



SCC – A great college to work for ...

Editor's Note: The following is from a blog post on Aug. 10, 2015, by Ron Chesbrough, Ph.D. and SCC president. It can be found online at stchas.edu/blogs.

Every year the Chronicle of Higher Education undertakes its Great Colleges to Work For survey. We have participated in the survey over the past several years and were selected as a Great College to Work For in 2014.

The survey measures employee responses in 15 categories or characteristics of the institution, from job satisfaction and teaching environment to communication, collaboration and fairness. In 2015, 365 surveys were distributed and 153 completed for a response rate of 42 percent.

With the recent release of 2015 survey results, we learned that we were not selected for that honor and recognition this time around. Far from discouraging results, however, the results of the 2015 survey give us much to be proud of.

Some of the highlights include:

SCC's results improved in 14 of the 15 categories measured by the survey, falling

slightly in the one category we were selected for in 2014 (Facilities dropped from an 84 percent 'Very Good to Excellent' rating to 81 percent).

In 2014, SCC's results included ratings of 'Fair to Mediocre' in six categories, 'Good' in six categories, and only three 'Very Good to Excellent' ratings. In 2015, no rating fell below 'Good' and seven of 15 ratings were in the 'Very Good to Excellent' range.

Gaining the greatest ground in the 2015 results were ratings in communication, collaboration, fairness, respect and appreciation, with significant gains made also in job satisfaction, teaching environment and shared governance.

As we get set to begin another exciting and promising academic year it is useful to pause for just a moment to appreciate the positive environment in which we work, learn, and teach.

Thank you to everyone for making it possible to do our work in such a positive environment and for extending this environment to all those whom we serve. I look forward to another great school year!



Ron Chesbrough, Ph.D.
SCC president

STUDENT SUCCESS



Chris Ryan, an SCC alum, was one of several students who shared their SCC experience with faculty and staff at one of three Opening Convocation sessions held Aug. 13-14.

After finding his passion at SCC, alum Chris Ryan reaps rewards in film production

After graduating from University of Missouri with a bachelor's degree in business and taking a job in the field, Chris Ryan found his days consumed by work he didn't love.

"I value doing things that are meaningful. We spend too much time working to not make it count," Chris said. "I truly believe in the pursuit of passion."

Chris felt compelled to work in a more creative environment, so he started taking photography classes at SCC. Thanks to the general education credits from his business degree, he earned an associate degree in only a year.

He said he enjoyed studying photography so much at SCC that he decided to transfer to Ringling College of Art and Design where he went on to receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

Chris started working in St. Louis for his professional mentor Greg Kiger shortly after graduation. "He saw my potential," he said. "Sometimes creative people aren't knowledgeable on the business side of things, but I didn't have that limitation because of my previous experience."

MARK THE CALENDAR ...

Aug. 18 – *Clybourne Park* auditions | 7 p.m. | FAB

Aug. 19 – Magician Josh McVicar | noon | SC

Aug. 24-Sept. 18 – New Works by Michael Quintero and SCC Invitational | FAB

Aug. 27 – Back-to-School BINGO | 11:30 a.m. | SC

Aug. 28 – Outdoor Summer Movie Series:

Guardians of the Galaxy | Sundown | TECH lawn

Aug. 31-Sept. 4 – What's Your Goal? Wall | SSB

Sept. 9-10 – Fall Fun Blitz | Campus Plaza

Sept. 13 – Cougar Car Show | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Red Parking Lot

Sept. 14-17 – Democracy Days | Sept. 14-17 |

SSB Auditorium and SC 205

Sept. 18 – Bonfire | 7:30-10 p.m. | SSB by the

Purple Parking Lot

Sept. 21 – Test Success Workshop | noon | SC PDR

Over time, Greg and Chris partnered as co-creative directors to establish Once Films, a production studio that creates documentary films. He also works as an adjunct faculty member at SCC.

Though spare time is limited for Chris, he makes time to volunteer at Team Rubicon by responding to international and domestic disasters. Helping those impacted by disasters is his passion, because he has family who lost their house in Katrina. He is search-and-rescue certified and a licensed paramedic, and he uses his creative talents during disasters to document the event.

"I have a hobby for a real job and do real jobs for a hobby," said Chris. "The ball has bounced in my favor more times than one. I just hope to continue do work that makes me and those I work with proud."

Of all Chris' accomplishments, he says his biggest success has been the St. Louis Spotlight Series, a celebration of St. Louis small businesses that exude authentic character and a passion for their craft. The series won multiple awards, including a Mid-American EMMY.

View Chris' portfolio at [chrisryan.photography](#).



Foundation debuts new annual report

To undergo a change in form, appearance or character.

While that's one definition of Transform, it speaks not only to the new name of the SCC Foundation's Annual Report, but it also conveys the core mission of the non-profit fundraising arm of the college.

The revamped and enhanced report will appear in the mailboxes of donors, board members and community leaders in the coming weeks. The summer 2015 report includes stories that demonstrate the impact of scholarships and campus enhancements that are made possible through gifts to the Foundation.

For a copy, contact the SCC Foundation at 636-922-8437, or visit tinyurl.com/orv2l62.

SCC students recognized by Missouri Campus Compact

St. Charles Community College students Melissa Sigillito and Kimberly Davis received recognition for achieving the Community Contributor and Community Changer distinction, respectively, this spring as part of the Semester of Service Program established by Missouri Campus Compact.

"We are proud to recognize Ms. Sigillito and Ms. Davis for their initiative to electively engage in volunteer service and expand her knowledge of civic and social responsibility," said Tabitha Underwood, Ph.D., executive director of Missouri Campus Compact.

Missouri Campus Compact seeks to educate students in civic and social responsibility by encouraging them to give their time and talents in service to the public good. The Semester of Service Program provides a venue to showcase and celebrate student achievement in community engagement. "Each year we are inspired by the students' willingness to give their time and talents to impact their communities," Underwood said.

Sigillito completed a total of 47 hours of volunteer service during the Spring 2015 Semester. She volunteered her hours of service



Kimberly Davis
Community Changer



Melissa Sigillito
Community Contributor

at the Head Start Youth in Need organization in Wentzville, Mo.

Davis completed a total of 83 hours of volunteer service during the semester. She volunteered her time tutoring and teaching at the Immigrant Refugee Women's Program in St. Louis.

"Each year we are inspired by the students' willingness to give their time and talents to impact their communities," Underwood said.

For more about Missouri Campus Compact, visit missouricompact.missouristate.edu.



Fall students receive warm welcome

A small army of helpers dressed in orange took to campus Aug. 17-18 to greet and guide students as the fall semester kicked off.

Faculty and staff could be found at entrances, hallways and throughout the campus complete with maps and encouraging greetings and directions. The effort is the brainchild of the Signage Task Force, a group that met last year in search of improvements to way finding on campus.

"I'm so excited we are providing this event for new students," said Kati Karleskint, SCC admissions counselor. "It shows that we care, and it sets a good tone for the semester."



Interaction was hallmark of new fall Convocation sessions for faculty, staff

Food, text polls, word clouds and noisemakers were a few of the fun features of SCC's fall Convocation. The familiar All-College Day held the Tuesday following Labor Day transitioned into a new format that took place Aug. 13-14 in the SSB Auditorium.

Faculty and staff chose one of three sessions to attend with presentations by the college president and vice presidents on topics like finances, the Missouri Community College Association, planning, student success, HR updates and progress on the new SCC website.

"The students and alums who shared their stories really put into context the work we do every day," said Brynne Cramer, PR coordinator.