

St. Cloud Technical & Community College  
FOUNDATION

# IMPACT



- 🌀 SCTCC's Year in Review
- 🌀 Wedum Center for Student Success
- 🌀 Jasslyn Dahlberg's Panther is Home page 8

 **ST. CLOUD**  
TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION  
A member of Minnesota State

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Together, We Build Opportunity and Impact

Since 1948, St. Cloud Technical & Community College (SCTCC) has been educating generations, transforming communities, and strengthening Central Minnesota. From the beginning, SCTCC has relied on the power of partnerships—individuals, faculty and staff, industry partners, alumni, and community leaders who come together to create opportunities for students to learn, grow, and contribute to the region’s success.

Looking back on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the impact of these partnerships. This year has shown once again what is possible when community members, business leaders, donors, and supporters unite around a shared purpose. Collaboration leads to powerful outcomes. Examples include scholarships for students who once wondered if college was within reach; capital investments that expand programs and ensure students learn on up-to-date technology and equipment; and workplace connections—such as internships, clinicals, and apprenticeships—that strengthen career pathways and meet workforce demand.

Serving more than 5,500 students and offering 40+ majors and 75+ credentials, SCTCC prepares graduates for high-demand careers or transfer opportunities within the Minnesota State system. Advisory boards made up of regional industry partners ensure that career and technical education programs remain aligned with current workplace needs. The result is clear: 98% of SCTCC graduates are employed in their field of study, with many programs achieving a 100% placement rate.

Our momentum continued this year as SCTCC responded to evolving needs across the region and state. Current examples of this innovative work include strong industry support

to launch the Aircraft Maintenance Technician and Echocardiography programs and to expand our Dental Hygienist program. Looking ahead, the Wedum Center for Student Success—a dynamic new space dedicated to holistic student support—will open in the fall of 2026 and serve as a vital resource to help every learner succeed.

These achievements represent lives changed and communities strengthened. Students who once questioned whether college was possible are now thriving—earning credentials, entering the workforce, and building brighter futures for themselves and their families. Employers seeking skilled professionals are hiring SCTCC graduates who are prepared to contribute from day one. Communities that invest in education are seeing firsthand how their support fuels local businesses, innovation, and economic vitality.

Our future is bright because of you—our partners, supporters, and friends. Thank you for believing in SCTCC and in the power of education to transform lives. Together, through continued collaboration and generosity, we will continue to build opportunities, strengthen our region, and inspire the next generation of learners and leaders.

  
Lori Kloos, President



# St. Cloud Technical & Community College YEAR IN REVIEW

Spring Semester 2025 begins

Women’s basketball heads to the NJCAA DIII region tournament for the third time in program history



15th annual VEX Robotics tournament takes place

SCTCC’s VEX U Team receives the Judges’ award

Sonography re-accredited for ten years

2nd Annual Art Contest

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

SCTCC hires Dean of Academic Innovation and Success Becky Krystyniak to oversee Wedum Center for Student Success.

2025 BrewLash is Chef Jay’s final, breaks fundraising records



St. Cloud Technical & Community College  
**YEAR IN REVIEW**

● Aaron Seng makes All-Minnesota Academic Team

Marketing & Design students take first place in 12-Hour Design Challenge

● Collegiate DECA sends 10 students to Nationals with support from Siteworx Excavating

Kelly Crue named Outstanding Educator

APRIL

● Six win at MN SkillsUSA competition - 3 are PSEO

Commencement



● Steve Nusbaum Recognized with two awards by MN Advanced Manufacturing Center for Excellence

● SCTCC hosts youth summer camps

● 10th Annual Haller Golf Tournament breaks records

● Haller Athletes of the Year: Jenna Boos and Sam Woubishet

Student Employee of the Year: Brooke Linder

Academic Scholar Athlete of the Year: Ryan Neuman

JUNE

● NJCAA Softball All American: Sami Petzel

● NJCAA Baseball All American: Hayden Frank

● National SkillsUSA Results  
 Electrical: Kaden Georges, 4th; Zech Anderson, 5th  
 HVAC: Caden Barringer, 7th  
 Auto Body: Lucas Kunstleben, 5th

JULY

● Alberto Ramos starts as VP of Community, Culture, & Institutional Climate

● Fall Semester 2025 begins

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

● SCTCC Foundation Board Retreat

● Three Cyclones teams named 2024-2025 NJCAA Academic Teams of the Year: Volleyball, Women's Basketball, Softball

● Nursing (ADN) ranked #2 in Best Nursing Schools in MN



● Nepalese Student Association hosts inaugural Teej Gala

● Raze the Roof groundbreaking (page 6)

NOVEMBER

● Panther heads to Tracy after auction (page 8)

● SCTCC hosts Chamber Business After Hours, Chef Emily Racki's first as Culinary Instructor

● Auto Body competes at SEMA, brings back \$25K+ in equipment



EPIC (Exploring Potential Interests and Careers) 2025

● Cyclones Volleyball heads to nationals after at-large bid

● Cyclones Cupboard Food Pantry receives grant

● SCTCC named Best for Vets

DECEMBER

● Dental Hygiene students help out at TeamSmile

# WEDUM CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

On Wednesday, Oct. 15, SCTCC welcomed legislators, community members, and faculty and staff from the college to celebrate the Raise/Raze the Roof groundbreaking of the Wedum Center for Student Success and the Heartland Building Roof Replacement.

In 2024, the **J.A. Wedum Foundation** presented SCTCC with a challenge gift of \$2 million, which would be matched with funds raised over the next five years. The \$4 million total will support staffing and space for first-generation student support.

## The Challenge

The focus on first-generation students is particularly important because 60 percent of SCTCC students have parents who haven't earned a bachelor's degree. The success of these students is critical for their futures and the future of Central Minnesota and beyond. When they enroll in college, they encounter obstacles that no

one in their family has faced before, as well as needing to work full-time and manage financial constraints. Additional supports ensure their level of system familiarity is on par with other students.

SCTCC has several student cohorts that demonstrate that extra support means students are more likely to succeed. With a more intrusive model to address academic difficulties before it's too late, students bond with each other over shared interests, creating a sense of belonging and lifelong friendships.

With the J.A. Wedum Foundation challenge gift, the College was able to start hiring staff to support students and start raising the matching dollars.

## Getting Started

In January, SCTCC welcomed Becky Krystyniak as Dean of Academic Innovation & Success. In addition to

# FOUNDATION MEETS GOAL EARLY

overseeing the First-Gen Cyclones Success program, Krystyniak provides direction for the Center for Teaching and Learning as well as Library Services. Soon after, the College welcomed two Cyclones Success Coordinators, **Tomy Cassalom** and **Nena Vasovic**. With staffing in place, the objectives of the Wedum Center for Student Success started to come together, and fall semester 2025 the Coordinators began reaching out to first-generation students with focused support and resources.

With the groundbreaking, renovation will start to add much-needed student space to the second floor of the Heartland Building. Office space will be created for the three new hires as well as the **Center for Academic Success**. Since Heartland opened in 2016, the top floor has remained empty and in need of a new roof to meet updated building code. Thanks to legislative support of a **\$1.1 million HEAPR** request, the roof will be repaired, after which renovation inside can begin.

**President Lori Kloos** and **Chairman of the J.A. Wedum Foundation Board Brian Myers** both shared personal stories during the groundbreaking showing how extra support for first-generation students is important. What's equally as important is the community coming together to help make it happen.

"We have to recognize our amazing local legislators," said President Kloos, "for their advocacy and their support. We were able to leverage the \$2 million gift to say, we need that \$1.2 million investment, and with these two efforts—capital improvements through legislative investments and transformation programming through philanthropic investment—represent a powerful alignment of public and private support."

## Meeting Goals

When **Vice President of Advancement Daniel Larson** spoke to the attendees, he announced the SCTCC Foundation had not only met the challenge gift goal but surpassed it in September, not even a year after the gift was announced. **Community donors have pledged \$2.2 million through 2029.**



The long-term success of the program relies on the success of SCTCC students. Given our knowledge of how support affects completion, the College anticipates the first-year retention increase will be 7.5%. With that projection, it's anticipated that the program will sustain itself by winter of 2029.

"What we're doing here at St. Cloud Technical & Community College today is an example of that kind of collaboration and coordination, not for its own sake, but for a purpose, which is to make our community stronger, and to build a better future students," shared **Minnesota Senator Aric Putnam**. "That's what spaces like this and the people we have at these spaces are all accomplishing."

When students succeed, it's not just for them and their families; it means success for the community, industry partners, the state, and society. Combined with opportunities already available at SCTCC, the new Wedum Center for Student Success will provide even more opportunities for students to succeed.





# WELDED PANTHER MAKES TRACKS FROM WELDING TO TRACY

After nearly a year, PSEO student **Jasslyn Dahlberg's** welded panther has found a home. The journey from idea to completion was a perfect example of SCTCC collaboration, with help from instructors, classmates, and industry partners. Now the panther welcomes students and community members to **Tracy Area High School**, home of the Panthers.

The PSEO student's idea started when she saw something similar on Pinterest and decided to create it for her Welding/Fabrication capstone project. After purchasing plans on Etsy, she worked with instructors to make the instructions more complete, including how to cut the metal and the types of bend each piece needed. Then she got to work.

She and two fellow Welding students, **Logan** and **Josh**, cut the metal on Welding's plasma table, bent them into place, sanded, and tacked them together.

"I did most of the welding and asked Chuck if he could help...while I was grinding some of the welds flat. I spent two days grinding all the welds down so the corners/angles were sharp so you couldn't see the weld," she explained.

After Dahlberg was finished, they sent the panther to **All Pro Powder Coating & Sandblasting** where they sandblasted it white. They use garnet to sandblast, which creates an ideal surface for powder-coating. This cleaned the panther and prepared it for outdoor conditions.

When the panther was finished at All Pro, it was time to take it to **Line-X**, where they primarily offer spray-on bedliners. The panther got an extra layer of protection with a textured, black bedliner spray. With the tabs

Dahlberg attached to the panther's feet so it can be bolted to the ground, it was ready for a life in snow and sun.

"Both companies donated their time, material, and resources, so I'm very thankful to them," Dahlberg said.

She met her goal and completed the panther before graduating, with more than 100 hours of work into the project. Since late January, she stay after class to make sure her capstone project got finished.

The panther made a few stops along the way. Dahlberg submitted the panther to the **SCTCC Art Contest** and smashed it, winning first place overall by more than double the votes. It made an appearance at **BrewLäsh, Commencement, the Minnesota Tour of**



**Manufacturing**, and others. The panther became a fixture at SCTCC over the summer.

But it needed its forever home: in October, the panther was put up for auction. That had always been the plan for Dahlberg. Instead of paying for the metal outright, she agreed with instructor **Chuck Haus** that it would be sold and funds would go back to Welding.

Unbeknownst to her, while Dahlberg was working on her panther, Tracy Area High School had been looking for a panther for many years.

"The superintendent [**Chad Anderson**] always wanted to make the high school look appealing, and he's done a really good job of improving the look of the school," said **Tom Hook**, who drove to SCTCC to pick up the panther with family members. "What was missing was the panther. When this came up, he was ecstatic."

Hook is a graduate of the high school before it consolidated and is a former school board member. When Tracy and Balaton consolidated in 2009, a new mascot was chosen – the Panthers.

"Anderson's had an alert for years, every time a panther is for sale. So he found this and said, this is it. We have to bid," added Hook.

Bidding was tense the last moments, and they actually went over their agreed max bid by \$500, but everyone was quite all right with it. They finally had the missing piece of their mascot journey.

It wasn't just getting the perfect panther that prompted them to bid: "Knowing that it was Jasslyn's project and the care she put into it, and also knowing that she wants

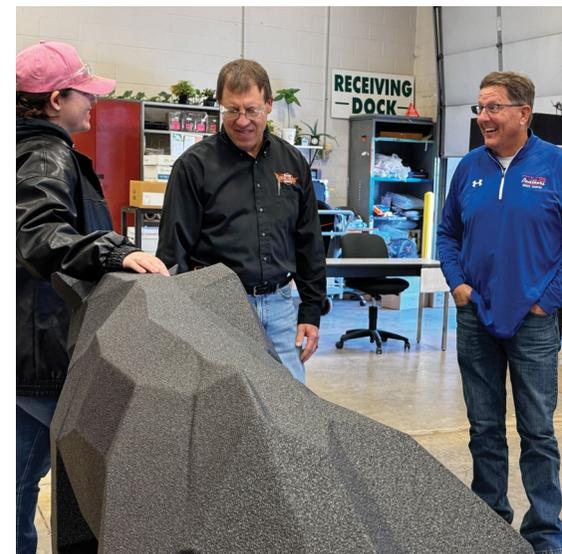
to go into welding and marketing, I think it makes it even more special. It's not just something that was commercially done – it was done by a student," Hook explained.

The panther will greet everyone as they come in the north entrance of Tracy Area High School. Hook hopes that it will **show high school students the possibilities that can come with trades careers and how you be creative at the same time.**

For Dahlberg, watching the panther get loaded into a trailer on its way to Tracy, Minn., was about finding the right home for her welding capstone project rather than saying goodbye.

"I'm happy it's going to a good home," Dahlberg noted. "It was my first ever metal project, and I will probably make another one for myself."

Before the panther was loaded into the trailer for its three-hour ride to Tracy, the folks gathered at the panther's departure just stood back and admired Dahlberg's finished project. "It's beautiful. It really is. It will look so great."



# SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED 2025

## TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED

**\$362,175**

AID Electric Corporation Scholarship  
 Arthur A. Cater Memorial Scholarship  
 Baldwin Glasrud Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
 Barry J. Henz Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
 Freightliner of St. Cloud Scholarship  
 Bernick's Endowed Scholarship  
 Bernick's Pillars Scholarships  
 BrewLash Scholarships  
 Central MN Truck Technician Scholarship  
 Community Dental Care  
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 Greater St. Cloud Public Safety Foundation Scholarship  
 Interstates Construction Endowed Scholarship  
 James Wakefield Memorial Scholarship  
 Jane Domek Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
 Joan & Don Volkmuth Endowed Scholarship

## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

**347**

John Brannan Memorial Scholarship  
 John Haller Memorial Scholarship  
 John Seivert Memorial Scholarship  
 Josh Scepaniak Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
 Kopp Family Foundation Scholarship  
 Len & Judy Wohlman Endowed Scholarship  
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 RTL Equipment Scholarship  
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 SCTCC Accounting Scholarship  
 SCTCC Computer Careers Scholarship  
 SCTCC Construction Technology Scholarship  
 SCTCC Culinary Arts Scholarship  
 SCTCC Cybersecurity Scholarship  
 SCTCC Farm Business Management Scholarship

## UNIQUE STUDENTS AWARDED

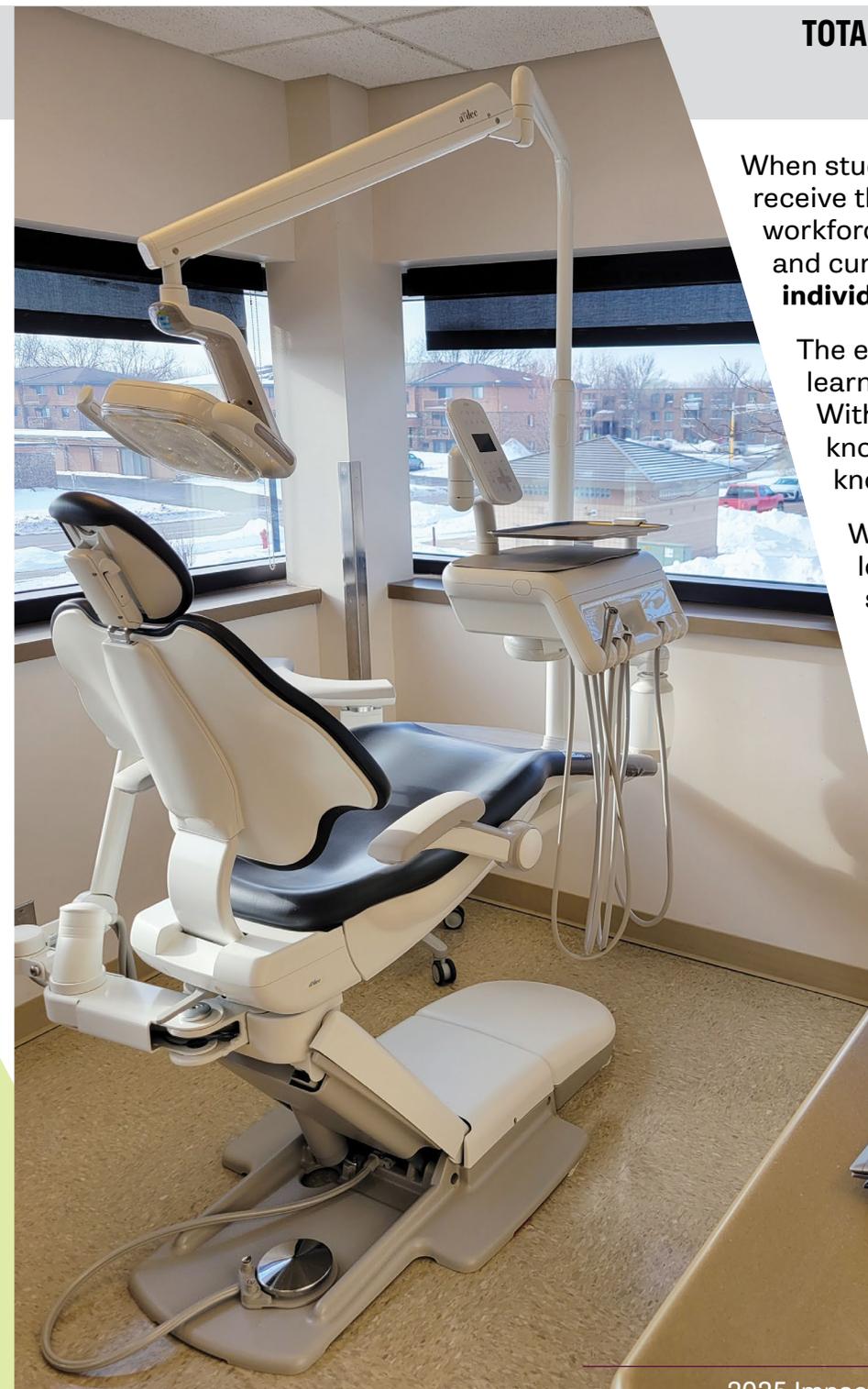
**275**

SCTCC Foundation Endowed Scholarship  
 SCTCC Foundation General Scholarship  
 SCTCC Liberal Arts Faculty/ Staff Scholarship  
 SCTCC Single Parent Scholarship  
 SCTCC Spanish Studies Scholarship  
 SCTCC VEX Scholarship  
 Shawn Grittner Memorial Scholarship  
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 STEM and Skilled Scholarship  
 Theisen Family Nursing Scholarship  
 Wayne Heinen Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
 Winkelman Building Endowed Scholarship  
 Xcel Energy Scholarship  
 VEX Robotics Scholarship  
 Workforce Development Scholarship Match Sponsored by Pantowners  
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# TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT

## TOTAL DOLLARS FOR TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT

**\$201,000**



When students enroll at SCTCC, they can expect to receive the education and training they need to enter the workforce. That includes **knowledgeable instructors** and curriculum guided by advisory boards that include **individuals from local business and industry partners.**

The education our students receive also incorporates learning on **current technology and equipment.** With up-to-date equipment, hands-on learning, and knowledgeable instructors, our industry partners know that SCTCC grads are ready for the workforce.

While there are many items donated by local partners, the **SCTCC Foundation** supplements these purchases with donations from **businesses and people like you.**

This year's program equipment purchases include:

- **Auto Body Collision Technology**
- **Medium/Heavy Truck Technician**
- **Dental Hygiene**

“These new dental chairs were a turning point for our programs. By upgrading outdated, unreliable equipment, we expanded student learning opportunities, improved patient comfort, and directly increased enrollment in our Dental Hygiene and Assistant programs.”

Kami Burgess, Dental Hygiene Instructor

# THANK YOU, DONORS

## CORPORATE DONORS

### \$500,000 & Up

J.A. Wedum Foundation

### \$100,000-\$499,000

Centracare Health - St. Cloud Hospital

Norman C. Skalicky Foundation

SCTCC General Scholarship Fund

Women's Foundation of Minnesota

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Xcel Energy Foundation

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Park Industries

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DCI, Inc.

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St. Cloud State University College of Science & Engineering

### \$1,000-\$4,999

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APH/Automotive Parts Headquarters, Inc.

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Compeer Financial Fund Board (Chicago Community Foundation)

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DigiKey Electronics

Full Circle Water

Initiative Foundation

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Trucking Association

MN Management and Budget

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Rainville-Carlson

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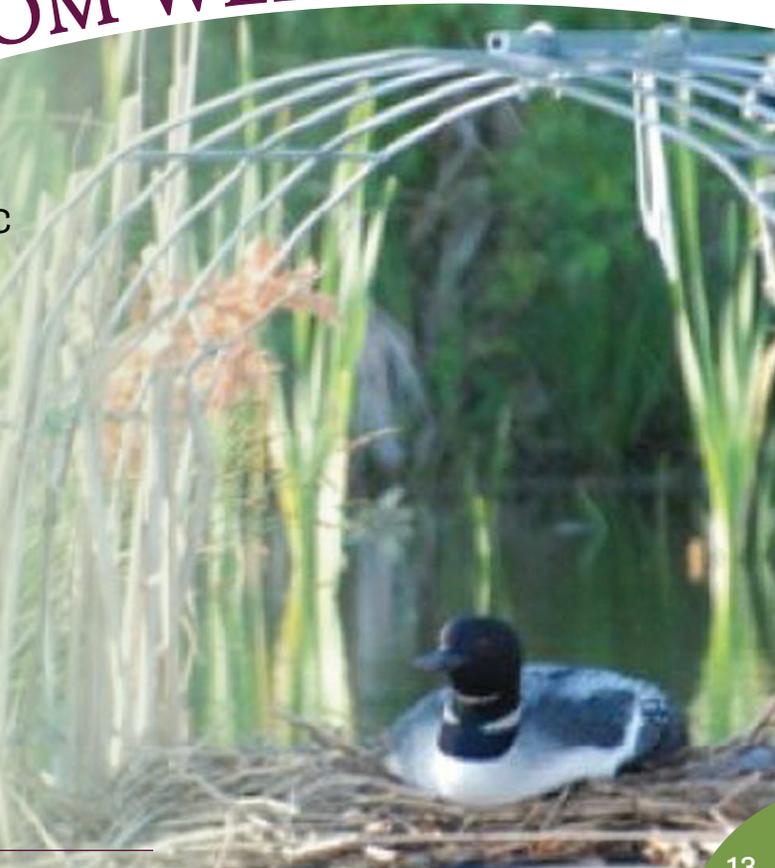
Jeanna Franklin

## LOONS GET A BOOST FROM WELDING

For many years, SCTCC Welding students have built nesting rafts for the loons that nest on Big Mantrap Lake, just northeast of Park Rapids.

Two types of rafts are built, one with a canopy and one without, as part of the applied learning project, which prepares students for professional, scholarly, and civic lives after graduation.

Not only does the project provide students with positive experiential learning, but it's helping the loon population, too. The hatch rate for raft-nesting loons is about 50% more than traditional nesting.



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# LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



Reviewing another year at our St. Cloud Technical & Community College Foundation, one thing is abundantly clear: this community cares for and believes in SCTCC! Your generosity—whether through sharing your time, your talents, or your financial support—makes a real and lasting difference for our students, our college, and our region.

We are humbled to serve as stewards of your generosity. We strive to be thoughtful and strategic with every dollar, prioritizing the recruitment, retention, and career placement of our students as well as the tools and resources our faculty and staff need to lead and inspire.

Thank you for being such an important part of the SCTCC story. Together, we are changing lives, strengthening our workforce, and shaping the future of Central Minnesota.

Daniel Larson, Vice President of Advancement

One way this is reflected each day throughout the year is by the tremendous work done by members of the Foundation Board. Our leaders donate their time and expertise in pursuit of creating the greatest possible impact with your investments into SCTCC. They represent community organizations and industry partners in career pathways across SCTCC from the health science and skilled trades to the liberal arts and business and IT and education programs.

Together, our work is guided by the strategic priorities of the college and aligned into three key pillars: scholarships, technology & equipment, and student success. Scholarships create hope and belief and remove financial barriers so students can focus on learning and building their brightest futures. Investments in technology and equipment ensure our classrooms and labs reflect the real-world environments students will encounter in their careers. And our student success initiatives provide critical resources—advising, support services, accountability, and teamwork—that help students chart their course, overcome emergency barriers, and achieve their goals.

## HOW TO GIVE

Support SCTCC Students with a financial donation!

When you invest in SCTCC, your gift has an immediate impact that aligns with the College's priorities.



[sctcc.edu/giving](https://sctcc.edu/giving)

### AREAS OF INVESTMENT

- Scholarships
- Equipment & Technology
- Student Success

Or call 320-308-5980 • Email [foundation@sctcc.edu](mailto:foundation@sctcc.edu)

Save the Date

SKILLS ON DISPLAY. FLAVORS ON TAP.

# Brew Lash!

**MARCH 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | 5:00-7:00 PM**

SCTCC Medium Heavy Truck Lab  
1540 Northway Drive, St. Cloud, MN 56303



**Title Sponsors**



A member of Minnesota State

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