

The cover art is a watercolor-style illustration. At the top left, there are intricate, swirling patterns in shades of blue and yellow. The title 'SLCC' is written in a large, bold, black, cursive font. Below the title, the text 'Salt Lake Community College Magazine Summer/Fall 2022' is printed in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. On the right side, there is a large, abstract shape filled with a complex circuit board pattern, featuring various electronic symbols, lines, and concentric circles. In the bottom right corner, the text 'Technically Speaking' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, followed by 'Exploring the realm of technical education at SLCC.' in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. The bottom of the cover features several stylized, light blue plants with three leaves each, growing from a light blue base.

SLCC

Salt Lake Community College Magazine Summer/Fall 2022

Technically Speaking

Exploring the realm of technical education at SLCC.

The cover art features a large, stylized black 'SLCC' logo in a cursive font. The background is a collage of blue-toned illustrations: a bird with blue and green stripes on the left, a complex circuit board with various components on the right, and several small, stylized plants at the bottom. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on technical and natural elements.

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Compassion

Over four days in April, three visiting Tibetan monks, Lama Sonam, Lama Kalsang and Lama Drupon T, created a compassion sand mandala at the Eccles Gallery on South City Campus. A sand mandala is a symbolic representation of Tibetan Buddhist philosophy and a type of meditation used to develop wisdom. The monks released their beautiful creation into the Jordan River with hopes that the compassion evoked through the process would journey throughout the world.



slcc

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Illustration by
Scott Bakal



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Career and technical education programs put people to work.



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Commencement 2022

Thousands fill the Maverik Center to celebrate graduates.

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Recognizing those who advance student dreams.

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Inspiring others with their grit and determination.



Let's Get Technical

Nursing assistant. Truck driver. Brick mason. Chef. Machinist. Network engineer. Automotive technician. Website designer. Bookkeeping clerk. Welder.

The list goes on for the different career paths you can choose through Salt Lake Community College. And for those who don't desire a path toward a four-year degree or even a two-year degree, many programs are able to put people to work at a relatively lower cost and more quickly than a traditional higher education route.

In this edition of SLCC Magazine, we highlight a few programs and people that help explain what it is to get a "technical" education at SLCC. We touch on the reasoning behind the name change of SATTs to Salt Lake Technical College. We show you how the mission to train people for good-paying jobs that lead to great careers has not wavered in almost 75 years since the college was founded.

Each year under the umbrella of a comprehensive community college, SLCC awards associate of applied science degrees and certificates of completion or proficiency, and the bottom line is that the college continues putting people to work. We are proud of this long tradition of technical training and education at SLCC, and we hope it shows in the pages that follow.

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slccbulletin

Elevating Philosophy

Philosophy curriculum at SLCC
elevated with new national award

Philosophy professor Jane Drexler, PhD, received the Award of Merit for Outstanding Leadership and Achievements in the Teaching of Philosophy by the American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT). “When I look at the list of people who have received this award in the past, I feel really honored to be a part of such a remarkable group,” says Drexler, who will be the twenty-second person to receive this award since its founding in 1990.

The award recognizes the leadership Drexler has exercised in various roles for AAPT, including overseeing the Association’s biannual international conference since 2016 and creating new and innovative ways that allowed for the organization’s whole teacher-scholar community to continue to gather remotely and flourish during these last two pandemic years.

This award also recognizes Drexler’s achievements in teaching, including those related to her focus on teaching Philosophy as a Way of Life. Since 2018, Drexler has participated in the prestigious National Endowment of Humanities Institute on Reviving Philosophy as a Way of Life (the only community college professor to be selected for the institute), and the Mellon Foundation and Notre Dame University’s Philosophy as Way of Life Project.

This past year, Drexler also received a grant from the Mellon Foundation and Notre Dame University to continue her work designing and implementing high-impact practices and novel philosophical content and activities at SLCC, bringing opportunities for collaboration and professional development to adjunct faculty and transformative educational experiences to students.





New Soccer Pitch

Coming soon: cross-country team, updates to baseball's Cate Field

The hard work of Salt Lake Community College's men's and women's soccer teams is paying off. SLCC Athletics broke ground in April on Bruin Field just west of the Lifetime Activities Center. The new venue will be the home pitch for both nationally ranked soccer programs as well as for classes and recreation, with limited access, based on availability, to the public. Construction of a 120-year turf soccer field will include a new Daktronics scoreboard and a smaller grass practice field. The expected completion date is June 30, 2022.

SLCC Athletics is also working on expanding the Jordan Campus' Cate Field infrastructure, where its baseball athletes practice and compete. The Cate Field facilities are 20 years old, and this upgrade will align with all of the college's other first-class facilities. Construction is expected to be completed by spring 2023. Concessions, tickets and restrooms will be along the third base line, and baseball operations, including locker rooms and training rooms will be located along the first base side. "We want to thank the administration and Facilities Department at SLCC who have helped with these

projects, and we eagerly await the completion of these venues," says Kevin Dustin, SLCC Director of Athletics and Recreation.

Finally, Dustin is excited to announce the formation of a men's and women's cross-country team, which he expects to begin competing in fall 2022. "Adding this sport further cements SLCC's commitment to increasing educational opportunities for residents of Utah and beyond," he says. "Utah is a 'runner's state,' illustrated by the high number of cross-country athletes in high school and the unprecedented success of our NCAA partners. We are excited for these programs and believe we can immediately be competitive on the national stage."

Where the new team practices and competes while on "home field" will be determined by the new coach, which the college is hiring in time to recruit students over the summer. Bruin runners will compete in the NJCAA Scenic West Athletic Conference, but also alongside Brigham Young University, Utah State, Weber State and other student-athletes at invitationals in Utah.

Academic Advisor Receives Award from USA Today

USA Today's Women of the Year program selected Lead Academic Advisor Luz Gamarra, PhD, as one of its honorees. One woman from each state was chosen for her significant positive impact on her community, and Gamarra was selected for Utah.

"These honorees are strong and resilient women who have been champions of change across the country, leading and inspiring as they promote and fight for equity, and give others a place to seek help and find hope," USA Today stated.

Gamarra has spearheaded several peer mentoring programs to support students in achieving their educational goals. Through SLCC's Amigos Mentores and ESL Legacy Mentors programs, immigrants and ESL students work together to help each other find resources to stay in school, stay motivated and realize their dreams.

Gamarra earned her master's and PhD in law and political science in Peru and worked as a prosecutor for seven years; she had plans to eventually become a judge. Gamarra, her husband and their three young children moved to Utah when one of her daughters needed critical medical care. People told her it would be impossible to start over with a new career in the United States, and to just get whatever job she could get.

Gamarra didn't believe them, and she sought out ESL classes and was eventually introduced to SLCC, where she discovered resources and support for students like her. She earned her associate's degree from SLCC and then went on to earn a master's degree in social work at the University of Utah. She is currently working on her PhD in education, culture and society.



Bruin Pantry

Bruin Pantry impacts felt far beyond addressing food insecurities

Americorp Vista volunteer Amanda Rydiger (left) and former Bruin Pantry coordinator Mike Braak at the Taylorsville pantry.

From humble beginnings in 2013, operating out of an upper-floor hall closet at South City Campus, to locations at four campuses, the Bruin Pantry has grown into an impactful operation that addresses food insecurities for students and employees at Salt Lake Community College. But the Pantry has become much more than a place where people, mainly SLCC students, can come and fill a few bags or boxes with cereal,

canned goods, and maybe some perishable and prepared items.

Throughout 2021 and under the direction of former Pantry coordinator Mike Braak, the combined four pantries saw more than 1,100 unique visitors—who tallied 4,562 visits—take nearly 10,000 bags of groceries and supplies. From Jan. 1, 2022, to March 10, about 440 visitors to the pantries—making 1,385 visits total—

were given nearly 2,000 bags filled with much needed food and dry goods.

Although volunteers help in times of need, the Pantry has become a place where students can find work and get help paying for school. West Jordan High School graduate Alex Bonifaz, 18, now taking general education courses at SLCC, heard about the Pantry through the SLCC program Peer Action Leaders, which offers students tuition waivers in exchange for work. Mashayla Dalley, a Copper Hills High grad majoring in business management at SLCC, was once homeless and relied on the Bruin Pantry for help. Now a Collegiate DECA member and president of the SLCC chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, Dalley found the Bruin Pantry scholarship opportunity on the college's website. "My tuition is paid for," Dalley points out while unloading and storing food at the Taylorsville location alongside Bonifaz.

Americorps Vista volunteers like Amanda Rydiger sign on to serve for a year at the Bruin Pantry. Rydiger, with a degree in public health from Colorado's Fort Lewis College, arrived at the Pantry in October 2021, and has since worked on projects that include outreach, client intake information gathering and nutritional balance.

When funding is available, the Bruin Pantry can purchase hygiene products and items for babies, like wipes and diapers, and offer them to clients. Working with SLCC's Development Office, donations there will occasionally result in the Pantry being able to offer gift cards to people who can't find what they need at one of the four locations.

Although private donations and community gardens account for some items the Pantry offers, most of what it takes in throughout the year comes from the Utah Food Bank and its Grocery Rescue program. As a result, a lot of food—prepared foods, bakery items, frozen meats—previously discarded by grocery stores will be taken in by Utah Food Bank and then shared with operations like Bruin Pantry, shelters and community kitchens. A big benefit of that program is keeping food out of landfills and putting it in the hands of people who are in need.

If perishable food can't be handed out and is expired or damaged, the Pantry works with groups like Wasatch Resource Recovery and Momentum Recycling to process the wasted food and turn it into either biofuel or compost that farmers can use as fertilizer. Some estimates put food waste in the United States at about 40% of what is produced.

The Miller Family Foundation Gifts \$62,500 for Student Scholarships

The grandchildren of philanthropists Larry H. and Gail Miller gifted \$62,500 to Salt Lake Community College for scholarships through the Miller Legacy Project as part of the Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation. The gift will also provide child care vouchers to make pursuing education more accessible for student parents.

"For many years, the Miller family's conviction in the transformative power of education has been indisputable. Now this legacy of generosity continues as Gail and Larry's grandchildren provide scholarships for SLCC students, many of whom would otherwise not have access to education beyond high

school. Their gift is deeply appreciated," says Deneece G. Huftalin, president of SLCC. The Miller Legacy Project provides an educational giving experience to future generations of the Miller family and is specifically designed to perpetuate the philanthropic legacy of both Gail and Larry. "We hope these scholarships and child care vouchers help students overcome barriers often found when continuing their education," says Bryce Miller, co-chair of the Miller Legacy Project and Gail and Larry Miller's grandson. "Our family is passionate about increasing access to education to create the next generation of leaders."



From left to right: Kylee Yates, Zane Miller (grandson and SLCC alum), Dennis O'Reilly (SLCC, Automotive), Bryce Miller (grandson and SLCC alum), SLCC President Huftalin, Nancy Michalko (SLCC, Development), Jeffrey Coker (SLCC, Culinary Arts) and Beth Colosimo (SLCC, Business Development).



SLCC student Emmanuel Mukaz, from the Democratic Republic of Congo

Online Classes Earn High Marks

Newsweek rates SLCC one of nation's top online learning schools

Newsweek recognized Salt Lake Community College as one of the country's best online learning schools for 2022.

At SLCC, nearly 10,000 students participate in online courses each semester. The pandemic has spurred more online class offerings than ever before nationwide.

"We're proud that we were selected from among thousands of schools for this first-tier recognition," says Gavin Harper, PhD, director of SLCC's Online, eLearning and Competency-Based Education.

Student Bailey Jacquet likes the choice of having both online and in-person classes. "For classes I struggle with, like math, I want to be in the classroom, but online classes allow me to add very specific structure to my life, and it is structure over which I have some control," says Jacquet, who works two jobs and is a full-time student.

How to Make an Online Course Compelling

SLCC has a team devoted to enriching online courses. This team includes instructional designers, technologists, media developers and assessment specialists, as well as faculty.

"This is really unique to SLCC. Most colleges do not have as robust a team on staff that is devoted to creating online courses," adds Harper. "We use design tools that make students feel engaged and not bored when they enter an online class experience."

To make sure SLCC's online courses are engaging and academ-

ically effective, the college's team follows a rigorous three-semester process to build and test each class' effectiveness.

To ensure technical support when needed, SLCC has an eLearning support team that is available 12 hours each day, maintaining a response time of under an hour.

Making Online Classes More Inclusive

While some 75% of SLCC's class offerings are in-person, college leadership also realizes the importance of providing students with learning options that increase their likelihood of achieving their academic goals.

"Online education is inclusive, economically, geographically and for people with disabilities," says Anthony Nocella, PhD, an assistant professor of the Criminal Justice and Criminology program. He recalls students who have taken his online classes who live on Native American reservations or students who had health issues restricting them from attending in-person classes.

The flexibility and affordability of the college's online classes make education an option that might otherwise be unattainable.

"We take great care with accessibility to make sure any student, no matter where they come from or where they are starting, is able to access our learning materials and courses," adds Harper, pointing out that SLCC offers more than 1,700 online courses in 50 academic disciplines and a growing number of degree and certificate programs that can be earned entirely online.

Student Wins Speedskating Gold at Winter Olympics

The entire Salt Lake Community College family this past February congratulated SLCC student Erin Jackson on winning the gold medal in the women's 500-meter speedskating event during the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. It's the first time Team USA won gold in that event since 1994.

Jackson is the first Black woman to win a speedskating gold medal for Team USA and the first Black woman on the US Speedskating (USS) team. A proud SLCC student, Jackson was featured on the USA Network, talking about her relationship with SLCC and how she has already earned one degree at the college and is working toward another. Jackson, who also earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida, says school is her "hobby."

A big congratulations also went out to SLCC student and USS speedskater Ethan Cepuran for winning a bronze medal in the team pursuit race.

In addition to Jackson and Cepuran, SLCC students Kristen Santos, Giorgia Birkeland, Corrine Stoddard and Ryan Pivirutto were all part of the USS team competing in either long track or short track speedskating events during the Games. The athletes over the past several years have been taking classes at SLCC while training at the nearby Utah Olympic Oval in Kearns.

In 2018, SLCC joined USS in support of speedskaters as the official higher education provider for students trying to realize their dream of competing in the Winter Games while also attending college. Jackson and Santos were enrolled at SLCC when the program began in 2018. Many Olympic hopefuls are often forced to choose between training and continuing their education—SLCC and USS found a solution so that athletes didn't have to make that difficult choice. The agreement calls for waiving all tuition for USS athletes for up to nine consecutive semesters,

which SLCC has done by leveraging federal Pell grants and SLCC Promise scholarship funds.

The partnership also established SLCC as the exercise science performance provider for USS, using the college's Fitness Technician program to gather real-time data on athletes during workouts to optimize their training and performance on the ice.



Erin Jackson at the start of a practice run at the Utah Olympic Oval in Kearns.

vistas



Top left, clockwise: 1. Dean Richard Scott (black hat), in Grand Theatre's Noises Off. 2. Student Alexie Zollinger takes part in KRCL show RadioACTIVE. 3. The Black Student Union holds a multicultural fashion show. 4. Men's basketball forward Jaquan Scott battles for a rebound. 5. Music, TV and audio engineering lessons at South City Campus. 6. International students gather for a photoshoot. 7. Photography student Cheyanne Robinson inspects a negative.





Mural Breathes New Life into Dance Space

Part storage facility and yoga room, the aesthetically stagnant main dance studio in the original part of Salt Lake Community College's South City Campus received a much-needed infusion of art, culture, inspiration and story in one giant mural.

"I thought the space needed it," says SLCC Dance Company director Whitney Harris. "I've never seen anything else like it on other campuses."

The roughly 14-foot by 50-foot mural came to life over the course of about four months in 2020. SLCC graphic designer Alex Martinez worked closely with Harris on the look and feel of the mural. "I wanted to reenergize everything," Martinez says about the studio. "I don't want people to say, 'This old space.'"

The pair decided on a street art theme, using a graffiti style to project vibrancy, movement and, most importantly, diversity and inclusion. The eight characters Martinez drew at first by hand represent several cultures. "It's huge and prominent," Harris says. "And it's strategically placed in hopes that it will signal to students of different backgrounds that this is a place where they are welcomed and desired."

SLCC Printing Services installed the mural, using 54-inch-wide vinyl decal strips. The final design was the culmination of dozens of drawings, all imagined by Martinez, who began showing an interest in art at age four. In 2012 he began seeking formal training in art at SLCC, where he has earned three associate's degrees, including degrees in graphic communications and visual arts and design. "Art is kind of natural to me," says Martinez.

Harris and Martinez hope to collaborate again on a second mural for an adjacent studio. "He's brilliant," Harris says about her collaborator and his artwork. "The brilliance comes into play when it all comes together. The images combine so beautifully to tell a story. It represents stories we want to be told. It's a call to all types of artists we haven't seen or heard from historically, to say, 'You are welcome here, and here are your stories.'"

Designer
Alex Martinez
(center)
and the
SLCC Dance
Company.



objectified



Technically Speaking

Name change better identifies role at SLCC

Salt Lake Community College has had a few names since its inception in 1948: Salt Lake Area Vocational School, Salt Lake Trade Technical Institute and Utah Technical College at Salt Lake. As SLCC has grown and expanded into an institution that offers myriad transfer pathways to bachelor's degree programs at four-year universities, it has not wavered in its dedication to educating and training people interested in the trades.

To better serve the community, starting in the summer of 2022 SLCC is changing the name of its School of Applied Technologies to Salt Lake Technical College. The Tech Ed program under the Technical College includes Automotive, Construction, Computer & Networking, Business Office, Diesel & Truck Driving, Electronics, Culi-



nary Arts, Health Care, Manufacturing, English as a Second Language and Media & Web Design.

Before the latest change, SLCC's School of Applied Technology had a unique position straddling the two systems. "We were positioned to serve students far better than other institutions because they could start out in the technical programs and then transition to programs leading to degree completion," explains Dr. Jennifer Saunders, dean of the School of Applied Technology and Technical Specialties. She sees the realignment as a great opportunity to better serve SLCC students through the removal of unnecessary duplication and by providing clearer pathways to rewarding careers.

Saunders adds that because SLCC is the only comprehensive community college in Utah, its role as a technical college is not always clearly understood. The name change, she says, will make a strong statement to those in Salt Lake County that Salt Lake Technical College is the place to go to earn a technical degree or workforce-related credential.

The attractive element of attending programs within the Technical College is that students can choose a path that leads toward an apprenticeship or associate's degree, or they can select a track that leads to a certificate. Whatever the choice, students who attend SLCC's Salt Lake Technical College will be able to quickly and affordably train for high-demand jobs that offer competitive pay and room for growth.



How Kneading was a Path to Healing

Becoming an artisan baker was both a second chance at life and a way to give back

The first time Eve Campbell made bread, she focused on the kneading, not the outcome. The loaves she pulled out of the oven outweighed bricks, but that didn't matter.

Campbell kneaded to reintroduce dexterity back into her hands—movement and agility that had disappeared after a medical crisis left her paralyzed and on a ventilator. For over two years, she relearned to walk and slowly reclaim life and movement back into her body. “The healing process was slow and arduous,” recalls Campbell. “It left me emotionally deflated.”

Those “bricks” she pulled out of the oven became a challenge to do better. That challenge turned into a passion to bake a more perfect loaf. She searched for baking courses and found the Commercial Baking Certificate program offered through SLCC’s Salt Lake Technical College, which provided her with both flexibility and affordability.

“I decided after coming so close to death that a new chance at life would include a new career,” says 44-year-old Campbell. She wanted to be an expert at baking artisan breads and SLCC would provide that path forward.

“When I first started, I was overwhelmed,” recalls Campbell, who was still physically healing and dealing with brain fog from a year of chemotherapy. Her instructors worked with her and helped rebuild her confidence in her abilities. “They have been holding my hand the whole way,” says Campbell, who will graduate in December.

“Anyone who works with Eve quickly discovers that she smiles easily, has a great sense of humor and is meticulous,” says culinary chef Leslie Seiferle, who speaks



“There have been so many people who have helped me along the way, that if I can honor and help others through my baking skills, then I'm excited about my future.”



highly of Campbell's skills. In a SkillsUSA competition last March, Campbell earned second place for demonstrating the life cycle of yeast. The second place prize was a tuition waiver for two semesters.

Campbell's hands have held far more than bread dough in this certificate program. She rattles off what she is learning to make: French pastries, doughnuts, wedding cakes and all baked goods savory and sweet.

Yet it is the four ingredients of bread (water, flour, yeast and salt) and letting fermentation play its role that keeps drawing her back to artisan breads. "Such simple ingredients lead to such exquisite things," exclaims Campbell.

She reminds others who face challenges and obstacles to not give up, and though it may be hard, that it will be worth it. "You need to trust that those challenges are just stepping stones getting you closer to where you want to be," says Campbell. She laughs and adds, "This is the pep talk I give myself each week."

Once Campbell graduates, she wants to work with homeless shelters and food banks and teach families how to maintain sourdough starters and bake their own nutritional breads. "There have been so many people who have helped me along the way, that if I can honor and help others through my baking skills, then I'm excited about my future."

Eve Campbell adds ice while making a batch of frozen custard.

**The
Houses**



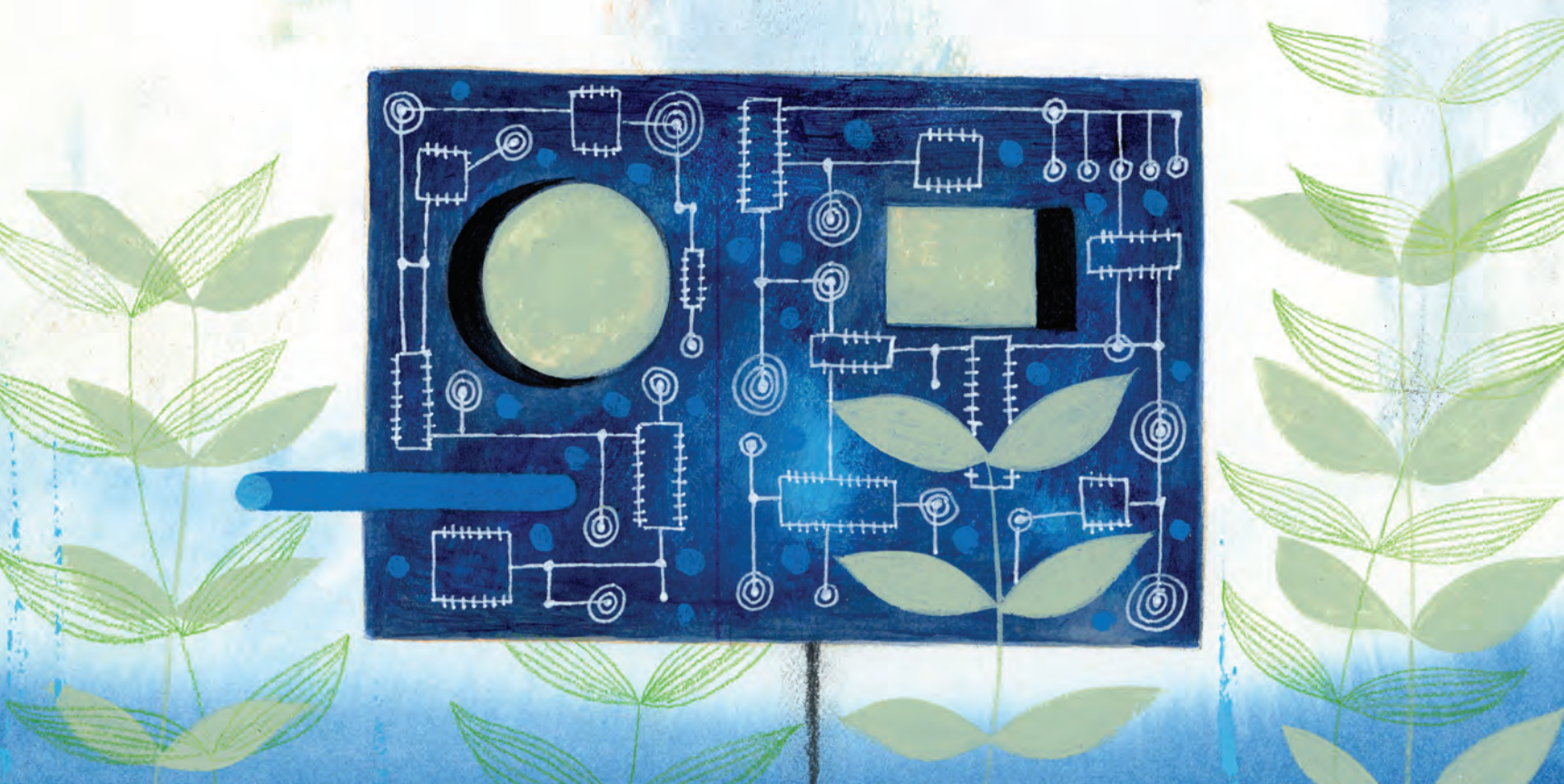
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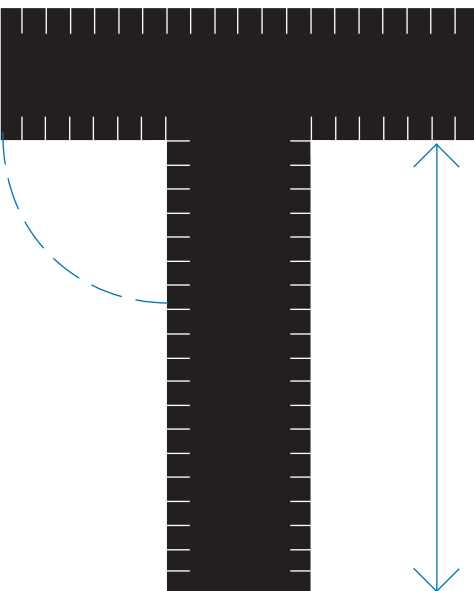


Build

Hands-on
training
helps
construct
communities

Students





he whirl of saws, pop of nail guns and pounding of hammers fill the cool spring air at the end of an otherwise quiet cul-de-sac in West Valley. The building crew looks like any other building houses in the area. No one passing by, however, would suspect the construction site to be a college classroom if it weren't for the familiar Salt

Lake Community College logo on the side of the trailer parked on the lot.

While the program has undergone several name changes through the years, firsthand experience has remained an integral part of the Construction Management program at SLCC. Nate Fairbanks, a second-year student in the program, says that "to add the physicality into the learning process has been extremely beneficial for me." He adds with hands-on experience, "I remember better."

SLCC Building Construction Instructor Chad Fail agrees. His students discuss theories in a classroom and then put them into practice in labs before the actual construction and installation take place. He says that by the time they are on the construction site, they are already familiar with the concepts and skills it will take to do the job. The actual installation cements everything into place. "Learning the trade of construction takes repetition and practice," says Fail.

It's unknown exactly how many houses in the Salt Lake Valley have been built by students and instructors over the past seven decades, but records and photos from when the college was known as the Salt Lake Area Vocation-

HOW TO GET THERE: CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

OPTIONS

Certificate of Completion: Sustainable Building Construction
AAS degree: Construction Management & Sustainable Building
AS degree: Construction Management

DURATION

Certificate: 36 credits (3 semesters)
AAS degree: 64 credits (2 years)
AS degree: 64 credits (2 years)

TUITION AND FEES

Certificate: approx. \$6,300
AAS degree: approx. \$8,500

BASE SALARY

Construction Trades Workers have a median salary of \$45,301 in the Salt Lake MSA

al School show students working on houses around the valley.

The program always has one house under construction. Students hone their skills doing everything but the electrical and plumbing work. Following Utah building codes, the electrical and plumbing are subcontracted out, but students are given opportunities to observe and ask questions about those processes. Fairbanks says that seeing how all of the parts fit together has helped him hone in on specific skills of interest.

"I've been able to frame. I've been able to drywall. We've had electricians and plumbers in here with whom we get to talk. We do the flooring and put in the doors. Being able to get my hands into all these different aspects

ish. He says students are currently working on submitting construction plans to West Valley City for the next house to be built. Johnson adds SLCC students are "the most successful because they've seen it. They know how it all goes."

Andres Parra, a first-year student, says that the most valuable skill he has gleaned from the program is learning how to plan and lay things out. "I used to just jump into things and do them without planning," says Parra. In addition to learning how to budget, schedule materials and deal with permits, Parra has learned to plan out his work. He said that his tile work, for example, has improved, and he no longer ends up with "odd cuts" by having

SLCC
students
frame up
a project
house.

“I've learned so much to take into the field, it's really cool.”

helped me to be able to say, 'Hey, this is actually something that I find interesting,'" says Fairbanks. "I wouldn't have the opportunity to do that somewhere else."

As a regular part of the Construction Management program, students can earn an Associate of Applied Science degree, Associate of Science degree or a Certificate of Completion. Construction Management instructor Boyd Johnson says in addition to students learning framing, windows, trusses and stairs, they are also involved in the planning and approval processes before and during construction.

Students learn firsthand how to deal with state and federal codes and regulations. Johnson notes, "Everything has gotten so much more complicated." That's one advantage to SLCC's hands-on learning approach, he says. Students can "see it all" from planning to fin-

learned to lay everything out and measure and work from the actual room dimensions rather than using a wall as a starting point of reference.

Johnson and Fail say employers are looking for workers with "soft skills." They note essential real-world skills such as working and communicating with other people and problem solving are core to the Construction Management program at SLCC. Working on an actual house makes students put not only their hands-on skills to the test, but also their planning and people skills.

Fairbanks and Parra say they will take what they've learned from the "community" at SLCC back to their families' businesses and help them grow and become more successful. "I've learned so much to take into the field," Parra says. "It's really cool."



The Student Becomes the Instructor



When Tyler Clark accepted a custodial job for Salt Lake Community College and the Granite School District, he had no idea he would someday walk the halls of SLCC

as a student. Then, while working one day, a plumber at the college mentioned a new apprenticeship program and asked if Clark would be interested. “I had no idea what I wanted,” he says, referring to his career plan. “When it became an opportunity, I was like, let’s try this out.”

SLCC’s Plumber Independent program allows students to work as apprentices while attending classes. That way, students spend most of their time learning and working in the trade while earning an income. A positive attitude and strong sense of determination helped Clark excel in the program, but he credits the faculty and staff for fostering a positive and supportive learning environment. Instructors worked one-on-one with students when needed and consistently offered alternative methods for solving issues. The collaborative teaching style helped Tyler retain information in preparation for the journeyman exam.

After graduating from SLCC in 2021, Clark applied for the college’s lead plumber position

and landed the job. In his role, he oversees plumbing operations on college campuses and acts as a liaison between staff and the director of Facilities. The job allowed Clark to prove he could handle the responsibility, and other staff quickly took notice. Dave James, associate dean of Apprenticeship and Construction Related Technologies, recognized Clark’s potential and extended an offer for a plumbing instructor position. “Typically, instructors must have six years of field experience,” shares James. “Because of Tyler’s extraordinary work experience and work ethic, the college approached him to teach.”

Although he leads the class, Clark believes he continuously learns with students and tries to show the same support he received in the program. He especially enjoys watching students apply feedback to their work and experience success—what he calls the “lightbulb click.” Clark says, “I love being able to take knowledge and pass it on. It’s cool to hear feedback and know, as a group, we are making these young minds turn into what they are now.”

Clark’s journey at SLCC is a prime example of how learning, trust and community can foster unexpected results. When asked what people considering employment in the trades should do, he shares an easygoing philosophy: “Go with the flow, take a leap and find out what fits you best.”

HOW TO GET THERE: PLUMBING

DURATION

4 years (63 credit hours)

State Licensure Requirements

• 2,000 hours of work per year

• 144 hours of class time per year

TUITION AND FEES

\$6,000

Students receive reduced tuition rate

(50% off) for all core and required general education courses.

BASE SALARY

Median Wage is \$56,319

Source: (economicmodeling.com)

Students in Technical Specialties programs can earn certificates, AAS or AS degrees. Some of these degrees articulate/transfer to other Utah System of Higher Education institutions around the state. Students in the Plumbing Apprenticeship program can complete their AAS at SLCC.

Help Wanted

In this snapshot of labor market data compiled by Emsi, it's clear the jobs are out there for students seeking work in careers for which Salt Lake Community College provides excellent training and education.

■ Number of jobs in Salt Lake Metro area in 2021.
■ Average number of jobs in similarly sized U.S. cities in 2021.



Computer Network Support Specialist/ Computer User Support Specialists



Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians



Chef/Head-Cook/Baker



Web Developers, Digital Interface, Designers and Graphic Designers





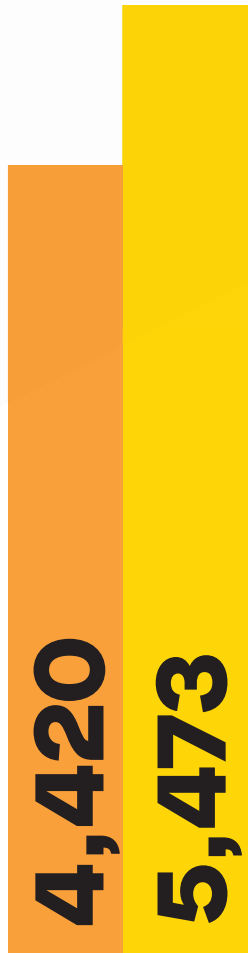
**Construction
Trades/
Extraction
Workers/
Stonemasons/
Tile and Stone
Setters**



**Heavy and
Tractor-trailer
Truck Drivers/
Light Truck
Drivers/Bus
Drivers**



**Electrical
and Electronics
Repairers**



Commencement

The Power of Connection

There is no other moment in higher education more stirring or defined by hope and possibility than a commencement ceremony. Friends and family, everyone who supported and cheered on graduates through their journey, bear witness to this academic milestone. And in uniquely challenging times, like experiencing a global pandemic, it's an event that seems that much sweeter for all the extra work that went into achieving their goals.

Many make this day a memorable event, and we celebrate a few of them here in this edition of SLCC Magazine. They represent lasting and impactful connections that collectively remind us that SLCC is a college for the whole community. Connections are what keep us strong and vibrant, as individuals, communities and as an institution.

SLCC Student Association President Lindsay Simons referenced connections in her speech to graduates. After dropping out twice from SLCC, it took making “friends and connections” for her to succeed in college. She needed a support system, and when she went looking for it, she found what she needed at SLCC. “The connections I started making,” she says, “that was the turning point for me.”

We succeed in school and in life because of connections—and we are grateful for each and every one. Through SLCC Magazine, we hope you will connect in some way with our honorees' stories. And if you'd like more information about Commencement 2022, please visit slcc.edu/commencement.

To all our graduates, congratulations—and thank you for choosing SLCC!



ment 2022



Graduation 2022 Stats

Total Graduates

3,419

430 433 142

Graduated with High Honors
(cumulative GPA 3.8 or higher)

Graduated with Honors (cumulative GPA 3.5-3.79)

Number of Veterans

Awards by Degree Type

2,331

Associate of Science

716

Associate of Applied Science

514

Certificate of Completion

337

Certificate of Proficiency

236

School of Applied Technology Certificates

68

Associate of Arts

34

Associate of Pre-Engineering



2,022

Female Students



1,388

Male Students



1,559

First-Generation College Students

Age Range of Graduates



Keynote Speaker

Small things matter when you're trying to change society for the better. Do what you can wherever you can. Challenge inequities and promote justice. Take a deeper interest in those around you. Care for your mental and physical wellbeing so you can better serve others.

These are ways by which Salt Lake Community College alumnus Samuel Ortiz tries to live his life. He credits his grandfather, Rafael Ortiz, for instilling in him the desire to uplift others. He says his grandfather was a "simple man" who continually took care of those around him. Samuel adds, "He was also joyful and could always make me laugh, even during the hardest of times."

Now, as Associate Director of Campus and Community Engagement in the Multi-ethnic Education and Engagement Center at the University of Dayton, Ortiz works hard to incorporate his life philosophies into his job. "Building meaningful and authentic relationships with those who come from historically marginalized communities includes not ignoring context and being invested in challenging the systems that harm these communities," he says. "It is important the students I work with know that I am genuinely committed to their liberation and fight against injustice."

Ortiz believes his personal liberation and the pursuit of equity in his own community are tied to the liberation of other communities. "The fight against inequality is a collective effort that must not leave anyone behind," he says. Part of his own liberation has included education. As the son of immigrants who struggled financially, the New York native wasn't sure how college might work or look for him, but he was set on attending. "My dad dropped me off for my first day of class and told me that I was getting this degree not just for me but for our entire family," he says.

And Ortiz didn't just sign up for a few classes, he dove in with everything he had. By the time he earned his associate's degree in sociology in 2012, he had been involved with SLCC's Thayne Center as a student leader and took part in service projects that focused on LGBTQ+ rights, sustainability and housing. He also participated in SLCC's Muslim Student Association, served in student government and volunteered as a peer mentor for first-generation students.

In addition to his extracurricular activities, Ortiz worked as an assistant in the Office of the Vice President of Student Services. What started out as "feeling completely out of my element and very unsure of myself" turned into an experience that helped him thrive. President Deneece G. Huftalin is someone he credits with inspiring him to pursue a career in higher education.

"Working for Dr. Huftalin when she was in Student Services completely changed the course of my life," he says. "Everywhere I went at the college, it seemed like I found someone willing to look out for me, guide and mentor me, and make sure I didn't fall through the cracks."

After his time at SLCC, Ortiz earned a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Utah and a master's degree in higher and postsecondary education from Columbia University. Currently, he is a PhD candidate in educational leadership at the University of Dayton, with an expected completion date in 2024.



Honorary Doctorates

Mark C. Miller and Kathie Miller *Mark and Kathie Miller Foundation*

Great effort can equal great gain, and that's the approach Mark and Kathie Miller are taking as they seek to change educational outcomes in Utah—one school and one student at a time.

Last year, they continued their longstanding support of education by partnering with Salt Lake Community College to expand its PACE program to Kearns High School. PACE encourages students from underserved communities to complete high school and enroll in college. “We tell students, ‘The better your education, the more opportunities you will have,’” Mark says. “One of the reasons we love PACE is that high school students are exposed to many of the careers that can be explored at SLCC. By the time they leave the college, they should have a good idea of their career path.”

In addition to PACE, the Millers support the United Way's Promise Partnership Regional Council (PPRC) initiative. Through the program, they work to raise the math scores of Utah's elementary school students. While their philanthropy through PPRC has helped propel the initiative's ship, the Millers, along with volunteers they've recruited, have also invested heart and soul in steering it by personally tutoring students. “We are seeing significant improvements in the math scores of our students,” Mark says. “Kathie is so gung-ho; she's tutoring four days a week.”

Besides their support of SLCC and the United Way, the Millers are involved in Angel Flight, a non-profit that provides transportation to people in need of medical treatment. To date, Mark has piloted 250 missions for the organization.

Kathie is a graduate of Utah State University and taught in the Jordan School District. Mark attended the University of Utah before serving in the United States Air Force and Air National Guard. They worked side-by-side for many years to build their wildly successful family business, The Mark Miller Auto Group, from which they are now retired.



Shawn E. Newell

(AAS, Marketing Management, 1993)

Shawn Newell's deep appreciation for educational access stems from his childhood in 1960s Riverside, California. Back then, the school system was still very much in the throes of segregation, and he watched his parents and area leaders work hard to achieve equity and provide opportunity for their community.

Newell admittedly struggled with school, but he realized his path to future success depended on education. He earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Utah, where he also played football, and worked his way up the career ladder at Industrial Supply, advancing from cleaning warehouses to sales. Upon graduation, he tried out for the Chicago Bears, but an injury ultimately sidelined his NFL dreams.

With his first degree in hand and determined to refocus his life, Newell headed back to school at Salt Lake Community College, where he earned an associate's degree in marketing management. The experience inspired him to move beyond sales and become a leader in his industry by earning a master's degree in management from the University of Phoenix. Newell recently retired from Industrial Supply after a successful 37-year run with the company. "Over the years, I have realized the return on my investment of time, work and community connection," he says.

That community connection has led him back to SLCC for several roles, including as a member of the Board of Trustees (now emeritus) and as president of the Alumni Council. Newell was also selected for the college's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2017, and he recently created a scholarship for SLCC marketing students. "Salt Lake Community College is an anchor for every community member along the Wasatch Front," he says. "Seeing the way in which the college embraces, nurtures and educates students from all walks of life, I can't help but to want to be a part of this great institution and the work it's doing to shift the economy and lives of people."

Newell is also the current vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Salt Lake Chapter and a Program Advisory Committee member for SLCC's Business Marketing department. He serves on the Utah Board of Higher Education, the Utah Bar Commission, the Cottonwood Heights City Council and the Salt Lake Chamber's Diversity Committee.



“Salt Lake Community College is an anchor for every community member along the Wasatch Front.”

No matter which hat he is wearing, Newell encourages everyone he meets to never stop learning. “Be diligent in your continued growth as a human being,” he says. “Fight through perceived barriers. Many times, what you see as a barrier is an opportunity to gain strengths you may not have known exist within you.”

Distinguished Faculty Lecturer

During the pandemic, associate English professor Anne Canavan noticed increased talk about mental health among her peers. "People had more time to write and reflect on what it means to be a faculty member experiencing mental health challenges," she says. As SLCC's Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for

combined with "ever-tightening budgets" have created a "perfect storm of circumstances that are likely to result in a sharp increase of incidences of mental illness in the campus community."

Canavan's lecture will include a workshop encouraging open dialogue about mental health. During the

“I want to reconcile the immense satisfaction of teaching with the hard reality that many teachers suffer from depression, anxiety, and other invisible mental health issues.”

2023, Canavan will review literature on best practices at colleges and universities that support faculty with mental health challenges who, as research shows, are more likely to experience such challenges due to the nature of teaching.

Faculty are often the first point of contact for students seeking advice and support, Canavan says. "We often have students telling us all these traumatizing things they have happening to them," and she is concerned about faculty carrying heavy loads as they are not trained counselors. She adds that professors tend to have high expectations for themselves and are under pressure to perform well.

To prepare for next year's lecture, Canavan will conduct interviews with various professionals about the role of laypeople in mental health. She says the desire "to be the best we can for our students" com-

workshop, SLCC employees will develop practices and protocols that properly support faculty with mental illness. "I want to reconcile the immense satisfaction of teaching with the hard reality that many teachers suffer from depression, anxiety and other invisible mental conditions," she says.

Canavan is SLCC's department coordinator in English, Linguistics and Writing Studies. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Tennessee Technological University and a PhD in English from Northern Illinois University. In her seven years at the college, Canavan has taught courses in composition, literature, ESL, technical writing and linguistics. In addition to her faculty role, she currently serves as president of the regional Two-Year College Association of the National Council of Teachers of English.



Anne Canavan, PhD
Associate Professor,
English, Linguistics &
Writing Studies
School of Humanities
and Social Sciences

Legislative Champion

Representative Kelly Miles began his service in the Utah House of Representatives in 2016. He quickly earned the confidence of his colleagues and assumed key leadership positions in the legislature. In 2020, Representative Miles was named chair of the Higher Education Appropriations Committee. He also serves on the House Health and Human Services Committee and the House Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Committee.

Since taking office, Representative Miles has been a champion for Utah's higher education institutions. He met often with Salt Lake Community College leaders to learn about the college's priorities and perspectives on key issues. During Representative Miles' time chairing the Higher Education Appropriations Committee, Utah colleges and universities received unprecedented increases in state funding for various programs and initiatives, including many that directly benefitted SLCC's students.

Representative Miles graduated from Weber State University with a bachelor's degree in business management and from the University of Utah with a juris doctor and a master's degree in business administration. His legal career of more than 30 years began with the law firm Froerer and Miles, where he still practices as an attorney and partner.

In addition to his professional life and work in the legislature, Representative Miles is committed to his community. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Weber/Davis and has been a past chair and member of the McKay-Dee Hospital Board and the Ogden-Weber Technical College Board. A resident of South Ogden, Representative Miles and his wife, Linda Burdett, have four children and seven grandchildren.



Graduates of Excellence



Tonya Timothy

**Construction Management
School of Applied Technology and
Technical Specialties**

“Most people in my position have a four-year degree, but that is not the reason I returned to school. I am not a quitter, and I have always regretted not finishing. Although schooling enhanced my knowledge and ability to be a better employee, I came back to fulfill my personal goal set over 20 years ago. It took a lot of courage for me to jump back in after all this time, and I am very proud that I did it while balancing a family, a full-time job and living through a pandemic. I am very proud I was brave enough to face my insecurities and return to school. I am a leader and have felt it a privilege to meet all my classmates, be a mentor and share my experiences.”

“I am very proud I was brave enough to face my insecurities and return to school. I am a leader and have felt it a privilege to meet all my classmates, be a mentor and share my experiences.”

Melissa Smith

Nursing
School of Health Sciences

“For my first degree, I graduated just to finish and did not consider what my education could do for me. After being accepted into the nursing program, I was able to find my niche. It was not easy, but I proved my abilities to myself. I was not sure what I would experience in the program, and while it has been tough, I was able to find myself. I have been able to build confidence and make friends along the way. Starting the nursing program online during COVID-19 was a different way of learning, but it was successful for me. I am grateful that I have been able to come so far for myself and my family during the last two years.”



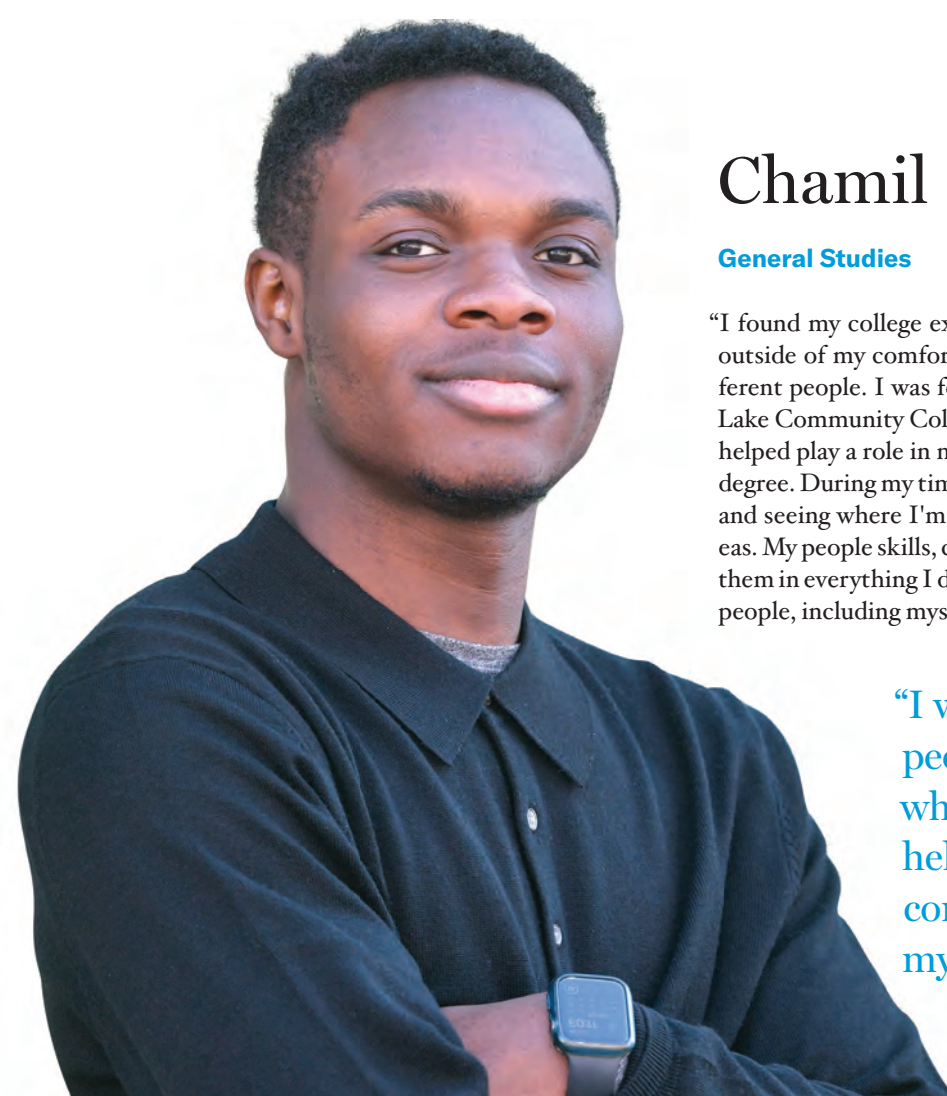
“I was not sure what I would experience in the program, and while it has been tough, I was able to find my niche.”

Chamil Soufianou

General Studies

“I found my college experience to be more enjoyable when I stepped outside of my comfort zone. I did that by talking to and meeting different people. I was fortunate to meet a lot of amazing people at Salt Lake Community College who opened so many doors for me. They all helped play a role in my success and goal of completing my associate’s degree. During my time at SLCC, I achieved many goals. Looking back and seeing where I’m at now, it is evident that I improved in many areas. My people skills, communication and habits improved, and I apply them in everything I do. Experiences like this are something that many people, including myself, appreciate about college.”

“I was fortunate to meet a lot of amazing people at Salt Lake Community College who opened so many doors for me. They all helped play a role in my success and goal of completing my associate's degree. During my time at SLCC, I achieved many goals.”



“My time at SLCC was pivotal in preparing me to pursue higher education. I will leave the college feeling confident in my ability as a student to learn and successfully achieve my goals.”



Amora Floyd

Psychology
School of Humanities & Social Sciences

As a 50-year-old single mother of four children, starting college from square one was a terrifying prospect. However, I quickly found that Salt Lake Community College had a solid support system. There was never an issue without an academic, technical, clerical, health or emotional support system to assist me. I am grateful that SLCC has such an amazing online system. Without it, returning to school would have been nearly im-

possible and less time-efficient, and I would not have been able to complete my degree within two years. I also benefitted from interacting with and learning from my classmates, who expanded my worldview in innumerable ways. As I prepare to graduate, my time at SLCC was pivotal in preparing me to pursue higher education. I will leave the college feeling confident in my ability as a student to learn and successfully achieve my goals.

“I am always at ease at work because my education at Salt Lake Community College prepared me for anything. I still have a lot to learn and always will, but it doesn’t feel like work when you enjoy it. SLCC made that possible for me.”

Brenda Johnson

Paralegal Studies
School of Business

“My education at Salt Lake Community College has been a positive experience for me. For as long as I can remember, I have privately wanted to be a paralegal. I always thought I wanted to work for someone who helped people who could not afford an attorney. Then I learned of legal aid. I thought, ‘That is what I want to do.’ When I graduated, I was lucky enough to get an interview for a job in legal aid, and I got the position. I am thoroughly content with my job. I am always at ease at work because my education at Salt Lake Community College prepared me for anything. I still have a lot to learn and always will, but it doesn’t feel like work when you enjoy it. SLCC made that possible for me.”



“I like to look at my first semester of college as a unique learning opportunity. As an LGBTQ student in the sciences, I am a part of a highly underrepresented group of students, and I take pride in demonstrating the potential to achieve greatness, despite downfalls.”

Kaden Wall

Biology
School of Science,
Mathematics and Engineering

“At the beginning of my college career, I encountered a major life event that shaped me into the person I am today. That event was my coming out to my family and friends as gay. My life had been completely altered, resulting in my failure of the entirety of my first college semester. Following that semester, I felt defeated. I didn't feel that I could ever redeem myself from the mistakes I had made while trying to maneuver my newly structured life. However, my progress in subsequent semesters surely outshined the failures I originally endured. I like to look at my first semester of college as a unique learning opportunity. As an LGBTQ student in the sciences, I am a part of a highly underrepresented group of students, and I take pride in demonstrating the potential to achieve greatness, despite downfalls.”



“I made progress in my career by getting a part-time job at an architectural firm where I will be able to cultivate and practice the skills I learned at SLCC. My plans after graduation are to continue my education, work as a drafter assistant and get my license to become an architect.”



Leonardo Garcia

Architecture
School of Arts,
Communication and Media

“Kevin King and Naima Nawabi greatly influenced what I know so far about architecture. They helped me with ideas and concepts for class projects, concept development, design review and brain-storming, which I took seriously. Professor King was the person who influenced most of what I developed

in architecture. I even made progress in my career by getting a part-time job at an architectural firm where I will be able to cultivate and practice the skills I learned at SLCC. My plans after graduation are to continue my education, work as a drafter assistant and get my license to become an architect.”

slcc roundup

Distinguished Alumni Award

Salt Lake Community College's prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award honors professional excellence and community service

Derek E. Dyer

(AAS, Visual Arts, 2006)

Executive Director, Utah Arts Alliance



There are two phrases that describe Derek Dyer—give back and never give up. Throughout his life, he has come to know the power of perseverance, especially as a young SLCC student working to create the Utah Arts Alliance. As he did so, Dyer faced opposition from some of

Utah's most influential policymakers.

I was told I shouldn't start a nonprofit and that I would never make it," he says. But his desire to give back to the community through the arts was stronger than the warnings from naysayers. Almost two decades later, the Utah Arts Alliance brings art and culture to more than 250,000 people through its seven venues located in Salt Lake City.

At the heart of Dyer's community engagement is the will to create the kind of world that he wants to live in. He believes that what people most want out of life is to be happy and that when you "dig down" into what brings people joy, it's having big goals and contributing to society in a positive way.

Dyer says SLCC played a key role in helping get the Utah Arts Alliance off the ground. "When you are starting a business, you are the accountant, the HR person and the graphic designer." SLCC offered him some much-needed flexibility, allowing him to work while earning his degree and take extra classes outside his major.

Dyer says when he first enrolled at SLCC, he took paralegal classes simply because he thought becoming an attorney would give him enough money to pursue his real passion once he retired. He soon discovered that the college offered a new degree called multimedia design. "I looked at the curriculum and decided that's exactly what I wanted to do because there would be an opportunity to make a living."

Tashelle B. Wright, PhD, MSPH

(AS, Biology, 2014)

*Director, Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office
University of Utah, School of Medicine*



As a young CNA whose parents did not attend college, Tashelle Wright was told she shouldn't aspire too high. Despite this, she enrolled at SLCC to become a nurse practitioner, but what she really wanted was to conduct advanced research in health science, a dream she felt was beyond her

reach as a first-generation student.

What she found at SLCC surpassed her expectations and helped her realize this dream. "The college brought me together with mentors who helped me see what was possible," Wright says. Encouragement from faculty changed the trajectory of her career, helping her gain the confidence to pursue research and engage with projects focused on justice, equity, diversity and inclusivity.

"Being part of the Black community is very important to me," says Wright. "I saw the diversity at SLCC as an opportunity and wanted to make sure I was out doing things and reaching for more."

With help from her mentors, Wright earned an associate's degree in biology and then transferred to Westminster College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in public health as a McNair Scholar. She also holds a master's degree and a PhD in public health from the University of California, Merced.

Today, Wright proudly serves as the director of the Office of Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Utah's School of Medicine, and although it's been years since she attended SLCC, Wright looks for ways to stay involved. She recently volunteered to review posters for STEM students during SLCC's first annual Undergraduate Projects & Research Conference. "If I can find ways to give back or be present on an SLCC campus, I'm all for it."

One of Our Rising Stars

Young alumna is making the world a better place, locally and afar

Elizabeth Gamarra's father, who ran a small shoe-shine business as a boy, instilled in her a strong work ethic. "He said to me, 'In every job you must always do the best you can at it, even if you think the job is small or mundane.'"

She has been infusing her "best" into her life and others' lives ever since.

A Fulbright Scholar, Oxford Consortium Fellowship recipient, Rotary Peace Fellow, TEDx speaker and former SLCC student, Gamarra received the college's inaugural Rising Star Award in April.

The Rising Star Award recognizes SLCC alumni who have made a profound and positive impact in their communities and beyond, and who have graduated from the college within the last seven years.

"Elizabeth's nomination stood out as someone who was not only exceptional in her professional accomplishments, but who at her core, is an inspiring leader, dedicated to catalyzing positive change both locally and globally," says Kate Rubalcava, CEO of Utah Nonprofits Association and a member of SLCC's Alumni Leadership Council.

Gamarra, who skipped three grades, and through concurrent enrollment began her studies at SLCC when she was 15, earned an associate's degree in general studies in 2014. She transferred to the University of Utah, where she pursued undergraduate and graduate degrees in social work. She went on to earn a master's



degree in peace and conflict from International Christian University in Japan and is currently pursuing her PhD there in international relations. Gamarra has also studied international refugee policies at the Graduate School of Geneva and engaged in refugee fieldwork at the Elpida Home for Refugees.

"SLCC made me a student for life," says Gamarra, recalling the diversity of people she was surrounded by at the college, many older than her. "They reminded me you must remain open and curious to get the most out of learning no matter what stage you are in your life."

"Elizabeth graduated from here, but she never really left SLCC. She has become a central resource and bridge to the school and the world," says Gordon Storrs, who served as a mentor and academic advisor to Gamarra. "When she was here, and still now, she is always looking for ways to empower and uplift students from all backgrounds to reach for the stars in terms of scholarships and new academic opportunities."

Storrs points to Gamarra's Generations of Legacies project (GOL), which she started at age 14, to provide educational empowerment to minority groups. It now includes some 3,000 active members worldwide, including many SLCC alumni and

"When she was here, and still now, she is always looking for ways to empower and uplift students from all backgrounds to reach for the stars..."

students. Through this project she created a platform to share scholarships, academic opportunities and workshops with GOL members. "I started this to motivate my Latino community, including myself, to consider: 'What would you do if you knew you could not fail?' And from there, the network naturally grew," Gamarra says.

She focuses her youthful energy on four main areas: immigration, climate change, peace building and mentorship. "These areas are all close to my heart," Gamarra said. These passions are reflected in her resume as she has worked for Amnesty International (USA), the Academic Council of the United Nations (Tokyo), and most recently, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Nuclear Energy Agency (Paris).

Teaching Excellence Award

Craig Ferrin, PhD

Professor, Fine Arts
School of Arts, Communication and Media



After taking Dr. Craig Ferrin's classes, students tell him they hear music differently. This is "music" to Ferrin's ears, as the instructor teaches a variety of courses,

including composition, song writing and the music business.

With a band teacher for a father, Ferrin grew up knowing he would teach music in some form, as well. "After all, the world needs good music," he says. He takes note of the passion for music his students bring to class and helps them develop their creativity and improve their performance skills.

Ferrin's in-depth research around fostering creativity is woven into his classes. In addition to well-researched creative principles, he encourages creative latitude, improvisation and the joy of learning from errors. "The immediate gain is learning from mistakes. I create a class environment where there is room for that."

He also relishes interacting with students and witnessing their growth. Ferrin develops relationships with his students by offering direct video feedback rather than written critiques. He points out that body language, inflections and facial expressions are all key to communication and are absent in written evaluations. His students share that they appreciate the personalized nature of these videos.

Ferrin earned his master's degree in music education from Northwestern University and his bachelor's and doctorate degrees from the University of Utah. Outside of his work at SLCC, he conducts the Murray Concert Band and participates in many other Utah-based musical groups.

Hau Moy Kwan, PhD

Assistant Professor, Computer Science
School of Business



Dr. Hau Moy Kwan believes that learning happens best when it's founded on a relationship. For this reason, she memorizes the names of all her students in the

first few weeks of class and personally checks in with each of them, not just asking about their assignments but taking care to include a genuine, "How are you doing?" Her contagious smile and caring words let students know that she is approachable.

"I want to give them the confidence to come to me and talk to me, so I can support them," says Moy Kwan, whose teaching career in engineering and computer science spans 20 plus years. Sometimes, her students don't approach her but she sees they need help. This was the case a couple of years ago with one of her international students. Moy Kwan observed the student often seemed sad and frustrated. Privately, the student shared that she was overwhelmed by the language barrier and wanted to drop out. Moy Kwan, who was born in Venezuela to Chinese parents, told the student, "I didn't know English either when I came to this country, and I am still learning it. I get frustrated many times, but this has not stopped me from moving forward. Don't give up. If I can do it, so can you." The student successfully finished her studies at SLCC and is now attending the University of Utah.

In her four years at the college, Moy Kwan has honed her hands-on teaching style to engage students and to motivate them to be enthusiastic learners. "SLCC is the best place ever," she says. "I work with a diverse community in which we can all learn from each other, and I love that."

Moy Kwan earned all her degrees at Dr. Rafael Belloso Chacin University in Maracaibo, Venezuela, including her master's in telematic sciences and her PhD in educational sciences. She also spent five years working in the technology industry prior to her arrival at SLCC.

Michael Young

Assistant Professor, Sociology
School of Humanities and Social Sciences



In his sociology classes, Michael Young takes his eyeglasses off and on, using the lenses of his glasses to represent different sociological theories and their unique approaches

to explaining the world. His gesture brings abstract concepts to life and makes them more memorable for his students.

Learning in Young's classes is a collaborative experience, where students engage in discussion on topics such as inequality, race, culture, religion and belief systems. "I expect them to bring their own experiences into the classroom," he says. He strives for an inclusive class climate that accepts all viewpoints while establishing respectful "rules of discussion/debate." Terminology and theories organically surface in the discussions, allowing students to connect them to their lives, a process which he calls, "meaning making."

Young strives to model the skills of critical thinking, recognizing bias, articulating arguments, thoughtful debate, self-reflection, accepting feedback, being challenged and learning from experience and examples.

For the last four years, Young has served as SLCC's associate dean of General Education, Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies. He earned his associate's degree in human services from South East Community School in Nebraska and his bachelor's degree in psychology from Southern Utah University. He also holds a master's degree in sociology from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Prestigious Magazine Publishes Professor's Fiction



Lynn Kilpatrick, PhD, a writing and English professor at Salt Lake Community College, had her fictional piece "The Man in Question" published in Emerson College's

Ploughshares Winter 2021-2022 edition. Ploughshares is widely recognized as an award-winning journal that features new original poetry and prose that represents the freshest voices in contemporary American literature.

"Anyone who reads it will quickly recognize the echoes of current events, such as the #MeToo movement, the Kavanaugh hearings and discussions we've been having about the effects of trauma," Kilpatrick says. "Certainly, those events shaped this story, but also I drew on my experiences as a mother and my memories of being a teen-aged girl. The story poses more questions than it answers, so I guess it's fitting that the title is 'The Man in Question.'"

Kilpatrick's work has been extensively published through the years. She is the author of the short-story collection "In the House" (FC2, 2010). Her essays have appeared in Zone 3, Creative Nonfiction, and Ninth Letter. Previous stories have appeared in Hotel Amerika and Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine. A collection of her prose sonnets and drawings by John Sproul were exhibited at the Salt Lake City Public Library and subsequently published in Western Humanities Review. Currently, she is working on a new collection of stories titled "She Said."



“The story poses more questions than it does answers...”



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