

SLOCC

MAGAZINE

SUMMER / FALL 2019

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

P.10



SNAPSHOTS



Top: The written word takes many forms. (L-R) Students Nicole Flaherty, Brooke Ross, Jonathan Nielsen and Madison Maravilla learn block printing.

Bottom: Making art from cold, hard steel, student Marissa Cox gets fired up about metal fabrication.





Face forward, diving in the dirt, softball player Paige Reynolds is safe at second base.

CONTENTS

SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE | [SUMMER/FALL 2019](#)



10 GRADUATES TRACE CAREER SUCCESS TO SLCC

FEATURES

06

SLCC NEWS

Head coach Betsy Specketer retires.

08

SCHOLARSHIPS

Donors create a Native American endowment.

24

GRADUATION

Thousands walk at Commencement.

32

ALUMNI

Distinguished Alumni honored.



SLCC MAGAZINE

SLCC Magazine is published biannually by the SLCC Institutional Advancement Division, 801-957-4000.

Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Alison McFarlane

Director of Strategic Communications & PR
Erika Shubin

Managing Editor
DB Troester

Lead Writer and Photographer
Stephen Speckman

Lead Designer
Carol Ross

Media Relations
Joy Tlou

Alumni Relations
Laurie Staton

Editorial Advisers
Peggy Hoffman
Nancy Michalko
Dr. Jason Pickavance

SECTIONS

- 4 SLCC NEWS
- 8 GIVING
- 10 CAREERS
- 24 GRADUATION
- 30 COMMUNITY
- 32 ALUMNI
- 36 FACULTY



Top Award

SLCC Magazine won the Gold Award of Excellence from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The award recognizes outstanding quality in magazine content, design and impact.

Available online at:
slcc.edu/about/slccmagazine.aspx





SLCC TRAINS CUMMINS' APPRENTICES TO MEET MECHANIC SHORTAGE

Engine manufacturer Cummins Inc. is partnering with Salt Lake Community College to train employee apprentices for service technician jobs while earning Associate of Applied Science degrees from SLCC. The collaboration is part of the company's Technician Apprentice Program (TAP) at SLCC's Westpointe Workforce Training & Education Center. Officials

in January held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the program.

The two-year TAP provides critical job training across a variety of diesel technologies, full-time employment during the program, free tuition and course credits that transfer to four-year degrees. Cummins has sponsored dozens of apprentices by paying for their education and program expenses at SLCC. They participate in

an intense Department of Labor technician apprenticeship to become Cummins-certified in engine technology and earn associate's degrees from SLCC. TAP is expected to help address a nationwide shortage of diesel mechanics. SLCC is one of three institutions in the United States that host TAP.



COLLEGE NAMES DEAN OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Erica Koch Wight was named dean of Health Sciences, overseeing health-related academic programs at the college. She was formerly director of radiologic sciences at Boise State University.

Programs she oversees include dental hygiene, medical assistant, surgical technology, mortuary science, occupational therapy assistant, physical therapy assistant, radiologic technology, nursing and respiratory therapy.

Wight has an Associate of Applied Science degree in radiologic technology from Mesa State College and a Bachelor of Science in radiography education from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. She has a Master of Education in educational technology from City University in Seattle and is pursuing a doctorate of education in higher education leadership from Grand Canyon University.

SLCC PROMISE: A MODEL FOR THE STATE

The Utah Legislature in March created a statewide college scholarship patterned after SLCC Promise, which helps qualifying students pay for tuition and fees to fill gaps when federal financial aid falls short.

Dubbed the Access Utah Promise Scholarship Program, lawmakers reviewed SLCC Promise and a similar scholarship at Weber State

University to create the statewide award. Legislation creating the scholarship appropriates \$2 million for initial funding for qualifying students who attend state institutions full time.

Since 2016 when SLCC Promise launched, nearly 1,800 students have received more than 3,000 awards totaling \$2.3 million.



WEST NAMED NEW CFO

Jeffrey West was appointed vice president for Finance and Administration and chief financial officer at SLCC in February. He is one of eight administrators on the college's executive cabinet.

West was previously associate vice president for Financial and Business Services at the University of Utah. He has more than three decades of experience in higher education and also worked at Utah State University, Maricopa Community Colleges and the University of Arizona.

West has a bachelor's degree and MBA from Utah State University and is a certified public accountant. He is a faculty contributor and leader for the Western Association for College and University Business Officers and the National Association of College and Business Officers.



RENOVATED HEALING ARTS LAB OPENS

SLCC's School of Health Sciences at its Jordan Campus recently opened an expanded Healing Arts Lab with upgraded high-tech mannequins that replicate real-life medical needs for student training.

The lab has 23 mannequins, providing a range of training from administering basic medications and nursing fundamental skills to advanced delivery of IV meds and caring for critical-care patients,

including intubation and ventilation. The technology even allows students to participate in simulated birthing.

It provides realistic situations that challenge students to apply critical thinking learned during the semester and prepares them to enter clinical settings to begin nursing careers. The \$730,000 renovation doubled the lab's capacity. About 240 nursing students are trained in the lab each year.



END OF AN ERA: COACH BETSY SPECKETER RETIRES

After 25 years at Salt Lake Community College, women's basketball Head Coach Betsy Specketer is retiring.



She ends her tenure as the second-most winningest women's college basketball coach in the

state, behind former University of Utah women's coach Elaine Elliott.

Specketer compiled a 545-196 overall record in a 23-year run as the head coach of the Bruins and was named Region 18 Coach-of-the-Year 10 times. After a 25-6 season in 2018-19 that featured a sixth-consecutive trip to the NJCAA National Tournament, Specketer says she came to the decision that it was time to end the coaching chapter of her life.

"My experience at SLCC has been nothing but positive, but there comes a time when maybe you'd like to do some different things," she says. Specketer had 18 20-win seasons while leading the Bruins, taking them as far as the NJCAA

Final Four in the 2017 national tourney.

A native of Havana, Ill., she played college basketball and softball at Illinois State University, later earning a master's degree in sports administration from the institution. She began at SLCC as an assistant to former Bruins coach Monica Sherratt for the 1994-95 season.

"Betsy has played such a vital role in my development as not only a coach but a woman," says Marcilina Grayer, who started her collegiate career playing for Specketer and has been promoted from assistant coach to head coach to take Specketer's place.

SLCC NAMED OFFICIAL EDUCATOR OF U.S. SPEEDSKATERS

Danielle Amos turned a childhood love of roller skating into dreams of someday becoming an Olympic short track speedskater. But reaching peak level to compete on the world stage is a full-time commitment and Amos once thought she'd have to sacrifice a college education to reach her athletic goals.

Not anymore.

A partnership between SLCC and the U.S. Speedskating (USS) organization made both dreams possible for Amos, 21, and seven other Olympic speedskating hopefuls now enrolled at SLCC. The deal names SLCC as the official higher education provider for U.S. Speedskating and provides free tuition for the students. The agreement runs through at least the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing.

"The partnership with SLCC is a game-changer for our athletes and



Back row: L-R, Kristen Santos, Paige Schwartzburg, Brett Perry, Jerica Tandiman.
Front row: L-R, Chrysta Rands, Erin Jackson, Danielle Amos.

organization," says Ted Morris, USS executive director. "Being able to add outstanding educational opportunities to the existing training programs we offer will provide our athletes with a life pathway off the ice."

Amos, originally from Ohio, is a freshman at SLCC and is interested in a degree in psychology. Someday, she'd like a career counseling people with a history of abuse or addiction, but first, her sights are set on 2022. "My ultimate goal, since I was a child, has been to become an Olympian," she says. "This partnership allows me to continue being a full-time, world-class athlete and work toward my degree simultaneously."

For many Olympic hopefuls like Amos, intense training leaves little time for full-time jobs or schooling. Some athletes live near or below the federal poverty line. In response to this, SLCC will

leverage federal Pell grants and SLCC Promise scholarship funds to guarantee that USS athletes receive any financial aid for which they're eligible to fully cover their tuition at the college.

In addition, athletes find SLCC's flexible scheduling and online offerings free up time for work. "I never thought I'd be able to skate full time and go to school and work part time all at once," says Brett Perry, 25, a Michigan native majoring in computer science at SLCC and a USS member. "Online classes are amazing when you have a tight schedule."

Moreover, the partnership establishes the college as the exercise-science-performance provider for USS, says Nate Thomas, associate dean for SLCC's Health and Lifetime Activities program. "We perform high-level performance assessments to assist the USS in talent identification as well as training and performance enhancement."



Chrysta Rands

GIVING

“The more I learned about SLCC, the more impressed I became with the school and its programs.”

— Nancy Ray



Giving Back:

Couple creates Native American scholarship

After Nancy Ray retired from her career as an anesthesiologist in Akron, Ohio, she knew she wanted to give back to the Utah community where she was raised. She wanted to make a real impact on people's lives, especially those who have potential but lack resources.

She and her husband, Joel Porter, decided to endow a scholarship for Native Americans. She investigated several Utah colleges and universities and decided SLCC was the best choice to offer the scholarship. "The more I learned about SLCC, the more impressed I became with the school and its programs," she says. She and her husband gave a generous endowment to the college to create The D. Ashton Hillman Scholarship for Native Americans,

named after Ray's grandfather.

Ray is impressed with SLCC's support network for first-generation college students and with the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, which supports underrepresented ethnic students through mentoring, workshops and cultural programs. That support extends to the American Indian Student Leadership (AISL) group, which cultivates interactions among SLCC's Native American students, connecting them with resources to succeed in college. AISL also seeks to create more awareness of Native American culture and history.

Ray and her husband attribute much of their success in life to education. "This scholarship allows us the opportunity to pass on that advantage to others," she says.

SLCC NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIPS

- ▶ The D. Ashton Hillman Scholarship for Native Americans provides full tuition and fees annually for Native Americans registered in a tribe.
- ▶ The Betty Storns and Edward Fingl Families Scholarship provides the same.
- ▶ The Zumbro Family scholarship provides half tuition and fees annually for Native Americans registered in a tribe.
- ▶ For more information on SLCC scholarships and to apply, visit slcc.edu/scholarships.



SLCC does a good job in providing resources for students in underrepresented groups, says Scott Willie, a Navajo and recipient of the Zumbro Family Scholarship. "SLCC helps students to see themselves as leaders and problem solvers in their communities," he says. Willie is studying public health issues specific to Native American populations and hopes to use his college degree to assist people in his Navajo community.

Reaching New Heights

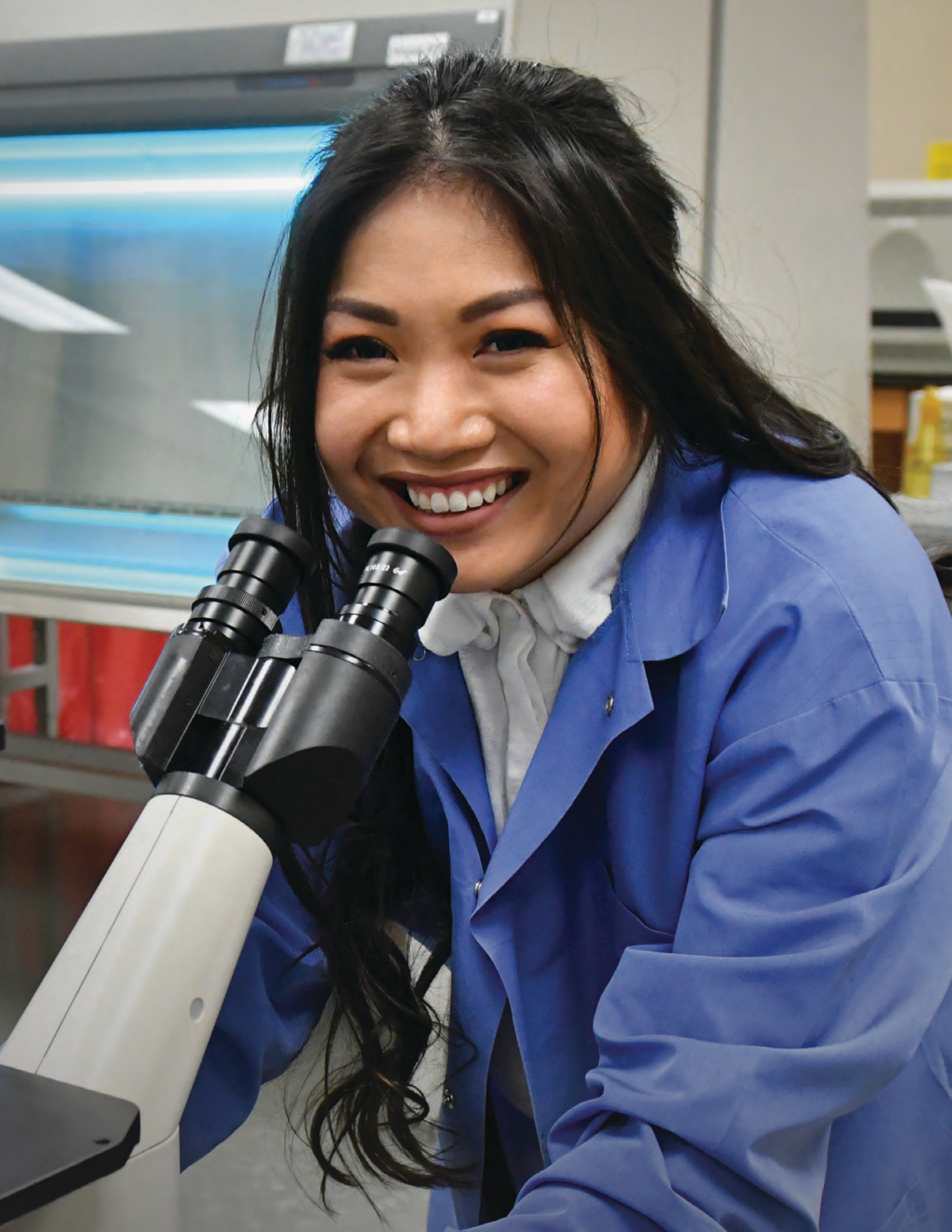
Successful careers start at SLCC

Each year, thousands of SLCC students earn associate's degrees, certificates and often both. Many continue their schooling after SLCC and others begin jobs following graduation. They draw on skills, training and knowledge gained from accomplished instructors, caring advisors and diligent staff who help turn student ambitions to real-world applications.

SLCC coordinates with employers for internships, on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs that help students gain practical, industry experience to enter the workforce and start successful careers. In the following pages, we present a few examples of the tens of thousands of SLCC graduates who trace their career success to Salt Lake Community College.

SLCC Mission

Salt Lake Community College is your community college. We engage and support students in educational pathways leading to successful transfer and meaningful employment.

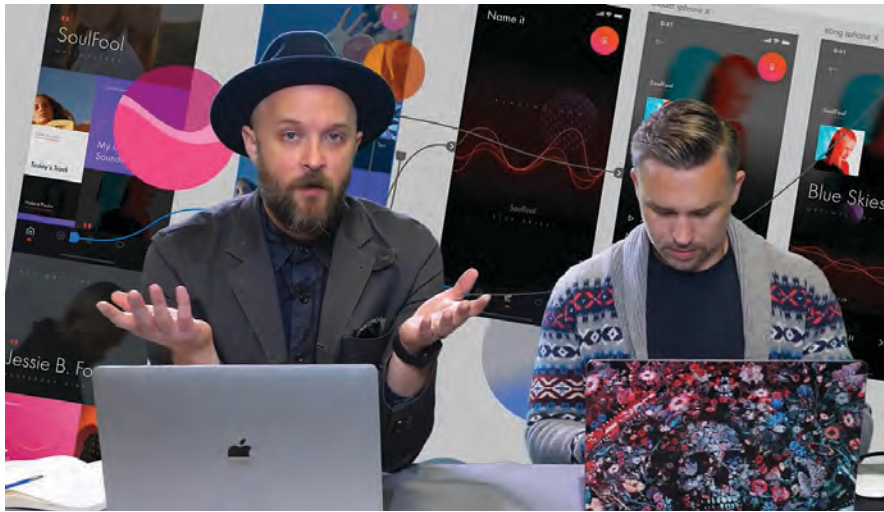




“

SLCC was a great starting point

in my design career, and I truly believe you get out of it what you put in. I decided to give myself over to the process, being present for feedback and connecting with professors, and was able to step outside my head and learn my craft.



Talin Wadsworth

Talin Wadsworth took Adobe Photoshop during his first semester at SLCC and, nine years later, began developing his own user-experience design app for the software giant.

At Adobe, he works collaboratively with teams of designers. It's a work environment not far off from the one he found at SLCC, where he learned to move beyond perfectionism and truly engage, he says.

His AAS from SLCC helped Wadsworth secure full-time work as lead corporate designer at Alphagraphics in Draper. In search of greater opportunity, he enrolled at California College of the Arts (CCA) in 2005. His credits from SLCC allowed him to jump right into studio work and upon graduation with a BFA from CCA, a classmate connected him with Adobe.

Today, he manages a team of 14 designers and a team of engineers and project managers. He oversees new features, leads design critiques and guides the overall trajectory of his app, Adobe XD, which came out of beta testing in 2017. Designers and marketers worldwide use XD to create and share beautiful, interactive prototypes for user experiences on websites and mobile apps.

AGE: 38

EMPLOYER: ADOBE INC.

JOB: LEAD DESIGNER,
ADOBE XD

AAS, 2004, SLCC

BFA, 2009, CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

GRAPHIC DESIGN

ANNUAL SALARY: OVER
\$100,000

LIVES IN SAN FRANCISCO

How to Get There:

AAS Graphic Design

**55 credits, two years to
complete full time**

**Cost including fees and books:
\$9,186**

Graphic Design



**I am so thankful
for the faculty and
program at SLCC.**

They have A+ instructors who really prepare students to be ready for the world. The education and training make me feel like I can jump right in and work on my own if needed. I know that working in this field can help my family and the world.



Radiologic Technology

Maria Gonzalez

Since she was a teenager, Maria Gonzalez has been fascinated with human biology and the imaging technology allowing doctors to diagnose a problem without performing surgery. Her fascination increased after high school when she volunteered to work with indigenous communities in her native Ecuador. She saw many people suffering and dying because of lack of access to X-rays and other radiological technologies.

When she moved to the United States four years ago, she took ESL classes at SLCC to acclimate to a new culture. Once she completed her ESL studies, the idea of attending the college to prepare for a career was appealing. She liked the personalized learning experience and SLCC's diverse student body.

Gonzalez, who graduated in May, is confident about her future and ability to practice her craft. In addition to classroom time, the radiologic technology program requires 24 hours a week of clinical practice. She believes that time in the field prepared her for nearly any situation she might encounter in the X-ray room. She especially loves the challenge of working with trauma patients who often can't communicate or move, forcing her to develop creative solutions for getting X-rays.

AGE: 33

EMPLOYER: UNIVERSITY OF UTAH HOSPITALS AND CLINICS

**JOB: LIMITED X-RAY TECHNICIAN
AAS, 2019, SLCC**

**RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY,
GENERAL STUDIES**

**ANNUAL AVERAGE BASE SALARY:
\$50,872 (SOURCE: GLASSDOOR)**

LIVES IN NORTH SALT LAKE

How to Get There:

AAS Radiologic Technology

77 credits, five semesters, or 19 months, to complete full time

**Cost including fees and books:
\$13,800**



SLCC is the place that I chose to go to college because it's convenient, close to my home, there are 11 campuses throughout the valley and it's **ranked as one of the top community colleges in the nation**, so that seemed like reason enough.



Lamar Funcannon

Lamar Funcannon plays a role in keeping the world running. His work ultimately enables people to use smartphones, tablets, laptops, desktop computers and just about any electronic device. The semiconductors he helps produce at IM Flash in Lehi let people create and store documents, photos, videos and data. They facilitate most functions in offices, businesses, schools, organizations and industries.

Dressed in a white “bunny suit” to maintain a dust-free environment 100 times cleaner than a hospital, he loves his role as an intern at the automated memory-chip plant. The high-tech machines he monitors produce memory wafers through a layered process involving silicon, chemicals, gas, heat and ionization. Each chip is 20 nanometers high. For perspective, a human hair is 100,000 nanometers wide.

Funcannon handles pre-maintenance on the machines, ensuring continuous semiconductor production. The plant runs 24/7 and in one day makes enough memory to store 43 million books. If an alarm goes off, signifying a process error, Funcannon and co-workers troubleshoot and make adjustments. His internship turned into full-time employment after graduation in May. He hopes to stay at IM Flash, as well as pursue a bachelor’s degree.

AGE: 38

EMPLOYER: IM FLASH

JOB: MANUFACTURING ENGINEER
TECHNICIAN

AAS, 2019, SLCC

ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING
TECHNOLOGIES

MEDIAN SALARY: \$56,200
(SOURCE: CAREER COACH)

LIVES IN KEARNS

How to Get There:

**AAS Electronics Engineering
Technologies**

**64 credits, two years to complete
full time**

**Cost including fees and books:
\$8,586**



“

The moment I graduated with my associate's degree I worked at a forensics lab doing DNA testing. ...

I got a decent job at a lab that paid really well.



Nhi Pham

After graduating from SLCC, Nhi Pham got a great job working for Sorenson Forensics, a DNA-testing laboratory in Salt Lake City, and seamlessly continued pursuing her bachelor's degree at SLCC's Jordan Campus, through the Utah Valley University partnership there.

All of her SLCC credits met UVU's general education requirements and biotechnology prerequisites. She attended all UVU classes, labs and instruction entirely at the Jordan Campus in the evening, which allowed her to continue working during the day.

Pham praises SLCC's biotechnology program for preparing her to troubleshoot and work in a lab. The college's lab equipment is effectively the same type she uses to test blood in her current job at ARUP.

She plans to pursue a graduate degree and attend the physician-assistant (PA) program at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, Calif. and then return to Utah and work as a PA in health care with underserved populations, specifically homeless people, and underserved veterans in downtown Salt Lake City. Ultimately, she would like to work with underserved communities in Vietnam, where she was born and lived until age 2.

AGE: 24

EMPLOYER: ARUP LABORATORIES

JOB: CLINICAL TECHNOLOGIST

AS, 2015, SLCC

BS, 2017, UVU

BIOTECHNOLOGY

ANNUAL SALARY: \$56,000

LIVES IN TAYLORSVILLE

How to Get There:

AS Biotechnology

61 credits, two years to complete full time

Cost including fees and books: \$7,716

Biotechnology



“

I love being the person who is called on to help and protect others when it is needed. I absolutely love the brotherhood and team spirit that is present in this profession. I love training new recruits in the current position that I am in, and I frequently recall advice that was given to me by instructors who taught me at SLCC.



Tyler Venema

Tyler Venema was in his mid-20s when he completed his training with the SLCC Law Enforcement Academy. A decade later, he still recalls the expert instruction he received.

He attended the academy on a part-time basis after work and loved the scenario-based training for situations such as clearing a building, handling an active shooter or firearms education. The SLCC academy is better than most full-time academies, he says, and students are self-sponsored, which shows police departments a high level of commitment to the profession and saves them money.

After the academy, Venema was offered his first job at the West Jordan Police Department just a few weeks after completing his certification. He initially was drawn to law enforcement for the adrenaline, he admits, though the reality these days is that he waits a lot as conditions change slowly at most crime scenes.

AGE: 36

EMPLOYER: SALT LAKE CITY POLICE

**JOB: TRAINING OFFICER/
SWAT OPERATOR**

**CERTIFICATION, 2009,
SLCC LAW ENFORCEMENT
ACADEMY**

UTAH PEACE OFFICER

ANNUAL SALARY: \$70,000

LIVES IN HERRIMAN

How to Get There:

**Utah Peace Officer
Certificate**

Seven months to complete

**Cost including fees and
books: \$6,500**

Law Enforcement



“

SLCC was definitely worth it. They offer fields that you can actually get a job in instead of having a huge student loan at a college with no guarantees of a job to pay for it.



Phil Garner

When Phil Garner's employer, Mountain West Valve, approached him about taking a course to improve his skills at work and offered to pay for the course, it was a no-brainer: He signed up.

At the time, he got off work at 4:30 p.m. and was at SLCC until about 8 p.m. before heading home to Roy. There were many sacrifices, many late nights away from his family. The tradeoff was that he tapped into knowledgeable, experienced instructors in what he calls a good atmosphere for learning.

Instructors explained things well and engaged students in hands-on experiences, he says. One instructor even led him to a job opportunity for more pay than he earned when starting the machining program at SLCC. Now, he manually machines pump shafts and pieces for repairs on equipment at Marathon Petroleum refinery in Salt Lake City.

AGE: 38

EMPLOYER: MARATHON PETROLEUM

JOB: MACHINIST

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT, 2014, SLCC

MANUAL MACHINING

ANNUAL SALARY: \$89,000

LIVES IN WEST HAVEN

How to Get There:

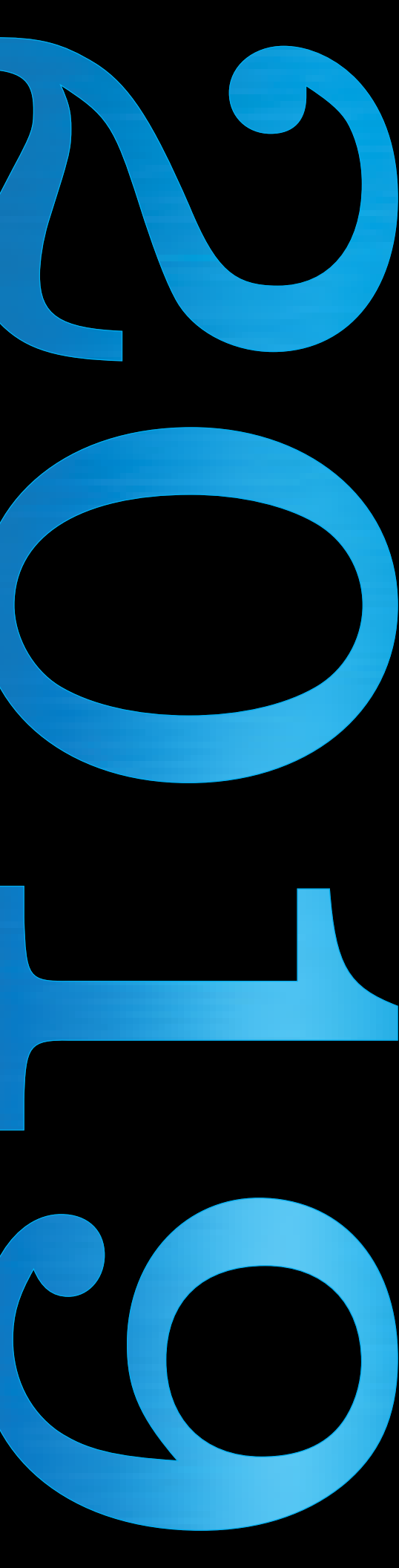
SLCC Certificate of Achievement in Manual Machining

Students can start anytime during the year

450 clock hours, about seven months to complete

Cost including fees and books: \$1,218

Machining



GRADUATES ENCOURAGED TO ALTER STATUS QUO

Nearly 3,300 graduates were honored during Salt Lake Community College's commencement exercises in May at the Maverik Center in West Valley City.

They included 1,436 students who were first in their families to receive college degrees and 128 military veterans. Nearly 30 percent of all graduates come from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Top areas of study included business, nursing, computer science, psychology, criminal justice, health sciences, software development, nursing assistant, education, truck driving, information technology and general studies.

Keynote speaker and disruptive-innovation expert Luke Williams encouraged students to seek change. "When you start believing that your fundamental purpose is to alter your status quo, rather than preserve it, your motivation and mindset will start to change," he said. "You'll begin to see opportunities beyond what others have defined as limits. You'll begin to rethink who you are and what you might become. It's up to you to make those transformative moments possible."

SLCC President Deneece G. Huftalin expressed hope that the college has prepared graduates for the wider world. "If we have done our job, then you have changed," she said. "You have more content knowledge, more skills, a deeper sense of passion, and you can critically think about opposing views and discover and defend your view while respecting others for theirs."



BY THE NUMBERS GRADUATION 2019



First-generation students comprised 44 percent of the graduating class. Women made up 55 percent and men 45 percent. Nearly 30 percent of graduates come from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

TOTAL GRADUATES
3,299



281 High Honors
(cumulative GPA 3.8 or higher)

347 Honors
(cumulative GPA 3.5 - 3.79)



AGE RANGE

17 Youngest graduate

70 Oldest graduate



NUMBER OF DEGREES

- 2,231** Associate of Science
- 647** Associate of Applied Science
- 355** Certificate of Proficiency
- 248** SAT Certificates
- 191** Certificate of Completion
- 95** Associate of Arts
- 54** Associate of Pre-Engineering





Alvaro Martinez

Student Association President 2018-2019

AS, Business, May 2019

BUILDING LEADERS VIA EDUCATION AND CHANGE

Excerpts from Martinez's speech at SLCC's April 10 Community Influencers luncheon.

I am a Latino, an immigrant, a first-generation student and a leader. Today I want to share with you my story and how SLCC became my second home.

One of my strengths is being futuristic, someone who is fascinated with tomorrow and inspired by what the future could be. I am a dreamer. I needed a place where I could find my dream career. I chose Salt Lake Community College because it offered me the opportunity to come to college debt free.

I began my journey as a Presidential Leadership scholarship recipient. I thought that I wasn't qualified, and I had self-doubt.

By working with a community of student leaders, slowly that started to change. I learned that anybody can be a leader. I found my self-worth and confidence. This place does that a lot for many students.

I took one business course, and it felt right, like I was on the right path. I continued to pursue that feeling and took more and more business classes. If you ask around, the students will tell you that they love the attention and interaction they get from being in small classes. They cherish the accessibility to higher education courses at an affordable rate. I've met many students who face challenges with food insecurity, homelessness, disability, gender identity, mental health and more. Salt Lake Community College

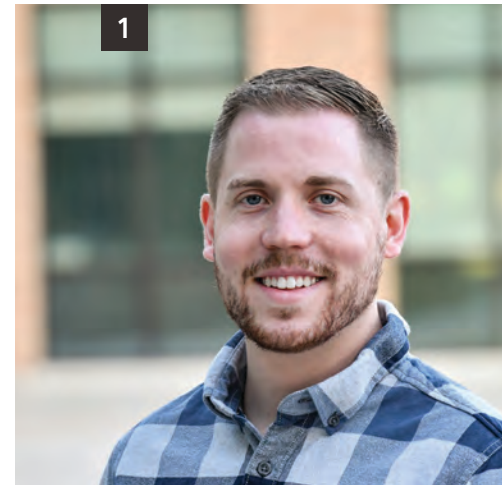
gives those students access to education and resources. SLCC makes higher education possible for students who never thought about going to college.

I have seen firsthand the impact this institution has on students and the community. We start initiatives for positive social change. We are on top of affordable access to books and online resources. We have a system for addressing student issues and needs. Most importantly, we involve our students in the decision process because we know their input matters. I have committed to advocate, represent and uphold the mission, vision and values of this institution not because I had to [as Student Association president], but because I believe in them. I hope that you can too!

To learn more about the college and to get involved, call 801-957-4000.

GRADUATES OF EXCELLENCE

This distinction recognizes hard work, commitment and selflessness. One student is selected from each school of the college and General Studies. These students have excellent GPAs and typically receive scholarships and awards for academic achievements. They have demonstrated leadership skills and a dedication toward serving others, in addition to other notable achievements related to the creative arts, athletic excellence or involvement in SLCC beyond the classroom.



1. Matthew Watts

General Studies
General Studies Major

2. Darrell Godfrey

School of Applied Technology and Technical Specialties
Diesel Systems Technology Major

3. Lisa Nord

School of Arts, Communication and Media
Graphic Design Major

4. Cody Wilkerson

School of Business
Business Major

5. Sheresa Jensen

School of Health Sciences
Mortuary Science Major

6. Whitney Van Alfen

School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Psychology Major

7. Phuc To

School of Science, Mathematics and Engineering
Pre-pharmacy Major





HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

Salt Lake Community College has been awarding Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees to deserving individuals since 1955. The SLCC Board of Trustees selects two outstanding individuals in the community who have achieved distinction, made extraordinary contributions to their professional fields and made a meaningful impact in their communities and/or to higher education to receive this honor.



Jay K. Francis

Executive Vice President

Corporate Affairs & Miller Family Philanthropy

Larry H. Miller Group of Companies

As a young man in the 1970s, Jay K. Francis saw men in business suits and trench coats carrying briefcases in Salt Lake City and said to himself, "That's what I want to do." He wasn't sure what they did, but knew he wanted a career in business.

After studying business and communications at the University of Utah, he started an advertising agency with his father-in-law. The two were quickly building a clientele when Francis met Sam Battistone, one of the original owners of the Utah Jazz.

Francis did some advertising work for Battistone and in 1983 was hired as director of marketing for the Utah Jazz. Larry H. Miller bought half of the Jazz that year and the other half in 1985 and became Francis' boss. The two became lifelong friends and when Miller passed away in 2009, Francis lost a supporter and confidant.

Through the years, Francis has held several roles with the Larry H. Miller Group of Companies and currently serves as executive vice president over corporate affairs and Miller Family Philanthropy. His support of Salt Lake Community College and guidance in the Gail Miller Utah Leadership Cup helped the tournament grow to become the college's primary fundraising event for student scholarships. His commitment to higher education and SLCC has helped hundreds of Utah students receive college degrees, training and meaningful careers.

Patricia R. Richards

CEO

SelectHealth

Throughout her career, SelectHealth President and CEO Patricia R. Richards' willingness to learn new things and her strong work ethic propelled her to leadership positions in the health insurance industry.

She credits her father for teaching her the importance of learning and working hard. He had a thirst for knowledge that inspired him to finish high school and earn a teaching certificate, virtually unheard of at the time among farm families. When Richards was young, her father once fell and broke three ribs. Despite his pain, he drove her to the library the next day so she could complete a school report. This showed her that he valued education and its potential to help his children lead successful lives.

Richards began her career as a general surgery and trauma nurse at the University of Michigan Medical Center. She followed her nursing studies with a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Toledo, where she also earned a master's in public health care administration. She served on the SLCC Board of Trustees for five years



and commends the college for being an open-access and affordable institution. She is particularly supportive of efforts to attract minority and first-generation students and has supported SLCC students and programs through scholarships and partnerships within the health care industry.

During her tenure at SelectHealth, the company was designated eight times as "highest in member satisfaction" by JD Power and Associates. Richards was named as Utah Business magazine's 2013 CEO of the Year and appeared in the magazine's 2018 list of Women of the Year.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Salt Lake Community College's Distinguished Alumni Award honors SLCC graduates and former students for professional excellence and exemplary service in their communities. Nominees are selected for significant achievements and contributions to their communities in their chosen professional or academic fields. It's the highest award the college bestows on alumni.



Mark Ellis

Kroger Co. Senior Construction Manager

U.S. Air Force Reserve Lieutenant Colonel

Mark Ellis traces the successes of his long military career and professional civilian life to 1990 and an opportunity to take part in SLCC's new Academy of Finance while in high school. He took concurrent enrollment classes in business and math through the academy and after graduating from West High School in 1992, continued at SLCC.

He wasn't sure what he wanted to do, so he dabbled academically and eventually landed a job making about \$13 an hour troubleshooting computer issues. He felt comfortable where he was but still hadn't earned a degree. His dad urged him to apply to the U.S. Air Force Academy, and he entered the academy in 1995. He remained on active duty until transitioning in 2007 to the Air Force Reserve, where he is presently a lieutenant colonel. Along the way, he earned an MBA and a master's degree in Military Operational Art and Science. The general education coursework he took through the Air Force transferred to SLCC, allowing him to get an associate's degree.

While in the Air Force, Ellis took on roles in weapons development and intelligence. He met his wife, Kari Anne Ellis (formerly Hamilton), while attending the Air Force Academy. They married and deployed together at different locations in the U.S. until having children and planting roots in Utah to be near family.

He looks back on his SLCC experiences as laying the foundation for who he is today, giving him needed direction. In his job at Kroger, he sees SLCC as pivotal in providing career opportunities in construction trades such as welding, electrical wiring and HVAC.

Natalie Kaddas

CEO, Kaddas Enterprises Inc.

Natalie Kaddas' path to becoming CEO of a rapidly growing company has been anything but traditional.

Her journey started in 1992 while attending Salt Lake Community College's Travel and Tourism program. She was on a field trip with an SLCC class at a Marriott Hotels reservation center when she decided, at the age of 18, she wanted to work there.

She married, became a mother and didn't finish her program at SLCC. Years later, she returned and took business courses, and over time has returned again and again. A self-described lifelong learner, she takes classes when she needs them, even now that she's CEO of Kaddas Enterprises Inc., a company her in-laws founded in 1966.

In 2018, Kaddas moved her plastics manufacturing business into a new 50,000-square-foot facility she had hoped would last five years. At 50 employees and expanding, the company has already outgrown the space. Along the way, she has depended on SLCC for training in employment law, sales, electrical technology, accounting, custom-fit training, management and more.

With an eye toward growth, Kaddas spent five months training with the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program, offered at SLCC's Miller Campus. Kaddas Enterprises now produces more than 300 products used in airline, public power utilities, public transportation, automotive and high-tech industries. Kaddas' products are sold in 14 countries, with annual sales topping \$5 million.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Posthumous



Officer David Romrell

South Salt Lake Police Department

1987-2018

At his memorial service last year, fallen South Salt Lake Police Officer David Romrell was remembered as a great warrior with a sense of humor. The former Salt Lake Community College criminal justice student was killed in the line of duty while investigating a burglary Nov. 24, 2018.

Romrell's colleagues and family say he was outgoing but humble and proud to live a life of public service. Prior to his 11 months with the South Salt Lake Police Department, he served several tours of duty in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2006 to 2014. Even after earning a bachelor's degree in computer hardware engineering in 2015, Romrell continued his path of service and became a police officer. "He came home, followed his dream and then died for his community," says retired Cottonwood Heights Police Officer Kevin Wyatt, a friend and mentor.

During his time with the police, Romrell made a positive impact on his co-workers. "I can promise you, around here, and with the officers he worked with, his memory will live on and we'll always remember him and try to pay tribute to him and try to serve in a way that will honor him," says South Salt Lake Police Sgt. Ryan Cram.

He found great joy in being a husband and father and cherished his wife, Elizabeth, and their infant son, Jackson.

SLCC last year awarded Romrell a posthumous associate's degree in criminal justice.



Wherever you go and whatever you do,
Salt Lake Community College
is a part of your journey.

We value our graduates and want you to stay connected.

If you've graduated with a degree from Salt Lake Community College or even attended one class, you're one of hundreds of thousands whose lives have been touched by SLCC.

Be a part of our Alumni Association and receive the free biannual SLCC Magazine and our email newsletter, as well as a host of other benefits.

Learn more at slcc.edu/alumni



To join the alumni association and enjoy free benefits, contact
Laurie Staton at Laurie.Staton@slcc.edu or 801-957-4654.



TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Teaching Excellence Awards are given by the Salt Lake Community College Foundation Board to recognize excellence in professional education at SLCC. Full-time and adjunct faculty are eligible. The award reflects a cumulative body of teaching excellence rather than a single year of exemplary work.



Pook Carson, PhD
Associate Professor
Business Management

Pook Carson believes every student is capable of success and strives to help them develop knowledge and skills to improve personal and professional decision-making. She joined SLCC in 2007 and teaches business, finance and economics courses. Carson has taught at the State University of New York, University of Utah, Westminster College and Brigham Young University. She has a PhD in economics from the University of Utah and two master's degrees in economics from the University of Utah and Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. Her undergraduate degree is also from Chulalongkorn.



Linda Jemmett
Adjunct Faculty
Biology

Linda Jemmett has shared her knowledge with SLCC students for 20 years and prepares them for success in their future coursework. She spent 20 years as a registered medical technologist and accentuates concepts and practical knowledge that will be most useful to students in the medical field. Jemmett has a bachelor's degree in medical technology from Utah State University and a master's degree in biology from the University of Utah. She has volunteered with the PTA and serves as a board member for the Highland Choral Arts choir.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURER

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. The lecture takes place April 16, 2020.



J. Chad Erektion

Associate Professor

Visual Art & Design

Alumnus: AAS, Graphic Design, SLCC, 1999

J. Chad Erektion emphasizes to students that working in the field requires collaboration. It teaches accountability and forms a safety net when people combine to meet common challenges. Creation requires risk, and failure is one of the world's best teachers, Erektion stresses. Art and animation issues often require multiple customized solutions, which represent the height of critical thinking. In addition to his AAS from SLCC, Erektion has a BFA in animation from Brigham Young University and is working toward a Master of Education degree. He has taught at SLCC for 12 years.



Jane Drexler, PhD

Associate Professor

Philosophy

Jane Drexler's faculty lecture will reflect on the value and place of philosophy at SLCC and the philosopher's role in today's college environment. She will also present on a series of student workshops based on philosophical exercises. Drexler earned a BA degree in philosophy and a BA in media communication from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and an MA and PhD in philosophy from the State University of New York at Binghamton. She won SLCC's Teaching Excellence Award in 2016 and has taught at the college since 2007.



4600 S. Redwood Road
P.O. Box 30808
Salt Lake City UT 84130-0808

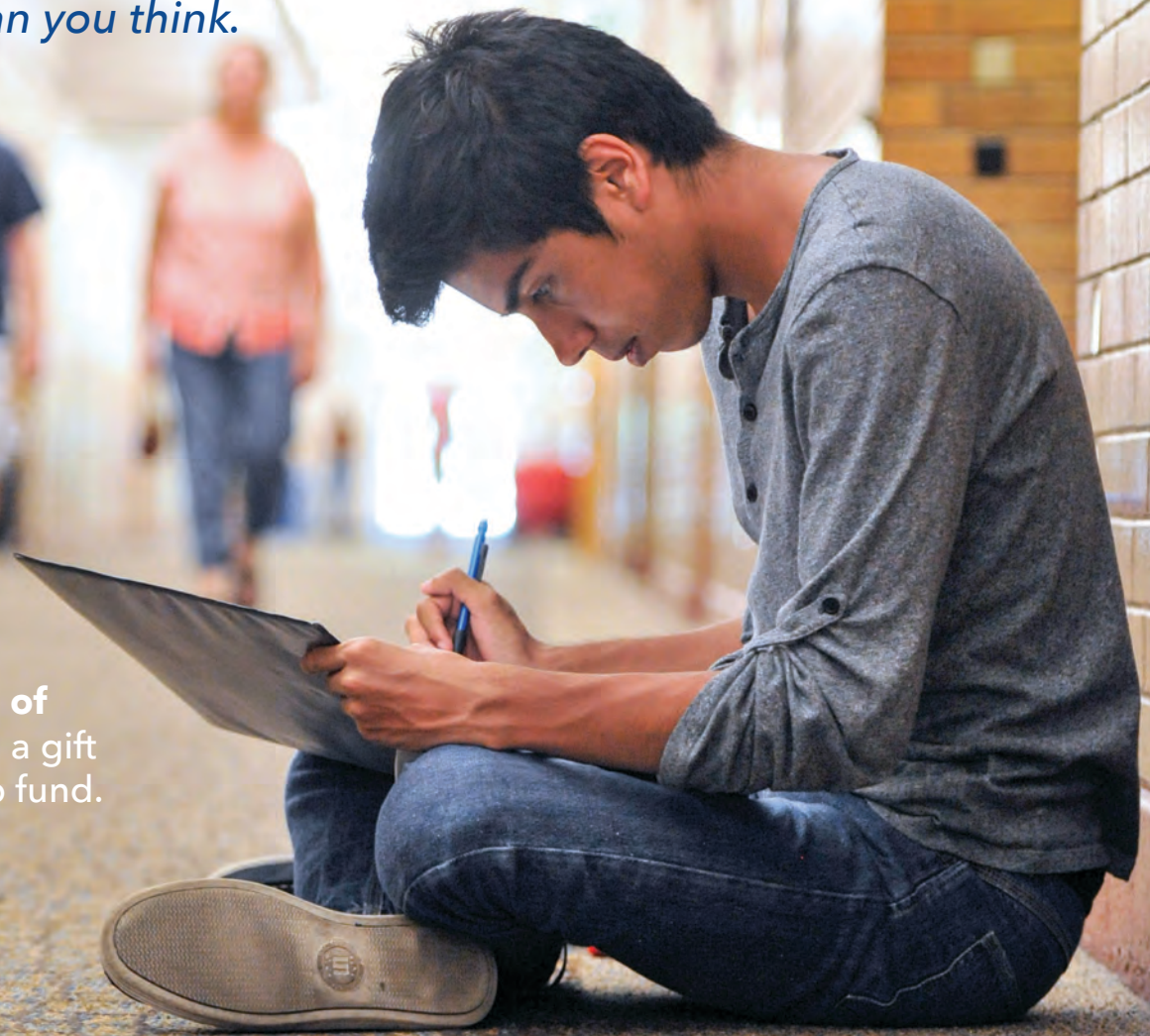
Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1538
Salt Lake City, UT

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Invest in a Student

It's easier than you think.

Change the lives of
students through a gift
to our scholarship fund.



WAYS TO GIVE:

General scholarship fund | Designate to a specific program
Name an annual scholarship | Endow a scholarship | Athletic scholarships
Custom scholarships

To learn more, contact Laura Thomas, 801-957-3972 or Laura.Thomas@slcc.edu