

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



SANTA ROSA
JUNIOR COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

FOR OUR COLLEGE,



OUR COMMUNITY,



OUR FUTURE...

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the SRJC Foundation Board and Staff, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. As Board Chair, I am filled with gratitude and admiration for the collective efforts of our donors, alumni, staff, and community partners who share our vision of empowering student success and transforming lives through education.

This past year has been one of tremendous growth and resilience. Together, we have witnessed the extraordinary impact of your generosity—providing scholarships that open doors to higher education, funding programs that inspire academic excellence, and supporting initiatives that enhance the learning environment across our campuses. Highlights of the 2023-2024 year include:

- Raising over \$10 million in contributions to support students and programs and realized a gain of over \$8 million in investment portfolio returns.
- Awarding more than \$6 million in scholarships to students from the Foundation's endowment, non-endowed funds, and the Doyle Trust scholarship.
- Completing the \$1 million endowment established to help subsidize rents for students living in Polly Hall, SRJC's new on campus student housing
- Securing a \$1.5 million grant from the state through California State Senate President Pro Tempore and SRJC alumnus Mike McGuire to build a new fire tower at the Public Safety Training Center.

These accomplishments reflect the partnership between the SRJC Foundation and our community, who believe in the power of education to transform lives. Every contribution, whether large or small, plays a vital role in shaping the future of SRJC and the students we serve.

As we look toward the future, we remain committed to supporting SRJC's mission and addressing the challenges and opportunities ahead. With your continued support, we will help ensure that SRJC remains a vital resource for our community and a place where students can thrive.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey. Your belief in the power of education inspires us every day. Together, we are providing life-changing opportunities for all SRJC students, their families, and the community we share.

With gratitude,

Teresa Norton



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa J. Norton".

Teresa Norton
Board Chair



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In November, I announced my June 2025 retirement from Santa Rosa Junior College. As that day approaches, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to be a part of advancing the mission of the SRJC Foundation. Working together, over the past five years we have:

- Grown Foundation assets from \$64 million to \$87 million, with investment funds currently at \$72 million.
- Raised over \$45 million for scholarships and programs.
- Opened a new building in 2023 that has become a hub for philanthropy, collaboration and celebration.
- Increased our focus on providing resources to students who are most on the margins at SRJC.
- More importantly, we have brought more students into our work, not just through scholarship support, but by inviting them to the table to be a part of our decision making. The work of the Foundation is stronger because of this relationship.

During my forty-year career in philanthropy I have been blessed to work with some of the most compassionate and altruistic donors in the world. I have enjoyed the genuine partnership with donors who were committed to elevating the lives of others. My own life was elevated 46 years ago when I was offered full financial aid to attend university, and provided the opportunity to be the first in my family to graduate from college. It has been a great honor to end my career ensuring that students at SRJC have the resources they need to stay in school, and remain focused on their educational goals. Thank you for heeding my calls to support SRJC students these past few years.

Thank you to the SRJC Foundation Board members and staff, past and present, for building such an essential source of perpetual support for Santa Rosa Junior College. And thank you to our esteemed colleagues at the College for your unwavering commitment to educational equity and excellence.

With gratitude,

J Mullineaux



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Mullineaux', with a stylized flourish at the end.

J Mullineaux
Executive Director



A SECOND CHANCE TO GIVE BACK: STEVEN CESARIO'S JOURNEY AT SRJC



For Steven Cesario, Santa Rosa Junior College was more than just a place to earn a degree—it was the foundation for his future and an opportunity to give back to the community that shaped him. Having lived in Sonoma County since the fourth grade, Steven was well aware of SRJC's stellar reputation for academic excellence, affordability, and its dedication to student success. When the time came to pursue higher education, SRJC was the clear choice.

Steven's academic journey has been nothing short of remarkable. This spring, he will graduate with three associate degrees in Social and Behavioral Sciences, Social Work and Human Services: Advocacy, and Social Work and Human Services: Addiction Studies. He is also on track to earn an additional degree in Psychology, further deepening his expertise and passion for helping others. His commitment to education reflects a drive not only to improve his own life but also to empower and support those in need.

One of the most impactful aspects of Steven's experience at SRJC has been his involvement with the Second Chance program, a resource designed to support formerly incarcerated students and those facing significant life challenges as they pursue higher education. Thanks to program support from donors like Bank of America and other community members, Second Chance provides wrap around support services like mentorship, academic counseling, career guidance, and a supportive community to help students navigate their educational and personal journeys. While juggling full-time work, family obligations, and academic demands, Steven has remained dedicated to mentoring and assisting fellow students, offering guidance on coursework and connecting them to valuable resources. Though his own time has been limited, the program has played an integral role in his journey, reinforcing his belief in the power of second chances. Through the Second Chance program, he has found a network of peers and mentors who share similar experiences and provide encouragement and motivation to persist in their academic endeavors.

Throughout his time at SRJC, Steven has been fortunate to receive guidance and support from several inspiring mentors. Faculty members such as Jessica Paisley, Hailey Brenner, Dr. Xuan Ho, Meghan Murphy, Suzanne Maggio-Hucek, and Dr. Brianna Thompson have profoundly impacted his academic and personal growth, providing encouragement, knowledge, and a sense of belonging that has enriched his college experience.

Looking ahead, Steven is determined to continue his education at Cal Poly Humboldt, where he plans to earn a Bachelor's and ultimately a Master's degree in Social Work. His current role as an AODS I counselor at the Sonoma County Department of Health Services, Behavioral Health Division, is just the beginning of his mission to support individuals experiencing hardships, mental health challenges, and substance use disorders. His time at SRJC has solidified his passion for advocacy and service, equipping him with the skills and confidence to make a lasting impact.

Steven credits the scholarship support he has received as a transformative force in his journey. Thanks to the generosity of donors, he has been able to focus on his studies and gain the education needed to uplift his community. His scholarships have not only changed his life but have allowed him to touch the lives of countless others in return.

Reflecting on his time at SRJC, Steven highlights the sense of community and connection that has defined his experience. The collaborative spirit among students and faculty has provided an enriching environment where diverse perspectives thrive. The relationships he has built and the lessons he has learned will stay with him far beyond graduation.

Steven Cesario's story is one of resilience, determination, and the transformative power of education. As he moves forward in his career and academic pursuits, he carries with him the invaluable experiences and support he received at SRJC—ready to make a difference, one life at a time.



FUELING FUTURES: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF SCHOLARSHIPS

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 2023-24 fiscal year, **more than 92% of applicants received one or more awards, with the Foundation distributing over \$6 million in scholarship.** These funds provide crucial support, allowing students to remain enrolled, stay focused on their education, and pursue their dreams. We are deeply grateful to our donors for making these life-changing opportunities possible to uplift our entire community.



“My deepest gratitude goes to the generous donors who support students such as myself at the SRJC. Since I was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect in August 2023, I have been unable to work. After being told by doctors that I couldn't continue my career as a commercial fisherman, I decided to go back to school and pivot to a new career. I'm not able to work while I'm recovering from open-heart surgery, so I'm fully dedicated to completing my bachelor's degree. My grades are a reflection of this commitment, with straight "A" marks in the four classes I'm taking this semester, and an overall GPA of 3.57 at the SRJC. I'm almost done with all of the requirements for an Associate's Degree in Business Administration. Any gift of scholarship support I receive will go a long way in helping me cover costs for basic necessities like rent, food, utilities, tuition, books, transportation and school fees. Without scholarships, I wouldn't be able to attend college. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting my efforts in retraining and finding a new career.”

“While the impact of this scholarship is undoubtedly transformative for my personal and familial aspirations, its significance extends far beyond our immediate circle. By investing in my education, this gift sets in motion a ripple effect that will resonate within the community. As I equip myself with the knowledge and skills gained through this scholarship, I am not only investing in my own future and that of my children but also becoming a more capable and compassionate healthcare professional. The education and experiences I garner will empower me to contribute meaningfully to the well-being of individuals within our community. Thus, the benefits of this scholarship extend beyond my immediate circumstances, creating a positive influence that amplifies its impact and enriches the lives of those I will serve in my future role as a nurse.”

“With deep appreciation, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the scholarship donors whose generosity is guiding me towards my educational aspirations. Your selfless support not only aids my personal growth but also fuels my dreams of making a positive impact on the lives of others, particularly military Veterans. Your kindness is a beacon lighting the way for my journey, and I am sincerely grateful for the opportunities you have bestowed upon me.”



A LEGACY OF GIVING: SAM AND AVA GUERRERA'S COMMITMENT TO SRJC STUDENTS



When Sam and Ava Guerrera moved to Sonoma County in the 1990s after long careers and a lifetime of adventures, they quickly became deeply involved in supporting their new community.

A key focus of their philanthropic efforts has been Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC), where they have made a lasting impact through their generous support of urgent needs, new programs, and scholarships.

Sam's background is in the corporate world, working for 38 years at the paint and coatings company Valspar, where he rose to become Vice President of the consumer division. After serving in the Army following college, Sam joined Valspar and dedicated his career to the company,

weathering mergers and acquisitions. Ava, meanwhile, was involved in education and community organizations back in their home state of Minnesota.

When Sam and Ava retired and settled in Sonoma County, they were determined to get involved and give back. They joined local clubs and organizations, with Ava playing tennis and Sam singing in the choir at St. Eugene's Church. But SRJC quickly became a central focus of their philanthropic efforts after they took a number of Lifelong Learning classes in wine tasting, Italian, and more. "SRJC is such an important and valuable resource in Sonoma County," Sam says of the junior college. "It's so reasonably priced, it's available, and the faculty are so professional and so good."

Sam and Ava have supported SRJC in several ways, but a particular passion has been providing scholarships for students to study abroad. They believe international travel and exposure to other cultures is transformative for young people, broadening their horizons and giving them a new outlook on life.

Beyond study abroad scholarships, Sam and Ava have also been generous supporters of SRJC's efforts to assist underprivileged and underserved students. After the 2017 Tubbs Fire, they donated funding to provide laptops to students who had lost their homes. They were shocked to learn a few years later that there were an estimated 700 SRJC students without stable housing. "I knew there was homelessness in our community, but the impact it had on students was just alarming. Something had to be done about this," Sam recalls. When SRJC opened Polly Hall, the 352 bed student housing facility on the Santa Rosa campus, Sam and Ava were generous supporters to a fund that helps reduce rent costs for students.

Even after Ava's passing in 2022, Sam continues to champion underserved SRJC students. He recently made a gift to SRJC Roseland to support outfitting the site with essential furniture and technology to address the barriers to education many first-generation and low-income students experience.

Sam and Ava's lifelong commitment to education and community has found a natural home at SRJC. Through their scholarships, advocacy, and volunteer work, they are helping to transform the lives of students and ensure that the college remains a vital resource for the entire region. Their generosity and vision are an inspiration to all who are fortunate enough to know them.

BUILDING SONOMA COUNTY'S FUTURE: THE CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTER



Sonoma County faces a critical need for additional skilled construction workers to address our acute affordable housing shortage and rising cost of living. The new Construction Training Center (CTC) at Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) represents a transformative solution, equipping students with the construction expertise needed to address these issues while fostering a resilient community and vibrant local economy.

Investing in the Future

Years of wildfires, floods, and underinvestment in homebuilding have left Sonoma County struggling to meet the housing demands of our community. This affordable housing shortage directly affects individuals and families, and makes it difficult for businesses, nonprofits, schools, hospitals, and government agencies to recruit and retain employees.

The construction trades offer some of the highest median wages in Sonoma County, providing pathways to living-wage jobs, economic mobility, and homeownership for local residents. By investing in construction training programs, SRJC is meeting the dual goals of strengthening the local workforce and supporting the development of essential housing stock.

Building the Workforce

In 2019, SRJC secured a \$7.12 million federal disaster grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), supplemented in 2022 by a \$4 million grant amendment, to construct a state-of-the-art training facility. Additional funding came from major donors, including Tipping Point Foundation, Bank of America, Mendocino Companies and Friedman's Home Improvement, as well as over fifty individuals and businesses. This collaborative effort reflects the community's commitment to rebuilding the North Bay and creating opportunities for its residents.



BUILDING SONOMA COUNTY'S FUTURE: THE CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTER



The result is the 10,000-square-foot Construction Training Center, located on SRJC's Petaluma campus, which opened in Fall 2024. Designed as a flexible-use lab space, the CTC provides hands-on and technology-based instruction in essential trades, including carpentry, HVACR (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration), fire-resilient landscaping, roofing, water resources technology, and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration).

A Pathway to Success

The CTC's programs aim to meet the growing demand for skilled workers while fostering partnerships with organizations like the North Bay Building Trades Council. These partnerships will create pathways to Union Apprenticeship Programs and local unionized employers, ensuring students are prepared not only for immediate employment but also for long-term career growth. The CTC is also partnering with local high school vocational programs and local nonprofits working to bring more young people into the construction trades.

A Collaborative Vision for Resilience

This project exemplifies the power of community collaboration. With support from donors, nonprofit workforce development partners, and local businesses, SRJC has created a space dedicated to rebuilding Sonoma

County's housing stock, supporting employers, and providing residents with access to high-quality education and living-wage careers. The CTC is more than a training center—it's a cornerstone of a resilient and sustainable future for the North Bay.

Gifts to the Construction Training Center can be made online at give.santarosa.com/ctc.

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For women, the trades can seem especially inaccessible, and it felt nearly impossible to learn the foundations while working in another field. I am so grateful for the tuition-free, evening classes, but even more so for truly supportive faculty experts, a dynamite admin team, and such an amazing program that enables students like myself to get real experience. As a result, carpentry is beginning to feel like a true possibility, and I've gotten more clarity about the direction I'd like to go! — Lauren Carroll

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It's hard—at least it was for me—to find someone to help me learn a trade like carpentry. I've been interested in carpentry for a long time and want to start a career as a carpenter soon. I feel like this program is exactly what I've been looking for and brings me one step closer to achieving my goal. My instructors are wonderful—wise, caring, and truly inspiring.

— Ken Foster

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PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE GIVING SOCIETY

Thank you to the 2023-2024 members of the President's Circle. We are deeply grateful to these donors whose generosity, leadership and deep belief in the College provided vital operational support to the SRJC Foundation, enabling our work to generate resources for students and areas of greatest need at Santa Rosa Junior College.

The logo features the text "President's Circle" in a cursive font. "President's" is in black and "Circle" is in red. The text is enclosed within a large, thin-lined circle. Below this circle, several other thin-lined circles of various sizes overlap each other, creating a decorative background.

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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 commitment to the college.



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Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

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BEAR CUBS
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BEAR CUBS
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FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

We are proud to share the audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 below. The SRJC Foundation remains among top of the 116 California Community Colleges for scholarship awards to students; in 2023-2024, the SRJC Foundation generated more than \$17 million to support students and programs and awarded more than \$6 million in scholarships 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.



\$6,900,000+
received for **student scholarships**



\$3,870,000+
received for **College programs**

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, & CHANGES IN NET POSITION

	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
REVENUES AND SUPPORT			
Contribution Revenue	\$9,684,550	\$9,493,648	\$8,925,820
Investment Revenue	7,055,318	4,937,088	(7,264,893)
Other Income	391,610	745,286	(35,443)
Total Revenue	17,131,478	15,176,022	1,625,484
EXPENSES			
Scholarships	5,855,393	5,286,201	4,264,623
College Support and Events	1,737,422	2,803,265	2,244,425
Operations	1,238,728	1,100,619	1,338,562
Total Expenses	8,831,543	9,190,085	7,847,610
INCREASE IN NET POSITION	8,299,935	5,985,937	(6,222,126)
NET POSITION, Beginning of year	78,695,495	72,709,558	78,931,684
NET POSITION, End of year	\$86,995,430	\$78,695,495	\$72,709,558



FOUNDATION BOARD & STAFF

as of June 30, 2024

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.

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