

# ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – June 2018



## Commissioner of Higher Education asks graduates to move forward with “grit and grace” at SCC’s 30th commencement exercises



Zora Mulligan, Missouri’s commissioner of higher education, addresses the crowd at the college’s 30th commencement.

Mulligan encouraged the graduates to strive to go forward with “grace and grit.”

Of the 241 graduates who received honors distinctions, 45 received Highest Honors, 91 received High Honors and 105 received Honors distinctions.

At the commencement ceremony, the Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Steven Thomas, a decorated military veteran of the United States Navy and director of advanced systems and manager of business development for Ball Aerospace and Technologies.

Presiding over the commencement ceremony was Barbara Kavalier, Ph.D., SCC president. Pamela Cilek, president of the SCC Board of Trustees. John Bookstaver, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and enrollment management, assisted with the conferring of degrees and certificates. The SCC Concert Band, directed by James A. Martin, and the SCC Singers and Chamber Choir, directed by Becky Thorn, provided music. The Commencement Marshal was Mara Vorachek-Warren, Ph.D., interim dean of arts, humanities and social sciences.



Barbara Kavalier, Ph.D., SCC president, congratulates students at the college’s 30th commencement on May 12.

An estimated 1,600 graduates, faculty, relatives and friends gathered to celebrate students’ achievements at St. Charles Community College on May 12 for the college’s 30th annual commencement exercises.

In her keynote address, Zora Mulligan, Missouri’s commissioner of higher education, told graduates, “You’ve already shown others that working hard and overcoming challenges can be done. Keep it up. In your work life, in your family life, in your community, keep showing people that, with hard work and determination, you can beat the odds.”

## Student speaker give graduates call to action

Student speaker Darrin Wilson Green addressed the crowd of fellow graduates. In his address, Green spoke of progress “We have all taken a step toward our goals,” Green said. “We have all moved in the direction of accomplishment. The dreams that we dream now become a little less fantasy and

a little more reality. The hopes that we pursue have become a little more secure. Our ideas are beginning to materialize.”

He ended his speech with a call to action to his fellow graduates – “I know what it is that I am pursuing. Do you? It is for you to determine.”

Green graduated with a 4.0 GPA and will be attending the University of Missouri–St. Louis in the fall to study philosophy.





## By the numbers: 80 honored at Adult Education and Literacy Recognition Ceremony

On Thursday, June 7, 80 students were honored during a recognition ceremony for the Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program at SCC. Some 40 students were recognized for receiving their High School Equivalency credential.

Thirty-three students were acknowledged for their achievement, improvement and attendance in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program. One student was honored for becoming a U.S. citizen: Myle Brooks from Vietnam. Fourteen students received the Attendance Award for 220 or more hours of class attendance. Fourteen 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 2017-18 school year, 387 students attended high-school-equivalency preparation classes, and nearly 100 SCC students received their HSE credentials. Four hundred and thirty-five SCC students from 57 countries took part in the ESL program. Three students were honored for receiving their Certified Logistics Technician workforce certificate. Four students were honored for earning their Certified Nursing Assistant credential.



### MARK THE CALENDAR

#### Food Truck Frolic and Family Movie Night

Friday, June 22 | 5-8:30 p.m. | Red Parking Lot/  
Technology Building lawn

**Campus is closed Wednesday, July 4, in honor of Independence Day.**

#### Continuing Education Art Extravaganza

July 16-Aug. 2 | FAB gallery



### SCC names new academic dean

Mara Vorachek-Warren, Ph.D., has accepted the position of dean for the Division of Arts, Humanities

and Social Science. Vorachek-Warren previously served SCC as an associate professor of chemistry and chair of the Professional Development Group. "Dr. Vorachek-Warren brings great ability in problem solving as well as much strength and integrity to this position. She will do a marvelous job of leading and representing her division as we move the college forward," said John Bookstaver, Ph.D., SCC vice president for academic affairs and enrollment management. Vorachek-Warren holds a doctorate (biochemistry) from Duke University.