



Greetings!,

It is with great pride that I announce the Community College League of California has selected Gaye LeBaron to receive its [Distinguished Alumni Award](#).

This prestigious award recognizes and honors the fine men and women whose attendance at a California community college helped them achieve their educational and professional goals and serve their communities.



When I first arrived in Sonoma County, everyone I spoke to told me I needed to meet Gaye. Often known as the historian of Sonoma County, she has made immeasurable contributions to the culture and history of our community as a reporter, columnist, historian, lecturer, SRJC instructor and

author during her 60-year career with The Press Democrat. We are grateful for to have an alumna like Gaye, who widely shares her affection and love for her alma mater, SRJC.

Gaye will be receiving the award at the League's Annual Convention on November 19th. If you have any memories of Gaye that you would like me to share with the audience, please send them to [alumni@santarosa.edu](mailto:alumni@santarosa.edu).

Best,

Dr. Frank Chong  
Superintendent/President

[Join Now](#)

## Upcoming Events

**SRJC Agstravaganza**  
*Celebrating John and Terri Balletto and raising funds for SRJC's ag programs*

Saturday, November 5th

[Register today](#)

[Bear Cub Athletics Calendar](#)

[More SRJC Events](#)

## New Alumni Benefit



### Free first session

Get in shape before the holidays with a free first session and 50% off your purchase of a heart rate monitor.

Check out the best one hour work out in the country at their new Coddington location.

To schedule, [email Dawn](#).

A valid SRJC alumni ID will be required when you arrive for your first session.

## Featured Alumna: Maria Banachowicz

Maria Banachowicz spoke very little English when she emigrated to the United States. But after spending one year at SRJC's Petaluma campus in the ESL (English as a Second Language) Program, Maria had developed the English skills to find employment on campus as an administrative assistant to the Vice President of the Petaluma Campus, Jane Saldana-Talley. This first job gave Maria the confidence and skills needed to advance her career.



Maria credits her educational and professional success to the nurturing and warm community she found at SRJC Petaluma.

Learn more about how Maria found her way at SRJC Petaluma.

[READ MORE](#)

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## What's Happening at SRJC

When is the last time you came back to campus to stroll through the ivy covered brick buildings and walk under the majestic oak trees? Here are plenty of opportunities to visit SRJC at all of our locations:

[Chamber Concert Series](#) - Various dates throughout the year

[Petaluma Film Series](#) - Every Wednesday through December

[Leaving Home](#) - Theatre Arts Performances - Various dates through October

[Horizons](#) - Discovering Pluto at the SRJC Planetarium - Various dates through September and October

[Arts & Lectures](#) - Free talks about various topics throughout September, October and November

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## Kudos to the Bear Cubs

### SRJC's Automotive Department Receives Industry Certification

Congratulations to SRJC's [automotive technology](#) program. The Automotive Technology program has received accreditation by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) as a certified Master Automotive Service Technician (MAST) training facility.



To achieve this recognition, SRJC's Automotive Technology program underwent rigorous evaluation by NATEF of nationally accepted standards of excellence in areas such as instruction, facilities, and equipment used.

NATEF accredits automobile, medium/heavy truck, collision repair and refinishing technology programs at secondary and post-secondary institutions. These programs meet industry-developed standards that result in students ready to enter the workforce or to continue their education. Congratulations to Cliff Norton, department chair,

and his team for their efforts.

### **SRJC Forensics Team Wins Tournament Championship**

Earlier this October, Santa Rosa Junior College hosted the 48th Annual Bear Cub Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament. Over 200 competitors and coaches from 18 junior college and university teams savored the sun and our beautiful campus.

SRJC captured the tournament championship in open division team parliamentary debate. The heated final focused on whether citizen victims in 9/11 should be able to sue foreign governments, balancing diplomatic issues with the need for justice. Congratulations Bear Cubs!

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## **Why I Give: Honoring a Community Leader and Firefighter**



When a loved one dies unexpectedly, family and friends often seek to honor their legacy to the community by establishing a named scholarship at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Mike Haberski, a 30 year member of the Petaluma Fire Department and leader in fire training in the North Bay, touched thousands of fire service personnel through his career at the Petaluma Fire Department, as President of the Sonoma-Marin Training Officers and as a Fire Instructor for SRJC. The community came together after his passing to establish the **Mike Haberski Memorial Scholarship** to help meet the financial needs of future students in the Firefighter I Academy at SRJC.

In addition to his position as Training Officer for Petaluma Fire, Mike spent upwards of 20 years training firefighters throughout Northern California as well as hundreds of recruits in the Firefighter I academy and students pursuing their Fire Technology degrees. Mike not only delivered quality instruction, but served as a positive influence in the lives of his students; a trait that was almost universal reflected in the feedback received on a regular basis. His passing at a far too early age is an enormous loss.

SRJC was honored to work with Mike's family, friends and the fire fighting community to establish the scholarship in his name. If you'd like to support the scholarship, please [make a gift online](#) and write 'Mike Haberski Scholarship' in the 'Please designate your gift' line.

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## **Explore the possibility of teaching at SRJC**

One of the reasons SRJC is often regarded as one of the best community colleges in California, if not the nation, is due to the quality of our faculty. In recent years, many great faculty have retired and SRJC is needing to replenish the adjunct faculty pools with high quality, talented individuals willing to teach on a part time basis.

Do you have what it takes to join the ranks? SRJC is holding it's first ever **Adjunct Faculty Recruitment Open House on Tuesday, November 1 at 5:30-7:30 p.m.** This will be an opportunity for candidates to explore teaching possibilities at SRJC and to meet our faculty and administrators to ask questions and get familiar with the hiring process. Format will include a brief panel discussion with reception to follow. [Please RSVP online.](#)



## ADJUNCT FACULTY RECRUITMENT OPEN HOUSE

**Tuesday, November 1, 2016**

**5:30PM - 7:30PM**

**SRJC Santa Rosa Campus • Bertolini Student Activity Center**

### **Explore the possibility of teaching at SRJC!**

**Meet our dedicated, talented faculty and committed administrators to ask questions and get familiar with the hiring process. Event will include a panel discussion where you can meet SRJC's President.**

**Free parking • Refreshments will be served**

**Who should attend?**

- Industry leaders and working professionals
- Recent college graduates
- High School Instructors
- College/University Professors
- College and High School Tutors

**We need you if you can teach:**

- Agriculture Business
- American Sign Language
- Business Administration
- Chemistry
- English/English as a second Language
- Health Sciences
- Industrial & Trade Technology
- Life Sciences
- Math
- Music
- Physics
- Public Safety
- Sociology
- ...and more

**Space is limited, so register by October 31: <http://tinyurl.com/teach-srjc>**

**For questions or more information, contact Sarah Hopkins, SRJC HR Director  
[shopkins@santarosa.edu](mailto:shopkins@santarosa.edu) or 707.527.4831**



Laura has taught at SRJC for the past 20 years and she says: "My greatest satisfaction is to teach students everything I know. I don't hold anything back. If you live with a philosophy like that you go to work happy, every day. I love my job!"

Besides sharing knowledge, Laura has collaborated with other faculty at SRJC to develop the Latin American Studies Program and has significantly revised existing courses and created new ones reflecting the history of Latin America. She has also mentored students in both the Puente and Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanista de Aztlán (MEChA) programs and served our SRJC community with all her gifts and talents.

[Read more about Laura's story](#) and learn how she ended up at SRJC.

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Santa Rosa Junior College Alumni & Friends Association

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