





Dear Community,

As we close the 2023-2024 academic year, I want to congratulate and thank you all for the critical role you have played in our District's and students' successes. Your warm welcome has made joining this educational community a positive experience for me as the new Superintendent/President of Santa Rosa Junior College.

For over one hundred years, SRJC's legacy in Sonoma County has made an impact throughout the community's economic, educational, health, and civic energy. As just the 6th president in the herstory of SRJC, I am proud to join the esteemed faculty, classified professionals, and administrators to serve Sonoma County.

Over the past year, I have experienced first-hand SRJC's strong academic tradition, culture of student service and success, and unwavering commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. We are proud to be a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and we strive to transform our students' lives and the communities we serve to create an educational environment where students know they belong and can achieve equitable success.

The close of an academic year provides the opportunity to review, re-imagine, and re-activate the ways we are fulfilling our goals to become better versions of ourselves through higher education. As I reflect on the past year, I am proud of what we have achieved to foster a teaching and learning environment that promotes the legacy and promise of SRJC including:

- Welcoming home over 350 students into our new on campus student housing building, Polly O'Meara Doyle Hall
- Refining the District's Guided Pathways initiative
- Launching the IDEAA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism and Accessibility) Taskforce
- Beginning Phase 2 of the Comprehensive District Strategic Plan
- Implementing a community-centric model at the SRJC Foundation
- Completing Measure H infrastructure developments

These are but a few examples of the transformational work taking root at SRJC to help us realize our mission and placing students at the center of our collective work. I believe in the power of a community college education as the greatest equalizer for disrupting generational poverty. Whether a student's goal is to earn a certificate, degree, transfer, or a new skill, they will find the quality education and holistic student support they need to reach their highest potential at SRJC.

Thank you for your partnership and support as we build on the legacy of excellence and promise of SRJC.

In community,

Dr. Angélica Garcia
Superintendent/President





WILLIAM ABDIEL GARCIA BEN SRJC STUDENT

William Abdiel Garcia Ben's journey to SRJC began with a courageous walk from Guatemala to the United States at just 19 years old. Alongside his brother, he witnessed the struggles of many seeking a better life. Arriving in Santa Rosa, they faced humble beginnings, sleeping on a shared apartment floor and working as day laborers.

Determined to create a brighter future, William enrolled his brother in high school, where a counselor introduced him to SRJC's High School Equivalency Program (HEP). Despite challenges, William connected with HEP and embarked on his academic journey through English for Multilingual Students (EMLS) classes, navigating Zoom learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With guidance from SRJC counselors and staff, William achieved his GED and transitioned to credit classes. Despite financial hurdles, the opening of Polly Hall offered hope, and assistance from SRJC's Student Financial Services lightened his financial burden.

Entering SRJC's Certified Nursing Assistant program in January, William's dream of becoming a nurse grows stronger. He finds hope in SRJC's supportive community, from faculty like Laura Larque to newfound friends in Polly Hall.

Inspired by the struggles he witnessed on his journey, William's ambition to help others drives his pursuit of a nursing career. Through SRJC's partnerships and support, he finds the tools to realize his aspirations and make a difference in the lives of others.

William's journey exemplifies resilience, determination, and the transformative power of education. As he follows his dream, he carries the support of SRJC and the hope of a brighter future for himself and those he aims to help.





ASHLEIGH BARR SRJC ALUMNA

Student-athletes juggle two identities, exceling on the court and in the classroom. But you don't become the Big 8 Conference MVP for women's basketball without a support team surrounding you - and Ashleigh Barr found one of the best at SRJC.

Ashleigh never expected her first year of playing collegiate level basketball would be canceled due to COVID-19. As a senior at Montgomery High School in spring 2020, Ashleigh watched as every celebratory moment and senior year experience was canceled or shifted online. As she evaluated her options for college following graduation, SRJC emerged as the best choice for her to adjust to online classes and continue working while she played basketball.

Throughout the canceled season, Coach Lacey Campbell's dedication shone through as she organized virtual workouts and maintained regular communication with her players, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie among the team. When athletics resumed, Ashleigh's dedication and leadership on the court propelled SRJC's women's basketball team to new heights, culminating in a conference championship and Ashleigh's recognition as MVP.

Beyond basketball, SRJC's academic counselors supported Ashleigh in managing her rigorous schedule, guiding her toward her academic goals. As Ashleigh's interests evolved, SRJC provided the platform for her to discover a passion for healthcare through its EMT program. With the guidance of her mentors, including Coach Campbell, Ashleigh successfully transitioned to Chico State to pursue a degree in public health with aspirations of becoming a pediatric nurse.

Even though she will eventually hang up her basketball shoes for a stethoscope, Ashleigh will still be part of the team environment she loves, using the communication, collaboration, and perseverance skills she developed on the basketball court to support future patients.





JESUS NIETO SRJC FACULTY

Growing up in Mendocino County, Jesus Nieto's path to higher education wasn't straightforward, which is why he is a passionate supporter of his students now as the Program Coordinator for SRJC's Pharmacy Technician program.

Despite showing promise in advanced math programs during high school, the prospect of college seemed distant until a counselor's encouragement opened his eyes to the possibilities. As an undergraduate student, Jesus faced financial challenges and uncertainty, grappling with the pressures of balancing work and academics, before finally leaving school to focus on work.

After experiencing success working in quality assurance at a manufacturing company, Jesus felt a gap in his education and wanted to advance his career. Before returning to Sonoma State University, he obtained his pharmacy technician license, and then completed his bachelor's degree.

With his license in hand, Jesus worked for CVS and Kaiser, before a colleague recommended he pursue the program coordinator position with SRJC. Once hired, Jesus hit the ground running, revising the Pharmacy Technician curriculum, writing a state grant to purchase new equipment, advertising the program on Spanish radio, preparing the program to apply for accreditation, attending numerous industry conferences, and teaching all the courses in the program. Jesus will have eight graduates this first year and is looking to build upon the success of the program and the high industry demand for pharmacy technicians.

Jesus' dedication to mentorship and student success shines through as he provides support to his students as well as hands-on learning experiences in practical hospital settings. Beyond SRJC, Jesus is finishing his Ph.D., training for a half marathon, and contributing to professional organizations.

Looking ahead, Jesus aims to expand the pharmacy technician program to the Petaluma campus and collaborate with other community colleges to enhance curriculum standards. His journey embodies the transformative power of education and serves as an inspiration to all who encounter him.





DARTH ELLEDGE SRJC CLASSIFIED

In his 11-year tenure at SRJC, Darth's journey is a testament to dedication, growth, and a profound connection to the college's landscape. After relocating from southern California, Darth graduated from SRJC in 1989 with an AA in Art. His path to SRJC wasn't solely academic; it was an opportunity to leave behind a turbulent life. Clean and sober since his teenage years, Darth sought solace in education and the sanctuary of Sonoma County. He was drawn to the community by a desire for a fresh start and felt an instant kinship with the towering trees and serene landscapes of the Santa Rosa campus.

Initially struggling as a 'starving artist', Darth found purpose in nurturing the land, a skill honed during his formative years working alongside his mother, a teacher and part-time gardener. With his artistic background, landscaping became more than just a job; it became his canvas, a medium through which he could express his creativity and preserve the natural beauty of Sonoma County.

Darth joined SRJC's grounds keeping team in 2013, blending his passion for art with his love for the outdoors. Over the years, he rose through the ranks, eventually becoming the Coordinator of Grounds Operations. Throughout his time at SRJC, Darth has consistently demonstrated a commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Whether it's the majestic Valley Oaks or the whimsical Bunga Bunga tree, Darth is mindful that each part of the natural landscape added to campus will remain, possibly for another hundred years. He is focused on water conservation, adopting new technologies, creating standards for landscaping that focus on native species, and is a fierce advocate during construction projects for respecting the natural landscape.

Darth remains grounded by his love for family, surfing, and photography, keeping surfboards in his office and sharing his love of family and nature through his photos. For Darth, SRJC is more than just a place of work; it's a community—a family—that he is proud to be a part of. And as he continues to shape the college's landscape, Darth leaves an indelible mark, embodying the spirit of stewardship that defines SRJC's legacy.



From advocating for the protection of the college's venerable trees during construction projects to meticulously planning irrigation systems, Darth ensures that every decision made is mindful of our shared responsibility to steward the land.

“Why?” is the most common question asked by a young child.

Why is the sky blue? Why do rainbows form? Why are there stars? Their curiosity is limitless and they dream of becoming astronauts, marine biologists, engineers, and more.

Despite this innate curiosity, there aren't enough students pursuing STEM majors to meet the growing workforce demands and urgency to solve the problems of today and tomorrow. SRJC's role in fostering the next generation of STEM majors is more important than ever and can only happen if students can learn, study, experiment, and collaborate in world-class facilities.

On January 26, 2024, SRJC celebrated the opening of the Lindley Center for STEM Education, a nearly 100,000 square foot, \$100 million building dedicated to eliciting curiosity, wonder, and inspiration for the next generation of scientists to break new barriers, find new cures, and explore new horizons.

The STEM Center, funded partially by the Measure H bond passed by Sonoma County in 2014, and supplemented by state grants, is home to the Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Engineering, and Applied Technology programs spread out over three floors in a state of the art facility.



To spark curiosity in students today, the Lindley Center for STEM Education was designed around four core tenets:

SCIENCE ON DISPLAY

Glass is an important design feature in the STEM Center. For too long, science was hidden behind walls and doors, excluding only the privileged few. At SRJC, students now can see the excitement unimpeded and imagine themselves in these learning and lab spaces.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

No one goes through their journey of higher education alone. At SRJC, the building was designed with student support spaces in mind, incorporating a new STEM Student Success Center, and various specialized programs to support first generation, low income students in STEM.

STUDENT BELONGING & COMMUNITY

Students build community, study together, and find belonging in STEM in multiple, intentionally planned study spaces throughout the building.

INNOVATION

With science advancing at a rapid pace and new scientific disciplines emerging, the STEM Center's innovative spaces to change and be flexible no matter what happens next.

As students pass through the doors of the Lindley Center for STEM Education, they will reignite the curiosity they had as a child and possibly one day answer the question, “Why?”





“Through Avanzando, HOPE, and MESA, I found a sense of belonging and purpose I had never experienced before. Despite struggling and nearly changing my major, the program’s support helped me succeed, build confidence, and even come back as a tutor, showing me the true meaning of community and giving back.”

Juan Martinez Vega

HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION SRJC EQUITY

Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) are defined in federal legislation as institutions of higher education with a full-time equivalent enrollment of 25% Hispanic undergraduate students. To be an HSI as a community college means embracing the rich cultural heritage, diverse perspectives, and unique experiences of Latina/o/x students and the broader community. SRJC serves 42% of Latina/o/x students and is committed to creating an inclusive and supportive environment where all students, regardless of their background, can succeed and thrive.

SRJC proudly holds the designation of a Hispanic-Serving Institution since 2014. As an HSI, we recognize the responsibility and opportunity to impact communities to access higher education for fiscal solvency and upward social mobility, while also honoring the vibrant contributions of the Latina/o/x cultures. SRJC is dedicated to providing resources, opportunities, and programs that address the specific needs of Latina/o/x students, ensuring they have the support necessary to achieve their academic and personal goals. This includes access to financial assistance, tutoring, peer coaching, culturally relevant curriculum, and community events that promote equity and access, particularly through two grant funded initiatives called Lanzamiento and Avanzando.

Being an HSI is a promise to uplift and empower every student, fostering a sense of belonging and community. SRJC is one of two California Community Colleges working with UC Berkeley scholar Dr. Gina Ann Garcia to become a “Transforming HSI for Equity & Justice.” This work includes striving to remove barriers to education and working tirelessly to create equitable pathways to success for all. It is about believing in the potential of every student and providing the tools and environment they need to flourish. It is a commitment to a brighter, more inclusive future, where education is the cornerstone of opportunity and growth for all.





AWARD-WINNING WINERY

Shone Farm Winery was awarded a Gold Medal for its Chardonnay in the Sonoma County Harvest Fair Wine Competition. This rounds out awards for all our wines, including a Double Gold for our Sauvignon Blanc and Gold for our Pinot Noir in the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition.

HIRE UP GRANT

Santa Rosa Junior College was one of ten community colleges selected by the Chancellor's Office to participate in the Hire UP program. The Hire UP program provides stipends to formerly incarcerated students, former foster youth, and CalWORKs recipients to help them meet the true cost of college attendance, gain clear access to credential programs and workforce support needed to enter, participate, and succeed in California's economy.



BASIC POLICE ACADEMY

More than one-third of the 212th graduating class of the Basic Police Academy in Fall 2023 were women, the largest percent in the program's history. The 15 women, out of 43 graduating cadets, completed a certified 20-week program that teaches laws governing search and seizure, evidence, traffic enforcement, investigative techniques, patrol procedures, operating firearms, driving, defensive tactics and first-aid. One of the women, Jennifer Lucas, a new deputy with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, was the class-elected president and overall valedictorian, or top recruit.

LIFELONG LEARNING

SRJC's Older Adults Program is now known as SRJC Lifelong Learning. SRJC Lifelong Learning more adeptly describes and connects the members of our community to the various opportunities we offer to encourage critical thinking, creativity, and social engagement. Our instructors and classes focus on creating a welcoming environment that gives students of all ages a sense of connection and leads to a better overall quality of life. The program encourages adults to continue to learn, grow, and build relationships in a supportive community for the sheer joy of learning and exploring.



NEW TRAINING TOWER

In the face of a growing need for wildland firefighters, California State Senate President Pro Tempore and SRJC alumnus Mike McGuire secured \$1.5 million to build a new training tower for SRJC's Fire Academy. The new Training Tower is a critical part of a larger expansion of the Fire Academy to meet the community's need for additional firefighters in the North Bay and throughout northern California. Completion of the new training tower is expected by Fall 2025.

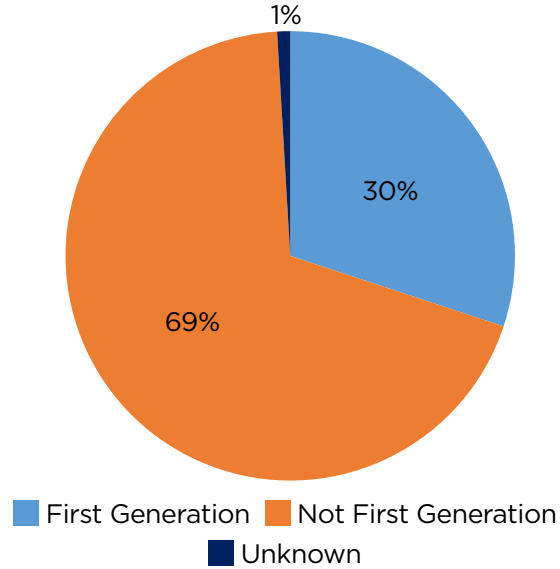
SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

The combination of strong donor support and favorable investment returns helped the SRJC Foundation to surpass a major milestone for scholarship awards. More than \$5.2 million was awarded in scholarships to students through the SRJC Student Financial Services department from the Foundation's endowment, non-endowed funds, and the Doyle Trust Scholarship Fund in FY23-24.

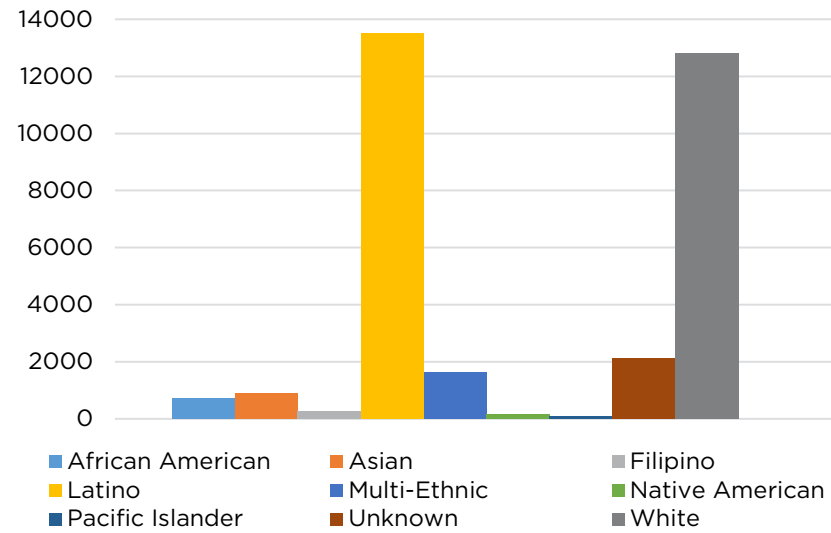


STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

first generation students

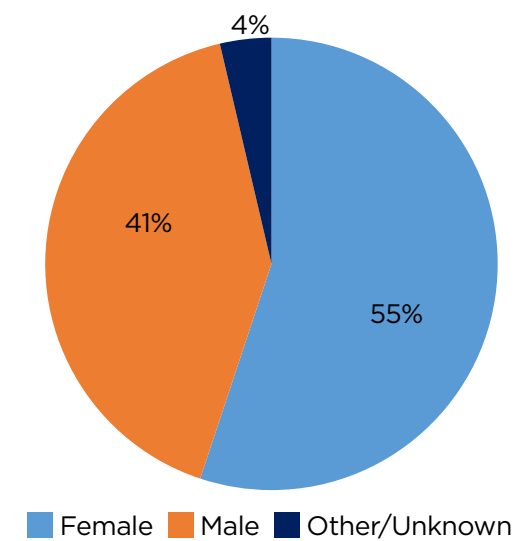


ethnicity

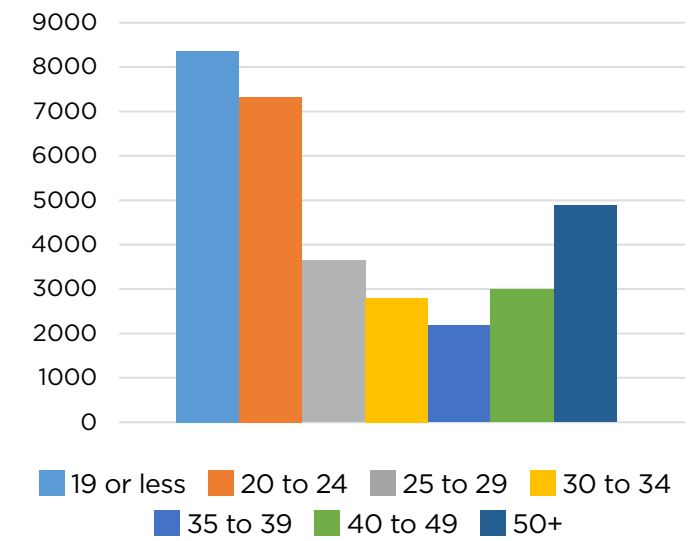


STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

gender



student ages



2,083 associate degrees awarded



More than 110 majors and 170 certificates offered



2,160 certificates awarded



Nearly 80% of transfer students to University of California are accepted



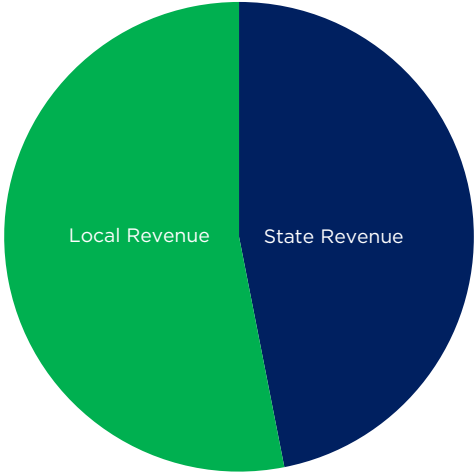
Over 1,400 students transferred after graduation



Over \$51 million awarded in financial aid

FINANCIALS

2023-2024 Adopted Budget



Revenue: \$161 million

Federal Revenue	\$52,000
State Revenue	\$75,726,048
Local Revenue	\$85,713,568
Transfers and Other Incoming	\$192,520

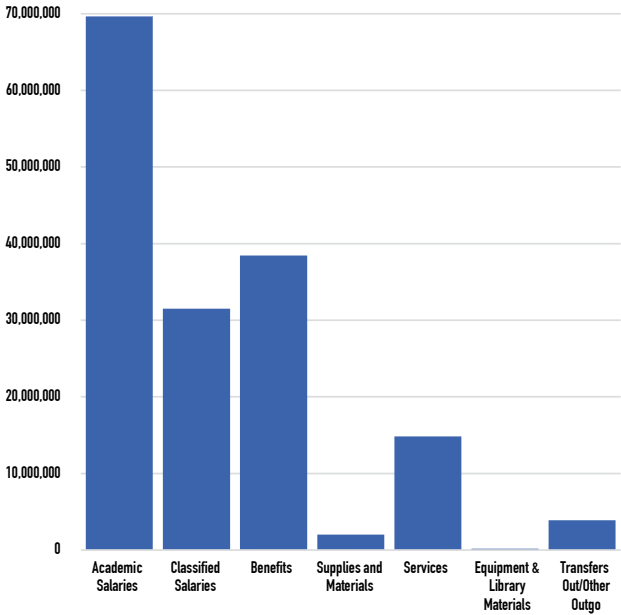
Total \$161,684,136

Expenses: \$160 million

Academic Salaries	\$69,621,803
Classified Salaries	\$31,495,285
Benefits	\$38,463,152
Supplies and Materials	\$2,017,558
Services	\$14,819,761
Equipment & Library Materials	\$195,786
Transfers Out/Other Outgo	\$3,905,491

Total \$160,518,836

Audited financials available in December at financeadmin.santarosa.edu



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