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...inside DONORS AND hakers



Electrical Lineworker
Program upgrades
equipment with \$82,150
Duke Energy grant



Students in Commercial Vehicle Driving program can now practice with new state-of-the-art simulators



Ben Hill Griffin III is inducted into Foundation's Legacy Society

AdventHealth Center for Nursing Excellence Is Unveiled at SFSC's Highlands Campus

PARTNERSHIP CREATES A HIGH-TECH SIMULATION LAB AND DELIVERS NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SFSC'S NURSING STUDENTS

On July 13, AdventHealth Sebring and South Florida State College unveiled the new AdventHealth Sebring Center for Nursing Excellence at South Florida State College's Highlands Campus in Avon Park. SFSC is using the state-of-the-art facility to train students who are becoming Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Registered Nurses (RNs).

The students will complete their clinical studies at AdventHealth Sebring, AdventHealth Lake Placid, and AdventHealth Wauchula.

"In partnership with South Florida State College, this facility will allow us to educate and develop high caliber nurses to fill the nursing void many health care facilities are currently facing," said AdventHealth Sebring Chief Nursing Officer Elsie Graves. "In addition to receiving the scholarship, these nurses will already have firsthand knowledge of AdventHealth's whole-person care philosophy and be ready to provide the high-quality nursing care AdventHealth is known for starting on their very first day as a part of the team."

Students who are enrolled in the AdventHealth Nursing Scholars Program at South Florida State College will receive a



SFSC President Dr. Thomas Leitzel and AdventHealth CEO Randy Surber unveil the AdventHealth Sebring Center for Nursing Excellence.

\$10,000 scholarship to be used for tuition, fees, and books. Upon graduation, those students also will be offered a nursing position at one of the AdventHealth hospitals where they trained.

"South Florida State College and AdventHealth have entered into a formal academic-practice partnership, and we are extremely grateful for the support this innovative agreement provides for our students and our faculty," said Michele Heston, Ph.D., RN, CNE, SFSC's interim vice president for academic affairs and student services.

SFSC and AdventHealth Sebring have a long history of partnering to educate future health care providers. AdventHealth Sebring previously funded nursing faculty positions at the College to ensure that students have the best leaders and to forge new paths toward alleviating the shortage of nurses.

Gifts Benefit Students at SFSC and Beyond

As we look forward to the holidays and being grateful for our friends, families, and the kindness we share within our community, I want to thank you for your support of South Florida State College and your participation at our events throughout the year.

Imagine you are a student. You're dealing with the pressure of maintaining your grades, holding a job, and possibly trying to support your family. Now imagine you're given a scholarship that covers the amount you need to continue down the path of obtaining a degree — a degree that will open the door to a better future for you and your family.

When we hear the stories of the lives we're impacting, we understand what it means to be a student at SFSC and how our gifts truly make a difference. That is what happens when you support SFSC. You are making a life-changing impact for our students. Thank you!

In this fall edition, you'll read about other huge impacts that are happening at SFSC.

Like how Duke Energy continues to impact the lives of our Electrical Lineworker students and how a generous gift will impact our part-time students and students who are parents through the support of the Edward K. Roberts Scholarship.

Like how AdventHealth Sebring partnered with SFSC for the AdventHealth Sebring Center for



Nursing Excellence and Scholars Program to allow nursing students the opportunity to obtain their nursing degree with the assurance of a job following

their graduation.

Not to mention our latest and greatest simulator in our Commercial Vehicle Driving program that puts students in the driver's seat of an 18-wheeler and lets them practice driving in all types of weather conditions. This is the ultimate video game experience!

There are many stories we could share all because someone cared enough to step up and say, "I want to make a difference. I want to leave a legacy."

We can't do what we do without you. As we near the end of this calendar year, your contribution could make a significant impact. Would you consider making an end-of-the-year gift to SFSC?

Thank you for joining us at our events, attending our performing arts programs, or touring one of our beautiful campuses. You are making a difference.

Jamie Bateman

Vice President, Institutional Advancement and External Affairs

sfsc foundation

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5 Ways to Support the SFSC Foundation

- 1. Make the SFSC Foundation your favorite charitable organization at Amazon Smile, and go to *smile.amazon. com* when making future purchases. Learn more at *amzn.to/2g9Ku0P*.
- 2. Become a Friend of SFSC by setting up an online recurring donation of \$25 or more per month using the QR code.
- 3. Sponsor a fundraising event, such as the Legacy Showcase, the

Jacaranda Jubilee, the Christmas Luncheon, or the Million Dollar Holein-One Golf Shootout.

- 4. Give stock or securities. For information, call 863-453-3133 or email *foundation@southflorida.edu*.
- 5. Join the SFSC Heritage Society by including the SFSC Foundation in your will or trust, or name the SFSC Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.



is produced semiannually by the South Florida State College Foundation, Inc., to inspire charitable contributions in support of South Florida State College. The SFSC Foundation raises awareness of the value of an SFSC education and promotes student success through scholarships, facilities development, and program support. By supporting SFSC, the SFSC Foundation endeavors to enhance the ability of residents in our district to obtain a college education.

SFSC Receives Grant Funding from Duke Energy Foundation

THE \$82,150 GRANT IS HELPING THE ELECTRICAL LINEWORKER PROGRAM ADD NEW TECHNOLOGY TO ITS WORKING LABORATORY.

South Florida State College recently received more than \$82,150 in grant funding from the Duke Energy Foundation to enhance its Electrical Lineworker program.

"Duke Energy is proud of our collaboration with SFSC and the positive outcomes of the Electrical Lineworker program," said Nancy Dodd, Duke Energy Florida government and community relations manager. "We look forward to assisting SFSC in reaching even more students and adding state-of-theart equipment to enhance the hands-on training opportunities available to current and future students of the program."

According to Christopher Yeomans, electrical distribution professor, the SFSC Electrical Lineworker Program is using the grant to purchase a mini-excavator and a Viper ST breaker. "Students will learn to safely and efficiently use the mini-excavator to install and maintain primary and secondary cables for an Underground Residential Distribution system," Yeomans said. "They will also be able to learn the latest technology circuit protection on a distribution system. They will learn how to frame a pole for the installation of a three-phase Viper ST breaker, execute switching orders to place a three-phase breaker in service, and execute switching orders to bypass three-phase breakers for maintenance or change out."



SFSC's Electrical Lineworker students turn out to thank Duke Energy for investing \$82,150 in their program.

By successfully completing 1,500 contact hours of training, SFSC's Electrical Lineworker students earn a Career Certificate and become prepared to construct, maintain, and repair electric utility overhaul and underground systems. The program provides practice in operating bucket trucks, climbing, framing, and building single and three-phase overhead lines, and pole top and bucket rescue techniques.

For more information about the program, email Chris Yeomans at *YeomansC@southflorida.edu* or call 863-784-7045.

Part-Time Students Benefit from \$60,000 Grant

The SFSC Foundation, Inc. has received a \$60,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County that is aiding part-time students attending SFSC during the summer, fall, and spring terms of the 2022-23 academic year.

The grant comes from the Edward K. Roberts Community College Fund, which was established by Roberts as a legacy to support Florida's community colleges and other charitable organizations. The fund is managed by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County with the vision of making higher education a priority, particularly for students who have difficulty attending college due to financial need or other obstacles. The grant will aid part-time SFSC students who may be ineligible for other forms of financial aid and students who are parents.

THE DONATION IS EARMARKED FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS
WHO FACE FINANCIAL AND
OTHER DIFFICULTIES WHILE
ATTENDING COLLEGE.

Each recipient may receive up to \$2,500 to cover tuition, housing, books, child care, transportation, and needs that would prevent them from attending college. Recipients are identified by SFSC's Office of Financial Aid.

"Because of grants from organizations such as the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, the SFSC Foundation can support the educational goals of SFSC's students," said Jamie Bateman, vice president of institutional advancement and external affairs. "The grant allows students to concentrate on their studies and prepare



Jamie Bateman (left) and Tina Stetson, SFSC's director of financial aid, accept a \$60,000 donation from the Edward K. Roberts Community College Fund. The funds will give a financial boost to eligible part-time students.

for rewarding careers. With this financial support, students can achieve their higher education goals."

For more information, contact Jamie Bateman at 863-453-3133 or email foundation@southflorida.edu.

Commercial Driving Program Installs New Simulators

State College's Commercial Vehicle Driving program are now training on a virtual pre-trip inspection simulator and a truck cab simulator that were recently installed at the SFSC Crews Center in Avon Park.

The simulators were purchased by a \$415,000 allocation from the governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Those funds were earmarked for the Commercial Vehicle Driver Program to help alleviate a national shortage of truck drivers.

With the virtual pre-trip inspection simulator, students view and identify problems with the over 100 parts of a truck that need to be inspected prior to a trip. The truck cab simulator helps students learn how to shift the



One of SFSC's new truck driving simulators gives students the experience of what it feels like to drive a semi-truck in a variety of terrains and weather conditions.

10-speed transmission, perform backing maneuvers, and drive in various terrains and hazardous weather conditions.

Because cab is motion-based, a student gets the sensation of movement while being able to inspect gages on the dashboard and use windshield wipers, steering wheel, horns, indicator lights, and the defroster.

The simulators also help students practice for the Commercial Driver's

License (CDL) examination. The final examination is administered using an actual semi-truck at the Crews Center.

Instructors receive reports on the student's driving performance and use them to provide feedback and additional training.

"Ultimately, students using the simulators become better drivers," said Tina Gottus, SFSC's director of corporate and community education, "When they make our roads safer through good-driving skills, we all benefit."

SFSC's four-week Commercial Vehicle Driving program offers students a hands-on truck driving experience and the ability to make connections with future employers. For more information, call the Corporate and Community Education Department at 863-784-7033 or email *corporatetraining@southflorida.edu*.



Ron Ellerman (left) and Scott Teeters (right) make a donation to the Bill Jarrett Automotive Scholarship on behalf of the Lake Country Cruisers.

Cruisers Donate to Auto Scholarship

The Lake Country Cruisers has added \$500 to the Bill Jarrett Automotive Scholarship, which benefits students in the SFSC's Automotive Service Technology and Automotive Collision Technology programs.

Scott Teeters and Ron Ellerman made the donation on behalf of the group, which raises money by organizing classic car shows. The members wanted to support young people as they learn skills they can use throughout their lives.

Each year, the Bill Jarrett Automotive Scholarship provides full tuition and fees for one student in the SFSC Automotive Service Technology program and one in the SFSC Automotive Collision Technology Technician program.

SFSC offers a 12-month Automotive Collision Technology Technician Career Certificate and an 18-month Automotive Service Technology Career Certificate.

CRA Grant Funds Hotel's Restoration

The Hotel Jacaranda has received a \$105,000 facade grant through the Avon Park Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

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The grant is making it possible for windows, window frames, and window sills to be updated on the north side of the historic hotel.

Located at 19 East North Main Street, the Jacaranda was built in the 1920s and lies within the Avon Park Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

After the SFSC Foundation purchased the hotel in 1987, it became a dormitory for SFSC student and a teaching laboratory for the College's Culinary Arts program. It continues to offer hotel accommodations, a restaurant, and meeting



Avon Park City Manager Mark Schrader presents a \$105,000 check to Jamie Bateman to be used toward a restoration project at the Hotel Jacaranda.

rooms to the local community. The promenade is home to seven small businesses.

"The Jacaranda has been a large part of downtown for many years," said Avon Park Mayor Garrett Anderson.
"We're happy and excited that the CRA funds can be used to restore that building. We're happy to work with the College and hope to see more such projects and to work with the College in Avon Park."

HONOREE IS ACKNOWLEDGED FOR CONTINUING FAMILY'S 40-YEAR LEGACY OF GIVING

Ben Hill Griffin III is Inducted into Legacy Society

Ben Hill Griffin III was posthumously honored for his contributions to education by being inducted into the 2022 Legacy Society during the SFSC Foundation's Legacy Showcase and Fundraiser on May 7, 2022.

"The Foundation Board chose to honor Ben Hill Griffin III because he and his family have had a history of supporting SFSC since the mid-1980s," said Jamie Bateman, vice president of institutional advancement and external affairs. "This family legacy of giving to colleges in support of higher education began with Ben Hill Griffin Jr. and was continued by Ben Hill Griffin III. Mr. Griffin believed in helping young people and knew how a college degree could impact a young person's life for the better."

The Griffin family has contributed over 30 endowed scholarships at SFSC in the past five years. One recipient, Marlene Gonsales, is on course to earn



Hill Griffin (center), son of the late Ben Hill Griffin III, accepted the SFSC Foundation's 2022 Legacy Award honoring his father. He is flanked by Tres Stephenson, president of the SFSC Foundation Board of Directors, and Jamie Bateman.

her SFSC Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management (BAS-SM) in spring 2023. The Publix worker credited the scholarship with relieving the financial stress of attending college.

"Before the scholarship, my main concern was having to hold off on getting my bachelor's degree, but now I'm one step closer," Gonsales said.

The Ben Hill Griffin Jr. General Endowed Scholarship gives preference to students who are enrolled full time in any of SFSC's bachelor's programs: Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, or Bachelor of Science in Nursing. It is awarded to students from Highlands, Hardee, or DeSoto counties.

"Supporting higher education was important to my dad," said Hill Griffin, who accepted the award on behalf of his father. "He realized how fortunate that he was. He grew up in a family that could afford to go to college. It was rewarding for him to support young people who were pursuing a better life for themselves and their families.

"I don't think that it ever crossed my dad's mind that he would receive an award for giving. It was something that he was taught and came natural to him. I know that he would appreciate it. It was a part of who he was."

GED® Graduates Scholarship Provides a Pathway to College

Students who graduate from SFSC with their State of Florida High School diploma have even more incentive to continue their academic endeavors as the result of a newly created scholarship, the GED© Graduates Endowed Scholarship.

The scholarship was established by Dr. MaryAnn Lewis through the SFSC Foundation to help students continue their studies by covering tuition, books, and supplies. It gives preference to graduates who participated in the General Educational Development (GED©) Prep program at SFSC and passed all four required exams.

"The SFSC GED® preparatory class offers students an alternative pathway to earn a State of Florida High School Diploma," said Courtney Green, Adult Education director at SFSC. "Obtaining

a high school diploma by passing the GED® allows individuals to advance in employment or continue on to postsecondary education. I am proud that the College stays committed to offering this program. Not only does this program transform an individual but also the community."

SFSC's GED© Prep program is open to Florida residents ages 16 or older who do not have a high school diploma. It prepares them to take the GED© exam.

Dr. Lewis' decision to fund the GED© Graduates Endowed Scholarship came after meeting a 16-year-old girl who had dropped out of high school but was taking GED© classes at SFSC. "I was really impressed with her determination," Dr. Lewis said. "Within a few months, she took all four tests and passed all four. Now she's enrolled at Valencia College in Orlando, studying



Dr. MaryAnn Lewis (center) talks with students in SFSC's GED© Prep program.

information technology."

Dr. Lewis, a retired educator, spent 15 years in administration in the Miami-Dade Public School System and 15 years teaching graduate education at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale.

To learn more about the GED© Prep Program at SFSC, call the Office of Adult Education at 863-784-7441.

Change a Child's Life: Become a Take Stock Mentor

You can change a child's life by becoming a mentor. By showing a child that someone cares, you will help that student become a productive citizen. As a mentor, you can change a child's life today and break the cycle of poverty through education.

Take Stock in Children, Inc. (TSIC) is a nonprofit mentoring, college success, and college scholarship organization dedicated to transforming Florida one student at a time. Working statewide throughout Florida, its mission is to break the cycle of poverty for low-income, underrepresented, academically qualified students by providing opportunities for degree attainment through postsecondary education. It provides wraparound services to students through an innovative multiyear model from middle school through postsecondary completion.

Susie Johnson shares her experience as a mentor, "I have been mentoring for at least 10 years. For me, mentoring students is like a breath of fresh air. The ones that I have been fortunate to mentor have always been receptive and eager about the ability to continue their education with limited debt. I hope



Susie Johnson and her mentee, Javia

that I was an inspiration in some ways that help them to be successful in their chosen careers." She currently mentors a young lady named Javia, a dedicated Take Stock in Children student.

Mentor Lexi Siegle is giving other students the guidance she received when she was mentored in high school through Take Stock in Children.

"My mentor, Janice Del Sesto, was instrumental in shaping me into the person I am today. Meeting her every week was a highlight of school for me. To this day, we are still very close. Now with my student, Leia, I can see why



Lexi Siegle and her mentee, Leia

this relationship is so important. I hope I am making a positive impact on her life, but what I did not expect was how mentoring has affected me as an adult. I truly believe that mentoring has made me a better person and someone my student is proud to call her mentor." It is wonderful to see the full cycle of a TSIC alumna, now mentoring her student, Leia.

Interested in changing a child's life through a mentorship? Call Take Stock in Children Office at 863-784-7343 or email *tsic@southflorida.edu*.



ANNUAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022 | 5:30 P.M. PRESENTATION

South Florida State College University Center Auditorium 600 West College Drive | Avon Park, Florida Followed by a reception Invitation Only

The program is for all 2022-2023 South Florida State College scholarship recipients and our South Florida State College Foundation scholarship donors.

For more information, please contact the SFSC Foundation Office at 863-453-3133 or foundation@southflorida.edu.

Thank You TO THE ANNUAL SPONSORS

OF THE SFSC FOUNDATION















Heather Smith



Lena Phelps



Brittany Keaton



Presenting Your 2022-2024 Alumni Advisory Council

The SFSC Alumni Association Advisory Council welcomes our new officers and members. These individuals were named to the Council on Aug. 5 and approved by the SFSC Foundation Board on Sept. 13.

The council members and officers will guide the SFSC Alumni Association over the next two years in hopes of growing the base of alumni and enhancing all that the Association offers to its alumni. They are a diverse group of individuals that each bring something to the table. We are excited to have representation from each of our

counties and we look forward to their leadership and guidance at SFSC.

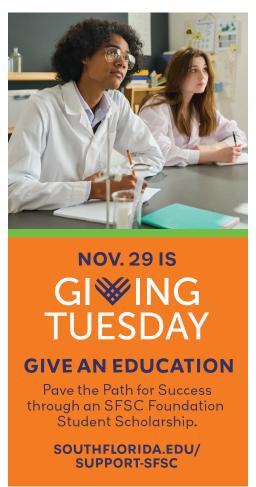
- **Kelly Dressel**, Chair (Highlands County). Dressel serves as the director of the Children's Museum of Highlands County.
- Eric Bautista, Vice Chair (DeSoto County). Bautista is the vice president of Gopher Roofing, Inc.
- **Heather Smith**, Secretary (DeSoto County). Smith is the community program administrator for the Florida Department of Health in DeSoto County.
 - Lena Phelps, Past Chair

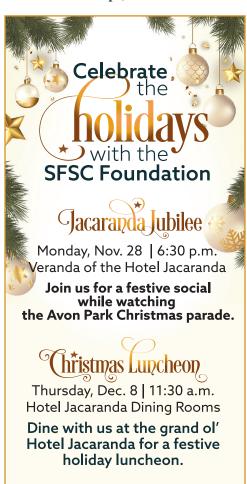
(Highlands County).

- **Brittany Keaton**, Member (Highlands County).
- Christina Martin, Member (Hardee County).

We are grateful for this team and look forward to the next two years under their leadership and guidance.

The SFSC Alumni Association encourages a lifelong interest in our College. By joining the Association, you will enjoy the benefits provided for you and that the relationship with your alma mater enhances to serve our community, our College, and you as the alum.









South Florida State College 600 West College Drive Avon Park, FL 33825

On the Calendar

Foundation Events

The Jacaranda Jubilee

MONDAY, NOV. 28, 2022 | 6:30 P.M. The Hotel Jacaranda Veranda RSVP required.

Giving Tuesday

TUESDAY, NOV. 29, 2022 | Online southflorida.edu/support-sfsc/givingtuesday

Christmas Luncheon

THURSDAY, DEC. 8, 2022 | 11:30 A.M. The Hotel Jacaranda RSVP required.

Dinner Before the Show

ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE AND GRAMMY AWARD WINNER DARLENE LOVE

TUESDAY, DEC. 13, 2022 | 5:30 P.M. Board Room on the Highlands Campus Tickets required: sfscarts.org

Sixth Annual Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, JAN. 12-14, 2023 Sun 'N Lake Golf Club, Sebring Reservations and tee times are not required.

Dinner Before the Show

NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA UKRAINE

THURSDAY, JAN. 19, 2023 | 5:30 P.M. Board Room on the Highlands Campus Tickets required: sfscarts.org

Dinner Before the Show

MANIA: THE OFFICIAL ABBA TRIBUTE SHOW

THURSDAY, FEB. 16, 2023 | 5:30 P.M. Board Room on the Highlands Campus Tickets required: sfscarts.org

Dinner Before the Show MOTOWN WITH A TWIST

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023 | 5:30 P.M. Board Room on the Highlands Campus Tickets required: sfscarts.org

Board Meetings

Executive Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, OCT. 11, 2022 | NOON The Hotel Jacaranda

Foundation Board Meeting

TUESDAY, NOV. 8, 2022 | 5:30 P.M. The Hotel Jacaranda

Foundation Board Meeting

TUESDAY, JAN. 10, 2023 | NOON SFSC Board Room

Executive Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, FEB. 14, 2023 | NOON The Hotel Jacaranda

SFSC Events

2022 Fall Commencement

THURSDAY, DEC. 15, 2022 Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts Highlands Campus