



## BOARD BRIEFS



### November 2025

#### October Activities

#### Highlights

- College Council, in partnership with the Participatory Governance Workgroup (PGW), successfully delivered the annual Committee Chair Training to support effective leadership, institutional alignment, and inclusive participation across governance committees. The training provided both new and returning chairs with foundational tools and best practices necessary for fulfilling their roles. The session was guided by SRJC's commitment to transparency, equity, and continuous improvement within our participatory governance structure.
- Human Resources and Courageous Leaders alumni hosted an employee connection event on October 10 bringing staff together in Bertolini Hall to strengthen relationships and foster workplace connection. Lauren Coburn, Interim Financial Aid Director, provided a pumpkin crafting activity just in time for Halloween celebrations.
- The annual **Shone Farm Fall Festival** held on October 12 drew a record 2,537 attendees, highlighting SRJC's community connection and visibility. Through a partnership with EOPS, qualifying students received free admission and pumpkins to expand access and participation. Additionally, 24 Ag Leadership students represented SRJC at the statewide Ag Ambassadors State Conference at Fresno State University, where they competed in a job interview contest and facilitated a workshop.
- On October 17, the Student Outreach Team hosted SRJC's annual **High School Counselor Conference** at Shone Farm, engaging more than 90 high school counselors and education partners. The event deepened collaboration across the region and strengthened pathways from high school to college through departmental updates (Admissions & Records, Counseling, Financial Aid, Undocu Immigrant Dream Center) and student success stories shared by Welcome and Connect Center (WCC) Success Coaches.
- The **MESA and HSI STEM Avanzando** programs co-hosted STEM Shadow Day on October 18, a two-part event connecting students with professionals across technical fields for mentorship and career exploration. Students met with industry mentors during the kickoff dinner and will complete site visits in the coming months to gain workplace exposure. Seven students also attended the national Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) Conference—SRJC's first-ever participation—expanding their access to national STEM networks. Avanzando additionally launched eight student internships in research and biodiversity projects, with each student presenting their work at the 2026 Caminos en Salud Conference.
- More than 80 staff members participated in the **Student Services All Staff Retreat** on October 24, engaging in training on supporting undocumented and mixed status students and their families. The retreat strengthened employee capacity to connect students and families with equitable services across all SRJC locations.
- SRJC hosted the first **Community Roundtable** in Sonoma Valley on October 29, co-led by the Board of Trustees, SRJC Foundation Board, and Superintendent/President Dr. Angélica Garcia. The convening brought together elected officials, education leaders, business representatives, and community partners to strengthen regional collaboration around education and workforce development. Participants learned about SRJC's programs and services available to Sonoma Valley residents, shared insights on local education, workforce training, and community needs, and explored new opportunities for collaboration to expand access to higher education and strengthen SRJC's role as an anchor institution in the community. The discussion highlighted a shared commitment to supporting students, advancing workforce readiness, and ensuring equitable educational access throughout the Sonoma Valley region. Additional roundtable discussions are being planned through the SRJC footprint over the next several months.





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- On October 30, the **Construction Training Center** on the Petaluma Campus hosted 100 contractors and industry representatives for a full-day workshop on construction materials and techniques. SRJC Carpentry students participated at no cost, gaining exposure to potential employees and showcasing their technical skills. Many attendees expressed interest in ongoing partnership, further positioning SRJC as a regional leader in construction workforce training.



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### Strategic Plan Highlight

- **Student Success & Support:** As a result of the federal government shutdown, the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), also known as CalFresh in California, is expected to pause or delay benefits for approximately [42 million recipients](#) nationwide. According to the California Policy Lab, approximately [330,000 California Community College](#) students rely on SNAP and are affected by the pause or delay in benefits. In response, the SRJC's Basic Needs Team has launched a coordinated plan that includes increasing food distributions through Redwood Empire Food Bank and local vendors, organizing a SRJC Community Food Drive, and redirecting funds to provide grocery cards to SNAP recipients. Students can access food pantries and [pickup locations](#) at SRJC's Santa Rosa, Petaluma, and Roseland campuses, or contact [socialwork@santarosa.edu](mailto:socialwork@santarosa.edu) for additional support. Donations to assist with these efforts can be made through the SRJC Foundation by selecting "Basic Needs" at [give.santarosa.edu/donate](http://give.santarosa.edu/donate). *(Connected to "Ensure equitable access to basic needs services and activities at all SRJC locations by establishing equitable suites of support services at each District site."*)



### Issues For Awareness

- Beginning October 8, 2025, the District experienced a computer network disruption that resulted in problems accessing network drives and other systems. Our IT staff, working closely with external consultants, developed and implemented a resolution. Access to network drives, including X drives and departmental drives, was restored on October 17, 2025. While we've made progress toward resolving many of the recent issues, we recognize that some areas are still experiencing lingering impacts. Our IT team remains fully committed to addressing all outstanding disruptions as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Once we complete the technical assessments, our next priority will be to upgrade and enhance our computer network infrastructure. These improvements will strengthen overall system stability, increase performance, and help prevent future service interruptions.

### On The Horizon

- [International Education Week \(IEW\)](#) (Nov 17-21) SRJC and Sonoma State University will co-host a series of events celebrating IEW, highlighting the value of international education and cultural exchange through cultural presentations, a global fashion show, study abroad info sessions, language workshops, and a community dinner bringing students and staff together across cultures.
- **Spring 2026 – UndocuAlly Training Series** The [Undocu Immigrant Dream Center \(UIDC\)](#) will partner with [First Gen Empower](#) to provide a nine-week UndocuAlly Training Series for District employees, building institutional capacity to better serve undocumented and mixed status students. Sign-up information will soon be available through the UIDC website.
- **District Closures:**
  - November 11 – Veterans Day
  - November 27-28 – Fall Break