SCC’s holds first-ever medaling ceremony for graduating veterans

Medals were presented on May 8 to graduating military veterans and service members in recognition of their achievement.

“This is the first ceremony of its kind at SCC. We were looking to establish a tradition for recognizing our veterans and service members at commencement time,” said Andrew Gates, SCC veteran services and financial aid coordinator. “This ceremony provides us a unique opportunity to thank these men and women for their service and to congratulate them for their academic achievements.”

“The medaling ceremony also sends a positive message to the community that the school appreciates its student veterans and service members,” Gates said.

The ceremonies were presented before the May 13 commencement ceremony so they could be affixed to their graduation attire.

“The first ceremony was very well-received by the veterans and others in attendance. I look forward to continuing this tradition next year,” Gates said.

Governor Eric Greitens signs ridesharing bill at SCC

St. Charles Community College welcomed Missouri Governor Eric Greitens on April 24 to sign House Bill 130. The new law establishes state-wide regulation making it possible for ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft to operate in Missouri.

“Today is a great day for jobs in Missouri,” Greitens said, as he addressed the crowd in the auditorium of the Social Sciences Building. “Ridesharing companies like Lyft and Uber represent opportunity for thousands of Missourians who are looking to work, and today we made thousands of jobs possible.”

“Innovation is key to Missouri’s future,” Greitens continued. “I know that opportunities, like this, that are creating today can make the difference for veterans, can make the difference for students, can make the difference in couples who are retired, moms and dads who are looking to make a little bit of extra money.”

In addition to legislators and SCC leadership, the Governor was flanked by members of SCC’s Student Veterans Organization in support of Uber’s platform of hiring returning veterans as drivers for the ridesharing company. While meeting with the Governor and his staff, SVO President Duane Davis was encouraged to pursue an internship opportunity at the state capital this summer.

“I was in attendance, and the app was turned on in St. Charles County upon the signing of the bill.

“We were honored to welcome Gov. Eric Greitens of the great state of Missouri to the beautiful SCC campus,” said Barbara Kavalier, Ph.D., SCC president. “We are pleased that the governor selected our campus for the signing of House Bill 130.”

SCC recognized with top honors at PBL State Leadership Conference

St. Charles Community College students Bethany Graham and Tori Ash were recognized at the Awards of Excellence Program as they placed first in the Business Ethics event at the 58th annual Missouri Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership State Conference in Springfield, Mo. This year is the 75th Anniversary of the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), an honor for Phi Beta Lambda and a strengthening for the Missouri Phi Beta Lambda. The conference on April 1 featured competitive events for individuals and teams, leadership training and election of state officers for the upcoming year.

At the event, Graham and Ash qualified and will now compete at the Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, Calif., June 23-27.

AEL Student Recognition

High School Equivalency (HSE) recipients and English as a Second Language (ESL) students will be honored at SCC’s Adult Education and Literacy Student Recognition Ceremony at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 8, in the FAB theater.

Staff In-Service

As part of SCC’s Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, the morning of June 18 staff in-service will feature two interactive sessions on Awareness and Understanding led by Denise DeCou from Washington University’s Director of Diversity and Inclusion/Content Development and Program Delivery. Fun and wellness will be the focus for the afternoon with Brent Hickenbottom, College Center supervisor and events coordinator.

Coming up at SCC ...

**CHOMP Regional Food Truck and Music Festival**
Friday, May 19 | 5-10 p.m. | Blue Parking Lot
Campus is closed Monday, May 29, for the Memorial Day Holiday.
Summer credit classes begin Monday, June 5.
Food Truck Frolic & Family Movie Night
Friday, June 23 | 5-10 p.m. | SCC Campus

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

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At the event, faculty retirements and promotions activities. Faculty and staff celebrated through various year of excellence Campus events help FACULTY APPRECIATION EVENT Knowledge.” and took part in a candle lighting ceremony Laura Hardy, and the civility speaker was Katy Morris, the student speaker and part in the ceremony in front of family and friends. Amy Koehler, campus dean and dean of nursing and allied health, welcomed the graduates, and Jen Russon, associate professor of nursing and Nursing Department chair, provided a program overview. The faculty speaker was Katy Morris, the student speaker was Laura Hardy, and the civility speaker was Ashley Moore. Following the presentation of pins, the graduates recited the Nightingale Pledge and took part in a candle lighting ceremony which represents the “Passing of the Lamp of Knowledge.”

St. Charles Community College has selected John Bookstaver, Ph.D., as the next vice president for academic and student affairs. Dr. Bookstaver has spent more than thirty years in education, both in the classroom and in various leadership positions. He began his career teaching at Online Academy, a private secondary school in St. Louis. His connection to SCC began in 1994 when he took two classes as a student. He began teaching chemistry at SCC in the fall of 1994 as an adjunct. He joined the full-time faculty ranks at SCC in 1998. While a member of the faculty he served as program and department chair in chemistry and science, and served on or chaired numerous committees and task forces. He spearheaded efforts to construct new physical science and chemistry lab spaces beginning in 2007, was selected Faculty of the Year by the St. Charles Community College Faculty Association in 2010, and was honored with the Emerson Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2010 and the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2011. Dr. Bookstaver was named dean of the division of Business, Science, Education, Math, and Computer Science in 2012. During his time as dean, departments in the division forged more than 30 articulations with four-year institutions and developed several new degrees and certificates, including A.S. degrees in chemistry, biology, pre-pharmacy and computer science, as well as new stackable credentials in welding leading to an A.A.S degree in General Technology. He was named Interim Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs in June 2016. “Dr. Bookstaver brings to this position a wealth of knowledge and experience as both a faculty member and administrator,” said Dr. Barbara Kavaler, SCC president. “As his supervisor, I have been impressed by John’s leadership abilities, his integrity and his unwavering commitment to our college. He is the consummate professional, demonstrating a gentle yet skillful approach to teamwork and decision-making.”

Dr. Bookstaver holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees, one in philosophy from Cardinal Glennon College in St. Louis, and the other in chemistry from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He received a Master of Arts degree and Ph.D. in chemistry from Washington University in St. Louis. Among the organizations of which he is a member are the American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Chair Academy, and the Missouri Community College Association.

SCC’s Chris Hubbard Jackson receives Athena Young Professional Leadership Award

SCC’s director of research & grants, Chris Hubbard Jackson, Ph.D was recognized with the 2017 Athena Leadership Foundation of St. Charles County Young Professional Leadership Award. Hubbard Jackson has more than 10 years of experience in higher education, serving in various roles such as institutional research, grants, instruction, planning, assessment, administration, and student services. Her research interests include institutional data trends, retention, assessment, postsecondary faculty, humor, and special-interest populations. She holds a doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies, a master of education degree in adult and higher education and a graduate certificate in institutional research from University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL). She also holds a master of arts degree in industrial/organizational psychology from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a bachelor of science degree in psychology from Illinois State University.

“We are proud to have such a talented, hard-working employee at SCC,” said Barbara Kavaler, Ph.D., SCC president. “She is a great asset to the college.”

Athena Leadership award recipients have attained the highest level of excellence in their fields of endeavor, have helped others reach their fullest potential and have given generously to their community in a meaningful way.

SCC representatives take part in ‘SCC Day at the Capitol’

Students and staff from SCC spent the morning in Jefferson City as part of Day at the Capitol on May 3. The group consisted of four staff members and three students including SCC President Barbara Kavaler, Ph.D., John Bookstaver, Ph.D., vice president for academic & student affairs; Ben Munson, director of creative services; Brynne Cramer, public relations coordinator; Olivia Dinwiddie, student government president; and Branden Donahue, president of student ambassadors. Throughout the morning, the group met with various state representatives and senators to discuss funding for community colleges and workforce training needs. Meetings were held with Shiite Sommers, District 106 representative; John Wiemann, District 105 representative; Kurt Bahr, District 102 representative; Bryan Spence; District 063 representative; Bill Eigel, District 23 Missouri state senator; Bryce Garrett, SCC public relations coordinator; and John Bookstaver, Ph.D., vice president of academic and student affairs.

SCC representatives meet with Senator Bill Eigel as part of the Day at the Capitol activities.

Graduating nursing students take part in SCC’s annual pinning ceremony

The annual pinning ceremony for SCC’s Associate Degree Nursing graduates included speakers, pledges, pins and candlelight at the May 10 event held in the College Gymnasium. Sixty-five students were eligible to take part in the ceremony in front of family and friends. Amy Koehler, campus dean and dean of nursing and allied health, welcomed the graduates, and Jen Russon, associate professor of nursing and Nursing Department chair, provided a program overview. The faculty speaker was Katy Morris, the student speaker was Laura Hardy, and the civility speaker was Ashley Moore.

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Employers, job seekers flock to annual Job Fair at SCC

SCC hosted some 120 employers at Job Fair 2017 on May 5 in the College Center and provided opportunities for more than 405 job seekers to find job leads, job training and job search information and networking opportunities.

“Job seekers and employers appreciate that SCC provides a venue for them to meet and make connections for job opportunities,” said Jeremy Hahn Schnipper, SCC career counselor.

A free portrait session was offered to job seekers to use on their LinkedIn profile. Job seekers took advantage of a resume critique/job coaching booth manned by Society for Human Resource Management organization volunteers.

“The comments I received from both employers and job seekers were very positive,” Hahn Schnipper said. “It was a great day!”

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