



Taking You Where You Want To Go

THE bridge

2021

Come on in!

We're inviting you to read about what's in store for the future of Spoon River College.

Career Program Overview

Choosing or changing your career path? Discover your options.

Spoon River College Foundation

Find out why your help has been critical to student success.

Award-Winning Faculty

Get to know two SRC instructors and learn why students nominated them to win awards.





Message from President Curt Oldfield

Welcome to this issue of *The Bridge* from Spoon River College. Throughout this publication, you will see examples of the work being done at your community college to make our communities stronger. Great work is being done every day, by our faculty and staff, to create an environment for our students to succeed inside and outside of the classroom.

2020 may be remembered as a year in which real transformation and innovation changed American higher



education. With one week's notice, I watched all SRC faculty change the way courses were delivered, students quickly adapted to new learning strategies, and college-wide services were delivered virtually. This display of resiliency and dedication speaks volumes about every employee's commitment to STUDENT SUCCESS.

One lesson that COVID-19 has taught us: we need more career programs that are delivered quickly and help people move into the workplace or get promoted with their current employer. SRC faculty and staff are working with local employers to provide education and skill development to meet the needs of businesses and individuals. We work cooperatively with economic development organizations in the district to support the growth of our communities.

Our partnerships with local universities and colleges continue to be vital to student success. Spoon River College has an open door for anyone aiming to improve their lives, and the faculty and

staff are here to help students be successful in that academic journey. I hope you enjoy seeing the success stories of our students from a variety of programs.

SRC has a strong commitment to the communities we serve. Our students and our employees have provided thousands of hours of volunteer time in our communities. We believe strongly in supporting the communities that support us.

As a college, we have learned valuable lessons from this pandemic. Rather than dwelling on all that we have lost this past year, we are focusing on the future. We are using the lessons we have learned to drive necessary improvements and enhancements. Without a doubt, we have learned that with innovation, creativity, collaboration, and entrepreneurship, the college can overcome adversity. We will always find a way to provide education for those who seek to improve themselves.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *The Bridge*. If we can help you, your family, or your friends, please contact us. Spoon River College is *taking you where you want to go*.



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Mission

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

Vision

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).

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Some photos in this publication were taken before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Is your career future-proof?
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FUTURE-PROOFING YOUR CAREER

and the importance of diversified skills

It's estimated that 85% of the jobs that will be available in 2030 (just nine years away!) haven't been created yet. How can one prepare for a job that offers long-term security? A job that may not even be real yet?

You can prepare by learning skills that can easily be updated or transferred to another field. Many of our career programs that lead to high-skill and high-wages for in-demand occupations share some of the same skills, and many of our certificates, which can often be completed in a year or less, can ladder with others to culminate in an applied science degree.

While no job or profession may be 100% future proof, some are more of a sure thing than others. As SRC philosophy and religion instructor Dr. Robert Zellmann likes to tell students, "Become the Swiss army knife, with lots of tools, to be prepared."

Agricultural Business Management

A mix of economics, management, finance, marketing, and more, ag business management can take you to the farm, an office, a classroom, a management position, or a career in sales, marketing, natural resources science, and so much more. Planning to transfer? The AAS degree can also take you to a four-year university!



Certificates are available in Agricultural Precision Technology (10 credit hours) and Agricultural Production (10 hours).

Commercial Driver Training

Short on time? Our Commercial Driver Training program offers two certificates. You'll be on the road to a new career in as little as four weeks! Curriculum includes hazardous materials training, DOT regulations, and extensive behind the wheel driving time. Financing is available through various grants including Illinois Veteran/National Guard and Career Link.

No matter how products arrive in the States, a truck almost always completes the final journey to the consumer. Get skills that can take you over the road, keep you local, or lead you to a non-driving position as a fleet service technician, fleet manager, or dispatcher.

Logistics Operations Management

The organization, housing, moving, and transportation of goods, Logistics Operations Management is an area expected to experience significant growth. The importance of products reaching store shelves was realized during the pandemic (think toilet paper!). From point A to the final destination, it's skilled people getting products from the producer to the consumer.

"Those in the logistics program will have the option of choosing elective courses from agriculture, business, computer information, and diesel technology, affording them creative opportunities for stackable credentials. Research within our market area has shown there is a need for truck drivers, specifically those with a background in logistics," said Brad O'Brien, Dean, Career and Workforce Education.

Diesel and Power Systems Technology

Whether it's for land, water, or rail, if it has a diesel engine, our Diesel and Power Systems Technology program will give you the skills to repair and maintain it. Where can it take you? Shop owner/operator, research and development, parts manager, the railroad, or service technician for a marine, trucking, locomotive, or implement dealership.



Certificates include Preventive Maintenance and Locomotive Mechanical. Working closely with BNSF in Knox County and small line rails such as Burlington Junction, internships and long-term employment options that are close to home are plentiful.

"These certifications let an employer know that an applicant has the knowledge and training

they are looking for in their employees," said Dave Andersen, retired BNSF senior general foreman and current DPST instructor.

Welding

Our Welding program has become especially popular for high school dual credit students in Canton, Macomb, VIT, and Rushville-Industry, with some students receiving their certificate at the same time they are receiving their high school diplomas!



Welding skills are needed in a variety of industries: construction, manufacturing, self-employed/contract welder, ornamental construction, infrastructure repair technologies, ship/barge construction/maintenance and more!

Advanced Manufacturing

We offered Advanced Manufacturing to Canton High School students in the fall of 2020, with students taking courses over the fall and spring semesters. Along with receiving their high school diploma in May, they are also working toward becoming a Certified Production Technician with third party credentialing from the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council.

Employment options include assembler, machinist or tool/die maker, equipment operator, production technician, floor assembly supervisor, and quality control executive.

Robotics, including augmented reality and animation, is a potential new program area that is being explored. If intelligent machines (robots) are the future of the industrial world, those machines will still need humans to maintain and construct them. Robotics students would learn how to maintain and troubleshoot complex automation equipment used in energy processing, consumer product production, and the construction of high-tech machinery and durable goods.

Nursing

Our Nursing program was ranked one of the best in the nation by RNCareers.org in 2019, our LPN program has been ranked the number one program in Illinois by PracticalNursing.org for the past three years based on our NCLEX pass rates, and it was recently accredited by the ACEN (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing) following a five-year process.

Health Information Management

Interested in the healthcare field but not direct patient care? Check out our Health Information Management program! Choose from multiple certificates—Medical Assistant, Medical Coding, Medical Insurance and Billing, Medical Records, Medical Transcription, Medical Unit Secretary, and Phlebotomy Technician—or complete them all and earn an Associate in Applied Science degree.

“The healthcare field will only keep expanding, as will the record-keeping and the technology used for it. These are skills that go wherever you go,” said Melissa Miller, Allied Health Coordinator.

There are multiple employment opportunities in multiple environments: health clinics, insurance offices, mental health facilities, hospitals, business offices, nursing homes, chiropractic offices, medical clinics both public and private, and more!

Medical Laboratory Technician

Our Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program was launched in the fall of 2020 with a cohort of seven students being led by a team of industry professionals including

Glenda Forneris, MHS, MT; Anna Weisbruch, MPH, MLS; and Mercedes Seats, MLT. Each has extensive knowledge working in a medical lab and educating medical lab personnel.

If you enjoy science and research projects, are organized and detail-oriented, want to assist other healthcare professionals in diagnosing,



treating and preventing diseases, or if you’re already in the medical field but are looking for a change, MLT might be for you!

“There is a current demand for MLTs that surpasses the number of

trained technicians that are available. This program will benefit students, healthcare facilities, and their communities,” said O’Brien.

Computer Information Systems

Our Computer Information Systems program is your ticket to the IT industry. Learn the skills needed to install, configure, and trouble-shoot computer hardware, software, security, and networks. Individual certificates let you choose the area(s) you are interested in, or complete them all and earn an Associate in Applied Science degree!

Small Business Management

Our Small Business Management program offers a mix of transfer and career courses for the student who has an entrepreneurial spirit and is interested in business. The program is designed to provide students a background in business organization and operations, as well as management training necessary for advancement to supervisory positions.

Certificates include Basic Culinary Management, Entrepreneurship, Customer Service, Business Plan Entrepreneurship, and Supervision.

Career Coach

What do you want to be when you grow up? Whether you are overwhelmed by the possibilities or have no idea, our interactive online tool makes it easy to research and choose a career based on your personal interests and desires. Available on our website under Career Services, Career Coach allows users to research careers, browse the education, skills, and programs necessary for particular careers, explore the local job market, build a resume, and apply for jobs!

What are you waiting for? Hop on Career Coach, find your dream job, and then get prepared for it! **Visit: src.edu/career**

Interested in one of the career programs highlighted in this article? Contact a Spoon River College advisor by emailing advisor@src.edu or calling 1-800-degrees.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Madison Draughan

“At Spoon River College, instructors make online classes feel like in-person classes by staying connected, helping when needed and accommodating well during these uncertain times. I absolutely loved my stats class with Sarah Dalpiaz. She stayed so connected with us that it almost felt like an in-class experience.”

Madison wasn’t new to online learning when the pandemic forced all of her classes to be held remotely, and as a future teacher, she said it gave her valuable insight into being a teacher. “I appreciate the work it was for teachers to transition to online. They were all doing their best in a very tough time, and I had a good experience in all of my classes.”

After graduating from SRC, Madison will transfer to Eureka College to major in both elementary and special education. She chose Eureka after visiting the campus. “I loved the small size of Spoon River College, and I love the same thing about Eureka College. Going there will allow me to get out of my comfort zone and meet new people, while still being close enough to come home on the weekends to see my family, and that is so important to me.”

The Future of Spoon River College

2019: a year of celebration as Spoon River College turned 60 years old.

2020: a year of hard lessons, a new reality, and a different way of doing business, socializing, teaching, and learning.

2021: we're moving forward, planning for the College's future and yours!

New Programs

New programs are being considered as we look to the horizon, including a Media Center/Modern Media program that would be a collaboration between Art, Communications, English, and CIS (Computer Information Systems), and that could be utilized by students, faculty, and the public. It would cover broadcasting, social and digital media, video and audio production, graphic design, virtual reality, and game design.

College officials have also been working with local partners on a Construction Management certificate program that could be housed under the existing Small Business Management degree.

A Renewable Energy program that would supply the necessary skills for students to become photovoltaic installers and wind turbine service technicians is also being explored. These two positions are projected to be the two fastest growing occupations in the United States by 2026.

"As we move forward, I predict the demand for short-term education and training will be greater. These short-term programs will help individuals get back into the workplace quickly. Spoon River College is responsive to the requests and needs of our local businesses, communities, and residents, and we will continue to increase the number of short-term and continuing education programs offered," said Brad O'Brien, Dean, Career and Workforce Education.

DCEO Grant

Spoon River College is one of four community colleges that worked in partnership to apply for an Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant for a Regional Advanced Manufacturing Academy that would be housed in East Peoria and support manufacturers in the colleges' districts. If the grant is awarded, each college would be able to utilize the facility and the

equipment for training, and each college would also offer an area of expertise on their own campus.

Spoon River College would supply the welding component as well as create a curriculum for a Robotics program and Computer Numerical Control (CNC).

"Our goal is to train new employees and upskill incumbent manufacturing employees," said Curt Oldfield, President of Spoon River College.

Project partners are Illinois Central College (Peoria/East Peoria), Illinois Valley Community College (LaSalle/Peru area), and Lincoln Land Community College (Springfield/Litchfield).

Expansion and Change of Current Programs

The Ag program is on track for an overhaul that will reflect the modern ag industry, utilizing alumni and industry partners and secondary ag teachers, and focus more on production, technology, and finance. Plans also include moving from an internship model to more of an apprenticeship model, with students attending their classes part of the week and then working for an industry partner on the other days.

The dual credit welding program has expanded into the Rushville-Industry and VIT high schools as a result of the program's success as a dual credit course in Canton and Macomb.

Athletics

With the completion of the Multi-Purpose Building in 2017, the College was able to bring back men's and women's basketball programs as well as volleyball. New baseball and softball fields





have been completed, and work continues on installing scoreboards and putting roofs on the dugouts. Still to come are a concession stand and restrooms, and on the future wish list is a press box and storage space.

Facilities

Over the past three years, the College has updated and renovated buildings at both Canton and Macomb campuses. New HVAC systems have been installed in Centers, Engle, and Taylor buildings in Canton, with Votech on track for an install this summer. Improved efficiency is projected to save an estimated \$100,000 per year.

Biology and chemistry labs in Canton and Macomb have a fresh look with new flooring, tile, cabinets, electric, data, and plumbing, and a microbiology lab in Canton is next on the list.

The Johnson Street Macomb Campus got a new roof and tuck-pointing was completed, while the long-awaited Macomb East project got new life with a \$6.1M grant from the Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan. The funds will enable the College to expand and renovate the East Jackson facility, which currently houses the Office of Community Outreach. With only 16,000 feet completed, there remains roughly 70,000 square feet of unfinished space that will be used for career and technical education and nursing programs.

Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2022, with a target date for occupancy in the fall of 2023.

EDA Grant

In a move intended to help students enter the workforce, the College's career and technical education programs will also get an upgrade thanks to a \$2M Economic Development Administration grant that will fund equipment and infrastructure improvements in Votech.

SRC Bookstore, The Snapper Café, and River Roast Coffee Co.

On the Canton Campus, the bookstore was remodeled, and the cafeteria got a new look and more functionality with an expanded kitchen and serving area. It also got a new name: The Snapper Café!



Coming soon to the Canton Campus is the River Roast Coffee Co. located in Centers, which will be student-run.

Your Impact → Our Difference

Friends,

It's no secret that this pandemic has been tough on everyone. But at the Spoon River College Foundation, we've seen first-hand how the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have turned students' lives upside down, and that's why we're asking for your support today.

I'm most proud that—because of friends like you—we were able to meet many students' needs during 2020 and keep them on track to complete their educational goals during such turbulent times.

We established our new **Emergency Hardship Fund** within days of the pandemic's beginning and funded **tens of thousands of dollars in hardship requests** from students who had lost income or had additional expenses due to the pandemic. We **purchased new laptops** for students to check out through our Learning Resource Centers so that even students without devices could complete their coursework when many classes moved online. And we're offering **more in scholarship funds than we've ever offered before**, because we believe that a helping hand should be there for students who need or deserve one.

This is thanks to people just like you supporting our students with a gift to the SRC Foundation, including to our area of greatest need.

I'm also proud that our need to quickly shift priorities didn't stop us from pursuing other projects. Among other things in 2020, you helped us launch three new athletics teams, continue to bring quality performing arts productions to our area, provide needed facilities upgrades, and begin outreach to alumni. Providing the best educational experience possible takes a multi-faceted approach.

But the longer this pandemic lasts, the greater the need will be for funds that can impact students directly.

We continue to get **student hardship requests** every week. Nearly half of SRC students reported facing **food insecurity** at some point *even before the pandemic began*. And we want to provide **more scholarship funds to students** who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic by childcare concerns or loss of income, as well as students whose programs aren't eligible for financial aid, like dual credit students and short-term credential-seeking students.

But we can't help more students without you.

In late 2020, the Foundation purchased a lit sign where messages about athletics, student life, and registration can be posted.



On-campus food pantries have been created for students who struggle with food insecurity. The pantries rely on gifts of food, supplies, and monetary donations to the SRC Foundation.



For the first time, the SRC Community Chorus presented its holiday concert virtually. The link to watch the collection of performances was sent to all who donated to the Foundation's #GivingSPOONday campaign, as the Chorus and Foundation continue to support the arts at SRC and in the community.





When COVID-19 made it necessary to move all classes online in Spring 2020, the SRC Foundation immediately moved to purchase new laptops through its annual fund that students could check out to do coursework remotely.



SRC nursing students experienced firsthand the important role of public health nursing when they partnered with the Fulton County Health Department at a COVID-19 vaccine clinic on February 6, the first of four vaccine clinics with which the students will assist. They are great examples of student groups who benefit from the Foundation and its donors, as well as the service and economic impact SRC students have on the community.



If you believe, like we do, that education is the key to a successful future and that local students are worth supporting, please consider making a gift of whatever you can to the area of greatest need with the attached envelope. Even a small gift can make a huge difference.

Thank you for your generous support of our students!



Colin Davis
Executive Director
Spoon River College Foundation

P.S. We're proud of the work we do with your help. We're always willing to discuss the many ways the SRC Foundation assists students and how you can be a part of helping change lives. Please contact us.

The Snappers have been exciting to watch this year! Women's and Men's Basketball have made a comeback and are in their first year, while Volleyball is in its second year. The return of these three programs wouldn't have happened without gifts to the SRC Foundation.



SPOON RIVER COLLEGE

Programs

Scholarships

Facilities

FOUNDATION

(309) 649-6260

foundation@src.edu

src.edu/foundation



Students like Cassandra Wade have been greatly helped by the Emergency Hardship Fund. She received a grant in Spring 2020 to help her with childcare costs so she could complete her clinicals for the nursing program.

Spoon River College Community Outreach

Adapting to Change During a Pandemic

The Mission of the Spoon River College Office of Community Outreach is to positively impact the communities we serve through partnerships, projects, new opportunities, and leadership. We do this by offering a variety of classes, seminars, workshops, and events.

"This pandemic has created many challenges for our department. I'm grateful to have a team that is creative and willing to adapt to change!" said Velvet Powell, Director of Community Outreach.

In the fall, SRC instructor Michael Maher presented a program called "Blinded by the White: Understanding Racial Injustice." A Facebook post about this class was extremely popular with over 3,000 engagements.

The program focused on understanding the historical origin and creation of the concept of race, the impact of race historically, and how

this history has created institutionalized forms of racial discrimination, inequality, and injustice. Close to fifty people participated in this program, which was offered in three different formats: face-to-face, online through Google Meet, and privately for officials from the city of Macomb. A class on gender equality was also offered in the spring.

A babysitting clinic was held in Macomb in partnership with Spoon River College, University of Illinois Extension, and McDonough District Hospital. Geared towards ages 8-18, the program provided basic training to those interested in increasing their babysitting skills. Participants were spaced apart and able to learn in a safe environment.

A variety of additional successful programs were held during the pandemic. A live online Dale Carnegie leadership series featuring four different topics served 34 people who were able to learn and participate from home.

A few face-to-face classes were held with limited seating. Topics included technology, finances, food service, and crafting. A four-part series covering the life of Abraham Lincoln was also a hit.



Participants in the babysitting clinic learn about child development, basic first aid, diapering, and more.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to provide training to the district, even during these challenging times," said Powell.

For more information about upcoming classes offered by SRC Community Outreach, you can visit our online registration site at <https://src.augusoft.net> or find us on Facebook @srccommunityoutreach.



Michael Maher presented a program called *Blinded by the White: Understanding Racial Injustice*. Several participants chose to take the program online.

A look at Maher's program as presented via Google Meet.



Transfer Wall of Fame

Thousands of individuals have earned Associate's Degrees at Spoon River College, transferred to four-year institutions, earned Bachelor's Degrees, and established successful careers. On this page, we're sharing just a few examples from the last ten years. These alumni have proven that Spoon River College can take you where you want to go, whatever your dream job may be.



Abby Fanter
Environmental Health Inspector
Mason County Health Dept.
Havana High School, 2013
Spoon River College, 2015
Western Illinois University, 2018



Josh Webb
Patrol Officer
Barrington Police Department
Astoria High School, 2013
Spoon River College, 2015
Western Illinois University, 2017



Matt Norton
Project Manager
AECOM Hunt
Bushnell-Prairie High School, 2011
Spoon River College, 2014
Western Illinois University, 2015



Maggie Cecil
Financial Advisor
Edward Jones Investments
Farmington High School, 2015
Spoon River College, 2017
Illinois State University, 2019



Jace Fletcher
Affiliate Agent
Shelter Insurance
Canton High School, 2010
Spoon River College, 2012
Illinois State University, 2014

FACULTY AWARDS

2020 H. Truman Standard Award Winner

Laura Bandy

English teacher Laura Bandy, our 2020 recipient of the H. Truman Standard Award for teaching excellence, has only been at Spoon River College for three years but has already made a lasting impression on all who meet her.

Passionate about Shakespeare and not afraid to admit it, Laura is also a published poet, placing 3rd place in the 2018 Illinois Emerging Writers Competition (Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award), and 1st place in the “TRIO of Triolet” contest.

Poems penned by Laura can be read in the winter issues of *Pine Row* and *Fatal Flaw* journals. “Hack,” her chapbook of poetry, has been accepted for publication by Dancing Girl Press in Chicago, but is currently on hold due to COVID. Also on hold is Laura’s wedding, planned for May 2020 but now hoping for May 2021!

Laura is a joy to know, and we think you’ll agree as you “get to know her” by reading more!

Favorite thing about teaching: The energy I get from being in the classroom with my superstar students, and all the amazing lessons and new information I learn from them. I also feel lucky to share my love of reading and writing with students, and hope that my knowledge base is of use in their lives and careers.

Favorite weird thing to do: I like to take my three cats for walks in their kitty-stroller around my neighborhood when the weather is fine.

Favorite non-weird thing to do: My favorite thing to do is a yoga class with my twin (I’m terrible at yoga, but my twin is awesome and she makes me look good) then go get coffee at Elm City Roastery, and finally, hit the library to tease, bother and bewilder the librarians (my super-heroes) and check out lots of dreamy books.

*I volunteer as a judge for the yearly creative writing contests at my local library. Shout out to the JPL, library of my heart (Jacksonville Public Library, a beautiful Carnegie institution)!

Favorite ways to amuse herself: I love to read mystery novels, write poetry, snowboard in Michigan and Wisconsin, and hang out with my fiancé, Tarl, and his teenage son, Titus.



Laura’s cats: Sidney Prescott Windy Whiskers (tuxedo cat), and Quentin Coldwater (buff-colored tabby). Laura explained why only two cats are in the photo, saying, “Not pictured is the recalcitrant Charlotte Licorice Meow Meow, who told me she was NOT in the mood for a photo session. :)”



Laura is pictured here in between her two siblings. On the left is Laura’s brother, Micah, and on the right is her twin sister, Sarah.

Favorite humans: My twin sister who loves Shakespeare as much as I do, my Tarl, and poet Ross Gay.

Best advice Laura has been given: Hang on tightly, let go lightly. Also (and always) DO THE RIGHT THING. (Thank you, Spike Lee.)

Laura’s best advice to students:

Natural talent is helpful, but determination, grit, and the ability to (in the words of Winston Churchill) never, never, NEVER QUIT – these are the traits that will take you far. Showing up is half the battle, so I will see you in class!



2020 ICCTA Full-Time Faculty Award Winner

Jason Strandberg

History and political science teacher Jason Strandberg was our 2020 recipient of the Illinois Community College Trustee Full-Time Faculty Award for teaching excellence. A 17-year veteran in the classrooms at SRC, Jason’s classes fill up quickly, and students say “he creates a learning environment where students are allowed to question, research, and develop their own views. He’s always willing to take time after class for discussion, never tries to change a student’s political views, and always inspires his students to learn more.”

That’s probably why he is also a past recipient of the Truman H. Standard Award for teaching excellence!

Learn more about this former MMA fighter (yes, he was!) turned teacher.

Favorite thing about teaching: I think just getting to know our diverse students and seeing them succeed and grow is very rewarding.

What he does in his spare time: Most of my time is spent with my five-year old daughter, Avery. This often entails losing regularly at UNO and getting daily beat downs from her.

Fun fact about Jason: I am an ordained priest in the Church of the Latter-Day Dude, so if anyone needs a wedding officiate, I am definitely NOT your guy.

Professional organizations: As I write this, I am currently a member of the Fulton County Board, but my term will end by the time this is published. So instead of holding a press conference announcing my retirement from politics, I will just make that highly important announcement here.

Awards/recognition: 2010 Truman Standard Award, Central Illinois Mixed Martial Arts Hall of Fame First Induction Class, 2013.

Best advice Jason has ever received: NEVER INVADE RUSSIA.

Jason’s best advice for students: READ THE SYLLABUS. And NEVER INVADE RUSSIA.



Pancake as big as your head, anyone?



Jason has made an impression on many at SRC, and The Snapper Café staff is no exception. They named a lunch special after him!

When not in the classroom or getting beat down by his five-year old, Jason hangs out with wife Amanda and step-children Kennedy, Ethan, Carter, and granddaughter Everly.

Jason with his daughter, Avery.



ALUMNI PROFILE

Rachel Frakes



What happens when you and your parents don't agree on where you should attend college? Rachel Frakes faced exactly that scenario when she graduated from Lewistown High School in 2017. Below is an abridged version of her story, excerpted from her blog.

When I was a senior, I was set on attending a four-year university straight out of high school. In my mind, community college was for students that had not yet discovered their passion.

My parents felt that community college was the smart choice and were quite adamant about it. After sitting down and weighing my options, I decided to listen to them. At the time, I had no idea how thankful I would be that my parents encouraged this path. As I look back on my journey, I have no regrets with the decision to attend a community college and here's why:

Because the first few years of college mostly consist of completing general education requirements, it makes sense to pay less at a community college for the same classes you would be taking at a four-year.

Second, community colleges offer a unique learning environment. With smaller class sizes, you will be able to have more one-on-one time with professors. This not only leads to an increased level of understanding in your courses but also opens doors. Developing professional relationships with your professors is a necessity if you are searching for solid letters of recommendation or references for your resume.

As I am nearing the end of my undergraduate career, I cannot help but think about where I began. I am so thankful for the people I have met on my journey, and how they have helped shape me into the student I am today.

Attending community college was one of the best decisions I have made. Through this journey I learned a valuable lesson: Sometimes life takes unexpected turns in the right direction. My final advice: Do not let your expectations or preconceived notions hold you back!

Rachel graduated from Spoon River College in 2019. She transferred to Illinois State University, and her end goal is to become a physician. To follow Rachel, check out "The Student Blog," which offers tips, advice, and stories dedicated to helping students sift through college decisions:

<https://rfrakes08.wixsite.com/my-site>

Spoon River College Staff and Board of Trustees Member Recognized by ICCTA

President Curt Oldfield, trustee Linda Butler, and executive assistant Julie Hampton were recognized in the fall for their service by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA).

Oldfield received the Advocacy Award, which was created in 2006 to honor leaders dedicated to advocating for the needs of the students and the Illinois Community College system.

Oldfield began his time at Spoon River College as a student, receiving an associate degree before transferring to the University of Illinois and then to Illinois State University. He returned to Spoon River College, first teaching agriculture and then serving as the Dean of Transfer Education before accepting a position as Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Northeast Iowa Community College. He returned to Spoon River College on July 1, 2012 as its eighth president, making him the youngest community college president in the history of Illinois.

Butler was presented with a Service Award in recognition of her 25 years as a board trustee.

She began her service to Spoon River College as director of the SRC Foundation Board in 1990, five years before being appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees in 1995. She went on to be elected to four regular terms as a board member.

During her time as a trustee, Butler has worked with four presidents and participated in three presidential searches. She served one term as board secretary, three terms as board vice chair, and two terms as board chair.

"Linda has provided years of leadership for the board by serving in a multitude of capacities, not to mention countless special tasks and work on behalf of the board and the college. For all of this and much more, we are pleased to present her with this award," said fellow trustee Dave Maguire.

Hampton was awarded the Professional Board Staff Member Award recognizing the outstanding individuals who work "behind the scenes" to support the efforts of their community college's president and governing board, which Hampton



Pictured are trustee Dave Maguire, President Curt Oldfield, Linda Butler, and Julie Hampton.

has been doing for the past 27 years. She has served as executive assistant to four presidents, three interim presidents, and has missed only three board meetings—after the birth of her daughter, when she had strep throat, and to attend a Bon Jovi concert.

"I work with wonderful people who make Spoon River College a great place to work, and I truly enjoy my responsibilities and feel it is a privilege to work here," Hampton said.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Transfer Programs

Associate in Arts (AA) or Associate in Science (AS) areas of concentration

Agriculture
Art
Biological Science
Business
Chemistry
Communication
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
Social Work
Sociology

Associate in General Studies

General Studies



Career Programs

Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degrees

Advanced Manufacturing*
Agricultural Business Management
Computer Information Systems
Diesel & Power Systems Technology
Health Information Management
Logistics & Operations Management
Medical Laboratory Technician
Natural Resources & Conservation
Small Business Management

Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)

Nursing

Certificates

Agricultural Business Management

Agricultural Precision Technology
Agricultural Production

Commercial Driver Training

Basic Commercial Driving
Commercial Driver Training

Computer Information Systems

Computer Forensics
Computer Information Technology
Computer and Network Technician
Computer User Support Specialist
Cyber Security
Enterprise Computer Network Specialist
Server Administrator

Diesel & Power Systems Technology

Locomotive Mechanical
Preventive Maintenance

Early Childhood Development

Early Childhood Education

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Health Information Management

Medical Assistant
Medical Coding
Medical Insurance/Billing
Medical Records
Medical Transcription
Medical Unit Secretary
Phlebotomy Technician

Logistics & Operations Management

Truck Driver Training

Nursing

Nursing Assistant
Practical Nursing

Small Business Management

Basic Culinary Management
Business Plan Entrepreneurship
Customer Service
Entrepreneurship
Supervision



Pictured left to right are nursing students Aspen Miller, Mackenzie Rhoads, Kiley Lee, Dana Wesley, and Emerald Dewitt.

Manufacturing

Advanced Welding
Certified Production Technician
Industrial Maintenance
Welding Operator

Cooperative Programs**

Dental Hygiene
Paramedicine
Radiologic Technology
Respiratory Care

*Pending HLC approval

**Spoon River College works with other community colleges to offer these programs. Courses will not be held on SRC campuses or centers. Please contact your advisor for details.



College your way. On campus, online, or both.

At Spoon River College, we offer three ways to learn. ① You can take classes fully in-person on one of our campuses. ② You can take classes fully online, either on your own time or participating in a scheduled class online. ③ Or you can take hybrid classes, which is a mix of both online and in-person learning.

Spoon River College is known for being affordable—but we're also a quality, award-winning institution. Enroll here, and you're signing up to learn in small class settings, where you can expect one-on-one interaction with your instructors. Students who plan to transfer can choose from over 25 areas of concentration, and students who want to get into the workforce faster can choose from career paths in high-growth, high-wage jobs. Our commitment to student success is evident in the services we offer our students, like tutoring, mentoring, and learning resources.

Whether you are starting, continuing or relaunching your educational journey, you don't have to figure it out alone. Help is available virtually and in-person. Contact an SRC advisor by emailing advisor@src.edu or calling **1-800-degrees**. Visit src.edu to learn more. We can't wait to see you!

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