

Taking You Where You Want To Go

THE OFICE SPRING 2017

Transfer Education

How much do you really know about transferring credits?

Are you a tech addict?

Find out how your obsession can become an in-demand career.

Spoon River College Foundation

A look back at what your donations accomplished in 2016.

Commercial Driver Training

Learn about the program that can get you on the road, earning money in as little as four weeks.

Message from the President, **Curt Oldfield**

Each of the 58 years that Canton Community College and Spoon River College have been open to students has been unique. This year is no exception. The articles you will read are designed to provide you with information about the educational opportunities at Spoon River College.

Momentum is building for Spoon River College, demonstrated by a new strategic plan, new career and technical degrees and certificates. working to complete construction on the Multi-Purpose Building in Canton, partnering to provide student housing, and an increased emphasis on student learning and success.

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 strive to help anyone looking to learn something new and expand their knowledge. This knowledge could come from one of our career and technical education programs. a transfer program designed to lead to a baccalaureate degree, a continuing education course that provides personal enrichment or workforce skills, or adult education courses aimed to help a student earn his or her GFD

If you need to upgrade your skills, develop a new career or prepare for



a four-year degree, choose Spoon River College. We are constantly working to meet the academic goals of each student and to help every student be successful.

Spoon River College is proud to be a community partner and looks forward to helping enrich the lives of individuals and the communities we serve.



On the cover:

Josh Staley of Canton just graduated with certificates in Computer and Network Technician, Cyber Security, and Enterprise Computer Network Specialist.

Staley, who completed his 8-week internship at a local hospital is a self-proclaimed "night owl" who likes fixing things.

"Josh will do well. He's good in the field and good with hardware," says Dean Clary, Computer Information Systems instructor.

bridge

The Bridge is published by Spoon River College and distributed to the residents of Illinois Community College District #534. Questions about Spoon River College programs and services described in this publication can be directed to 1-800-DEGREES (1-800-334-7337).

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Mission

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.

Spoon River College 23235 N. County Highway 22 Canton, IL 61520

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PROGRAMS



COMPUTER INFORMA-TION SYSTEMS

Techy? Enjoy dissecting computers? CIS classes are for you. You'll learn skills that make you attractive to prospective employers!

COMMERCIAL DRIVER TRAINING

Find out how you can be jobready in as little as four weeks!

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PROGRAM LIST

A complete, handy list of all our programs. Hang it up on your refrigerator!

PEOPLE



ALUMNI PROFILE

How Trenton Ellis's "ah-ha!" moment brought him to a career in higher education.

ALUMNI PROFILE

What has Chase Geeseman been up to in Philadelphia, PA?

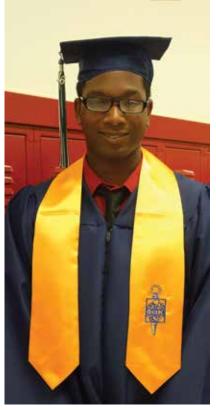
INSTRUCTOR PROFILES

Michael Maher and Penny Cozart: who they are and why they were chosen by students to win awards.

EMPLOYEE PROFILES

Lesa Fuller and Adam Dalton: excellent examples of SRC students and alumni.

OTHER FEATURES



TRANSFER PREP

Do you know the next steps for transferring once you graduate from SRC?

SRC FOUNDATION

Find out how your generosity helped Spoon River College in 2016.

OUTREACH SERVICES: OVERVIEW

Are you looking for professional development? Training? Just plain fun? Check out our Community Outreach Centers.

Transferring:

Do you know everything you need to know?

Are you attending Spoon River College (SRC) with plans to transfer to a four-year school? Tuition at the university level is much higher, so taking two years of courses at SRC will save you money and lessen your student loan debt.

We encourage you to look at the following options to help make your transfer a smooth transition. Your SRC advisor is always available to discuss the benefits of each option.

Option 1: Earn an Associate in Arts (AA) or an Associate in Science (AS) degree at Spoon River College (64 hours)

SRC highly recommends that most transfer students earn their AA degree or AS degree. By completing 64 hours of course work at SRC, students have met the general education core curriculum set up by the state of Illinois and their courses transfer as a whole "package."

SRC participates in the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI), which is a state-wide agreement between community colleges and 4-year institutions in the state of Illinois. Students are encouraged to work with their SRC advisor when selecting these IAI courses to make sure they are satisfying all the necessary coursework to graduate.

Option 2: Complete the Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Core Curriculum (IAI GECC) before transferring (38-41 hours)

If you do not plan on getting a degree at Spoon River College, you should at least consider staying long enough to complete the Illinois Articulation General Education Core Curriculum.

These courses total around 38-41 hours and are lower division general education courses that transfer to four-year colleges and universities in Illinois. This option would also benefit students who are transferring to non-IAI colleges and universities. What's the difference be-

tween completing an associate's degree and not completing? If you transfer without an associate's degree, transfer institutions will review individual course-to-course equivalency instead of taking all

your courses as a "package." Talk with your SRC advisor to determine what classes to take while you are here.

30-Hour Rule

If you transfer a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit from SRC to a four-year college or university that is an IAI participant, you have the option of completing the IAI GECC at the transfer school. If you complete an AA or AS degree at SRC, you will automatically meet IAI requirements.

Perhaps you are unsure of what school you will be transferring to, but do know what your major will be. If this is the case, visit the IAI website (itransfer.org) to look at coursework recommended for specific majors. Visit the SRC website (src.edu ... Student Services ... Transfer Out) for additional IAI resources.

Option 3: Select courses at Spoon River College that meet the general education and major requirements at your transfer college or university

Regardless of how long you plan on attending SRC, if your ultimate goal is to transfer, then you need to work closely with your SRC advisor, along with an advisor at your transfer school. If you are in a certain specialized major or are transferring to a non-IAI school, then you will need to be extra vigilant about what courses to take to ensure a smooth transition.

Dr. Win Htwe's Physical Science 100 course is one you might take if you are planning to earn your AA or AS degree at Spoon River College.

> Here, students Garrett Welker, Boston Gillette, and Blythe Latimer gather with Dr. Htwe for an experiment.

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ALUMNI PROFILE

Trenton Ellis: A path toward brighter possibilities

"I was clueless, and I had no idea I was clueless," said Dr. Trenton Ellis, referring to his time at SRC as a first generation student. "In hindsight it's terrifying how lost I was regarding the opportunity and importance of higher education because of how close I came to giving up on col-

Ellis didn't give up. He graduated from SRC in '05, went on to earn a BA and a MA in Sociology from WIU, and by 2015 had a PhD from South Dakota State University.

Ellis said it was a sociology class taught by Professor Michael Maher at Spoon River College that provided him with his "ah-ha!" moment.

"I realized that higher education would only work for me if I studied something that I found intellectually rewarding and meaningful in terms of impact on the lives of others," said Ellis. "Professor Maher's class and sociology - satisfied these criteria. Sociology offered an opportunity to enrich my existing interest in understanding humans and their relations. The idea that I could study society, including social problems, and translate it into a vocation was an attractive investment for me."

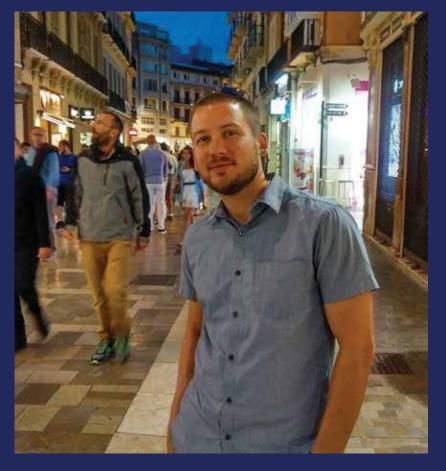
He now calls Spearfish, South Dakota home after a temporary appointment as an assistant professor at Black Hills State University turned into a tenure-track position.

Ellis, whose area of expertise is rural communities, said "a serendipitous sequence of events" led him to Spearfish and to BHSU, both of which he loves.

"BHSU is a rural campus in the Northern Black Hills, and both are a great fit for my professional and personal interests. I can study rural issues and discuss them with students, and I enjoy working with students who have spent most of their lives in rural communities."

When not in the classroom, Ellis can be found mountain biking, playing music, cooking, hanging with friends, and doing construction projects on the home he shares with wife of 6-1/2 years, Kathleen. He also admits to a healthy addiction to podcasts, his favorites being Planet Money and Radiolab.

"I'm thankful SRC was a place where I could work through the meaning of higher education for my future. I still had an uncertain understand-



ing of what I "wanted to do" after leaving SRC, but I was certainly building a path toward brighter possibilities."

Ellis's advice for students? "Always challenge the way you see the world and be open to other perspectives. This is incredibly difficult for all of us, but necessary for building a healthier society."



Students Mark Matkovich and Jon Wages work on the monitor mounting brackets for the class Snapper Arcade game project.



The completed Snappers Arcade game once the CIS class was finished building it, and Tracy Snowman's art students were finished painting it.



Faculty members Penny Cozart and Rebecca Sherwood enjoy a moment of play.

Computer Information Systems (CIS): **New Certificates for Fall Semester**

Are you a hacker? A gamer? Do you love to take things apart and put them back together? Our Computer Information Systems program can help you turn your

hobbies into workforce skills!

Spoon River College rolled out four new computer information system certificates in the fall 2016: computer and network technician, enterprise computer network specialist, server administrator, and cyber

"Our goal is to maintain relevancy in our programs," said Brad O'Brien, dean of career and workforce education. "With the current and future demands for jobs." in the computer information systems industry, these new certificates were a perfect fit."

Each can typically be completed in one year, and each includes the same three to four introductory classes in operating systems, hardware concepts, programming and/or networking.

"They're stackable. Once students complete one certificate, such as the network technician, they would only have to take one to three more classes to complete another certificate, and so on," said Dean Clary, director of technology services and a CIS instructor.

Employment opportunities include work as computer support technicians, network administrators and network engineers, system administrators, and security specialists.

Clary believes the cyber security certificate will become the most popular, and it's backed up by data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which reports an expected 18 percent growth through the year 2024, as well as research that found well over half of most companies (and federal agencies) have already experienced some sort of breach and continue to feel vulnerable to future attacks.



Instructor Dean Clary shows student Chris Brown a possible option for one of the Snappers Arcade game controllers.

The guick completion time not only means a faster entry into the workforce, it also makes the certificates a good fit for someone who may already have a degree - and even a job - but wants the knowledge and skills the classes offer without a lengthy time commitment.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Following Up with **Chase Geeseman**

Moving to Philadelphia to start a career in IT takes courage. But Chase Geeseman is doing well, and he even has a word of advice for students interested in a career path like his.

Two days after graduating with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Computer Information Systems and certificates in Computer Forensics and Computer Information Technology, Chase Geeseman of Cuba was Philadelphia, PA bound, where he had four job interviews already lined up.

Geeseman accepted employment as a customer service representative for ERT, a leading cloud platform solutions provider, and nine months later he's enjoying the job while getting valuable experience that will aid in his long-term career goal of being either in systems administration or security.

He has this advice for those interested in an IT career. "Work on your soft skills along with your technical ones. It's easy to think that networking and making connections isn't important, but it can be the difference between landing the job and being passed



"Some people just want the know-how, like computer hobbyists or those exploring opportunities for side jobs in PC repair," said Clary. People like Chris Brown, who already has a bachelor's degree (and a job), but recently completed a special projects course in computer hardware taught by Clary.

"Education is always good, plus I enjoy technology and want to stay up-to-date on the latest advances," said Brown. "A big plus to the CIS program here is that the instructors all work in the IT department. They have years of hands-on experience."

And for those who dream of developing the next greatest video game?

"I can't promise that these certificates will help them do that, but I can promise that they will learn the skills to run their games faster and better," Clary said.

Besides the new certificates, Spoon River College also offers certificates in computer forensics and in computer information technology, as well as an associate in applied science degree.



From left to right: Instructor Chad Bent, student Chase Geeseman, student Brendan Glass, Instructor Dean Clary, student Chris Brown.









In 2016, our donors were

Your shell-flessness allowed us to:

- Create 9 new permanent scholarship funds
- Surpass the \$2.5 million mark in our endowment for the first time
- Award over \$75,000 in scholarships to local students who needed or deserved a helping hand
- Secure an on-campus housing option for future SRC students
- Raise over \$16,000 with the 24-hour #GivingSPOONday campaign
- Fund 4 grants to SRC faculty and staff members for new, innovative approaches to education
- Support numerous student and community programs
- Outfit classrooms with new technology
- Begin renovations to the Patricia A. Hoeft Russell Learning Resource Center
- · Begin to get back in touch with alumni
- Purchase mini-buses for student/activity use
- Contribute \$500 to the Canton Disaster Recovery Fund



"turtley" awesome!

But to help our students and communities in 2017, your support is cru-shell.

Reduced state funding and the rising costs of education mean that our students need your support more than ever!

To learn more about how you can help change a student's life for good, or to learn more about the SRC Foundation and all we do, visit http://www.src.edu/foundation. or call (309) 649-6260.



Spoon River College and SRC Foundation Scholarships Available for the 2017-2018 Academic Year

Spoon River College scholarship applications are currently being accepted for students who will be attending Spoon River College during the 2017-18 academic year.

Applications will be accepted until March 15, 2017, and the required forms are available at www.src.edu/scholarships. Applicants must complete the scholarship application, complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), and submit their transcripts. This process is required for all scholarships.

"The best part about our process is that a student need only apply once to be considered for all SRC Foundation scholarships." said Colin Davis. Executive Director for the SRC Foundation. "The application is a one-stop-shop for any student who may fit the criteria for one or more scholarships."

As prospective applicants are required to have completed a current FAFSA before being eligible, they can also receive other types of financial aid in addition to schol-

"Many students are pleasantly surprised to find that they can receive both a scholarship and other sources of revenue such as Pell Grants or Work Study," said Missy Wilkinson, Dean of Student Services.

This year, the Foundation will be providing over 100 scholarships to students of all ages, traditional and non-traditional, new or returning, full or part-time, and in a variety of academic pursuits.

For more information, contact Colin Davis at colin.davis@src.edu or contact any Spoon River College advisor at (309) 647-4645.



Spoon River College Faculty Association (SRCFA) President Joe Clemens presents Kylie Bohanan of Cuba with the Bonnie Stine SRCFA Scholarship.







Spoon River College Office of Community Outreach

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 offer a variety of programs to help us meet our mission.

Professional Development & Licensure

Many professions require continuing education and/or certification in a specific topic area. We are here to help you advance towards your professional goals! We offer Food Service Certification, CPDUs for Teachers, Real Estate Continuing Education, Pharmacy Technician Training, EMT-Paramedic, Healthcare Observation Hours and more.

Personal Development

Looking for something fun to do? We offer a variety of programs throughout the year that might meet vour interest. These classes do not include tests, homework or commitment beyond attendance and participation. Some classes include: Digital Photography, Gardening, Cooking, Sewing, Ukulele, iPad, Genealogy, Social Media and others.

Technology & Computer Skills

We offer a variety of short-term technology classes to help you advance your skills. Sample topics include Basic Computers, Introduction to the Internet, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and more. Introductory as well as advanced level courses are available.

Workforce Training

Are you looking to provide customized training for your business? Let us help you make your business the best it can be! Our commitment to providing a total training solution means we'll partner with you to create customized programs that are central to your company's success. This includes specialized curricula, flexible class schedules, and options such as web-based and computer-based training.

Summer Youth

Looking for something for your school age child to do? How about sending them to college? SRC offers summer youth programming each summer. Some of our most popular offerings have been Art, Cooking, Science, Digital Photography and Spanish.

Programs for age 50 and over

If you are over the age of 50 then we hope you will be interested in the programs we have to offer. Our most popular program is the Retirees Learning Institute. This event, not just for those retired, takes place at several locations each year. More than 200 are served each year through these institutes created for those age 50 and over! This event is a time to

come together, to share with friends, and to learn something new. The day's events feature educational sessions, resource fair, luncheon, prizes and more!

Career Exploration & Training

Career Training opportunities are available for you. Whether you are currently unemployed, looking to enhance skills for future employment, or interested in learning a new career we are here to support you. We offer workshops, job fairs and also provide WorkKeys testing to assist you with Career Exploration.

Online Education

We offer online classes that are convenient and work with YOUR schedule. Hundreds of courses are available for you to choose from. Online courses are informative, fun, convenient, and highly interactive. Some of our most popular online classes include Medical Billing and Coding, Speed Spanish, QuickBooks, Keyboarding, Creating Web Pages, Accounting Fundamentals, Grant Writing and more.

To find out more, visit us online at www.src.edu/outreach.

FACULTY PROFILES

Penny Cozart

Patient. Enthusiastic. Professional. Respectful. Approachable. Fair.

These words were used to describe nursing instructor Penny Cozart when she received the 2016 Illinois Community College Trustees Association Outstanding Faculty Member Award for teaching excellence.

"She loves her job and it shows, putting out nothing but positive vibes and fostering an environment that is conducive to learning" wrote one student on the nomination form.

Cozart does love her job. And that's because she loves both nursing and teaching.

"I love the moment when students 'get it,' especially if it's something they have been struggling with," said Cozart. "It's a great feeling to see their excitement and to know that I was able to help get them past a rough spot."

Along with teaching at both the Canton and Macomb campuses through the week, Cozart works every other weekend as a nursing supervisor at a local hospital.

But when the scrubs come off and the students go home, Cozart's love and enthusiasm is reserved for her family. She and husband Rick have four children and five grandchildren and happily spend much of their free time with

Except on Friday nights. Friday night is date

"Usually we do dinner and a movie, but right now we're remodeling, so it's been more like dinner and a trip to Lowes," Cozart said.

As for the ICCTA Outstanding Faculty Award?

"I was honored to receive it, but I really don't think I'm doing anything special."

Except loving what she does.

And it shows.



Penny Cozart descends the stage during commencement after receiving the 2016 **Illinois Community College Trustees Association Outstanding Faculty Mem**ber Award for teaching excellence.

Michael Maher

Professor Michael Maher is Spoon River College's very own "sociologist at large," and it's a role he takes seriously. The recipient of the 2016 H. Truman Standard Award (for the second time!), he's known for his high-energy style of teaching (which may include leaping atop a chair or desk to make a point) that gets his students' attention - and keeps it.

"You don't want to miss his class because you want to hear what he's going to say next!" is a common statement heard from his students.

Nearing his 20th year of teaching at SRC. Maher's focus is on social problems and inequality issues as they relate to race and gender. Passionate and extremely knowledgeable about his subject matter, he has served as a guest lecturer in the Macomb community, including at WIU and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

When not teaching, he likes attending folk music concerts and reading (most likely a sociology-related book that will appear on a future class syllabus as required reading), and he's as much at home on a basketball court as he is in the classroom. In fact, he'll tell you that there

was a time when being on the court was pretty much all he cared about.

And then he went to college. A community college.

"Choosing a community college was one of the smartest decisions I ever made," Maher said. "When I graduated from high school, I had no idea what I was going to do or what I was interested in. And that's the beautiful thing about going to college - you don't know what you're going to find out that you don't know."

What would he like his students to understand about a college education?

"Education is a vehicle to a better career and overall quality of life, but education means so much more than a career path or income. Education leads to thinking, informed decision making, questioning, and changing our mind. I want my students to be professionally successful, but more than that, I want my students to discover what they are passionate about, what they care about, and what really matters to them."



Michael Maher was the recipient of the **Illinois Community College Trustees Association Outstanding Faculty Award** in 2003, and the H. Truman Standard Award in both 2006 and 2016.

Commercial Driver Training

You could be job-ready in as little as four weeks!

Our Commercial Driver Training (CDT) program was established in 1995, and when Bob Walter came to teach it, he brought eight years of teaching experience and 25 years of truck driving experience with him. When his wife Vicky began teaching in 2002, she brought 22 years of truck driving experience, including experience as a dispatcher.

Along with learning the techniques and skills necessary for safe and efficient operation of tractor-trailer vehicles including hazmat training, federal regulations, and logging and trip planning, students get the wisdom born of real-life experience. That's important, because as Bob says, "There are some things you can't learn from a book."

"One of the most important things I've learned over the years is how to reduce risk, using both mental and physical strategies," said Bob. "How the human eye sees (and how FAR it sees), understanding the physics of a motor in motion and the basics of chassis set (movement of mass between the axles), how traction is managed (You only have so much of it!), and the perceptual skills needed to overcome our own human limitations; these are things learned with experience."

Walter notes that they teach using the Smith System, a defensive driving program that focuses on being proactive rather than reactive.

"All of our instructors are Smith System certified, and it's because we do teach 'the system'

that many of our top employer partners like to hire our drivers."

The program at SRC has seen an increasing number of women, although Vicky Walter points out that "for decades, women on family farms have been driving tractors, combines, and big trucks."

"Many of the women who come through the program are nervous about doing what they term a 'man's job' and feel they have more to prove than the guys," said Vicky. "I tell them to believe in themselves. and that everybody has to start somewhere and this isn't a contest."

"I am proud to be both a female CDT instructor and a woman in trucking." said Vicky. "I hope when women come into our class and see a female instructor, it gives them a little more confidence and pride in the profession they have chosen."

Students have two options: the basic CDT certificate that can be completed in just

> four weeks (10 credit hours), and an extended 15-week (17 credit hours) certificate that includes an internship with one of the established trucking companies that partner with SRC.

Financial aid is available through Workforce Investment grants, Career Link,

CDT instructor Bob Walter prepares to accompany high school students as they try their hand at driving a big rig during the annual 10th Grade Career Day held at the **Canton Campus.**



Students of all ages opt for the CDT program for a variety of reasons. Heather Krohe (left) - who already has an associate degree from SRC, a BS in animal science from WIU, and a full-time job wanted to be able help out on her family's farm by driving the grain trucks to the elevator.

> Jasen Fuller (right) of Farmington - former minister and Advanced Medical Transport employee - completed the 4-week program and found employment he loves on a farm.

the Illinois Migrant Council, Illinois Department of Human Services, and the Illinois Veteran and National Guard. Visit http://www.src.edu/academics/career/cdt/Pages/default.aspx for more information about these grants.

Illinois Veteran and National Guard grants are also available through Spoon River College. In addition, some companies offer tuition reimbursement.

For more information about those, contact Rick Duvendack at 309-649-6267.



This young man got the chance to see how it felt to drive a BIG truck during the College's annual 10th Grade Career Day.

"Here's the thing: in just four weeks, a person can gain the skills needed to start earning \$30,000-\$35,000 a year driving locally, and \$35,000-\$45,000 a year if driving over the road," Vicky said. "Once you get some experience, you can make much, much, more than that."

Bob noted that a few of his firstyear drivers at DOT Foods have made above \$50,000.

"How else can you make that much money through a training program that short?"

The CDT program facility is located at 1240 S. 4th Avenue in Canton. For more information, call (309) 647-2794 or email bob.walter@src.edu.



CDT instructors Bob Walter, Vicky Walter, and Dale Young. Young used his veteran's benefits to complete the program after retiring from the Air Force because he wanted to find a part-time job. He had no idea that part-time job would end up being be as an instructor in the CDT program!

EMERGING PROGRAMS

Two new programs are in the works at Spoon River College: **Logistics** and **Culinary Management**. "We are constantly evaluating our programs' relevancy in the real working world. When we see a workforce need, whenever possible, we put a program in place that can fill those jobs," said Dean of Career & Workforce Education Brad O'Brien.

Logistics and Culinary Management are currently going through approval process with SRC governance and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). If approved, the programs will be offered in the Fall 2017 semester.

Logistics

Logistics at Spoon River College would be offered in coordination with our Commercial Driver Training program.

Said O'Brien, "Research within our market area has shown there is a need for truck drivers. Specifically drivers with a background or training in logistics – the organization, housing, moving, and transportation of goods."



A few examples of careers in the field of logistics include:

- Shipping & Receiving Manager
- Warehouse Supervisor
- Conveyor Operators & Tender
- Freight & Stock Mover
- Production, Planning, & Expediting Clerk
- Transportation, Storage, & Distribution Manager

Culinary Management

A certificate in Culinary Management would nest within the Small Business Management program. It's designed for individuals who aspire to work in restaurant management or institutional food service management.

"We plan to partner with the YWCA Canton to offer this program, and classes would be held in their building," explained O'Brien. "We hope

to foster entreneurships as well as create strong candidates for existing restaurants to hire."

A few examples of careers in the field of culinary management include:

- Restaurant Owner
- Restaurant Manager
- Food Service Manager



EMPLOYEE PROFILES

Lesa Fuller

Lesa Fuller applied for a position at Spoon River College after she and her family moved from Green Rock to Farmington. She got the job, she's getting her associate degree, husband Jasen got his certificate (and a job!) after completing the Commercial Driver Training program, and son Dominik is also getting his associate degree.

"I was looking for a job and got so much more," said Lesa, whose two younger sons will also be SRC students soon.

Students, visitors, and co-workers are greeted by Lesa's smiling face as they walk in the door, and those who call can "hear" her smile through the phone. She loves working the information desk, or maybe she just loves telephones since it was a phone call that brought her and Jasen together.

"He was trying to call another girl and dialed my number by mistake. When I started to hang up after telling him he had a wrong number,

he said 'Wait! You sound cute, can you talk awhile?' We've now been together 30 years and married for 27. It's weird how things work out!"

A favorite pastime for Lesa and Jasen is attending Renaissance Fairs in full costume. Other favorites include her family, iced coffee, and the 5-pack of green and purple highlighters that help keep her calendar organized.

Lesa loves learning, and when faced with writing a homework essay, she recalls advice from a past professor who told her "to jump in feet first, make a big splash and clean up the mess later."

"I still follow that advice when I write" said Lesa, who has a secret dream (not so secret now!) to become a published author.

Best life lesson she has learned? "There is a season to everything. Whatever is going on right now will move along in time."



Lesa Fuller and family. From left to right: Jasen, Dominik, Deven, Lesa, Logan.

Adam Dalton

Adam Dalton's official job title is coordinator of online services, but unofficially he's known as the Web Master - he built the Spoon River College website (twice!) and is the go-to guy for all things webpage based.

Adam once thought about being a marine biologist, but by the time he was a college student, he knew that computer information systems was the road he wanted to take. He graduated from SRC in 2005 with an Associate of Science degree and an Associate of Applied Science degree in Computer Information Systems and Electronic Design, then earned a B.S. in Management Information Systems from Bradley University in 2007. His part-time SRC job as the web master became full-time soon after, and he now manages a multitude of tasks related to the College's online presence.

"The field of 'do everything' web designers has changed radically since I first began," Adam

said. "It's now all about specialized pieces that all work together for the final product."

On the weekends between May and October, Adam can be found outside in the SRC parking lot teaching the free motorcycle rider safety course offered by the University of Illinois. And when not doing that or web master wizardry, you'll find him hanging out with wife Kara (SRC '07) and son Jax, who arrived this past June.

Three things you didn't know about Adam: he "absolutely can't live without sunglasses on during the day," he hates when asked his opinion only to have it ignored, and he would love to spend time on the International Space Station.

Dalton credits his time as a SRC student as being "a critical focusing point in my life," and has this advice for students: "SRC has many resources and services available to help students succeed. Use them!"



Adam Dalton's monitor displays the new Spoon River College website he created. The new site launched in August of 2016.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Transfer Programs

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

Agriculture

Art

Biological Science

Business

Chemistry

Communications

Criminal Justice

Dram

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 Programs

Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degrees

Agricultural Business Management Computer Information Systems Diesel & Power Systems Technology Health Information Management Natural Resources & Conservation Small Business Management

Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)

Nursing

Certificates

Agricultural Business Management

Agricultural Mechanics

Agricultural Precision Technology

Agricultural Production

Conservation Ecology

Local Food Production

Ornamental Horticulture

Sustainable Food Production

Commercial Driver Training

Basic Commercial Driving Commercial Driver Training Preventive Maintenance

Certificates (continued)

Computer Information Systems

Computer Forensics

Computer Information Technology Computer and Network Technician

Cyber Security

Enterprise Computer Network Specialist

Server Administrator

Early Childhood Development

Early Childhood Education

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Health Information Management

Medical Assistant

Medical Insurance/Billing

Medical Records

Medical Transcription

Medical Unit Secretary

Natural Resources & Conservation

Natural Resources & Conservation

Nursina

Nursing Assistant Practical Nursing



Certificates (continued)

Small Business Management

Business Plan Entrepreneurship

Customer Service

Entrepreneurship

Small Office Accounting

Supervision

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Welding Operator Advanced Welding

Cooperative Programs

Dental Hygiene Paramedicine Radiologic Technology

Respiratory Care

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