

# slcc

SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE 75TH ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE



Remembering Our Past  
While Building Our Future



**NOW: TAYLORSVILLE REDWOOD CAMPUS**



THEN: TROY LAUNDRY BUILDING

*panoramic*

P





CELEBRATING  
**75**  
YEARS 1948-2023

**A LOOK INTO  
THE PAST**

**From the archives:**  
Salt Lake Area  
Vocational School  
students Eva Van  
Gerven, Richard Tilt,  
Teddy Hiatt and Lynn  
Liston riveting and  
drilling an airplane  
fuselage, showing  
how the trades have  
always played an  
important role at  
the College.

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SLCC trade programs are increasingly training more and more women.



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Since its founding, the College has been committed to supporting veterans.

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From cooking and baking classes to the art of food preparation, see how the program has evolved.

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**First to Last Graduating Class Fills Nursing Shortage**

The first graduating class from Salt Lake Area Vocational School was Practical Nursing in 1949.

*slcc*

**SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
75TH ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE**

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**ON THE COVER**

The former Troy Laundry at 431 S 600 East, home of the Salt Lake Area Vocational School.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to this commemorative edition of SLCC Magazine—an homage to our remarkable journey and a glimpse into the rich history of Salt Lake Community College!

Seventy-five years ago, on September 14, 1948, the College forged a visionary partnership with the state of Utah. Known as Salt Lake Area Vocational School in those first days, SLCC served as a beacon of opportunity for 246 students, many returning from World War II, in search of a new career. Students found meaningful training in essential trades such as nursing, welding, electronics and food service.

Our first official motto was “Learn to Earn, Learn to Live” and echoed through our hallways. Today, our mission remains much the same—we inspire and equip students to embrace a future brimming with possibility. Whether our graduates continue toward a baccalaureate degree or launch rewarding careers, SLCC has been passionately dedicated to assisting in their success.

And our impact extends far beyond our classrooms. Our deeply held belief that college should be available to all pushes us to collaborate with K-12 partners and industry leaders to increase affordability, embrace flexible delivery and remain agile and relevant in our offerings. From 16-year-old students combining college courses with high school completion to 72-year-old students finally achieving their educational dreams, SLCC has touched the lives of millions of Utahns: access and success in education transforms them personally, their families and their communities.

As we begin the next chapter of our story, SLCC is committed, as always, to drive positive change and remaining an integral part of our collective community. Here’s to another 75 years of empowering Utahns to achieve their dreams!

*Denece G. Huftalin, PhD*  
 President  
 Salt Lake Community College

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# slcc BULLETIN



## SLCC Bids Farewell to Retirees and Welcomes New Executive Cabinet

Salt Lake Community College said goodbye to more than 80 esteemed retirees representing a diverse range of positions from all across the College. Among those retiring were executive cabinet members Dr. Clifton Sanders, provost for Academic Affairs, and Alison McFarlane, vice president for Institutional Advancement.

In addition, Dr. Chuck Lepper, vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, left SLCC earlier in the year for a new appointment as president of Grand Rapids Community College in Michigan.

In a span of his 30-year career at the College, Sanders influenced countless students' lives, and McFarlane led one of SLCC's most vibrant and expansive divisions for the past 16 years.

Incoming, SLCC recently welcomed new executive cabinet members Abby McNulty as vice president for Institutional Advancement, and Dr. Brett Perozzi as the vice president for Student Affairs. The College also named Dr. Jason Pickavance as interim provost for Academic Affairs.

Nancy Michalko, executive director of Development, also retired. Michalko worked for nine years in the Development Department, where she oversaw SLCC's first-ever comprehensive campaign. Dr. Bob Whittaker was recently selected to lead SLCC's Development team and advance a growing culture of philanthropy at the College.

### NEW EXECUTIVE CABINET



#### Brett Perozzi

Dr. Brett Perozzi most recently served as interim vice president for Student Affairs and will continue this work in a permanent role. His experience as a vice president at Weber State University and his commitment to student success will be crucial in moving SLCC forward.



#### Abby McNulty

Abby McNulty served as president and CEO of the Park City Education Foundation and is a former leader of the Sundance Institute. In these roles, she oversaw significant initiatives to engage members, increase giving and strengthen outreach. She brings with her extensive knowledge in building organizations and fundraising.



#### Jason Pickavance

Dr. Jason Pickavance has worked at SLCC for 20 years. He has served in a number of roles including associate professor in English, faculty senate president, and most recently as the associate provost for Academic Operations and has been engaged in many key College initiatives over the years.





## SLCC TO OPEN NEW HERRIMAN CAMPUS

To better serve residents in southwest Salt Lake County, Salt Lake Community College opened a new 90-acre campus in Herriman on August 4. The campus will begin serving students mostly from the communities of South Jordan, Riverton, Herriman and Draper this fall semester, which starts August 22.

The campus's first building is a joint project with the University of Utah, where students will be able to earn an associate's degree from SLCC and move on to pursue an undergraduate degree from the U of U, all from one location. This first-of-its-kind partnership between two Utah higher education institutions is designed to educate and train students to fill essential jobs and provide support to the area's growing businesses and industries.

Located at 14551 South Sentinel Ridge Boulevard, the Herriman Campus features a comprehensive array of student services including admissions, financial aid, academic advising, STEM Learning Center, food services, Disability Resource Center, testing services, student clubs, campus food pantry, career services, writing center and ePortfolio, among others.

SLCC programs offered at the Herriman Campus include Business, Economics, Education, Psychology, Behavioral & Social Science and Computer Science & Information Systems. The campus will also provide a large selection of general education courses.

"This partnership between SLCC and the University of Utah will help maintain the state's high quality of life," says SLCC President Denece G. Huftalin. "Education allows people to build a bright future for themselves and their families, and the Herriman Campus will play an important role in making college more accessible to those who call this area home."

SLCC anticipates the campus will serve more than 2,000 students during the 2023-24 academic year and nearly 7,000 students by 2025. Funding for the building was appropriated by the Utah State Legislature in 2021, with additional support from SLCC, the University of Utah, private donors, and infrastructure investments from Herriman City. More information, including a complete list of program offerings for both SLCC and the U of U, can be found at [slcc.edu/herriman](http://slcc.edu/herriman).

*Then &* Now:

# 75 YEARS

## of Technological Evolution in the Classroom

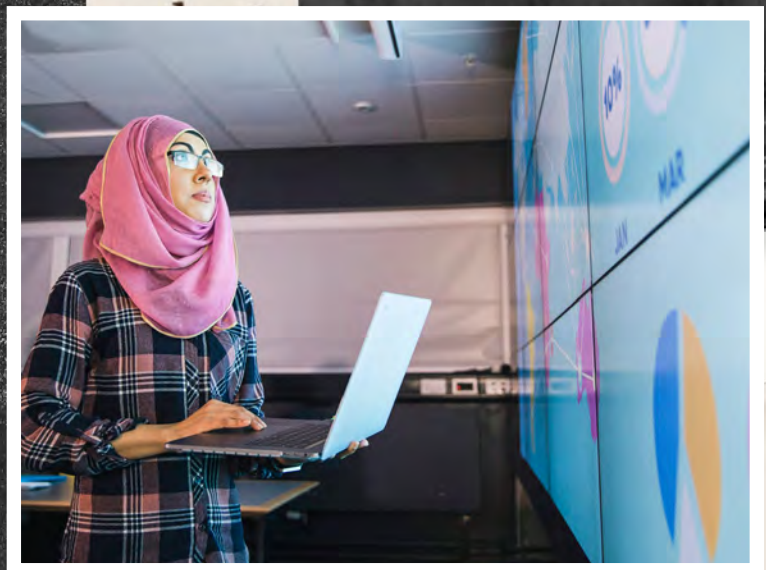
Classrooms are about communication, and the means of conveying information have changed drastically since Salt Lake Community College first opened its doors in 1948. From the tangible pencil and chalkboard pairing to the more nebulous laptop and digital media set, college students and faculty have seen technological advances happen more quickly in the last 75 years than perhaps any time period before.

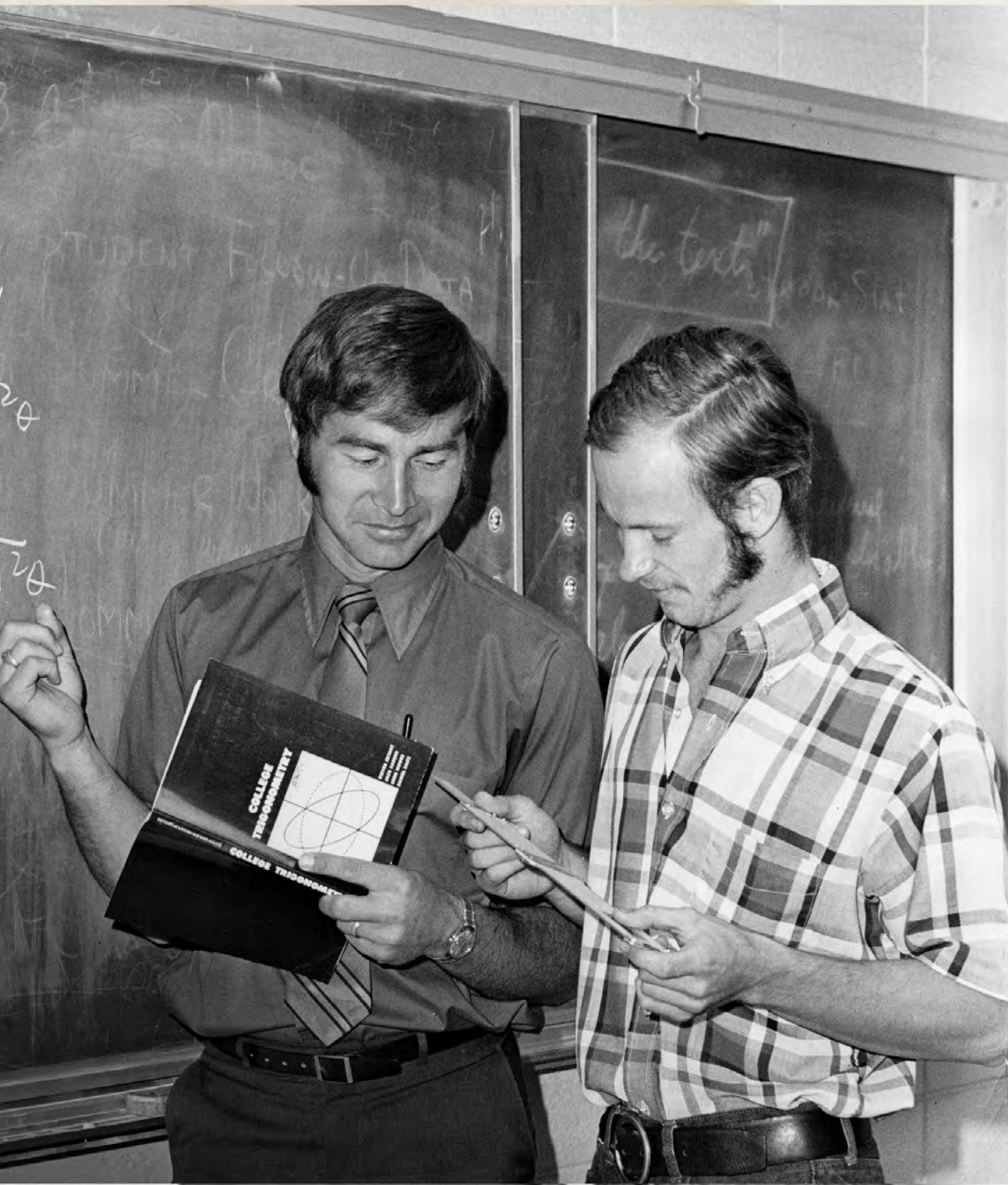
The integration of online learning platforms and learning management systems have revolutionized the way students access course materials, submit assignments and engage in class discussions. Online courses and distance learning programs enable lifelong learning and provide educational opportunities for individuals who may not have access to traditional educational institutions.

SLCC remains dedicated to embracing emerging technologies and preparing students for the future. In spring of this year, select SLCC departments hosted a series of conversations over Zoom on ChatGPT and generative AI. These sessions answered questions, and focused on concerns and ideas for how this relatively new technology may impact student learning.



Scan for SLCC's guide on AI and information literacy.





*Then & Now:*

# FROM SOUTH HIGH TO SOUTH CITY

South High School at 1575 South State Street, a marvel of its time, first opened its doors on September 10, 1931, welcoming class after class of high school students until closing permanently on June 8, 1988. The building was sold to Salt Lake Community College and in 1992, after improvements and renovations, was reopened as SLCC's South City Campus, housing the School of Arts, Communication and Media and The Grand Theatre.

Near the State Street entrance, there is a South High Alumni room full of class memorabilia, trophies, yearbooks and awards from the building's former high school days. Formed in 1995, the South High Alumni Association has been an active partner with SLCC, generously donating over \$750,000 in scholarships and hosting events to raise money for students. Every year, the Association awards scholarships to students who are direct descendants of South High alumni.



*magnified* M



The words "South High School" once etched in the granite blocks above the building's entrance, now read "South City Campus" and welcome a different generation of students.

## Then & NOW

# A TIMELINE: REFLECTING ON THE PAST WHILE BUILDING THE FUTURE

SLCC's 75th anniversary has been a time to reflect on the institution's history and its evolution. Founded in 1948, SLCC has come a long way from its humble beginnings as a vocational school to a leading institution of higher education in the state of Utah.



### **THEN: A Modest Beginning**

SLCC's journey began as the Salt Lake Area Vocational School. It started with just 246 students, 23 faculty and 16 courses of study including welding, auto mechanics and nursing. The first campus was the former Troy Laundry building, with makeshift classrooms. Despite challenges, SLCC quickly gained a reputation for its practical education, preparing students for in-demand careers in essential local industries.

### **THEN: A Focus on Access and Opportunity**

In its early years, the College focused on vocational training to help veterans transition to civilian life. In the following decades, SLCC played a vital role in serving the growing population of Salt Lake County, including minority and underserved communities.

### **THEN: Preparing a Legacy of Success**

Millions of SLCC graduates have achieved their career goals and made positive changes in their communities. These early success stories paved the way for SLCC's legacy, and many graduates working in industries like manufacturing, construction and transportation have played an integral part in growing Utah's economy.

### **NOW: A Comprehensive Institution**

SLCC is a premier community college with over 45,000 students enrolled annually. It offers eight areas of study including associate degrees, certificates and workforce training in an extensive range of disciplines. SLCC operates nine campuses throughout Salt Lake County, providing education and training to traditional and non-traditional students from diverse backgrounds.

### **NOW: Affordability and Accessibility**

Today, SLCC supports students who cannot afford college through a wide range of programs, including SLCC Promise. The College continues to provide convenient access to education for students from all walks of life. SLCC's tuition is among the lowest in the state, with 80% of students graduating with little to no student debt.

### **NOW: A Bright Future**

As SLCC looks to its next 75 years, the College remains committed to continuing its legacy of success. SLCC is constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of students and the community by embracing innovative technologies and expanding programs and services.





SLCC's 75th anniversary is a significant milestone. Over the next few pages, look back with us as we honor our past while also looking forward to building an exciting new future.

# 1948

On September 14, 1948 Salt Lake Area Vocational School opens its doors. School motto was "Learn to Earn - Learn to Live."

G.I. Bill enacted by Congress to help veterans of World War II cover tuition and expenses for college or trade schools.

(See page 22)



# 1944

Founding President:  
Howard Gundersen



# 1948



First Practical Nursing Class Commencement.

(See page 36)

# 1949

Longest sitting SLCC president:  
Jay L. Nelson  
1949-1978



# 1954

First Project House constructed.  
(See page 60)



# 1959

Initial land purchased for Redwood Campus after appropriating \$200,000 for the 72 acres.



School is renamed the Salt Lake Trade Technical Institute.

# 1959





# 1963

### Out with the Old...

The College dedicated the site of the Taylorsville Redwood Campus. The ceremony included students pulling down an old, dilapidated barn on the property, making way for the new campus.



“Tech Topics,” the school newspaper, first published.



# 1962

Construction of Jay L. Nelson Administration building is completed.



# 1967



### ...In with the New

President Jay Nelson oversaw Operation Big Move: the relocation of the school’s administrative offices plus eight departments from its downtown location into the new building at Taylorsville. The move coincided with another change, from the name Salt Lake Trade Technical Institute to the new Utah Technical College at Salt Lake.

**“It’s cool to see us women  
doing what we love to do, and  
not avoiding it because it is  
perceived as a man’s world.”**

**–Sandra Hall**

SLCC’s first female faculty member  
in the construction trades



*Then &* **NOW:**

# **ROSIE THE RIVETER OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

**More women are training at SLCC to enter trades that predominantly employ men**

“Rosie the Riveter Returns.” “Women in Jobs Is Defense Need.” In the early 1950s, headlines like these ran in Utah’s newspapers, catalyzing women to enter the trades to help prepare the country as it faced the escalation of the Korean War.

One article in 1951 announced that the Salt Lake Area Vocational School (now Salt Lake Community College) graduated a special class of 71 aircraft workers, that included mostly women and just a handful of men. One of the graduates in machine shop work was Laura Tiffany, a mother of seven who was hired by Hill Air Force base where she “rivet[ed] metal aircraft.”

These women did more than help with the war effort, they were trailblazers for women who would follow them into trade vocations

that were, and still are, primarily occupied by men. Today, women are drawn to these professions beyond patriotic reasons: they want marketable skills that allow them to earn strong wages and do hands-on work.

“I really like the hands-on versus sitting at a desk; I have a hard time sitting still,” says Devon Sanborn, who graduated Spring 2023 with an associate’s degree in Welding Fabrication and Inspection. She will continue her education at Weber State University’s Manufacturing Engineering Technology program.



## “Be Proud of Yourself and Other Women Who Just Went for It”

Flashback to 1975: 28-year-old Sol Barreto, who already had a degree in Languages from Smith College, became the first woman to graduate from SLCC’s two-year auto mechanics program. Upon graduation, she had five job offers.

“Most companies are under fire to hire women in previously man-dominated professions to comply with federal regulations on equal opportunities,” explained Barreto in a *Salt Lake Tribune* article. “But women apparently aren’t aware of this. There are few women in this field, primarily because they don’t know they could actually get a job.”

More women would eventually follow Barreto including Stephanie Flegal, who graduated from SLCC’s auto mechanic program in 2021 with an Associate of Applied Science degree. “I’m a hands-on learner. I like to see it, do it and then tell me if I did it right,” says, Flegal. “My peers and teachers [at SLCC] treated me as an equal, which I loved.”

Her advice to women who want to go into predominantly male-oriented trades is to not be afraid of training with guys and to be willing to get dirty. “The only way you learn is to do it, try it and if you mess up, you can fix it. And when you figure out how to fix it, the gratification is amazing,” says Flegal, who now works as a heavy line technician at Mark Miller Subaru, where she rebuilds engines and transmissions.

Of trailblazers like Barreto, Flegal says: “I think it’s super important to be proud of yourself, and other women, who just went for it.”

## Female Faculty in the Trades

Aviation maintenance, auto mechanics, diesel technician, construction, machinists and welding are some of the SLCC trade programs that are increasingly training more and more women.

“It’s cool to see us women doing what we love to do, and not avoiding it because it is perceived as a man’s world,” says Sandra Hall, a former SLCC student and now the College’s first female faculty member in the construction trades.

**“It’s great when students can say, ‘I look like that person, and I belong in that space too.’”**

Hall and her fellow faculty members work with industry employers to ensure that the curriculum matches industry skills. She also participates in a committee that reaches out to local high schools to encourage more girls to enter the trade programs and inform them about available scholarships. “SLCC is a place where you can feel safe and welcomed, and where you can try out different things, until you find out what you love doing.”



Utah Technical College at Salt Lake is granted full accreditation by the Northwest Association of Colleges and Universities. Thereafter, Higher Education Act makes the College part of the State System of Higher Education.



1969

Construction begins on the College Center at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus.



1972

Dale S. Cowgill replaces President Nelson. 1978-1980

1978



First Associate Degrees Awarded: Applied Science



1968

1973

Work begins on the Construction Trades Building, and first phase of the College Center was completed in December.



# 1980

Whirlyball, an intramural sport once played at SLCC.

Whirlyball combines elements of basketball, lacrosse and bumper cars, with the players riding Whirlybugs, small electric vehicles similar to bumper cars.



James Schnirel is named interim president.



# 1980

Orville Carnahan takes over as president. 1981-1990



# 1981



Student athletes play basketball on an intramural, co-ed wheelchair team known as The Wheeling Utes.

# 1984



SLCC joined the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and has since competed in men's teams in baseball, basketball, soccer and cross country, and women's teams in basketball, softball, volleyball, soccer and cross country.



1987

Governor Norm Bangerter signs bill to create Salt Lake Community College.

1985

1989

SLCC's Norma Carr becomes first woman athletics director in the state of Utah.  
(See page 59)



Visit [slcc.edu/veterans/](https://slcc.edu/veterans/)  
for more information and  
resources.



# FOUNDATIONS

## THEN AND NOW: A LEGACY OF SERVING VETERANS

On September 14, 1948, Salt Lake Community College made its debut as the Salt Lake Area Vocational School with the primary goal to train and educate veterans returning from World War II. With 8.6% of Utah's population enlisting in the war, the state had a huge number of veterans, and many opted to seek education using a new program called the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, more commonly known as the GI Bill.

The GI Bill helped veterans pay for college-level training so they could pursue prosperous and rewarding careers. The bill was also designed to grow America's middle class and stem the high unemployment that troubled the country after WWII.

The war drove advancements in science, medicine and manufacturing and brought about the United States' transformation as an economic superpower. Utah also experienced rapid growth at the time and needed workers to fill essential jobs and

support its burgeoning defense industry. Salt Lake Area Vocational School was created to meet this need, and on opening day, 145 of the school's 246 students were veterans. Just a few months later, 549 former military members were attending with the help of the GI Bill.

### **SLCC's Veteran Center and a New Kind of Service**

SLCC veteran alumni have come from every branch of the military and every major conflict since WWII. When troops began returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan, colleges were encouraged to prepare for increased enrollment among veterans. As predicted, the number of veteran students at SLCC quickly rose, with approximately 300 to 375 attending each semester. By 2005 the College's Veterans Office, operating out of a converted closet, was processing a record number of educational claims, but graduation rates for these students were lower than average. This

prompted the College to explore new approaches and veteran support programs.

In April 2007, SLCC proposed creating an all-inclusive center for veterans. "Since its opening in 2008, the Veterans Center has become the go-to place for all benefits available to student veterans," says former Veterans Center Director Darlene Head, who developed the initial proposal. Two years after the center's opening, veteran enrollment was up 86.5%, with a nearly 96% increase in completion.

In 2022, the Veterans Center expanded again and was renamed the Dale P. Whittaker Veterans Service Center. Donors Nick and Nancy Ward established an endowment for student veterans to receive scholarships at SLCC, and the center was named in memory of Nancy's father, who served in the Navy from 1942-1945. In addition to its role as a one-stop resource center, many events are hosted there, including Veterans Day programs.



**“The Veterans Center has become the go-to place for all benefits available to student veterans.”**

### **Veterans at SLCC Now and in the Future**

Today, more than 1,100 veterans and their dependents attend SLCC each semester, with 940 graduating in 2023. Just as it did at its founding, the College continues to support these students in their educational and career pursuits, even in starting a business.

Veterans have access to business resources through the Veteran Business Resource Center (VBRC) at The Mill. Veterans connect with a business advisor who can help them navigate the pitfalls of starting and running a business, and understand how to access federal resources and funding tailored for veterans. The Mill has helped many veterans through the years, from launching new inventions to marketing services.

Mindful of the complexities former military personnel face in gaining education, SLCC

employs veterans as work-study students to ensure their needs are fully understood. The school also has a full-time, on-campus Veterans Administration (VA) employee liaison. This collaboration offers veteran students easy access to counseling services, VA benefits and other resources as they navigate civilian life.

Stephanie Howard, a disabled veteran of the war in Iraq, used her VA benefits to complete degrees in Instrumentation and Electrical Technology from SLCC. “I got money to go to school and take care of my family. After graduating, I went from earning \$40,000 a year to earning over \$100,000,” Howard says. She advises veterans wanting to go to school to ask questions. “There are a ton of resources through the VA and SLCC and a lot of money out there that isn’t being used,” she says.





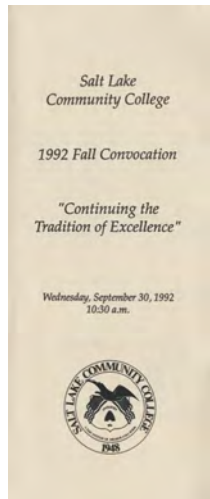
# 1990

The Grand Theatre at the South City Campus debuts with Director Pat Davis – *Camelot* was the first performance.



# 1991

Frank W. Budd is named president. 1991-2000



The College holds its first Convocation Ceremony. Disability Resource Center opens at Redwood Campus.

# 1992



The Emma Lou Thayne Center opens under the Alumni Association. In 1995, it separated from the Alumni Association and adopted the name Thayne Community Service Center.

Since then, the Thayne Center for Service & Learning and SLCC's Student Life & Leadership organization have combined resources, unifying under the name the Thayne Center.

# 50<sup>th</sup>

The College celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a party and parade.



The College breaks ground on the Larry H. Miller Entrepreneurship Training Center and also on the Jordan Campus.

1994

# 1995

Airport Center opens



1998



# Recipe: Chicken Chasseur

By *Chef Jeffrey Coker,*

Interim Dean, Gail Miller School of Business

## Ingredients

1 each	Whole chicken, cut into 8 pieces
1 pint	Crimini mushrooms, quartered
2 each	Roma tomatoes, peeled, seeded and diced
1 each	Shallots, minced
½ bunch	Italian parsley, minced
2 each	Garlic cloves, whole
4 sprigs	Fresh thyme
8 oz	White wine - optional
24 oz	Chicken stock
8 oz	Olive oil blend
4 oz	Butter
Salt and pepper to taste	

## Cooking Instructions

1. Begin by fabricating the chicken into 8 pieces (Fricassee cut), reserve and keep cold.
2. Prepare all the remaining ingredients as above and reserve.
3. In a sauté pan large enough to accommodate four pieces of chicken at a time, heat over medium heat, add half of the olive oil, season the chicken and begin sautéing skin side down until golden brown. Add the thyme and garlic cloves and baste while the chicken is sautéing. Lightly sauté the other side and remove from the pan.
4. After all pieces are sautéed, place on a roasting rack and sheet pan. Cook in a 425-degree oven until an internal temperature of 165 degrees is reached.
5. While chicken is cooking, defat the pan, add butter, and sauté the mushrooms until tender, then add and sweat the shallots, continue to cook until tender. Note: if the pan is burnt, use a different pan to make the sauce.
6. Optional - deglaze the pan with white wine and reduce until au sec.
7. Add the chicken stock and gently simmer. While reducing, skim excess fat.
8. Once the desired consistency is achieved, add tomatoes and cook until tender.
9. Monte au beurre (add cold butter) and finish with minced parsley.
10. Adjust seasoning as needed.
11. After the chicken is finished cooking, add to the sauce and baste.
12. Serve chicken and sauce on a large platter. Garnish with more freshly chopped parsley.

Roasted seasoned red bliss potatoes, garlic mashed potatoes, fresh sautéed or roasted vegetables are all wonderful side dishes to pair with this entrée.





“Not just a degree in culinary training. It is a long-term career.”

## Then & Now: Evolution of the Culinary Arts

### The Maillard Reaction

The gastronomic evolution that transforms a pungent, crisp and intense raw onion into the complex flavor of a nutty, sweet, caramelized onion is known as the Maillard reaction. It is named after French chemist Louis-Camille Maillard in 1912, who first described the reaction that occurs in the browning of a mixture.

What is now known as the Salt Lake Community College Culinary Arts program has undergone a transformation parallel to the Maillard reaction. Just like the onion, the program began with the basics but through hard work, time and other elements, the results have been transformative.

Salt Lake Vocational School opened its doors in 1948 teaching a handful of courses, such as Baking and Cooking apprentice

programs. By 1953, the demand for trained personnel in the food service area had grown and a Food Hostess Training program was launched. In 1989, after a number of name changes and program adjustments designed to meet employer demands, the SLCC Culinary program began to offer the Chef Apprenticeship program and would do so through 2000.

### The Art of Food Preparation

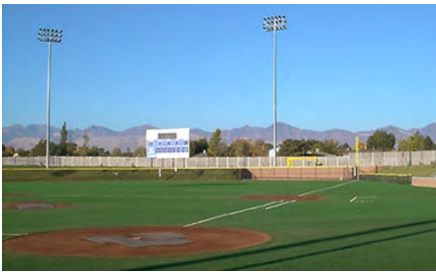
The gastronomical industry began to shift with the rise of social media and the trend of posting aesthetic, Instagrammable online. In 2015, SLCC's Culinary program revamped its curriculum allowing students to earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree—a welcome opportunity for students seeking more than a certificate—where students learn molecular gastronomy

techniques and the art of preparing food.

Jeffrey Coker, currently interim dean for the Gail Miller School of Business, and chef, says the program's goal is “not just a degree in culinary training. It is a long-term career.” He adds that program graduates learn the skills needed to succeed as line cooks, restaurant owners or executive chefs. At present, students enjoy a cutting-edge training facility and equipment typically used in the industry, allowing them to gain the necessary hands-on experience that they will need in the field.

Unlike the current Culinary Arts program, the Maillard reaction takes fewer than 75 years to achieve golden, caramelized perfection. The school started three-quarters of a century ago as a sub-disciplinary program and has evolved into what is now a highly awarded Culinary Arts program.





Cate Field Baseball Diamond groundbreaking at Jordan Campus.

# 2000



H. Lynn Cundiff is named next president. 2000-2003



The student newspaper renamed its publication to its current name, *The Globe*.

# 2001



The Community Garden opens at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus on Earth Day.

# 2008

# 2005

Cynthia Bioteau, PhD becomes the first woman president of the College. 2005-2013

# 2013

Deneece G. Huftalin, PhD  
current president

**Deneece G. Huftalin**

named the eighth president of Salt Lake Community College has served students, faculty and staff for the past three decades. Prior to her role as president, she served as the interim president, vice president of student services, dean of students, and director of academic and career advising.



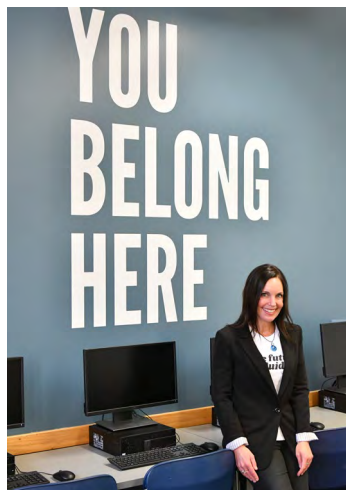
# 2016

The College debuts the SLCC Promise program, offering tuition assistance to qualifying students.



Gender and Sexuality Student Resource Center opens.

# 2019

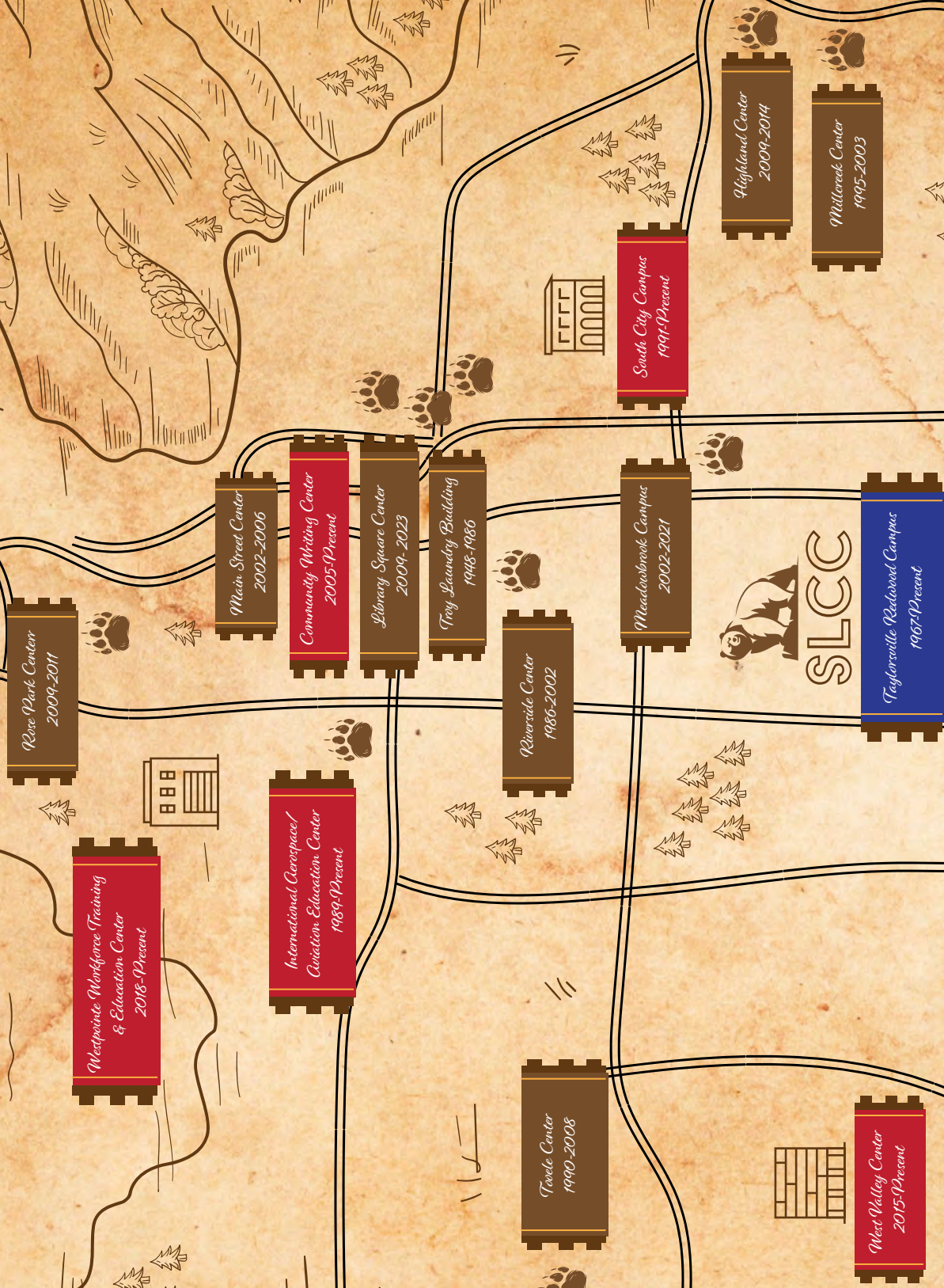


Dream Center opens to support undocumented students.



# NORTH

Throughout the years, SLCC has operated many sites around the Salt Lake Valley. Today the College has nine accessible and convenient locations, spanning from Salt Lake City to Herriman.







Sandy Campus  
1883-2010

Draper Center  
2004-2007

Miller Campus  
1999-Present

Jordan Campus  
1998-Present

Herriman Campus  
2023

**Map Legend:**  
**Red** – Current campuses in operation  
**Blue** – SLCC main campus  
**Brown** – Past campus locations

 *Footprint of all SLCC campus locations, past and present.* 



# 2022

The College receives record-breaking donation from the Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation and renames its Business School the Gail Miller School of Business.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, classes shift from in-person to almost entirely online.

Dual language classes in both English and Spanish offered for the first time.



The College achieves emerging Hispanic Serving Institution status.



Herriman Campus opens its doors to students.

# 2023

# 2020

# 2022



The School of Applied Technology becomes Salt Lake Technical College in response to changes made by the Utah System of Higher Education.



Visit our interactive timeline for more on the history and evolution of the College, from its beginnings as Salt Lake Area Vocational School through today. The timeline also includes resources from SLCC's Digital Archives such as articles, photographs, videos and audio recordings.

[bit.ly/SLCCtime](https://bit.ly/SLCCtime)

**2023**

The College celebrates 75 years of supporting Utah's economy and helping students from all backgrounds achieve their dreams.



## Then & NOW TRAVELING PHOTO-STORY EXHIBIT

**R**obert Hunter set out on a journey to discover what he wanted to do with his life. After two years of college in Montana, he dropped out because he couldn't settle on a career path.

"I moved to Washington and worked as a dishwasher at a tribal casino," says Hunter. "One night in that hot, steamy dish pit I had the realization that if I'm going to be broke, I might as well be broke doing something I love. And I love filmmaking."

His life had been influenced by movies and music. But what was missing, he says, was the indigenous voice. "I knew that was never going to happen unless we go out there and do it ourselves."

He made a goal to get into the American Film Institute (AFI) in Los Angeles, CA within five years. In 2020, he graduated from AFI, and says that Salt Lake Community College played a big part in making that happen.

**"We hope that students can perhaps see themselves in some of these stories and be inspired by them as they figure out what's next."**

Hunter's story is just one in a new traveling photo-story exhibit that has been roving between SLCC campuses to commemorate the College's 75th anniversary. The "Then & Now" exhibit invites viewers to step into the lives of former students who remember what it was like when they first started at SLCC—some scared, some unsure, some excited—and to then learn where they are now in their careers.

Each story includes nuggets of hard-earned advice that they would give to their younger selves, and to current and prospective SLCC

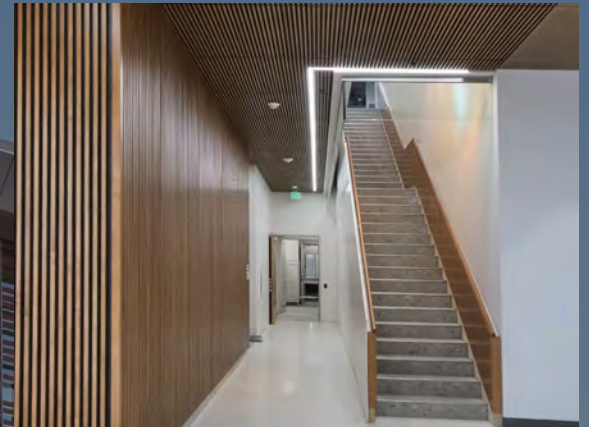
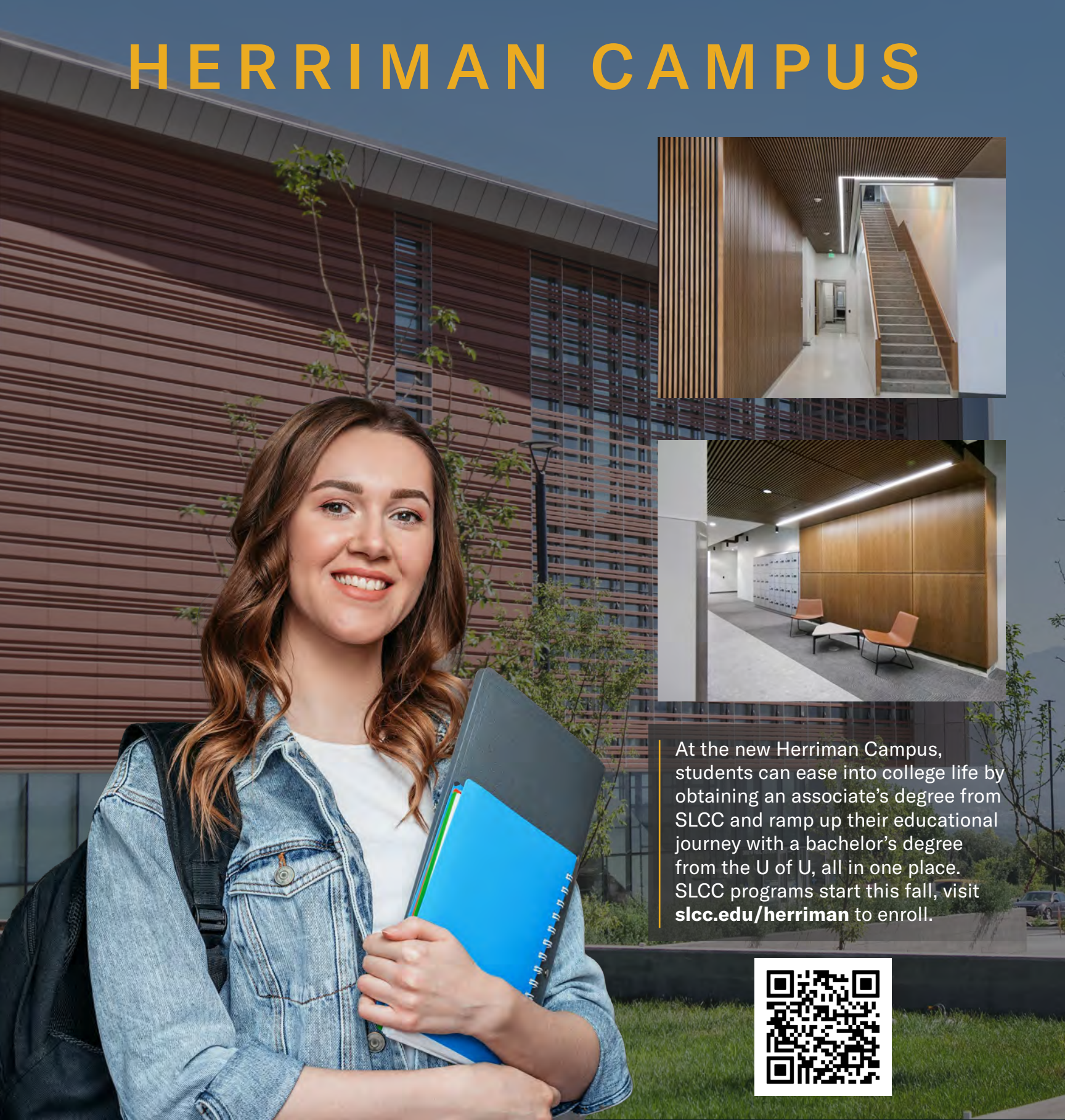
students. Hunter's advice is as to "keep moving forward. The second you stop is the moment you fail. You should never give up. Sooner or later, things will start to click."

The exhibit stories are not limited to the twelve currently displayed. The "Then & Now" story collection will continue to evolve as new alumni stories are added throughout 2023 and beyond. The Institutional Marketing and Communications department oversaw the design and production of the exhibit.

"We hope that students can perhaps see themselves in some of these stories and be inspired by them as they figure out what's next," says Peta Owens-Liston, who collected the stories and is the assistant director of Public Relations. "It also shows all the different ways SLCC alumni have gone on to contribute to our communities and others' lives."

If you are an alumnus interested in participating, reach out to [peta.liston@slcc.edu](mailto:peta.liston@slcc.edu).

# HERRIMAN CAMPUS



At the new Herriman Campus, students can ease into college life by obtaining an associate's degree from SLCC and ramp up their educational journey with a bachelor's degree from the U of U, all in one place. SLCC programs start this fall, visit [slcc.edu/herriman](https://slcc.edu/herriman) to enroll.





6701

## Then & Now: First to Last Graduating Class Fills Nursing Shortage

Salt Lake Community College division of nursing has remained nimble, relevant and vibrant over the last 75 years.

The first-ever practical nursing cohort completed training, and was the first graduating class from the Salt Lake Area Vocational School, in August 1949. Two years earlier, the Salt Lake Nursing Council had called to “replenish Utah’s resource of trained and registered nurses” ahead of what a 1947 *Salt Lake Tribune* article named an “imminent shortage,” even as World War II ended in 1945. After a year-long course of classroom and in-hospital training, these practical nursing graduates quickly went to work.

It’s easy to marvel at the technological advances from 1949 to 2023. Mid-century black and white photos depict students practicing infant baths with baby dolls and welcoming a full-sized skeleton named “Joe” to their classroom. Today, students simulate patient care using manikins with expanding chests, variable heart rates, measurable blood pressure and blinking eyes. “It’s a little spooky

sometimes,” says Stephanie Richardson, associate dean of the Nursing Program.

Richardson has implemented research-based changes to admissions and progression criteria. “The [changes] are well-grounded in science...they are mission-driven to ensure this program is accessible to all community members,” she says. Specifically, the division is doing away with the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) requirements.

Research has shown the TEAS is “race-based” and “keeping people out of [the] program,” and the CNA is an unnecessary expense, as the program already teaches the same skills. While based in science, the new criteria align with nursing’s holistic approach to patient care: “Nursing is committed to the idea that mind, spirit and body are connected,” Richardson says.

Looking ahead, the nursing faculty hope to create more graduates by adding a summer cohort. “It gets students out and earning money sooner,” Richardson says, along with benefitting the community. Like the post-war nursing shortage in 1947, there is a shortage on the heels on of the pandemic. “It’s real,” Richardson says. “It’s persistent. It’s going to increase.”

Faculty member and Program Coordinator Gretchen Ask is proud of her students and says they are the core of what SLCC stands for. “I’m privileged to watch them through the whole program. I watch them get married, have babies, lose loved ones. Many are caregivers. I’ve just watched them go through COVID,” she says. “Students continue to show up—that’s impressive—while going through their own trials. I love teaching at SLCC because of that.”



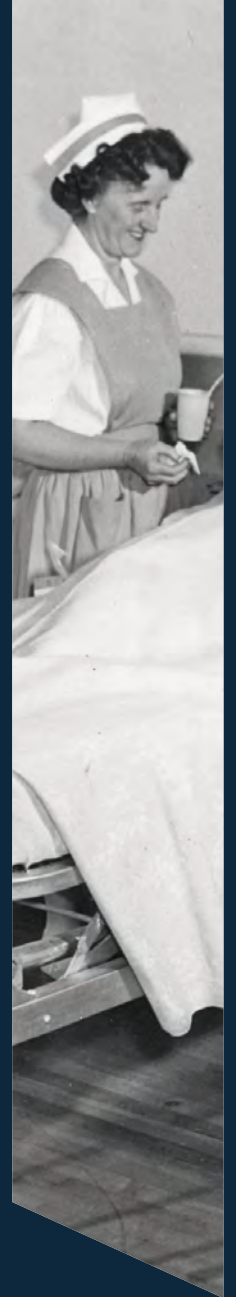
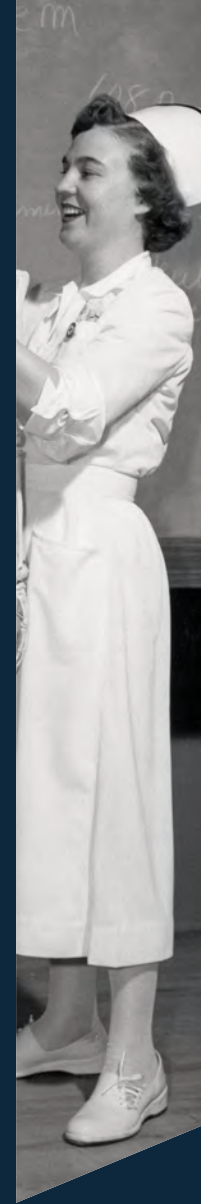
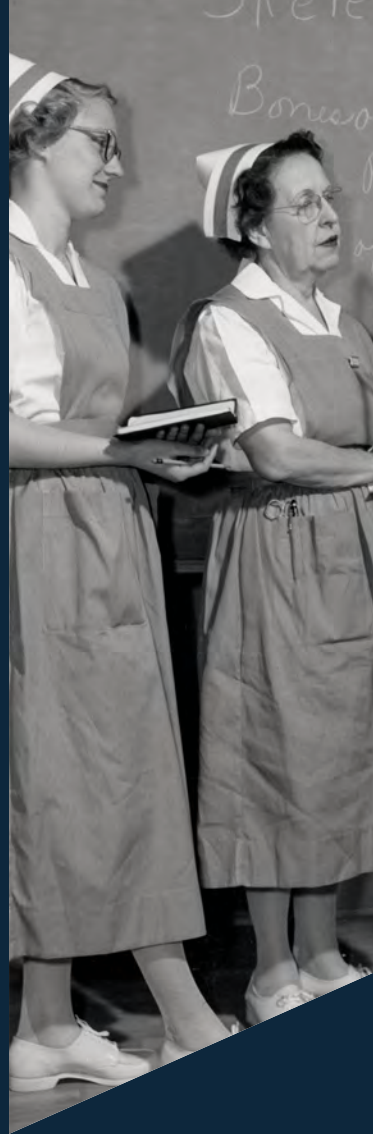
“Nursing is committed to the idea that mind, spirit and body are *connected.*”



CELEBRATING  
**75**  
1948 • YEARS 2023 •

# A COLLEGE FOR ALL

**Graduates of SLCC's  
Class of 2023 join a legacy  
of trailblazers dating back  
to 1948.**



## *Then & Now:*

In 1949, the first commencement took place at the Salt Lake Area Vocational School comprised of nine women who were the first class to graduate from the practical nursing school in the state.

**ACADEMIC YEAR: 1948-49**

**STUDENTS : 1387**

**YEARLY TUITION: \$80**

**(\$910 IN 2023 DOLLARS)**

**GRADUATES: 9**





*Graduating Class of 2023*

Salt Lake Community College recognized 3,330 students for their achievements during its Spring 2023 Commencement Ceremony, and an estimated 3,865 awards (duplicated headcount) were granted. The ceremony was held on May 4, 2023, at the Maverik Center in West Valley City, Utah.

**ACADEMIC YEAR: 2022-23**

**STUDENTS: 18,167**

**YEARLY TUITION: \$4,256.50**

**GRADUATES: 3,330**

**poet. activist.** *storyteller.*



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Tara M. Stringfellow, poet, activist and storyteller, was three years old when her father read to her Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven." She recalls, "I remember grabbing his hand, stopping him and making him start over. It was the most beautiful thing I'd ever heard in my life." She knew at that moment she had to be a writer, but her father told her that to reach her goal she would have to be three times better than Poe, because she was Black and a woman.

Stringfellow shared this story in her commencement speech as the keynote speaker on May 4, at the Maverik Center in West Valley City, as well as the obstacles she's had to overcome to be a writer. She remarked that even though the country is in turmoil, as a writer and poet she is hopeful. "I believe in the creativity, the ingenuity, the resilience of these young, brilliant graduates. It is true that this country is hurting, but it is also true that y'all will be the ones to heal us."

Quoting the famous beginning lines from the Declaration of Independence about 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,' Stringfellow said, "My favorite word in that phrase is 'pursuit.' We all have dreams, but the question in

front of you graduates is: are you willing and able to hunt for yours? To pursue your dreams until the edge of reason?" she asked the graduating class of 2023.

Pursuing her own dreams of becoming a writer, Stringfellow attended Northwestern University (NU) and earned bachelor's degrees in English Literature and African American Studies. She continued her education at the Chicago-Kent College of Law and then embarked on a career as an attorney. Although she found the legal field rewarding, she never lost her passion for writing. She went back to school to obtain a Master of Fine Arts from NU in poetry and fiction.

In 2022, Stringfellow published her debut novel *Memphis*, a story about a multi-generational southern Black family and a daughter's discovery that she has the power to change their legacy. The book draws inspiration from her own family's stories and was named one of Amazon's Best Books of 2022. She sees her work as a way of bearing witness to the world around her, of telling the stories that need to be told, and of amplifying the voices of those who have been silenced.

**"I believe in the creativity, the ingenuity, the resilience of these young, brilliant graduates."**



# AMANDA LEE

School of Science,  
Mathematics and Engineering  
GEOLOGY

“Neither of my parents went to college. I never graduated from high school, so it never crossed my mind that I could go to college. After decades of battling poor decisions and toxic cycles, I sought help. I broke the cycles, obtained my GED and registered for SLCC. My journey has taught me to let go of what I had left behind to move forward.”

Influential Faculty: Jodie Jones, Anne Canavan and Charlotte Howe



Scan QR Code to view  
video of the Graduates of  
Excellence.



# INSPIRE

## The Provost Graduates of Excellence

Provost Graduates of Excellence is a prestigious distinction that recognizes hard work, commitment and selflessness. One student is selected from each academic school and from General Studies. Many students apply to receive this honor. These students have excellent GPAs and typically receive scholarships and awards for their academic achievements. They have demonstrated leadership skills and dedication to serving others in addition to other notable accomplishments related to the creative arts, athletic excellence or involvement beyond the classroom.

### SIERRA SCHMIDT

School of Arts, Communication and Media  
MUSIC

“SLCC is the best thing that has ever happened to me. Here, I found several student clubs with like-minded colleagues and similar interests. I was introduced to different engineering clubs whose members helped me develop my two musical inventions, which have since been accepted for presentation and publication at two conferences. I am now more excited about my future than I ever have been, and it is all thanks to SLCC’s wonderful people.”

Influential Faculty: Stephanie Smith



### JENNIFER CROFT

School of Health Sciences  
RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

“As a first-generation college student, I needed confidence to succeed. I developed my self-assurance as I started taking classes, learned about myself and evolved in academics. I now realize I have accomplished more than I could have ever dreamed, which is something for which I am grateful. I now view success not as a destination but as the path I take to better myself and the world around me.”

Influential Faculty: David Neil, Matt Harris and Karen Kwan





## SHANDRA PAYNE

General Studies  
HEALTH/KINESIOLOGY

“I started my SLCC career in 2002 and returned in Fall 2019. It was a challenging adjustment as it had been a long time since I had been in school. Twenty-one years ago, I started my college career at SLCC, and I will finally graduate this spring. It has not been an easy road, nor has my educational career been traditional, but I have learned to never give up on myself, and I can continue developing and growing even when things are difficult.”

Influential Faculty: Corey Riding and Dr. Emmanuel Santa-Martinez

## TRELYNN GEHRINGER

Gail Miller School of Business  
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

“In early 2020, I applied, enrolled and was set to start at the College, but then COVID hit. I was furloughed from my job, the College shut down and everything went fully remote. Despite the frustration, loss and suffering that life has brought, I applied for graduation in Fall 2022. My feelings of shock and joy are tangible. I am graduating and achieving my personal educational goal. I’m proud to be a mom, full-time employee, wife and soon-to-be college graduate.”

Influential Faculty: Barbie Willett



## GABRIEL HOLM

School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
PSYCHOLOGY

“Being president of the SLCC Psychology Club has allowed me the opportunity to grow, develop leadership skills, learn to communicate and acquire management skills. I am deeply involved in the SLCC community, where I have defined myself as a creative person. The events I have participated in at SLCC have not only provided me the space to express myself but have created an outlet for me to share my writing.”

Influential Faculty: Kathy Tran-Peters, Shannon Flynt and Tom Hanson



# DEVON SANBORN

School of Technical and Professional  
Specialties  
WELDING FABRICATION  
AND INSPECTION

"I am a first-generation college student and a female in a male-dominated trade. Choosing a trade instead of the traditional education route has changed my life, and I am looking forward to these next couple of years of learning in school and in the field. I hope to give back and teach others eager to learn the same welding knowledge and skills that I acquired at SLCC."

Influential Faculty:  
Frank Buckler and  
Jacob Adkinson





# H O P E

## JOHN AND JOANNE PARRISH

John M. Parrish Foundation

Since 1955, the Salt Lake Community College Board of Trustees has been awarding Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees to outstanding individuals. Awardees have achieved distinction, made extraordinary contributions to their professional fields and made a meaningful impact in their communities and/or higher education.

**M**ention “Salt Lake Community College” to John Parrish, and you can expect a long and passionate conversation. “I could talk about SLCC all day,” he says. John and his wife Joanne, both Utah natives, are adamant about changing the lives of students at SLCC. “It is an amazing place that does wonderful things for our community,” he says.

They both believe deeply in the power of education, and their eponymous John & Joanne Parrish Endowed Scholarship has positively impacted dozens of SLCC students. “Seeing how our dollars are changing lives is inspiring and humbling,” says John, who also served on the SLCC Foundation Board for six years, with three of those years as the organization’s chair. During his tenure, the Foundation doubled SLCC’s endowment and raised millions of dollars for student scholarships.

Now retired, John and Joanne spend their time investing in Utah’s wider community. Years ago, through their relationship with someone struggling with addiction, the couple began supporting nonprofit organizations engaged in transformational work around addiction and recovery. In 2008 they started the John M. Parrish

Foundation, where they develop partnerships with local groups devoted to improving access to mental health services and aiding in addiction recovery. Some of these groups include Salt Lake City’s Fourth Street Clinic, Fit to Recover and Impact Mental Health.

The Parrish’s impact is felt around the Salt Lake Valley through their generous spirit and practical advice and support. “Joanne and I look for causes we are passionate about and work to find existing organizations we can get behind. We want our money to make a difference.”

John Parrish’s 45-year career saw him operate and eventually own Midwest Floor Coverings, where Joanne also worked as a Director of Travel. With this inside perspective on Utah’s economy, the couple sees SLCC’s students as the key to what businesses need. “SLCC sends out employable and job-ready students. At the College, they are getting career education and leaving with marketable skills. There is considerable demand in Utah for that, and that need will continue to grow. We are so happy to be a part of that legacy.”



# LUZ MARIA ESCAMILLA

## Utah State Senator

Senator Luz Escamilla's deep appreciation for education stems from her parents, who worked hard to provide opportunities for themselves and their children. Both her mother and father attended college in Mexico and earned PhDs in chemical engineering. "Education was always part of our lives," she says.

At an early age, Senator Escamilla realized her path to success depended on going to college. Before her election as Utah's first Latina and immigrant state senator in 2008, she earned a bachelor's degree in Business Marketing and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Utah. Now in her fifth term in the Utah State Senate, Senator Escamilla serves on the Senate leadership team as the Senate Minority Whip and is chair of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators' Banking Committee and Affordable Housing and Credit Task Force. She is also co-chair of Utah's Women in the Economy Commission.

An entrepreneur at heart, Senator Escamilla says when she gets a business idea, she first checks with Salt Lake Community College to see what's available in terms of education to support her idea. She has vast experience as a political consultant and specializes in developing strategic government relations plans for businesses and nonprofits.

In past years, she served as director for Utah's Office of Ethnic Affairs, and as vice president for Zions Bank in the Community Development Group. She has also filled the role of Chief Operations Officer at MiCARE Network, a Utah-based healthcare startup. Currently, Senator Escamilla is a managing partner of ESCATEC Solutions, which helps organizations improve their customer experience and better utilize technology.

Senator Escamilla believes that SLCC, an emerging Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), plays an essential role in Utah's economy. "Our emerging communities are providing the highest fertility rates—they are literally our future workforce," she says. "In the end, when you have individuals get the degree or certificate and get in the workforce where they can fill those positions, we all win. From a fiscal perspective, supporting SLCC students is the right and smart thing to do."

**"... Supporting SLCC students is the right and smart thing to do."**





# MELISSA GARFF BALLARD

Utah House of Representatives District 20, Davis County

The Salt Lake Community College Legislative Champion Award honors state legislators who demonstrate through their legislative activities a commitment to advancing and improving higher education for the state. The College's Legislative Champion is selected at the conclusion of every legislative session.

**R**epresentative Melissa Garff Ballard began her service in the Utah House of Representatives in 2019. At that time, she was appointed to the Higher Education Appropriations Committee, and in 2023 was named as the committee's chair. In this role, she has been a great champion for SLCC and Utah's other higher education institutions.

During her early days as a legislator, Representative Ballard visited SLCC to learn more about its students and perspectives on important issues related to education. Through the years, she continues to keep in contact with SLCC leadership and students. During the most recent legislative session, Representative Ballard was instrumental in helping higher education institutions receive unprecedented state funding for a wide range of programs and initiatives, including many that will benefit SLCC students.

In addition to leading the Higher Education Appropriations Committee, Representative Ballard

chairs the Utah Higher Education and Corrections Council and is an ardent advocate for incarcerated students. Her work on the council aims to provide these students with the opportunity to receive college-level training and education that helps them successfully transition into society upon their release. These efforts have resulted in meaningful assistance and support for students participating in SLCC's highly successful Prison Education Program.

Representative Ballard was born and raised in Davis County. She holds a bachelor's degree in Piano Performance and a master's degree in Music from the University of Utah. She is also the founding chair of the University of Utah's School of Music Advisory Board and is co-founder of the Salt Lake CAP Head Start Advisory Board, which serves hundreds of at-risk children whose families live below poverty level.



# MARY ANNE DOUGLAS

RN, MS, CNOR

**Nurse Executive Director, Surgical Operations at Intermountain Health, Canyons Region**

AS, Surgical Technology, 1980

**M**ary Anne Douglas describes herself as the fixing type—she has an innate drive to jump in, start fixing and problem solving. This drive, and her skills, have propelled her long career from surgical technician to executive leadership. She is currently the executive nurse director for Surgical Operations at Intermountain Health.

At 19, as a new graduate from SLCC's Surgical Technology program, fixing came in the form of helping people heal. She recalls how miraculous it was to see acute trauma patients heal over a series of surgeries. She witnessed frequent problem solving in the operating room, as surgeons quickly adapted to each patient's condition.

One of nine children, Douglas grew up in a small town in New Mexico and came to Utah to pursue education. When she saw an advertisement for the SLCC's Surgical Tech program, it was like a lightning bolt moment—"I knew that's what I was going to do," she says. She transferred her credits from BYU and began the program at SLCC in 1979.

While at the College, she met instructor Bonita Robertson, who would become one of the top mentors in her life. "She taught us so much more than just technical skills, she taught us life skills and shared stories that really stuck with me," says Douglas.

Her career as a surgical technologist allowed her to gain experience and support herself until she eventually earned a bachelor's degree in Nursing from Westminster College and later a master's degree in Healthcare Administration at the University of Colorado, Denver.

"Healthcare is a demanding field. You need to go into it with the attitude of 'What can I bring to it,'" says Douglas. "It isn't for everyone, but for me it's been magic."

Salt Lake Community College's prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award honors SLCC graduates and former students for professional or academic excellence and exemplary service in their communities. It's the highest award the College bestows upon alumni. Traditionally, one female alumna and one male alumnus are selected as honorees each year; this year three alumni were honored.



## JEREMY FOSTER

LPTA, CI

Licensed Physical Therapy Assistant,  
North Sunflower Medical Center,  
Ruleville, MS

AS, Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA), 1996

Understanding human conditions, people’s vulnerabilities and adaptability is why Jeremy Foster loves his work. This perspective was first nurtured by Ken Freeman, one of Foster’s instructors in SLCC’s Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program.

“Ken insisted that in order to connect with patients, you need to think about what it is like to be them and try to understand what it is they are facing,” says Foster, who graduated from the College in 1996 with a PTA associate’s degree. “So much of that has really stayed with me.”

Foster credits the success of his 26-year career to the mentorship he received from his exceptional SLCC instructors. He moved from Price, Utah, where he was working with a physical therapist, to Salt Lake to attend college. “I realized to advance, I had to earn a degree and the only place in Utah to offer a PTA degree was SLCC.”

Today, Foster is the Academy of Clinical Electrophysiology and Wound Managements’ physical therapy assistant at large. He also served in this capacity for six years at the Academy of Acute Care, which is affiliated with the American Physical Therapy Association.

Foster has been recognized many times for his excellent work, including serving twice as the PTA Caucus Representative for the state of Mississippi. In addition, multiple organizations have named him as Outstanding Physical Therapist Assistant of the Year.

“The return on my education has been phenomenal,” says Foster, who encourages new graduates, especially in healthcare, to find the passion within their profession. “The reward should be seeing someone being able to walk again or get back to their life—it should not be the paycheck.”

**“The return on my education has been phenomenal.”**

# GARY PAYTON II

Professional Basketball Player  
Golden State Warriors  
AS, Business, 2014

**G**ary Payton II always knew the path to becoming a professional athlete was a difficult one and that it was going to take grit to reach his dreams. “You just got to promise yourself that you are going to buy in and take the punches as they come and enjoy the journey—and the journey depends on how much work and effort you put into it,” says Payton.

He chose to attend and play basketball at SLCC because it was part of a well-respected conference and offered a chance to get recognized. Payton played for SLCC from 2012 to 2014 before moving on to Oregon State University. One of the highlights of his career was winning the NBA championship in 2022 with the Golden State Warriors, where he currently is a shooting guard.

“Going to SLCC was just another piece of the journey. I got into a good rhythm and routine and focused on what I had to do,” says Payton.

During his time as a Bruin, he earned multiple awards including being named an NJCAA Second Team All-America player as a sophomore. The support Payton received from his SLCC instructors and coaches, “just made it smooth” for his two years at the College, where he earned an associate’s degree in Business.

Last December, Payton was honored at the SLCC vs. Northwest basketball game for the retiring of his jersey, #1. The jersey memorializes his time at the College and is displayed in Bruin Arena.



# TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Teaching Excellence Award, presented by the Salt Lake Community College Foundation Board, recognizes cumulative excellence in professional education over the span of a career. Both full-time and adjunct faculty are eligible for the award.

**CLAIRE ADAMS,  
PhD**

Associate Professor,  
*Humanities*

After 14 years teaching at SLCC, Claire Adams describes her role in her humanities' classes as a facilitator. She encourages her students to share their knowledge and lived experiences in class discussions.

“There are so many big social issues coming at our students so fast—school shootings, a global pandemic, racial injustices—that I think it is important to instill in them a thought process that is solution oriented, so they are not left feeling helpless,” she explains. Because the humanities typically explore the human experience and seek to better understand the world, her teaching style increasingly leans into this solution-oriented approach.

Adams obtained a bachelor's degree in Modern Studies in the Humanities from the University of Ulster at Jordanstown in Northern Ireland. She earned her master's in Irish Cultural Studies from Queen's University in Belfast and her PhD in Language & Literature from the University of Ulster. In 2018, she earned a master's degree in International Affairs and Global Enterprise from the University of Utah.



Melissa Hardy relishes when students who at first think they're not good at science gain self confidence in her classes. In her biology courses, Hardy engages students by peppering them with questions and incorporating group activities. Each class also culminates in a research project. "They gain self-efficacy and leave proud of themselves," she says.

When Hardy first began teaching at SLCC in 2011, she taught how she was taught, through lectures and tests. This approach has since evolved into a style that relies on active learning. "I've really focused on making the material more accessible and inclusive in order to reach and engage my students," says Hardy. She attributes her teaching evolution to the supportive collegiate environment in the School of Science, Mathematics and Engineering, where leadership encourages new ideas.

Hardy has enormous respect and admiration for her students, not just because they are smart and motivated but also because many pursue education despite significant hardships. "Being a professor here is an amazing way to cultivate empathy, because you listen to and witness so many students who are going through incredibly difficult challenges but still persevere in their coursework," she says. "It's incredibly rewarding to help my students succeed."

Hardy earned a bachelor's degree in Zoology at Brigham Young University, a master's degree in Biology: Ecology and Systematics at San Francisco State University and a PhD in Neurobiology and Anatomy at the University of Utah. "I'm in love with my field," says Hardy. "It's pretty amazing that I get to go into work each day to talk about biology and see students' minds open up."

“IT’S  
INCREDIBLY  
REWARDING  
TO HELP MY  
STUDENTS  
SUCCEED.”

**MELISSA HARDY, PhD**  
Associate Professor,  
*Biology*



In class, Nikki Mantyla often displays students' sentences on a screen and invites everyone to shift around words and punctuation. She wants to disarm students who may fear writing and perceive it as rigid. She shows them how the arrangement of words can be played with to create different emphases.

"I find the best learning happens through curiosity, experimentation, discussion, questioning and simply playing around," says Mantyla, who teaches general education and novel writing classes. "I want students to discover the many methods of giving life to the words on the page."

In her 15 years of teaching at SLCC, Mantyla has heard many students say they hated writing until they took one of her classes. She recalls one student who says for the first time ever he felt his voice as a writer was worthwhile and he could use it to speak up and out.

Teaching is part of Mantyla's heritage. Her grandparents and parents were teachers, and she has always loved the challenge in teaching others. She earned both her bachelor's degree in English Teaching and master's degree in English with a creative writing emphasis at BYU.

"I want all my students to walk into the world confident and able to engage in whatever way they will need to through writing."



**NIKKI MANTYLA**

Adjunct professor,  
*English, Linguistics and  
Writing Studies*

"I FIND THE BEST LEARNING  
HAPPENS THROUGH CURIOSITY,  
EXPERIMENTATION,  
DISCUSSION, QUESTIONING AND  
SIMPLY PLAYING AROUND."



# DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURER, 2024

For associate professor Kristi Green, an Argentine American, Salt Lake Community College has been a beacon of diversity. She sees the College’s mission of inclusivity daily through its support of marginalized communities seeking higher education. Even so, Green notes there are still too few Latinas in higher education leadership positions. This led her to wonder how community colleges are supporting Latinas and begin to conduct her own research on the issue.

As SLCC’s Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for 2024, Green’s lecture will focus on the experiences and stories of Latinas working in higher education and how colleges can foster more inclusive environments. “These narratives are considered ‘Counterstories.’ Counterstorytelling is a method of recounting the experiences of the racially and socially marginalized,” Green says.

Her lecture will also highlight the progress SLCC has made toward equity, as well as opportunities for improvement. “We will workshop and discuss our own origin stories, what constitutes our identities, what support we need to advance our own careers, identify where we will no longer compromise, and what practices we might adopt to better support inclusivity.”

In her eight years at SLCC, Green has taught courses on Entrepreneurship, Small Business and Management, among others. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Architecture from the University of Utah, a Master of Business Administration from Independence University, and a PhD in Higher Education Administration from the University of Wyoming. In addition to her role as an associate professor, she serves as SLCC’s Management Department coordinator in the Gail Miller School of Business.



**KRISTI M. GREEN, PhD**

Associate Professor and Management Department Coordinator,

*Gail Miller School of Business*

The Distinguished Faculty Lecturer is a recognition of quality work by one of Salt Lake Community College’s full-time faculty and a charge to develop that work over an academic year into a public presentation. A committee chosen by the Associate Provost for Learning Advancement selects the faculty lecturer each year. The lecture will take place in the spring of 2024.

# EXPERIENTIAL

## VALUE IN THE TRADES

**NAME:** NEAL GROVER

**CLASSES YOU TAUGHT:** Auto Collision Repair and Refinishing since 1965. I taught the first I-CAR (Inter-industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair) in Utah, beginning in 1979.

**YEARS TEACHING AT SLCC:** 52

**UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES:** Received the first AAS Degree in Auto Collision Repair and Refinishing awarded at Utah Technical College in 1974. Obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree from Utah State University School of Engineering, Trade and Industrial Education in 1976.

**MASTER'S DEGREE:** Utah State University School of Engineering, Trade and Industrial Education in 1979.

**THE BIGGEST CHANGE AT SLCC OVER THE YEARS:** The biggest change is the value now given to the trades. When I was enrolled in Salt Lake Area Vocational School, I was considered a loser that didn't belong at a university. Today, we have high tech jobs that are recognized and respected as they should have been all along, and they pay very well. Today, education and training are more important than ever—without it you can't advance rapidly. But there is a place for everyone, you just need to go out and find it.

**GREATEST PROFESSIONAL**

**CHALLENGE:** Challenges to me include focusing on student mental health, personal progress and future success in their lives. Leave the politics to others and stay in your own lane; you are there for students, they are not there for you. Do the best you can to pass on the most important knowledge and hands-on training available to ensure students a better life and self-esteem.

**GREATEST PROFESSIONAL**

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** Among my proudest accomplishments are the I-CAR Founders Award for the Northwest Region, I-CAR Emeritus Instructor and SLCC Emeritus Professor and Best in State for College and University professors.

**WHY WORKING AT SLCC MATTERS:**

SLCC matters because it provides a means of gaining the knowledge, training and self-confidence needed to prosper and succeed in an ever-changing world.

**ADVICE FOR FACULTY, STUDENTS AND**

**OTHERS:** My advice for those in education: A learner learns what a learner wants to learn, they will learn it because of you or in spite of you. Your job is to do all you can to provide them the tools they need to advance and prosper in the most important parts of their lives. You cannot force someone to do something or learn something they don't want to do. Practice the golden rule.





Neal Grover has been part of the College for over 65 years. He enrolled in Salt Lake Area Vocational School in 1958 and took Auto Body Repair and Painting. In 1960, he graduated with a Certificate of Accomplishment with 2,022 hours of training.

He was the owner of Grover's Body and Fender Repair (1961-1978). He returned to SLCC to teach in 1965, retired and was awarded full professor emeritus status in 2017. On August 16, 2023, the College will honor Grover's legacy by naming a room at the Miller Campus the Neal Grover Auto Collision Repair and Refinishing Training Lab.



“I developed habits, levels of discipline, and a willingness and capacity to work hard that transcend the baseball field into every other aspect of my life to this day.”



# SLCC HITS A HOMERUN IN SPORTS

Colby Berg still gets a rush of adrenaline when he thinks back to stepping onto the pitcher's mound. As a former student and athlete at Salt Lake Community College in 2009, he remembers waking up early for weight training in the morning and then having to run sprints on the indoor track upstairs at the Lifetime Activities Center on the Taylorsville Redwood Campus.

"We would have to complete a lap in a certain amount of time and if we didn't, we'd have to run some more," says Berg, whose plan after high school was to go into the medical profession. Ultimately, the athletics program was what drew him to SLCC. "I had aspirations of playing professional baseball but acknowledged that there were aspects of my game as a pitcher that needed to improve in order to get there."

Since the very beginning, SLCC has had a history of providing opportunities for students to participate in a variety of athletic activities. From traditional sports like baseball and basketball to unique activities like whirlyball—a combination of basketball, lacrosse and bumper cars—sports have always been played at the school in some form or another.

Basketball, volleyball and horseshoes were played at the original downtown campus, although space was limited. The move to the Taylorsville Redwood Campus allowed the athletics program to grow. Intercollegiate sports began in 1986 with men's basketball, followed a year later by a women's basketball team. Many programs

have competed in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) ranking number one in multiple tournaments across the field.

Norma Carr, who in 1989 became SLCC's athletics director and the first female athletics director in Utah, was instrumental in expanding the athletics program. She oversaw the development of the Lifetime Activities Center, the softball field at the Redwood Campus and the creation of a women's softball team in 1999. When Carr retired in 2014, the College renamed the field the Norma Carr Softball Field in her honor.

Since then, the athletics department has continued to grow adding men's and women's soccer in 2016 and e-sports (competitive video gaming) in 2021. The Bruins had a banner year in 2021. Soccer flourished; the men's team won the NJCAA title and the women took second place nationally. Beach volleyball and cross country were added in 2022, a year in which the women's cross country team placed third, and men placed eighth. This year, for the first time, Bruins baseball qualified in the NJCAA College World Series.

"Overall, the Athletics program was a top tier organization across most, if not all, of the sports played there," says Berg, who now is a senior wealth advisor at Guardian Wealth Management. "Playing at SLCC meant a lot to me. I developed habits, levels of discipline, and a willingness and capacity to work hard that transcend the baseball field into every other aspect of my life to this day."





## THEN & NOW: HOMES THAT BUILD COMMUNITIES

**Salt Lake Area Vocational School first constructed a Project House in 1954. Since then, students have built at least one house per year in the community.**

Scattered around the valley are hundreds of homes built from the ground up by Salt Lake Community College students. In 1953, the College debuted its Project House program, designed “to assist building trade students in the practical applications of the principles of house construction and to make the proper applications of the skills they have learned,” according to a 1950s-era sales brochure.

In the beginning, the homes were constructed on temporary lots and transported to permanent locations by the buyers, who would submit sealed bids through the State of Utah Finance Department. Profits would be used to fund the building of new houses. As the program grew, students were often building three to four homes per year on lots that were purchased or donated.

### A HOME FOR A PRESIDENT

In 1976, the College built three homes – just north of the Taylorsville Redwood Campus. College President Jay L. Nelson asked if that home could be purchased by the school and used as a president’s home, as it is customary for college and university presidents to live in a home on or near campus.

President Nelson was in the home for two years before retiring from the College, and the house was then sold to Rich and Tillie Young. Tillie worked for SLCC as a nursing instructor at the time and resides in the home to this day. “[President Nelson] was just so happy that I bought the home. I mean, if he couldn’t have it due to his retirement, he was glad that it stayed within the faculty,” Tillie Young explained that the former president had to move when he retired, and the home had to be sold.

Young’s daughter, Marcie Young Cancio, is a former journalism professor at SLCC and has fond memories growing up in that house and in the neighborhood. “Our community was largely connected to the College because it really was our space. I wrote about this when I applied for the job [at the College], about how the community college has always been part of my ecosystem.”

Not only do they live in a house that students built, but many people in their neighborhood, who they are still close with today, worked for or attended the community college. Cancio says they would often walk their dogs around the campus, and she grew up attending the College’s summer camps. Her mom would get her hair done at the cosmetology school, and they would take their cars to get repaired by students in the auto shop.



Algot Anderson and President Jay L. Nelson cutting the ribbon on a project house before it opened to the public.



Students working on the roof and siding of a nearly completed house at a temporary building location. Photos taken between 1953 and 1955.





SLCC's most recent Project House located at Sunrise Pointe Court in West Valley City.

## MAKING A LIVING

Since the inception of the Project House program, the College has built at least one house per year, even during tough times in the housing market. SLCC's newest Project House is located at 3048 South Sunrise Pointe Court in West Valley City.

Tina Codd, a student who worked on the house's framing, came to see the finished product during a community open house event. "I am so happy I came here to take this class," says Codd. "I honestly didn't want to come back to school but I heard about the program, and I thought I would give it a try. Now I wish I could do it over again and learn some more."

In the fall, students like Codd framed the house and installed trusses, sheetrock, windows and doors. During spring semester, students worked on the interior finishes, including flooring, railings and cabinets.

Boyd Johnson, associate professor in Building Construction, says he often hires former students to lay foundations and install rain gutters. "I try to use all the kids who go out on their own to help us,"

## "THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN PART OF MY ECOSYSTEM."

says Johnson. "I love to see these kids go out starting their own businesses and make a living at it."

### A COMBINATION OF EVERYBODY'S WORK

Not only do construction trades students build these homes, but students in the College's interior design department also play a key role in the program. Students are given a budget for interior materials, and they present their designs to Johnson, who incorporates everything into one cohesive project.

"This has been a great opportunity for learning, and it has been a great partnership," says Mojdeh Sakaki, program manager of Interior Design. She says in the past her students have worked on other design jobs, but the SLCC Project House is often the most valuable and rewarding.

"It becomes a combination of everybody's work," says Sakaki. "This creates the main purpose for this project which is for students to have a project on their portfolio, an actual hands-on project on their resume when they leave."



(Left) The wedding scene of the Grand's production of *Our Town*.

(Right) Performance of *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*.







*Then &* **NOW:**

## WHAT A GRAND THEATRE!

**From high school auditorium to college and community theatre, the Grand's second act offers classic works featuring local actors and designers.**

Taking center stage at Salt Lake Community College's historic South City Campus is the Grand Theatre, a 1,100-seat venue built in 1931 to serve as high school auditorium. South High closed its doors in 1988 but was purchased by SLCC in 1990; it would eventually become what is now the South City Campus.

But the College had to figure out what to do with the massive auditorium. Should it be gutted in favor of building classrooms? SLCC employee and former Promised Valley Playhouse executive director Pat Davis walked in and exclaimed, "What a grand theatre!" The space has been called the Grand Theatre ever since.

In its early days, the Grand was known for a lineup of musicals such as *West Side Story*. The first production held in

the Grand Theatre auditorium was *Camelot* in 1991. "We still do a lot of musicals," says Mark Fossen, theatre director and SLCC's webmaster. In addition to his job at SLCC, he directs and acts at a number of theatres across Utah and teaches at the U of U and Westminster.

Fossen says that Richard Scott, dean of the School of Arts, Communication and Media and former director of the Grand, started doing regular performances of the American Classics such as *Our Town*, *Death of a Salesman* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. "We're the only theatre consistently doing these shows, and I think it's not only educational but culturally important."





“By working with local talent, we are able to celebrate our community and provide an exceptional theatrical experience for our audiences...”

Final curtain call with the cast of the 2022 world premiere of *Dead Certain*.

One of Fossen’s favorite theatre memories at the Grand was in 2013 while working on the production of Thornton Wilder’s *Our Town*, a play written in the 1930s with themes around love, marriage, life and death. They were rehearsing the second act called “Love and Marriage,” which culminates in a wedding, on the same day Utah began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

“Many of the cast had been at the courthouse. All of us knew people who were married that day. That show is from the 1930s, but that night it was brand new,” says Fossen.

### The best kept secret in Salt Lake theatre

The Grand also serves as a hub for aspiring artists, hosting programs and workshops such as the Grand Youth Theatre summer camps. By nurturing emerging talent and fostering a love for the arts, the Grand Theatre cultivates a vibrant and inclusive artistic community. For the past several years it has also been an official screening venue for the annual Sundance Film Festival—the only one on a higher education campus.

“By working with local talent, we are able to celebrate our community and provide an exceptional theatrical experience for our audiences, all while committing to present productions that will entertain and engage our audience in new dynamic ways,” says Seth Miller, current artistic and executive director of the Grand Theatre Company.

One of the local talents that the Grand is working with this year is Utah’s award-winning playwright and SLCC’s Digital Marketing content designer, Melissa Leilani Larson. Her popular adaptation of Jane’s Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* is part of the Grand Theatre’s season line-up for 2023-24 and will be directed by Fossen.

“I just love coming back to and supporting the Grand. I love the mix there where you’ll have Salt Lake’s finest professionals alongside students alongside community members, with some even doing their first shows,” says Fossen. “It still feels like the best kept secret in Salt Lake theatre.”



GRAND  
THEATRE

**2023-2024  
SEASON**



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