



ANNUAL REPORT

2025



FOR OUR COLLEGE, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR FUTURE...



Letter from the Board Chair & Executive Director

For more than a century, Santa Rosa Junior College has been woven into the fabric of Sonoma County as a welcoming place where students of every age, background, and purpose discover their potential and create brighter futures. Generation after generation, SRJC has shown how higher education changes lives and strengthens the communities we share.

The SRJC Foundation exists to carry that legacy forward. Our work ensures that every student who dreams of learning has access to the resources, support, and encouragement they need to succeed. Together with our donors and partners, we help open doors so that education remains within reach for all.

We are pleased to present the 2024–2025 Annual Report for the SRJC Foundation, with deep gratitude to our donors, alumni, community partners, Board, and staff. Your support ensures that every student who walks through SRJC's doors has the opportunity to transform their life and, in doing so strengthen the economic and social fabric of our region.

Across the country, higher education is at the center of national conversations about equity, access, and value. At SRJC, we see the value of higher education every day — in the graduate who becomes a nurse caring for our neighbors, the firefighter protecting our hillsides, the technician keeping small businesses running, and the first-generation college student whose degree changes the trajectory of an entire family. Through it all, SRJC remains focused on one enduring mission: to keep the doors of opportunity open for our students and our community.

The current climate calls on us to be attentive to students, families, and one another, and to create spaces where people can learn, engage, and do their best work. SRJC continues to serve as a public space for diverse perspectives and critical dialogue, where academic freedom and shared purpose guide our focus on student success.

In uncertain times, SRJC stands as a steady force, fueling our economy, preparing our workforce, and supporting families across Sonoma County. Our purpose is clear: to meet students where they are and support them as they move forward. When they're empowered to learn, lead, and bring their whole selves to the experience,

they thrive — and our community grows stronger with them.

The SRJC Foundation is proud to serve as the bridge between the college and the community. We work to ensure that financial barriers never stand in the way of student dreams and to build resources for scholarships, programs, and facilities that reflect the excellence of our faculty, staff, and students.

Highlights of the past year include:

- Raising almost \$15 million in contributions to support students and programs and realized a gain of over \$7.5 million in investment portfolio returns.
- Awarding more than \$6 million in scholarships to students from the Foundation's endowment, non-endowed fund, and the Doyle Trust scholarship.
- Receiving two estate gifts totaling more than \$6.5 million, a powerful reminder of how estate gifts help secure SRJC's ability to transform lives for decades to come.

These achievements are possible because of you: our donors, alumni, and community members who believe in SRJC and the power of education to change lives. Together, we are preparing students for careers, for transfer, and for lives of purpose and contribution. Together, we are strengthening the economy, serving our communities, and nurturing the next generation of leaders.

Thank you for standing with us and investing in the future of Sonoma County.

With gratitude,



Suzy Marzalek

Suzy Marzalek Board Chair



Sarah Laggos

Sarah Laggos Executive Director

From Challenge to Confidence Elizabeth Macias Lopez's Journey at SRJC

For Elizabeth Macias Lopez, Santa Rosa Junior College was more than just a school; it was a great opportunity to rebuild her life. Born in Chula Vista, California, but raised in Mexico, Elizabeth grew up facing constant obstacles: financial hardship, bullying, and experiences of abuse that forced her to change schools several times. Despite everything, she never let those circumstances define her future.

In her senior year of high school, she made one of the most important decisions of her life: to move to the United States to live with her aunts and finish her studies. It wasn't easy. She arrived in a completely different educational system, facing the challenge of attending classes in a language she didn't speak fluently. However, with the support of her teachers and classmates, she managed to adapt and learn English while working as a housekeeper to help cover her expenses.

When the time came to apply to four-year universities and community colleges, Elizabeth felt both excited and afraid. With no financial support from her family, she faced the process entirely on her own. In that moment, Santa Rosa Junior College became her greatest hope. From the very beginning, counselors and financial aid staff guided and supported her in completing her enrollment and gaining access to key resources, including the option of living in Polly Hall, SRJC's new on campus housing.

Despite receiving scholarships, they didn't cover all her expenses or allow her to continue supporting her family in Mexico, so she had to take on two jobs. But the challenges didn't end there. After her first year at SRJC, difficult family circumstances led her to make the painful decision to separate completely from them. This separation caused her profound emotional and physical harm.

Throughout her time at SRJC, Elizabeth has been supported by a dedicated network of staff and mentors who guided her through some of the most challenging moments of her college journey. In moments of crisis—when she was struggling emotionally, financially, and personally—SRJC truly became her lifeline. Her academic advisors, the financial aid team, and the Student Health Center helped her remain in school, regain stability, and rebuild her confidence. SRJC Student Financial Services team members including Liz Perez, Lauren



Coburn, and Alejandrina Ochoa played an essential role in helping her navigate financial and academic obstacles with steady encouragement and compassion. Their collective guidance not only strengthened her resilience but also shaped the confidence and determination that define her experience at SRJC. One class in particular shaped Elizabeth's future direction: her psychology course during her very first semester. That class sparked a deep interest in understanding people, building connections, and finding ways to support others. It inspired her academic journey and strengthened her desire to pursue a career centered on human connection and care. From a young age, Elizabeth has been characterized by her desire to help others, even if it meant putting her own needs on hold. This calling inspired her to choose a career in Human Resources Management, to support people in their most difficult moments and bridge the gap between them and the opportunities they need. For her, every experience, good or bad, offers a lesson, and all of them have guided her toward her purpose: to serve, connect with, and support others on their journeys.

Elizabeth transferred to CSU Fullerton to start the Spring 2026 semester, something she once considered impossible. If her younger self could see her now, she would hardly believe it. She acknowledges that this achievement is not only hers, but also that of the donors, professors, counselors, and staff at SRJC who believed in her even when she herself doubted her own needs.

Voices of Gratitude Reflections from Scholarship Recipients



Scholarships have always been at the heart of the SRJC Foundation's mission. Thanks to the generosity of our dedicated donors and the enduring legacy of Frank P. Doyle and Polly O'Meara Doyle, the Foundation offers over 600 scholarships, including the Doyle Scholarship. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, more than 92% of applicants received one or more awards, with the Foundation distributing over \$6 million in scholarships. These funds provide crucial support, allowing students to remain enrolled, stay focused on their education, and pursue their dreams. We are grateful to our donors, whose support opens doors for students and strengthens our entire community.

I am truly honored and grateful to be selected as a recipient of this SRJC scholarship. Your generous support is making a meaningful difference in my life, allowing me to continue my education while balancing the responsibilities of being a dedicated student and a single mother to an autistic child. This scholarship will help alleviate financial burdens, enabling me to focus on my studies as I complete my final semester at SRJC and prepare to transfer to San Francisco State University in the fall. My goal of pursuing a career in neonatal nursing is deeply personal, as I am committed to advocating for and supporting children and families in medical settings. Your generosity brings me one step closer to achieving that dream. Thank you for believing in students like me and for investing in my future. I will carry your kindness forward by dedicating my career to making a positive impact on the lives of others. **Brianna Vaccaro**

I am deeply grateful for your generosity and support through this scholarship. Your investment in my education is not only helping me achieve my academic and career goals but also inspiring me to give back to my community. As a first-generation college student, this scholarship alleviates financial stress and allows me to focus on my studies and my aspiration to transfer to a four-year university. Your kindness reminds me of the importance of helping others, and I hope to one day pay this forward by making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Armando Galarza Zavala

Voices of Gratitude Reflections from Scholarship Recipients

I cannot fully express how much gratitude I feel for being chosen as a recipient of this scholarship. Growing up, I watched my mother work tirelessly to provide for us, and I learned early on that education is the key to creating a better future. However, the financial burden of pursuing higher education has been a constant challenge, and there have been moments when I worried that my dreams might be out of reach. Your generosity has given me not just financial relief, but also hope and reassurance that my hard work is worth it. This scholarship allows me to focus more on my studies and continue my journey toward earning my degree in criminal justice. Knowing that there are people like you who believe in students like me is truly inspiring, and I hope to one day pay it forward by helping others in the same way you have helped me. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your generosity, kindness, and belief in my future. **Cristal Perez Torres**



I am honored to be selected as a recipient of an SRJC Scholarship, and I sincerely appreciate your generosity. This support not only helps alleviate some of the financial burden of my education but also reinforces my confidence in the path I've chosen. I am passionate about designing robotic prosthetics to improve people's lives, and this scholarship brings me one step closer to that goal. It means a lot to know that there are people who believe in and invest in students striving to make a difference. Thank you for making opportunities like this possible.

James Schott

I am honored and grateful to have been selected as the recipient of the scholarship. Your generosity is a financial blessing and is very much appreciated. This scholarship will significantly ease the financial burdens of my education, allowing me to focus more on my studies and personal growth. I am committed to applying the knowledge and skills I gain through my education to make a meaningful impact in our community. Your contribution not only helps me, but also inspires me to work harder and strive for excellence, knowing that there are people like you who believe in the potential of students like me.

Alejandro Pearce

Seven Decades of Generosity & Collective Impact The Welfare League



For more than seventy years, the Welfare League has embodied what a true, lasting partnership with Santa Rosa Junior College looks like, one act of service, one scholarship, and one student at a time. A volunteer-driven organization built on compassion, friendship, and service, the League began in 1939 when twenty dedicated women united around a shared mission of child welfare. As the years passed, their focus broadened from supporting children to uplifting the entire community.

It's no coincidence that both SRJC and the Welfare League were founded by visionary women. Their shared belief in education, opportunity, and community service laid the foundation for a partnership that continues to transform student lives more than seven

decades later, mostly through the proceeds from their store in Railroad Square. In 1950, the League opened the Welfare League Thrift Shop, a cornerstone of its outreach. The shop's proceeds, combined with generous community donations, have fueled countless initiatives in Sonoma County: sponsoring the Make a Difference program, knitting hats and scarves for those in need, collecting food for the F.I.S.H. program, creating the Christmas Unlimited program to bring books, toys, and clothing to families during the holidays, and providing scholarships for SRJC students.

While child welfare has remained central, the League recognized that strengthening the community also meant investing in higher education. In 1951, they began supporting SRJC students with tuition and books. By 1967, they established a scholarship in honor of Lesta Boyle, an honorary member whose legacy has benefitted many students. Their generosity grew over the years to include supporting children of SRJC students through the Nursery School, funding scholarships for medical and dental students, and, in 1999, creating the Welfare League-Rose Aleshin Memorial Fund. Rose, a devoted member of the Welfare League from 1978 to 1994, left a gift in her estate to ensure scholarships would continue in her name. Most recently, in 2021, the League added career education scholarships for SRJC students, broadening opportunities for students pursuing vocational paths.

The Welfare League has been a steady source of support for SRJC students for over seven decades – the longest philanthropic partnership in SRJC's history. Members often speak about how meaningful it is to receive thank-you notes from students working hard to balance school and family life. These stories of perseverance and achievement inspire the League's members to continue its mission.

Through decades of volunteer work, generosity, and care for the community, the Welfare League proves the impact a committed group can have on the lives of others.

Building the Future of Fire Training SRJC Fire Technology Program

For more than 30 years, Santa Rosa Junior College's Fire Technology Program has prepared students to meet the high standards of service, discipline, and courage required to protect our communities. From the earliest days of their training at SRJC, these students learn what it takes to become part of California's frontline defense against wildfires and emergencies - an essential workforce for our region and our state.

Sonoma County knows the devastating impacts of wildfires all too well. In 2020 alone, nearly 1.5 million acres of land burned across the state. In the last five years, three of the five largest wildfires in California's history—and four of the ten most destructive—occurred here in the North Bay. As our region faces growing wildfire risks, the need for well-trained, professional firefighters has never been greater.

Across the state, the fire service continues to experience workforce shortages due to retirements and department expansions. SRJC stands ready to meet that need by training the next generation of firefighters who will serve, protect, and lead.

A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

The SRJC Fire Technology Program is one of just 40 accredited regional training academies in California and was recently recognized with the Ronny J. Coleman Academy of Excellence Award by the State Fire Marshal's Office. This honor recognizes academies that model best practices and develop leadership in their students which are values that have defined SRJC's program for decades.

Currently, the program enrolls more than 1,300 students annually across certificates and degree pathways. With cutting-edge instruction, hands-on field experience, and strong partnerships with local fire departments, SRJC continues to raise the bar for fire service education. The program also works to expand access and diversity in the profession, collaborating with high schools, community organizations, and nonprofits to encourage more women and students of color to pursue careers in the fire service.

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS: THE FIRE TOWER

To meet rising demand, SRJC is constructing a new fire training tower at the Public Safety Training Center in Windsor. This project, funded by a \$2.625 million state grant championed by SRJC alumnus and Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire, along with major gifts from Community Foundation Sonoma County and local philanthropist



Herb Dwight, will transform how students train. Once completed, the tower will allow students to practice complex firefighting operations, including search and rescue, ladder operations, and live fire exercises which are skills essential for protecting lives and property across California.

SUSTAINING THE CLIMB

With the tower fully funded and under construction, SRJC is now focused on the future: establishing a Fire Technology Program Endowment. This permanent source of support will sustain the ongoing needs of the program including maintaining the tower, updating equipment, and enhancing instruction so SRJC firefighters are always prepared to serve with skill and confidence.

Community members can be part of this legacy by purchasing a step in the new fire tower for \$500, symbolizing the courage and determination it takes to climb toward saving lives. Each step represents the ongoing climb of every firefighter, and every student, toward their dream of serving their community. Larger gifts can name rooms or floors in the tower, creating a lasting legacy of support for future generations. To learn more or make a gift, visit: give.santarosa.edu/firetower.

President's Circle Giving Society

Thank you to the 2024-2025 members of the President's Circle Giving Society. We are deeply grateful to these donors whose generosity, leadership, and belief in Santa Rosa Junior College provided vital operational support to the SRJC Foundation, enabling our work to generate resources for students and areas of greatest need at SRJC.

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Randolph Newman Legacy Society

We are honored to recognize these donors who have generously included Santa Rosa Junior College in their estate plans. Named for the late Dr. Randolph Newman, second president of Santa Rosa Junior College, the SRJC Foundation established the society to recognize individuals who reflect Dr. Newman's exemplary leadership, dedication, and philanthropic committed to SRJC. For more information about joining the Randolph Newman Legacy Society, please go to srjc.planmygift.org.



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Steve & Elaine Olson
Jennifer C. O'Mahony
On the Wings of Angels
Optima Building Services, Inc.
Charles & Annette Orella
Sharon Ott
Out West Garage
Stephen & Judy Page
Jessica Paisley
Nancy Parker
Parker Hannifin Corporation
Susan Parkinson
Allen & Bonnie Parsons
Kelley & Tom Parsons
Passalacqua & Passalacqua
Irmira Patentreger
Douglas J. Pavese
Paws For Love Foundation
Warren Payne
PayPal Giving Fund
Gene Pellegrini
Janet Pendoley
PEO Sisterhood Chapter UQ
PEO Sisterhood Chapter HJ
Pepperwood Preserve Foundation
Kathleen & Ronald Perotti
Nancy Persons
Petaluma 7-11 Lions Club
Petaluma Garden Club
Petaluma Health Care District
Petaluma Health Center

Petaluma Market
Petaluma Valley Rotary Club
Margaret & Dane Petersen
Petersen Land Mgmt.
Joanne F. Phillips
Pine Cone Foundation
Piper Sandler
Margaret Poggio
Jim & Wendy Porter
David F Powers & Beverly Schor
Tim & Pat Preston
Cathy & David Prince
Providence Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital
David & Jane Rabbitt
Steven Rabinowitch
Marty Raines
Tony & Naomi Ramsden
Timothy J. Ranzetta
Brett Raven & Diane Kleinecke
Dewey S. Ravenscroft
Redwood Empire Gymnastics
Redwood Empire Vineyard Mgmt.
Brian & Mary Reeves
Dolph Rehkop
Bill & Mary-Louise Reinking
AG Reyes
Dee & Harry Richardson
Zoila & Ronald Richardson
Sharon Robison
Karen Roche
Bruce & Janine Rodda
Javier Rodriguez-Aguilera
Ellen Rosenberg
Rotary Club of Glen Ellen - Kenwood
Rotary Club of Petaluma
Rotary Club of Petaluma Foundation
Mary Ann Rovai
Robert & Sharon Rubin
Rudi Schulte Family Fdn.



Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 CONTINUED

Russian River Valley Winegrowers Association
Beth A. Salisbury
Cally Louise Salzman
Cheryl Sanchez
Sanchietti Farming LLC
Nick Sanders
Troy Sanderson
Sangiacomo Family Vineyards
Santa Rosa & Montgomery Village Lions Club
Santa Rosa Garden Club
Gayle Sarlatte
Robert L. Scheibel, M.D.
Bernice P. Schmitt
George & Debbie Schneider
Keith & Carla Schoenthal
Julie & Scott Schoepp
Ann L. Schott
William Schrader
Donald & Gail Schreuder
Stephen Schuck
Metha Schuler
Whitney Schultz
Kent Seegmiller
Alan Seidenfeld
Darita Seth
Kris Shear
Elizabeth Sheela
Estate of Laura Shenoy
Pamela Sher
Lynn Sherard-Stuhr & Jeffrey Stuhr
Robert & Stephanie Siemer
Beverly Singer
SL Construction
Curtis Smith
Gary & Edelgard Smith
Margaret Jean Smith
Pamela & Mark Smithers
Joanne Smyth
Snap Mobile

Patricia Snyder & Dana Shigley
Kevin Snyder
Sonoma Clean Power Authority
Sonoma County Assn. of Retired Employees
Sonoma County Bar Assn.
Sonoma County Farm Bureau
Sonoma County Farm Trails
Sonoma County Paramedic Assn.
Sonoma County Vineyard Technical Group
Sonoma County Vintners Foundation
Sonoma County Winegrape Commission
Sonoma Marin Cattlemen
Sonoma State University
Sorooptimist International of Santa Rosa
Southport Land & Commercial Co.
Dan Springer
SRJC Classified Senate
Kimberly Starke
Patricia Stein & Linda Scott
John Steinmetz & Barbara Riley
Pat & Laura Stephens
Terry Lee Stewart & Lori Anne Scannell-Stewart
Terry D. Sthymmel
William H. Strobel, Jr.
Diane Stuppin
Summit State Bank
Sutter Health
Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital
Caroline Swift
Victor K Tam & Pauline Hsu
Kristen P. Tamayo
Shigeki Tanaka
Anne Taylor
tBP Architecture
Suzanne Tevini
Barbara Thomas
Gina Thomas-Lord
Cathy Thompson
Dorothy Thompson

Thompson Builders Corporation
Nancy & JA Todd
Estate of Sandra M. Torgerson
Torkelson & Associates, LLP
Lan Tran
Bill Traverso
Richard & Laurie Treleven
Victor & Karen Trione
Linda Trodden-Karow
Michael C. Trulson
United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay, Inc.
Phyllis E. Usina
Valley Of the Moon Rotary Foundation
Anthony Vasquez
Marita & Gerald Vattuone
John & Barbara Vernon
Holly & Damon Vettori
Randy Villa
Lloyd & Alice von der Mehden
Marion Walker
Natalia & David Warburg
Shirley A. Ward
Nelson & Jane Weller
Catherine A. Williams
Roger Williams & Jose Manuel Aragon Rodriguez
Willow Creek Wealth Mgmt.
Marianne Wilman & Daniel Farber
Wilson Family Trust
Windsor Volunteer Firemen's Assn.
Nicole Winter
Richard A. Winterhalder
Kent Wisniewski
WKB & Associates
Women For WineSense/Sonoma Napa Chapter
Coralie Wonder
Lan Wu & Cathy Cheshire
Phillip Wyatt & Cameron Ryan
Yarbrough Bros Towing Inc.
Martha M. Yates

Paul E. Yeomans
Jim Young
Hilleary M. Zarate
Alan C. Zetterberg
Jack Ziegler & Mary Ann Ciavonne
Lynda & Jerry Zimmer
Abigail Zoger
Frank J. Zwolinski, Jr.
Anonymous (14)



Financial Report Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

We are proud to share the audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. below. The SRJC Foundation remains in the top of the 116 California Community Colleges for scholarship awards to students; in 2024-2025, the SRJC Foundation received almost \$15 million to support students and programs and awarded more than \$6 million in scholarships to students from its endowment, non-endowed funds, and the Doyle Trust Scholarship Fund. It was a record-setting year! Thank you for helping us continue to secure resources that provide opportunities for students and donors to fulfill their dreams and make a difference in our community.



\$12,950,000+
received for **student scholarships**



\$1,950,000+
received for **college programs**

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, & CHANGES IN NET POSITION

	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
REVENUES AND SUPPORT			
Contribution Revenue	\$14,945,359	\$9,684,550	\$9,493,648
Investment Revenue	7,534,518	7,055,318	4,937,088
Other Income	294,750	391,610	745,286
Total Revenue	22,774,627	17,131,478	15,176,022
EXPENSES			
Scholarships	6,039,554	5,855,393	5,286,201
College Support and Events	1,349,755	1,737,422	2,803,265
Operations	1,416,738	1,238,728	1,100,619
Total Expenses	8,806,047	8,831,543	9,190,085
INCREASE IN NET POSITION	13,968,580	8,299,935	5,985,937
NET POSITION, Beginning of year	86,995,430	78,695,495	72,709,558
NET POSITION, End of year	\$100,964,010	\$86,995,430	\$78,695,495



Foundation Board & Staff as of June 30, 2025

MISSION

We inspire investment in higher education to provide life-changing opportunities for all SRJC students, their families, and the community we share.

VISION

We elevate our community to new heights through the power of philanthropy and the promise of higher education.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Chair



Troy Sanderson
Vice Chair



Angélica Garcia
Superintendent/President



Katharyn Jolley
*Vice President,
Finance & Administrative Services*



Maggie Fishman
Trustee



Doug Garrison



Evan Hershey



Ozzy Jimenez



Francisco Lopez



Brian Reeves



Carolina Spence



Marion Walker



Shirley Ward

FOUNDATION STAFF



Sarah Laggos
Executive Director



Rebecca Merkley
*Development Associate, Database
& Gift Processing*



Katie Greenwald
Coordinator, Constituent Relations



Stephanie Dirks
Accountant



Elizabeth Macias Lopez
Student Intern



SRJC Foundation, 1501 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401-4395
(707) 527-4348 • foundation.santarosa.edu

We acknowledge that we gather at Santa Rosa Junior College on the territorial traditional land of the Pomo People, past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. © Copyright 2025 Santa Rosa Junior College. All rights reserved.

The Sonoma County Junior College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, ethnic group identification, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic condition, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or sexual orientation in any of its policies, procedures or practices; nor does the District discriminate against any employees or applicants for employment on the basis of their age. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access and treatment in District programs and activities—including but not limited to academic admissions, financial aid, educational services and athletics—and application for District employment. The Sonoma County Junior College District is an equal opportunity employer.