



ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – June 2017



(LEFT) – Barbara Kavalier, Ph.D., SCC president, addresses the crowd at her first commencement exercise as college president. (RIGHT) – Dr. Kavalier greets and congratulates a Class of 2017 graduate at the college's 29th annual commencement exercises on May 13.

SCC holds 29th annual commencement exercises

Graduates gathered to celebrate their achievements at St. Charles Community College on May 13 for the college's commencement exercises.

In his keynote address, Greg Prestemon, EDC Business and Community Partners of St. Charles County president and CEO, told graduates, "Wherever your journey takes you after today, know that some of the most talented, successful people I know graduated from this school or other community colleges."

He went on to provide the graduates with three qualities he sees in successful people – they are willing to learn new things, they finish things, and they believe they control their own destiny. Each of which Prestemon encouraged graduates to strive to achieve.

Also addressing a crowd of an estimated 1,600 graduates, faculty, relatives and friends

was student representative Kayley Collins. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA, is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and plans to transfer to a four-year institution to earn an accounting degree. She hopes to one day start a non-profit organization.

In her address, Collins tasked her classmates to become lifelong learners. "While learning is easy to cultivate on a college campus, it shouldn't stop here," Collins said. "Instead, may we strive to be active members of our community, seeking out growth and development."

She ended her speech by sharing her biggest hope for her fellow graduates – that their lives are "rich with breathtaking experiences, bold decisions and abounding love."

Of the 264 graduates who received honors distinctions, 28 received Highest Honors, 82

received High Honors and 114 received Honors distinctions.

During the commencement ceremony, the Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Ben Waggoner, CFP, a certified financial planner.

Presiding over the commencement ceremony was Barbara Kavalier, Ph.D., SCC president. Jean Ehlmann, president of the SCC Board of Trustees, and John Bookstaver, Ph.D., vice president for academic and student affairs, assisted with the conferring of degrees and certificates. The SCC Concert Band, directed by James A. Martin, and the SCC Singers, Show Choir and Chamber Choir, directed by Becky Thorn, provided music. The Commencement Marshal was Beth Michael-Smith, assistant professor of chemistry and chair of the Chemistry Department. Ushers included college staff, student organizations members and cadets from the Eastern Missouri Police Academy.

"I'd like SCC to continue doing what they've been doing."

CEO, president of EDC delivers 2017 commencement address

SCC's 2017 commencement keynote speaker Greg Prestemon, O'Fallon resident for more than 24 years, knows a thing or two about St. Charles County's workforce.

As the chief executive officer and president of the EDC Business and Community Partners of St. Charles County, Prestemon oversees business incubation, small business finance and marketing programs – all of which have been recognized at regional, state and national levels in addition to helping local businesses grow.

"When a company is looking to grow or expand, the first question they ask is about the workforce," Prestemon said. "Community colleges are in that perfect position to help people get prepared for good jobs."

He has known all four presidents at St. Charles Community College and works alongside the institution closely.

"I'd like SCC to continue doing what they've been doing. The partnerships that the community college has with businesses have already born fruit, and I'd like to see more of the same," he said.



Greg Prestemon, EDC Business and Community Partners of St. Charles County president and CEO, addresses the crowd at the college's 29th commencement on May 13.

According to Prestemon, the communication between higher education and the business community has to be spot-on at all times. SCC impacts businesses related to the EDC by helping them find qualified, productive, talented workers.

When asked what he thinks has changed most about SCC throughout the years, he said the energy level continues to rise.

"Community college is a key ingredient of the success of a local economy," he said.



Ben Waggoner (SCC Class of '99) receives 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award

Like many first-year college students, SCC's 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award winner Ben Waggoner was undecided in his career path right after high school but knew going to SCC would allow him the flexibility to begin classes while working full-time. As an added bonus, he could continue pursuing his love of baseball by walking on to the team at SCC.

When Waggoner discovered his passion for the field of financial planning, he completed his Associate of Arts degree in 1999 and transitioned into his new career. His first job at Edward Jones gave him access to the professional development opportunities he needed to help get his own business started and growing.

It wasn't long until his entrepreneurial spirit kicked in. Using established processes to build personalized strategies, he works to

understand what is most important to his clients, then partners with them to make sure they stay on track.

In 2007, Waggoner became a Certified Financial Planner™ professional. It took commitment and discipline to fulfill the requirements for the desired industry designation while balancing his responsibilities at work and with his growing family.

He moved his business to New Melle, Mo., in 2014, and remains excited about his future with Edward Jones. The friendliness of the small town drew him in, and he soon became a leader in the community, where he served as president of the New Melle Chamber of Commerce.

Waggoner and his wife Jennifer live in Wentzville and are raising four children, ages 12, 8, 5 and 3.



Ben Waggoner, a certified financial planner and 2017 Distinguished Alumni recipient, was honored at the college's 29th commencement on May 13.

High School Equivalency, ESL students honored at Adult Education and Literacy Recognition Ceremony

For Justin Mettlin, passing the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) and earning his Certified Logistics Technician certificate meant showing his children that hard work and determination pay off and that education is important. "They have gotten the chance to see me accomplish something difficult and saw that I didn't give up," Mettlin said. "I'm very happy to show them that hard work leads to success."

On Thursday, June 8, Mettlin was honored with 83 other students during a recognition ceremony for the Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) Program at SCC. Some 47 students were recognized for receiving their High School Equivalency credential.

As for Mettlin's future, the door is wide open. "I'm currently searching for an entry-level supervisor position to put my newfound knowledge to work," he said. "I plan on going for my associate degree next."

Thirty-one students were acknowledged for their achievement, improvement and attendance in the English as a Second Language



Students were honored for their achievement at the 2017 Adult Education & Literacy (AEL) recognition ceremony on June 8 at SCC.

(ESL) Program. One student was honored for becoming a U.S. citizen: Ashwag Alyafai from Yemen. Fifteen students received the Attendance Award for 250 or more hours of class attendance. Thirteen students received the Continuous Improvement Award for outstanding commitment to learning a new language, and five students received the Special Achievement Award for going far beyond the expected commitment to attendance and learning.

During the 2016-17 school year, 422 students attended high-school-equivalency preparation classes, and 104 SCC students received their HSE credentials. Four hundred

and twenty-three SCC students from 55 countries took part in the ESL Program. Five students were honored for receiving their Certified Logistics Technician workforce certificate, including Mettlin.

The Adult Education and Literacy Program at St. Charles Community College teaches basic reading, math and writing skills to prepare people to take the HiSET (formerly GED) tests and to assist non-native speakers in gaining English proficiency. The program offers free day and evening classes in four counties; St. Charles, Warren, Lincoln and Pike.

Learn more about the HiSET at biset.ets.org. For more information about the AEL program at SCC, call 636-922-8411 or visit stchas.edu/acl.

MARK THE CALENDAR

SOAR – Student Orientation, Advising and Registration Event
Friday, June 30 | 9 a.m.-noon | Administration Building

The college will be closed Monday-Tuesday, July 3-4, in observance of Independence Day.

SOAR – Student Orientation, Advising and Registration Event
Friday, July 7 | 9 a.m.-noon | Administration Building

SOAR – Student Orientation, Advising and Registration Event
Saturday, July 15 | 9 a.m.-noon | Administration Building

Food Truck Frolic & Family Movie Night | Friday, July 21 | 5-10 p.m.
SCC Campus (Rain site: SCC College Center)

Center Stage Theatre Performance of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* | July 26-July 30 | FAB theater

For a complete list of upcoming events and academic dates and deadlines, visit stchas.edu/calendar.



Dinwiddie becomes first SCC student to lead Pledge of Allegiance at commencement

SCC graduate Olivia Dinwiddie led the Pledge of Allegiance as part of the college's 2017 commencement exercises. She is the first student to do so in the history of SCC graduation ceremonies. During her time at SCC, Dinwiddie served as the Student Government president and represented the college as a student blogger.



Student veterans proudly display medals with cap and gown

Following the college's first-ever medaling ceremony on May 8, graduating veterans showcased their achievements at commencement on May 13 by proudly displaying their medals on their graduation attire.