



JUNE 2025

# President's Report

## 2025 STUDENT AWARDS BANQUET HONORS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

SCC celebrated student achievement at the annual Student Awards Banquet, held in April at Whitmoor Country Club. The event honors outstanding students in the classroom and in leadership roles on campus.

Makayla Morones received the President's Rising Star Award and scholarship, an award presented to the SCC student who exemplifies leadership in their work both on and off campus.

Tammy Matlock received the Maria Espinoza Presidential Award and Scholarship, an award given to the student who has made outstanding contributions to our campus community. The award is named in honor of the Phi Theta Kappa president from SCC, who passed away in 2015.

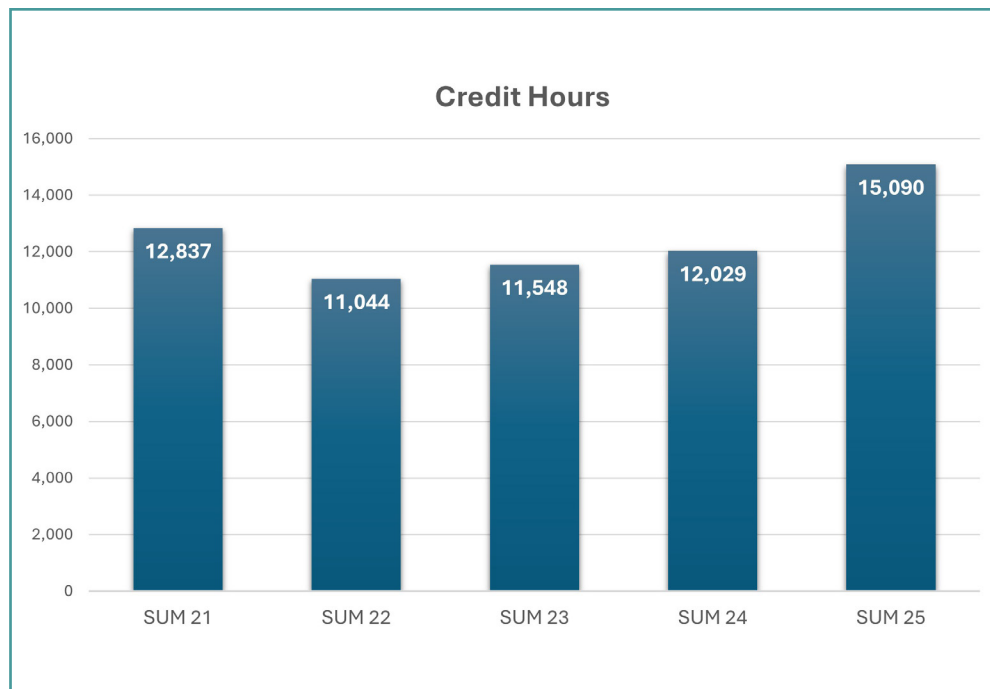
Students in each of SCC's schools were recognized by their dean and presented with the Outstanding Student Award or Student of Distinction Award.

## SUMMER ENROLLMENT JUMPS

The Summer 2025 term began Monday, June 9, with credit hour enrollment numbers up approximately 25 percent as of the fifth day of classes (SCC's Summer Census Day moved to the fifth day this year, vs. the 10th day previously.)

This year registration opened in October of 2024, at the same time as Spring 2025 enrollment opened, which allowed for 175 additional days for registration over last year.

Coordinated efforts in multiple departments allowed students to get registered.



## SCC WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/HEAD CHEF, OF THE FIELD TO TABLE INSTITUTE, JAY VALLEY

From humble beginnings in Massachusetts to shaping Dallas's culinary landscape, Jay Valley's story is one of resilience, creativity, and an enduring passion for food.

Often describing himself as the "Forrest Gump of Chefs," Valley's culinary journey has included cooking for a distinguished list of world leaders, culinary icons, and celebrities. His guests have included Presidents Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush; Julia Child, Wolfgang Puck, Jacques Pépin; and entertainment and sports luminaries such as Mick Jagger, Mark Cuban, Troy Aikman, and members of the German Men's National Soccer Team.

According to Dr. Barbara Kavalier, the President of SCC, "We are thrilled to welcome Jay Valley as the new Executive Director of SCC's Field to Table Institute. Jay's remarkable culinary expertise and leadership—honed at some of Dallas, Texas's most esteemed establishments—bring a dynamic vision to our program. His passion for food, education, and innovation will be a tremendous asset as we continue to grow SCC's role in shaping the future of sustainable food systems and culinary excellence. When asked his thoughts on this new chapter of his career, Jay said, "This is not a new journey. This is the culmination of my many years in the culinary arena. My chance to incorporate all that I have learned into this wonderful opportunity and inspire a new generation of creative culinary minds. When they said 'Field to Table' they meant it. A Chef's dream."



## WELCOME TONY ROTHERMICH, VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



Tony Rothermich has been with the Mercy Hospital system for more than 25 years, holding various leadership roles, including executive director of patient access and health information systems and vice president of operations. Most recently, he was overseeing the design and construction of the new Mercy hospital.

Rothermich has an MBA from Lindenwood University. He started his higher education at SCC before earning a BS in Healthcare Management from Maryville University. Tony is a lifelong resident of St. Charles County and has served on St. Charles Community College's Foundation Board for nine years.

"Tony is a strong supporter of our mission and our college and will be an excellent addition to our team," said Todd Galbierz, SCC Executive Vice President.

## ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

St. Charles Community College was proud to have its Adult Education and Literacy Student Recognition Ceremony on Wednesday, June 4.

The ceremony recognized students earning their High School Equivalency and completion of the Integrated Education and Training program.

High School Equivalency graduates Amy Duff and Abigail Carter addressed the crowd of students and family members.

Duff said she was nervous when she first registered. As a single parent who had been out of school for 20 years, she had many struggles that kept her from pursuing her education. She found the support she needed at SCC, and after completing the program, she plans to pursue an associate degree in psychology. "My self-esteem and confidence improved," Duff said. "I want to show my son that roadblocks can be overcome and that he too can overcome anything."





## SUMMER CAMPS AND JAZZ CAMP BRING YOUNG PEOPLE TO CAMPUS

Community Education's Summer Camps began Monday, June 2, and run through August 8. The summer camps offer hands-on exploration in specialized fields such as science, engineering, technology, chemistry, math, language arts, computer science, career explorations, visual/performing arts, fine arts, and culinary.

SCC Performing Arts' Jazz Camp was held June 9-13, and brought middle school, high school and college students together with some of the top jazz educators and performers in the country. Students participated in jazz improvisation, ear training, and instrumental master classes.



## TECHNOLOGY BUILDING REDESIGN SELECTED AS WINNER OF HI-TEC INNOVATIVE PROGRAM AWARD

SCC's Technology Building Redesign was selected as the winner of the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference's Innovative Program Award

Supported by the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (NSF ATE) program, HI-TEC is a national conference on advanced technological education where secondary and postsecondary educators, counselors, industry professionals, trade organizations, and technicians can update their knowledge and skills.

Attending the conference in July to accept the award are Dr. Rex McCanry, Dean, Amanda Sizemore, Assistant VP for Workforce Development, and Dr. Mara Vorachek-Warren, Dean of Mathematics and Sciences.

This award represents HI-TEC's commitment to recognize innovation in advanced technology education. The Innovative Program Award is designed to recognize a team of advanced technology education professionals that has designed and implemented a significant innovation, which has led to a positive impact on student enrollment, retention, and/or advanced technological education.

Intentionally redesigned in 2024 to bring new and emerging technology to students, classrooms and education spaces in SCC's Technology Building now are better equipped to prepare students for jobs of the future.

The Technology Building is home to programs like esports, animation, cybersecurity, video production, accounting, business administration, business technology, economics, computer science, IT, engineering, computer-aided drafting, digital media, graphic design, and more. By investing in high-impact, cost-effective renovations, SCC has transformed the student experience, setting a new standard for community colleges. Thoughtful design and innovative technology drive engagement, enhance learning outcomes, and prepare students for the future workforce.



## SCC RECEIVES NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT

### SCC's New Biotechnology Program Begins Fall 2025

SCC received a \$988,731 Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. government's independent science agency.

The three-year grant will help fund the college's new biotechnology program, which will test SCC's faculty members' ideas to improve technician education in the St. Louis region.



"This grant is more than just funding—it's an investment in the future of biotechnology education. By supporting workforce development and industry-aligned training, it paves the way for students to become skilled, work-ready biotechnicians who will drive innovation and strengthen the St. Louis region's biotech sector," according to Dr. Monica Hall-Woods, Professor of Biology, and the project's Principal Investigator. As the principal investigator, Dr. Hall-Woods will lead the new initiative with Dr. Mara Vorachek-Warren, Dean of Mathematics and Sciences, Tammie De Los Santos, Executive Director for Outreach and School Relations, and Amanda Sizemore, Assistant Vice President for Workforce Development. The team will work in partnership with an advisory board comprised of faculty, industry partners, and K-12 school districts.

The project, entitled, "Biotech Prep: Pathway for Work-Ready Biotechnicians" has four primary objectives to: (1) develop and implement a new Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in biotechnology with industry-aligned, stackable certificates; (2) prepare students to earn industry-recognized certifications and microcredentials, such as the Biotechnician Assistant Credentialing Exam (BACE) or Bioscience Core Skills Institute (BCSI); (3) establish strong workforce connections in order to create a work-based experiential program that supports retention, degree and certificate completion, industry-recognized certifications, and workforce readiness; and (4) create and implement a robust K-12 high school recruitment program.

