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2022 A YEAR IN REVIEW 2023



Greetings!

Many years ago, a company used the slogan, "You've come a long way, baby!" I can't help but think of that when I reflect on what SIC has done in the past year and the foundation we've laid for the future. This year's edition of Year in Review contains much of what SIC has offered to our community and marks multiple successes. Our academics have exceeded expectations with new programs and milestones, such as industrial maintenance and our nursing pass rates which are well above the national average. Our competitive teams represented the region well with numerous championships, all emphasizing more local and regional talent from across southern Illinois. Of course, giving to the College was monumental with millions coming from the Hise Estate plus record annual giving for our seasonal endowment. SIC also shared an ICCCA award for innovation regarding our partnership with Rend Lake College to serve more students between our two great institutions. Our enrollment is testament to our good work with a strong double-digit increase in enrollment that gets us back close to pre-COVID enrollment. Part of that increase is our commitment to strong instruction and service, like with the new Williams Career and Training Center in Carmi along with the Absher Foundation's donation for scholarships and support. Plus, our afternoon academy on the Harrisburg Campus has propelled career education enrollment to levels we've not seen. And keep in mind, we're still warming up! We have so much in store for next year, such as continued improvements on our beautiful campus, 618 Dance Studio, new agriculture curriculum and developments, as well as a new strategic plan that will take us well into the rest of this decade. We are SIC strong and SIC proud of all the meaningful work everyone does to make Falcon Country more amazing every day.

Dr. Jonah Rice

President of Southeastern Illinois College



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SIC NURSING GRADS NCLEX SCORES ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE

Southeastern Illinois College nursing programs have surpassed state pass rates again this year with 100% of registered nurse graduates and 97% of licensed practical nurse graduates passing the National Council Licensure Examination upon their first attempt. These scores are well above the state averages of 77% for LPN and RN, as well as the national averages of 80% for both categories. SIC's combined scores were higher than any other college south of Interstate 80. SIC's scores have remained strong, despite overall percentages dropping both nationally and statewide since 2020. SIC's combined pass rates are the best in Illinois, south of Chicago.

"I couldn't be more proud of the director, instructors, and students," said President Dr. Jonah Rice. "We emphasize quality first and foremost over quantity, and these continuously impressive pass rates are a testament to that fact. Our nursing program is top notch!"

Pass rates for SIC's LPN graduates have not dipped below 95% in the past 12 years, and the lowest RN pass rate in the past 12 years has been 88% (still well above the current state average). Overall perfect pass rates in the past 10 years were earned five times for the RN program and six times for the LPN program.

"SIC's NCLEX scores are consistently high. That speaks very strongly to the hard work and dedication of the faculty and students," said SIC Director of Nursing, Amy Murphy. "Faculty are constantly challenged with changing curricula and industry expectations. Our instructors are top-shelf; they always go above and beyond to strive for excellence."

PROVIDING VIRTUAL CARE

SIC nursing purchased virtual reality simulator education equipment for the program this year. The technology gives students a realistic simulation of hands-on patient care in a clinical setting.



MORE STUDENTS IN 2022

SIC saw an increase of 10% in headcount and a 5% in credit hours for the fall 2022 semester.

"This has been a team effort to keep students on track after they graduate from high school, as well as offer programs that are in demand and that you can't find anywhere else."

- Dr. Jonah Rice, SIC President

A PINNING TRADITION

SIC held its annual nurse pinning ceremony on May 12. A total of 25 associate degree nursing (ADN) and 20 licensed practical nursing (LPN) graduates proudly accepted their nursing pins from their clinical instructors in recognition for their hard work and accomplishments.

COSMETOLOGY IS BACK!

After a one-year hiatus, the cosmetology program will be back in August! Audra Damron, a cosmetologist with 35 years of experience, will be the new instructor at SIC. She has been teaching cosmetology for the past 15 years.

Students in the program receive hands-on training with real clients in the on-site cosmetology clinic. They will become highly skilled at services like hair care, manicures, pedicures, nail art, acrylics, shellac, bridal and seasonal makeup, special effects, and skincare including facials, waxing, and lashes. In just one year of professional hands-on training, students will be prepared to take their state exams and enter the workforce.

SIC AWARDED \$1.4 MILLION

TO HELP LOW INCOME, POTENTIAL FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS ACCESS HIGHER EDUCATION

The U.S. Department of Education announced that SIC will receive a federal Upward Bound grant of \$1.4 million to help more low-income students who would be the first members of their families to earn degrees to prepare for and enroll in college. This is the first time SIC has been awarded the Upward Bound grant.

One of the federal TRIO Programs, Upward Bound is an intensive intervention program that prepares students for higher education through various enrichment courses. It also provides intensive mentoring and support for students as they prepare for college entrance exams and tackle admission applications, financial aid, and scholarship forms. At least two-thirds of the students in each local Upward Bound program are from low-income economic backgrounds and families in which neither parent has a bachelor's degree.

The five-year grant will allow SIC to provide on-site college preparation for at-risk students (those who may otherwise not attend college) in the participating schools which volunteered and provided data for the grant application: Carmi-White County, Galatia, Gallatin County, Hardin County, and Norris City-Omaha-Enfield. It will enable SIC to hire three full-time employees for the program, and it will fall under the management of SIC Student Services.

"With almost 50 percent of our in-district high school graduates not matriculating to an institution of higher education in 2020, the Upward Bound project will afford SIC the much-needed opportunity to provide essential resources to high school students so they can succeed academically and subsequently to earn a post-secondary credential," said Kyla Burford, Executive Dean of Student Services.



ACTE TOUR SIC CTE PROGRAMS

The National and Illinois Associations for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) visited SIC on Oct. 4 to tour our Outdoor Wildlife Management (OWL) program, PowerSports Technology program, and the High School CTE Academy programs in welding and diesel. The group also learned about the re-purposed use of the mine training area for criminal justice trainings, the new police canine training unit, and fire brigade training, as well as the new Stanford D. Williams Career and Training Center being built in Carmi.



NEW LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR GETS START WITH HELP OF SIC POWERSPORTS

After more than a couple of decades of being a union carpenter, Dave Smith of Harrisburg decided it was time for a change. He had a new baby and wanted to be home more, so he decided to become an entrepreneur. He quit working as a carpenter, got a job at Outlaw Motor Sports, and started his business in the evenings out of his home. Thus, Dave's Small Engine & Power Sport Repair shop was born in 2021.

One thing he lacked was a small engine certification, and he wanted that certification to make him stand out in the industry for the area. So, he enrolled in the PowerSports program at Southeastern Illinois College – a nine-month certificate program taught by ASE-certified instructors that includes bonus Polaris certifications through a partnership with the University of Polaris. SIC's two-semester program is one of just a few programs like it in the country. It prepares students for maintenance and repair of side-by-sides, four-wheelers, gators and other recreational vehicles. Even though Smith was a bit older than many of the students, having graduated from Marion High School in 1993, he said aside from a bit of age-related banter, he fit in well and they worked well together. Smith finished the SIC PowerSports program in May 2022. He hopes to expand his small business to a shop in town in the near future.

STUDIO 618 OPENING IN AUGUST AT SIC



SIC announces dance classes for K-12 starting this fall in the new Studio 618. Ballet, jazz, and tap classes will be taught by professional dance instructor, Joshua Kimball. He will be assisted by SIC students on dance scholarships.

Each class is limited to ten students and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Classes will run concurrent with the regular semester schedules in Fall and Spring and take place in the B126 East Lecture Hall on the Harrisburg campus. Tuition per semester, per class is \$150, which must be paid in full prior to the beginning of the semester. A recital will be held at the end of each semester. Age brackets are K-2nd, 3rd-5th, and 6th through high school. All classes will be held in the after-school hours Monday through Thursday.

"The benefits of dance go far beyond a fun way to exercise. Dance helps teach focus, creativity, and discipline, which will help in any area of education. Students will not just be learning routines, but how to perform in addition to meeting new friends along the way. I am so excited to get started!" said Kimball.

Kimball has a Masters in Fine Arts degree in Acting and a Bachelors in Fine Arts in Musical Theatre. He has been working professionally across the world for Universal Studios Beijing, Royal Caribbean, and Carnival Cruise Lines as a singer and dancer. He has also worked professionally as a dance instructor for over 10 years, teaching a variety of styles including tap, jazz, ballet, hip hop, and musical theatre. Kimball has choreographed musical theatre productions at SIC, SIU Carbondale, Carterville High School, DuQuoin High School, Benton Consolidated High School, and Leyden High School in Chicago. He will also be teaching SIC college dance classes beginning this fall.

Fall semester enrollment for Studio 618 is currently underway. Email admissions@sic.edu or call (618) 252-5400 ext. 4120. For more information, visit sic.edu/childrensactivities. Classes begin August 14.



SIC CHILDREN'S CHOIR BRINGS A NEW TUNE TO CAMPUS

The SIC Children's Choir was formed in January and is open to students in grades third through eighth. The inaugural choir was comprised of 38 students. Their first performance was a special Mother's Day Concert held on May 14.

The choir is returning this fall and will be under the direction of Laura C. Winkleman and accompanied by Jenny Billman. Rehearsals take place Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in B126W on SIC's Harrisburg campus. The cost is \$65 to participate. Prior experience is not required to join.

A meeting will be held on August 31 at 6 p.m. in the SIC cafeteria for those wishing to join. Fees and registration will be collected at that time. For more information, please email music@sic.edu or visit sic.edu/childrensactivities.



ABSHER FOUNDATION FUNDS NEW DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

SIC has secured a five-year agreement with the Absher Charitable Foundation, Inc. of White County, Illinois, to fund an expansive dual credit, dual certificate career program to help the local industry remain strong. They have pledged up to nearly \$600,000 to help pay for the cost of dual credit courses to be held at the new Stanford D. Williams Career and Training Center in Carmi at SIC's David L. Stanley White County Center. The new center is currently under construction. One building is expected to be completed in fall 2023 and the other in fall 2024.

Carmi-White County High School, NCOE High School, SIC, Carmi City Economic Development, and Absher Charitable Foundation board members all came together on May 4 to sign this agreement.

FOUNDATION

THE FALCON DONOR WALL

Commissioned by the SIC Foundation in 2023, the Falcon Donor Wall recognizes the Falcon Society, Dream Makers Society, Leadership Society, Visionary Society, Heritage Society, and other major donors. It is on display in SIC's George T. Dennis Visual and Performing Arts Center Lobby.



ANNUAL ENDOWMENT GIVING

- Current Dream Maker Society - \$11,000
- Current Falcon Society - \$19,000
- Current Leadership Society - \$2,500
- Alumni & Friends - \$4,630

TOTAL: \$37,130

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- Dueling Pianos: Concert for a Cause - \$23,616
- Holiday Dinner - \$10,710
- Jazz Under the Stars - \$12,700

TOTAL: \$37,130



SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

- New for 2023: Richard Edward Dunk, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
- 223 scholarships awarded in 2022-2023

TOTAL: \$37,130



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- 2022-2023 Graves-Absher Scholarship - \$40,000
- Hise Special Fund - \$4,000,000
- Hise Museum Endowment Fund - \$2,500,000



Col. William C. Hise was posthumously awarded the 2023 Visionary Philanthropist Award.

SIC TO RECEIVE LARGEST ESTATE GIFT IN ITS HISTORY

When Col. William Curtis Hise provided funding to create the Ella Elizabeth Hise Museum of Regional Art along with an operational endowment, the College accepted its largest private donation of over \$3 million in honor of his sister. He was so pleased with the museum, that he also chose to pledge his entire estate along with some artwork to the college, valued at upwards of \$7 million, resulting in a total of \$10 million from the Colonel.

Col. Hise grew up in Omaha and Harrisburg with his twin brother, James Cletus Hise. He was drafted into the Army in 1945 and completed basic infantry training as WWII ended. Both he and his brother had long careers in the military all while they earned their law degrees and formed many business partnerships along the way. Neither brother ever married. Col. Hise died peacefully at his home in Arlington, Virginia, in February 2021, at the age of 94.

Funds have various purposes outlined by the donor, as the estate may take up to two years to finally settle. The college recently received the first installment of the estate totaling \$4 million. The second installment will come to fruition in the coming months. There are restrictions on the use of funds. The Hise estate gift – when combined with the colonel's previous estate gift and museum gift—at more than \$10 million to SIC, is one of the largest gifts to a community college in the state of Illinois.

"This type of gift is huge – a once-in-a-lifetime gift for a rural college," said Dr. Jonah Rice, SIC president. He further expressed that he would miss the friendship of the Colonel and that SIC will work hard for exceptional results to honor the Colonel's wishes.

RIGHT NOW, DONATIONS TO SIC GO EVEN FURTHER

SIC was the recipient of a Title III Grant in 2021 that provides a dollar-for-dollar match for every unrestricted donation we receive up to \$250,000 to our endowment at the end of the grant period. To make a donation or learn more about the Foundation, visit www.sic.edu or email giving@sic.edu.



FALCON HONORS



SIC President Dr. Jonah Rice was honored by the Higher Learning Commission for 15 years of service.



Rend Lake College and SIC were named co-winners of the Innovation Award from the ICCCA.



Robbie Lindhorst was selected as SIC's 2023 Outstanding Teacher of the Year.



US Congressman Mike Bost visited SIC on Oct. 17. SIC is now in Rep. Bost's 12th district.



SIC had a total of 176 graduates this year, though not all participated in the commencement ceremony.



Charlie Morgan of the SIC Class of 1984, was honored as one of SIC's 2023 Distinguished Alumni.



Dr. Laura Portee of the Class of 1987, was honored as one of SIC's 2023 Distinguished Alumni.



Dr. James Porter of the SIC Class of 1990, was honored as one of SIC's 2023 Distinguished Alumni.



Josh Smith was selected as SIC's 2023 Spirit of Southeastern award recipient.



Andy Abell, a retired U.S. diplomat, analyst, and policy specialist and former SIC student, spoke to a large crowd at SIC on Dec. 9.



Devin Rankin was awarded the prestigious United States Collegiate Athletic Association National Student Athlete of the Year.



Michael Intravaia was selected as SIC's 2023 Living the Mission award recipient.



SIC's Model Illinois Government team was named, "Outstanding Large Delegation," the team's thirteenth state championship in school history. It also set a new school record in total points and leadership positions.



SIC Forensic Falcons took the gold medal in the Wheeler Division for Individual Events, and Silver medal in Overall Sweepstakes, including Debate at the Phi Rho Pi National Forensics competition.

JOIN US

FALL 2023

AUGUST

14

Fall Semester begins!

advising@sic.edu | my.sic.edu/ics

SEPTEMBER

23

Jazz Under the Stars

giving@sic.edu | 618) 252-5400 ext. 2205

29

The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood

sic.edu/theatre | boxoffice@sic.edu

NOVEMBER

04 & 05

Heritage Festival

facebook.com/SICHeritageFestival

17-18

Holiday Dinner

giving@sic.edu | 618) 252-5400 ext. 2205

17-19

Elf: The Musical

sic.edu/theatre | boxoffice@sic.edu

SPRING 2024

JANUARY

08

Spring Semester begins!

advising@sic.edu | my.sic.edu/ics

FEBRUARY

10

Dueling Pianos: Concert for a Cause

giving@sic.edu | 618) 252-5400 ext. 2205

23 & 24

Steel Magnolias

sic.edu/theatre | boxoffice@sic.edu

APRIL

19-21

Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical

sic.edu/theatre | boxoffice@sic.edu

MAY

10

Commencement & Nurse Pinning

sic.edu/graduation | registrar@sic.edu

SUMMER 2024

MAY

20

1st 5-Week Summer Session begins!

advising@sic.edu | my.sic.edu/ics

JUNE

03

8-Week Summer Session begins!

advising@sic.edu | my.sic.edu/ics

24

2nd 5-Week Summer Session Begins!

advising@sic.edu | my.sic.edu/ics



Scan the code or visit sic.edu/events to find more events happening at SIC.