



JULY 2025

## President's Report

### SCC BREAKS GROUND ON NEW CAFÉ/MARKET AT DCC

As part of an expansion to its culinary and agricultural programs, St. Charles Community College broke ground on a new building on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at their Dardenne Creek Campus. The Field to Table Institute at St. Charles Community College (SCC) has been so successful, the college is expanding facilities to include a new Café and Market that will serve as a lab for students and provide an innovative dining and market spot for the public.

"Due to substantial enrollment growth in our culinary, agriculture, and healthcare programs, our existing facilities at DCC have reached capacity," said Shelley Machens, Chief of External Campuses. "The addition of this new building enables us to better accommodate the needs of our students and community, enhance partnerships with local businesses, and expand our curriculum program offerings."

SCC President, Dr. Barbara Kavalier said, "In successful culinary programs, students have the opportunity to work in a restaurant and to practice preparing and serving food. In addition to classrooms and offices, this new building will feature a state-of-the-art café market as a lab for students and a resource for the community."

Dr. Kavalier also took a moment to recognize former Gov. Mike Parson, who approved the MoExcels Workforce Initiative

grant that gave SCC the funds to begin working on the expansion, and SCC's Board of Trustees, who are, always focused on the future of the college and understand the importance of innovation in keeping SCC relevant

The new 14,000 square-foot facility will include 5,000 square feet of classrooms to support programming at the Dardenne Creek Campus and an expansive general lecture space to accommodate large classes, special presentations, and events.

"In an era where we face many food-related challenges, as well as opportunities, this institute brings together – on one campus – all the ingredients for learning the art, craft, and science of food," said John Mueller, Managing Partner, JEMA, SCC's architectural partner.

Mueller concluded with, "I hope the students and community take note of the innovative, creative, and indeed, groundbreaking initiatives brought here today by SCC."

SCC's Field to Table Institute, established in 2019, brings together culinary, agriculture, and healthcare, teaching the concept of going directly from the field to the table, and the connection between farming, food, healthcare and quality of life. In addition to credit programs, the Field to Table Institute also offers community-based courses in food, gardening, health and sustainability.



## DR. KAVALIER SHARES SCC VISION AT MCCA CONFERENCE

Dr. Amy Koehler and Dr. Barbara Kavalier presented "Designing the Future – Integrated Innovation in Learning and Support" at the 2025 MCCA Trustee and Executive Leadership Conference. Their presentation highlighted how St. Charles Community College is reimagining campus spaces to better serve students, featuring key initiatives such as the construction of the EXCEerator and the Center for Immersive Learning.



## EXCITING SCC UPDATES SHARED WITH LOCAL CHAMBER

On Tuesday, July 8, Dr. Barbara Kavalier delivered a presentation to the Cottleville-Weldon Spring Chamber of Commerce during their monthly membership meeting. She shared an exciting update on recent and upcoming developments at St. Charles Community College, including the grand opening of the Center for Immersive Learning, the launch of the Regional Workforce Innovation Center, and the upcoming fall opening of the EXCEerator. Dr. Kavalier also highlighted the groundbreaking of the new Field to Table Institute Café and Market, underscoring SCC's continued commitment to innovation and student success.





## SUMMER CAMPS BRING YOUNG PEOPLE TO CAMPUS FOR "THE BEST DAY EVER"

Community Education's Summer Camps began June 2, and run through August 8. The summer camps offer engaging and educational experiences for kids 5-14 years of age. This year, SCC welcomed 2,374 campers – 110 more than 2024 and more than 500 more compared 2023. The programs are led by professional educators, along with those who have advanced studies in a particular field, assisted by college and high school students.

Camp highlights include Rising Stars Drama Camp, Harry Potter, Lego Robotics, Junior Musical camp, STEM camps, and culinary camps. New camp programs this year included Circus Kaput Circus camps, Sewing and Crocheting, On Brand! Visual Art Camp, and Forensic Fanatics. A couple of comments from campers were, "This place is so beautiful" (when walking to lunch and seeing the gardens, and "This was the best day EVER!" And the good words aren't limited to just campers. Here are some of the remarks left by parents on surveys:

- "My son loved this camp so much he wanted to be picked up as late as possible every day. He loved creating!"
- "My son has absolutely LOVED this camp. It has been an absolute joy for him to discover something that he has a passion for and has thrived."
- "My daughter was in heaven creating so many fun projects. There seemed to be a great balance of structure and open creating. An awesome camp!"
- "My son came home every day with something new that he learned and had a great time making friends. He was sad to see it end."

SCC's summer camps spark curiosity and build lasting memories – for campers and staff, alike.



## CONGRATULATIONS, DR. CARTER!

After working part-time for the past 10-plus years, **Bryonie Carter**, completed her Ph.D. in American Studies at Saint Louis University. Dr. Carter successfully defended her dissertation, "Rune-Makers, Majic-Makers, Travelers: The Mystical Tourism of H.D., Susan Glaspell, and Eva Palmer-Sikelianos (1918-1938)". Her dissertation passed "With Distinction."

In recognition of her outstanding scholarly work, Dr. Carter also received the Matthew J. Mancini Outstanding Dissertation Award from the American Studies Department for the 2024–2025 academic year.

Everyone at SCC is incredibly proud of Dr. Carter and celebrates this remarkable achievement!



## ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECONNECTS WITH COMMUNITY AT COUNTY FAIRS

St. Charles Community College made a strong impression across the region this summer with a major presence at local county fairs. Booths at four area fairs—Warren, Lincoln, Montgomery, and St. Charles counties—signaled a renewed commitment to community engagement.

A major highlight of SCC's involvement was its 52-foot mobile welding trailer, which made appearances at three of the four fairs. The trailer offered attendees of all ages a hands-on opportunity to try welding under the guidance of SCC staff, including Pat Penning, Regional Workforce Innovation Center lead and Assistant Dean of Industrial Trades; Jesse Anderson, Industrial Trades Academic Coordinator; and instructors Ben Wohldmann and Roxanne Finneran. Together, along with Rex McKanry, Dean of the School of Business, Technology, and Industrial Trades, as well as SCC recruiters and staff members, they braved the summer heat to connect with fairgoers—sharing information about SCC's programs, career pathways, and handing out SCC-branded giveaways.

This successful four-week outreach campaign not only increased SCC's visibility but also demonstrated the college's active role in workforce development and community collaboration.



## PROGRESS CONTINUES AT RWIC AS COMPLETION DATE NEARS





## SCC PERFORMING ARTS SCHEDULE ANNOUNCES 2025-2026 SEASON LINEUP

The Performing Arts Department at SCC is thrilled to unveil its 2025–2026 production schedule, featuring an exciting mix of theater, music, and student showcases.

The season opens with 'Tigers Be Still', a dark comedy by Kim Rosenstock, followed by Noël Coward's classic 'Blithe Spirit'. Holiday favorite 'White Christmas', 'The Spitfire Grill', and the beloved 'Shrek the Musical' round out the season with family-friendly fun. Music lovers can also look forward to six dynamic ensemble concerts in November and April.

### Center Stage Theatre Productions

- October 2–5: Tigers Be Still
- November 6–9: Blithe Spirit
- April 9–12: The Spitfire Grill

### Music Ensemble Concerts

- November 18: Chamber Choir & SCC Singers
- November 20: Orchestra Concert
- November 23: Concert Band & Jazz Band
- April 23: Orchestra Concert
- April 26: Concert Band & Jazz Band
- April 28: Chamber Choir & SCC Singers

### Young People's Theatre Productions

- December 12–14: White Christmas
- May 14–17: Shrek the Musical

### Performing Arts Student Workshop Performances

- December 5: Opera Workshop
- February 27: Theatre Workshop
- May 8: Musical Theatre Workshop



## SCC HOSTS INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED CHEF

St. Charles Community College was proud to host renowned Chef Susan Notter at the Dardenne Creek Campus on June 30 as part of a continuing education demonstration presented by the St. Louis Chefs de Cuisine, our local American Culinary Federation chapter.

Chef Notter shared insights from her impressive career in pastry arts while exploring current industry trends. During the event, she demonstrated the art of sugar work—including sugar cooking, pouring, and pulling techniques—culminating in the creation of a stunning parrot centerpiece.

The demonstration attracted chefs and culinary professionals from across the greater St. Louis area as well as Columbia, MO, and the Lake of the Ozarks.

