



Case for Support



Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation

Support for SRJC's Shone Farm and Agricultural Education

Located in the heart of one of the most beautiful and productive agricultural regions in the nation, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department at Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) reflects the bounty and diversity of Sonoma County agriculture and natural resources. Founded in 1969, the department has grown to be one of the largest community college agriculture programs in California with more than 3,000 students enrolled annually across 10 different programs offering a variety of certificates, associated degrees and transfer majors.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Department also offers students a unique hands-on field laboratory to enhance their classroom experience. SRJC's Shone Farm is a 365-acre learning laboratory with farmland, pasture, vineyards, and riparian forest in the heart of the Russian River Valley. Shone Farm includes 90-acres of world-class wine grapes, 12 acres of sustainably-farmed vegetables, 4 acres of fruit and olive orchards, 60 acres of irrigated pasture for cattle, sheep and horses, 120 acres of forest, and 39 acres of multi-use land. Shone Farm serves the department as an outdoor learning lab and includes a bonded winery and craft brewery facility. The wines for Shone Farm Winery are commercially produced at the teaching winery under the guidance of a professional winemaker and with the help of SRJC students.

SRJC is uniquely positioned to train and educate the next generation of students to advance sustainable agriculture and natural resource management in Sonoma County and beyond.

Students

SRJC Agriculture and Natural Resources students are prepared for career advancement, entry into professional level employment, or transfer to a four-year university. Each year, over 100 degrees and certificates are awarded to students in the Agriculture and Natural Resources department. Certificate and associate degree students are highly sought after by employers in the region. Students pursue careers as wine makers, tasting room staff, veterinary technicians, landscape designers, vineyard managers, farmers, and horticulturists. Many students transfer to complete four-year degrees in agriculture and related disciplines at institutions like UC Davis, Cal State Fresno, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UC Merced, Cal State Chico and Cal State Humboldt.

Ag&NR Student Headcount	3024
Full-Time Equivalent Students	410
Average Age	31
% Sonoma County Residents	80
% Female	60
% Latino	23
% First-Generation	24
Active Faculty	74
Course Sections Offered	151
Degrees/Certificates Conferred	100

Programs

Agribusiness: This program trains students in the basic principles and techniques of agricultural sales and marketing, and prepares them to analyze and utilize market data to make sound business and financial decisions.

Animal Science: Preparation for more than 500 different jobs related to animal agriculture focused in animal selection, health, nutrition, reproduction, processing, and sale of livestock; focuses on the science, business and art of the production of beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, poultry, sheep and swine.

Environmental Horticulture: Students build skills in the functional, aesthetic, and environmentally-sound creation and maintenance of urban, rural and natural landscapes at SRJC's greenhouse and Nursery or in a practical landscape project on the campus grounds.

Floral Design: Prepares students for work in the floral industry or for their own personal enjoyment; wide range of topics designed to give students training in weddings, corsages, flower care and handling, silk, dried, and seasonal flowers, plus designs for everyday and special occasions.

Hemp Agriculture: Provides a comprehensive foundation for students seeking positions in the hemp industry that propagate, grow, and market a variety of products for consumers, commercial enterprises, or the wholesale market; the program delivers both lecture and hands-on laboratory experience in topics that apply to production of any crop contextualized to apply to specific aspects of the hemp plant.

Natural Resource Management: The beautiful Russian River Watershed at Shone Farm provides students with an outdoor learning laboratory for exploration, instruction and demonstration. Facilities include 120-acres of forest and a campground where students learn about ecology, forestry, watershed management, and prepare for transfer to four-year colleges or for jobs in the outdoor recreation industry.

Sustainable Agriculture: At the forefront of sustainable farming practices, the program recognizes the opportunities for organic and sustainable agricultural production in today's growing marketplace. Students are inspired to become innovative problem-solvers tackling environmental challenges and producers of premium niche products.

Veterinary Technician: Students completing this program meet state requirements for the Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVT) examination in California. This diverse field includes workplace settings in private veterinary hospitals, specialty care centers, research facilities, animal shelters, government agencies, livestock management facilities, and zoos.

Viticulture: The program focuses on growing grapes for winemaking, vineyard seasonal practices, vineyard management, and the complex relationships between grape growing and wine production. Students are also introduced to enology, the science of wine fermentation and winery operations.

Wine Studies: Four areas of concentration are offered: enology, wine marketing, wine cellar work, and wine hospitality and direct to consumer marketing . The program gives students a thorough understanding of wines produced locally, regionally, and internationally, an overview of sales and marketing and an introduction to chemistry and wine lab analysis.

Strategic Priorities

The SRJC Ag and Natural Resources Department has identified several priority areas of focus for the expansion and enhancement of educational opportunities and career preparation, all of which require financial contributions and participation from community supporters.

Student Enterprise Projects	Innovative student projects focused on production and commercialization of agricultural commodities or value-added products for sale in local markets. Example: Match funding for Shone Farm produce sent to SRJC food pantry, grown by students for students.
Student Internships	Stipends for hands-on work experience at Shone Farm in the fields, orchards, pasture, vineyards, forest or winery. Students create learning objectives with their instructor and work under the supervision and guidance of Shone Farm staff.
Pre-Collegiate Youth Outreach	Support for organization, promotion, and execution of High School Field Days at Shone Farm and SRJC sponsorship of local youth agriculture events, meant to engage younger students in relevant activities and industry and attract prospective students to the SRJC programs

Instructional Equipment and Supplies	<p>Equipment and supplies to support hands-on educational farming activities. Examples: landscape construction truck, tools, and trailer for student work crews serving low-income community clients; vehicle for farm tours and delivery operations; RTV for forest access by farm staff and student work crew</p>
Capital Improvements	<p>Farm facility upgrades and new construction to support agricultural education. Examples: construction of student quad in new instructional area and building/space naming opportunities</p>
Investment in Endowed Accounts	<p>Current endowed accounts supporting scholarships and programs include the Warren G. Dutton Endowment, the Steve Olson Outstanding Ag Scholar-Leader, the American AgCredit Endowment for the Future of SRJC Agriculture, and the new SRJC Shone Farm Agricultural Education Fund</p>

Naming Opportunities

Spaces detailed below may be reserved for naming with an outright gift, pledge, or irrevocable planned gift:

Space	Donation
Ag & NR Student Learning Center	\$500,000 RESERVED
Sustainable Agriculture Center	\$300,000 RESERVED
Tasting Room	\$100,000 RESERVED
Student Learning Center Quad	\$50,000 RESERVED
Plant Nursery	\$50,000
Ag/NR Department Offices Lecture	\$10,000
Classroom & Computer Lab	\$25,000
Classroom & Tissue Culture Lab Ag	\$25,000
Science Classroom	\$15,000
Staff Offices	\$10,000
Crush Pad & Winemaking Lab	\$25,000 RESERVED

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