



Case for Support



Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation

## Support for Athletics Programs at SRJC

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Teamwork. Leadership. Support and stability. Academic counseling and positive self-esteem. FAMILY. For many student-athletes, SRJC Athletics is so much more than sports. SRJC Bear Cub intercollegiate student-athletes represent **nearly 500 full-time students who compete on 17 women's and men's athletic teams**, many of whom would never realize the academic benefits of a college education and the personal benefits of the college experience without the draw of sports.

Even in times of uncertainty, our amazing student-athletes continue the training and work to achieve success in competition, in the classroom, and in our community. The student-athletes and coaches of Santa Rosa Junior College have established a reputation for extraordinary strength and resilience, having earned 20 state titles and 75 Big 8 Conference titles. Many student-athletes are recruited and awarded athletic scholarships to top 4-year institutions, and many go on to be top on sports fields or leaders in the professional fields they choose. Some have even earned Olympic medals!

With the passage of Measure H, plans were made for the desperately-needed renovation and construction of athletics facilities at SRJC to provide an adequate home for and match the excellence of the students and coaches that bring them to life, as well as serve as resources to benefit the entire community. These new state-of-the-art facilities were carefully planned with a vision to achieve the mission of the College and to provide an exceptional experience for student-athletes, coaches, and spectators alike. The new facilities present several naming opportunities that will provide long-term funding for students and programs utilizing the physical buildings while also recognizing the generosity of the individual, family, or organization donor.

## SRJC Sports

Baseball (men), Basketball (men and women), Cross Country (men and women), Football (men), Soccer (men and women), Softball (women), Swimming & Diving (men and women), Tennis (men and women), Track & Field (men and women), Volleyball (women), Wrestling (men)



## SRJC Student-Athletes

SRJC student-athletes are hardworking, dedicated, and predominantly full-time students. All are required to maintain adequate course loads and GPA performance for eligibility. Most juggle four to five classes each semester while also managing a demanding training program and competition schedule. Many also work part-time to make ends meet. See below for additional demographic data for the comprehensive SRJC athletics program.

Average GPA	3.0
% Sonoma County Residents	63
% Female	32
% LatinX	34
% First-Generation	23

## Critical Need

SRJC sports programs have several specific needs in order to continue, including team meals, uniforms, travel, equipment, and coaching stipends. These needs are typically funded through team sales programs, fundraising events and summer sports camps. However, the restrictions of the pandemic have not only eliminated the possibility of regular collegiate sports competition, but also much of the activity that typically sustains the financial needs of the programs. Without this critical funding, sports programs and associated student support will be discontinued, along with the academic aspirations and professional dreams of the students who depend on them.

## Opportunity for Impact

Renovation and construction on athletics facilities is currently underway. When athletics can return to campus, we want our teams to be able to hit the ground running with the support they need to succeed. With a gift to name an athletics facility, your named space will be recognized by students, faculty, coaches, and community visitors for generations to come. Your gift to SRJC Athletics will help to fulfill the promise of higher education and provide opportunity for immediate impact in the lives of students and the community we share.

# Women's Volleyball Program at SRJC

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## The Team

Heart, hustle, and commitment are important keys to victory for the SRJC women's volleyball team. For more than fifty years, the SRJC women's volleyball team has given female student-athletes an opportunity to improve their skills and find success both on and off the field.

The SRJC women's volleyball team have successfully been building and improving the program for three straight seasons. After posting winning records in the 2017 and 2018 seasons, the team finished 4<sup>th</sup> (2017) and 5<sup>th</sup> (2018) place in the Big 8 Conference, which is notoriously the toughest volleyball conference in northern California and the entire state. The women's volleyball team is on the hunt for their first state title and look forward to competing when sports resume in 2021.

The seventeen student-athletes on the women's volleyball team are not only standout players, but hard working students. The team consistently averages a 3.2 GPA and the most common majors are nursing, biology, ecology, and early childhood education. In 2019, Tallulah Kuula was named a 1<sup>st</sup> team All-Conference athlete, with a 4.0 GPA, who transferred to UC Davis. The top transfer school destinations include Sonoma State, Long Beach State, Cal State Fullerton, UC Davis, Berkeley, Santa Barbra, Oregon, and Western Oregon.

It's not unusual to hear a student-athlete say "SRJC changed my life." As women's volleyball player Samantha Siebert says, "Following my time at the SRJC, I transferred to Humboldt State University and finished my volleyball career there, receiving my degree in Kinesiology. I currently live in San Francisco and work as a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist for the Novato Fire District. The SRJC volleyball team was the perfect bridge between High School and a 4-year for me. I had an amazing experience with my team and was led by some of the best coaches I've ever had. I would not be the person I am today without my time at the SRJC. The SRJC is a great school, with a tremendous educational program as well as athletic program. The resources offered to student-athletes are truly exceptional."

The goal of the women's volleyball team is to create an environment where athletes can learn and refine their skills while preparing them for successful careers at the 4-year level. Through community outreach, coaches and student-athletes work with youth volleyball players to improve the volleyball level in Sonoma County. The program pulls a diverse group of local talent together, creating a team full of local high school stars. As a program, the players and coaches have faced incredible adversity in these last three seasons. From fires and smoke to COVID-19, they have adapted around game changes to season cancellations and continue to embark into the unknown. Through it all, the volleyball program has continued to grow and expand, shown through improvement of the team GPA and transfer/certificate completion rates. The women's volleyball team looks forward to the addition of Beach Volleyball in Spring 2022.

## The Need

Each year, the women's volleyball student-athletes and coaches raise \$15,000 to support their sport. State funding for athletics does not cover the cost for officials at games, the necessary equipment and uniforms, or assistant coaches, who provide valuable hands-on skill building support for the student-athletes. When the student-athletes travel for away games, they are forced to cover most meal and travel expenses, including buses and hotel rooms, out of pocket or through fundraising.

## Your Gift

When you join the **Bear Cub Pride**, you empower women's volleyball athletes to compete at the highest levels and further SRJC's mission to gather, lift, and launch student-athletes into successful lives and careers. Your gift will provide the women's volleyball team with the resources necessary to improve in their sport and academic career.

Join the **Bear Cub Pride** today with a three-year annual commitment and help us support our student-athletes. Your annual gift of \$500, \$1,000, \$2500 or \$5000 will give the student-athletes and coaches the support they need to excel in their sport and make a life-changing impact on our community.

## Naming Opportunities

In Haehl Pavilion, both the lobby and the court itself are available for naming at the \$100,000 level. Naming gifts provide perpetual funding sources for the women's volleyball team to utilize for generations to come. Your name will be prominently displayed in the space and you will be recognized for your commitment to athletics and education in our community.

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