your neighborhood awaits you. It awaits the tremors you will create."





# GRADUATION STATS 2017

## TOP 20 Most Popular Degrees/Majors



- 1,961** General Studies
- 1,092** General Education
- 244** Business
- 162** Nursing
- 143** Computer Science Fundamentals
- 127** Psychology
- 125** Computer Science and Information Systems
- 101** Criminal Justice
- 86** Health Sciences
- 71** Software Development
- 68** Certified Nursing Assistant
- 61** Education
- 52** Web Programming and Development
- 45** Network Routing and Switching
- 45** Pre-Health Sciences
- 40** Sociology
- 35** Professional Truck Driving
- 31** Business Basics
- 31** Social Work
- 30** Network and System Administration

## Total graduates



**4,703**



## 704 High Honors

(cumulative GPA 3.8 or higher)

## 1,070 Honors

(cumulative GPA 3.5 - 3.79)

## Age Range



**16** Youngest graduate

**79** Oldest graduate

## Number of Degrees



- 2,952** Associate of Science
- 1,247** Certificate of Completion
- 646** Associate of Applied Science
- 542** Certificate of Proficiency
- 212** SAT Certificates
- 112** Associate of Arts
- 55** Associate of Pre-Engineering



## GRADUATES OF EXCELLENCE

This prestigious distinction recognizes hard work, commitment and selflessness. One student is selected by their academic dean from each school of the college. These are students with excellent GPAs who typically have received scholarships and awards for their academic achievements. They have demonstrated leadership skills and a dedication toward serving others, in addition to other notable achievements related to the creative arts, athletic excellence or involvement at SLCC beyond the classroom.



### **BROOKE BAXTER**

General Studies  
*General Studies major*



### **MEGAN GARDELLA**

School of Business  
*Culinary Arts major*



### **GABE MORENO**

School of Arts,  
Communication and Media  
*Speech Communication major*



### **HEATHER LEWIS**

School of Science, Mathematics and  
Engineering  
*Pre-Health Sciences major*



### **ERMINA MUSTAFIC**

School of Humanities and  
Social Sciences  
*General Studies major*



### **LEAH PRICE**

School of Health Sciences  
*Physical Therapist Assistant*



### **JIRAPAT SAKKAPHUN**

School of Applied Technology  
and Technical Specialties  
*Certified Nursing Assistant major*

To view our Graduates of Excellence video, visit the Salt Lake Community College webpage on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

## HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREES BESTOWED

Salt Lake Community College awards honorary doctorate degrees to two individuals each year for longstanding service to the community and education. These individuals are distinguished in their fields and are dedicated and hard-working supporters of Salt Lake Community College. They have given their time and talents to improve Utah and to better the world.



**H. ROGER BOYER** is chairman of The Boyer Company as well as its director and advisor. Established in 1972, The Boyer Company has developed more than 30 million square feet of commercial projects throughout the Intermountain West, including office buildings, shopping

centers, medical offices, hotels, apartments and special-use facilities.

Boyer has given enormously of his time and leadership in community positions. He has served on the Utah Arts Council; the Pioneer Memorial Theater Board; United Way; Salt Lake Area Chamber of Commerce; Salt Lake Public Utilities Advisory Board; Utah Division of Business and Economic Development Board; and several other boards. Boyer received his Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Utah and his Master of Business Administration from Harvard Graduate Business School.

Several years ago, he formed a nonprofit group to provide assistance to refugees entering our community. The purpose

of the Refugee Education Initiative is to create a community of contributing refugees by building self-reliance through spiritual and physical supports. It provides financial and holistic support to get students through post-secondary education to employment. The Refugee Initiative has supported 152 students through SLCC, with another 59 currently in the program.

Boyer has this advice for SLCC graduates: "Follow your dreams, hopefully to a profession that is readily employable. Where appropriate, make the sacrifice to transfer your credits to allow you to go on to achieve a bachelor's or higher degree." Boyer admires his late father: "He was a man of integrity. His word was his bond."



©2016 Power Photography, Inc.

**SHAUNA GRAVES-ROBERTSON** was appointed to the Salt Lake County Justice Court by the Salt Lake County Commission in January 1999. The Salt Lake City native and West High School graduate received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from

Arizona State University in 1980 and a Master of Arts in Public Administration in 1987 and Juris Doctor from the University of Utah in 1990.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Graves-Robertson worked for the Salt Lake Legal Defenders Association. She has provided organizational training and consulting in diversity and empowerment to major corporations and organizations since 1991. She attended The National Judicial College and holds a certificate in Judicial Studies. She is the chairman of the Utah Supreme Court's Community Relations Subcommittee.

Judge Graves-Robertson serves as a remarkable role model for young women, especially young black women. Last year and again this summer, she will allow SLCC

PACE students interested in law as a career, to job shadow her in court and in her chambers. She is the presiding judge in Salt Lake County; a member of the National Association of Women Judges; The Women Lawyers of Utah; the Utah Minority Bar Association; and serves as the Financial Secretary of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. She is a lifetime member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Her advice to SLCC graduates is this: "You are 100 percent personally responsible and accountable for the result you produce." She lives by the words, "At the end of the day, be able to look into the mirror and say, 'I did my best.'"

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



**LISA GOUGH** returned to school after she was passed up for a promotion at a local HVAC company solely because she didn't have a college degree. "The day my boss told me I wouldn't be considered is the day that I enrolled at SLCC," Gough recalls. She enrolled at

Salt Lake Community College and received her Associate of Science in business in 1995. A single mother at the time, she credits the college for accommodating students who are trying to balance work and family by offering a wide range of class availability. "It was flexible, which helped tremendously because I was a nontraditional student at the time," Gough says. "I thought the small class sizes made a big difference. They created a great learning environment." Gough says that many of the classes at SLCC helped teach fundamental skills such as public speaking, communication and collaboration, all core skills she continues to use today.

She continued her education and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in accounting from

the University of Utah in 1997, the same year she was hired as a staff accountant at Sysco Intermountain. She earned a Master of Business Administration from Westminster College in 2007, walking on graduation day with her son, Justin.

Gough went on to hold several high-ranking positions before being promoted to president of Sysco Intermountain in 2010 and to corporate vice president in 2015.

She was featured as one of Utah's 30 Women to Watch by *Utah Business* in 2009. And the Salt Lake Chamber honored Gough by naming her a "prominent woman" in local business in 2013. Gough has volunteered with The First Tee of Utah and donated to a variety of local charities each year.



**SHAWN NEWELL** is the vice president of business development at Industrial Supply Company. His motto is "Education is a path to success." With more than 20 years at Industrial Supply, Newell views his connection to customers as essential to understanding their needs. "We differentiate ourselves at Industrial Supply by being proactive and

creating value for our customers," Newell says. He approaches his leadership role in sales with the same competitive spirit that drove him to succeed in football at the University of Utah.

He received his Bachelor of Science in sociology from the University of Utah, and then returned to SLCC to complete an Associate of Science in marketing management. Newell said he liked the intimacy of small class sizes while at SLCC and credits marketing professor Curtis Youngman with having an impact in his life. "It is humbling to be recognized by an educational institution, knowing how when I was young I struggled with school," Newell says. "I had to learn, at a young age, that my future depended on my willingness to put forth the effort to create what I want through the educational process."

Newell also earned a master's degree in management from the University of Phoenix. In 1984, he tried out to play with the Chicago Bears, but injuries prevented Newell from pursuing NFL dreams.

He has served as a PAC member for SLCC's Marketing Department since 2015 and is the chair of the college's Workforce and Economic Development Advisory Board. He recently worked with SLCC's Development Office to set up a scholarship for marketing students and in June will take the helm as the new Alumni Council president.

He also serves the wider community as the current vice president for the NAACP Salt Lake Chapter and as a commission member for the Governor's Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission.

## TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Teaching Excellence awards are given annually by the SLCC Foundation to instructors who have achieved an outstanding level of student service, dedication, creativity and innovation. Recipients are recognized for long-term professionalism in the classroom and for service to the college and community.



### JUDE HIGGINS

Associate Professor  
*Anthropology*

Jude Higgins strives to serve “exceptional” students equally with those who do not know the first thing about navigating and succeeding in an academic environment. “We don’t just teach to the top 3 percent of the class, and we don’t teach only to those students at the bottom,” Higgins says. “We consistently find the ‘sweet spot’ – we connect with all students, challenge them and help them succeed.”

Her classes examine similarities and differences in cultural practices regarding a wide range of topics that include politics, marriage, gender and sexuality and religion. She teaches students the “art” of qualitative and ethnographic methodology, instructing them on how to openly talk and listen to people who are different from them. Former

student Candice Brown said of taking Higgins’ class, “I learned that my opinion is not the only one to be respected. When you quiet your judgments ... that is when you can listen to others genuinely, for who they are, not for who you think they should be. I am leaving this class a better person. I am leaving with lessons I will never forget.”

At SLCC, Higgins has served a leadership role in the American Association for Women in Community Colleges LEADERS Institute, as a facilitator for bringing the Center for Authentic Leadership and Mindfulness retreats to SLCC and as a faculty leader for the college’s Alternative Spring Break program that takes students to a Hopi Indian Reservation.



### HEATHER SCHUMACKER

Assistant Professor  
*Economics and Finance*

Education is a passion for Heather Schumacker in every aspect of her life. “I try to light a fire within everyone around me by using my skills as a motivator, lecturer, facilitator and professor of economics and finance,” she says. Former economics student Matee Tanner said of her professor, “It is not often you meet a teacher like Heather Schumacker. She is an amazing person and teacher who inspires, motivates and encourages her students. She understands the hardship of life but never allows you to view any of life’s challenges as a step back but rather an opportunity to grow.”

Stimulation obtained from effective collaboration with colleagues both within SLCC and across the country plays a crucial role in Schumacker’s development

as an individual and as a teacher. Her teaching is strongly grounded in high-impact practices and active learning methods that can be seen in the wide variety of curriculum activities she has developed and utilized in the classroom. Her methods’ effectiveness and appreciation can be seen both through the amazing work produced by her students and by the reflections and comments in their reviews.

While at SLCC, Schumacker has served the Faculty Senate through her work on the Academic Calendar Committee; the Constitutional Review, Apportionment, and Organization Committee; and in the Faculty Senate Leadership Team. She has also served the SLCC School of Business in a variety of capacities.

# Fashion alumnus launches clothing line

## *Autism propels his creativity and fosters a place for others*

Michael Ryan Andolsek was just getting by in high school until his parents decided to pull him out, but not without a plan. At 17, he enrolled in Salt Lake Community College's Fashion Institute and found his niche. He would later earn his GED.

Andolsek quickly proved to be a rare talent, says Fashion Institute Program Director Mojdeh Sakaki. Now 25, he recently launched a line of clothes at three of his own fashion shows in one day in a ballroom at the Grand America hotel in Salt Lake City.

"He's always been interested in fashion," recalls his father William Andolsek. "We knew he liked fashion, and he had already made some things at home, fooled around with it a bit. The Fashion Institute was perfect, a nice way to start."

After studying at SLCC, Andolsek moved to Europe and studied at two design schools in Paris. He returned to the U.S. a few years later and at

21 was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. He continued dressmaking and designing, sometimes making dresses for his sisters.

"We wanted Michael to have a skill. As a parent, you worry about those things," says his father, who points out that people with autism often have a hard time finding jobs. Andolsek's family, all working for the fashion company bearing their last name, have been supporting him, all the way to the official March unveiling of the Andolsek Spring-Summer 2017 Ready-to-Wear Collection at the Grand America shows.

Andolsek has an online store and hopes to someday have brick-and-mortar stores around the globe. The Salt Lake Region Small Business Development Center at SLCC's Miller Business Resource Center helped him create a

business plan. His company has a social mission to hire people with autism and employs an embroiderer and pattern maker with autism.



Michael Ryan Andolsek

His approach to fashion remains to create "classy, fun apparel for women" without any grand inspirations for his designs — just a hard, focused work ethic, the kind of focus that actually benefits some people with autism and that has gotten Andolsek this far. "I just sit down and draw and if I don't like it, then I throw it away and keep going," he says.

## MICHAEL RYAN ANDOLSEK

2008-2010, SLCC  
Fashion Institute

Summer 2010, Parsons  
Paris of New York City-  
based The New School  
of Design

Sept.-Dec. 2011, École  
de la Chambre Syndicale  
de la Couture Parisienne

Andolsek fashions  
online at [andolsek.us](http://andolsek.us)



# Alumna studies at prestigious Bolshoi Academy

When Mariam Roe broke her foot as a teenager, she thought her dream of becoming a professional ballerina had died. “At that point, I got a little bit depressed and didn’t think I would dance again,” she says.

But the injury led her to take an online English course at Salt Lake Community College and after a year of healing, she pursued dance, harp and sewing instruction as well as general education classes.

She didn’t stop there. Her hard work, perseverance and passion for dance led her to study at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Russia.

She had submitted a video audition to the academy early in her last semester at SLCC and was notified of acceptance in April 2016. However, a year of study at the renowned academy cost nearly \$24,000.

Roe started an online fundraising campaign and was awarded \$2,200 in donations. Friends and family gave her another \$3,400 and when combined with \$1,000 of her own money, she was able to study as a classical ballet trainee for three months at Bolshoi, from September through November of last year.

The routine was rigorous, with dance practice six days a week, more than twice the time Roe had spent weekly in Utah. “That was a big turnaround. It really got me in shape,” she says. She also studied Russian at the academy.

Despite taking ballet since she was 12, the now 21-year-old feels there are gaps in her training. “So I’d like to study for two or three more years.”

In February, she left to attend the School of Classical Ballet in St. Petersburg, Russia — a more

affordable school than Bolshoi, she says — and was set to return to Utah in June.

The Millcreek native hopes to one day dance with a Russian dance company and ultimately wants to teach ballet. “I’d like to help poorer kids

who don’t have a lot of money and would like to dance, but can’t because of financial reasons — because I kind of grew up that way.”

In the fall, she will continue her formal education toward a bachelor’s degree in dance with an emphasis in ballet at Utah Valley University.



The entrance to Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow.



The Ballet Centre Artistic Director Michelle Armstrong, left, with Mariam Roe at the Murray center.



## MARIAM ROE

2016, Associate of Science, General Studies, SLCC

2016, Trainee, Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Moscow

2017, Trainee, School of Classical Ballet, St. Petersburg, Russia

2017, Pursuing BA in Dance, Utah Valley University



Mariam Roe at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow in fall 2016.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

# Celeste Skinner

*Associate Professor*  
**Healthcare Technologies**  
**School of Applied Technology**



**WHAT SHE TEACHES:**  
 Healthcare Technologies  
 CTE: Clinical Lab  
 Assistant, Medical Office  
 Administration, Clinical  
 Medical Assisting.

**YEARS TEACHING AT SLCC:**  
 Eight.

**PRIOR TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**  
 Salt Lake Tooele Applied Technology  
 College (UCAT).



**UNDERGRADUATE:**  
 AAT, Medical Assisting from Utah  
 College of Applied Technology; AS,  
 Liberal Arts and BS, Health Science  
 Education from Excelsior College,  
 Albany, New York.

**GRADUATE:**  
 MS, Curriculum and Instruction,  
 Western Governors University.

**WHY WORKING AT SLCC MATTERS:**  
 Salt Lake Community College and  
 the School of Applied Technology

and Technical Specialties is a welcoming place for students from all backgrounds. SATTS is fully committed to the success of its students. It gives me great satisfaction to assist students as they enter SATTS and begin their path to a brighter future. It is incredible to see each student gain the needed self-confidence, knowledge and skills to succeed.

**GREATEST PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGE:**

It has been, and continues to be, a challenge to transition our career and technical education programs into an aligned and integrated competency-based education format in which all courses within our programs must be created or recreated by starting with desired educational goals and designing curriculum to meet those goals.

**GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT:**

Working with colleagues in our efforts to introduce competency-based education in the School of Applied Technology and Technical Specialties to provide students with a more efficient way to learn, succeed and move into the workforce.

**ADVICE FOR STUDENTS OR OTHERS:**

Follow your dreams and be confident in your own ability to achieve your goals and find success.

**FUTURE PLANS:**

Researching other training areas in the healthcare field that would provide opportunities for students to find employment.

**FAMILY:**

Husband of 36 years, two incredible and amazing sons (my heroes), one granddaughter (I am wrapped around her finger).



**“Be confident in your own ability to achieve your goals and find success.”**

**HOBBIES:**

Bike riding, camping, spending time anywhere with sun, sand and water.



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

# Ron McKay

*Associate Professor*

**Mathematics**

**School of Science, Mathematics  
and Engineering**



# W

**HAT HE TEACHES:**

Everything from Intermediate Algebra to Calculus.

**YEARS TEACHING AT SLCC:**

Eleven.

**PRIOR TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

One year of high school; two years as a graduate student at the University of Utah; lots of tutoring including at the South City Learning Center.

**UNDERGRADUATE:**

AS from SLCC; BS, University of Utah.

**GRADUATE:**

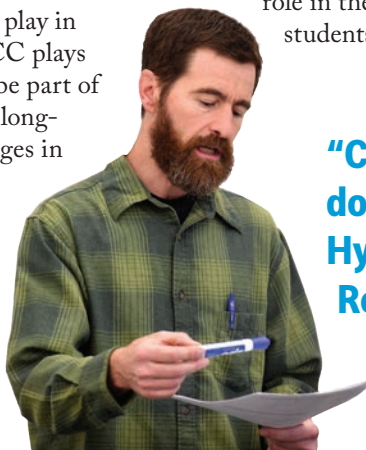
MS, University of Utah.

**WHY WORKING AT SLCC MATTERS:**

I am a HUGE believer in the role that community colleges play in our society and that SLCC plays locally. It is inspiring to be part of a community that leaves long-lasting and positive changes in people's lives.

**GREATEST PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGE:**

Preconceived notions about mathematics. Mathematics is more than just a set of rules



**“Connect the dots. Think. Hypothesize. Research. Learn passionately.”**

and algorithms that always lead you to a result like “ $x=3$ .” Math is a way of thinking and a way of understanding our world. It is a challenge to get past the preconceived notions and convince students not only of the usefulness but also of the beauty of mathematics.

**GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT:**

Playing a role in my students' successes. I have given referrals to several of my students to work as tutors in the SLCC learning centers. It's amazing to watch them flourish in this role and develop their own passion for helping others learn. I've also written letters of recommendation for students applying for scholarships and graduate programs. It is rewarding to play a role in the success of SLCC students.

**ADVICE FOR STUDENTS OR OTHERS:**

Engage with your education. Connect the dots. Think. Hypothesize. Research. Learn passionately. And don't forget: Ask good questions.



**FUTURE PLANS:**

Work with my colleagues to use Open Educational Resources for our courses. This is a great benefit to students since it means using free textbooks and online homework platforms.

**FAMILY:**

Shout out to my partner of 16 years, Kimberly; our daughter, Olive, who will be 2 in September; our dog Luna; and cats Puff-Ball and Eve.

**HOBBIES:**

Rock climbing and skateboarding.

# DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

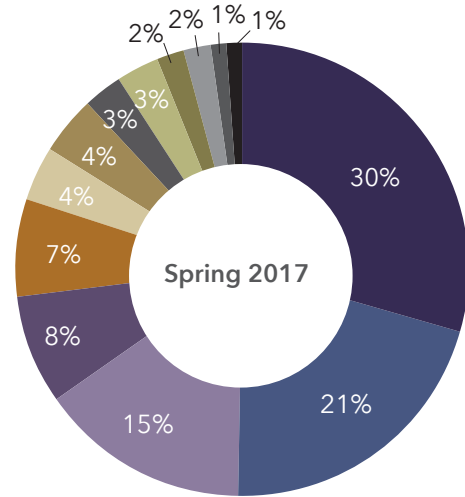
**SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE** strives for inclusivity, and the college's Disability Resource Center (DRC) is key to that vision. The DRC serves more than 2,000 students with physical and learning disabilities each year, helping them access the educational environment at SLCC.



## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SERVED

**2,068** Students served **165** Pending service approval

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>625</b> Psychological/mental health              | <b>75</b> Traumatic brain injury  |
| <b>442</b> Learning disability                      | <b>66</b> Neurological            |
| <b>315</b> Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder | <b>66</b> Mobility/orthopedic     |
| <b>163</b> Medical Condition                        | <b>45</b> Blind/low vision        |
| <b>141</b> Autism spectrum                          | <b>39</b> Intellectual disability |
| <b>75</b> Deaf/hard of hearing                      | <b>11</b> Substance abuse         |
|   | <b>5</b> Communication disorder   |



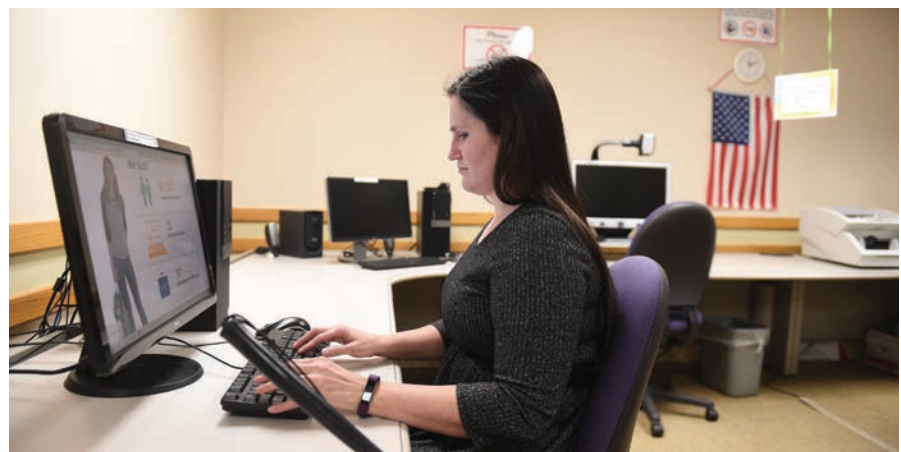
## 2015-2016 OUTREACH

High school visits and tours

- 32** Visits
- 12** Tours
- 685** Students
- 122** Parents/staff

## 2015-2016 OTHER SERVICES

- 2,874** Proctored, accommodated tests
- 441** Textbooks converted to accessible formats
- 197** Peer note takers



SLCC alumna and DRC Universal Access Specialist Autumn McDonald working in the DRC Lab.



Associate professor and program coordinator for SLCC American Sign Language/Interpreting Connie Spanton-Jex teaches ASL at SLCC and periodically translates for students through the DRC. The DRC has a pool of 25 part-time ASL interpreters, many who were trained in Spanton-Jex's class.

## RESOURCES



**THROUGH ACCESS TO ADAPTIVE TOOLS AND SERVICES**, the DRC provides accommodations for students. Accommodations may include adaptive equipment, alternative texts, assistive software, sign language interpreters, note takers, adaptive furniture and assistive technology. For example, the center might provide an assistant for a blind student, a sign language interpreter for a deaf student, or a peer note taker, as well as assistive devices and technology to aid instruction. The DRC helps level the playing field for students with disabilities at SLCC.



DRC Secretary Amber Jentsch greets patrons and visitors.



## LEADERSHIP

**SHERINE MILLER**  
*DRC Interim Director*

BA, Family Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

MA, Adult and Continuing Education, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

## LOCATIONS

### TAYLORSVILLE REDWOOD CAMPUS

Student Center Room 244  
Phone: 801-957-4659  
TTY: 801-957-4646

### JORDAN CAMPUS

Room HTC 101 E  
Phone/TTY: 801-957-6361

### SOUTH CITY CAMPUS

Room 1-061 E-A  
Phone/TTY: 801-957-3258





# She's all that, and more...

Freshman excels at two sports and gets perfect grades



By **TYLER PRICE**

SLCC ALUMNUS  
ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE  
GENERAL STUDIES, 2017  
COMMUNICATIONS MAJOR

**A**s time was running down in the third quarter of the 2016 Idaho state high school basketball championship, Rian Rawlings released the ball at half court. The buzzer sounded and the ball fell through the net. A rush of excitement was felt throughout the arena and one thing was clear: Rawlings had a future playing college hoops.

The Salt Lake Community College freshman now plays

basketball for SLCC, and was pivotal in helping the women's basketball team take fourth in the nation at the National Junior College Athletic Association's championship playoffs. She played in every regular- and post-season basketball game for the Bruins, scoring 222 points. Rawlings also excels on the college's softball team and has perfect grades in her courses.

"Rian brings a strong mental focus to our team," says women's basketball Assistant Coach Marcilina Grayer. "She is quick to pick up on skills and is able to follow directions ... not to mention her ability to shoot the three-pointer."

Rawlings was recruited by SLCC the summer before her senior year in high school and has a full-ride basketball scholarship at the college. She is a walk-on player for the school's softball team.

Raised with three brothers in Pocatello, Idaho, her family is big on sports. Her father coaches baseball and football and her brothers play multiple sports. In high school, she played volleyball, soccer, basketball and softball. She played in the state softball tournament her freshman year and in the state basketball tournament every year in high school. Her team won that tournament in her junior and senior years.

Wanting to further her education



**"She is quick to pick up on skills and is able to follow directions ... not to mention her ability to shoot the three-pointer."**

– MARCILINA GRAYER, ASSISTANT COACH

and athletic goals, Rawlings set her sights on an out-of-state college and was offered an SLCC basketball scholarship. Being away from home was a new experience, and she struggled with homesickness. But her teammates provided a good support system, and being able to drive home some weekends makes it easier.

"A few of us aren't from Utah, so we all know what it is like to be homesick," she says. "We usually find something fun to do to keep our minds off being away from home." Her basketball teammates also attend Rawlings softball games. "The team is very supportive of everything I do."

Rawlings is determined in her studies and carries a 4.0 GPA. She credits her success to persistence in attending every class and always making time to study at the end of the day.

As a first-year student, she hasn't chosen a major. "I hope by next year I will have more of an idea of what I want to study. Then I plan to graduate and further my education at a bigger school."

She is excited about the next basketball season. "I have learned a lot from this past season, and everyone who is a part of the program. Point guards usually have a sense of leadership in the first place, because they are the ones in charge when you are out on the court. So, I think I will have to play into that role a little bit more in my sophomore career."

When she isn't competing athletically, Rawlings enjoys hiking, camping, bike riding and swimming. She enjoys the outdoors and, when she can, likes to indulge in her favorite food, spaghetti.



### **RIAN RAWLINGS BASKETBALL STATS 2016-2017**

**36 games**

**222 points**

**82 rebounds**

**64 assists**

**34% of field goals**

**34% of 3-pointers**

**75% of 65 free-throw attempts**



SLCC Women's Basketball Coach Betsy Specketer

## Specketer honored three times as best coach

### Leads women's basketball team to nationals

For the third time, SLCC women's basketball Coach Betsy Specketer was awarded the National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) District Coach of the Year for the season.

She also was awarded the Scenic West Athletic Conference (SWAC) Coach of the Year and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Region 7 Coach of the year.

Specketer helped this year's team to its best finish ever, taking fourth in the nation at the NJCAA championship playoffs in Lubbock, Texas.

The team had great chemistry, Specketer says. "Collectively they bought into their respective roles, supported each other and the system, and genuinely cared about each other."



PHOTO BY CHARLES MERICKEL

### 2016-2017 SLCC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- Finished 14-2 in SWAC.
- Won the Region 18 Tournament for the first time in a decade.
- Placed fourth at NJCAA nationals in a 67-62 overtime loss to Shelton State Community College.
- Ended the season with a 30-6 overall record.

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