

...inside DONORS AND Shakers



- 3** Health Science students receive scholarships from Florida Blue and the Florida College System Foundation



- 4** Rotary Club of Highlands County raises \$20,000 to establish an endowed scholarship



- 6** Alum Hayden Tyler showcases his skills by competing in electrical lineworker rodeos



John Olin donates \$10,000 to the SFSC DeSoto Campus for the purpose of enhancing opportunities for prospective teachers enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Teacher Education program.

SFSC's DeSoto Campus Receives \$10,000 from Local Resident

The SFSC DeSoto Campus received \$10,000 from the DeSoto County Education Foundation (DCEF) through local resident John Olin. This check is the first of nine that the College will receive to create possibilities for DeSoto County students to become teachers and to aid the local public school system in reaching its goal of becoming fully staffed with certified teachers.

Olin believes education is the key to improving the community. He wants to remove barriers between potential educators and the required degrees to ensure that they are on the path to a career in education.

"SFSC responded to the needs of our school district and our community, and with the generous support of this donor and DCEF, we are set to make local dreams come true," said Asena Mott, director for the DeSoto Campus. "This is a great example of

a caring community that works together for the benefit of its future."

The majority of the donation will be used to hire instructors for the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Teacher Education (BSETE) program at the DeSoto Campus. This hybrid program consists of both online classes and on-campus classes in the afternoons and evenings, making it ideal for paraprofessionals or substitute teachers who want to earn their teacher certification while they work.

"We are so grateful for the DeSoto Education Foundation and their dedication to enriching the lives of our students," said Jamie Bateman, SFSC's vice president for institutional advancement and external affairs. "What adds to this, is the dedication and support that we have from our community friends who also see a need and want to step up in an attempt to make a change for the better."

Community Support Drives Student Success

Recently four of our students participated in the third annual Florida Undergraduate Research Posters at the Capitol event in Tallahassee, and I was there to watch them. To say that I am proud and impressed with their efforts, would be an understatement.

If you ever have the opportunity to attend a poster presentation, I encourage you to do so. The knowledge and passion each student has for their project is insurmountable. Walking around the Capitol, I visited with many students from different colleges and listened intently as they shared their research findings and conclusions, each one holding my interest, and actually learning a bit in the process.

Over 100 students presented from various universities and only two colleges, with South Florida State College being one of the two. To know that our students were part of this opportunity is amazing. But what really tipped the hat, is that our four students aren't your traditional students — they are dual-enrolled students. Three were seniors and one was a junior in high school.

High school, dual-enrolled students ... presenting at an Undergraduate Research Poster event ... in our State's Capitol ... that is almost unheard of! And why is that the case? It's because of the amazing faculty and dedicated



administration that we have here at SFSC, who work to fulfill the educational needs of our students. This experience is one that our students will

always remember, and one that will help them learn and grow while earning a few credits toward their college degree.

That's just one of the many stories we could share about our students. We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to expand and grow along with them, which happens through the support and dedication of our community. When you attend an event at the Wildstein Center for Performing Arts, cheer on our athletes at a baseball or softball game, or donate to our Foundation, you are doing more than just attending, you are changing the lives of so many.

It's because of the generosity of some that impacts the lives of many. Maybe you would like to leave a lasting impression as well.

I look forward to talking with you about leaving a legacy and seeing you at our next baseball or softball game. Go Panthers!

Jamie Bateman

Vice President, Institutional Advancement and External Affairs



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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.

Thank You, Annual Sponsors

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Health Sciences Students Receive Scholarships through the FCS Foundation and Florida Blue

In December, 32 students studying for careers in the health sciences at SFSC received approximately \$28,650 in scholarships.

Florida Blue Nursing and Allied Health Scholarships were awarded to students in nursing, dental education, radiography, emergency medical services, surgical services, and phlebotomy programs. Students may use the scholarships to pay for tuition, textbooks, lab fees, and childcare. The recipients are:

Nursing: Aitza Lopez-Aguiluz, Amelia Oliver, Sandra Sorto Chavez, Daryl Armioia, Paxton Brooks, Peter Piotrowski, Josephinia Valdez, Roseline Virgile, Hanna Frazier, Miriam Carranza, Raenne Elder, Kimerly Smith, Gina Lozada, Bethany Young, Cynthia Cerna, Lizbeth Macedo, Marta Ortego, Gabriella Riboni, and Ashley Thompson

Dental Education: Veronica Molina, Alicia Lennon, and Alana Snell

Radiography: Madison Deer, Ashlee Jackson, Dennis Mallen III, and Analaura Reynoso

Emergency Medical Services: Corina Hobson, Melissa Johnson, and Marisol Villalobos

Surgical Services: Keysha Perez

Phlebotomy: MacKenzie Wallace

The scholarships are the result of a partnership between the Florida College System (FCS) Foundation and Florida Blue. The Florida Blue Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship was created to



Nursing scholarship recipients



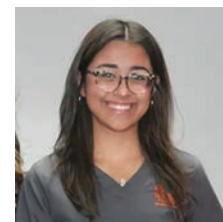
Dental Education scholarship recipients



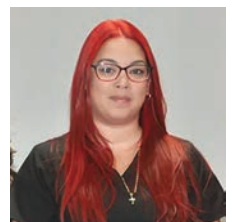
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) scholarship recipients



Radiography scholarship recipients



Phlebotomy scholarship recipient



Surgical Services scholarship recipient

sustain a source of funding for student scholarships at Florida colleges to meet the growing need for skilled nurses and allied health professionals who serve the state's diverse population. The SFSC Foundation, Inc. provided a 50% match of the original award from the FCS Foundation and Florida Blue, as the funds must be matched dollar for dollar

by private donors at the local level.

The FCS Foundation, based in Tallahassee, is a nonprofit organization that solicits gifts and donations from corporations and individuals for distribution to Florida's 28 community and state colleges. SFSC has received scholarships for health sciences students since 2006.

Selby Foundation Donates to Scholarship

SFSC received a \$6,000 grant from the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, Inc. to provide scholarships to full- and part-time students at the SFSC DeSoto Campus. These funds will be matched dollar for dollar through the SFSC Foundation, bringing the total to \$12,000. Recipients can receive up to \$1,500 to pay for computers, books, and transportation related to their studies.

"So many of our community members are ready to move forward with their education but feel they cannot afford it," said Asena Mott, director of the DeSoto Campus. "The generosity of the Selby Foundation is making this possible."

For information, call a DeSoto Campus student advisor at 863-993-1757.



Asena Mott, Kierra Womack, Selby Foundation Scholarships and Special Projects manager, Jamie Bateman, and Susie Bowie, Selby Foundation president and CEO

AdventHealth Supports SFSC Foundation as Platinum Sponsor

IN ADDITION TO ITS \$10,000 DONATION, ADVENTHEALTH HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT SUPPORTER OF SFSC'S HEALTH SCIENCE STUDENTS.

This year's SFSC Foundation Platinum Annual Sponsor is AdventHealth with locations in Sebring, Lake Placid, and Wauchula. Sponsor support improves the lives of our students and enhances our community.

"South Florida State College is a vital, longstanding partner for AdventHealth Sebring, Lake Placid, and Wauchula," said Jason Dunkel, AdventHealth President and CEO. "Therefore, we're proud to support the SFSC Foundation due to the deep community investment that will result."

AdventHealth supports SFSC's students, faculty, staff, and the region it serves. Students complete clinicals at AdventHealth locations and learn from their experienced and caring nurses. They are not just a generous sponsor; they are a community partner in providing opportunities for our Health Science students to receive the training and knowledge they need to pursue a lucrative and caring career in healthcare.

"We are grateful for the support of a community partner like AdventHealth," said Jamie Bateman, vice president for



Jason Dunkel, AdventHealth president and CEO; Andrew Santos, chief operating officer at AdventHealth; Jamie Bateman, vice president for institutional advancement and external affairs at SFSC; and Fred Hawkins, president of SFSC

institutional advancement and external affairs at SFSC. "Their dedication and passion for education and patient care enhance the opportunities available to our students in achieving their goals and impacting our communities."



The Rotary Club presents a \$20,000 donation for its endowed scholarship.

Rotary Club Establishes Endowed Scholarship

By combining a recent donation of \$20,000 to funds it had already raised, the Rotary Club of Highlands County was able to finalize the establishment of an endowed scholarship at SFSC while exceeding its \$100,000 goal by \$16,500.

According to Jamie Bateman, SFSC vice president for institutional advancement and external affairs, an endowed scholarship enables donors to create a legacy by carrying funds toward student scholarships into perpetuity. Scholarships are awarded from the interest earned by the the endowment. As the corpus grows, the SFSC Foundation can award scholarships for

years to come.

The Rotary Club of Highlands County Scott Fettingter Endowed Scholarship was established as a tribute to club members and to Fettingter, a charter member of the club and one of its first presidents.

"This scholarship has been a hallmark project of our Rotary Club for years," said Dave Onsted, club president. "We've always been proud of having the largest service-based scholarship fund with the SFSC Foundation."

Students can apply for the Rotary Scholarship and other scholarships by visiting southflorida.awardspring.com.

Duke Energy Gives Scholarship



Duke journeyman Cisco Hernandez (left) presents a \$5,600 scholarship to Alejandro Hernandez.

During Hispanic Heritage Month in October, the Duke Energy Foundation awarded a \$5,600 scholarship to Alejandro Hernandez, a student in SFSC's Electrical Lineworker program. The scholarship is part of an initiative by Duke Energy and its Foundation to provide more than \$250,000 in support for organizations and programs committed to uplifting the Hispanic population in Florida.

"For the scholarship, we chose a Hispanic student who was paying for classes out of pocket and was deserving," said Chris Yeomans, SFSC electrical distribution professor.



Lisa and Bill Jarrett, owners of Jarrett Ford, pose with the 12 finalists of the SFSC Foundation's seventh annual Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout.

Million Dollar Golf Shootout Nets \$11,551 for Panther Athletics

After the SFSC Foundation's seventh Annual Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout, sponsored by Bill Jarrett Ford, on Saturday, Jan. 13, no one won the \$1 million. Golfer Kyle Braxton garnered the first-place closest-to-the-pin prize of \$750 by landing his ball 24' 7" from 18th hole of Sun 'N Lake's Deer Run Golf Course. The event raised \$11,551 for SFSC's athletic programs.

This year, golfers swung in wet and cold conditions to qualify during the three-day Golf Shootout that began on Thursday, Jan. 11. Despite the inclement weather, 94 people turned out to vie for the \$1 million prize. Golfers included 12 from out-of-state, two from outside the country, and 12 women, the highest female participation in the event's history.

The golfers who rounded out the group of 12 qualifiers were: Braxton, Rodger Dowe, Michael Kelly, Tom Kestler, Mike Nelson, Bill Parrett, Tod Phillips, Chris Pingel, Richard Sinclair, Steve Sortore, Michael Thayer, and Ricky Weppeler. Phillips hit a hole-in-one during the second day of the qualifying rounds but could not repeat that feat at

the final leg of the competition.

"The 2024 SFSC Foundation's Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout sponsored by Bill Jarrett Ford was again an outstanding event," said Rick Hitt, SFSC athletic director. "Thank you to our sponsors, our volunteers, and our outstanding participants who came out each day regardless of the weather to get themselves on the leaderboard. We are blessed to live in a community that supports so many different events and the Million Dollar Golf Shootout is no exception. SFSC Athletics is grateful for the proceeds, which will assist all aspects of the Panther athletic program. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue hosting this event and look forward to 2025 with great anticipation."

Proceeds from the golf shootout benefit Panther athletic teams in women's volleyball, women's cross country, men's baseball, and women's softball. SFSC's student-athletes assisted throughout the Golf Shootout.

For more information about the event or how to become a sponsor for next year's Golf Shootout, call the SFSC Foundation at 863-453-3313.



Bert Horwitz and Jamie Bateman

Scholarship Established for Trades Students

Bert Horwitz has established an endowed scholarship for South Florida State College (SFSC) students who are enrolled in career and trades programs.

The BEKA Endowed Trades Scholarship is a tribute to his late wife of 56 years. BEKA is a combination of their names, Bert and Kathy.

"Through this endowed scholarship, Mr. Horwitz will honor his wife, Kathy, and provide SFSC students with a financial resource for many years into the future," said Jamie Bateman, vice president for institutional advancement and external affairs at SFSC. "Because of people like Mr. Horwitz, our students can focus on their studies and, in time, make our community economically stronger."

Applicants must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on a full-time basis in a certificate career or trade school program at SFSC and be permanent residents of Highlands, DeSoto, or Hardee County. Awards will be in the amount of \$500 with preference given to students demonstrating financial need.

An endowed scholarship enables donors to create a legacy, carrying funds toward student scholarships into perpetuity. Scholarships for students are awarded from the interest that the endowment earns.

For information about the SFSC Foundation or to make a donation, call 863-453-3133 or email foundation@southflorida.edu.

Lineworker Rodeos Enhance the Work of SFSC Alumnus Hayden Tyler

In April 2023, Hayden Tyler was a second-place winner in the Duke Energy Florida Lineman's Rodeo in Winter Garden, which drew over 70 lineworker apprentices and 12 journeyman teams from around the state. That win allowed Tyler to advance to the International Lineman's Rodeo held in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 11-14.

Tyler is a 2021 graduate of SFSC's Electrical Lineworker program and a lineworker apprentice for Duke Energy.

"I work with a lineworker journeyman on a truck every day," Tyler said. "Right now, we're building power lines for new houses. But we're also maintaining our system and our grid that's already in place. Of course, during storms and outages, we're getting the power back on."

A lineworker apprentice has fewer than four years of utility experience, while a journeyman has more than four years of utility experience.

While still in high school, Tyler worked with his father in an electrical and air conditioning business. He contemplated pursuing a business degree until he noticed students climbing the utility poles at SFSC's

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Hayden Tyler competes in the Guy Wrap Change Out event at the Duke Energy Florida Lineman's Rodeo.

Hardee Campus. His interest was piqued, and he entered the program after graduating from high school. Upon earning his Career Certificate, he was hired by Duke Energy.

Tyler was given the opportunity to participate in Duke Energy's Lineman's Rodeo in all events available to apprentices. Competitors were required to complete a written test, several job-

related events, and mystery events that were not revealed until the night before the rodeo.

The events tested the skills lineworkers possess. For example, in the Hurt Man Rescue, competitors climbed a pole to rescue a dummy and bring it safely to the ground just as they would if it had been an actual injured worker.

Tyler placed first in the Spool Change Out, in which an insulator near the top of a pole is changed out through a series of complex activities. He earned second place for the Apprentice Overall awards for his scores from all events.

Tyler found the international event to be more rigorous and more demanding, as it involved teams of apprentices and journeymen from all over the world. Although he didn't win his events, he said that participating in the rodeos enhanced his work as an electrical lineworker, especially when it comes to outages.

"We're trying to get the power back on as fast as we can and in a safe manner. Those little tricks will help us decrease outage minutes, which is basically how we're rated as a power company."

John Sedlock Inducted into SFSC Panther Alumni Society Hall of Fame

FORMER PANTHER BASEBALL PLAYER HAS SUPPORTED THE GROWTH OF LOCAL ATHLETICS.

John L. Sedlock was inducted into the Panther Alumni Society Hall of Fame at the SFSC Foundation's Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 7.

In the 1970s, Sedlock was recruited from a high school in Vienna, Va., to play as a pitcher for the SFSC Panther Baseball team from 1977 to 1978. After earning his Associate in Arts degree from SFSC in 1978, he settled in Avon Park and became president of Sedlock and Heston Construction, Inc.

Throughout the years, Sedlock and Heston Construction have sponsored entertainment presented through SFSC's

Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts. Sedlock's son and daughter earned their nursing degrees from SFSC.

Sedlock and his business partner, Terry Heston, have supported sports in Avon Park for four decades. They have coached Dixie Youth Baseball, fed hundreds of steaks to Avon Park High School football players before home games, and have come to the aid of athletic complexes in Avon Park when they needed equipment or facilities upgrades, such as a batting cage or a concession stand.

"John is that steady, behind-the-scenes leader who makes things happen but is never in the spotlight," said Dr. Michele Heston, who is SFSC's vice president for academic affairs and



John Sedlock is inducted into the Panther Alumni Society Hall of Fame in December.

student services and nominated Sedlock. "He's just a lovely person. I believe that he deserves this award, because his whole career started out on SFSC's baseball field. I feel that it's important to honor people who have staying power in a community. He came here from Virginia and realized that this is where he belonged. He's been here ever since."



SFSC staff who mentor students pose with Dr. Benjamin Carter, coordinator of the DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands County affiliate of Take Stock in Children. They include June Weyrauch, Eddie Cuencas (middle right); and Anastasia Fuchser.

Take Stock in Children Needs SFSC Mentors

THE PROGRAM IS SERVING 112 STUDENTS IN DESOTO, HARDEE, AND HIGHLANDS COUNTIES.

Take Stock in Children (TSIC) is a nonprofit public-private partnership founded in 1995 by business and community leaders in response to high school dropout rates among Florida's economically disadvantaged youth. Since its inception, TSIC and its 45 affiliates have served over 39,000 low-income students. The SFSC Foundation oversees the DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands County affiliate, which currently serves 112 TSIC students.

Mentors are the heartbeat of TSIC. Each TSIC scholar is required to receive a minimum of two 30-minute mentor sessions each month during the academic school year. These sessions

can take place face-to-face on campus, virtually via Zoom, or through the TSIC smartphone app. The mentor provides friendship and motivation to the student while helping them build values, establish goals, improve their academic and life skills, and develop self-esteem and confidence. The student learns how to engage in meaningful conversations and develop a bond with adults who may support and encourage them throughout life.

We celebrate current SFSC staff who are TSIC mentors: Katrina Blandin, Eddie Cuencas, Anastasia Fuchser, Lindsey Guanieri, Kari Jackson, Antonio James, George Livingston, Isaac Maldonado, Danielle Ochoa, and June Weyrauch.

Mentors are always needed to invest a small amount of time and experience for the benefit of a TSIC student!

PAW-tomobile Hits the Road



The students and faculty of SFSC's Automotive Service Technology program welcome the new PAW-tomobile.

SFSC students, faculty, and administrators are grateful to New Ford Tech and Bill Jarrett Ford for their donation of a Lincoln Aviator to be used for training future automotive service technicians. We were happy to welcome everyone, including The School Board of Highlands County, on campus for the unveiling of this new training vehicle. Let us know if you see our PAW-tomobile on the road!

SFSC Receives Grant to Support Lunchbox Program in DeSoto

The Battle Creek Community Foundation continued its annual support of the Lunchbox program at the SFSC DeSoto Campus with a recent donation of \$3,000. The Battle Creek Community Foundation invests in endeavors that enhance the quality of life in DeSoto County. This is the fifth year SFSC has received the grant.

The percentage of DeSoto County students qualifying for the free or reduced lunch rate is 95.6, and that number is increasing. This means the majority of dual-enrolled students at the DeSoto Campus face food insecurity at home. When these students take

college classes at the campus, they often miss the free or reduced cost lunches they would have received at their high school. The Lunchbox provides these and all students in need with healthy food options so they can focus on their academics.

"Students can concentrate in their classes without hunger, and parents can rest assured their children have food options without having to spend extra money," said Asena Mott, the campus director. "The Lunchbox program is removing the hurdle of food insecurity from our students in ways in which we will never be fully aware."



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

On the Calendar

Foundation Events

**Gatsby's Getaway at the Jac,
SFSC Foundation Legacy
Showcase and Fundraiser**
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024 | 6:30 P.M.
More details coming soon.

Board Meetings

Executive Committee Meeting
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024 | NOON
The Hotel Jacaranda

Foundation Board Meeting
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024 | 5:30 P.M.
The Hotel Jacaranda

SFSC Events

2024 Spring Commencement
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2024
Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the
Performing Arts
Highlands Campus

4 Ways to Support the SFSC Foundation

1 Become a Friend of SFSC by setting up an online recurring donation of \$25 or more per month using the QR code.



2 Sponsor a fundraising event, such as the Gatsby's Getaway at the Jac, the Jacaranda Jubilee, the Christmas Luncheon, or the Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout.

3 Give stock or securities. For information, call 863-453-3133 or email foundation@southflorida.edu.



4 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.



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