

SPRING 2016

SLCC

MAGAZINE

Bruins Rock it!

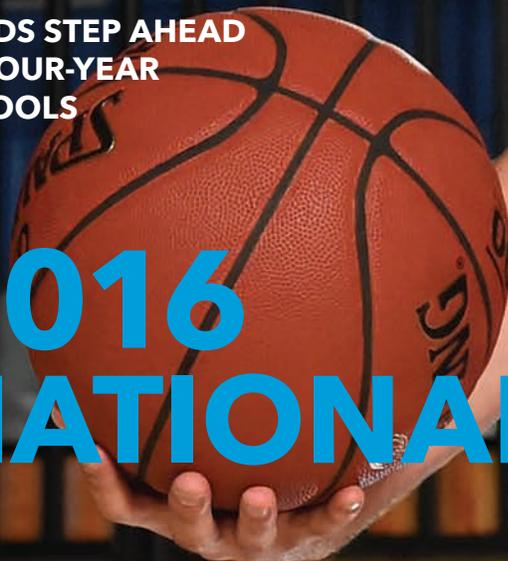
ON AND OFF THE COURT

SLCC PROMISES
FULL TUITION

OUR
DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNI

GRADS STEP AHEAD
TO FOUR-YEAR
SCHOOLS

2016 NATIONAL CHAMPS





1. A student shares a light moment during orientation at the SLCC Taylorsville Redwood Campus.
2. A high school student tries her hand at dentistry during the annual High School Career Day at the Jordan Campus.
3. Utah Rep. Mia Love visits with Nick Burns, associate dean of communication performing arts, during an SLCC TV taping of "Community Roundtable."
4. SLCC students pitch in for a photo shoot to promote the College's Aerospace/Aviation pilot program.
5. "What Would You Do?" TV host John Quiñones visits The Grand Theatre to talk about the show and his new book.
6. Metal sculpting instructor Richard Prazen and a piece he created.





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THIS EDITION OF SLCC MAGAZINE represents the best of academics and athletics at Salt Lake Community College.

Our men's basketball team, under the direction of Head Coach Todd Phillips, went on a tear in Kansas and brought home a national championship trophy from the NJCAA tournament. The women's basketball team also had a great overall season at 31-3 under the leadership of Betsy Specketer. I couldn't be more proud of all of our coaches and athletes, both in and out of the classroom!



We visited the State Capitol to announce the SLCC Promise, an initiative designed to remove financial barriers to college. The Utah Legislature passed a funding bill that paves the way for an expanded Westpointe Center with a new 120,000-square-foot building expected to open in 2018. And after a year of planning that involved hundreds across the College, SLCC has a new vision-mission statement and values that will serve as our compass moving forward.

Gov. Gary Herbert helped us introduce to the community the Utah Diesel Technician Pathways program that will help people transition more quickly into the workforce. And while SLCC is well known for its role as an economic driving force in workforce training and education, we are also the leading institution in Utah for transfer education. In this edition of *SLCC Magazine*, we share some highlights of that critical function.

There are so many reasons to be proud of what we do at SLCC. I invite you to discover within these pages just some of what's happening at your community college.

Sincerely,

DENECE G. HUFTALIN, PHD
PRESIDENT

SLCC MAGAZINE

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Salt Lake Community College is an equal opportunity institution providing education and training to more than 60,000 students annually at 10 locations in Salt Lake County.

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Salt Lake
Community
College

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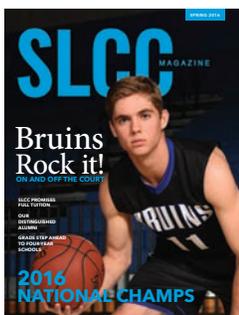
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COVER

Athletic and Academic success: SLCC's men's basketball team won the national title, and the majority of players are moving on to four-year schools.

Pictured: Conner Toolson, NJCAA 2016 Championship tournament MVP.

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SLCC Promise makes college affordable for everyone



SCORES OF STUDENTS gathered in the Gold Room of the Utah State Capitol and stood to applaud Salt Lake Community College President Dr. Deneece G. Huftalin's announcement of SLCC Promise, a game-changing initiative to increase access to higher education for thousands of Utahns.

"Many of our incoming students are first-generation students and students with limited resources to fund their college educations," Huftalin told the crowd. "It is incumbent on us to keep affordability and access at the forefront of our mission . . . and lay out a financial path for students and families to earn a degree."

SLCC Promise is poised to help up to 14,000 qualifying Utahns

toward two free years of college, without costing taxpayers anything extra. The initiative helps eligible, full-time students pay for their education by covering the cost of tuition and fees when federal grants fall short.

To qualify for SLCC Promise, applicants commit to take a full load of courses — 12 to 18 credit hours — and must be eligible for federal Pell grants. They also meet with an advisor to develop a two-year degree plan. Funding for SLCC Promise is made possible by incorporating innovative management practices with student aid, scholarship dollars and institutional resources.

For more information, visit: slcc.edu/promise



SLCC students and staff applaud the announcement of SLCC Promise at the Utah Capitol.

EDITORIAL

SLCC's free-tuition plan will make Utah smarter

THIS IS HOW YOU DO IT.

Salt Lake Community College President Deneece Huftalin has pieced together two free years of college for up to 14,000 Utahns. Her efforts are made all the more impressive by the fact that she's doing it without asking Utahns for more tax money.

Instead, she is resetting the school's existing resources to make better use of Pell grants, the federal student aid that students don't have to pay back. Essentially just two things are required to receive a Pell grant: a high school diploma or GED and a moderate family income (or individual income if the student is over 24). Then, to maintain the grants, the students have to have satisfactory success.

And success is exactly the threshold that Utah should have for keeping students in college. It shouldn't be whether they can keep paying tuition. If they can be successful, we are almost certain to get back

whatever subsidy we can give them.

In the pursuit of Gov. Gary Herbert's pledge to have two-thirds of Utah adults with post-secondary degrees by 2020, Huftalin's move is among the most important. Her college, more than any other Utah institution, has the role of producing college graduates from families who have never had them. And for many of those graduates, the two-year SLCC degrees will lead to four-year degrees elsewhere.

This free offer is not just a handout. The bargain Huftalin is making with her students also addresses a nagging issue for all Utah colleges: taking too much time to graduate, or not graduating at all. To get the carrot of free tuition and fees, the students will face a stick. They must pursue a two-year degree, and they must go full time to get through in two years. No dawdling.

The other hallmark of this plan addresses another Utah

uniqueness: We don't apply for federal aid as much as residents in other states do. Utahns carry the lowest student debt load in the nation, and that's a good thing. The credit for that goes both to debt-shy Utahns and to Utah higher education's efforts to keep college affordable.

But a consequence of that is, in passing up student loans, Utahns often also pass up Pell grants. The grants, which have been around since 1972, are the federal government's commitment to college education as an investment that will be paid back in future earnings, not in student loan payments.

By redirecting existing scholarship money to add to the Pell grants, Huftalin is able to make her free-college pledge to Utahns who have the desire and the ability but not the means for higher education. It is leveraging private and public dollars and the hard work of the next generation.

THAT IS THE UTAH WAY.

This editorial appeared March 6, 2016 in *The Salt Lake Tribune* and is reprinted with permission.

State funds Westpointe expansion



Illustration

THE UTAH LEGISLATURE agreed in March to fund a \$42 million, 120,000-square-foot expansion of SLCC's Westpointe Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center. The expansion is in response to needs expressed by business and industry in Salt Lake County.

"We can now move forward to break ground on our new high-tech CTE building and begin to strengthen and expand key CTE programs," says SLCC President Dr. Deneece G. Huftalin. It's anticipated the new center will open in late spring or early summer of 2018.

More than 28,000 students at

SLCC campuses are enrolled in CTE courses across 29 programs in areas that serve aviation, electronics and electric power technology, engineering and manufacturing technology, logistics, skilled service technology, welding and fabrication. The new building will benefit traditional students acquiring new skills, incumbent workers enhancing their skills, transitioning workers re-entering the workforce and underemployed workers trying to improve their employability.

The building will be adjacent to SLCC's existing two-story Westpointe instructional and training center, east of the Salt



Lake City International Airport.

It will include 5,000 square feet of space to remain responsive to the rapid-changing needs of industry. Companies in Salt Lake County will be able to use the space to meet immediate training needs.



Illustrations

Vision and mission guide SLCC



VISION

Salt Lake Community College will be a model for inclusive and transformative education, strengthening the communities we serve through the success of our students.

MISSION

Salt Lake Community College is your community college. We engage and support students in educational pathways leading to successful transfer and meaningful employment.

VALUES

Collaboration • Community • Inclusivity
Learning • Innovation • Integrity • Trust

THE PROCESS took more than a year, involving hundreds of people across Salt Lake Community College. In the end, the College adopted new vision and mission statements, along with values and goals that will serve as a compass for the institution moving forward.

Two things were the catalyst for the huge undertaking: SLCC had a new president, and the College was going through an accreditation process.

The Institutional Effectiveness Council led collegewide meetings and behind-the-scenes discussions throughout 2015. They included input about values from everyone who attended Convocation at the start of the fall semester. When the strategic planning process was done, SLCC President Dr. Denece G. Huftalin's cabinet signed off on the statements, followed by approval from the SLCC Board of Trustees.

"We now have a clear and compelling vision moving forward, a succinct statement of our mission and values which will ground our work together," Huftalin

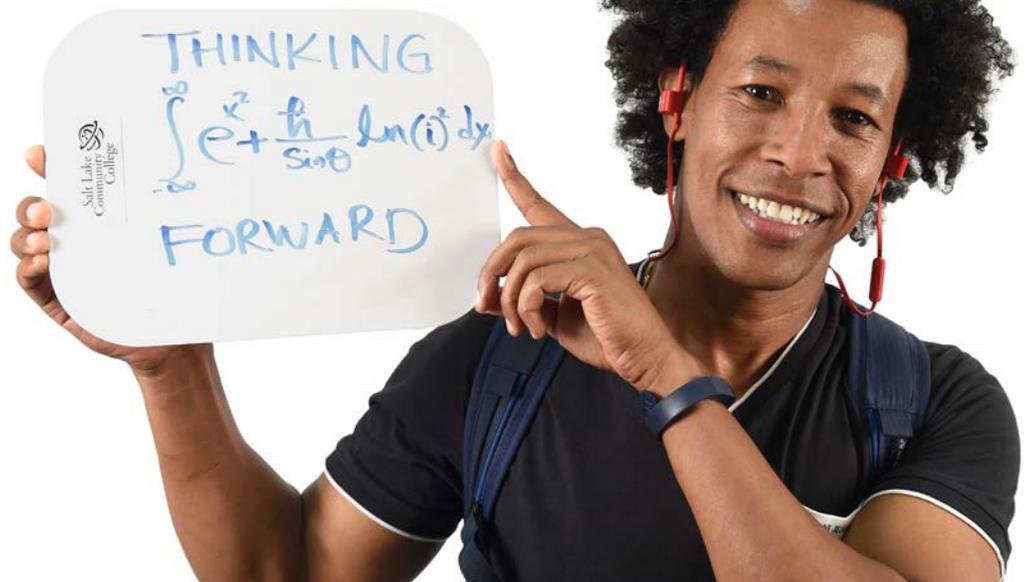
told faculty and staff gathered at SLCC's Grand Theatre during Professional Development Day.

Now the work begins to move the needle in areas like access, success, completion, retention and equity. The new mission statement's impact on students will manifest in how the College allocates resources and how staff and faculty engage students. To say "your community college" in the mission statement is declarative about SLCC's open-access focus.

Moving forward, it's all about measuring the progress of the values and goals that are driven by the vision and mission statements. For students who are attending

SLCC for workforce education, the focus will be on stats surrounding whether they are finding meaningful employment and jobs that pay well.

Huftalin says the College needs to increase its overall student-completion rate from its current 22 percent to 40 percent by 2023. She will be watching the "big needle" in areas such as transfer preparation and pathways; workforce needs; equity in student completion; and institutional sustainability and capacity.



Preparing students to *step ahead*

More than 70 percent of students entering SLCC intend to transfer to four-year schools

Breeanna Gray began taking classes at SLCC while still in high school and is working toward a master's degree at the University of Utah.

Wendy Vu was inspired at an early age to pursue medicine as a career. Her father was an orderly at the old Cottonwood Hospital in Salt Lake Valley and she began volunteering there the summer after eighth grade. Now she's a third-year medical student at the University of Utah.

Vu's trajectory toward medical school is one that included Salt Lake Community College. In academia, the College is highly regarded for its role in helping well-prepared students transfer to the state's four-year colleges and universities, and thousands of successful students each year follow the transfer path through SLCC.

During high school, Vu took concurrent enrollment classes at SLCC. In 2008, she graduated

from Taylorsville High School and from SLCC with an associate's degree. "I had all of my general studies requirements taken care of at SLCC, which was a lot cheaper and helped save time when I got to the University of Utah," Vu says. "I was able to focus on the required courses for my major and pre-med track once at the U." Her goal now is a career in pediatrics after she graduates with an MD degree in spring 2017.

SOLID FOUNDATION

All eight of Utah's public institutions, as well as Brigham Young University and Westminster College, accept SLCC courses numbered 1000 or above as general education, major credit or elective credit. The same holds true for most out-of-state schools.

About 73 percent of students entering SLCC intend to transfer to four-year institutions. Transfer students at SLCC include those with a handful of courses under their belt, all the way to those who earn a two-year associate's degree. About 60 percent of those who enroll at SLCC and transfer to another school, go to the University of Utah. And 45-48 percent of undergraduate transfer students at the U come from SLCC, and study in different academic schools throughout the U.

"We absolutely regard Salt Lake Community College as our top feeder institution," says Mary Parker, associate vice president for Enrollment Management at the U. "We do a significant amount of recruitment there." She says the U is increasing its presence at SLCC

campuses and focusing on creating more and better pathway programs between SLCC and the U. Access U, for example, guarantees SLCC students admission into the U and a guaranteed scholarship of up to \$2,000 upon meeting certain qualifications and graduating from SLCC.

The U and SLCC are also exploring incentives like discounted tuition and priority registration to compel SLCC students to finish an associate degree prior to transfer. Once SLCC students transfer to the U, statistics show that they're succeeding academically and graduating. "They perform very well. The data show that students coming in from SLCC are performing the same or better than some of our students," Parker says.

PAVING THE WAY

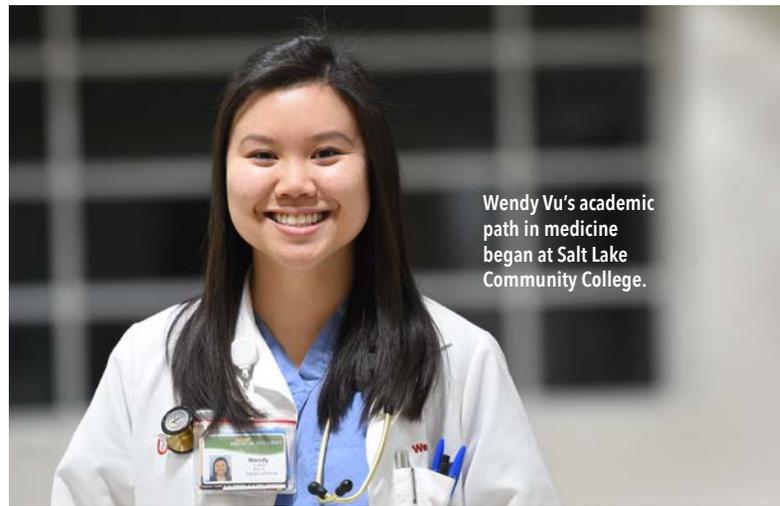
SLCC's internal processes and programs as a transfer institution include articulation agreements with other schools: making sure a course offered at SLCC is the same, or similar enough, at another institution to say it will

transfer. "We can definitely say that we have worked very hard to ensure that a student who plans their time here can have a great preparatory experience for transferring," says Nate Southerland, SLCC assistant provost of Academic Support. "We have aligned our programs and pathways to as many of our transfer partners as possible."

Breeanna Dahle Gray can attest to that. While at Bingham High School in South Jordan, she learned about SLCC's biotechnology program and thought it might be something she wanted to do with her life. "I got into the biotech program and fell in love," she says. No, literally, she fell in love, with her husband Mike Gray, whom she met while taking a biotech class at SLCC. She invited nearly every SLCC instructor she had to the wedding. "They felt like family."

Gray, 25, began taking classes at SLCC's Jordan Campus in the Jordan Applied Technology Center while still in high school. She graduated from Bingham in 2009, earned her associate's degree in 2010 and transferred to Utah Valley University, which she notes also offers night courses at SLCC's Jordan Campus. Now she's working full time in the biotechnology field and steadily moving toward a master's degree in biotechnology at the University of Utah.

Southerland says many transfer students could



Wendy Vu's academic path in medicine began at Salt Lake Community College.

easily start out at a four-year school, but for a variety of reasons they choose SLCC. "It has to do with cost, times classes are offered, the size of classes and where they're offered," he says. Gray can relate. Early on, she signed up for a physics class at the U with 250 students but quickly fell behind. "I was feeling lost. I was terrified," she recalls. Gray needed a smaller class with an instructor who could answer questions during class. She dropped the class and the next semester picked it up at SLCC, this time in a class of about 25 students. "It was really important for me to have the ability to go to the teacher in real time," she says. Gray earned an A in the class.

MORE OPPORTUNITY

Kari Walker, 32, once balked at the idea of going to a community college. Now she says she kicks herself for not starting out at SLCC. Walker went to Utah State University, transferred to the University of Utah's Department of Physical Therapy and took prerequisites in physics, chemistry, anatomy and physiology at SLCC. She and several SLCC classmates in Melaney Birdsong Farr's human anatomy class at SLCC applied for and received a grant from the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society (HAPS), earning them a

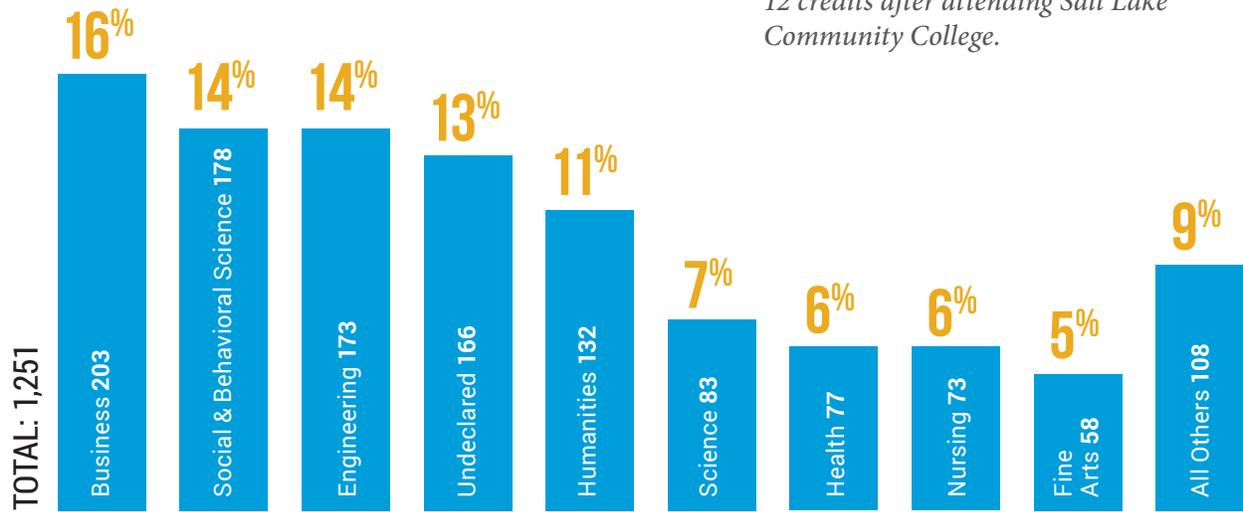
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Kari Walker took prerequisites for physical therapy at SLCC.

SLCC TRANSFER STUDENTS *to University of Utah*

Transfer student with a minimum of 12 credits after attending Salt Lake Community College.



TRANSFER-STUDENT MAJORS, AS OF THE BEGINNING OF THEIR FIRST TERM, 2014-2015

SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



After retiring, Karen Minchow sought a new career. She started at SLCC and now studies in the physician's assistant program at the University of Utah.

spot as presenters at the 28th annual HAPS spring conference. "I had research opportunities, amazing opportunities, that U students can't have because they're in such big classrooms," Walker says.

As a single mother to an 8-year-old daughter, she is still finding her way, and took time off from school this year to pay down student loans. She is considering a path toward education and leadership policy. "Our class sizes allow for students who don't have a firm idea of what they want to do to develop their academic personality," says SLCC Provost for Academic Affairs Clifton Sanders. As an instructor in the past, he often saw ability in students and would pull them aside and advise them on options. "I think that's something we do differently than other institutions."

STARTING AGAIN

In 2015, Karen Minchow retired after 25 years as a captain, paramedic and firefighter with Salt Lake County and Unified Fire Authority, and knew exactly what she wanted to do. She followed friends' advice to start at SLCC, which she did in 2011, and is currently in the Physician's Assistant program at the U.

Minchow and her daughter both took classes at SLCC. "My experience was truly amazing and incredibly helpful in preparing me," Minchow says. "The personalized attention meant a lot going back as a nontraditional student. I think that SLCC has helped prepare me for my new journey. The instructors and the friends I made while there continue to inspire and challenge me."

Read about transfer success of SLCC's men's basketball players. Pg. 14



Earning a bachelor's degree *without leaving SLCC*



Josh Schreiber is taking courses for a bachelor's degree from Utah State University at SLCC.

Sometimes life — family, mortgage, career — gets in the way of finishing a bachelor's degree. It did for Josh Schreiber, 36, a father of three and an insurance broker who in 2017 expects to finally graduate with a bachelor's degree in business administration. The best part for Schreiber is he's taking all of his classes without having to visit any school other than SLCC.

“At the end of the day, it's a lifelong goal,” says Schreiber, whose degree will be from Utah State University. Schreiber says getting admitted to USU's Jon M. Huntsman School of Business

was easy for him. He filled out an online application, qualified academically, paid USU and began taking USU-administered classes at SLCC.

He's one of hundreds who benefit from SLCC's university partnerships that offer bachelor's degree programs at SLCC campuses. The College has partnerships with USU, Utah Valley University and Weber State University for bachelor's degree tracks at SLCC that include technology, health sciences, business, criminal justice, communication and more. Students have to be admitted to the

universities that are offering the degrees and pay the tuition rates set by those schools. The courses are taught by professors from the four-year institutions and are available online and in the evenings to accommodate the busy schedules of nontraditional students.

SOLID DIRECTION

Having guidance along the way has been helpful for Leena Sombath, 24, who works in South Jordan. “I always get ‘check-in’ emails from my advisors to meet with them and see how things are

Continued

going, or I am voluntarily active in scheduling meetings myself, in order to see what I should do or if I have questions,” says Sombath, a USU student studying business administration through SLCC. “It has always taken stress off of me being able to meet whenever I need some advice.”

Ted Cowan, a 1979 graduate of Utah Technical College (now SLCC) with an associate’s degree

in data processing, is Weber State’s program coordinator and advisor. He has also been a computer science instructor for both schools. “Our typical SLCC computer science student is usually working in the field and needing to complete a bachelor’s degree to either keep a job or progress up the career ladder,” says Cowan.

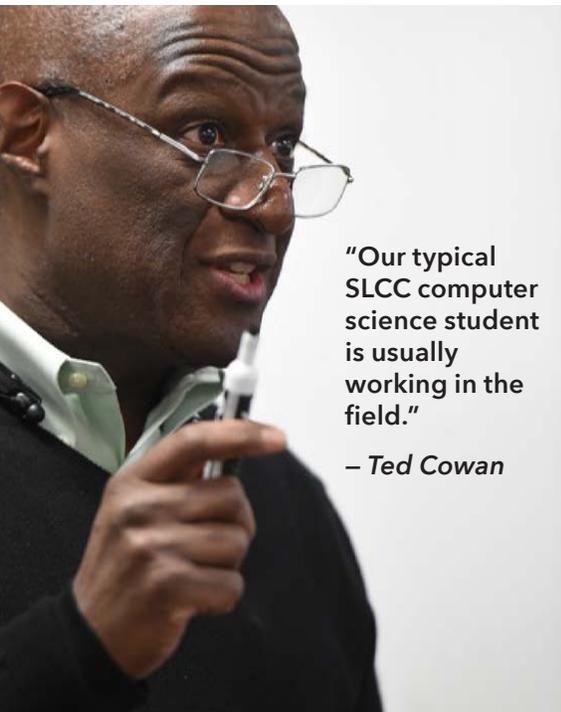
He notes that statistics show that the salaries for a software engineer

degree programs with courses taught at SLCC and online. For the spring 2016 semester, more than 240 students were enrolled in classes being taught at SLCC’s Miller, Jordan and Taylorsville Redwood campuses. Planning is underway to offer a bachelor’s degree program in construction management through WSU by summer 2017.

“The benefit is our students can work, study and live all in one place,” says Daysi Hernandez, SLCC University Partnerships coordinator. Students can meet with a program advisor at SLCC or an in-house partner advisor and map out classes they should take at SLCC that will transfer into the baccalaureate program of choice, she says. “The students have an almost seamless transition from an associate degree to a bachelor’s program of study.”

“It has always taken stress off of me being able to meet whenever I need some advice.”

– Leena Sombath



“Our typical SLCC computer science student is usually working in the field.”

– Ted Cowan

with a bachelor’s degree are much higher than engineers with just an associate’s degree. “When the market is strong, anyone can get a job. When the job market has a downturn, it becomes much more difficult for an associate’s degree holder to even get an interview.”

Cowan’s students love the flexible night and online classes. “They are usually more experienced and a bit older than your typical first-year freshman, but I don’t get them until they have completed their lower division computer science classes and general education courses at SLCC.”

GROWING PROGRAM

The University Partnerships department has evolved since the early 1990s to offer eight bachelor’s

MAKING IT EASY

The value of convenience cannot be overstated for USU business major and senior Erica Lewis, 31, who works for Rio Tinto as a project procurement advisor. “I currently work more than full time most weeks, have a husband and a son, and I’m eight months pregnant,” Lewis said. “I’ve been able to go to classes without any issues for the first part of my pregnancy, and this semester I opted for all online courses to complete from home.”

She entered into the accelerated business program through SLCC after finishing her general education courses for an associate’s degree. “This is a vigorous program where you take three to four classes in 10 weeks, two nights a week for 14 months,” Lewis says. “The program advertised a smooth transition to the Utah State extension in order to complete your bachelor’s degree.” She was sold on the program. Her only glitch was that classes fill up in about



“It’s been a great experience for me and very accommodating.”

– Jose Jara

15 minutes (she registers with two computers at once).

She has almost completely outsourced her academic guidance to technology. “My best friend is DegreeWorks,” she says. “I’m not sure how anyone went to school without it. I have a great academic

advisor who is very responsive through email, but I rarely need him with the DegreeWorks tool. This online tool shows you how far along you are in your degree and what credits you still need.”

PERSONALIZED EDUCATION

SLCC Advisor Lee Martinez says students ask him every week about the bachelor’s degree programs, when and where they’re offered and how much they cost. He’s able to tell them that class sizes at SLCC are smaller, with more access to instructors resulting in a more personalized education. For the USU business degree, two classrooms are used at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus — one to teach a course that broadcasts off campus to students with internet access, and the other for students who take courses that originate elsewhere in Utah and are broadcast to that room at SLCC.

“The USU business degree presents a tremendous opportunity for students to complete a bachelor’s degree without incurring any significant inconvenience by needing to relocate,” says Dennis Bromley, SLCC dean for the School of Business. “It’s a high-

quality degree similar to what they would earn if they attended on-site in Logan.”

Jose Jara, 37, decided to pursue a more stable income after working 15 years for five different companies as a mortgage underwriter: he’s currently a software developer for a local company. The idea of earning a bachelor’s degree while at SLCC began to percolate for Jara after seeing advertisements around campus and then talking to teachers and an academic advisor. He also likes that the Taylorsville Redwood Campus is close to home. “It’s been a great experience for me and very accommodating for a full-time worker,” Jara says. “The quality of the classes is good, which I attribute to the size of the classes. I really like that I don’t have to travel too far to go to class. I’ve been coming to SLCC my entire college career — same campus, close to home.” Jara expects to have his bachelor’s degree in computer science from Weber State by December.



Erica Lewis is seeking a bachelor’s degree in business from Utah State University and takes her classes at Salt Lake Community College.

BACHELOR’S DEGREES OFFERED AT SLCC

Utah State University

- BS, ASLI Communicative Disorders
- BS, Business Administration
- BS, Health Science

Utah Valley University

- BS, Biotechnology
- BS, Technology Management

Weber State University

- BS, Computer Science
- BS, Criminal Justice
- BS, Network Management Technology

For more information, visit slcc.edu/universitypartnerships

ATHLETICS



2016 NATIONAL CHAMPS



RECIPE FOR SUCCESS GOES

Beyond the Hardwood



With a national men's basketball championship on his sports resume, 6-foot, 10-inch tall Tyler Rawson is headed to play and study at the University of Utah. NJCAA 2016 Championship Tournament MVP Conner Toolson and teammate Christian Musoko are going to Utah Valley University and 7-footer Scott Cook is transferring from SLCC to Westminster College.

Out of this year's 12-man roster, eight players on Head Coach Todd Phillips' basketball team are in line to transfer to four-year institutions. But before recruiters had SLCC sophomores signing on the dotted line, the team tasted victory during the NJCAA tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas, making an impression on and off the court.

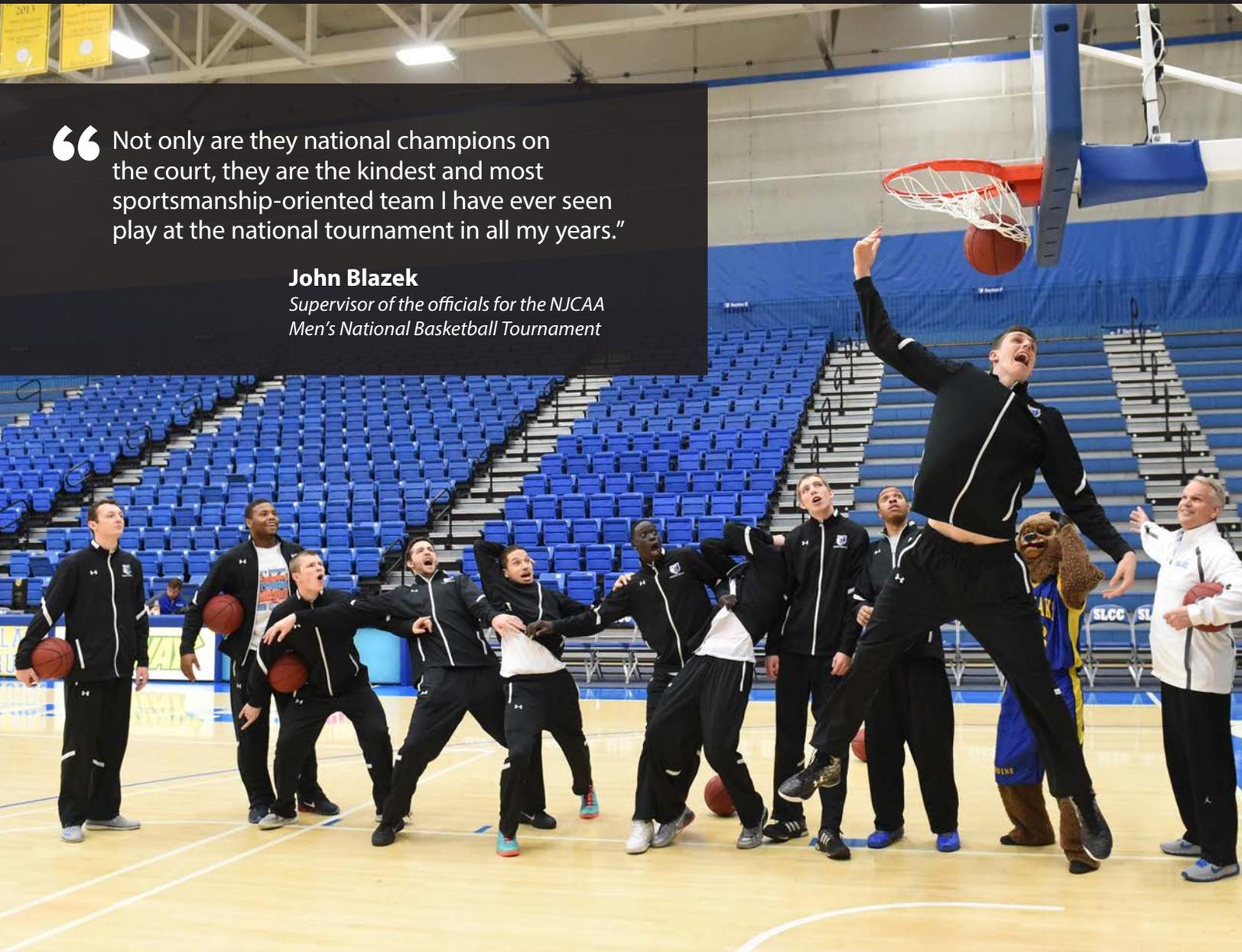
John Blazek, supervisor of the officials for the NJCAA Men's National Basketball Tournament, was so impressed with SLCC's team that he wrote an email to SLCC President Dr. Denece G. Huftalin. "Not only are they national champions on the court, they are the kindest and most sportsmanship-oriented team I have ever seen play at the national tournament in all my years," Blazek wrote. "I spent all week at the national tournament and I know it becomes a grind and tough after two days, but your coaches and players always showed class on and off the court."

Continued

“ Not only are they national champions on the court, they are the kindest and most sportsmanship-oriented team I have ever seen play at the national tournament in all my years.”

John Blazek

Supervisor of the officials for the NJCAA Men's National Basketball Tournament



SLCC's proud president shared the news with her cabinet and board of trustees, as well as Utah Gov. Gary Herbert when the team visited the State Capitol to meet and pose for photos with the governor. Winning this past season began with a motto from Assistant Coach and Team Academic Advisor Paul Marble: Higher expectations mean higher accomplishments. "The higher the expectations we initially place on the kids, the better they do," Marble says. The academic goal at the beginning of each year is to see every player make the President's or Dean's lists — and many do. The overall grade point average for all athletes combined at SLCC hovers between 3.0 and 3.3 each year, Marble says.

Rawson's abilities on the court and in the classroom drew attention from about a dozen



schools, including Oregon State, Marquette University, Villanova University and University of Colorado. "Ever since I've been able to move, my dad was putting a basketball in my hands," he says. "It could be 20 degrees outside and I'd be in my driveway shooting." The future physical education major says he would like to coach basketball as a career, and attending SLCC was a great growth experience. "I'm just grateful for the teachers and the people at SLCC."

"The team was extremely well prepared and the game plans were spot on," said SLCC Athletic Director Kevin Dustin. "Ultimately, players make plays and that is what happened when it counted during the tournament. This group will rank among the great teams in school history."

BRUIN STATS

- For the season, the men's team had four players averaging 10 or more points per game.
- The team averaged 90.5 points per game versus opponents' 69.1.
- The team's regular-season record was 28-8.
- SLCC beat Hutchinson Community College 74-64 in the championship game.
- Prior to this championship, the Bruins last won the NJCAA title in 2009.

Women's basketball team makes history



SLCC's women's basketball had its best starting season in the team's 29-year history. It went undefeated, 18-0, from Oct. 30 until Jan. 7, and was ranked No. 1 in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I for five weeks. In prior seasons, the team's highest NJCAA rank was No. 7.

Before and after the team's first loss during the regular season, SLCC had thoroughly dominated their opponents, winning games by more than 30, 40 and even 50 points and, after 21 games, had been averaging 73.6 points and 15.7 assists per game. The Bruins ended up 31-3 as a No. 3 seed with a first-round bye headed into the NJCAA National Championship, where they were defeated in Elite Eight

action by No. 6 Trinity Valley.

"This team was by far one of the most athletic groups we've ever had and I think it's their length and their athleticism that set them apart," says Head Coach Betsy Specketer, who is assisted by Marcilina Grayer and Katie Fuller. "That length, quickness and overall athleticism, especially on the wings, gave our opponents fits on the defensive end. And when we were able to turn people over defensively, that led to transition points, which was another area where we were very good all year."

"The unbelievable success of our women's basketball team has a tremendously positive effect on our program," says Kevin Dustin, SLCC athletic director. "It instantly puts our entire college on

the map nationally."

With eight sophomores moving on, Dustin predicts that many will transfer to high Division I programs, which will bring even more recognition to SLCC. In the classroom, the team annually posts a GPA above 3.0. "We constantly remind them that although basketball has been the means to their college experience, the earning of a degree is the end goal," Specketer says.

Specketer already is focusing on recruiting for the next season. "We're looking hard for players who will work to keep Salt Lake Community College women's basketball at the elite level nationally," she says.

Goaaaal!

College starts soccer teams, hires coach



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAMS will begin play at SLCC in the fall, and the College hired veteran soccer coach Mark Davis to coach both teams.

SLCC will play in the Scenic West Conference. Other colleges with soccer teams in the conference are USU-Eastern; Snow College; College of Southern Nevada; and Colorado Northwestern Community College. The College will be eligible for post-season competition within the National Junior College Athletic Association for the 2016 season.

Davis previously was head soccer coach for BYU-Hawaii and is head coach of the Real Salt Lake women's soccer team. He was assistant coach on the 2015 team that won the Women's Premier Soccer League Elite National championship, and was named the PacWest Coach of the Year in 2013.

He played intercollegiate soccer at Iowa Western College, leading the team to a conference championship in 2009. He is a graduate of Copper Hills High School in West Jordan, UT, BYU-Hawaii and Concordia University-Irvine where he earned a master's degree in coaching and athletic administration.

Specketer has banner year, looks to next season



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH Betsy Specketer completed her 20th year at SLCC with a career record of 463-178 and a season to remember. She was named Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Coach of the Year for the third consecutive year, and for the eighth time. The women's basketball team finished as SWAC champions for the third straight year.

"She helped me learn a lot this year about basketball," says sophomore player Tilar Clark, the team's leading scorer. "She pushes you to limits that you never thought you could reach." Clark led the team in steals and was the No. 3 player in the SWAC for average points per game and average steals.

Specketer's philosophy for the hardwood, is simple: "Recruiting never changes. From year to year, I look for players who I think will be a good fit for our culture and our system. Plus, I love kids who more than anything else just want to be a Bruin and show a willingness to work and buy into our program."



Solar Ready Vets graduates at a ceremony on Hill Air Force Base, joined by Deputy Secretary of Energy Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, second from right.

Popular program getting vets ready for jobs in solar industry

Nearly a year after President Barack Obama visited Utah and challenged the Department of Energy (DOE) to increase the scope of its Solar Ready Vets program administered in the state by SLCC, a DOE official is lauding the program as a model for others across the nation.

“This partnership with community colleges for us is designed to meet the needs of a broad range of American citizens and help them get access to jobs in the dynamic clean energy sector,” said Deputy Secretary of Energy Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall at SLCC’s Solar Ready Vets commencement ceremony in late March at Hill Air Force Base. Eighteen veterans graduated in the ceremony. The program trains veterans for careers in the high-tech solar industry.

SLCC in association with the DOE tweaked the Solar Ready Vets curriculum for Hill Air Force Base to help meet the solar energy industry’s job-training needs in Utah and beyond. “We’re partnering with community colleges at each base,” Sherwood-Randall said. “Community colleges are an essential part in this endeavor.” She said more people in the U.S. are now



Clarence Gleton thinks it’s a great time to get into the solar industry.

working in the solar industry than in coal mining, and a third of all new electric-generating capacity in this country comes from solar technology.

The day before the ceremony, veterans and service members attended a solar industry jobs fair at SLCC’s Miller Campus. They had just finished an intensive training program in areas such as photovoltaic installation and design, electrical

theory, troubleshooting and solar technology sales. At the fair, there was a shared attraction to hiring vets. Vivint Solar recruiter Robert Freebairn said his Lehi-based company is rapidly expanding and hiring hundreds of veterans who, if they’re coming out of the Solar Ready Vets program, are able to “hit the ground running.”

“It’s going to be a great technology that will be booming,” said Jess Shelley who is leaving the Army National Guard after six years, and completed Solar Ready Vets. “I decided to jump on the train while it’s still in the station,” Shelley said. Clarence Gleton, a father of new twin girls and senior airman leaving the Air Force after six years, agrees. “I thought it would be a great time to get into the industry.”

Judy Fisher, SLCC program manager for solar technologies and the Energy Institute, said Obama’s visit last year to Utah brought a lot of attention to the solar program at SLCC. She has had to cap attendance in some classes and move others into larger classrooms. Fisher wants to add a course that focuses on designing solar energy systems for residential clients. She praised the Solar Ready Vets graduates: “This was a great group of students.”



Putting high school students on diesel career paths

Salt Lake Community College plays a key role in a new program to allow high school students to integrate quickly into career paths in the diesel technician field.

Utah Diesel Technical Pathways encourages students to take diesel-tech classes in high school and continue in the diesel-tech programs at SLCC for a certificate of completion or an Associate of Applied Science degree. It offers hands-on internships through industry partners. The program was initiated by the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development, SLCC, Canyons School District and Jordan School District.

It will create a brighter future for students, said Brady Southwick, president of Cummins Rocky Mountain, one of the industry partners. The program was announced in February at Cummins with SLCC President Dr. Denece G. Huftalin and Utah Gov. Gary Herbert.

It will help students toward "meaningful, lucrative and rewarding careers" as diesel technicians, Huftalin said. Herbert noted that it offers students more opportunities to succeed in one of the strongest state economies in the country.

Diesel technician students are entering careers that start in the \$40,000 range and they can move up to about \$100,000 within five years, said Kyle Treadway, president of Kenworth Sales Co., a partner in the pathways program. Diesel-tech programs nationwide are graduating about 3,500 students a year, but the need is much higher as nearly one-third of the country's estimated 600,000 diesel-tech workers are leaving through attrition and retirement, Treadway said. "You can do the math yourself," he said. "There is opportunity out there nationwide."

Starting in high school at Canyons Technical Education Center helped Weston Emphenour

better prepare for transferring to SLCC's diesel tech program. "The instructors at SLCC are really great," Emphenour said, adding that the hands-on learning environment and real-world experiences make a difference as he moves forward with his career.

UTAH DIESEL TECHNICIAN PATHWAYS INDUSTRY PARTNERS

- Cummins Rocky Mountain
- Jackson Group, Peterbilt
- Kenworth Sales Co.
- Komatsu Equipment Corp.
- Mountain West Truck Center, Volvo, Mack
- Wheeler Cat Machinery

College 'Best for Vets' for fifth year

Salt Lake Community College was ranked for the fifth time by *Military Times* as a "Best for Vets" two-year college.

Serving about 1,300 veterans, SLCC ranked 18 on the national publication's "Best for Vets: Colleges 2016." The list recognizes schools for commitment to providing a wide array of educational opportunities and benefits for veterans and their families.

"By working with departments on campus, our many community partners in education, and the local VA, we bring the best services we can on campus to serve those who have served our country," says Darlene Head, SLCC Veterans Services manager. In January, SLCC opened its second Veterans



Center, at the South City Campus, to add to its Taylorsville Redwood Campus Veterans Center. The College also added an employee to provide outreach to the West Valley Center, Jordan and Miller campuses, with the goal to open an

office at Jordan Campus.

SLCC recently began coordinating with Veterans Services from various universities in Utah to help veterans plan to transfer to four-year institutions. The College is also working with residents of the VA Valor House, which provides temporary transitional housing for veterans and assists them with training and education toward finding employment.

SLCC has annually ranked in the top 20 for two-year schools since making the "Best for Vets" list in 2011. For this year's list, more than 600 institutions took part in surveys that documented an array of services, special rules, accommodations and financial incentives offered to military and veteran students, and other aspects of veteran culture on campuses. The *Military Times'* ranking also used data compiled by the U.S. Department of Education.

SLCC chosen as elite test site for competency-based education



Salt Lake Community College will become a test site to allow students enrolled in competency-based education (CBE) to be eligible for federal financial aid.

The initiative will help students taking CBE courses in SLCC's School of Applied Technology and Technical Specialties, the

biotechnology program, and other CBE courses, to complete their education for less cost, in less time, and to obtain high-wage, high-demand jobs. It's part of a multiyear experiment approved by the federal government and calls for creating a funding-and-support model for students who enroll in CBE.

The experiment has far-reaching implications for the future of education. If successful, the model could be implemented in all six schools at SLCC, and would be a prototype for other higher-education institutions nationwide.

CBE courses are not eligible for federal financial aid under current regulations. But the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) is granting temporary waivers to schools to experiment with alternative methods of administering aid.

SLCC is one of 34 higher-education institutions nationwide to receive the waiver, known as the Experimental Sites Initiative (ESI). College officials plan to begin ESI implementation this year.

Native Americans to benefit from new scholarship fund

Salt Lake Community College received a one-time gift of \$316,687 to establish the new Betty Jean and Edward Fingl Scholarship for Native Americans.

SLCC was selected as one of several beneficiaries of the Betty J. Fingl Trust. The gift is from Betty Storrs Fingl (1920-2015), who was preceded in death by her husband Edward Fingl (1923-2009).

The one-time gift establishes an endowment to be administered by the SLCC Scholarship Committee

for two-year scholarships for American Indians with financial need and who demonstrated commitment to program completion.

Each scholarship includes full tuition and fees, renewable for the second year if satisfactory progress is maintained. Each recipient needs to be an enrolled member of a Utah Indian tribe recognized for services by the Federal Department of the Interior and approved by the director of the Utah State Division

of Indian Affairs.

Fingl pursued a business career after her family returned to Salt Lake City. She worked as an administrative assistant in the Office of the Dean, University of Utah College of Medicine, where she met and married Edward G. Fingl, a professor in pharmacology. He was a Fulbright scholar and later a researcher at the University of Utah. The two married in 1956 and cofounded the Betty J. Fingl Trust.

Instructor named fellow by international group

The International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics (ICTCM) recognized Salt Lake Community College professor Shawna Haider as a fellow during its 28th annual conference in Atlanta.

The designation recognizes faculty who have indicated a sustained effort in using technology for teaching mathematics, and it implies a

record of innovation, command, leadership, contributions and a long-term commitment to the ICTCM

environment. According to ICTCM, the fellow recognition honors the excellent and the extraordinary, to lift the morale of the profession by providing a singular honor among mathematics educators.

The designation is given to those who have reached a level of expertise achieved by only a few colleagues in this vital area of teaching mathematics.



Mexican students benefit from grant

A \$5,000 grant from Juntos Podemos/Together We Can and the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME) will help 10 to 15 Mexican students attending Salt Lake Community College. The IME-Becas grant was awarded to the Utah-based FUNDET Scholarship Program, a private scholarship program to assist Hispanic adults in earning technical degrees to enter the workforce and become self-sufficient.

Scholarship recipient Ciria Alvarez notes the funding helped her overcome barriers and obstacles as an undocumented student, toward someday becoming a civil

rights attorney. "Juntos Podemos scholarship program provides opportunities for students to have a better chance in life," said SLCC Academic Advisor Hector Cando. "About 95 percent of the FUNDET-sponsored students complete the program, become self-sufficient and contributors to the state's economy. It is a very worthwhile scholarship program."

Students attending SLCC's School of Applied Technology and Technical Specialties benefit from the FUNDET scholarships. The program is managed and directed by the FUNDET Student Leadership Council.

Close named Distinguished Faculty Lecturer



John Close has been named Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for 2017. He specializes in developmental mathematics and has taught at SLCC for 24 years. Close holds a master's degree in mathematics from Minnesota State University and a master's in meteorology from the University of Utah. His teaching career spans over three decades and includes assignments in North Dakota, Minnesota and Tanzania.

He has dedicated his career to helping underprepared and first-generation students advance into the academic mainstream, and

is praised for his encouragement and support while maintaining academic rigor in the classroom. In his personal life, he enjoys fly-fishing, singing, kite building and flying, woodworking and doing home improvements.

Close has authored or co-authored over a dozen mathematical texts, including a developmental mathematics series. His Distinguished Faculty Project will center on "The Role of Community Colleges in U.S. Economic Growth." He will give his lecture in spring 2017.

Student selected for NASA program

Salt Lake Community College student Katlynn Bills was selected to travel to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory Center in April to participate in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars project (NCAS). Bills was selected as one of 216 community college students from across the U.S. to be part of NCAS. She participated in a five-week online course that covered the past, present and future of NASA and produced a 3-D rendering of her own Mars rover design before earning a place in the NCAS project.

The five-week scholars program culminated with a four-day, on-site event at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and offered students the opportunity to interact with NASA engineers and others to learn more about careers in science and engineering. While at NASA, students formed teams and established fictional companies interested in Mars exploration. Each team had to develop and test



a prototype rover, form a company's infrastructure, manage a budget and develop communications and outreach.

"NCAS not only inspires community college students to advance in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, but it also opens doors for

future careers at NASA," said Tania B. Davis, manager of the Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP). "NCAS has a legacy of alumni moving from NASA internships to the NASA workforce."

Building leaders from within

Salt Lake Community College completed the first President's Leadership Institute under the administration of College President Dr. Deneece G. Huftalin. Thirty-eight staff, faculty and administrators from various departments and disciplines graduated from the six-month institute in March.

The institute is designed to cultivate and strengthen leadership within the College. It builds community and provides opportunities for SLCC employees to learn hands-on leadership styles, management tools and to become more familiar with a broad spectrum of higher-ed operations. The institute culminated in 10 teams of institute participants researching and creating 10 project proposals to improve the College. The next President's Leadership Institute is slated to begin in the fall.



SLCC President Dr. Deneece G. Huftalin, left, gives a President's Leadership Institute graduation award to SLCC Marketing Manager Jan A. Coleman.

President's Leadership Institute Graduates

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Zachary Allred | Edward Eng | Brandon Kowallis | Hilda Sandi |
| Eileen Boswell | Shellie Jo Enscoe | Brandi Mair | Enrique Soto |
| Scott Brown | Cynthia Farley | Andrea Malouf | Lee Stevens |
| Sue Christensen | David Fawcett | Alia Maw | DB Troester |
| Jan Coleman | Joe Fox | Sherine Miller | Merrill Van Leuven |
| Kim Cosby | Tyler Hall | Hoa Nguyen | Bridget Vickery |
| Ann Crissman | Victoria Harding | Trina Polta | Justin Wiker |
| Sean Crossland | Tevita Hola | Idolina Quijada | Cheryl Williams |
| Daniel DeWitt | Ologa Iopu | Kevin Rusch | |
| Kevin Dustin | Renee Johnson | Gillette Samms | |

2016 MLK Humanitarian Award winners

The College named Christine Bray, Philip Anosike and Jerri Harwell winners of The Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award. The award recognizes individuals and organizations for outstanding service and advocacy toward fulfillment of "The Dream."

Bray is the vice president of collective impact at United Way of Salt Lake, where she leads a team to manage and coordinate all efforts of collective impact. She manages staff, oversees collective-impact investments, basic-needs grants and works to measure, track and report outcomes.

Anosike was originally hired at SLCC as the project corporation coordinator for the Skills Center, now the School of Applied Technology and Technical Specialties. He currently serves as an academic advisor in SLCC Student Services and is an adjunct instructor in the SLCC Communication Department.

Harwell is an associate professor of English at SLCC, where she teaches beginning and advanced composition courses. She is a published author and is on the Faculty Association Executive Board. She has served on numerous other committees for SLCC.

Read about MLK's "Beloved Community," displayed through a sixth-grade photo project. Pg. 26



MLK's *"Beloved Community"* paired kids with cameras



Fikir Teklemedhin searched for and found her photo among the dozens on display. Hers depicted the silhouette of a building — the sun burning above — with mountains in the background and trees in the foreground. She called her father, grandmother and siblings to view her photo, as other classmates darted about looking for and admiring their own photographs.

Teklemedhin, who was born in Ethiopia and lived there until she was 5, captured the image as part of an assignment for sixth-graders at Whittier Elementary School, near SLCC's South City Campus. Students used digital cameras to take photos that portray Martin Luther King Jr.'s notion of "beloved community." In the process, they learned about King's vision for societies to embrace notions of cooperation, unity and connection.

The project was made possible by a \$6,500 grant from the SLCC Division of Government and Community Relations and supported by the SLCC School of

Arts, Communication & Media. Student photos were displayed in an exhibit that opened Feb. 24 at South City Campus.

Before being turned loose with cameras, students wrote about "beloved" on one side of a 3x5 card and "community" on the other. They discussed racism and what they might want to change about their neighborhoods. "They were able to get a really good idea of what 'community' could be and what the photos could look like," says Whitney King Hyans, associate professor of photography at SLCC. She taught the students about photography for the project. "It was cool to see how engaged they were," she says.

The goal is to expand the project, says Richard Scott, dean of the SLCC School of Arts, Communication & Media. The photography project, he believes, combines the humanities and arts as a means to dig deeper into social issues. The arts, he added, should be informative, playful and engrained in the community so

that, even in life's darkest hours, people have something to which they can attach hopes for the future.

Student Esmeralda Sanchez took a photo of her "quiet, peaceful" street, using an in-camera effect that gave areas of light a starry, sparkly look. Josh Virgen, who wants to be a surgeon when he grows up, took a photo of an orange basketball against a backdrop of green grass to depict his love of the sport he plays in his community. Dominik Woolf decided on a tight shot of the word "Cleveland" on a street sign near his house. "You have to check the lighting, how it looks and how it might end up in the camera," Woolf says.

Teklemedhin, whose father had given her a camera and a head start on photography when she was in third grade, wants to be a lawyer someday. "But, depending, I might be a computer programmer," she says. Photography, for now, is just a hobby.

Fieldwork drives girls toward STEM

They found damselflies, leeches and aquatic worms. They measured the oxygen and pH levels in water samples. Some even ventured into mountain streams and onto trails for the first time in their lives. These 20 female students from four middle schools in the Salt Lake Valley participated in WaterGirls, a program to keep girls interested in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) at a time in their lives when they're most likely to lose interest.

The excursion to Big and Little Cottonwood canyons was led by SLCC geosciences Assistant Professor Maura Hahnenberger to teach the girls to conduct hands-on research. She was assisted by volunteer female scientists from SLCC, as well as scientists from the University of Utah and the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center. Hahnenberger received a \$6,500 innovation grant from iUtah that allowed her to supply transportation, equipment and food for the girls as they visited the canyons.

They learned to measure water samples for electrical conductivity and dissolved solids while also collecting and identifying macro-invertebrates found in the streams they visited. "They were really excited about actually taking measurements and understanding what those measurements meant while being out in the environment where so much was going on," Hahnenberger says.

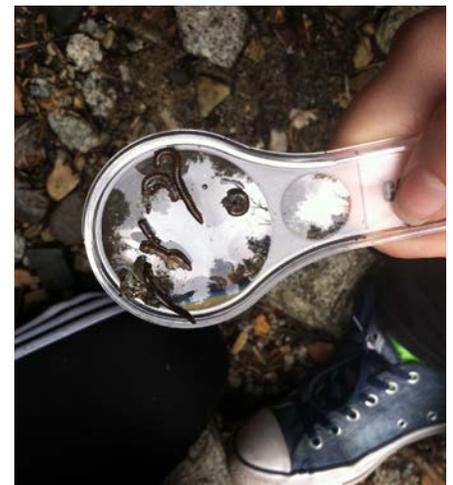
Hahnenberger and volunteers engaged students in analysis and discussion of their findings before requiring them to make presentations. The plan for this year and next is to expand the program to include afterschool activities that focus on the Jordan River and possibly a river in the desert southwest.

Hahnenberger says females coming out of high school might not be as confident or prepared for a STEM pathway because of institutional bias that sets them up to fall behind early in college, and to choose non-STEM paths. She hopes WaterGirls will help change the course of that academic current.



WATERGIRLS, A STEM COLLABORATION:

- Salt Lake Community College
- Salt Lake City School District
- iUtah, (Innovative Urban Transitions and Aridregion Hydro-sustainability)





STUDENTS FIND EDEN IN THE DESERT

The students bundled against the early-morning chill in March, cinched straps on packs and looked down more than 2,000 feet at the desert descent they were about to make into Havasu Canyon on the Havasupai Indian Reservation in northern Arizona. They smiled for a group portrait at the canyon rim and took off, heel-toe, heel-toe to the crunch of rock and dirt underfoot. Anticipation of the spectacular unknown muted conversation about whatever hardships might loom on the strenuous 10-mile hike ahead of them.

Salt Lake Community College students Eliza Filippi, Chandra Carlson, Victor Jaimez and Gabe Moreno volunteered to pilot the trip, one that SLCC Academic Advisor Lee Martinez has logged many times.

As you plan for a trip like this, it helps immensely to have someone like Martinez leading you. He is confident, knowledgeable, prepared, funny, ridiculously fit, adventurous, curious and humble — great qualities in a backcountry leader. He will lead a group on the same trip this fall.

“Havasupai Falls was on my bucket list of places to experience because of pictures I had seen, but experiencing it for myself far surpassed my expectations,” said Soni Adams, associate dean for Health and Lifetime Activities at SLCC. “All parts of the hike and what we saw were epic for me.” Havasupai translated means people of the blue-green water, which appears that way because of lime deposits in the canyon. “The trip was physically hard, but awe inspiring,” Adams adds.



Getting to the trailhead for this Shangri-La in the desert from Salt Lake City is a haul for one day, requiring about 550 miles on the road before reaching Peach Springs and a lodge for the night. Martinez and crew, which included SLCC President Dr. Denece G. Huftalin and other SLCC staff and faculty, took off for the hour-long ride to the trailhead after an early breakfast at the lodge.

“This adventure was everything I expected and more,” says Moreno. “After hiking those 10 sweaty, dusty miles, while carrying a 29-pound pack down from the west rim of the Grand Canyon into Havasupai, we found Eden in the middle of the desert . . . Trips like these are extremely valuable and credit worthy. You not only get to experience the raw beauty of the wilderness, but you also learn things such as leadership, teamwork, survival skills and more.”

The days are filled with awe and wonder at the towering cliffs that cradle a canyon filled with travertine pools of welcoming cool water making its way to the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon below. The nights are for jokes, bonding, learning, camp talk, replenishing calories spent by day and quietly marveling by night at the ribbon of cloudless black sky dotted by shimmering evidence of the infinite ether above.

“On this adventure you’ll get to walk across logs, climb down ladders, hang on to chains for dear life and see the bluest water ever,” says Filippi.



LIFELONG WELLNESS

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE - FALL 2016

- Four-day, three-night trip to Havasu Canyon
- One-credit class in Health and Lifetime Activities, HLAC 1520
- Preparation includes instruction on the backcountry, and writing assignments
- Students will carry packs of 25-35 pounds
- Last 2 miles is a grueling 2,000-foot elevation gain





Heroes class touts healthy living to thousands of kids

JADE TIMOTHY ENROLLED at Salt Lake Community College for two reasons: to play volleyball with one of the top NJCAA institutions and to complete her general education courses before transferring to a four-year school. But then a teammate told her about the class “Know Greater Heroes” and how it would rip her out of her comfort zone and change her as a person.

“I thought of myself as a confident person already,” says Timothy, 19, a 6-foot tall freshman from Vernal, Utah. “But now, looking back, I realize how much confidence I’ve gained from just my first semester of attending this class.”

Assemblies at elementary schools throughout the Salt Lake Valley begin with loud music, big smiles and high fives as students enter gymnasiums filled with fit, energetic athletes from SLCC. The athletes get the students moving and engaged with lots of dancing. They offer skits, demonstrations and speeches designed to encourage healthy lifestyles and good dietary choices and to equip students with the knowledge and verbal skills to stay away from drugs and alcohol. Throughout the 2015–2016 school year, the athletes appeared in front of more than 16,000 students and hundreds of teachers at about 25 schools.

The for-credit “Know Greater Heroes” class is billed as a leadership program that gives student athletes the opportunity to engage in hands-on leadership training. Ultimately, it changes lives. “I have had several past

heroes return and express what a growth opportunity that ‘Heroes’ provides,” says Derek Waddoups, SLCC baseball assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. “We watch our student athletes become more comfortable and, long-term, more confident in their own abilities to have a positive impact in their families, communities and most importantly in their own lives,” Waddoups says.

Basketball player Conner Toolson, 21, won his way into hearts and minds at Redwood Elementary School late last fall as he sang to the kids. “Having to sing a solo for Heroes was absolutely terrifying for me the first time. But I feel a lot more comfortable now and would sing in front of other people,” says Toolson, who is originally from Spain and hopes to play professional basketball in Europe after college.

At one assembly, Toolson was next to a little girl and discussion turned to the subject of staying off drugs. “She leaned over to me and told me her birth parents were both on drugs and couldn’t take care of her, so she was adopted,” Toolson says. That made him realize the importance of the class. “It has made it more of a focus to help someone every day,” he says.



Jade Timothy



Rep. Angela Romero, left, and SLCC student and legislative intern Andrea Valverde in the Utah Capitol.

After internship, student sees future in public office

THE SCENE IS VIVID in her memory: She's a little girl trying to explain in perfect English to a middle school principal why she didn't need to be in ESL classes. At the same time, she's translating to her mother in Spanish that her new school is woefully misjudging her academic abilities. Now at age 30, Andrea Valverde can't hold back tears remembering what it was like to be put in a position that was intimidating and terrifying.

That experience became a motivating factor in her academic life, and her determination propelled her to be the first Salt Lake Community College paid student intern through the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel in the Utah Legislature. Valverde interned with Reps. Angela Romero and Susan Duckworth for the 2016 legislative session.

She managed schedules, attended meetings and events, helped with social media, provided updates on bills and prepared for media interviews. She attended community councils, town hall meetings, galas and functions at the Capitol. She participated in the Martha Hughes Cannon Caucus, composed of former and current female legislators. "It's a bipartisan group that inspires other women who want to participate in state politics," Valverde says.

The first woman who inspired Valverde was her mother, Alba, who moved from Guatemala City to California in search of a better life. Her father, Mario, crossed the border on foot from Mexico, looking for work. The pair met in a church in Los Angeles. The family moved from California to Utah in 2000, when Valverde was in ninth grade.

Valverde had "really bad grades" in her first attempt at college, taking general studies courses. She worked in a secretarial job for 10 years, and then a brief period at a nonprofit agency. She realized she needed a career plan and her older sister, Rebecca, signed her up last fall for her first classes at SLCC, where a political science instructor recommended her for the internship.

Valverde is attentive and a stickler for detail, says Rep. Duckworth. "She has been willing and ready to research and does an excellent job and goes beyond what is expected."

Valverde's internship showed her that one person can make a difference in government. "This experience has also made me rethink what I want to do, and I can say that now those plans may include something in public office or community council," she says.



2016
DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNI

GERARD FORD CRAFT



TO SAY THAT GERARD CRAFT

has found success as a chef and businessman would be an understatement. He received Food & Wine's Best New Chef and Innovator of the Year awards. He was one of *Inc.* magazine's Star Entrepreneurs Under 30. And he won the James Beard Foundation Best Chef: Midwest award.

In 2005, at the age of 25, he opened the restaurant Niche in Missouri and has since extended his offerings as part of Niche Food Group in St. Louis to include Taste by Niche, Brasserie by Niche, Pastaria and Porano Pasta, and a second Pastaria is expected to open in Nashville this summer. His success has grown from an addiction to the restaurant life he developed while he was a

snowboard photographer in Salt Lake City. Before opening his first restaurant in a rehabilitated building in Benton Park, St. Louis, he cooked at Bistro Toujours in Park City; Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles; and Ryland Inn in New Jersey.

Craft continues to build his culinary niche on a foundation that took shape at Salt Lake Community College's Culinary Institute at the Miller Campus. "In that kitchen is where I learned the building blocks of cooking, and without them I wouldn't be where I am today," Craft says.

Craft has carved out a reputation for innovative interpretations of humble Missouri ingredients that he sources from local farmers. The newer Porano Pasta is billed as a

fast-casual restaurant, with plans for two locations in the St. Louis area. Using his social media savvy, Craft has racked up about 10,000 followers on Twitter and more than 5,000 followers on Instagram. He's also well liked on Facebook and Pinterest.

In 2010, Craft told *St. Louis* magazine, "Growing up, all I wanted to do was to own a business and be a businessman." In that article, he talks about beginning his cooking career at ski resorts. As an impulsive 25-year-old, he made the leap to Missouri after seeing that "something good was happening" as a lot of young owner-chefs were starting businesses there. He now lives in St. Louis with his wife, Susan, and their two daughters.



2016
DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNI

MARISA DAWN EGBERT



MARISA DAWN EGBERT discovered her love for civil engineering during a pre-engineering class at Salt Lake Community College, where she attended with an athletics scholarship and played on the women's basketball team. Her focus at SLCC was on STEM-related (science, technology, engineering and math) courses. She transferred to Utah State University and earned a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering.

In 2000, Egbert became state coordinator for MATHCOUNTS in Utah and continues to lead the program, which annually benefits about 500 middle school students and more than 60 participating schools statewide. Over 5,000 Utah students have participated in MATHCOUNTS, a national nonprofit foundation that strives to engage students of all ability and interest levels in fun, challenging

math programs to expand their academic and professional opportunities.

Over the past decade, her relationship with SLCC has come full circle through her work with MATHCOUNTS as dozens of SLCC students, faculty and staff have volunteered to help her run MATHCOUNTS competitions every February and March on the SLCC Taylorsville Redwood Campus.

"I am grateful for my STEM education at SLCC," Egbert says. "I had no trouble transitioning seamlessly to Utah State with my SLCC education. I found a quality STEM education at SLCC, where I love bringing MATHCOUNTS every year. I'm proud that I got my start at SLCC, and I want young students participating in MATHCOUNTS and who are interested in STEM subjects to be

excited about what SLCC has to offer in those areas."

Egbert is a registered professional engineer in Utah and has worked for the Utah State Division of Water Resources for the past 11 years. Prior to working for the state, Egbert worked in the geotechnical engineering field in Florida for several years.

She is a project manager in the Division's Development Branch. The Branch provides financial assistance for water-related projects throughout Utah. She also leads the Bear River Development Feasibility Study, planning for the future water needs of Utah. Egbert has served on the Executive Committee of the Utah Section of the American Water Resources Association for the past 10 years, including the past eight as secretary/treasurer.

Former SLCC student receives Churchill Scholarship

MACKENZIE SIMPER received the prestigious Churchill Scholarship to study at the University of Cambridge. Simper received two associate degrees in math and biology from Salt Lake Community College in 2014 at the age of 15.



She has since transferred to the University of Utah, where she is studying mathematics. She was one of 15 students in the nation to receive the

scholarship and the first University of Utah student to win the award.

In her application to become an SLCC Graduate of Excellence, Simper wrote, “Some might say that my greatest accomplishment has been starting college at such a young age. Now 15, I am graduating with two associate degrees. While I do think this is pretty cool, I don’t think my age should define me. I don’t tell professors my age because I don’t want that to be the factor that distinguishes me — I prefer to stand out because of my performance. When someone does

find out and asks me why I chose to start early, I respond with a simple answer: ‘I’m motivated.’”

The scholarship was established in 1963 at the request of Sir Winston Churchill and provides students with the opportunity to earn a master’s degree in one year at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. Since leaving SLCC, Simper also won the 26th annual Association for Women in Mathematics Alice T. Schafer Prize for Excellence in Mathematics and the U of U Mathematics Department’s Calvin Wilcox Scholarship.

WE WANT TO SHARE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS.

Tell us in a few brief sentences what you’ve done after leaving Salt Lake Community College. For example, you may have gained a bachelor’s degree, or landed a great job. You may be running your own business. Perhaps you’ve received an award or recognition in your field or community. We want to know your successes, so we can tell the world through *SLCC Magazine*.

To share your accomplishments, email a few brief sentences to david.troester@slcc.edu

Please include the years you attended SLCC and any degrees or certificates you earned from the College. You may include a photo with your email.



HOLLYWOOD COMES TO SOUTH CITY



SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE worked closely with the Sundance Institute to expand opportunities during the Sundance Film Festival. Hundreds of students benefited from instruction by filmmakers and industry professionals at South City Campus. The Grand Theatre was the second-largest venue to screen Sundance films, introducing thousands of community members to SLCC and South City for the first time.



Filmmakers Adam Davies and Dianne Bellino instructed students on the creative and narrative aspects of their short film, "The Itching."



Adam Leipzig, executive producer of 30 films, including "Dead Poets Society" and "Honey I Shrunk the Kids," taught the Filmmaking in Action Master Class during the festival.



Glenn Kiser, director of The Dolby Institute, instructed students in the finer points of using sound techniques to tell a story.

SUNDANCE AT THE GRAND THEATRE

- 18 films screened, including 10 premiers
- An estimated 17,000 people attended screenings
- 138 people volunteered at The Grand
- The historic theater seats 1,100

COMMENCEMENT





COMMENCEMENT 2016

More than 4,100 students graduated from Salt Lake Community College in May. It's the second-largest graduating class in the College's history, and family and friends filled the Maverik Center in West Valley City to recognize and cheer students' accomplishments during SLCC's spring commencement.

Global business leader Gretchen McClain gave the keynote address and told graduates to persevere in life. "It's about having a deep gut belief in everything you are capable of and the courage not to let any naysayers or your nerves get in the way," said McClain, former NASA chief director of the International Space Station. "It's about knowing the difference between confidence and overconfidence and understanding that being open to learning at every phase of your life is a strength."

More than half of the 2016 graduates, or 2,130, earned associate's degrees in general studies and nearly 200 earned certificates from the College's School of Applied Technology and Technical Specialties. More than 3,000 graduates received Associate of Science degrees.

SLCC President Dr. Denece G. Huftalin compared students' experiences to the arc of a story. "This day marks the formal ending to this particular story in your life," Huftalin said. "My hope for you today is that you take some time to reflect on this particular story arc, to realize the changes that have occurred in you during your time here and to celebrate them."

2016 GRADUATES OF EXCELLENCE

This prestigious distinction recognizes hard work, commitment and selflessness. One student is selected from each school and General Studies. 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.



ASHLEY BAKER
General Studies
General Studies major



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



CATARINA GRANUCCI
School of Applied Technology
and Technical Specialties
Criminal Justice major



JOELLE MERRIMAN
School of Health Sciences
Health Sciences major



FABRYNN SOONALOTE
School of Business
Business/General Studies major



TRUNG THAM
School of Arts,
Communication and Media
Fashion Design major



VANESSA WILKINS
School of Humanities and
Social Sciences
Psychology major

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.



JANE DREXLER

Jane Drexler's students call her funny, clever and someone who loves what she does, and colleagues say she's dynamic and energetic. Drexler has taught philosophy full time at the college level for the past 12 years, including nine at SLCC. She believes studying philosophy can help students take a holistic perspective, and help them take part in engaged thinking and problem-solving. Drexler is the 2010 winner of the national Blackboard Exemplary Course Award.



MEQUETTE SORENSEN

Mequette Sorensen became a first-generation college graduate largely because of the influence of her grandfather, a migrant worker from Mexico who admonished her not to become a laborer like him and to instead get an education. She was a social-work practitioner when an adjunct professor in the field helped her realize a passion for teaching. In June 2016, Sorensen will celebrate teaching for 18 years at Salt Lake Community College, including 12 as full-time faculty.



RON CARPENTER

As an adjunct English instructor at Salt Lake Community College since 2012, Ron Carpenter relies on Hopi values of autonomy, balance and kindness for his teaching philosophy. His goal is to help students improve their rhetorical and critical-thinking skills as future leaders. Students often credit Carpenter with helping them to develop an appreciation for service. One student wrote about Carpenter, "I got involved with service learning and found a whole new way of learning."

HONORARY DOCTORATES BESTOWED

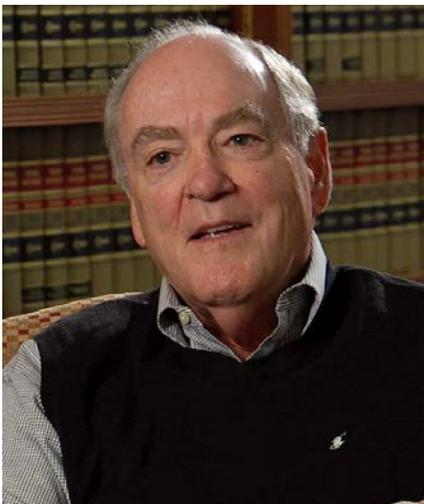
Salt Lake Community College awards honorary doctorates to two individuals each year for longstanding service to the community and education. These individuals are distinguished in their fields and are dedicated and hard-working supporters of Salt Lake Community College. They have given their time and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



BARBARA L. TANNER

Barbara Lindquist Tanner is a community leader, humanitarian, human rights activist and philanthropist. Growing up in Ogden, her father developed his business while her mother was a community leader. She attended Ogden High School, Weber College and then transferred to the University of Utah. At the University of Utah, Tanner was on the debate team, and during one event her opponent was Norman Tanner. They were a well-matched team even when they were on opposite sides of a debate. Barbara and Norman were married for 77 years and raised four children; Clark (deceased), Susan, Deon and Deb. As a

family, they cultivated a concern for community, the environment and humanity. Tanner shared her leadership talents in organizing such agencies as Utah Girls Village (now Utah Youth Village) and established and participated in musical groups such as the Utah Symphony and the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition. In 2006, she established the Barbara L. and Norman C. Tanner Center for Nonviolent Human Rights Advocacy. She also has been a strong supporter of hundreds of Salt Lake Community College students through scholarship programs she has established.



STANLEY B. PARRISH

Stanley B. Parrish, currently the president and CEO of the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce, began his career in the wholesale floor covering business at Midwest Floor Covering Inc., where he worked for 21 years, seven as the president and CEO. Parrish worked five years as the chief of staff for Sen. Orrin Hatch and was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to serve as the associate deputy administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Upon his return to Utah, Parrish served as the Utah governor's executive director of Community

and Economic Development and served for several years on the SLCC Board of Trustees. He was president of the PPI Group, president of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce and president and CEO of Waterware, Inc. Parrish then became the owner of the Mighty Distribution Center and Parandco. A long-time friend of the College, Parrish has helped SLCC by supporting philanthropic efforts such as the annual golf tournament. He and his wife Joyce live in Salt Lake City and have six children and 17 grandchildren.



GRADUATION STATS 2016

TOP 20 Most Popular Degrees/Majors



- 2,130** General Studies
- 241** Business
- 232** Nursing
- 139** Computer Science and Information Systems
- 118** Computer Science Fundamentals
- 104** Psychology
- 82** Software Development
- 80** Health Sciences
- 75** Criminal Justice
- 60** General Education
- 56** Education
- 41** Web Programming and Development
- 37** Paralegal Training
- 35** Social Work
- 32** Network Routing and Switching
- 31** Engineering/Mechanical
- 31** Surgical Technician
- 30** Network and System Administration
- 29** Sociology
- 28** Culinary Arts

Total graduates



4,125



599 High Honors

(cumulative GPA 3.8 or higher)

992 Honors

(cumulative GPA 3.5 - 3.79)

Age Range



16 Youngest graduate

67 Oldest graduate

Number of Degrees



- 3,007** Associate of Science
- 723** Associate of Applied Science
- 412** Certificate of Proficiency
- 281** Certificate of Completion
- 134** Associate of Arts
- 64** Associate of Pre-Engineering
- 4** Diplomas
- 197** SAT Certificates

2016 SLCC graduate Tianna Ovard





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