

# SLCC

MAGAZINE



*A new era*

# SLCC SNAP SHOTS



PHOTO BY: HICKERSONPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

**Left to right:** Film and TV stars David Strathairn (left to right), Parker Posey, Christina Pickles and Kirsten Vangsness brought to life stories by established and emerging writers in NPR's Selected Shorts with KUER's Doug Fabrizio as host for the evening at Salt Lake Community College's Grand Theatre.



**Top Left:** Salt Lake Community College made a big splash with its booth and demonstrations at last year's Salt Lake Comic Con at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City.

**Top Middle:** Salt Lake Community College officials dedicated newly opened green space at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus to former College President Jay L. Nelson, who for 29 years led the institution when it was called Utah Technical College.

**Top Right:** SLCC President Deneece Huftalin chose Randall Forbush's "Light Bulbs" oil painting for the President's Award, which comes with a \$1,000 prize, during the annual President's Art Show. The College also purchased Forbush's piece to include in its collection on display throughout the institution's campuses.

**Bottom Left:** Salt Lake Community College held a Health and Science Fair at the Jordan Campus for area high school students.





**Left:** The duo Joy Tlou and Eric Sopenan, known by their large loyal following as joy&eric, closed the "Backstage at the Grand" series with three concerts in January at Salt Lake Community College's Grand Theatre.

**Bottom Left to Right:** Longtime business owner Roger McQueen donated his vast collection of Fred Morris' wildlife photography to Salt Lake Community College during a special ceremony at the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Gallery at the South City Campus.

Salt Lake Community College and Make-A-Wish used an SLCC "project house" built by students in the construction trades as a backdrop to deliver Disney-themed toys and keepsakes to a boy named Max, who has muscular dystrophy.

Former Utah Jazz icon Frank Layden helped Salt Lake Community College officials announce the creation of the school's new Science, Mathematics and Technology Resource Center at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus.

Artwork from the "Beyond American Gothic" show that was exhibited at the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Gallery at South City Campus.

A model shows off a design from one of more than a dozen graduating student designers taking part in Salt Lake Community College Fashion Institute's annual spring fashion show, this year called #FemmeFierce, at the Rail Event Center.





Thanks to the Grand Theatre's involvement as a new screening venue in the 2015 Sundance Film Festival, the world now knows what we here at Salt Lake Community College have known for a long time – that the Grand is an amazing entertainment venue. In this edition of SLCC Magazine, we take a look back at that experience and we get to meet a former SLCC student, Tony Vainuku, whose documentary premiered at the Grand.

In this edition, you will learn more about a few of our great programs at SLCC with stories about Culinary Arts at the Miller Campus, Fit Tech at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus, and the unique STUDENTfacturED, which gives high school students hands-on lab experience at our Jordan Campus.

We have so many incredible milestones and events throughout the year at SLCC, and some of those are highlighted here: visits by NPR host Brooke Gladstone and “Wild” author Cheryl Strayed; SLCC’s annual scholarship golf tournament, and a story that touches on the generosity of donors to the College; and SLCC’s involvement in President Obama’s first visit to Utah.

Finally, I’d like to thank everyone who made Inauguration Day an experience I will never forget. It is an honor and a privilege to have been chosen as President of SLCC, and in this issue the magazine captures a few elements of that special day.

SLCC Magazine will catch you up on things you might have missed and allow you to relive some of the memorable moments at this College. I hope you enjoy browsing its pages and, more importantly, thank you for your continued support of the College.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denece G. Huftalin".

Denece G. Huftalin, PhD  
*President*

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**COVER:** Inauguration of Dr. Denece G. Huftalin  
**BACK COVER:** Dr. Denece G. Huftalin and her son Max

## THE COLLEGE REPEATS NATIONAL “BEST FOR VETS” STATUS

**S**alt Lake Community College was for the fourth time ranked by *Military Times* as a Best for Vets two-year college.

Serving approximately 1,300 veterans, SLCC ranked 11 on the national publication’s Best for Vets: Colleges 2015 list, which recognizes schools for their commitment to providing a wide array of educational opportunities and benefits for veterans and their families. The rankings are listed in several military publications produced by Gannett Government Media, a subsidiary of Gannett Co., Inc.

“At SLCC, we are committed to providing services to our veterans and service members to assist them in completing their education and

employment goals,” said Darlene Head, manager of SLCC Veterans Services. “We are supported in accomplishing these goals from all of



our administration, all the way up to President Huftalin. The College has added additional staff and funds to

continue to reach out to our veterans to guide and provide support to them as they transition from the military to college and then employment. We serve veterans with pride.”

Hundreds of schools took part in surveys that document an array of services, special rules, accommodations, and financial incentives offered to military and veteran students and other aspects of veteran culture on campuses. The *Military Times* also used data compiled by the U.S. Education Department. The full list of rankings for two-year and four-year institutions can be found at [www.militarytimes.com/bestforvets-colleges2015](http://www.militarytimes.com/bestforvets-colleges2015)

## SLCC CULINARY ALUM WINS \$10K AT WORLD FOOD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**D**avid Grover, a former student of the Salt Lake Community College Culinary Institute, won the World Recipe Champion award in the annual World Food Championships. Grover shared the \$10,000 prize with his longtime girlfriend and cooking partner Jamie Boyle of the team “The Half Baked Hippies” after preparing three dishes that wowed judges in Las Vegas. Grover’s team was one of nine category winners who beat 400 other competitors for a chance to vie for a \$100,000 World Food Champion award, which this year was won by a California cook.

Boyle and Grover live in Murray and have been competing in cooking competitions for the past six years in Utah and surrounding states. “We cook for fun,” Grover said. “It’s not for winning. It’s not for anything other

than going out and having fun. It’s our release. It’s our fun time. We aren’t chefs who compete or practice day in and day out in the kitchen.”

To advance in the competition, the pair made a “Creamy Bacon Stuffed Chicken” and then a “Chile Verde Lasagna.” The winning dish was “Wasatch Back Jack Taters,” using three kinds of potatoes, Wright Brand bacon, Land O’Lakes cream cheese, a blended queso fresco cheese infused with chile verde and cheese from Utah-based Heber Valley Artisan Cheese along with caramelized onions and jalapenos.

Grover took classes in the 90s at SLCC’s Culinary Institute and earned a Certified Culinarian certificate, but went on to become a compliance officer for Salt Lake City. Boyle works as a payroll coordinator for the State of Utah.







# SLCC RECEIVES CARNEGIE 2015 “COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT” CLASSIFICATION

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has awarded Salt Lake Community College its 2015 Community Engagement Classification.

Two- and four-year colleges and universities with a focus on community engagement were invited to apply for the classification, which the Carnegie Foundation began offering in 2006. Applicants were asked to describe the nature and extent of their engagement with the community and to provide descriptions and examples of institutionalized practices of engagement that “showed alignment

among mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices.”  
 “The designation is an affirmation of our historic and deeply held commitment to serving our community, helping us teach and advance knowledge while advancing the well-being of others outside of the College,” said Jennifer Seltzer-Stitt, SLCC director of Community Relations. “Receiving this designation brings national recognition to our campus and places SLCC among an elite group of institutions, with only four community colleges receiving the classification for 2015.”  
 SLCC engages the community it

serves in a variety of ways, including through its Thayne Center for Service & Learning; Community Writing Center; Miller Business Resource Center; on-campus programs to engage young people in science, technology, engineering, and math; Grand Theatre cultural events and youth programs, on- and off-campus programming for local K-12 students, and through many arts and cultural events. The Carnegie classification lasts 10 years, after which time, institutions can reapply. A full list of institutions that received the 2015 classification can be found at [nerche.org](http://nerche.org)



Salt Lake  
Community  
College



# A new president, a new era

**DR. DENECE G. HUFTALIN**

INAUGURATION JAN. 9, 2015

**M**ax Huftalin had the honor this past January of introducing the eighth president of Salt Lake Community College – his mother, Dr. Denece G. Huftalin – during her inauguration as his father and brother looked on from the audience. Max described his mother as “one of the greatest embodiments of good” he’s ever met. “She is also, I think you’ll find, a natural leader. Not through fear or flattery, but by inspiring others to do the best they can,” he said. “Throughout the years, I have met people who work with my mother, for my mother, or even just know her, and the love and affection that others feel for her is mind-blowing. She is a woman of the people, and always will be.”

Hundreds of staff, faculty, and students turned out Jan. 9 for a public breakfast and reception with Dr. Huftalin at SLCC’s Science and Industry Building atrium on the Taylorsville Redwood Campus. The President was formally installed in the nearby Lifetime Activities Center and was joined by Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert, past SLCC presidents Judd Morgan and Frank Budd, and a large crowd that welcomed her to the new role. The Madeline Choir School choristers sang the “National Anthem” and the music duo joy&eric (the singer is SLCC Public Relations Director Joy Tlou) performed the pop hit “Home.” SLCC associate professor of English Lisa Bickmore read Emma Lou Thayne’s inaugural poem “Considering the Future: A Poem for Peace.” Several speakers

lauded Dr. Huftalin for her commitment and dedication to SLCC.

“Dr. Huftalin has a deep knowledge of the institution and years of care, consideration, and concern for our students,” SLCC Board of Trustees Chair Gail Miller said during one of several speeches honoring Huftalin. “Coupled with her long-standing relationships with faculty and staff, a passion for the community, and enthusiastic and capable leadership, we are confident she will advance Salt Lake Community College on a pathway to becoming the premier community college in the nation.”

SLCC Faculty Senate President Lois Oestreich said faculty “have appreciated the ways (Huftalin) supported students’ successes in their academic endeavors.” The College’s Faculty Association President, Joseph Gallegos, complimented Huftalin’s continued efforts during her time at SLCC to “reach out to faculty and staff to do what is best for students and the greater community of Salt Lake Community College.” Utah System of Higher Education Commissioner, David Buhler, noted that during the search for SLCC’s next president, he was constantly asked by people in the community and by faculty and staff, “Why are you searching? We already have the best possible president in Interim President Huftalin.” And Pastor France Davis, Board of Regents Vice Chair, called Huftalin a “woman of strong character, optimism, warmth, integrity, intellect, ability, and experience.”

Dr. Huftalin thanked the boards of

Regents and Trustees for the trust they have placed in her as president. “It is a sacred trust, and one I am determined to honor in partnership with all of you in our voyage to make SLCC the premier community college in the country,” she said. In her speech, Huftalin talked about the need to “engage in a community of trust and respect where creativity and responsiveness is incentivized” and to identify and understand the obstacles students encounter in obtaining a higher education and to “provide the tools, services, and skills that enable our students to transcend those obstacles.”

Dr. Huftalin has served SLCC students, faculty, and staff for more than two decades and previously served on the Executive Cabinet as Vice President for Student Services. She has worked collaboratively with faculty and staff to strengthen high-impact practices, learning outcomes, and inclusivity initiatives and led college wide strategic priority and assessment efforts. Her work with students has been exemplary.

SLCC alumnus Tim Huval, who represented the College’s alumni organization and its 600,000 members around the world, said, “This is truly a special day. We’re embarking on a new journey led by a visionary we all deeply respect. Throughout Denece’s great career, she has not only been a stellar, passionate advocate leader but has also fostered a culture at SLCC that has helped alumni across the world engage and improve their communities.”













# “It shook my world in a really powerful way”

It was an awakening as an undergraduate at the University of Utah that set Dr. Denece G. Huftalin on a path toward becoming Salt Lake Community College’s eighth president.

President Huftalin grew up in the Salt Lake Valley’s East Millcreek area, where she attended Skyline High School and loved theater, dance, and English. But as a student at the U, her view of the world and what she wanted in life began to shift. “My college experience was my first exposure to people who were fairly different than I was. That’s where I really feel like I found myself, where I discovered what I cared about and what I believed. That experience gave me leadership opportunities, a wonderful network of friends, and opened my eyes to the countless paths available to me.”

After considering several academic paths that included musical theater, journalism, and business, Dr. Huftalin gravitated toward organizational communication, a blend of business and communications. Her first job in higher education after graduating from college was working as a receptionist in the admissions office at Stanford University. She found herself drawn to university life. “I loved meeting parents and students, and I just loved the energy of what was happening on campus.”

From that point forward, Dr. Huftalin knew she wanted to make education a career, and she wanted to lead. A friend and mentor at Stanford encouraged her to pursue a master’s degree towards that goal. She earned a master’s degree from UCLA in education administration.

In 1989, Dr. Huftalin was hired by the Institute for Shipboard Education to serve as a director of programming. She traveled around the world for three-and-a-half months with 500 college students during a semester at sea. She met people and experienced the landscapes and cultures of Yugoslavia, Taiwan, Russia, India, Morocco, and Malaysia. “It had a huge impact. It completely shifted my world view about consumerism, privilege, economic distribution, health, ethnocentrism – it shook my world in a really powerful way.”

Prior to joining Salt Lake Community College in 1992 as

Director of Academic and Career Advising, she held positions at William Rainey Harper College, Northwestern University, and the University of Utah. In 2006, Dr. Huftalin earned her doctorate in education, leadership and policy from the University of Utah.

Dr. Huftalin has worked collaboratively with faculty and staff to strengthen high-impact practices, learning outcomes, and inclusivity initiatives, and has led college wide strategic priority and assessment efforts in her 22 years at the College. She has served as Dean of Students and on the Executive Cabinet as Vice President for Student Services. Dr. Huftalin was selected in January 2014 to be SLCC Interim President before officially being named President in September 2014 after a nationwide search. Her goals are to significantly increase student completion and transfer rates and to work closely with industry leaders to strengthen SLCC’s responsiveness to workforce needs.

Outside of SLCC, Dr. Huftalin teaches in the education, leadership and policy program at the University of Utah and serves on the Board of Governors of the Salt Lake Chamber, the EDCUtah Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, and the Board of Directors for YWCA Utah. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Utah Campus Compact, the Promise Partnership Regional Council of United Way of Salt Lake, and is the current presidential sponsor for the Utah Women in Higher Education Network (UWHEN).

Dr. Huftalin and her husband, Tim, are the parents of two sons, Max and Eli.

She is inspired by the Sarah Ban Breathnach quote: “The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all, the world needs dreamers who do.”

For her, the quote reflects her desire to think big about what our world can be, and then to go about making that happen in your own space. “It’s a nice marriage between invention and creativity and the daily work of making the world a better place – really making it better, not just talking about it. You can’t just talk about that – you need to roll up your sleeves and do it.”





PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

## EMMA LOU THAYNE 1924-2014 INAUGURAL POET

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Emma Lou Thayne's impact during her long life was felt far and wide and especially at Salt Lake Community College with the trajectory of its Thayne Center for Service & Learning. Employing ideas of civic learning and democratic engagement, the nationally recognized Thayne Center has been in operation since 1994. Activities organized through the center have impacted the lives of thousands of SLCC students, staff, faculty, and people served through countless projects, and with the help of a multitude of community partners. It was Emma Lou Thayne's influence that helped SLCC chart a successful and prolific course of community service. She was an award-winning writer, with 13 books of poetry, fiction, essays, and travel stories to her name. Widely known as a Mormon poet, she wrote about subjects like kinship and peace among all people and nations. Mrs. Thayne was active in drawing public attention to issues related to mental health, spirituality, and the advancement of women. She taught English and was the women's tennis coach at the University of Utah, from where she received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in 2000. Salt Lake Community College awarded her an Honorary Doctorate in 2003. Mrs. Thayne is survived by her longtime husband Mel, their five daughters, and a large extended family.

### "CONSIDERING THE FUTURE: A POEM FOR PEACE":

*...I have only one voice, one language,  
one set of memories to look back on,  
a thousand impulses to look ahead  
if I will, if there is time to consider:  
How much for the earth?  
What would I keep?*

*Blue mountains against a black sky,  
smiles exchanged so well we do not know our  
ages or conditions."*

(EXCERPT FROM THE EMMA LOU THAYNE  
INAUGURATION POEM)



A TONY VAINUKU AND ERIKA COHN FILM

Official Selection 2015  
**sundance**  
FESTIVAL

# IN FOOTBALL WE TRUST

**MAKE YOUR OWN HISTORY**

ITVS AND RELATIVITY SPORTS PRESENT "IN FOOTBALL WE TRUST"  
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RELATIVITY SPORTS FILM GATLINAGE ITVS

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# “NOW THEY KNOW WHO I AM”

*Sundance Propels Former SLCC Student Into ‘Who’s Who’ of Filmmaking*

**B**y “they,” filmmaker Tony Vainuku means Robert Redford, whom he met during an event for directors at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival in Park City. And he means actor/producer Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, who called Vainuku during the festival to say he wanted to throw his support behind “In Football We Trust,” a documentary which Vainuku co-directed with former Utah resident Erika Cohn. And by “they” he means the likes of HBO, movie distributors, directors, producers, actors, and the scores of people in the film industry he met while on the whirlwind tour that comes with getting a film accepted into the annual 10-day Sundance Film Festival.

Not bad for a guy who grew up poor in Salt Lake City, moving around because his parents couldn’t pay the rent, moving out at age 17 to fend for himself, and moving from job to job until the words “higher education” entered the career equation.

Vainuku, 36, who is half Tongan and half Dutch, grew up with four siblings in the neighborhood around SLCC’s South City Campus, which was South High School until he was about 9. He attended Whittier Elementary School, which is just across the parking lot on the east side of the South City Campus. By the time he reached Hillside Middle School on the east side of the valley, Vainuku had already been playing youth league football – and loving it, just like his Polynesian uncles and cousins

who were also good at the game. “We all looked forward to playing,” he said. “My brothers and I all wanted to play when we were old enough.”

The socioeconomic makeup of Vainuku’s peers changed at Hillside, where he noticed white kids would pack white cheese in their sack lunches. Vainuku’s family had been on welfare

spirit, a positive attitude, and natural curiosity – the nucleus of a better future, which meandered its way toward a documentary five years in the making.

Vainuku developed his own sense of style in middle school, wearing – and, by default, marketing – his signature “reggae” beaded necklace in colors red, gold and green, made with materials he



and only knew of the “orange” color of the free “government” cheese his family consumed. “I used to think white cheese was only for rich people,” he said. “That’s how poor I was.” But the young Vainuku already had in him charm, charisma, entrepreneurial

purchased cheaply at a craft store. The “preps,” or more well-to-do white kids, liked the look and began offering him lunch money – \$3 to \$5 – for one just like it. At his peak business, Vainuku was bringing bags full of necklaces to school and making \$70 a week, which

(continued)

enabled him to purchase his first basketball standard. By the time high school rolled around, Vainuku had also tried filmmaking, grabbing a VHS video camera and shooting mock interviews with “famous” basketball players, aka his little brothers. “I always kind of had a knack that way,” he said. “I was playing with a camera as soon as I got a hold of one.”

After middle school, Vainuku was on his way to Highland High School and a promising football stint as a starter. But by his mid-sophomore year, already working jobs as a dishwasher and grocery bagger, he was unable to balance school, a job, and football – his grades slid south, and football paid the price.

At 17, his parents divorced and Vainuku started sharing rent on an apartment with his college-age sister, working his way through high school and taking a drama class along the way. He was into watching movies, but instead of being a passive observer of films like “The Shawshank Redemption,” a favorite of his, he was an engaged viewer, dissecting movies in the same ways a film student might. For Vainuku, films were an escape and a fortuitous early, albeit informal, education in movie making.

After graduating from Highland, Vainuku took jobs installing windows, working as a forklift driver in a warehouse, and finally a gig working directly with customers at Continental Airlines, a reminder that hard labor and punching a clock wasn’t for this self-described charismatic person. “It got to a point where education was a must,” he said, in search of something different from a career that he thought college could provide. A friend attending SLCC drew him to the College’s South City Campus, where Vainuku took acting and film classes and garnered encouragement from instructors to pursue a career in the movie industry.

After filming a few shorts, he and a friend pulled off, as Vainuku describes it, a “quasi Frank Abagnale Jr.,” the con artist who inspired the film “Catch Me If You Can.” Vainuku and his friend placed an ad in a newspaper and used SLCC to set up a table and camera, looking for extras and a man and woman to play

the lead characters for a short film they wanted to produce. “One guy sat down, and he says, ‘How do I get to where you guys are at?’” Vainuku recalled. “I’m behind the camera, smiling and



**“IT GOT TO A  
POINT WHERE  
EDUCATION WAS  
A MUST”**

chuckling.” They finagled free food for the cast and a free place to shoot, they looked every bit the part of movie producers and they even told people they might enter the finished product in the Sundance Film Festival. Ultimately, they ended up with a film that went nowhere. “The experience helped me to understand that we could get it done. That, if we wanted to film an idea, there were plenty of people around to help film it,” Vainuku said. But movie making took a back seat to finishing his college education.

Vainuku transferred his general education credits from SLCC to Westminster College, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in business marketing while working in sales. During that time,

he also launched a multimedia company called Soul Profile Productions. “In Football We Trust” started as an idea to do a film about his uncle Joe Katoa, a promising Polynesian football player with NFL hopes who instead ended up in prison for 10 years. That original idea still exists on YouTube under the title “Culture Clash: Raised To Play Football.” But as industry people such as director Jared Hess (“Napoleon Dynamite”), NYU’s Alice Elliott, and renowned executive producer Geryllyn Dreyfous (“Born Into Brothels”) took notice of Vainuku’s efforts, he was encouraged to expand the scope of his project. He was introduced to award-winning director Erika Cohn, who helped pull all the pieces together. And instead of making a one-character movie about how football plays into the Polynesian community in the U.S., Vainuku and Cohn followed four Polynesian high school players from Utah. Vainuku found financial backing from a Chevron executive who had served a Peace Corps mission in Tonga, and a financially savvy Cohn stretched those dollars. “We started making a movie,” Vainuku said. “We both learned so much. We grew together. We both sacrificed so much.” When it was complete, they knew they had something good, something worth entering into the crème de la crème of film festivals: Sundance. After entering, they waited.

The call from Sundance programming director Trevor Groth came while Vainuku was at his office in Sugarhouse. “He says, ‘I went to Highland. My father coached football there. So, I watched this movie carefully. I just want to say you guys did such a beautiful job. You took your time. You told a truthful and impactful story,’” Vainuku recalls Groth saying. “I’m speechless. I can’t talk. I don’t know what I’m saying. So, I say, ‘I’ll let you go – you’re busy.’ I was wanting to get off the phone and scream.” And Vainuku wanted to call everyone, which he did, despite being told not to. Mom cried. Family members cheered. Cohn, working on a film in the Middle East at the time, went “bananas” during a call. Jared Hess, a Sundance veteran, said on the phone, “‘Dude, did you get the call?’” Vainuku said. “I was like, yeah, and he



## “THE FEELING WAS INDESCRIBABLE”

was like, ‘Yeah!’” Sundance now knew the name Vainuku, and word quickly spread.

On the night before the premiere at The Grand Theatre, Vainuku was having dinner with cast members and their families when he was told by the movie’s distribution company, Relativity Media, to keep his phone line open. Somewhere between “May I take your order?” and “Check, please,” Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson called Vainuku. “He says, ‘Is this Tony?’ and I was like, ‘This is Tony,’ and he says, ‘This is The Rock,’” Vainuku recalls. “I started laughing – we both started laughing. I told him, ‘I knew if I could get this movie to you that you would identify with it.’” Vainuku said Johnson told him he liked the movie’s spirit and its portrayal of Polynesian culture. Finally, it was time to show the film to its first real audience – more than 1,100 people.

Sundance Institute Native American and Indigenous Program Director Bird Runningwater, introduced the film at the sold-out Grand Theatre premiere. “He said, ‘Tony, this is the most beautiful and diverse crowd I’ve ever seen in all of my experiences at Sundance,’” Vainuku said. “He was like, ‘I’ve never seen such a crowd.’” He received a standing ovation

before the film started. “I told them, ‘Let’s not stand up yet. You haven’t seen the movie.’” But when the movie was over, the crowd stood and applauded again as Vainuku and co-director Erika Cohn relished the moment. Cohn auditioned for plays at the Grand Theatre and attended community events there while growing up in Utah. “The feeling was indescribable, to have that large and diverse of a crowd the first time that we screened the film,” Cohn said. “Tony and I looked over at each other during the screening with our jaws dropped and asked, ‘Is this really happening?’” Cohn said one of her other memorable Sundance experiences included showing the film to about 500 high school students from Utah at the Rose Wagner Theatre in Salt Lake City. “We were all so impressed by the questions they asked and by how they fell in love with the subjects (in the movie),” she said. Her goal is to build off of that experience and show the film at high schools around the country this summer in conjunction with what she hopes will be a nationwide theatrical release. And more and more people will know the name Vainuku.

As one amazing moment blended into the next throughout the festival

for Vainuku, including that brief conversation he had with Redford, he soaked it all up. “Everything just kind of melted into the same feeling – I was just on a high,” he said. “It was surreal.” Showings at two other Sundance sites sold out, including at the iconic Sundance venue Egyptian Theatre on Main Street in Park City. People have started recognizing Vainuku, whose social media numbers have shot up. “People love to love him,” said Vainuku’s girlfriend Marie Varanakis. “People want to take pictures or at least say ‘Hi’ and ‘Congratulations.’ He loves it. It’s fun to be recognized for something you’ve done.” To which Vainuku replied, “Yeah, it’s fun. It’s different. I still don’t feel like anything special.” But he and his movie have been deemed special by many people who now know who he is. “The saying is, ‘It’s who you know,’” Vainuku said. “But here, what it proves to be is, it’s who knows you. Sundance gives you a platform to show what you do. Getting into Sundance gives you a chance to shine. It’s huge validation. Now they know who I am. I don’t need a business card. I’ve got Google.” ■

“NOT ONLY IS THE GRAND THEATRE BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORIC, BUT IT ALSO WORKS OPERATIONALLY FOR OUR SCREENINGS. OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS ENJOYED WORKING AT SUCH A GORGEOUS THEATRE THAT HAS THE POWER TO EVOKE NOSTALGIA IN AUDIENCES AND FILMMAKERS ALIKE.”

JACKIE LANDRY, SUNDANCE INSTITUTE SENIOR MANAGER OF THEATER OPERATIONS



“AUDIENCES ENJOYED EXPERIENCING THE SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL AT THE GRAND THEATRE, AND THERE WERE SO MANY SPECIAL MOMENTS THIS YEAR THAT ILLUSTRATED IT BEING A GREAT PLACE TO WATCH A FILM.”

SARAH PEARCE, SUNDANCE INSTITUTE CO-MANAGING DIRECTOR



# BY THE NUMBERS

## 2015 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL AT SLCC'S GRAND THEATRE

The **2015 Sundance Film Festival** marked the addition of the 1,100-seat Grand Theatre at Salt Lake Community College's South City Campus as Sundance Institute's newest venue for screening movies in front of filmmakers, media, and audiences from around the world. The Grand became the festival's second-largest screening venue.



Leading up to the event, SLCC spread the word through public radio outlet and **NPR affiliate KUER** with underwriting information about the festival coming to the Grand. NPR Utah reaches more than **160,000 listeners in Utah and Idaho.**



A November 11 **press release reached 1,086 reporters**, many of them in the entertainment industry, throughout the country. SLCC's messaging about the partnership with Sundance Institute resulted in **4,924 total media deliveries** to outlets everywhere.

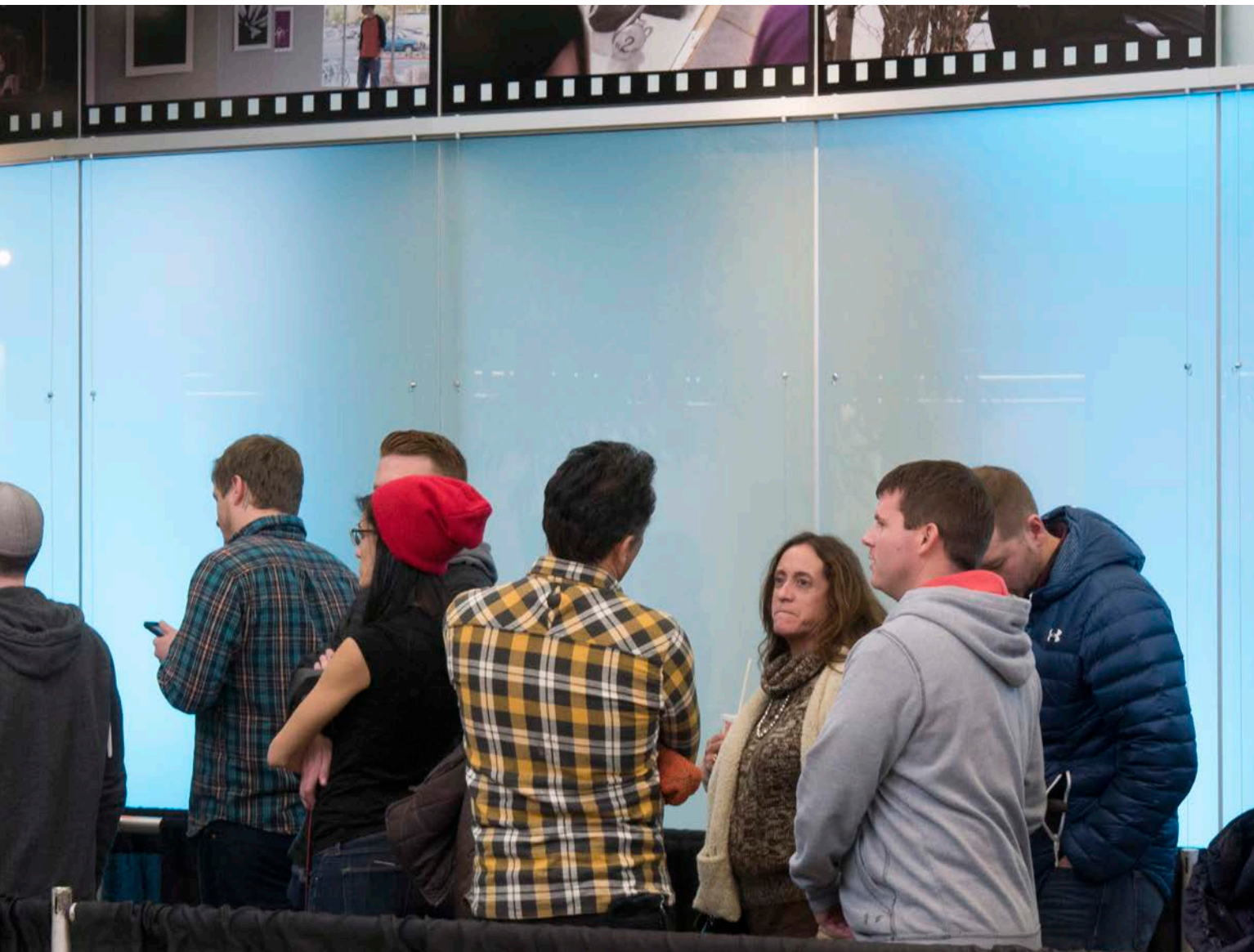


The messages sent out by SLCC **appeared or were published online and in print 459 times** as news stories.



Almost **129 million unique visitors saw the news stories online** with more than 541 million page views over the Internet. If purchased, that kind of coverage or ad space would total more than \$233,000.





The news stories appeared in publications such as **USAToday, the San Francisco Chronicle and the Boston Globe.** The most significant placement appeared in the **Huffington Post** online news service. This placement was viewed by more than 47 million unique visitors and carried an ad value of more than \$82,000.



As media learned of the Grand's involvement and their association with the Center for Arts and Media at South City Campus, **requests came in from the likes of A&E, AMC, NBC, and Sundance Channel for 14 media tours of the new facility** that serves the SLCC School of Arts, Communication & Media.



Spreading the good fortune of having The Grand as part of the festival, **the College gave away 570 promotional tickets to students, faculty, staff and donors** to view movies over the course of two weekends.

By the end of the Sundance Film Festival, more than **17,000** people viewed **19 screenings** in the **Grand Theatre** and were exposed to the Center for Arts and Media at the South City Campus.

# A GREENER SLCC

In recent years, Salt Lake Community College has taken numerous steps toward being a "greener," more environmentally friendly institution while also saving money in the process. By using equipment that measures evapotranspiration, the College is watering the lawns at four campuses only when needed, saving tens of thousands of gallons of water. SLCC facilities crews have installed low-flow toilets and faucets and bottle-filling stations for personal use at all of its campuses. A massive light fixture and light bulb replacement program has significantly reduced the College's energy consumption and associated costs. Solar panels span nearly the entire roof of the Lifetime Activities Center on the Taylorsville Redwood Campus, and panels have been installed on other buildings to create a greener source of electricity wherever possible. The College also recently purchased its own natural gas-powered garbage truck, which enables the school to get a better handle on its waste stream and determine where it can improve on recycling. Recycling efforts at SLCC continue to receive national recognition, like a first-place in the film plastic (shrink wrap, shopping bags, bubble wrap, etc.) category of the 2014 RecycleMania Tournament. And College officials take every opportunity to advocate for energy consumption and carpooling.

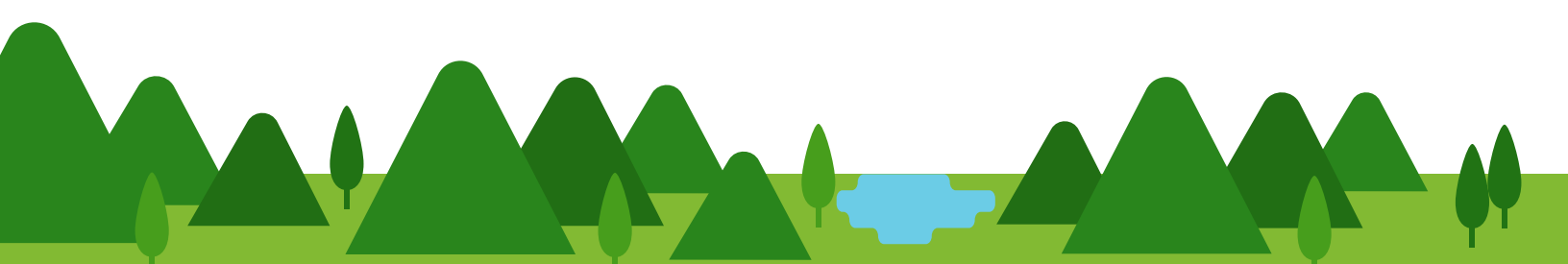
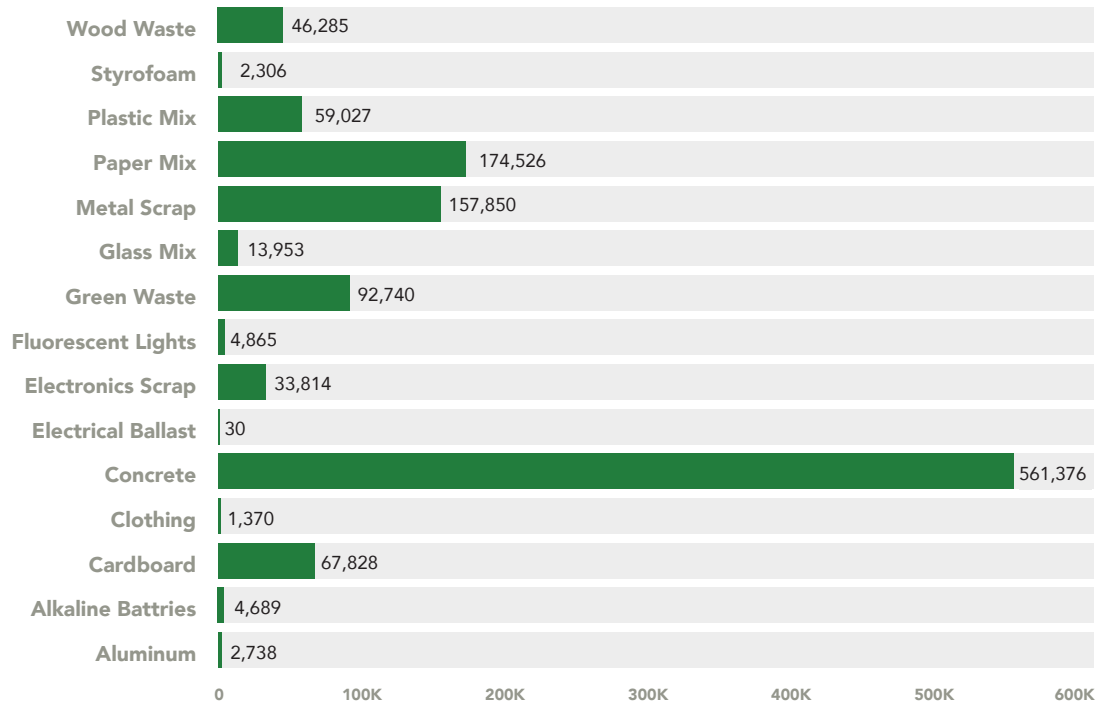


By using equipment that measures evapotranspiration, the College is watering its lawns at four campuses only when needed, **SAVING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF WATER.**

## RECYCLED ITEMS BY POUND

**1,223,397**

POUNDS RECYCLED  
IN 2014





## LED LAMPS AND LUMINARIES AT FIVE MAJOR CAMPUSES



SLCC replaced 653 walkway and wall fixtures with more energy efficient units that **SAVE ABOUT 390,000 kWh/YEAR.**

Workers replaced 466 lamps and light fixtures in interior spaces, saving SLCC almost 225,000 kWh/year in energy consumption.



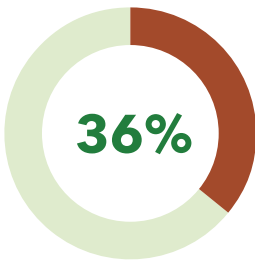
SLCC's vending machines now have timers that reduce the amount of time and energy needed to operate them.

The College has replaced (and reduced) 369 old light fixtures with 268 new parking lot lights that save SLCC about \$25,000 annually and **USE APPROXIMATELY 600,000 kWh/YEAR LESS ENERGY.**

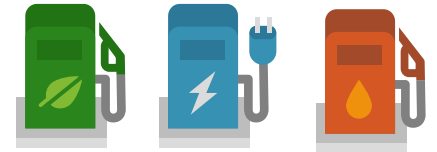
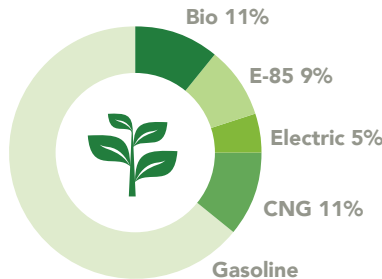
# \$51,000

**TOTAL ANNUAL SAVINGS FOR THE COLLEGE'S AGGREGATE LIGHTING PROJECT: \$51,000 AND MORE THAN 1.2 MILLION kWh/YEAR.**

## ALTERNATE VEHICLES



36% of SLCC's fleet of 132 vehicles use "alternate" fuels



At SLCC's current rate of purchasing alternate-fuel vehicles, **THE COLLEGE WILL REACH THE UTAH GOVERNOR'S GOAL OF 50 PERCENT BY 2020.**

Salt Lake Community College recently purchased its own natural gas-powered **GARBAGE TRUCK** to provide in-house waste stream management toward improving the institution's recycling efforts.



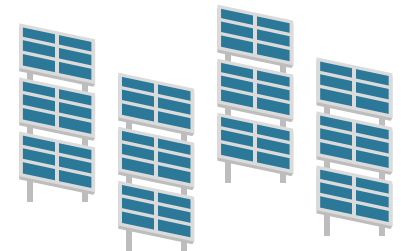
More than half of SLCC's new vehicle purchases in 2014 rely on **ALTERNATE FUELS.**



SLCC facilities crews have installed **LOW-FLOW TOILETS AND FAUCETS AND BOTTLE-FILLING STATIONS** for personal use at all of its campuses.



**SOLAR PANELS SPAN NEARLY THE ENTIRE ROOF OF THE LIFETIME ACTIVITIES CENTER** on the Taylorsville Redwood Campus, and panels have been installed on other buildings to create a greener source of electricity wherever possible.



## NPR's Brooke Gladstone entertains, enlightens Grand Theatre crowd

After another round of applause, National Public Radio's Brooke Gladstone looked out into a crowd of hundreds at Salt Lake Community College's Grand Theatre and acknowledged her adoring audience. "Hey, thanks," Gladstone wryly intoned. "I feel like I'm at a pep rally."

KUER News Director Terry Gildea led an on stage interview with NPR's host of *On the Media* as part of SLCC's Speakers Bureau. For over an hour before a Q & A with the audience, Gildea and Gladstone covered a variety of topics, including media accuracy during crisis reporting and the value of Twitter and social media among news consumers.

Gildea asked Gladstone to comment on reporting, particularly while covering natural disasters, where journalists inject their feelings or emotions into a story. "In fact, it's my impression that it's what the public wants most of all," Gladstone said. "The public wants news media to reflect their priorities, their values, and their concerns." Gladstone said coverage of Hurricane Katrina and 9/11 was wrought with errors but that the emotion



and patriotism with which news outlets reported on those topics trumped accuracy and helped raise normally poor public opinion of the press somewhere above "used car dealers and lawyers."

Gildea dispensed some of Gladstone's own ideas on consuming breaking news

that included not trusting anonymous sources, not trusting news outlets that use other news outlets as sources, and to seek out news sources closer in proximity to events as the likely more reliable or trustworthy sources. Twitter, Gladstone added, can be used to help curate or triangulate information about a news story but that it shouldn't be regarded as a sole source for breaking news. She also warned that consuming news from the Internet is like trying to drink water from a fire hose.

As for errors in reporting, Gladstone said NPR has learned from its mistakes, like erroneously reporting that Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords had died after being shot. Outlets like CNN, she added, don't seem to have learned that lesson, and seem more concerned with keeping people "tuned in" than with accuracy. "So, everything becomes an episodic drama," Gladstone said about CNN reports, like most recently about the missing Malaysian airliner. "It doesn't matter, it all becomes this electronic fireplace, and you stare at it with this single rivulet of drool coming down your face."

## Comedian with Tourette syndrome uses humor to cope, carve a career



When comedian Samuel J. Comroe takes the stage you don't realize right away that there is anything different about him. You might notice a subtle facial tic. He might slowly bob his head or slightly rotate his hip. And then he speaks. "I have Tourette's syndrome," Comroe, 26, said in front of an audience at the Salt Lake Community College Student Center during Disability Awareness Week.

It was the Los Angeles native's second appearance at SLCC, this time blending comedy and education about Tourette syndrome (also called Tourette's) during

a noon keynote address and then doing a full standup routine later in the evening.

One misconception about Tourette's, Comroe pointed out at the onset, is that most people think it has to do with uncontrollably cursing, which is a distortion perpetuated by television shows and movies. In reality, 90 percent of people who have Tourette's have a physical or motor tic of some kind and don't cuss unless by choice, he said.

"So if I cuss you out, it's from the heart," he joked.

Comroe mixed plenty of humor, which he said has helped him deal with Tourette's, with education during his address. He referred to the disorder as "cute," saying it always looks like he's telling someone a secret because of a tic that makes it look like he's winking. Or maybe it gets him in trouble, like the time he told his roommate that their neighbor died – Comroe shows the audience how

he can't stop winking while telling his roommate – and then the roommate asks, "Did you kill him?"

He went on to describe Tourette's as a neurological disorder in which the brain has trouble communicating with the nervous system. Comroe has five sisters and one brother, but he is the only one with the syndrome. "Lucky me," he joked.

Comroe talked about how his parents once sent him to a camp for children with Tourette's, which in retrospect wasn't the best idea because of how people with the disorder in that setting will actually feed off of each other's twitches and tics and, before you know it, the whole group is twitching. Again, the audience laughed.

Comroe's act has been seen on national television, won awards and has him touring the country performing at comedy clubs. For more information about Comroe and links to his social media sites, visit [www.samueljcomroe.com](http://www.samueljcomroe.com)



## SLCC Culinary Arts students not just cooking food

One by one, as they put the finishing touches on their desserts, proud Salt Lake Community College students in Laura Marone's Culinary Arts class took cellphone photos of their creations. Student Chris Williams' double-layered meringue cake with whipped cream and berries – and a light dusting of powdered sugar – was the last to arrive at the table of 10 desserts, due to be delivered that day to a charity auction.



"It's all art," Williams, 42, said about working with food. "For me, anyway, it's all art. I'm a culinary artist. I'm not just a chef. Just like people who paint, when I put food on a plate, that's a piece of me that you get to see, it's a part of my personality. So, it's not just food. If I wanted to just make food, I would go work at McDonald's."

Marone, a pastry and baking instructor in the Culinary Institute at the Miller Campus, said her students are asked once or twice a semester to make something that will be seen and/or

consumed somewhere in the community outside of SLCC. The desserts being made on an October afternoon were scheduled for delivery to an Alzheimer's Association dinner, where they were going to be auctioned to raise money for Alzheimer's research. A month later, Marone's students were scheduled to make gingerbread creations for the annual holiday tree exhibit at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center in West Valley City.

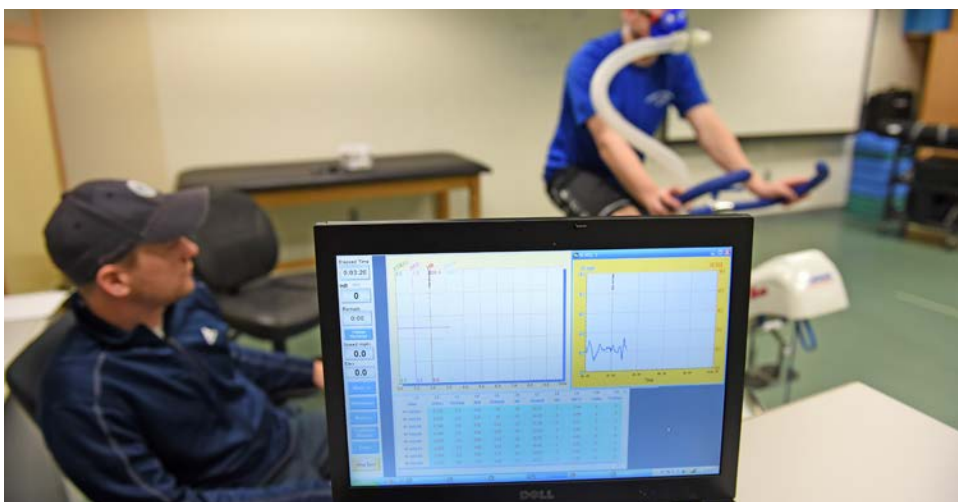
"Our students get the opportunity to show-case their work in the community, which is different than just making something to show your professor," said Bob Burdette, SLCC Culinary Institute interim program director. "It puts a lot of pressure on the students, and they step up their game to a different level. Also, it lets the public see that, when you think of great quality food, you should think of the Salt Lake Community College Culinary Arts program. That's what we want the public to walk away with."

SLCC's Culinary Arts program is one of the few in the state accredited by the American Culinary Federation, adding credibility to the quality of students graduating from the program. The program is expanding to include pastry and baking tracks. SLCC students

graduate with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Culinary Arts, and the reasons they enter the program are as varied as the jobs they land after graduation.

Lansia Wann has a background in film and marketing and loves to travel, which landed her in Japan for a while. Part of the reason she entered the SLCC Culinary Arts program had to do with the food she ate in Japan. "There's a lot of things you can find elsewhere that you can't find in a landlocked state that is not as diverse as other states," Wann said. "You have to figure out how to make it yourself. That's part of the reason I wanted to go (to SLCC)."





## Fit Tech program takes 'personal trainer' to next level

Summer Fereday was an office manager for an appliance repair company when she had an epiphany.

"I realized I wasn't going to be able to support myself and that I wasn't happy doing what I was doing," Fereday said. "I needed to reevaluate my life." She heard about Salt Lake Community College's Fitness Technician (Fit Tech) program through a friend and in 2013 met with Soni Adams, associate dean of Health and Lifetime Activities, to talk about enrolling. "It was like every single part of my body was on fire. I knew this was exactly what I was supposed to be doing. It was the most life-changing thing I've ever done."

What Fereday and her classmates like about the Fit Tech program at SLCC is that its lessons go far beyond what most people calling themselves personal trainers tend to know about the body and how to keep it healthy and operating at its best.

"We're trying to change the market – so people don't think personal trainers are dangerous," Fereday said. The danger, said Emmett Swearson, a graduate of the Fit Tech program, is that the fitness industry is very unregulated right now and that trainers are operating out of the scope of their practice, leading clients down paths that wind up doing more harm than good. Swearson said the Fit Tech program's push now is to work the concept of "Exercise Is Medicine" (EIM) into the mainstream fitness community toward getting consumers to expect more from their personal trainers.

SLCC Fit Tech associate professor Nate Thomas said EIM is an "initiative" to connect the clinical and fitness worlds for a more thorough, thought out, and balanced approach to healthy living. Thomas said that 88 percent of healthcare costs are preventable, with epidemic

problems like diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease leading the way. "We have this misconception that being fat is our problem," Thomas said. "It's because we don't move – that's our problem. We have this disease of sitting. Our biggest issue is how to get people moving and getting people to modify their lifestyles."

The goal of SLCC's Fit Tech program is to graduate EIM-focused students who have the knowledge they need to earn credentials with leading certifying bodies like American College of Sports Medicine, the National Academy of Sports Medicine, and the American Council on Exercise. Graduates leave SLCC with knowledge of kinesiology, exercise physiology, nutrition and fitness assessment, and how to design a fitness program that takes into account a client's flexibility and cardio fitness.

# STUDENTfacturED gives high school students hands-on lab training

Lance Mochizuki opens up an autoclave and Jemima Castillo uses a thick rubber device to remove two beakers containing bottles of bubbling liquid that looks a little like apple juice, but smells much worse. Becka Olivares stands off to the side, brow furrowed, fussing over an equation that will factor into how they handle the content of the

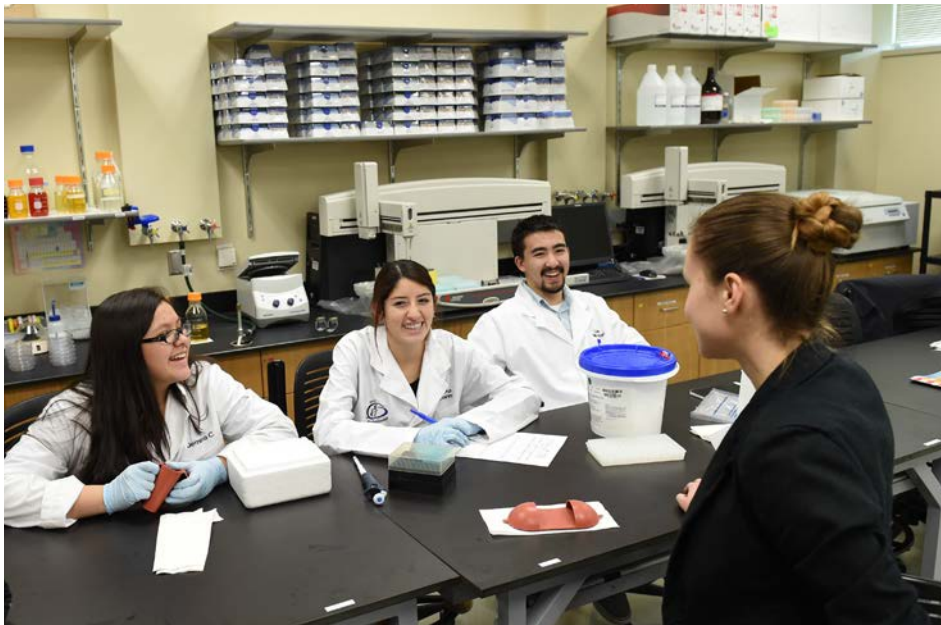
experiments for which I don't know the answers ahead of time. So, it's the students at the same level as the instructors. We're all trying to solve problems and find answers. It's a completely different environment than the typical classroom."

When Mochizuki, 18, isn't focusing on the school newspaper at Copper Hills High School or practicing Tae

school instructors can purchase, including a Cheek Cell DNA Extraction Kit and a Plasmid Identification Kit.

"I've always been interested in science," Olivares said. "It's just always intrigued me, how you can make a difference and improve people's lives." Her interest in biotechnology started with comparing other relatively "boring" areas of medicine to the type of science, for example, that would allow her to study the glowing properties of a green fluorescent protein found in a particular jellyfish. "It was really cool," she said about that jellyfish experience. "And I said, 'This is what I like.' I'm such a nerd (laughs). I want to do nerdy things, so now I'm here."

The STUDENTfacturED program is also attracting students like Celi Bueno, 29, whose parents once pushed her toward nursing. With an aversion to the sight of blood and a different career path in mind, she talked to an SLCC advisor who steered her toward the College's biotech program. She went from paid intern with InnovaBio and then the same position with STUDENTfacturED, with plans to transfer to Utah Valley University for an undergrad degree and then the University of Utah's graduate program. "When you go to the U of U, you only get to touch machines in the master's program," Bueno said. "Over here it's totally opposite. They want you to touch everything. It doesn't feel like a class – you do everything. We learn so much in here."



bottles after it cools.

All three are high school students, age 18, wearing surgical gloves and bright white lab coats with their names stitched into the fabric as they take part in Salt Lake Community College's unique STUDENTfacturED program inside a lab at the Jordan Campus Health Sciences Building. The program title reflects its intent, which is to educate students who are interested in biotechnology about the manufacturing side of the field. For the most part, they operate unsupervised in the lab.

"They actually have to do real science. They have to be scientists and think like scientists," said Chloe Cigarroa, STUDENTfacturED program manager. "We don't do cookbook science, where we just walk them through the steps and maybe they participate and then they see a pretty picture at the end. They're doing real

Kwon Do, he's probably thinking about science and someday developing new drugs to combat diseases. "I'd love to make a difference," Mochizuki says about his future career goals. By enrolling in STUDENTfacturED, Mochizuki and others like him are giving themselves a head start.

STUDENTfacturED grew out of InnovaBio, an SLCC program that puts students in an extensive lab at the SLCC Jordan Campus and teaches them about the research and development side of the biotech world. The STUDENTfacturED program takes a product that comes out of InnovaBio and concentrates on marketing the item, manufacturing it, learning about quality control with the product, and regulatory affairs surrounding it. Together the two programs, each one a licensed company, are coming up with useful scientific products college and high



## SLCC IMMIGRANT STUDENTS

# *share their stories*



**C**old weather, not looking “Chinese enough,” and crocodiles in the streets – they’re all part of the immigrant experience for several Salt Lake Community College students who talked about their lives as part of the presentation “Immigrant Student Voices” at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus.

Students, staff, and faculty listened to Sharon Frank talk about her transition from Taiwan to the U.S., recalling a little boy who tried to guess her nationality and finally gave up, saying, “No, you’re not Chinese because you don’t have Chinese eyes.” The boy thought she was Mexican.

Frank joined five other students from four different countries as part of a panel moderated by SLCC academic and career advisor Elizete Bond, who emigrated from Brazil. When Bond was first in the U.S. on a bus, someone next to her asked how she dealt with the crocodiles in the streets in Brazil. Bond laughed as she recalled telling the person, “You know what, I haven’t seen crocodiles except for the two or three times that I went to the zoo.”

Maxwell Azongo-Ayeliya said he wanted to go back to Ghana when he first experienced the cold weather of a Utah winter. “I put everything on my body and I still felt cold,” Ayeliya said. “I nearly cried.” But soon his body acclimated, and then his concerns, just as the other immigrant students recounted, turned to more serious matters.

They all came to the U.S. for similar reasons – a better life, jobs and education – and they’re studying nursing, communications, computer science, and culinary arts. Salt Lake City has been a good fit for 19-year-old Italian student Ludovica Giusti, who came to the U.S. when she was 16, because of its relative safety compared with other larger cities, a fact that sets her parents’ mind at ease back home.



*“I put everything on my body and I still felt cold,” Ayeliya said. “I nearly cried.”* –Maxwell Azongo-Ayeliya





But fitting in hasn't been easy for all of the panelists. Salvador Oregon, 19, talked about being unable to get a job or scholarship without a Social Security number despite moving with his family from Mexico to the U.S. when he was only one.

"This is a very serious issue, and a lot of people face that," Bond responded, recounting how a little boy she knew reacted when he learned he was undocumented. "That was very, very hard for him," she said. "He got very depressed."

Some of the students have had to deal with stereotypes that at times border on racism. The way Mexican-born Arturo Salazar looks and talks is a "red flag" if he gets pulled over by the police. Teachers have held Salazar's roots against him, he said, such as the time he was part of a group project where the final product, a research paper, was criticized for grammatical errors that the instructor assumed were Salazar's fault because he is Mexican. Salazar did the research, but a person born and raised in the U.S. was responsible for writing the paper.

Despite setbacks that come with being an immigrant student, Salazar and Frank articulated the often overlooked advantages that come with living in the U.S., regardless of where you're from. Both urged the audience to travel outside of Utah and, if possible, outside of the U.S. to see how people live elsewhere.

"You can see how well off we are and how much better of a lifestyle we have here," Salazar said. "A lot is possible here, and you can follow your dreams here as long as you work. If I want something and if I work toward it, I can get it."

*"A lot is possible here, and you can follow your dreams here as long as you work. If I want something and if I work toward it, I can get it."*

—Arturo Salazar





Lisa Bickmore (second from right) and other participants.

## SLCC's Lisa Bickmore takes home top international poetry prize from Ireland

When Salt Lake Community College's Lisa Bickmore found out in February her poem "Eidolon" was a finalist in the Ballymaloe International Poetry contest, she swiftly nixed indecision on whether she'd be able to make the trip to Ireland, "... because how many times am I going to be shortlisted for an international poetry prize?" she asked herself. While in Dublin she found out she won the top prize, which netted her more than \$10,000, one of the biggest purses in the world for a single unpublished poem.

"The evening of the event was quite amazing to me," said Bickmore, who made the trip to Ireland with husband John McCormick, SLCC Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. "I wondered who in the world would come to an event like this, but it turned out that lots of people did, including press people and people who love poetry. The rooms were filled. I loved meeting other poets, who are all very accomplished and beautiful writers. It was really one of the loveliest things I have ever been a part of."

An associate professor of writing at SLCC, Bickmore said one "geeky" use for the prize money will be to purchase a new field microphone to make "awesome" audio compositions. "I told my husband that I was going to have to calm down first before I decide," she said. The Ballymaloe

competition is sponsored by the Irish literary magazine *The Moth* and is funded by world-renowned Ballymaloe Cookery School founder Darina Allen, author of more than 10 cookbooks. About 2,000 poets submitted almost 3,000 poems for the Ballymaloe contest.

### Eidolon

The pop of the disconnect I feel as a point in space:  
what were the words he said, my son,  
in the language he's learning? The ghost of his silence,

even that will not be there when the dial tone finishes,  
after he's asked the question I could not bring myself

to answer: are you willing? words that echo here  
in the American dark: I take my stick,  
write in the dirt in a language only I speak,

which I refuse to explain. If he were here, I would show him:  
I collect photographs of altars though I kneel at none.

*(Excerpt)*

Bickmore wrote "Eidolon" during a 2008-2009 sabbatical and wanted to draw from her life in faith and life as a mother. "It also has to do with the connection between faith, the will and grief," she said. "'Eidolon' means both 'a ghost' and 'an ideal', which was such an evocative

word, it seemed especially apt for the poem."

The 2013 SLCC Distinguished Faculty Lecturer couldn't be sure whether it was the subject matter or the relief that came with finally getting out a draft after an "intimidating" process of writing the

poem, but she shed a few tears. "Every poet I know hates the competition aspect of trying to get work published, but one of the best things for me about this process and meeting the poets and reading their work was that, for at least this moment, I'm not worried about whether my work is good enough or worthy enough to be sending around," Bickmore said. "I am so very happy that the poem is published. It's a longish poem, and I sometimes wondered if I would find a place for

it. Now it has a place in *The Moth*, and I am overjoyed about that." One of the competition's judges said Bickmore's piece was "a finely made poem" with a voice that "remains limber and feels capable of taking you anywhere."

## SLCC Writing Center Director wins national award

**S**alt Lake Community College Student Writing Center Director Clint Gardner received the Outstanding Service Award during the International Writing Centers Association (IWCA) conference in Orlando.

The award is given every four years and recognizes people who have made significant impacts in the field of writing centers locally, nationally, and internationally. Since the award's founding in 1984, Gardner is the first recipient from a two-year college. SLCC associate professor of English Tiffany Rousculp coordinated Gardner's nomination.

"What sets Clint apart from other colleagues is his enduring commitment to improving writing, both at SLCC's Student Writing Center and its Community Writing Center," Rousculp said for an IWCA press release. "His genuine ability to pursue the collective cause never ceases to amaze me."

Gardner and other SLCC faculty started the College's Writing Center in 1990 shortly after he began teaching here. Since that time an estimated 50,000 students have visited the Writing Center.

"There really wasn't a lab where you could talk one-on-one with students," Gardner said. "We wanted to create something where students could come to improve as a writer and succeed as a student. This is a retention thing for SLCC and a learning opportunity for students."

Today, most of the students seeking help are non-native speakers, often refugees and immigrants, aided by 15 trained, paid, peer tutors. SLCC Institutional Research recently compiled statistical data to document its claim, "Writing Center students are much more likely to pass ENG 1010 and much less likely to withdraw or receive an incomplete."

## Distinguished faculty lecturer speaks on 'Talking Books' and disability



**S**ometimes words rise from a page to speak volumes, and no one knows this better than Salt Lake Community College Associate Professor Melissa Helquist.

She's an expert on various ways a book can "talk," which include audio, tactile and visual modalities and channels. Her research focuses on multiple approaches to reading and writing, including diverse practices used by people with print and sensory disabilities. She teaches English and writing at SLCC, and is completing a PhD in Technical Communication and Rhetoric from Texas Tech University.

Helquist was the 25th annual SLCC Distinguished Faculty Lecturer. She gave her lecture, "The Talking Book: Disability, Technology and the Future of Literacy," this past spring at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus.

The hour-long lecture presented a theoretical, practical, and creative exploration of the "talking book," which is based on research from Helquist's PhD dissertation exploring sound-based literacy practices. A gallery of handmade talking books that incorporate a mix of paper and simple circuitry was included with the lecture, sponsored by SLCC Faculty Services.





## *Gail Miller Leadership Cup benefits SLCC students*

**S**alt Lake Community College is teeing up for its third annual Gail Miller Utah Leadership Cup golf tournament on September 14, 2015, at Hidden Valley Country Club in Sandy, to raise funds for student scholarships.

“The tournament is the College’s signature event to raise scholarship dollars so that our students can meet their educational goals,” said Alison McFarlane, SLCC Vice President for Institutional Advancement. “We are so pleased and thankful for the incredible community support that in its first two years has allowed us to raise more than \$200,000 for student scholarships.”

More than 100 students benefit from money raised in the form of scholarships that can cover tuition, books, lodging, and food. Some of those students are on the golf course during the tournament to educate participants about SLCC and how money raised specifically helps students. SLCC volleyball standout Brighton Taylor was one of those students last year helping out on the golf course. “My favorite part was interacting with all of the different companies and being able to thank them first hand,” Taylor said. “It was an awesome experience.”

The event is named in honor of Gail Miller, who chairs the SLCC Board of Trustees. Student ambassadors greet golfers at each hole to talk about the College and their goals. “Hidden Valley

*“My favorite part was interacting with all of the different companies and being able to thank them first hand”*

Country Club is one of the premier golf and country clubs in Utah,” said Nancy Michalko, SLCC Executive Director of Development. “A private, member-owned club, we are fortunate that they selected Salt Lake Community College to be one of their four outside golf tournaments each year. Located on pristine land in Sandy, it is very picturesque and is also a well-respected course. While the reason to play in the tournament is to help change lives through student scholarships, many of the golfers play because they get access to this superior course.”

One of the major sponsors of the event each year has been Mountain America Credit Union. “We continue to be involved in the Gail Miller Utah Leadership Cup because we are committed to supporting education for students,” says Sharon Cook, Chief

Marketing Officer of Mountain America Credit Union. “The scholarship funds raised by the tournament help carve a path to higher education that these students might not otherwise be able to afford.

This is one of many great ways Mountain America supports students in achieving their career dreams and life aspirations.”

Four-person teams begin the day with a shotgun start and play an 18-hole team scramble format. Last year, Utah Jazz broadcasters Craig Bolerjack and Ron Boone, ABC 4 sports anchor Wesley Ruff, former Major League Baseball player Cory Snyder, former WNBA player and Olympic gold medalist Natalie Williams, and former NBA player Mehmet Okur were on the course throughout the day to take a few swings at the request of golfers.

**For more information or to become involved in this year’s event, contact Nancy Michalko, Executive Director of Development at 801-957-4247 or [nancy.michalko@slcc.edu](mailto:nancy.michalko@slcc.edu)**

# Join us at the 2015 Gail Miller Leadership Cup



*Gail Miller* Salt Lake Community College  
UTAH LEADERSHIP CUP  
For Student Scholarships



## Three gifts benefit SLCC nursing program

Utah business owner Roger McQueen has shown his love for Salt Lake Community College over the years by establishing scholarships and offering internships to promising SLCC students. Not long after donating a collection of wildlife photography to SLCC, McQueen pledged earlier this year to donate \$10,000 of his own money and \$10,000 from his business, Northwestern Mutual, every year for the next 10 years. The total \$200,000 donation will eventually benefit students seeking scholarships for SLCC's nursing program. In particular, the program will target students from rural Utah counties who will likely return to those rural roots and apply their much-needed skills there.

McQueen made the gift in honor of his parents, who lived in Sanpete, Carbon, and Summit counties. "Mr. McQueen is creating scholarships for two hard-working nursing students for whom this scholarship makes a difference in staying in college and completing their degrees," said Nancy Michalko, Executive Director of Development for SLCC Foundation. "Mr. McQueen has been an outstanding supporter of the college." His goal is to

create a permanently endowed scholarship for nursing students from rural counties. In 2003, McQueen began his giving relationship with SLCC by sponsoring several events through the Small Business Development Center.

- SLCC's nursing program also benefitted this year through a partnership with Intermountain Healthcare, which donated \$100,000 in support of a scholarship program that will benefit diversity in nursing. "Healthcare and nursing leaders recognize the connection between a diverse workforce and the ability to provide high quality care to meet a variety of patient needs in our communities," said Mikelle Moore, vice president of Intermountain Community Benefit.

The donation through Intermountain Healthcare represents a partnership between SLCC's nursing program and Intermountain Healthcare's Human Resources and Nursing departments. The goal is to help diverse students become nurses in order to assist with the growing need for non-English speaking nurses in the Salt Lake Valley. "We're always looking at ways to support diversity, because we

have so many different populations in Utah now," said Dr. JoAnne Wright, SLCC Dean of the School of Health Sciences. "We want to make sure that our nursing program reflects that changing population."

- A former nurse, Pat Richards, and her husband Joe Beaumont this year donated \$10,000 in scholarship money for SLCC students. Richards is now CEO of SelectHealth and on the SLCC Board of Trustees – her husband is retired from practicing medicine. "Like so many people, Pat and Joe's parents worked in the trades and did not have the advantage of going to college," Michalko said. "In order to honor their parents and create a path that allows deserving students to complete their degree, they created a new scholarship at the College."

SLCC also recently was approved for \$40,000 in scholarship funds through the Boundless Opportunity Scholarship 2015-2017 Cycle. Boundless Opportunity Scholarship late founder Bill Daniels said, "America remains the greatest nation on Earth, where boundless opportunities still exist for each and every one of us."

## Scholarship money flows to SLCC from Mexico

**S**alt Lake Community College earlier this year received \$17,500 through the Mexican Consulate in Salt Lake City to go toward preparing Spanish-language students for entry into the College. The funds, which are being matched by SLCC, come in the form of scholarship grants from the Institute for Mexicans Abroad. “I’m hopeful that this will have a positive impact for the Hispanic community,” said Diana Harvey, director of SLCC Testing Services.

Harvey said some of the funds are being used to help students with their GED, which can be taken in Spanish. Students will have access to Spanish-speaking tutors, testing officials, and academic advisors. Preparation and taking the test will be done at SLCC, which she said is a way to show students around campus. “You can’t do anything anymore without a GED. And we’re looking at it as a way to demystify college for these kids,” Harvey said. “We’re trying to take the scary part away.” Harvey said helping students obtain some form of high school credential enables them to qualify for financial aid and a path toward a higher education. All they need to get started, she added, is some form of government-issued ID like a consulate card.



## SLCC receives \$600K National Science Foundation grant



**S**alt Lake Community College recently was awarded \$604,000 from the National Science Foundation’s Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program.

The Foundation’s program supports scholarships for academically talented students demonstrating a financial need, enabling them to enter the workforce following completion of an associate or bachelor’s degree in a STEM discipline. Institutions throughout the U.S. annually vie for grants from this highly competitive program.

“Our plan is designed to substantially increase the number of graduates in STEM disciplines who come from disadvantaged backgrounds,” said Craig Caldwell, SLCC Interim Dean of the School of Science, Mathematics & Engineering. “Economic growth in Utah has created an immediate need for STEM graduates in the workforce. Both the private sector and state government are strongly articulating the need to rapidly increase graduation rates in STEM areas to fill the needs of local employers.”

Caldwell said the funds will support students, in particular minorities and women, who are committed to completing STEM-related degrees. This will include traditional students as well as a group of near-completers who have “stalled” in their education. The outcome is expected to be a doubling of the number of graduates in SLCC STEM programs over the course of the five-year project.



# NORMA CARR

*SLCC dedicates softball field in  
honor of former SLCC Athletics  
Director Norma Carr*





Over the course of 25 years as athletics director, Norma Carr took Salt Lake Community College athletics from a small one-sport operation to a multi-faceted program that achieved national prominence, ushered in several new facilities, and solidified the College's presence as a perennial regional and national contender in several sports. In honor of those efforts, SLCC held a dedication ceremony to formally change the Taylorsville Redwood Campus Softball diamond name to Norma Carr Field. Carr retired last year and her successor, Kevin Dustin, has since gained an expanded appreciation of Carr's impact at SLCC. "I think since her retirement, it has become obvious what an icon she was to this school and around the country," Dustin said. "As I have run into people, there is this connection – no one thinks of SLCC without thinking of Norma. Her influence is far and wide."

As Dustin thought about ways to solidify her legacy at SLCC and all she has meant throughout the NJCAA, he considered her background coaching softball at the University of Utah and starting a softball program at SLCC. The current softball field at SLCC's Taylorsville Redwood Campus was slated to receive a new scoreboard, and the timing seemed right. "Everything you see out there is because of Norma, and I thought, 'What a great opportunity to say thanks,'" Dustin said. "It came together at the right time for the right reasons to name the field after her. I received tremendous support from senior leadership for this."



(continued)



*“What a super honor. How thoughtful of the College. I just want to thank everyone who has been part of the naming of the field. I wouldn’t have expected it in my wildest dreams.”*



SLCC added volleyball, baseball, and softball as intercollegiate sports and built new softball and baseball fields as well as a new Lifetime Activities Center for the program’s basketball teams during Carr’s tenure as athletics director. SLCC teams won 25 SWAC Conference Championships, 24 Region 18 Championships, made 30 NJCAA National tournament appearances that resulted in six second-place finishes, and one national championship—Men’s Basketball in 2009.

When Carr started at SLCC as the first female to serve as athletics director over men’s and women’s sports, she brought a “passion” for the job that became more than a career. “As I learned about the value of a community college, and as we built the programs and facilities and as I got to know people at the college, it became a love for me,” Carr said. “My passion turned into a love for Salt Lake Community College.” She started with a basketball program and brought volleyball, softball and baseball on board and either new or improved facilities for all of those sports. Carr coordinated the business of handling sports, including athlete scholarships, travel budgets and using college vehicles. She hired coaches who won regional and national titles. Carr oversaw planning and construction of SLCC’s expansive Lifetime Activities Center, which benefits each sport as well as college staff, faculty, and students and the surrounding community.

“I’m overwhelmed, I’m speechless,” Carr said about renaming the field after her. “What a super honor. How thoughtful of the College. I just want to thank everyone who has been part of the naming of the field. I wouldn’t have expected it in my wildest dreams.” ■



## SLCC volleyball team inspires at Boys & Girls Club

The children weren't even as tall as 6-footer Sequoia Lofton's waist as they craned their necks to look up at her while she explained how to serve in volleyball. Lofton and the Salt Lake Community College volleyball team visited the Boys & Girls Club in Sugar House, showing their tiny admirers a sport they love. Amid the echoes of laughter and shrieks inside the gym, everyone came away richer. "It teaches me to have patience with these little kids," said Lofton, a sophomore on the team. "And I like making them happy."

Every year, Head Coach Sue Dulaney takes her current crop of players into the community to do service projects. Sometimes it's reading to children, or it's showing people the game of volleyball – at times with a colorful, soft beach ball if the participants are too small to handle a real volleyball. "It's fun watching everyone on this team and seeing how much they're engaged and the smiles on their faces," Dulaney said. "I think our energy gets funneled into the kids a little bit. It's a good afternoon for us to give back with what we love to do."

At least five of the players on the 2014 team are six feet tall, the rest not far behind. So, there was a lot of kneeling, tying shoes for the little ones and bonding in the short time they had together. "I want to be a teacher – so, seeing these kids makes it all worth while," said sophomore Alyssa Koki. "I like that they're so absorbed by what we do, that we're such an example to them and that they want to be like us."

Some of the children listened intently before trying to replicate with a giant beach ball the returns and serves they were witnessing. "It kind of reminds me of how hard volleyball is to teach," said Cassandra Fenton, also a sophomore. "But seeing the smiles on their faces makes it all worth it."





PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE NEWKIRK

## *SLCC student, staff meet with President Obama about solar industry growth*

**A**wesome. Stressful. Nerve wracking. Incredible. Validating. Those are words Salt Lake Community College student Michelle Fisher uses to describe meeting president Barack Obama during his first visit to Utah in April.

First came the notification that she was a “candidate” for meeting the President. Then there was a vetting process. And she found out the day of his visit that she would get to meet him. “Oh, man, it was a pretty stressful thing, the whole situation,” said Fisher, who plans to graduate later this year with an associate degree in Energy Management from SLCC. But the actual meeting, fleeting though it was, left her smiling for days. “He was awesome. He was really laid back. As soon as he walked in he said, ‘Howdy, y’all,’ which put us all at ease. He just kind of waltzed into the room.” Fisher recalled how Obama joked with Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker about a pair of cufflinks Becker was wearing that had been gifted to him by First Lady Michelle Obama during a visit to Washington, D.C. “I’ve been looking for those – I don’t think she was supposed to be giving those out,” Fisher recalls Obama telling Becker.

An administrator and faculty member of SLCC’s Green Academy/Energy Institute and Fisher were all part of a

small group that met with Obama, Sen. Orrin Hatch, Rep. Rob Bishop and Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker to talk about growth in the solar energy industry and where SLCC and Utah’s military veterans fit in with training workers for clean-energy jobs. Fisher, who endures the effects of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), served in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates as a military police officer, and she is currently attending SLCC while participating in the VA’s Vocational Rehabilitation program.

“It was interesting meeting him,” Fisher said. “He wanted to know about what kind of struggles vets have trying to get into the solar program and what interested me in pursuing the solar energy industry as a career. I told him that it’s a neat technology and that it’s the direction we need to go. I felt validated, and I felt listened to.” The entire exchange took about 30 seconds, during which her worst fear came to fruition. “My mind went blank,” she said. Yes, she laughed later, the movie “Forrest Gump” entered her mind as she met with the President. “I don’t know how I managed it,” she said.

Obama used his first visit to Utah to hype the U.S. Department of Energy’s SunShot Initiative to make solar energy cost-competitive with other sources

of electricity by 2020. As part of that initiative, the president announced during his brief stay in Utah a new U.S. Department of Energy goal that increases the need for trained people in the solar workforce by 2020 from 50,000 to 75,000, many who will come from SunShot’s Solar Instructor Training Network.

SLCC’s Judy Fisher also met with Obama at Hill Air Force Base. She is the program coordinator for the Rocky Mountain part of the network. Fisher is also the Solar Program Coordinator for SLCC’s Green Academy/Energy Institute.

While in Utah, the president also talked about the new Solar Ready Vets Program as part of the SunShot Initiative, which will use the network and SLCC to train transitioning military veterans for entry into the solar workforce. SLCC has been offering solar training since 2009 and was singled out during the president’s visit as the leader in the Rocky Mountain Region of the national network. The Rocky Mountain Solar Training Provider network includes 14 states, 8 of which are active within the network. Thaniel Bishop is the lead instructor for the solar program at SLCC’s Green Academy/Energy Institute and also met Obama at Hill Air Force Base.



2015

## COMMENCEMENT 2015

This year Salt Lake Community College celebrated the graduation of nearly 4,000 students, who worked hard while balancing jobs, families and personal lives to earn their associate degrees.



# Kiva cofounder delivers keynote at SLCC's 2015 Commencement

Jessica Jackley (**left**), cofounder of the global micro-lending giant Kiva, was chosen to deliver the commencement address. Jackley also cofounded the pioneering crowd-funding platform ProFounder. Kiva has become one of the fastest-growing social benefit websites in history by facilitating more than \$500 million in loans for individuals in 216 countries.



SLCC awarded (**left to right**) Celestina Punzalan, Walter Cunningham, and Kati Lewis the 2015 Teaching Excellence awards. Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for 2016 is Ted Moore (**right**).



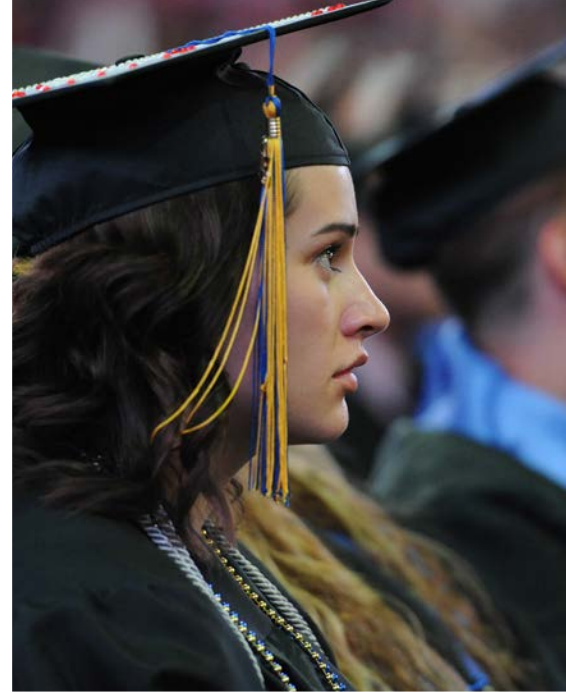
2015 Graduates of Excellence (left to right): Amalia Rahbari, Mayra Lopez, Andrew Sheerenberger, Morgan Beynon, Nathan Christensen, Sayed Iman Amin Javaheri, Darlene Bledsoe, Heather Reese.



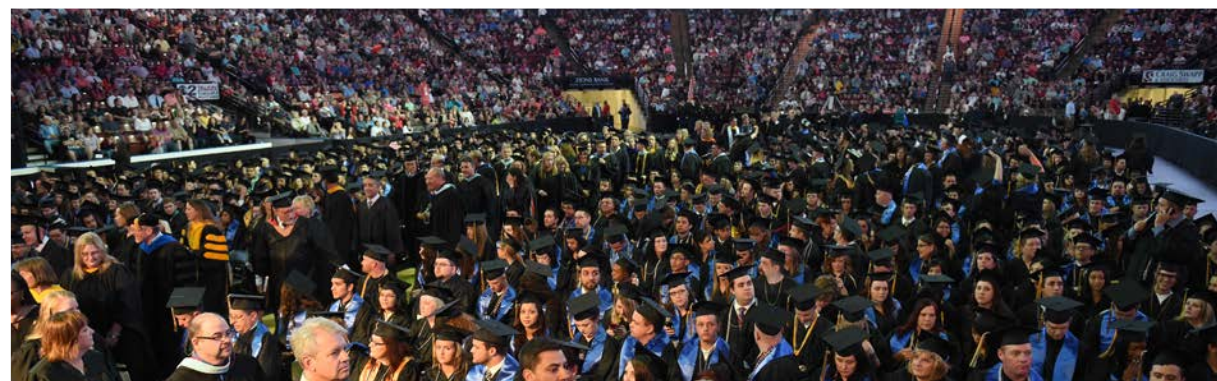
SLCC this year honored Paul Mayne (left) and Ruby Chacón (center) as its Distinguished Alumni. Chacón is a well-known Chicana artist and activist who cofounded the Mestizo Institute of Culture & Arts in Salt Lake City. Mayne is founder and CEO of Utah-based Bloom Built, creator of the hugely successful Day One journaling app that earned the "Apple Design Award" and Apple App Store's 2012 "App of the Year" award. Rep. Jim Dunningan (right) was chosen as the SLCC 2015 Legislative Champion. He is currently the Majority Leader of the Utah House of Representatives and Chairman of the Health Reform Task Force.



The College presented (left) Amy Rees Anderson and (right) Jeffery R. Nelson with Honorary Doctorate degrees. Rees Anderson is managing partner and founder of REES Capital and was also the founder and CEO of MediConnect Global. Nelson is CEO of Nelson Laboratories and has served as Gov. Gary Herbert's chair over the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Action Center Board.







# FROM PRESIDENT HUFTALIN'S INAUGURAL SPEECH

"I express my deepest thanks for the trust shown to me by our Regents, our trustees, our community, our faculty, my colleagues and most importantly the students of SLCC. It is a sacred trust and one I am determined to honor in partnership with all of you in our voyage to make SLCC the premier community college in this country."

"The community college represents the democratization of American higher education and continues to lead the way in providing open and affordable college access to millions of students and workers. So, it's fitting today that we continue the focus on dreaming and doing; to acknowledge this impulse, to celebrate its genetic coding in our history."

"We must find ways to encourage dreaming and risking and inventiveness in one another. We must dream of ways to improve our completion and transfer rates. We must dream of ways to help businesses find trained workers more effectively. We must dream our way out of insufficient models of teaching or serving and into new, innovative methods."

"By adopting positive restlessness, by dreaming ourselves outside of our comfort zones and by knowing what our students dream about, we can significantly change our community."

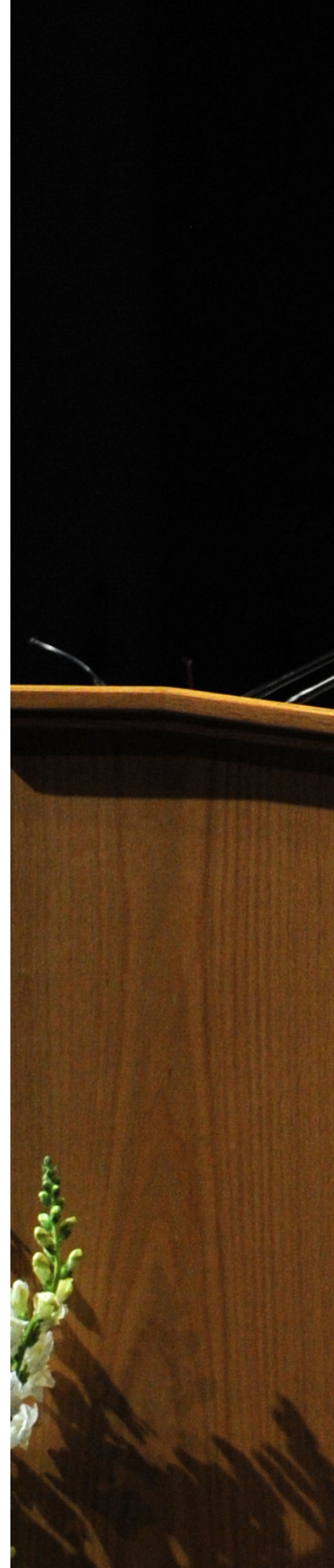
"We must commit to doing more and doing it better. To do this, we need to engage in a community of trust and respect where creativity and responsiveness is incentivized."

"We must, in the words of Theodore Roosevelt, dare greatly together. ... To do and dare greatly together, we must trust one another, identify our shared values and common purpose and then keep those at the forefront of our decisions."

"My hope is our dreams will eclipse our fears and our actions will transform our words into the reality for many students, of a life filled with greater personal power to make real a dream that may have only been a glimmer."

"Together, let's become the dreamers who do. Dreamers who do can make phenomenal changes in the lives of one student, one colleague, one community and one world."

- January 9, 2015







Dr. Denece G. Huftalin and her son Max