8 Myths about the Spoon River College Foundation
I am thrilled to be able to welcome you to our third issue of CareerFocus magazine. This magazine is designed to provide you information about the educational opportunities at Spoon River College. As an alumnus of Spoon River College, I am proud of the rich heritage of academic excellence, affordability, and accessibility. But more importantly, I am hoping you will see how Spoon River College can be a part of your pathway to a career.

At Spoon River College, our first goal is student success. We define students as anyone looking to learn something new and expand their knowledge. This knowledge could come from one of our Career and Technical programs, our transfer programs, or our continuing education courses. If you need to develop a new career, prepare for a four-year degree, or upgrade your skills, choose Spoon River College. We are constantly working to meet the academic goals of our students and help them succeed.

Spoon River College provides a high-quality, affordable education that is accessible to everyone. I encourage you to find out more information about your educational opportunities by visiting www.src.edu.

I hope you enjoy this CareerFocus magazine. See you soon at Spoon River College.

Home of the Snappers

Spoon River College’s mascot was chosen as the Snapper in April 2013, and in March 2014, our mascot was named Sheldon – all through Facebook voting. It is now time to meet Sheldon in the flesh! Or, well... the scales! In September of 2015, Sheldon came to life with a costume designed just for him. So far, he has been loved by our students and the young at heart in our communities.

Sheldon’s home, or more accurately, the home of our athletic/intramural program and many other future events, is currently under construction. All of us at Spoon River College have enjoyed watching the progress of what will be a 27,000 square-foot Multi-Purpose Facility, but its completion date is uncertain at this point due to the freeze in the State of Illinois budget. The target completion date was May 2016.

On our own, we will finish enclosing the building before winter begins to lessen the effects of extreme weather. We are also analyzing options for temporary heat in the building over the winter months to try to prevent any damage from winter weather on the interior.

Now, we eagerly await the State of Illinois budget and the remainder of the funding for this state project.
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Read CareerFocus anytime on your mobile device, computer or tablet at src.mycareerfocus.org

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Spoon River College provides innovative learning opportunities that enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve.

Spoon River College will strengthen its communities by providing a broad range of educational programs, cultural activities, and economic development opportunities in an environment dedicated to success.

For more information about Spoon River College graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed our programs, and other information, please visit our website at www.src.edu/academics/Pages/gainful-employment.aspx.

CareerFocus is published periodically by Spoon River College, 23235 N. County Highway 22, Canton, IL 61520 in partnership with Academic Marketing Services.

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Find Your Passion
Discover What’s Right for You through Career Exploration

It’s important to take the time to find the career that’s right for you – a career that will fulfill your passions and lead to rewarding experiences.

As you explore, consider the following:

• Examine your actions.
  Are your daily actions helping to fulfill your dreams? Pay attention to what drives you, highlight the positives, and learn to direct your energy and maintain focus. Awareness can lead to informed decisions about your future.

• Explore the world of work.
  Do your homework! Research career options thoroughly. The Occupational Outlook Handbook, ONET, College Foundation of NC, and America’s Career Infonet, among other resources, can provide detailed job descriptions, salary ranges, and employment outlook for a wide variety of fields.

• Ask, investigate, learn!
  Connect with employers by requesting informational interviews (by phone or in person) – you’ll get an inside look at trends and expectations in your field of interest. Find out what others in your area are doing as they explore careers, what they’ve found successful, and the obstacles they’ve encountered.

• Gain a full view.
  Build on your knowledge of yourself and your career interests by job shadowing. Observing professionals at work can help you understand what jobs will be best for you and even give you a competitive edge over other job candidates. Sometimes a job-shadowing experience turns into an interview!

• Experiment and try!
  Co-op experiences are valuable work opportunities that allow you to put the skills you’ve learned in the classroom to the test. You may enter the experience with certain ideas and expectations and leave with completely different ones! Co-ops help you find your “niche.”

• Expand your network.
  Through informational interviews, job shadowing, and work experiences, you can begin to build a network of professional contacts in your area of interest. Professional organizations, conferences, career fairs, and social gatherings can also provide networking opportunities to help you expand your circle – and ultimately, land the career of your dreams!

Remember these tips as you continue discovering your passions and use them to define a meaningful direction for your education and career.

Visit src.edu for more information on our transfer and career & technology education programs.
The Distinguished Alumni Award was presented posthumously to Denny Dalmasso, founding member of the CCC/SRC Alumni Association and its president when he passed away August 4. His son, Erik Dalmasso, accepted the award on his father’s behalf.

“If you had a minute to talk about Spoon River College, my dad had an hour,” said Dalmasso. “He would tell you about all the students this place has touched, including himself. He would tell you how he had been 18 years old and a ‘wildly, unfocused student who didn’t have a clue,’ and how Marion Guyton and Martha Strode forced him to be a better person and to always focus on doing the right thing.”

When Denny enrolled in 1971, the College was still known as Canton Community College and was located downtown. By the time he received his degree in 1974, it had become Spoon River College and was at its current site. Denny later received a BS in Education from Bradley University and also a MS. He taught and coached athletics at all levels of education.

Following the 2012 Alumni Reception, Denny presented the SRC Foundation with a $1500 check to go towards the establishment of an Alumni Scholarship, promising another $1000 the next year and challenging other alumni to contribute also.

“If SRC gave dad the chance to be an educator, and he loved education. He also loved this event – it was the only time he wore a suit – and he had every intention of being here tonight. We miss him, and my sister and I are honored to accept this award on his behalf,” said Dalmasso.
After Serving Our Country, What’s Next?

Though it may be difficult to distinguish them from others on campus without their uniforms, more and more students taking classes at Spoon River College these days have served in the armed forces. Many factors can be attributed to the increased veteran enrollment, and the Post-9/11 GI Bill is certainly one of them. The federal legislation gives soldiers and veterans more flexibility in choosing an educational benefit that best meets their needs.

One of the most common problems for veterans is an inability to pay tuition and fees out-of-pocket to start classes. The Post-9/11 helps cover the cost of tuition, fees, and books. It even provides a housing allowance for most students, depending on number of credit hours and whether the student is taking classes online or face-to-face.

Currently, 45 students and dependents are using veterans educational benefits. As more soldiers return from Afghanistan and Iraq, SRC expects to see even greater utilization of this Veterans Affairs (VA) benefit. Transitioning from the military to college can be an overwhelming process for returning soldiers. In response, institutions of higher learning, like SRC, are offering specialized services that help veterans find the road to academic success.

Some common barriers veterans face when moving into higher learning include feeling unwelcome, finding time for studying, coordinating personal and class schedules, lack of personal support, and slowly arriving educational benefits. SRC’s Academic Success Center can help with many of these challenges, offering tutoring and solutions for success or referrals to outside sources if necessary.

SRC’s VA office is located in Student Services, where veterans have access to registration and financial aid and advising services—all in one building.

Transitioning from the military to college can be an overwhelming process for returning soldiers. In response, institutions of higher learning, like SRC, are offering specialized services that help veterans find the road to academic success.

The Department of Veterans Affairs’ Mobile Vet Center (MVC) visited the Canton Campus in September 2015. The mobile centers were established as a way to reach the underserved populations in rural areas, and this marked the third time the MVC has visited Spoon River College.
Jacob Prisby

Jacob Prisby is a 26-year old full-time student, an active member of the Army National Guard, and a single parent to 2-year old twin daughters, Allison Hope and Madison Faith.

“We’re the Three Amigos. Unless I’m at school or on drill, they are with me,” said Prisby, who relies on his grandparents for child care when he can’t be there.

In his second year at SRC, Prisby is using his veteran’s benefits to pay for his education. He enrolled after finding out he was going to be a father.

“I knew it was time to get serious,” said Prisby. “The military taught me patience, resiliency, and respect. Those traits are helping me now as I attend school and raise my girls.”

Fred Mims

Fred Mims had other options upon graduating high school – including playing professional baseball after being drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the fifth round – but he wanted an education, and even the agent told him “if you get hurt, you’re done, but if you go to college, you have an education to fall back on.” So in 1969, Mims chose Canton Community College to be close to his family in Galesburg. He earned his associate’s degree from Spoon River College, then a BA in English as well as his Master’s in Higher Education, both from the University of Iowa.
If you’ve considered, but haven’t quite made up your mind which area best suits you, take a look at all of the healthcare programs Spoon River College has to offer.

**Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)**

ADN is a 61.5-credit hour program that prepares graduates to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nursing (NCLEX-RN). RNs manage and deliver nursing care to patients in a wide variety of healthcare specialties and settings. Spoon River College’s RN program is fully approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. For RN graduates who choose to continue their education, SRC’s RN program articulates and transfers well to a number of university bachelor programs.

**Certificate – Practical Nursing (LPN)**

After completing their first year of courses (32.5 credit hours) in the ADN program, students can take a 6-hour summer course, NUR 145, which will make them eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN). After successfully passing this test, you will be certified to work as an LPN in hospitals, rehabilitation/long-term care/home healthcare facilities, clinics, and physicians’ offices. Many students find this option helpful so that they can earn income while continuing their education toward their ADN.

**Certificate – Practical Nursing (CNA)**

This 7-credit hour course prepares students to take the State of Illinois certificate exam. Along with Spoon River College’s Healthcare Careers Keep You Working

So many careers have felt the brunt of the recession, but one field that remains strong is healthcare. One of these healthcare career paths may be a perfect fit for you and one that will keep you coming home each week with a paycheck. Add to that the fact the baby-boomers are moving into their golden years, and healthcare officials will tell you there is plenty of work to go around.
opening the door to advancing to several other healthcare careers/educational programs, graduates are employable to provide safe basic care in a variety of healthcare settings under the supervision of an LPN or RN.

Certificates – Health Information Management (HIM)

Students in SRC’s HIM program learn the latest recordkeeping technology along with the newest state and federal legislation standards. Having a skilled health information manager on staff ensures an organization has the right information on hand when and where it is needed while maintaining the highest standards of data integrity, confidentiality, and security.

HIM is one of the fastest growing allied health fields. With the number of healthcare procedures increasing as the population ages, there is a very high demand for skilled specialists in this field. It is expected that these careers will remain in high demand over the next 20 to 30 years.

You can earn the following HIM certificates at SRC:

- Medical Assistant Certificate (30 credit hours)
- Medical Insurance/Billing (31 credit hours)
- Medical Records (30 credit hours)
- Medical Transcription (27 credit hours)
- Medical Unit Secretary (27 credit hours)

With the number of healthcare procedures increasing as the population ages, there is a very high demand for skilled specialists in Health Information Management.
Nursing student Sarah Carmack of Canton chose to take the pharmacy tech program to help her in her future nursing career. "Pharmacology was an area I felt I was weak in, so I took the course to expand my knowledge. It's also a good back-up, just in case something would happen with nursing school," said Carmack. "The program was offered locally and was reasonably priced. I would recommend it to anyone who is considering a career as a pharmacy tech or in other areas of healthcare."

Since February of 2014, Goodwill and Spoon River College's Office of Community Outreach have been partnering to offer FREE job skills workshops. The program began with offerings in McDonough and Fulton counties and has since expanded to Mason County. Approximately 67 students have been served through this program with the majority of the students taking 3 classes each.

Workshops have been developed to cover a range of topics helping participants improve needed skills that employers are looking for. Topics include: Computer Skills for the Workplace, Get Your Skills Together, and Nail the Interview. View the current SRC Outreach schedule at www.src.edu/outreach, or learn about additional Goodwill programs at www.goodwillpeo.org.

Career RX: Trained Pharmacy Technicians in Demand

Pharmacy technician
Opportunities are on the increase for trained pharmacy technicians to work in retail or hospital pharmacies. Working under the supervision of a pharmacist, technicians assist customers, fill prescriptions, maintain records and prepare medications. This career requires good customer service skills along with solid math skills and familiarity with medical and pharmaceutical concepts.

Who is a good fit?
Pharmacy technicians should be at ease helping customers and referring questions to the supervising pharmacist. Because the job requires measuring and preparing medications, careful attention to detail is important.

How can SRC get me there?
The Spoon River College Office of Community Outreach is offering a pharmacy technician education program taught by a certified PTCB (Pharmacy Technician Certification Board) Advocate Educator. Pharmacy tech students will learn how to process prescriptions, read labels, and identify and interpret prescriptions. They learn to calculate the proper amount of drugs in a compound prescription, learn basic anatomy, study over-the-counter medications, and get well acquainted with the top 200 drugs.

SRC's Pharmacy Tech classes will help participants prepare for the certification exam and teach skills needed for a pharmacy tech position. Recertification, which requires 20 hours of continuing education, is mandatory every two years.

To find out more about Pharmacy Tech classes, visit www.src.edu/outreach or contact the Office of Community Outreach at 309-647-6260 or 309-833-6031.
Employee Profiles

Rick Duvendack

When Rick Duvendack was five years old, he wanted to be a rock star. That didn’t happen. Instead, he took what he considered to be “the biggest risk ever” and joined the military, serving for more than 20 years before retiring. That experience serves him well in his new role as the Financial Aid Specialist for veterans who are returning to college.

“My time in the military prepared me well for dealing with a diverse student population, many of whom have a multitude of financial aid needs,” said Duvendack. “Working with students can be challenging – you don’t know their backgrounds, what or how life circumstances have affected them, or what they need from us – but it’s also rewarding. Seeing a smile on a student’s face, seeing them succeed, and hearing a ‘hey, thanks for your help’ makes it all worthwhile.”

Duvendack and his wife Chris, who he calls his best role model, have four children and reside in Canton. When not at SRC, Duvendack can be found fishing, building backyard games, and cheering on the St. Louis Cardinals.

Duvendack, who says the best life lesson he ever learned was to pay it forward and who dreams of traveling to Germany and England where many of his ancestors are from, has this advice for students: “This is just the beginning. Learning is a life-long journey, and there is so much out there to learn and achieve. Never give up on your dreams.”

Rob Kirkham

always liked learning, teaching, and reaching for new goals. He also enjoys helping others, and says “I am at my best when I am concentrating on a goal or someone else rather than thinking about myself.”

Kirkham has this advice for students. “Failure is not final and success is not static. For me, education was never about careers or income. It was about becoming the best I could be. Work was never about a pay check. I’ve accepted jobs without knowing what the salary would be. Work is about the passion that is generated when your personal makeup fits into that niche where it can make a difference in your little corner of the world. Some people keep looking for short cuts and never become all they could be. Others procrastinate or never take a leap until their lives have passed them by. Don’t spend your lives dreaming about imaginary adventures. Make your life an adventure.”

Kirkham takes his own advice and is such a risk-taker that his wife Sue came up with the slogan, “Anything that doesn’t kill you will make a good story for the grandkids.”

Tamatha Schleich

Tamatha Schleich first came to SRC in 1979 when she was four years old. Her mother was a nursing student, and Schleich attended the College’s daycare. She didn’t know it then, but that experience would prove beneficial many years later.

After graduating high school, Schleich returned to SRC and completed an Associate of Science degree, then returned again in 1998 as the nursing skills lab preceptor after completing her BSN from OSP. She’s been here ever since, becoming a full-time faculty member in 2004 and the Director of the Allied Health and Nursing program in 2013.

“Remembering what it was like when I was a child and my mom was going through nursing school has helped me understand the stress and time constraints that our students who are also parents are dealing with,” said Schleich. “I always hope they realize how their success will positively influence their children.”

Being a nursing instructor, a mother of three, and also a working RN in a hospital setting, Schleich doesn’t have much free time, but she fantasizes about going to England someday to see where her grandmother grew up and to see the castles. Other things you might not know about Schleich? She’ll do anything to avoid crying, she “needs” tea every day, and if she could meet one famous person, it would be Florence Nightingale, because “I want to ask her what it was really like back when she was a nurse.”

Schleich says taking time to make sure students fully understand what she’s teaching is a priority, and she wants them to remember that “anything worth doing takes work and is well worth the effort for success.”

Schleich has also earned a BS in Healthcare Management from SIUC and a MSN from the University of Phoenix.
8 Myths about the Spoon River College Foundation:

**MYTH:** The Foundation and the College are the same thing.

**FACT:** The Foundation is a separate 501 (c) (3) that was specifically set up to provide resources to Spoon River College. Though we often work together on emerging issues, the two are very separate entities.

**MYTH:** Donations to the Foundation come only in large quantities from wealthy people.

**FACT:** We receive all denominations of gifts from people of all different backgrounds — and all are appreciated. It really, honestly doesn’t matter how much you give. It matters that you give.

**MYTH:** The Foundation funds only scholarships.

**FACT:** Scholarships are a big part of what we do (over $300,000 in the last five years), but we also fund college programs (including athletics, drama, the Alumni Association, the Retirees’ Leading Initiative and many others), facilities upgrades, and Innovation Grants, which help our staff and faculty bring new ideas to life and help keep SRC great!

**MYTH:** I want to get involved with the Foundation, but there aren’t many ways to get involved.

**FACT:** There are many fun ways to use your skills and talents to benefit the Foundation. Volunteer at one of our events, join the Alumni Association (if you attended one class at Canton Community or Spoon River College, you’re an alum!), or participate in the Spoon River College Community Chorus, which raises money several times each year for scholarships! If you have the time and energy, we’ll find the place.

The Spoon River College Foundation’s Mission: “Education is the key to an excellent future. The SRC Foundation actively seeks resources to provide excellent educational opportunities to Spoon River College.”

Visit www.src.edu/foundation or contact Colin Davis at (309)647-6395 or colin.davis@src.edu.
MYTH:  The Foundation won’t use the money how I want it to.

FACT:  Actually, we always consider the donor’s wishes, and, generally, you can request the gift be used however you’d like. If you want to create a scholarship for a first-generation college attendee, you can do that. If you want to give to a specific program, you can do that. If you want your funds to go toward improving specific facilities at our campuses or centers, you can do that, too.

MYTH:  Giving takes a lot of time.

FACT:  Giving takes only the amount of time that you need to determine where you want your gift to go. After that, whether you want to give a cash donation, donate by credit card, or set up a planned or legacy gift, it takes just a matter of minutes.

MYTH:  Once I give, the Foundation moves on to other donors.

FACT:  This couldn’t be further from the truth. Ask those who have set up scholarships through the Foundation, who each year receive letters from the very students their gifts have helped to support. We do everything we can to make sure you know your gift is valued and that you get to enjoy the benefits well after your gift is received.

MYTH:  The Foundation has no impact on me, and my gift won’t matter.

FACT:  Spoon River College is a leading provider of higher education in our region, and our alumni have gone on to do incredible things – including becoming business owners, educators, engineers, and even a Harlem Globetrotter and United States Secretary of Transportation! We’re building the next generation of leaders for our local communities and our world, and we can’t do so without your help.
Good Jobs Start Here

When you invest in education you want to see your time and money pay off with a good job when you’re done. SRC offers a whole range of certificate and associate degree programs that you can complete in just one or two years and start earning a good, solid paycheck.

Visit src.edu for more information on our transfer and career & technology education programs.

**Academic Programs**

### Transfer Programs

- Associate of Arts and Sciences (AA&S) Degrees
  - Agriculture
  - Art
  - Biological Science
  - Business
  - Chemistry
  - Communications
  - Criminal Justice
  - Drama
  - Early Childhood Education
  - Education
  - Elementary & Special Education
  - English
  - General Science

- Geographic Information Systems
- Health Science
- History
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Physical Science
- Physics
- Political Science
- Pre-Engineering
- Pre-Exercise Science
- Psychology
- Secondary Education
- Sociology

### Associate in General Studies

- General Studies

### Career & Technical Education

#### Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degrees
- Agricultural Business Management
- Computer Information Systems
- Diesel & Power Systems Technology
- Digital Design & Information Technology
- Health Information Management
- Natural Resources & Conservation
- Nursing Assistant
- Practical Nursing
- Preventive Maintenance
- Rail Transportation & Power Systems Technology
- Small Office Accounting
- Supervision
- Sustainable Food Production
- Web Design
- Welding Operator

#### Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)

- Nursing

#### Certificates

- Advanced Welding
- Business Plan Entrepreneurship
- Commercial Driver Training
- Computer Forensics
- Computer Information Technology
- Customer Service
- Early Childhood Education
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Entrepreneurship
- Graphic Design

### Cooperative Programs

- Dental Hygiene
- Para-medicine
- Radiologic Technology
- Respiratory Care
- Therapeutic Massage

Contact us for more information!

- Advising: 309-649-6400
- Financial Aid: 309-649-7030
- Online College Catalog: src.edu/catalog
A 2 + 2 program is a transfer agreement that allows students to complete their first two years of college at SRC, at SRC prices, before transferring to a bachelor’s program at a participating private college or university. Yearly, an education at SRC will cost less than $5,000.

The 2 + 2 program is a type of articulation agreement. Articulation agreements are contracts between two or more institutions that allow specific credit at one institution to be accepted for entry or advanced standing at another.

“An articulation agreement is an excellent opportunity for students to further their education.”

Interested in earning a bachelor’s or master’s degree, but nervous about cost? After all, a college or university education with room and board can cost over $50,000 a year or more. Imagine starting your education at Spoon River College and then transferring to a four-year college. It’s possible. Start at SRC and transfer through one of our 2 + 2 programs.

What is a 2 + 2 Program?
A 2 + 2 program is a transfer agreement that allows students to complete their first two years of college at SRC, at SRC prices, before transferring to a bachelor’s program at a participating private college or university. Yearly, an education at SRC will cost less than $5,000.

The 2 + 2 program is a type of articulation agreement. Articulation agreements are contracts between two or more institutions that allow specific credit at one institution to be accepted for entry or advanced standing at another.

“An articulation agreement is an excellent opportunity for students to further their education.”

It simplifies the process and provides the steps to follow, while saving time and money,” said Holly Norton, Dean of Instruction at SRC.

At SRC, students can participate in 2 + 2 programs within specific programs from the following colleges and universities:

- Benedictine University
- Eastern Illinois University
- Franklin University
- Methodist College of Nursing
- Midstate College
- Robert Morris University
- SIU Edwardsville-School of Nursing
- University of Illinois-Springfield
- Western Illinois University

For more information on the available 2 + 2 transfer programs, contact Student Services at 1-800-degrees.
And learn from the BEST.

Register Now:
Spring & Summer 2016 Semesters

Beth VanTine is Spoon River College’s H. Truman Standard award winner in 2015. The student who nominated her for the award explained that Beth “shows a personal interest in students and contributes to their educational and personal development. She takes the extra time to create video tutorials to help students understand math outside of classtime.”

Spoon River College is known for instructors like Beth who inspire you. Work one-on-one with you. Empower you to do your best work. With an average student-to-faculty ratio of 17:1, you can bet your instructor will know you by name... and will care about your success.

Spoon River College offers excellence in education – right here, close to home.

- Compare SRC tuition to four-year schools. Savings range from $3,500 to $26,000 per academic year!
- SRC credits transfer seamlessly to many four-year colleges.
- For students ready to join the workforce faster, Career & Technical Education programs offer training in high-demand fields.

Spring classes start January 19. Sign up now to get the classes you need!

csrc.edu  1-800-degrees
Canton • Macomb • Havana • Rushville