



Case for Support



Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation

Protecting the North Bay through SRJC's Fire Technology Program

For over 30 years, the Fire Technology Program at Santa Rosa Junior College has prepared students to meet the high standards necessary to serve their community through a career in the fire service.

California knows the devastating impacts of wildfires and the importance of having a professional, trained, and motivated fire service protecting and defending homes and businesses from this threat. In 2020, nearly 1.5 million acres of land burned in California. Three of the five largest California wildfires in the history of the state have occurred in the North Bay in the last five years. Four of the ten most destructive California wildfires by death, acres burned, and structures lost occurred in the North Bay.

Over the past ten years, the fire service has struggled to meet the workforce demand for firefighters due to retirements and the required department growth to meet the increase in wildfires. In 2021, Governor Newsom pledged to provide more fire protection to the state of California through the hiring of 1,200 firefighters in addition to the 585 added in the previous year. In 2024, Sonoma County voters approved Measure H, a ½ cent sales to fund fire department growth and expansion. Officials are planning on over 200 firefighters being hired in Sonoma County with an additional new 30 fire stations being built throughout the county. SRJC stands ready to support the workforce needs of the fire service.

Program Overview

The Fire Technology program at SRJC is one of only 40 accredited regional training programs across the state that develops and trains individuals to enter the fire service and serve our communities in this critical profession.

The program recently received the Ronny J. Coleman Academy of Excellence Award by the State Fire Training (SFT) division of California's Office of the State Fire Marshal. This prestigious award honored the SRJC Fire Technology Program as an academy that constructively influences its students through leadership while establishing and promoting best practices.

SRJC is continuously improving the program, through cutting edge training, academic learning, hands-on experience, and more. The program also is working with local community organizations,

high schools, and other non-profits to increase the diversity of the fire service, specifically targeting women and people of color.

The SRJC Fire Technology Program offers high quality instruction to support student learning, but lacks the necessary equipment and space to expand and train more students for the fire service. Currently, the Fire Technology program enrolls an average of 1,350 students in the various certificates and associate degree programs.

To grow the program's ability to graduate more students into the fire service, SRJC is building a new fire tower on the Public Safety Training Center site in Windsor, CA. This pipeline of talent will be immediately ready to make an impact state-wide in support of the fire service and the continued threat of wildfires across all communities.

The \$2 million construction of the new tower is partially funded through a state grant (\$1.5 million), secured by California State Senate President Pro Tempore and SRJC alumnus Mike McGuire, and grant from the Community Foundation Sonoma County (\$250,000). SRJC is seeking community support to close the \$250,000 construction funding gap and allow the project to move forward.

With the investment from the state and our local community for capital improvements and training aides, SRJC will be able to significantly expand the Fire Technology Program and train more qualified students for the fire service to protect our homes and communities.

Opportunities for Impact

SRJC has identified several priority areas for funding needs for the new fire tower, including the most urgent to bridge the gap and secure the final funding to allow the fire tower's construction to begin.

Bridge Capital Funding	Funds needed to bridge the gap and provide the funding necessary to build the fire tower (amount dependent upon the size of the tower)	\$250,000
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Naming Opportunities

Naming opportunities provide long-term funding for students and programs by supporting the Fire Technology Program endowment. Donors can choose to recognize the generosity of an individual, family, or organization through the naming opportunity. Your gift to the Fire Technology Program endowment will be used to purchase new equipment, consumables like wood, and state-of-the-art technology, as well as support scholarships for students and professional development opportunities for instructors.

Floors in the Tower	Each floor of the Fire Tower represents a new scenario for students to learn and train on.	\$10,000 per floor
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Burn Rooms (Two Available)	Live fire burn rooms provide real world experience in interior firefighting operations.	\$5,000
Rappelling Tower	A platform designed to train students on safe rappelling practices.	\$5,000
Individual Stair in the Tower	Help build a stairway to success for fire students develop the skills necessary to safely evacuate, investigate, and protect our homes and communities.	\$500

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