

DECEMBER 2025

# President's Report



## AWARDS BANQUET RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT

SCC was honored to recognize the outstanding achievements of our dedicated staff and faculty at our Employee Awards Banquet at the St. Peters Golf Club Water's Edge Banquet Center on Wednesday, November 19. Celebrating the achievements of more than 40 faculty and staff members was a powerful testament to the dedication, expertise, and generosity that define SCC. Awards included the President's Pinnacle of Excellence, the Innovator of the Year, and the Emerson Excellence in Teaching. Service to SCC was also awarded.

**Chris Cross**, Director of the EXCEerator, received the President's Pinnacle of Excellence Award. This award is reserved for faculty, staff, and administrators who consistently demonstrate performance excellence in the following areas:

- Providing outstanding service to students, faculty, staff, and/or the community.
- Making a meaningful difference that contributed to the success of one or more SCC students.
- Taking initiative and carrying out additional responsibilities beyond regular job expectations.
- Making important contributions in area/department that resulted in improved efficiency, processes, student outcomes, and/or cost savings.
- Demonstrating an extraordinary commitment to SCC's mission and values.

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**Ed Weber**, Associate Professor, received the Employee Innovator of the Year Award. The award recognizes an employee who has demonstrated exceptional creativity, problem-solving skills, and a proactive approach to innovation within the college. This award celebrates the employees' contributions to pushing the organization forward by addressing challenges or finding new ways to meet goals and improve efficiency.

**Grace Wade-Moser**, Professor, received the Excellence in Teaching Award, sponsored by Emerson. The Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award is granted to honor outstanding educators across various levels, including elementary, secondary, and higher education. It recognizes teachers who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to student learning, innovative teaching practices, and a strong dedication to fostering student success and engagement.

Six employees received the President's Council Award: **Ashley Burgess, Stephanie Conway, Jerol Enoch, Sophia Koziatek, Molly Meyer, and Stacie Thomas**. Selected by members of the President's Council, this award recognizes employees for going beyond what is normally expected of their positions and who provide excellent service to students.

Fourteen employees were recognized as the Champion of Student Success Awards and received the coveted medallions: **William Baca-Mejia, Stacy Droste, John Gettemeyer, William Griffin, Parker King, Swarga Kakoti, Sophia Koziatek, Cory Mack, Aysha Mathuthu, Pat Penning, Libbi Simms, Andrew Sippie, Monica Swindle, and Marvin Tobias**. This prestigious award recognizes faculty who demonstrate exceptional commitment to advancing student achievement, persistence, and belonging at our college.

The MCCA Award recipients were also recognized, including **Lindy McGuire**, recipient of the MCCA Admin Leadership Award; **Todd Clements**, recipient of the MCCA Staff Achievement Award; and **Heather Stueben**, MCCA Faculty of the Year Award. These awards recognize faculty and staff excellence at both the state and college level. The awards also recognize trustees who demonstrate exceptional leadership, commitment, and advocacy on behalf of their institution.

The evening also included Service Recognition Awards for employees who are celebrating 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service to the college. **Glen Chapius**, Associate Professor, was recognized for a remarkable 25 years of service.



Terri Edrich, Executive Director of Employee Engagement, Development, and Compliance, coordinated the event. "It is an honor to coordinate an event recognizing our exceptional employees who lead with purpose and heart. Their commitment to student success is not only admirable – it is the foundation of our institution's excellence."

SCC President Barbara Kavalier, Ph.D. said, "Our college continues to be recognized as one of the finest in the state because of the people who show up each day with purpose, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to student success. Those honored at our Employee Awards Banquet exemplify what makes SCC special: collaboration that strengthens our work, innovation that expands our reach, and service that enriches the lives of both colleagues and students."

*More photos on back cover.*



## SCC RECOGNIZED AT 61ST ANNUAL MCCA CONFERENCE

The 61st Annual Convention and Trade Show for the Missouri Community College Association (MCCA) convened for the first time in St. Charles, MO, from November 12-14.

With a record turnout, the event centered on the theme of "Learning, Leadership, & Legacy" within Missouri's community colleges. Attendees participated in a full agenda that included 70 educational sessions, a keynote address by a leading AI and robotics expert, the MCCA Games, and a prestigious awards ceremony and reception.

The MCCA Annual Recognition and Excellence Awards program highlights individuals and institutions that have established a standard of excellence throughout the year. Receiving an MCCA award offers significant recognition, resonating within the broader higher education sector, individual institutions, and across the state.

SCC proudly celebrated three of its own who were honored at the ceremony:

- **Lindy McGuire**, recipient of the MCCA Administrative Professional Leadership Award
- **Todd Clements**, recipient of the MCCA Classified Staff Achievement Award
- **Heather Stueben**, recipient of the MCCA Excellence in Teaching Award



MCCA President/CEO Brian Millner



Community College Partner Award Winner, Randy Schilling with SCC President Barbara Kavalier, Ph.D.



Keynote Speaker, Hod Lipson, professor and Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department, Columbia University.



## MISSOURI'S COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT VISITS SCC

On Wednesday, November 19, Dr. Bennett Boggs, Missouri's Commissioner of Higher Education and Workforce Development, visited St. Charles Community College. To start off the visit, Dr. Boggs had a chance to experience the Center for Immersive Learning, followed by a visit with Cabinet members and a tour of the EXCEerator. Dr. Boggs also had a chance to visit the Dardenne Creek Campus and see the Center for Healthy Living, and the Field to Table Institute. He also visited the new Innovation West Campus and the Regional Workforce Innovation Center.

## PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS FROM MCCA COMMUNITY COLLEGES VISITED SCC

On Wednesday, November 12, Presidents and Chancellors from MCCA Community Colleges visited SCC and had a chance to experience the Center for Immersive Learning. The group was joined by Josh Reibel, President of Dreamscape Learn, who provided an overview of the platform.



## EDUCATORS ATTEND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

SCC was proud to welcome Wentzville middle and high school teachers from Industrial Technology, Engineering, and Theatre programs on Thursday, November 6, to our new Regional Workforce Innovation Center for Professional Development Day.



## LIGHT THE TREE AT SCC INAUGURAL COMMUNITY EVENT

SCC hosted an unforgettable night on Saturday, November 22, at our inaugural "Light the Tree at SCC" holiday event! We were thrilled to celebrate the start of the holiday season with our entire community. The campus was alive with holiday magic, featuring dazzling lights, a breathtaking 20-foot decorated tree, and festive student performances and carolers. Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities, including balloon creations and face painting, a visit from our robotic dog, delicious food prepared by the Field to Table Institute and culinary students, and a 92.3 WIL Jingle Fest Ticket Blast. The evening was complete with a special visit from Santa and even a touch of snow.

We extend a special thank you to all the dedicated staff, faculty, and students who worked tirelessly to make this magical community event possible.





## VETERANS HONORED AT CEREMONY, SPECIAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER

On Veterans Day, Retired U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Randy Jemerson, shared a poignant keynote address, sharing insights from his service on the importance of mental health support and camaraderie in leadership, while honoring the casualties of war. Jemerson's decorated career includes over 28 years in the Army Reserve, two combat deployments in Iraq, and more than 27 years in law enforcement. He retired from military service in 2022 and is also a veteran of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

A special thank you is extended to the St. Charles VFW Post #2866 and the SCC Chamber Choir for their meaningful participation in the ceremony.



## NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR WOMEN'S SOCCER

Congratulations to SCC's Women's Soccer Team as this year marked their fifth consecutive appearance in the Region 16 Championship game, where they secured their fourth consecutive, spanning 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. The 2025 season stands out:

**2025 Region 16 Tournament Champions**

**2025 Region 16 Regular Season Champions**

**2025 Conference Champions** (three years in a row for this title)

This historic season was backed by an outstanding 17-2-2 record. This consistent performance earned the program a Top 5 National Ranking, the highest in SCC's history. The program prides itself on the successful placement of athletes at the next level, with players moving on to compete in NCAA Division I, II, III, and NAIA programs.

## CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

We're proud of our SCC Cross Country Team for a season filled with growth and new personal bests at every meet. At the NJCAA Region 16 Championships in Festus, MO, every athlete achieved a personal record. Congratulations to Zoe Johnson for finishing 6th in the Women's 5K as she headed to nationals ranked #18 in the nation. She is now #3 All-Time at SCC for the Cross Country 5K. Gavin Vaughn, Harrison Zeier, and Henry Krussell also placed in the top 20 for the men's race.

In addition, three SCC students represented SCC at the NJCAA National Championships, an incredible achievement for our entire program.







## CHILI COOKOFF FOR A CAUSE: A DELICIOUS WAY TO SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Competition was fierce at the annual Faculty and Staff Fall Fun Chili Cookoff on Thursday, October 30, with culinary bragging rights on the line. In a rare display of equally outstanding chili, the judging for "Best Overall Taste" resulted in a tie. As a result, the new Golden Ladle Award is shared by two deserving winners.

**Best Overall Taste:** Tie (The Lu-Wow Factor & Hotter Than OSHA Allows)

**Best Team Name:** The Spice is Right

**Best Costume:** Hotter Than OSHA Allows

**Honorable Mention:** Dan Granzow

Proceeds raised from the event to benefit employee-sponsored scholarships for students.

## EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO FACULTY AND STAFF

SCC kicked off the Thanksgiving holiday with a special Employee Appreciation Luncheon in the Café Bistro. SCC President Barbara Kavalier, Ph.D., and Cabinet members personally served a traditional meal and desserts prepared by our exceptional Food Services team. The Employee Appreciation Lunch offers a chance to express our heartfelt thanks to our staff and faculty for their dedication and commitment to student success.



## 'BLITHE SPIRIT' SHOWCASES STUDENT TALENT

Directed by Instructional Theatre Coordinator and Center Stage Producer Phil Gill, this production showcased the talents of our Associate of Fine Arts majors both onstage and behind the scenes. From constructing the set to serving as technicians in the booth and as members of the stage management team, students contributed to every aspect of the show. Each performance was met with enthusiastic applause and warm audience praise. Congratulations to everyone involved.

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## EMPLOYEE AWARDS BANQUET PHOTOS

