

Winter 2017

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE *Magazine*

PUPPIES AND KITTENS AND... SNAKES?

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION
OF VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

2+2=FUSE

THE NEW FUSE PROGRAM SAVES STUDENTS
TIME AND MONEY ON THEIR PATH TO A
BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM THE USF SYSTEM

WEEKEND WARRIORS

THE WEEKEND COLLEGE PROGRAM IS HELPING
STUDENTS FULFILL THEIR DREAMS

SPC St. Petersburg
College



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SPC Family,

This year, St. Petersburg College will celebrate its 90th anniversary. Since our founding in 1927, more than 155,000 students have earned college degrees and certifications that have positioned them for success in their lives and careers. Our graduates are nurses and law enforcement officers, teachers and sign language interpreters, scientists and mathematicians. Among the ranks of our outstanding alumni are local, state and federal representatives, judges and attorneys, high ranking military officials, successful business persons, community leaders, and even two astronauts.

These accomplishments are a testament to the solid foundation that St. Petersburg College provides to students and the message we send to them daily: that their success is our number one priority. Beyond these academic and career accomplishments, SPC has made itself a proud partner in our community, by:

- *Hosting community groups on our campuses*
- *Holding thought-provoking debates and forums*
- *Sharing the gift of music and theater through our performing arts events, and*
- *Providing services to those in need through specialized programs aimed at reducing achievement gaps*

Often, these endeavors are made possible through your support. From sponsorships to scholarship donations, St. Petersburg College is strengthened from your commitment to us and your community. For that, I thank you.

This year, as we celebrate 90 years of making a positive impact in our community, I invite you to join us. There are so many ways you can be involved with St. Petersburg College. Perhaps you or someone you know is considering additional education. Or maybe you feel a calling to volunteer and want to join one of our Advisory Committees that help guide our curriculum. Possibly, you have spaces within your organization and wish to help a student gain hands-on skills by providing internship opportunities. Whatever the case may be, we know that our achievements over the last nine decades are both a reflection of, and a testament to, our relationship with you.

Sincerely,

*Bill Law,
President, St. Petersburg College*



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SUMMER/FALL 2016 NOTABLE AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

June

- SPC receives the Governor's Higher Education Leadership Award for producing graduates with the highest entry-level wages among Florida's state colleges.

July

- SPC and the City of Clearwater break ground on the new Clearwater East Community Library on the Clearwater Campus.
- The 2016 Professors Emeriti are named: Martha Campbell, the late Pat Curtin, Michele Gerent, Eileen Hicks, Tom Lancraft and David Lichtenfels.

August

- SPC's Women on the Way program celebrates 35 years.
- SPC begins two newly accredited degrees: Biotechnology Laboratory Technology and Biomedical Engineering Technology.
- SPC partners with Recycled Tunes to provide gently used musical instruments to local school children.
- Global Corporate College names SPC one of only eight "Outstanding Colleges."

September

- SPC Foundation receives more than \$46,000 in scholarship funding from the Florida College System Foundation.

October

- Online Colleges ranks St. Petersburg College number one out of 112 Florida peer institutions for Best Online College. The college received a 99.61 overall rating.

November

- SPC ranks highest as a community college that offers four-year degrees by Military Times Best for Vets.
- St. Petersburg College recognized as one of the best online vocational trade schools in the nation by The Community for Accredited Online Schools.
- SPC's Southeastern Public Safety Institute receives a perfect audit for the 2014-15 year.
- St. Petersburg College's Model United Nations team receives the Outstanding Delegation Award at the National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference.

December

- City of Clearwater Parks and Rec Department awards faculty Eric Tucker, Kelli Stickrath and Erin Goergen its first Impact Award for volunteerism.



HOT TICKET: ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE'S STEM PROGRAMS ARE ON FIRE

SPC IS PREPARING STUDENTS FOR HIGH-WAGE, IN-DEMAND STEM JOBS TO MEET GROWING WORKFORCE DEMANDS.

Catherine Chandler was readying herself for graduation from St. Petersburg College's Engineering and Manufacturing program when she took an internship with Med X Change, handling the design and development of new products. By graduation, she was offered a full-time position there.

"SPC provided all the core values I needed to be a successful employee in a medical manufacturing company, from the production line, to the warehouse, to the research and development department," Chandler said.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are projected to grow 13 percent by 2022, which is faster than the average for all occupations. St. Petersburg College is providing STEM students, like Chandler, a path to some of the hottest jobs out there.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

St. Petersburg College boasts dozens of Advisory Committees, representing more than 550 local companies that help align course offerings and content with industry needs. They also assist students in their quest for employment through internships, mentoring programs, job fairs and shadowing opportunities.

Interim Dean of Science Natavia Middleton says SPC students get jobs – sometimes before they even finish a program – because of relationships with local employers.

"Advisory Committees are key," she said. "Because they supply internships, they advise our offerings and keep us abreast of trends."

Angie Beltz, Vice President of the Cisco Solutions Group at Tech Data, said she has had great experiences hiring St. Petersburg College graduates.

"We've hired about 35 SPC grads in the past few years, two-thirds of those in the past two," she said. "Some of those hires have already seen multiple promotions."

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

Another asset of SPC's STEM programs is the number of facilities available to students that allow for hands-on learning. Chad Cartwright landed a job after graduation as a Signals and Communications Technician for the Harris County Transit

Authority. He credits the Collaborative Center for Emerging Technologies, SPC's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, for preparing him through "real-world" simulations.

"The skill set I learned opened up electronics experience – it wasn't just book work, Cartwright said. "I wouldn't have been eligible for my position if not for the education I received there."

The addition of the Bay Pines STEM Learning Center, set to open this year, adds to the list of impressive facilities. The \$4.7 million center will be used by SPC students and faculty, as well as Pinellas County Schools teachers and students. The Center, adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway in Pinellas County, will include an environmental learning lab, an auditorium, and the most cutting-edge equipment. Mathematics Dean Jimmy Chang said facilities are a large part of the makings of a strong program.

"Our classrooms and laboratories allow for greater interactive instruction between faculty and our students," Chang said. "This allows for greater classroom engagement, which paves the way for greater student success."

said SPC is making great efforts to encourage women to enter STEM programs.

"We spread the word through hosting events, working with the Pinellas County Schools' technology academies, and offering scholarships for women," she said.

St. Petersburg College holds memberships in Women in Technology International and other professional organizations that work to recruit women into the field, and also have strong representation from women on the college's Advisory Committees. Middleton said role models are important.

"We like our students to see other people like them – of different diversities," Middleton said.

GROWING FIELD; GROWING PROGRAM

As hearty as St. Petersburg College's STEM programs are, they are still growing. The addition of two new Associate in Science degrees in 2016 – one in Biomedical Engineering



AVAILABLE FUNDS AND SUPPORT

In the fall of 2015, SPC was awarded a \$623,740 grant from the National Science Foundation to provide scholarships for students pursuing a career in a STEM field. Scholars are selected each fall and spring term to receive \$6,500 scholarships.

"Obviously the financial aspect of the scholarship is what students first think about as the main benefit," said Dr. Erin Goergen, Biology Faculty Member. "However, they get to meet the other scholars, and I think this is where they really start to realize that the scholarship is so much more than just the money."

The cohort also has the opportunity to hear speakers and visit various organizations in STEM fields.

"Although the scholars are not required to attend, many do partake in these activities and through them are able to make connections, get a better feel for their chosen STEM field, or simply have an opportunity to ask questions of practitioners in their STEM discipline," Goergen said.

WOMEN IN STEM

According to Sharon Setterlind, Dean of the College of Computer and Information Technology, fewer than 25 percent of Information Technology jobs in developed countries were held by women in 2016, which she attributes to both social and economic reasons. These issues have created a movement in STEM fields to pull more women into these jobs, and Setterlind

Technology and one in Biotechnology Laboratory Technology – illustrates that growth, as well as community connections.

Engineering and Manufacturing Program Chair Lara Sharp believes the new programs are the result of strong collaboration between local industries and the college.

"The coursework is a direct reflection of what a student will see in a healthcare institution or a medical device manufacturer," Sharp said.

Chang said that from the science and technology-related degrees offered at St. Petersburg College, to the transfer plans in areas like mathematics and engineering, there's no doubt that SPC's STEM programs are attracting more interest from students.

"There are a wealth of academic, professional and workforce opportunities in these fields, and students are taking notice by enrolling in those areas," he said. "It is an exciting time to major in a STEM field right now."

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2+2=FUSE

CREATING A SEAMLESS PATHWAY TO BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Carley Campbell, 18, graduated from Clearwater's Countryside High School in 2016. During her senior year, she had taken some classes at St. Petersburg College through the Executive Internship Program while interning at Countryside Animal Hospital. When it was time to apply for college, she applied to both SPC and University of South Florida (USF), but really hoped to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Sciences at USF.

The letter she received wasn't an acceptance, but it wasn't a denial, either. It was an opportunity.

"USF did not accept me, but offered me FUSE instead. I was happy that I was offered an alternative plan," she said. "I think it was pretty awesome that they thought I should be in this program."

FUSE is a new program that connects certain colleges in Florida with the University of South Florida System. Instead of going straight to USF, FUSE students will spend two years at SPC (or one of the other partnering colleges) earning their associate degree and completing their pre-requisite courses with smaller class sizes - and for less money.

St. Petersburg College has long guaranteed its students transfer to a state university in Florida, but there were no guarantees as to which. Now, with the FUSE program, SPC can offer students a direct pathway into the USF System.

FUSE students are not thrown into their programs without assistance. In fact, USF and SPC faculty and deans came together to develop the most structured and successful pathway to guide FUSE students from their associate degree to their junior year at USF. The FUSE program will guarantee them admission into USF as long as they stay on this pathway. Sheryl Mundorff, a Student Success Advisor at SPC, says the structured academic pathway will help students save both time and money.

"They live at home the first two years, save money and then transfer to USF, where they only have to finance two years of university tuition costs instead of four," Mundorff said.

The time-saving element comes with an academic plan laid out for students that ensures that all classes taken in the first two years will transfer into the degree program chosen by the student.

"FUSE students will have access to USF and SPC FUSE advisors to help them successfully navigate the program," Mundorff said. "The academic pathway will help the students stay on track and earn their degree in a timely manner, and also help students avoid excessive credit hour fees at USF."

FUSE students also are invited to engage in student activities at USF, and are considered SPC/USF students from day one. This past fall, USF hosted "The Launch," a kickoff event that recognized all the participating institutions.

Afterwards, students were invited to hang around and meet with advisors and USF students and play games, including a USF knowledge trivia game. Then they were served lunch and given a tour of campus.

"There was a lot of talking laughing, learning, and enjoying the afternoon," Mundorff said. "It was a long day, but a day filled with excitement and making new friends."



"AFTER THAT FIRST MEETING WITH ALL THOSE WORKING ON FUSE, I KNEW IT WAS A PROGRAM I NEEDED TO BE IN."

- David Martinez, Jr.

FUSE enrollee and HCC student David Martinez, Jr. said the event got him excited about the program.

"After that first meeting with all those working on FUSE, I knew it was a program I needed to be in," he said. "An advisor will be helping me all the way through priority registration, no wasted credits, access to USF student events - it was all too perfect to pass on."

FUSE students have many options for transfer plans, with eight plans from SPC to USF Tampa, and seven to USF St. Petersburg.

The program piloted with 11 SPC students in Fall 2016, and will reach full implementation in 2017. SPC President Bill Law said that with the competitive admissions to Florida universities, FUSE is a great option for students who don't make it in on their first attempt.

"The profile of USF is going up and up and up," Law said. "There are a lot of students who, in times past, would have been received with open arms. Good, solid students: B-plus, A-minus, strong board scores - all of the things that you would hope for. And they apply, and they get a letter back that says, 'Sorry, you didn't make the cut.' Now they get a letter that says, 'Wait, there's more.'"



As she closed out her first semester, Campbell said she has been impressed with the quality of education at SPC and is excited with the way things worked out.

"I get to save time and money and go to SPC, which is just as great of a school as USF," she said. "I'm glad I don't have to commute that far from home, and I like the smaller classes. If SPC offered more bachelor's programs, I probably wouldn't transfer."

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TRANSFER PLANS

SPC-USF St. Petersburg

Bachelor of Science - Anthropology
Bachelor of Science - Biology
Bachelor of Science - Finance
Bachelor of Science - Information Systems Management
Bachelor of Science - Marketing
Bachelor of Science - Political Science
Bachelor of Science - Psychology

SPC-USF Tampa

Bachelor of Science - Accounting
Bachelor of Art - Art History
Bachelor of Science - Biomedical Sciences
Bachelor of Arts - Criminology
Bachelor of Science - Finance
Bachelor of Science - Marketing
Bachelor of Arts - Studio Art
Bachelor of Fine Arts - Studio Art

WEEKEND WARRIORS



SPC'S WEEKEND COLLEGE OFFERS WORKING STUDENTS ANOTHER OPTION.

Donelle Kates' work week ends at 1 a.m. on Saturday morning when he finishes his shift at Lockheed Martin. Just a few short hours later, he gets up and makes the drive from Tampa to St. Petersburg College's Clearwater Campus in time for his 8:30 a.m. Religious Studies class, which is followed by an elective. His Saturday classes end at 3:30 p.m.

It's not an easy Saturday, but like many other students opting for weekend classes, Kates uses the opportunity to further his quest for a degree. SPC's Weekend College provides another option for students who can't work classes into their schedules during the week.

Now in its fifth semester, Weekend College came about as a way to meet the needs of SPC students and expand enrollment. Dr. Joseph Smiley, Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Services, helped conceptualize the idea.

"At St. Petersburg College, we want to be the best of the best," Smiley said. "And if there is a body of students whose needs we're not meeting, then we're falling short."

Former Interim SPC President and current Policy Consultant Tom Furlong got involved and began doing some research.

"Dr. Furlong was a key piece as a consultant," Smiley said. "He helped us take a look at other programs all over the country and see what was working and what would work for us."

The Clearwater Campus was chosen for its central location, and Fall 2015 was slated to be the opening semester. Promotion of the program began with newspaper ads, and information was sent out to local organizations, businesses and more than 150 churches in hopes of filling seats. Smiley said that a lot was learned during the first year of the program.

"We got a better picture of what classes the students needed, and so we added more math and natural science, which brought more students in," Smiley said.

Classes are offered on Friday evenings from 6-9 p.m., Saturdays from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and on Sundays from 2-5 p.m. Students can use the weekend classes to blend with other courses online or during the week, or they can earn an Associate in Arts degree in General Education or an Associate in Science degree in Business Management solely on weekends.

Eric Christensen, 27, is working on getting the prerequisites he needs to get into SPC's Bachelor's program in Biology. Christensen has an associate degree in Health Sciences, and during the week he works at the Pasco County Environmental Lab. Christensen said he likes Weekend College because it gives people a chance to take courses they can't get during work hours.

"It's better for me to take the class in person," he said. "You can actually see the professor and ask questions."



"THIS PROGRAM GIVES ME THE WEEK TO STUDY AND DO HOMEWORK."

Monna Jones, 67 - Jones is retired and will finish her degree in Addiction Studies in Fall 2017. She blends one evening class and two online with her Saturday morning Group Counseling class.



Public Policy and Legal Studies Dean Susan Demers said that though Weekend College students come in a wide variety of ages, they have some strong similarities.

"We are seeing that the typical Weekend College student is one who needs face-to-face classes and nights and weekdays aren't an option," Demers said. "And most of these students are not just starting out - they're finishing up."

"IT WORKS OUT WELL FOR ME AND FITS INTO MY SCHEDULE. I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE A DAY OUT OF MY WORK WEEK."

Jonquia "Jay" Robinson, 32 - Robinson works in behavioral health at BayCare. She's working toward a certification in Youth Development.

After serving in both the Navy and the Army and spending time in Iraq and Afghanistan, 31-year-old Kates is finishing a degree in Information Technology. He's taking two classes online and two on Saturday. Kates said it takes dedication to make it to weekend classes after working all week.

"I'm a football guy, so it's a little hard during football season," he said. "But you have to have focus and the drive to wake up and show up. I've made a transition from wanting to be out and having a social life to wanting to better myself as a man. I'm at a place where I just want to get an education and focus on my goals in life."

Smiley said that SPC is trying to foster a college experience for weekend students that is just as nurturing as that of weekday students, and he believes that community is key. Weekend College students have all-day access to the Learning Resources Center at the Clearwater Campus on Saturdays and at the Tarpon Springs campus on Sundays. Lunch is provided once a month to cultivate a sense of community among the cadre of weekend students.

"This is a business where we talk about student engagement and involvement," Smiley said. "And the thing I felt like I needed most when I was in school was to be around others who were having the same experiences. Communication allows you to

share thoughts and ideas about things like classes, difficulties and resources, as opposed to being on an academic island. When you're part of a group, you're more committed, and you're more likely to help others and share what you have to offer."

A second location was added in 2016 at the Allstate Center, and Smiley said that the college is prepared for further expansion as it becomes necessary to fulfill student needs. He'd also like to see additional services and support offered to Weekend College students, as well as more engagement activities.

Smiley said he sees the program as more than a way for a student to earn credits.

"This program is an opportunity for someone to have a dream fulfilled that, if not for Weekend College, it would still be a dream."

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PUPPIES AND KITTENS AND...

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF
VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

SNAKES?

This fall, St. Petersburg College's state-of-the-art Veterinary Technology Center in Largo hosted more than 500 people at its fifth annual Open House for the community. There, faculty, staff and advisors mingled with attendees, who not only had the opportunity to cozy up to puppies, kittens, bunnies - even snakes! - but also had the chance to watch students training cats with clickers and examine blood samples under a microscope.

Open House visitors were also able to visit with about two dozen vendors, community service organizations and SPC business partners, including Florida Parrot Rescue, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Humane Society of Pinellas, Big Cat Rescue and Southeastern Guide Dogs.

Every year, SPC's School of Veterinary Technology hosts the Open House to celebrate National Veterinary Technician Week, as well as the program's successes, such as the 2,000-plus graduates, an online bachelor's degree that is one of only 24 in the country and job placement rates that consistently hover near perfection.





"I'm most proud of the quality of the education our students receive from a dedicated faculty, the outstanding graduates we have and the image they project of our program," said Rich Flora, who was named Dean of the Veterinary Technology program in 2006. "The dedication and concern shown by our faculty and staff toward our students is reflected in their success after they leave St. Petersburg College."

A MODEL FOR EXCELLENCE

This fall, SPC celebrated 45 years since the college first began offering classes toward an associate degree in Veterinary Technology in 1971. The first class of technicians graduated two years later.

In 2005, SPC created the online bachelor's degree at the request of employers who wanted graduates to earn advanced credentials to help them manage their practices. Enrollment in the program has grown more than 200 percent since it began.

When the \$11 million Veterinary Technology Center opened five years ago, it became the benchmark for other vet tech programs around the country. With its state-of-the-art labs, equipment, exam rooms, x-ray suites and kennels, the building personifies the excellence that has defined the program since its inception.

The 32,000-square-foot center is located next to Pinellas County Animal Services, which allows students to participate in spaying, neutering, wellness check-ups, teeth cleanings and other procedures. The comprehensive, hands-on approach prepares students to enter the workforce immediately.

"Our program teaches students to look at the big picture, the entire patient, which increases their level of compassionate care and helps the healing process," said SPC faculty member Ginny Price. "Students learn how the smallest of details can affect the health of their patients."

In a sunny room at the back of the building, a dozen cats perch on shelves below a wall of windows to gaze across a large swath of greenery. Down the hall, dogs of all sizes spend their time in expansive kennels and are walked hourly. Around the corner, stainless steel examination tables populate a large room that leads to surgery and x-ray suites housing the latest in digital technology.

"The new building is serving our students and our program very well," Flora said. "When it comes to scheduling professional conferences, other institutions jump at the chance to hold them here."

DEGREES TO SUSTAIN THE WORKFORCE

The role of pets in American's lives has changed dramatically over the last few decades. Dogs have moved out of the back yard and into the living room. According to the American Pet Products Association, Americans spent 15.7 billion on vet care in 2015, up by about 65 percent from just a decade ago.

It's no surprise, then, that job growth for veterinary technicians is expected to soar 35 percent in Florida and 19 percent in the United States through 2024, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Veterinarians, clinics and animal hospitals are relying more on highly skilled technicians for general care and lab work, replacing veterinary assistants.

SPC offers three veterinary technology programs: an Associate in Science degree that can be taken online or on campus, an online Bachelor of Applied Science degree and a Veterinary Practice Management certificate for those with a bachelor's degree. Certificate and bachelors' degree graduates can take the Veterinary Hospital Managers Association exam to become a Certified Veterinary Practice Manager.

Students who earn the Veterinary Technology A.S. degree get a solid foundation in animal anatomy and physiology, behavior, medicine, animal pharmacology, lab procedures and clinical work experiences so they can work as veterinary technicians.



"In human medicine you have one anatomy to learn while here we have to learn many different species," said Miranda Fortune, who is completing her associate degree. "But the best part, in my opinion, is learning animal behavior. Each individual behavior for each animal makes you realize how different they are, and that they are just like a human patient: unique and in need of help."

To take the associate degree program online, students work with their employers or other approved practices to meet SPC's clinical supervision requirements, giving the program nearly unlimited reach.

SUCCESS BREEDS SUCCESS

Employers say they value SPC graduates, who better understand their role in caring for animal patients because they have worked directly with animals.

"Graduates from St. Petersburg College fill the skills gap that exists when people don't go to school for this career," said Alexa Tramontano, manager at the Cat Hospital of Palm Harbor, which hires SPC graduates. "They definitely have the knowledge, but they also have the hands-on skills we look for."

SPC alumna Nicole Becker, who manages the North Boulder Companion Animal Hospital in Colorado, agreed. "I see it with my potential hires," said Becker, who was named the 2014 Technician of the Year by the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association. "The students in Colorado don't seem to get as much practice on real animals. Many times, you realize their knowledge is based on what they learned in books."

Beyond the facilities, the flexible classes and the practical experience, many students say their favorite part of the program is, hands down, the faculty.

"The professors at St. Petersburg College are amazing," said Gretchen Dhondt, a certified veterinary technician at the Cat Hospital of Palm Harbor. "They set you up for your career and challenge you every single day that you go to class. They have high expectations of you and they give you the tools to succeed in the real world."

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EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



BOVIE MEDICAL

Bovie Medical is proud of our long and productive relationship with SPC. We are grateful to be able to work with such bright students and help them prepare for their future, and we have been fortunate to have hired many of them over the years as both interns and full-time employees. We have benefited from their talents and look forward to continuing this rewarding relationship.

- Dan Cavaliere, Director of Engineering



CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

The St. Petersburg Police Department has relied upon St. Petersburg College – Southeastern Public Safety Institute for providing basic recruit academy training for many years. Highly motivated and responsive SPC instructors present our cadets a curriculum that not only exceeds the state minimum, but more importantly, prepares them with the knowledge and skills necessary to become an effective police officer.

SPC academy graduates have exhibited a high level of competency, professionalism, and determination and have proven to be well qualified to become a St. Petersburg Police Officer. Outside of sending our own cadets nearly exclusively to SPC for academy training, we will also hire individuals who have self-sponsored themselves through the SPC academy. It is reassuring to know that they too receive the same high quality training as do our sponsored cadets. This makes for a more seamless integration into our department.

- Anthony "Tony" Holloway, Chief of Police



TECH DATA

Tech Data has found many partnerships throughout SPC and the College of Computer Information Technology in an effort to build our future talent pipeline in the Technology Industry. I am personally very inspired by Dr. William Law's (SPC President) unselfish energy, passion and efforts in workforce collaboration with local businesses and what's best for its students and not just the institution.

- Angie Beltz, Vice President, Cisco Solutions Group





Health Education Center Welcome Back Event



Gibbs Campus Recycled Tunes Kickoff

#SPCINSPIRES STUDENTS TO GET ENGAGED

Research shows that students who are engaged in hands-on, out-of-class experiences are more successful academically - and in life. At SPC, there's more to college than just textbooks and tests. Each campus hosts a variety of events to connect students with their communities. There's more than 20 clubs and organizations throughout SPC's 10 campuses and centers. Beyond the classroom, students can connect with like-minded peers to inspire the world.

#SPCInspires



Allstate Center Therapy Dogs



Seminole Campus Welcome Back Event



Seminole Campus Field Event



Tarpons Springs Campus Greek Independence Day Parade



Clearwater Campus Empty Bowls



Downtown Campus Ghostbusters Movie Screening



Allstate Center Second Annual Touch a Truck



Downtown Campus Hispanic Heritage Celebration



Clearwater Campus Veterans Day Celebration



Midtown Center Diabetes Race



Clearwater Campus Memorial Day



Gibbs Campus Career Fair



SPC ADVISORY COMMITTEES: STEERING STUDENTS TOWARD SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT

St. Petersburg College Graduate Giny Kapili landed her dream career at the age of 37 as a Computer Programming Analyst with the City of St. Petersburg, all because of SPC's Advisory Committee connections. This first-generation college student started as a student committee member on the Computer and IT board in 2015 and witnessed first-hand how SPC interacted with business leaders to meet the needs of the workforce.

"The advisory community is filled with real business partners," said Kapili. "Professors are able to teach what's relevant to students and are able to adapt to change because of the board."

Kapili's experience with the committee transferred to the classroom. She recalls how her Computer and Information Technology Professor Adrian Tillman was on the radar about new opportunities and constantly challenged and encouraged her to take part.

Tillman told Kapili about a new program that was starting, the Tech Data Exploratory Lab Bootcamp. The intensive, five-day career development program is open to students in all majors is a partnership between SPC, Tech Data, Tampa Bay Technology Forum (TBTF), Valpak and the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. The intent is to help close skills gaps to generate well-rounded, highly skilled IT workers for Tampa Bay employers. Kapili applied and completed the program.

At an Advisory Committee luncheon, she spoke on a panel about her experience. Advisory Committee member Muslim Gadiwalla, Chief Information Officer for the City of St. Petersburg, approached Kapili and encouraged her to apply for an internship.

"The city has a longstanding internship program with the college," said Gadiwalla. "Giving back to the community is important. It produces stronger candidates after graduation."

Kapili's internship was just the beginning. She gained a lot of programming experience and contributed to major projects with the city.

"They had me working on real projects - not just busy work. I felt valuable and prepared," said Kapili. "I worked on Google mapping, geographic information systems and the intranet."

A COMMUNITY OF ADVISORS

St. Petersburg College's 38 Advisory Committees include 573 members and 556 companies, all with one goal: steering students toward successful employment.

Every workforce degree program offered at SPC is shaped and supported by an advisory committee to ensure students meet industry needs and are workforce-ready upon graduation.

"Sitting on the Advisory Committee gives us the opportunity to share local hospital and national trends that may influence nursing curriculum," said Lisa Johnson, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer for BayCare Health System. "It also gives us the opportunity to learn more about legislation and obstacles faced by academia."

BayCare Health System has been a member of the Nursing Advisory Committee for over a decade. Their relationship with SPC is collaborative, with the common aim to enhance the growth and development of future nurses.

"The issues (we) currently face include the impending nursing shortage and increasing the proportion of Bachelor's-prepared nurses by 80 percent by the year 2020," said



Johnson. "We believe with our shared commitment to our community, patients and our profession, we will be able to problem-solve solutions to these concerns."

SPC Director of Workforce Services and Career Pathways Jason Krupp said Advisory Committee members bolster student success and economic growth by ensuring that SPC's curriculum prepares students for employment after graduation.

"One of the most powerful ways local business representatives can shape their industry's talent supply is by participating on Advisory Committees," said Krupp.

Advisory Committees assist with aligning education and industry by performing five major functions:

- Assessing how the program meets the current occupational needs of employers
- Reviewing and making recommendations on program curriculum, such as industry certifications and recommended equipment purchases
- Providing input to help prepare students for work in their chosen field
- Expanding and enhancing St. Petersburg College's reputation in the community by fostering positive community relationships
- Providing internships and hiring qualified graduates

Advisory Committees meet at least twice a year to keep the focus on students by helping develop the programs necessary

for their success in the workplace. Committee members also assist in finding the right contacts within the employment community so students keep the end goal in mind – their careers.

A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME

In May 2016, Kapili graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Technology Development and Management with a concentration in Software Development.

"My goal was to get a job before I graduated," she said.

During her internship, Kapili met her objective and was hired as a Computer Programming Analyst for the City of St. Petersburg.

"It's challenging, but I love every second of it. I'm constantly exploring new things," she said.

Kapili said her education at SPC, her experience with the Exploratory Lab Boot Camp and the connections she made through the Advisory Committee all prepared her for success in her career.

"It wasn't spoon fed. I really had to study and know my stuff," Kapili said. "I'm not a deer in headlights - I'm confident enough to figure it out."

Marilyn Shaw is the Public Relations Specialist in the Marketing and Strategic Communications Department at St. Petersburg College. She can be reached at Shaw.Marilyn@spcollege.edu.



"THEY HAD ME WORKING ON REAL PROJECTS - NOT JUST BUSY WORK. I FELT VALUABLE AND PREPARED."



SPC FOUNDATION: PHILANTHROPY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

THE ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC. SUPPORTS THE VISION AND MISSION OF SPC. THE FOUNDATION PROMOTES THE PRACTICE OF PHILANTHROPY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITY AND ACCEPTS AND MANAGES ALL GIFTS INCLUDING CASH, SECURITIES, PROPERTY, BEQUESTS AND TRUSTS.

Alexis Deveaux is driven to succeed. A double-major student in Paralegal Studies and Business Administration, she also works 10 hours per week as an intern, serves as President of the Clearwater campus Student Government Association and is a member of SPC's internationally recognized Model United Nations team.

Deveaux said fulfilling her dreams was made possible by the Presidential Scholarship she was awarded in 2015. The full-tuition scholarship not only finances her education, but also motivates her to achieve her goals.

"The Presidential Scholarship is the needed gust of wind in my sails," she said. "It's the force I need to propel me toward my destination."

With more than 60 percent of St. Petersburg College students relying on financial assistance to help cover the cost of attending college, scholarships are vital to giving students the opportunity to realize their potential. The SPC Foundation awarded more than two million dollars in scholarships to students like Deveaux in the 2015–16 academic year.

Scholarships are awarded based on multiple factors, including financial need, academic achievement and community involvement.

Yadira Aguilar Rivera, a sophomore working toward an Associate in Arts degree in General Education, received \$1,500 as a first-generation college student. The money made a huge difference in her ability to fulfill her dream of completing a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.

"I had to work two jobs in order to pay for college," Rivera said. "This scholarship enables me to focus on what's important for my education. It allows me to be one step closer to my goal without financial uncertainty."

A GENEROUS COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

The Foundation, which is funded by donations from individuals, local organizations and area businesses, launched its Distinguished Speaker event in 2015 to raise funds to meet the needs of students. This past fall, the Foundation brought *New York Times* columnist and best-selling author David Brooks to a packed house at the Palladium Theater for their second annual Distinguished Speaker Event in September (last year, they landed Apple co-founder Steve "The Woz" Wozniak).

VIP guests and sponsors enjoyed a private reception with Brooks that included photographs with the nationally acclaimed columnist before the evening's event. Brooks' most recent book, "The Road to Character," was available for purchase and guests had the opportunity to get the author's autograph following the event. Frances Neu, SPC Vice President of Advancement and Foundation Executive Director, said the event was an enormous success.



"David Brooks drew two standing ovations from a crowd of almost 800," Neu said. "The event is an outstanding opportunity to bring wider visibility to the College and the success of our students among a broad group of constituents."

ENHANCING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY INVESTING IN FACULTY

Since 2011, the Foundation has also supported students by rewarding faculty initiatives with Innovation Grants. Nearly \$400,000 has been awarded to faculty members who have proposed innovative ideas for engaging students in new and meaningful ways.

Dr. Meg Delgato, Chair of the College of Education, won an Innovation Grant with her proposal for drum making workshops to advance the teaching of science among elementary school students.

"This project has the potential to spark an interest in science that can change the way teacher candidates view science teaching and learning," Delgato said. "The grant gave us the opportunity to open the door for science learning, not only for current teacher candidates, but also for the students they will one day teach."

Dr. Monica Lara used her grant to support student research in marine biology, funding materials, supplies and tools needed for various projects.

"By being able to lead this research, I can teach students the skills needed to do scientific research later as part of their jobs or graduate school," Lara said. "I am able to teach things that are critical to their success as future scientists that I just don't have time to do in a regular classroom or even laboratory setting."

The Rays Baseball Foundation partners with the St. Petersburg College Foundation to provide financial support. The Rays have donated \$20,000 to support student success and also provide other support to the Foundation.

"The Tampa Bay Rays have been exemplary community partners. We are deeply grateful for the investment the Rays are making in our future workforce," Neu said.

MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

Sane Haidara, a 2016 SPC graduate, began his journey to St. Petersburg College from Timbuktu in Mali, West Africa when he became pen pals with Floridians Tony and Patricia Leisner. Tony Leisner recommended that Haidara enroll at St. Petersburg College as an international student. Haidara, who received multiple Foundation scholarships to finance his education, served in a variety of student organizations, including the International Club and the Model United Nations team.

Haidara embodies the mission of the Foundation: advancing education through philanthropy. He has outlined a program that would offer three meals a day to impoverished schoolchildren in Timbuktu.

He spoke at the summer 2016 graduation ceremony, where he expressed his gratitude to the Foundation in his speech.

"By giving to the SPC Foundation," Haidara said, "you are making a difference in the world."

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