



## Men of Color: Student Success Program Welcomes Inaugural Class

Students, parents and community members celebrated the launch of the new Men of Color: Student Success Program on July 21 on campus. Eleven students will make up the inaugural class.

“The purpose of the Men of Color Program is to motivate, inspire and transition students from high school through their college graduation,” said Chris Cross, office of multicultural student engagement manager.

Students were guided through the new program and the expectations at an orientation held in the Social Sciences Building. They also heard from Orv Kimbrough, the CEO of Midwest BankCentre who helped to secure a \$20,000 donation to the MOC program.

“My hope is that this program can help change people’s lives by giving them greater access to financial resources and other supports

that give them the best shot at winning,” he said.

At the orientation, student were presented with an official certificate from Dr. Barbara Kavalier, president of SCC, welcoming them into the program as well as MOC-branded gear to wear around campus.

# SCC Joins White House COVID Vaccine Challenge

Keeping students, faculty, staff and the community safe is a top priority at SCC. To help support that mission, SCC proudly joined the White House COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge in June. As part of the College's participation, SCC received official recognition on the White House website.

Participating colleges are committing to taking three key actions to help get their campus communities vaccinated: engaging every student, faculty, and staff member; organizing their college communities; and delivering vaccine access for all.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, Nursing & Allied Health Department faculty, staff and

students were called upon to administer vaccinations and support operations at the St. Charles Family Arena. More than 200 students, 20 faculty members, six alumni and 20 non-medical SCC staff volunteers have assisted the St. Charles County Department of Public Health's COVID-19 vaccination events, with one SCC faculty present for every three students.

Additional vaccination clinics were also held on the SCC campus during the year.

SCC has maintained a comprehensive website with pandemic-related resources for students, faculty and staff. Along with information about where to get the vaccine, the website also provides information

about COVID tests, frequently asked questions and safety procedures on campus. Additionally, SCC hosted a panel discussion about the COVID-19 vaccine. Along with special guest Sara Evers, St. Charles County assistant public health director, the group presented information about the history of vaccines, vaccine development and general information about COVID-19.

While SCC does not require students, faculty or staff to be vaccinated, the College and the CDC strongly recommends all eligible people receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

## SCC Professor Honored by Girl Scouts of America for Volunteer Work

When SCC Associate Professor Stacey Thater proposed to his wife, he decided to take up a few of his future wife's hobbies and interests.

"Her interest was volunteering for the Girl Scouts," Thater explained. "So, I took the training to be an outdoor adventure course instructor."

Twenty years later, he's still at it. "We build on a girl's self-confidence and self-esteem at these outdoor courses," he said. "They get the freedom to make their own choices and decisions. They learn to overcome the fears they have. Any challenge they take that advances them beyond where they were before is a huge step forward."

In 2021, Thater was honored by the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri for his dedication to their organization. He was awarded the "Thanks Badge," which is given to a volunteer for outstanding service significantly above the expected performance that benefits the total Girl Scout Council.

"I was filled with humility," Thater said. "There are thousands of Girl Scout volunteers, and the 'Thanks Badge' is given to only a few every year. So, to receive it as my first award was simply a

wonderful and unexpected feeling."

While it started as a way to impress his wife, he found volunteering as a way to connect with young students about a subject he loves – science.

"I have the distinct pleasure of working in a predominantly female and very diverse science department at SCC," Thater said. "I realize how unusual this is and have always been so impressed with my science colleagues. I believe if I can encourage more woman to choose science, the world will be better for it."

Thater came to SCC in 2002, becoming the College's first-ever full-time physics instructor in 2004.

"I knew from a very young age that physics was my passion," he said. "All people who choose science have a mind that wants to solve puzzles, but physics is all about explaining the 'why' of things."

He credits much of his success in the classroom to making personal connections with students. Thater believes that the love and enthusiasm he has for his classroom materials becomes apparent to his students. That connection helps

his students succeed.

"A personal connection, no matter how slight, increases student success," he said. "I also strongly believe that making sure your students know you respect them is so important. I start every semester by telling my students they are here to learn and don't need to be embarrassed about not knowing an answer. It's my job to teach them, and their job to learn. I let them know that I realize they have the much more challenging role by far!"

To say Thater is a busy person would be an understatement. By his own account, he volunteers nearly 200 hours each year to various organizations, including the Girl Scouts. He's been to the top of the Temple of Kukulcan, scuba-dived the Great Barrier Reef and walked on top of the Sydney Harbor Bridge. He's also a dad.

"I had my first child at the age of 44 when many people are becoming a grandparent," he joked.

If you are wondering where he gets the energy, Thater would likely tell you physics might have the answer.



# International Student Quickly Becomes Leader on Campus

She arrived at St. Charles Community College right as a pandemic swept across the globe. Soon after, her home country of Honduras was hit by a devastating hurricane. Through it all, Deborah Andrade managed to stay positive.

“The International Student Services (ISS) office really helped me avoid feeling homesick,” she said. “Though things started off a little uncertain, my experience truly has been fantastic.”

Andrade came to SCC on a visa right after the embassy in Honduras opened. When her official acceptance letter came in, Andrade’s father was overjoyed.

“My father actually visited the campus before I began the application process,” she explained. “He was astounded by the people, the campus and the area.”

Soon after her arrival on campus, Andrade got involved—becoming a student leader in the ISS office.

“From leading students on virtual tours of Honduras to remaining active on our social media accounts and mentoring new international

students, Deborah has gone above and beyond,” said Dr. Virginia Guneyli, director of International Student Services.

Andrade’s school spirit goes beyond the SCC campus – she’s encouraged all of her friends to come to SCC because of how wonderful her experience has been, which she credits to the ISS office.

“The ISS office has made everything better,” exclaimed Andrade. “They check in with their students on a regular basis and provide numerous resources to not only help students in their classes, but to help them adjust to being away from home.”

When a friend struggled with applying to a school in Miami and wasn’t receiving the help she needed, Andrade convinced her friend to look into SCC instead.

“I received so much support, and it made the transition from Honduras to St. Charles seamless for me,” explained Andrade. “I chose SCC because of their International Student Services office.”

Aside from the ISS office, the ease of transferring credits to a four-year university sparked her interest in SCC.



“At first, I wasn’t sure if I wanted to get a bachelor’s degree,” said Andrade. “SCC offers the option of getting an associate degree, and that’s exactly what I was looking for.”

She originally planned to pursue a business degree, but after her first semester at SCC she quickly realized she had other fields of interest.

“Programming is a complex language that I really enjoy,” said Andrade. “I have always wanted to study computer science and knowing SCC offered this degree was a game-changer for me.”

# SCC Student Named 2021 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar

SCC student Olivia Braley is one of 207 Phi Theta Kappa members named a 2021 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program helps new Phi Theta Kappa members defray educational expenses while enrolled in associate degree programs. Scholars are encouraged to assume leadership roles by participating in Society programs and are selected based on scholastic achievement, community service and leadership potential. More than 900 applications were received.

A total of \$207,000 is awarded through the Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation provides \$200,000 in funding for the scholarships, with \$25,000 set aside

for members who are veterans or active members of the United States military. The remaining amount is supported by donations to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation and provides seven Global Leaders of Promise Scholarships, earmarked for international students.

“The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has a long history of providing financial assistance to outstanding students at community colleges,” said Jane Hale Hopkins, President of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. “We are proud to partner with Phi Theta Kappa to make it possible for more deserving students to achieve their educational goals and support tomorrow’s leaders of the global community.”

The funds provided by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation not only aid college completion, but

also give students the opportunity to engage in Society programs and develop leadership skills to become future leaders in their communities.

“Research shows that Phi Theta Kappa members are four times more likely to complete a college degree than their peers,” said Dr. Monica Marlowe, Executive Director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. “The Leaders of Promise Scholarships recognize students for what they have achieved already and assure that financial need isn’t an obstacle to achieving their academic goals.”



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Center Stage Theatre**  
 Urinetown  
 July 28 – Aug. 1  
 Theater

**“Students First” Breakfast**  
 8 – 11:30 a.m.  
 July 30  
 Gym

**Missouri College Audition  
 Prep Weekend**  
 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
 Aug. 7-8  
 Theater

**First-Time College Student  
 Night**  
 3 – 7 p.m.  
 Aug. 18  
 Main Campus

**All Faculty Meeting**  
 8 – 11:30 a.m.  
 Aug. 19  
 Theater

**First Day of Classes**  
 Aug. 23

**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
 5:30 p.m.  
 Aug. 30  
 SSB Board Room

**Labor Day Holiday**  
 Sept. 4-6

**Presidents Golf Scramble**  
 10:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
 Sept. 27  
 Old Hickory Golf Club

## St. Charles Community College Foundation - 2021 Presidents Classic Golf Scramble

Calling all golfers – pros, amateurs, novices and weekend warriors. The popular four-person scramble format makes room for every level of golfer on one of the area’s most unique and challenging courses, Old Hickory Golf Club, on Monday, Sept. 27. Register with your friends as a 4-person team or as an individual golfer and we’ll find a place for you!

Not into golf but want to contribute? There are several different sponsorship opportunities available! And since it’s all for a good cause, the real winner is education! Proceeds support scholarships and academic enhancements.

Registration and lunch will begin at 10:30 a.m. and a shotgun start will kick off the scramble at noon. Join us for happy hour with drinks and appetizers and an Awards Presentation following the tournament.

