

ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MARCH 2021



St. Charles School District Joins SCC Early College Academy

The St. Charles Community College Early College Academy (ECA) allows area high school students the chance to have challenging learning experiences that enhance and extend their high school curriculum and earn college credit along the way.

“The ECA not only increases college-readiness for students but often makes the transition from high school to college easier,” said Kathy Brockgreitens, assistant vice president for college transitions and support systems.

St. Charles Community College is proud to announce the St. Charles School District has officially joined the ECA for the 2021-2022 school year.

“With the addition of the St. Charles School District, we now have six high school partnerships

with the SCC Early College Academy,” explained Brockgreitens, “including Orchard Farm, Wentzville, Francis Howell, Warrenton and Wright City school districts.”

In Fall 2018, SCC had 209 students enrolled in its dual credit or dual enrolment classes. In Fall 2020, SCC had 375 students enrolled – an increase of 87 percent.

“The numbers are truly a reflection of Kathy’s hard work and dedication to the Early College Academy,” said Dr. Holly Martin, vice president for academic affairs. “Her care and attention to detail have earned her a tremendous amount of respect from students, parents and high school counselors, as well as at SCC.”

In October 2019, SCC implemented a new \$50 per credit hour rate for all ECA students,

making college credit courses more affordable and accessible to area students. On average, high school juniors and seniors pay nearly 41 percent less than the in-district tuition rate for courses at SCC.

“It’s such a great way to get a head start on a college education,” added Martin, “but our Early College Academy is more than that. Our in-depth advising really sets SCC apart. Our dual enrollment and dual credit students are learning about CORE 42, what courses they need to take in their pathway to earn a degree, how to be successful as a college student, and so much more.”

Moving forward, the ECA hopes to expand into all high school districts in St. Charles County, and, ultimately working to add all districts in its five-county service area.

SCC Sociology Professor's Research Published in Scholarly Journal

While pursuing her doctorate in sociology, St. Charles Community College assistant professor Dr. Dana Prewitt began researching how identities such as gender and race shaped the work of educators.

"I focused on elementary-level teachers," she explained. "I found that many educators' approaches to their students are partially a reflection of their own identities. For instance, the men I interviewed saw an importance of being a man in an elementary classroom. They were aware that they were in the numerical minority, and saw that as an opportunity to show students that men are also elementary teachers, and that they were caring, compassionate educators."

Prewitt's research found African American men, in particular, were especially keen to see their role in their students' lives as mentors and positive role models. For them it was important to counter unflattering images of black men, and to provide their students with tools to navigate society as they grew up.

"I was so inspired by the teachers I interviewed for my research," Prewitt said. "They all cared so deeply for their students and sought to be mentors as well as educators, particularly for students in disadvantaged circumstances."

Not only did she defend her research to earn her doctorate, her work was recently published in *Humanity & Society*, the official journal of the Association for Humanist Sociology.

"Dana is our first full-time Ph.D. faculty member in the sociology department," said Vicky Herbel, interim dean of arts, humanities and social sciences. "She is extremely passionate about sociology, and she brings that passion inside the classroom every day, even in the virtual space."

"I try to always be open about my goals and intentions to my students. I want to be as transparent as I can when trying something new. Sometimes things work, and sometimes they fall flat," Prewitt said. "I never let that discourage me. I engage with my students on what is helpful to their learning and what wasn't. It helps me better understand how the material resonates with my students."

Prewitt is serious about her craft, but she doesn't let that stand in the way of having a little fun along the way.

"I try to sprinkle some humor and my interests into class examples (and am happy to make fun of myself while doing so)," she joked. "I really love the show *The Office*, and that makes its way into my tests and even my online syllabus. It's my hope that students get to see some of my personality and interests that way."

Prewitt came to SCC in 2019 and quickly became involved on campus. She's presented at various events, including the African American Faculty and Staff Association's Black History Month series and Democracy Days. In her conversations with participants, she encourages them to be



curious about the world around them.

"I find that to be incredibly important in being a well-rounded citizen," said Prewitt. "I also think it's important in understanding who we are as people. Learning more about society and its impact on our experiences, ideas, thoughts, behaviors, etc. can be important in understanding who we are and our sense of place in the world."

Prewitt currently teaches Introduction to Sociology and Contemporary Social Issues. She hopes to bring a Sociology of Education course to campus soon, based partially on her doctorate research.

"It's very easy to make assumptions about what people do and why-- social sciences remind us that there is a logic behind what people do," she said.



**Help Support SCC Students
At the Be Transformed
Gala & Auction April 10**

The community is invited to the St. Charles Community College Foundation Gala & Auction at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 10.

The virtual event will feature silent and live auction items. Party boxes and dinners-to-go are available for purchase. Attendees are encouraged to transform their homes into a party for a purpose!

"Our students appreciate your support," said Betsy Schneider, executive director of the SCC Foundation and special assistant

to the president, "especially now. Please consider hosting a watch party for your own family and friends. There is transformational power in education. When we go the extra mile to help others obtain a college education, we ourselves are transformed."

All proceeds support scholarships and academic enhancements through the St. Charles Community College Foundation.

Learn more at stchas.edu/gala.

Inaugural Men of Color: Student Success Program Summit Makes Big Impact

The new Men of Color: Student Success Program held its inaugural summit on Feb. 26. More than 100 high school students, community members, faculty and staff attended the virtual event. Those who attended the summit were given the chance to engage with nationally renowned speakers and learn more about the Men of Color: Student Success Program.

“Through this initiative, we hope to empower students of color,” said Martha Garcia Kampen, chief diversity and compliance officer. “We want to give them the support they need to succeed, providing guidance and practical encouragement through their college experience.”

The Men of Color: Student Success Program at SCC is specifically designed to support minority high school students as they navigate through

the college experience and into a life of success. The program includes financial scholarships, academic support, social engagement, mentorship and connections with successful community leaders.

“The MOC: Student Success Program has been an intention of Dr. Barbara Kavalier, SCC president, for several years,” said Kampen. “The time was right to launch it in 2021.”

When Midwest BankCentre CEO Orv T. Kimbrough heard about SCC’s new program, he saw a great opportunity to make a difference. That’s why he helped secure \$20,000 donation from his company to help jumpstart the program.

“The Men of Color: Student Success Program is specifically designed to act as an accelerator to help young black men succeed,” explained

Kimbrough, “a group that has historically and currently has comparatively lower college graduation rates. My hope is that this scholarship fund 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.”

Learn more about the program at
stchas.edu/menofcolor.



SCC Education Program Alumnae Named Teachers of the Year at Fort Zumwalt

Being named Teacher of the Year is a proud and memorable moment for any teacher. It was no different for Aimee Merideth and Allyson Leyen in the Fort Zumwalt School District this year. Merideth was named the Teacher of the Year at Emge Elementary, and Leyen was named Teacher of the Year at J.L. Mudd Elementary. Both got their start at St. Charles Community College.

“SCC classes and teachers prepared me for the workload that comes with being an educator,” said Leyen. “As a teacher, you are constantly creating activities, making lesson plans, creating data tracking sheets, etc. Managing my workload in college with my life outside of school has prepared me to balance my teacher workload with my other jobs and personal life outside of school.”

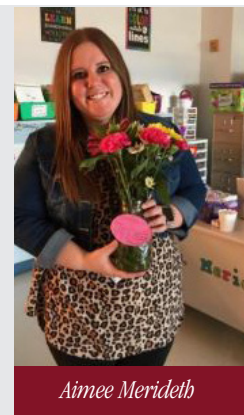
“The education program at SCC taught me communication skills, classroom management and how to create detail and effective lesson

plans,” Merideth added, “The courses allowed me opportunities to begin trying different strategies to find my own theory and practices as an educator. The professors taught me how to support and encourage all learners, which is so important.”

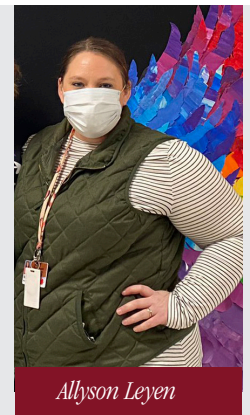
The major purpose of the Missouri Teacher of the Year program is to recognize the contributions of the classroom teacher. According to the program website, “teacher quality and effectiveness is the most important school-based factor impacting student learning. No one person has a greater impact on the education of a child than does the teacher who creates the learning environment where children flourish and grow.”

It’s a sentiment Leyen and Meredith bring into the classroom every day.

“I love building relationships with my students. I love getting to know them as a person,



Aimee Merideth



Allyson Leyen

not just a student in my class,” said Leyen.

“It helps me understand their behaviors, the way they learn, what they need, and what they want.”

“As a special education teacher, I love providing my students and their families with a positive supporter,” explained Meredith. “The best part is creating positive interactions with students to make the learning environment fun, even when the student may have additional challenges or obstacles impacting their learning.”

Meredith and Leyen will now be considered for the Fort Zumwalt District Teacher of the Year honor.

Faculty/Staff Update



Biology Professor **Dr. Monica Hall-Woods** will soon participate in a new undergraduate research network known as NEWT – Network Exploring Wildlife Trade. Supported through the National Science Foundation RCN-UBE, the project intends to build the capacity of undergraduate faculty to engage students in authentic

research experiences related to the increasingly relevant topic of wildlife trade. The incubator effort will engage approximately 25 undergraduate faculty in biology from across the country.

The **Honors Program** is staying current with their curriculum, adding several new courses during the Spring 2021 Semester, including Social Problems and Political Myths, Humans, Science and Medicine, Children's Literature and Contemporary Cultures, and The Psychology and Politics of Hate.

SCC PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT'S
CENTER STAGE THEATRE

PRESENTS:



Virtual performances will stream online May 1 & 2.
Tickets go on sale April 14, 2021

RABBIT HOLE

DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE

UPCOMING EVENTS

QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training

10-11 a.m.
Tuesday, March 30
Virtual

Tuesday Tips (Self-Care)

Noon-1 p.m.
Tuesday, March 30
Virtual

SCC A+ Orientation Nights

6-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 30
Virtual

Multicultural Experience Series

12:30-1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 31
Virtual

The Great Student Success Project: Day in the Life of a Professional

2:30-3:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 1
Virtual

Week Of Service

Monday, April 5 -
Friday, April 9
Off Campus

SCC A+ Orientation Nights

6-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 7
Virtual

SCC Foundation Gala & Auction

7 p.m.
Saturday, April 10
Virtual

Tuesday Tips (Staying Motivated)

Noon-1 p.m.
Tuesday, April 13
Virtual

SCC A+ Orientation Nights

6-7:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 22
Virtual

Safe Zone Training

2-4 p.m.
Monday, April 26
Virtual