



A Year
IN REVIEW
2021-2022



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**It was a great
year at SIC!**

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Looking BACK

It was a great year at SIC! We have transitioned to a much closer sense of reality with more classes and activities back to a face-to-face schedule following a huge pivot to an online institution. This was a herculean effort taken on full force by the faculty and staff, and I couldn't be prouder of how we worked together to make this happen for our students. Aside from those pandemic efforts, we have exciting news to share regarding new donations, grants, a groundbreaking, awards and more.

SIC's finances continue to be on solid ground via the strong stewardship of the Board of Trustees and staff. Our

Composite Financial Index (CFI score by the Department of Education and accrediting agencies) awarded SIC with the highest score we've seen in decades. While enrollment in higher education continues to fall nationally, this management is testament to making sure SIC remains strong to serve students tomorrow and well into the future. A significant way we've maintained strong finances and served students is via our alliance with Rend Lake College whereby we share low enrollment academics and even staff. It's a model that has been featured in presentations at the Higher Learning Commission and the American Community College Trustees Association.

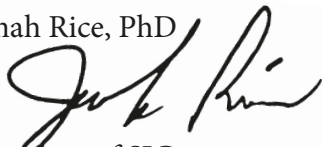
As for enrollment, the national statistics are alarming. Over one million students did not choose to enroll in higher education since the pandemic began. Add to that a demographic cliff of a shrinking high school population in the nation and the shrinking of rural America, and the challenges remain stiff. Sadly, in many areas like ours, nearly half of the graduating seniors go nowhere after graduation—no college and no military. Only a handful enter the workforce. Many remain in a spiral of hopelessness. However, our new "Afternoon Academy CTE and Healthcare" programs for regional high school students has proven effective to combat that trend. Our "Fresh Start" scholarships for those young adults with little or no college beginning at age 25 have proven productive. And we have other exciting ventures to engage students and help them see the value of higher education.

Many of you ask me and staff on occasion if you can help in any way. Well, yes, you can help us by spreading the good

news! If you know a young person who is debating whether or not to go to college, help them see the benefits of having a credential from a college like SIC. That will not only help SIC, but it will help our region and all of society.

Take care, and I hope to see you soon.

Jonah Rice, PhD



President of SIC



Dr. Rice with family: Jacob, Connor, Lulabelle, Haley, and Megin. Four are SIC alumni.



SIC remains strong to serve students tomorrow and well into the future.



The Foundation held a new fundraising event June 25, 2022 - Jazz Under the Stars. The event grossed over \$13,000, had nine community sponsors, and nearly 90 people in attendance for jazz, wine tastings, art, and hors d'oeuvres. Banterra Bank was the platinum sponsor.



Fundraising Events

2021-22 GIVING

- Current Falcon Society Giving - \$38,000
- Current Dream Maker Society Giving - \$10,700
- Current Leadership Society Giving - \$2,500
- Alumni and Friends Giving - \$4,970

Falcon Society



Dueling Pianos: Feb 21, 2022

Concert for a Cause raised a total of \$20,174

Align Wealth Management was the On Top of the World Sponsor.



Current and new members of the Falcon Society present to be recognized during a special appreciation event held at SIC were (sitting, l-r) Chuck and Maureen Murphy of Evansville, and Dennis and Lynn Murphy of Harrisburg. Back row (l-r) are Mary and Dr. Pat York of Omaha, Bill and Dr. Betty Walton of Martinsville, Indiana, Dr. Karen Weiss of Enfield, Gina Sirach of Harrisburg, Jenny and Dr. Tyler Billman of Harrisburg, and Sandy and Dr. Frank Barbre of Carmi.

Visionary Philanthropist Award



Linda Absher-Graves was awarded the Franks Visionary Philanthropist Award on behalf of her late husband Gordan and herself, the Graves Family, and The Graves Foundation. Presenting the award (l-r) are SIC President Dr. Jonah Rice; SIC Foundation Institutional Advancement Controller and Accountant, Adriana Armstrong; and SIC Executive Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Angela Wilson.

Dream Makers



Current Dream Makers present to be recognized during a special appreciation event at SIC were (sitting, l-r) Dr. Jonah and Megin Rice of Stonefort, Dr. Dana Keating of Harrisburg, and Kim Jolly of Carrier Mills. Standing are Mary and Dr. Pat York of Omaha, Michael and Gloria Tison of Harrisburg, Bill Keating of Harrisburg and Dion Jolly of Carrier Mills.

Scholarship Impact

• 222 Scholarships awarded in 2021-2022 totaling nearly \$200,000

New Scholarships

- Kathy King Memorial Scholarship
- Dave Wiman Memorial Scholarship
- Judith Elaine Milligan-Baugher Scholarship

Special Giving

- Graves-Absher Scholarship - \$40,000 annually
- Stanford D. Williams Career and Training Center - \$505,666.92
- Hise Estate (first installment, Summer 2022) - \$4,000,000

What's New at SIC

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Construction on the new Stanford D. Williams Career and Training Center in Carmi has begun! The complex, which has been dubbed the regional hub for career and workforce educational needs in the northern region of SIC's district, will be located to the north of the David L Stanley White County Center on SIC's Carmi extension site. The college anticipates two phases of the construction will be substantially completed near December 2023. State and local funds of around \$4.9 million will be combined with a \$505,667 gift from Williams to bring this long-awaited center to fruition. Curriculum will include welding, commercial driver's license, and auto/diesel programs, as well as introductory education to industrial trades.



Breaking ground on the Stanford D. Williams Career & Training Center April 19, 2022, are (l-r) Dr. Pat York (SIC Board Chair), Carmi Mayor Jeff Pollard, Lance Barbre (SIC Foundation Board), Stan Williams, and SIC President Dr. Jonah Rice.

A Title III grant valued at \$2.2 million was also awarded to SIC.

It comes with a matching endowment portion which will add another \$250,000 to our endowment at the end of the grant period. We hope that if you have not considered giving to SIC in the past or have not given recently, we sure could use the help in this dollar-for-dollar match—a great return on your contribution and a great benefit for our students. This grant also allowed us to hire five new positions to help with student retention efforts.

SIC was awarded a \$1.4 million Upward Bound Grant by the Department of Education

to be spread out over five years. This grant will allow us to provide on-site college preparation for at-risk students in Carmi, Norris City, Gallatin County, Galatia, and Hardin Co. This five-year grant will allow us to employ two full-time employees.

An Illinois Tutoring Initiatives grant, supported with federal COVID-relief funds, was awarded to SIC through the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board. This grant will support the learning and social emotional well-being of area K-12 students and allows SIC to hire several tutors.



Col. William C. Hise was indeed a great friend to the College, gifting us a regional art museum with operational endowment, but also kept us in his estate. His current estate gift will be approximately \$7+ million in addition to what he provided for the museum. While there are some restrictions on this gift, it will provide great benefits to SIC for generations to come.



Accelerated College Experience

Students from local high schools around the area participated in the debut year of the ACE (Accelerated College Experience) program at SIC. ACE is designed to prepare academically talented students for the rigorous college application and scholarship process through service learning, test preparation, and communication training.



Students (not pictured in order) included Jasmine Allen, Brylee Bayer, Addison Bean, Kenlee Cole, Kirsten Dayle, Lora Forster, Kirsten Eversman, Murphy Foster, Kaylee Horn, Braden Mendoza, Madison Murphy, Ally Nelson, Julie Parr, Bryleigh Rice, Samaira Snow, Kendall Vallette, Jaci Wood, and Hallie Zirkelbach. Instructors were John Corum and Rachel Parish.

New Competitive Teams!



2021-22 SIC Volleyball Team



2022 Spring Golf Team



2021-2022 SIC Esports Team

Sam Swinford, SIC basketball alumni, was hired to be the Head Coach of the Falcon Basketball Team in 2021-22! Additionally, he became full-time in June and took on the new role of Athletic Operations Coordinator.



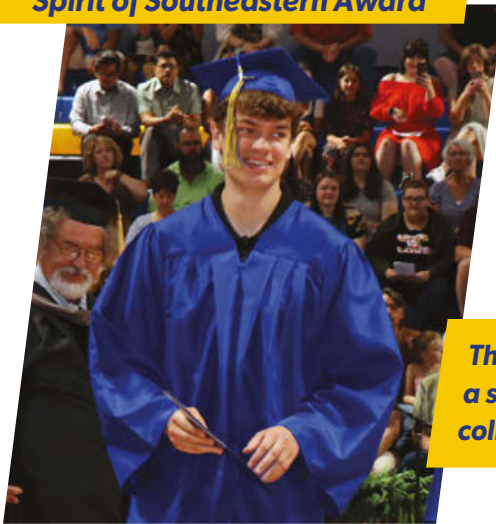
Scholarships & Awards

SIC Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Frank Barbre (left), is the first recipient of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association President's Award by President Jon Looney. The award celebrates an unsung hero who has supported ICCTA and community colleges.



Spirit of Southeastern Award

Landon Gates of Harrisburg earned a \$500 scholarship for the Paul Simon Essay Contest (best essay in the state of Illinois) while English Instructor and Forensic Falcons Coach Jenny Billman received her SIC Teacher of the Year Award, and Daniel Paul Davis accepted his SIC Distinguished Alumni Award at the ICCTA luncheon in Chicago on June 10, 2022. Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Jonah Rice (SIC President), Dr. Frank Barbre (SIC Board of Trustees Vice Chair and ICCTA Representative), Gates, Billman, Davis, and Jim Ellis (SIC Board of Trustees Secretary and ICCTA Representative).



The Spirit of Southeastern Award is the oldest individual award given at SIC. It honors a sophomore who shows integrity, enthusiasm, and dedication to the ideals of the college. Isaiah Francis of Marion is the 2022 Spirit of Southeastern Award winner.

SIU Provost Scholars

Brooke Jordan of Galatia and Leia Bryant of Harrisburg have earned a full-ride scholarship to Southern Illinois University Carbondale with the SIU Provost Scholarship.



Forensic Falcons

Southeastern Illinois College's Forensic Falcons placed first in the middle school (Wheeler) division at the 2022 Phi Rho Pi National Tournament in St. Charles, Missouri. The team ended the season with a gold in overall team competition, a gold in team individual events competition, and a silver in team debate competition. The team was also recognized as the Top Community College at the International Forensics Association's 32nd Annual Speech and Debate Tournament. Pictured are (front row, l-r) Jenny Billman (head coach), Haley Rice, and Omari Jackson. In back are (l-r) Noah DeVous, Isaiah Francis, John Corum (coach), Trey Murphy, Landon Gates, Jenkin Naas, and Paul Cummins (coach).



Golden Apple Scholars



Reagan Lees of Marion (left) and Sophie Winkleman of Harrisburg earned a place with the Golden Apple Scholars! The Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program is a teacher preparation and tuition assistance program for students “who have the determination

and drive to be highly effective teachers in Illinois schools-of-need.” Lees hopes to teach first grade and Winkleman plans to be an elementary school teacher.

Living the Mission Award



Stacy Moore (right), auxiliary services director, was awarded the Living the Mission Award for her service and leadership in activities that demonstrate and capture the spirit of SIC’s mission and vision. Vice President Dr. Karen Weiss presented the award.

SIC Retirees



Jeri Harbison

Math instructor Jerri Harbison (center) accepts her crystal retirement gift after serving nine years at SIC. She is pictured with math instructor Kim Martin and President Dr. Jonah Rice.

Years of Service



Present to be recognized for various years of service were (l-r): Rachel Parish (5), Cara Lehman (10), Tammy Kearns (25), Maggie Calcaterra (10), Kellye Whitler (25), Jennifer Roehm-Scheffer (15), Tonya Johnson (25), Amy Murphy (15), and Jenny Billman (10).

Marcey Martin (center) accepts her crystal retirement gift after serving 23 years at SIC as the administrative assistant for the Small Business Development Center. She is pictured with President Dr. Jonah Rice and Vice President Dr. Karen Weiss.



Marcey Martin

MIG Team



SIC’s Model Illinois Government team led all schools in total points and was once again named a finalist for the “Outstanding Large Delegation Award” — the highest honor bestowed on a delegation of seven or higher. SIC received five major awards including Outstanding Member of the House (Aleece McLeod), Outstanding Person in the Senate (Jillian Womack), Outstanding House Committee Chair (Jacob Lemon), Outstanding Original Legislation (Alexander O’Daniel), and Outstanding First Year Delegate in the House (Oliver Abell).

Doctoral Achievement



SIC employees Dr. Chris Barr (left) and Dr. John Corum were honored for earning their doctorate degrees.

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Eldorado native and SIC alumna, Dr. Madeline Rogers, returned to the SIC stage in April for one of the first Cultural Arts Series performances since the pandemic. Rogers is an accomplished solo and collaborative performer in the US and abroad. She currently serves as an Artist-Faculty member teaching solo and collaborative piano at the Omaha Conservatory of Music in Nebraska.

PTK All-Illinois Academic Award



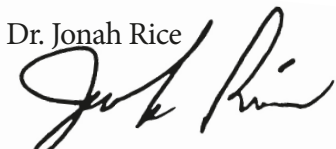
Leia Bryant of Carrier Mills and Reagan Lees of Marion were chosen to represent SIC on the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-Illinois Academic Team. Both will transfer to SIU Carbondale this fall to pursue careers in teaching. Presenting the awards was Interim Dean of Student Services, Kyla Burford.

Looking to the Future

rescue as well as K-9 unit support, will grow. We expect new grants to come our way on top of the millions we've already been awarded. The new fitness center will be up and running and open to the community. We're expanding children's programs in the arts and career exploration, and offering bigger and better shows and games than ever!

If you have not visited campus in a while, I invite you to come out. See the improvements in the VPAC, see our new K-9 unit training facility, explore our beautiful Learning Commons and Library (which are open to the public), visit our popular coffee shop, watch the progress in the fitness center and gym painting project, check out the renovation in the theatre to accommodate dance training, visit faculty in our PowerSports lab, pick up some great Italian food (pre-order) from Chef Michael in the Falcon Bistro, see a performance in the VPAC, visit the Hise Museum to see some amazing regional art, and so much more. This is your community college, and we hope you use it to the fullest potential.

Dr. Jonah Rice



SIC President