

Division of Academic Affairs

Academic Communicator Newsletter

Fall 2021, Issue 1

Purpose

This Academic Affairs newsletter seeks to improve communication within the Division and the rest of the SCTCC community by highlighting student, faculty, and staff recognitions and accomplishments; teaching/learning innovations and outcomes; publications, scholarships, creative works, and other intellectual activities; global community engagements; program accreditation outcomes; sabbatical projects; and updates on grant-funded projects and their impacts, among others. News items should be sent to Donna DeCarlo-Palm (donna.decarlo-palm@stcc.edu) for the next newsletter.

Health Sciences and Nursing

Connie Frisch Appointed to National Nursing Education Accreditation Committee

Dr. Connie Frisch, Director of SCTCC Nursing Program, has been appointed to the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA) Policy and Procedures Committee. Dr. Frisch has been a regular site visitor for CNEA and her high quality of work and attention to detail will serve that committee well. Congratulations, Dr. Frisch!

Business, IT and Online Education

Grants received to support academic programs

SCTCC has received a Farm Business Management Challenge grant of \$129, 546 from the Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council (MAELC). These funds are intended to support quality programming and teaching in the Farm Business Management program.

SCTCC has also been awarded \$80,000 grant through the *Initiative Foundation* to support credentialing of childcare workers. These funds will strengthen SCTCC's commitment to contributing to reducing the huge deficits in demand for early childhood education services in the region. The grant will provide funds for students to complete a Certificate in Early Childhood Education at a reduced cost. The certificate program will also contribute to retention of existing workers in the early childhood field, and provides a pathway into the career for new employees. For additional information, please contact Dean Shanda Davis (shanda.davis@sctcc.edu).

Liberal Arts and Sciences

SCTCC partners with SCSU to Expand STEM Career Pathways

Jen Evens (Biology) participated in a recent teleconference to review the status of the National Science Foundation \$5 million ACCESS STEM grant which provides scholarships for Pell-eligible students at St. Cloud State University, St Cloud Technical & Community College, Anoka-Ramsey Community College, North Hennepin Community College (NHCC), and Ridgewater College. The ACCESS STEM program seeks

to attract under-represented students to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers. Additional information can be found at [SCTCC partners with SCSU on ACCESS STEM | St. Cloud Technical Community College](#)

Math Pathways – Innovation excellence in teaching/learning and student success

The Math Faculty is leading the Math Pathways initiative which utilizes the co-requisite model to enable students to complete ‘gateway’ college-level Math courses. Co-requisites also cut down the number of semesters and the cost of education compared with the traditional prerequisite model. In addition, it is impressive that Katie Smieja has been appointed the Southern Region Math Pathways Coordinator by MnSCU. Congratulations Katie and Math Faculty!

Z-degree initiative marches on

The Z-degree initiative seeks to offer courses which have zero textbooks and cuts down the cost of education significantly for students. SCTCC has secured funding to support faculty to develop Z-degree courses. For details, please contact Mark Gucinski (Biology), mgucinski@sctcc.edu

Virtual Reality Initiative

David Anderson (Biology) is participating in some exciting MnSCU grant-funded projects with SCSU colleagues developing *Virtual Reality* models for teaching and learning. David looks forward to sharing his expertise with SCTCC faculty regarding *Virtual Reality* innovative learning approaches that enhance student success. For additional information, please contact David, david.anderson@sctcc.edu

Skilled Trades and Industry

Program Advisory Committee Meetings in October:

10/7 - Welding and Plumbing
10/12 - Medium/Heavy Truck
10/13 - Automotive
10/14 - Water Environment Technologies
10/20 - Electrical
10/26 - Carpentry
10/27 - Autobody

Policy Change

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy change under discussion

Per [Minnesota State Board Procedure 2.9.1](#) update in spring 2021, developmental education classes are no longer included in completion rate calculations, but count towards cumulative grade point average calculations. Board policy is already changed and technical function for completion rate will enforce the change for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at the end of fall 2021. Justification for the policy change was that the use of developmental education classes in completion rate calculations negatively impacted low-income, first-generation students, and students of color. Currently, the proposal is in the “open comments” phase. For details, please contact Bretta Edwards (bedwards@sctcc.edu).