



Career Education Program Update

SRJC Career Education programs exemplify the District's Strategic Plan in action—advancing student success, academic quality, and responsiveness to community needs. Supported largely by Perkins and Strong Workforce Program (SWP) grant funds, these initiatives expand access to high-quality career training, strengthen industry partnerships, and enhance equity in education. SRJC leverages these resources to modernize curriculum, provide state-of-the-art equipment, and offer work-based learning opportunities that prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand careers. Both funding streams advance the College's mission to promote innovation, equity, and economic vitality by ensuring students gain the real-world skills and experiences that drive Sonoma County's future workforce.

Civil Engineering, Surveying, and Geospatial Technology

The Civil Engineering, Surveying, and Geospatial Technology programs have implemented a groundbreaking upgrade: new network software now continuously records data 24/7 on the L192 workstation. This enables students to conduct high-order land surveying measurements remotely anywhere in the Santa Rosa, Petaluma, and Shone Farm areas. Utilizing roving GPS/GNSS receivers connected through a T-Mobile hotspot to three GPS/GNSS base stations and rooftop antennas at the Lindley STEM Center, SRJC students gain hands-on experience with cutting-edge geo-positioning technology. This system mirrors the same foundational technologies used in autonomous vehicle navigation, transportation tracking, seismic monitoring, and remote robotics. Santa Rosa Junior College now joins UC San Diego and UC Merced as one of only three California campuses offering on-site, streaming geopositioning technology—and is the first California community college to integrate this advanced, self-managed system into its civil engineering and land surveying curriculum.

Construction Training Center

The Santa Rosa Junior College Construction Training Center (CTC) is a state-of-the-art, 10,000-square-foot facility dedicated to preparing students for high-demand careers in the construction trades while supporting Sonoma County's ongoing recovery and rebuilding efforts following years of destructive wildfires and floods. Opened for classes in August 2024, the CTC was established through a federal Economic Development Administration disaster grant and the generosity of community partners including Tipping Point Foundation, Bank of America, Mendocino Companies, Friedman's Home Improvement, Golden State Lumber, and more than fifty local donors and businesses.

The Center provides hands-on training that leads directly to living-wage employment, addressing the region's critical workforce needs. It represents a powerful collaboration between education, industry, labor, and local government to build a resilient and skilled workforce for Sonoma County's future.

Programs housed at the Construction Training Center include five Career Education programs, with a sixth launching in Fall 2026:

- Carpentry Fundamentals (Noncredit Adult Education)
- HVACR Fundamentals (Credit)
- Fire Resilient Landscaping (Noncredit Adult Education)
- Water Resources Technology (Credit)
- Roofing Apprenticeship (Apprenticeship Education)
- Heavy Equipment Operations (Noncredit Adult Education – Fall 2026)

In its first three semesters, the Construction Training Center has enrolled over 500 students across all programs, including 150 in Carpentry and 91 in HVAC Fundamentals. More than 150 students have already earned their OSHA 10 certification through SRJC. The Center also supports Women in the Trades and homeowner education workshops, and every program includes advisory committees of local professionals offering mentorship and internship opportunities.



BOARD WRITTEN UPDATES



Fashion Studies

The Spring 2025 Fashion Show – Wild Metropolis showcased over 80 original student designs in a stunning new venue at the Clocktower Plaza on the Petaluma Campus. The event featured a dynamic circular runway providing an immersive, front-row experience for nearly every attendee. Students in the Fashion Show Production class planned every stage, from theme selection to music curation. Cross-disciplinary collaboration with Digital Audio, Applied Photography, Communication Studies, and Theatre Arts enhanced the production experience, preparing students for future creative careers.



Film & Media Art Productions – Student Success Stories

- **Miles Levin** – SRJC FMA graduate wrote about living with epilepsy in SRJC’s screenwriting courses. His screenplay won the Audience Award in AT&T’s ‘Untold Stories’ competition and earned \$50,000 in production funding. His film, *Under the Lights*, is now touring international film festivals and premieres locally in October 2025.
- **Colin Miller** – Produced several films exploring life with dwarfism, screened at festivals nationwide. Now represented in Hollywood and set to appear in *The Death of Snow White* and the TV series *Buffalo Tech*.
- **Sam Freed** – Emmy Award-winning producer and camera operator for the Las Vegas Raiders. Credits SRJC’s program for its comprehensive hands-on training.
- **Austin Smagalski** – Director/editor with projects for Max and Vice. His feature *To Die Alone* premiered at the 2024 San Francisco Independent Film Festival to critical acclaim.

Journalism

The Oak Leaf student news team achieved remarkable success at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) NorCal 2025 Conference, earning 28 awards—the most multimedia awards and the second-highest total among Northern California community colleges. These honors reflect the program’s growth in digital storytelling, supported by Career Education equipment grants that provided state-of-the-art cameras and audio/video tools. Notable Achievements Include:

- Feature Photo, 1st: Zoë Steiner
- News Writing, 2nd: Rhea Bath
- Column Writing, 1st: Noah McSweeney
- Opinion Story, 1st: Noah McSweeney
- Multimedia Journalism Package, Meritorious: ‘Food Insecurity in Sonoma County’
- Informational Graphic, 1st: Lauren Kelleher

Highlights:

- Noah McSweeney, a non-speaking autistic student who communicates via a letter board, earned two first-place awards for his inspiring journalism.
- Video Feature: [Inside SRJC’s Award-Winning Journalism Program](#) by Sam Arnott and Destiny Quiroz-Lindauer

Petaluma Campus

The Petaluma Campus continues to demonstrate strong engagement and growth within Career Education (CE) programs. In the 2024–2025 academic year, over 430 CE students were supported each term, representing roughly half of the Petaluma Student Success Cohort. CE students logged 635 positive contacts and event check-ins, reflecting high engagement in advising, events, and career programming. In Fall 2025, enrollment rose to 456 CE students—58% of the total cohort—demonstrating the expanding impact of CE on student success and workforce readiness.

24/25 Academic Year		
Term	Petaluma CE Students In Cohort	Percentage of Total Petaluma Student Success Cohort
Fall 2024	436	56%
Spring 2025	432	50%
Pet CE Student Positive Contacts and Event Check Ins for 24/25 AY: 635		
25/26 Academic Year		
Term	Petaluma CE Students In Cohort	Percentage of Total Petaluma Student Success Cohort
Fall 2025	456	58%

Contact Information

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