



St. Charles Community College Continues to Strengthen University Partnerships



Lindenwood University (LU) and St. Charles Community College (SCC) are coming together to create a smoother and more seamless transfer process for students.

In October, LU President Dr. John Porter and SCC President Dr. Barbara Kavalier signed a Memorandum of Agreement, strengthening the relationship between the two institutions and expanding the number of transferable courses.

“This is a great opportunity for SCC students to continue their education right here in

St. Charles County,” said Dr. Kavalier. “By combining the resources of our institutions, students will benefit from a much smoother transition process.”

“We are thrilled to enter into this meaningful agreement with St. Charles Community College,” said Dr. John Porter, Lindenwood University president. “This will open doors for excellent students in our community and enrich both campuses in many ways.”

The agreement will develop dual admissions and reverse transfer processes between LU and SCC and ensure transferability of courses within students’ degree programs. Additionally, LU has provided special tuition rates for SCC graduates with up to \$12,000 in scholarships.

Meanwhile, on Dec. 10, a historic agreement will be signed between Harris Stowe State Un support enhanced admissions and transfer opportunities for students.

Rex McKanry Honored With Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award



Rex McKanry has demonstrated his passion for teaching and mentoring students since starting at St. Charles Community College eight years ago, and it’s why he was named the 2020 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award winner at SCC. The program annually recognizes educators in the St. Louis metropolitan area – from kindergarten teachers to college professors – who are examples of excellence in their field.

“Rex’s teaching philosophy is part of why he is such an excellent professor,” explained Dr. Holly Martin, SCC vice president for academic affairs

“He believes his students learn best in an environment that allows them to discover new ideas and control their own learning. He designs his curriculum around this concept.”

McKanry is known as someone who goes above and beyond inside the classroom, providing real-world examples in his curriculum, counseling students in career choices and providing one-on-one instruction to students.

“He also led an initiative to design and implement new degree programs for transfer students, as well as designing a 24-week

accelerated certificate program in computer programming,” explained Dr. Martin. “Additionally, he implemented a student organization for computer programming and IT job fair for students and alumni.”

Outside of his contributions at SCC, McKanry serves as an instructor for Hour of Code for Workforce Development of St. Charles County and mentors for Hack4Hope, which aims to create inroads to innovative careers for under-served youth in the St. Louis Gateway area.



Dr. Monica Hall-Woods,
Professor of Biology



Tim Davison,
Director of Network Computing

SCC Faculty, Staff Honored With MCCA Awards

St. Charles Community College celebrated the achievements of two individuals recognized by the Missouri Community College Association in 2020.

At the annual MCCA Awards ceremony, held virtually this year, Dr. Monica Hall-Woods received the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Tim Davison was honored with the Senior Service Award.

“There are so many topics in biology that have implications in our day-to-day lives,” Dr. Hall-Woods explained. “I love sharing my enthusiasm for the subject with the students.”

The Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented annually for outstanding instructors from each community college campus in Missouri for work done during the previous year.

Every semester, Dr. Hall-Woods says she tries to create an environment where students get the same opportunities and experiences as students at four-year colleges or universities. “I’m very proud of the research we are working on in our

biology labs,” she said. “It is important to bring as many inquiry-based projects to our labs as possible and provide students with real-world experiences as a scientist.”

Tim Davison, director of network computing at SCC, was awarded the Senior Service Award for his pursuit to improve the user experience for faculty, staff and students during his tenure at SCC.

The Senior Service Award is presented annually to a long-serving employee from each of Missouri’s community colleges. Recipients are recommended for the award by their college president. To receive this award, the employee must have worked at a community college for 20 years or more.

During his time at SCC, Davison helped to create the first Disability Support Services computer lab for students. Many of the systems he has implemented over the years, though updated to modern standards, are still being utilized on campus. Davison continues to lead efforts on campus to modernize infrastructure.

Day of Service Transforms Into Week of Service for 2020

Each year, St. Charles Community College students, faculty and staff volunteer their time to help the community. Day of Service exemplifies SCC’s commitment to serving the local area by focusing on student success and lifelong learning.

This year, Day of Service was transformed into Week of Service to expand opportunities to volunteer.

“Due to the pandemic,” said Bryonie Carter, service-learning and civic engagement program chair, “a one-day event didn’t seem like a viable option this year. However, we didn’t want to lose sight of our commitments to our community and social justice.”

SCC’s Week of Service consisted of many remote and virtual project opportunities – like creating cheerful cards for kids in hospitals.

“I made 30 handmade cards each with a positive message,” said SCC student Rachel Kathman. “I chose this option as my service project because my sister, a licensed social worker, has told me stories about how much receiving mail and visitors means to patients.”

Additionally, a handful of low-contact, outside activities were available for volunteers. Several volunteers helped local organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, Calvary Church and the City of St. Peters.



International Culture Celebrated in November

St. Charles Community College celebrated international culture on campus in the virtual space this year. Sponsored by the English Language and Culture Institute, BRIDGE Committee and Student Activities Office, several interactive opportunities were available for students, faculty, staff and the community.

International students held special Zoom sessions giving the community a glimpse of their native cultures, education systems, fashion trends and more.

Special speakers also took participants on a immersive, virtual tour into the life of a Buddhist monk and dove into the Norwegian lifestyle of Hygge.

Chef and SCC Culinary Program Director Merissa Wenzara held live virtual cooking demonstrations with recipes from around the world in the new Culinary and Agricultural Center on the Dardenne Creek Campus.



Free Patient Care Technician Training Offered Through SCC-SSM Partnership

St. Charles Community College is partnering with SSM Health to offer free training for people wanting to become Patient Care Technicians (PCT).

The six-week PCT program combines classroom instruction at SCC with clinical training at SSM. “This is an incredible opportunity for anyone looking for a career change into the healthcare field,” said Lindy McGuire, director of operations for the St. Charles Community College Dardenne Creek Campus.

Patient Care Technicians work alongside nurses, physicians and other healthcare professionals to provide direct patient care in a hospital setting. The next cohort will begin classes on Jan. 18. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be guaranteed a full-time position at SSM.

SCC Student Accepted Into Prestigious Marine Biology Program in Florida

The University of South Florida College of Marine Science has one of the best programs of its kind in the country. For more than 50 years, they have been a leader in innovative research and public outreach. In January, SCC student Marisa Mason will be heading south to join the program.

“I’ve always been interested in marine biology,” the former Ft. Zumwalt South student explained. “There is still so much we do not know about the ocean. It is like outer space but on earth!”

The 11-acre USF College of Marine Science waterfront campus is the heart of one of the largest marine science hubs

in the country that also includes the USGS St. Petersburg Coastal and Marine Science Center, the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, the Florida Institute of Oceanography, SRI International, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and the U.S. Coast Guard.

“Marisa is an excellent student who has clear goals and is working very hard to meet them,” said Beth Michael-Smith, associate professor of chemistry. “I have truly enjoyed having her in class the past few semesters and cannot wait to see what she accomplishes in the future. I have no doubts she will be very successful at USF and make SCC proud!”



Change of Perspective Leads SCC Alumni to Dentistry

When Ali Farhadi first came to SCC, he was “absolutely riddled with fear, anxiety and stress.” He just didn’t know how well he would succeed in college, but he soon became passionate about his academic success while at SCC. “I developed a sense of competitiveness in trying to be the top student in each and all of my classes,” he said.

His hard work paid off, landing him the SCC Chemistry Student of the Year Award in 2018. “I had never won any academic award in my life up until then,” he said. “I was working my hardest to catch up to everyone who thrived in high school and excelled at the beginning of college.”

Building positive, life-long relationships with professors at SCC greatly contributed to Farhadi’s success. “They were in my corner from the start,”

he said, “and it continues to this day. I still communicate with many of the faculty and often come back to visit them even though I’m in Michigan now.”

After spending two years at the University of Missouri once he finished his time at SCC, he was accepted into the dental program at the University of Michigan. Because of his hard work and dedication, Farhadi received a Health Professions Scholarship through the United States Air Force. The scholarship will pay for all four years of dental school.

“As a doctor you are a life-long learner, so I hope to expand my skills through a residency program,” he said. “After that, I hope to start my own private practice wherever life takes me and travel the world volunteering my time and my skills in other countries that are in need of dentistry.”





Faculty/Staff Update

Kim Mercurio, multimedia and web design graphic chair, had her students take a virtual field trip in October. The students attended the Adobe MAX 2020 Creativity Conference. While the event is normally costly and in-person, it was shifted into the virtual space at no cost to students. Because of CARES Act funding, all students were able to use Adobe licenses to use at the conference.

Amy Scheers, Jim Martin, Lynne Synder and Becky Thorn presented at the annual MCCA Conference, held virtually this year. They held a panel discussion entitled “Performing Arts: Pivoting During the Pandemic.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Finals

Dec. 8-14

President’s Council

Dec. 10

2:40 – 4 p.m.

Zoom

Not-So-Quiet Study Session

Dec. 8

5 – 6:30 p.m.

Virtual

Final Grades Due

Dec. 17



It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play Brings Holiday Cheer to Community

Directed by Lynne Snyder, Center Stage Theatre’s live-streamed performance of “It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Show” took place the last week of November.

This beloved American holiday classic was transformed into a captivating live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble that brought a few dozen characters to the stage, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolded as he battled with what to do with his life one fateful Christmas Eve.

This livestream of “It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Show” was produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. Set and lighting design was provided by Jeff Roop, and costume design was created by Jane Bagnall.

The cast included Andrew Woodard, Jordan Ousley, Emma Mattei, Joslyn Mace, Dustin Godar and Rebecca Loughridge.