



SLCC

JOB FAIR GUIDE

In-depth advice for attending the job fair (see insert)

Western Timber Frame: a small business success story

Jared Clawson

Contributing Writer

At 14, Bradley Lavery was kicked out of high school. Now, he is the CEO of one of the nation's fastest growing companies, Western Timber Frame, the country's premier custom timber-kit vendor.

"Improving the quality of lives through celebrating relationships while creating inspiring environments," he says, "that is our vision."

Western Timber Frame, which participated in the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business program at SLCC's Miller campus, offers custom-made timber kits for outdoor living spaces such as pavilions, gazebos and pergolas. "Someone can call from New York needing a custom timber-kit," Lavery says, "and within a couple weeks we're shipping a kit that they can install themselves."

The company was chosen for Best of State in Wood Products and Outdoor/Recreational Equipment in 2017, as well as Best of HOUZZ in 2016 and 2017. In addition, Western Timber Frame has been listed in Inc. 5,000 for three consecutive years and featured in Entrepreneur 360 in 2019.

Lavery says he began his career in the construction industry, and three years later he was starting his own construction companies. "One got fairly large and was fairly successful," he says, "but then I moved out of that into the financial industry."

However, the "end of the world" came around in 2008 when the recession hit, Lavery recalls. "Everything just crashed, and people that owed me over \$1 million just disappeared. So I ended up shutting down all my businesses and starting over."

Lavery spent the next six months contemplating what to do next. "I decided that whatever I do, I wanted to create as many career opportunities as possible for family, friends, loved ones and people I knew," he says.

"Everything just crashed... So I ended up shutting down all my businesses and starting over."

- Bradley Lavery

In 2009, he was approached with an idea for timber-kits. "I thought about it for a few weeks and did some research analysis," he says. "I found that it was so new, that I knew we could own this industry."

So he began Western Timber Frame, and by its third year, he says, it was the foremost authority on custom timber-kits in the nation.

From there, the growth was phenomenal. "I'd say we've averaged 30% growth year over year for the last 10 years," says Lavery.

The key to Western Timber Frame's success and excellence, Lavery says, is its team — the heart and soul of the company.

"I hire people smarter than me," he says, "and recognize where my strengths are, but most importantly, what my weaknesses are ... We've got the right people on the bus, and every once in a while we just need to shift where they're sitting."

James Adair, an employee of Western Timber Frame, says he loves his work and the opportunity it presents.

"When I started, there were nine employees," he says. "Now there are 35." One thing that sets this company apart as special, he says, is its ability to "track and adapt to the market."

Lavery participated in the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program — a program that helps new entrepreneurs get off the ground when — first starting the company. When he discovered the program, it was exactly what he was looking for.

"I had considered going to college," he says, "but I would have to go to school for two years before I could get into what was relevant and applicable for me."

So when he found the program, he saw it as a no-brainer.

"It was real, raw, and relevant," he says. "It was what I needed."



Photo courtesy of Western Timber Frame

All wood pavilions are among the many products offered by Western Timber Frame, which went through the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Program.



One of Western Timber Frame's gazebos, which means "a place from which to gaze."



Walking Out

Utah educators demand more for classrooms and students

Grab the beads!

Students party New Orleans style for Mardi Gras

A voice for the voiceless

Advocate for Colombia's indigenous Wayuu visits SLCC

» What's Hip, Hot, & Happenin' on Campus «

ALL WEEK

2020 Beloved Community Photography Exhibit

When: All day
Where: South City Campus, George S. & Dolores Doré Eccles Gallery

The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: South City Campus, Grand Theatre

Business Leaders Forum - Sean Jolley

When: 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Where: Taylorsville, TB 323A

Presentation Skills Lab

When: 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Where: Taylorsville, TB 323A

Restorative Justice

When: 6-8 p.m.
Where: Westminster College - Malouf Hall, Room 201

MONDAY

9th

Somos Más - Kick Off

When: 12 p.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Taylorsville, STC, 221/222

TUESDAY

10th

Presentation Skills Lab

When: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Where: South City Campus, 2 - 131

The Art of Emotional Wellbeing

When: 2-3 p.m.
Where: Taylorsville, STC, room 223/225

Voices of Diversity

When: 11 am.-12 p.m.
Where: Taylorsville, STC, room 217

Presentation Skills Lab

When: 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Where: South City Campus, 2 - 131

WEDNESDAY

4th

Public Hearing

When: 8-9 a.m.
Where: Taylorsville, AAB 428

Presentation Skills Lab

When: 9-11 a.m.
Where: Taylorsville, TB 323A

Normalizing Mental Health Issues — Asian American Awareness Week

When: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Taylorsville, STC, Oak Room

THURSDAY

5th

Summer Semester Registration Open

Asian Food Festival — Asian American Awareness Week

When: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Where: Taylorsville, STC, Oak Room

Fempowered

When: 2-3p.m.
Where: South City Campus, GSSRC, 1-140

Popular Music Bands Concert

When: 7-9 p.m.
Where: South City Campus, Multipurpose Room

» For more information on these events, visit globeslcc.com/calendar



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The Globe is an open campus forum student newspaper published Wednesdays during Fall and Spring semesters (excluding holidays). The Globe is also online at globeslcc.com. The Globe editors and staff are solely responsible for the newspaper's content. Funding comes from advertising revenues and some student fees administered by the Student Fees Board. For questions, comments, or complaints, call (801) 957-3066 or visit globeslcc.com.

President Huftalin addresses coronavirus concerns

Amie Schaeffer

Editor-in-Chief

Last Friday, students received an email from President Deneece Huftalin regarding the recent coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

In her letter, Huftalin states that Salt Lake Community College is actively monitoring the situation and working closely with the Utah Department of Health to assess and prepare for the possible impact to the region.

The email reads in part, "SLCC has a plan in place for handling infectious diseases that have potential to affect everyday life. These plans include procedures for facility management, hosting campus events, class schedule adjustments and more.

Huftalin says the school has "also created a coronavirus working group that includes members of college leadership, the SLCC Department of Public Safety, the Center for Health and Counseling and the school's Environmental Health and Safety Department."

The email continues, "If deemed necessary, the college may choose to implement protective measures, and if any of these actions are undertaken, the college will communicate this through email, social media and our emergency preparedness system."

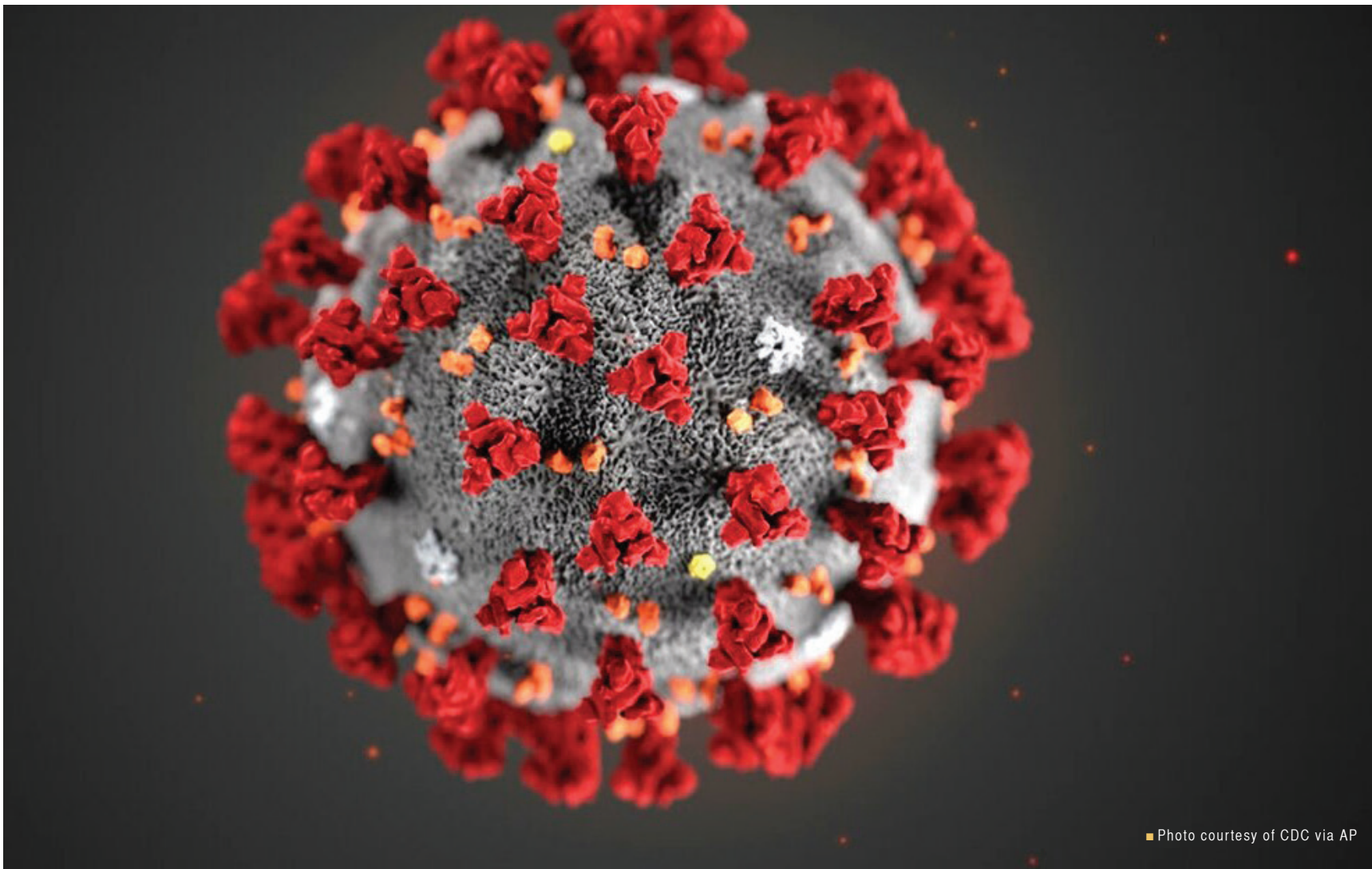
Huftalin reminds students to take a proactive role in their health through common-sense precautions including:

- Frequent, thorough handwashing with soap for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if handwashing is not possible.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid shaking hands with anyone who appears sick.
- Disinfect shared surfaces.
- If you need to cough or sneeze, do so in your elbow or in a tissue, and be sure to throw away all used tissues and thoroughly wash your hands afterwards.
- Stay home if you are sick or feel like you are becoming sick. Do not return to work or school until you are well.

As of March 3, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports 60 confirmed cases of coronavirus. Six people, all in Washington State, have died.

Currently, the UDOH reports no one has been diagnosed with the virus while within the borders of Utah.

SLCC urges students to sign up for the school's emergency preparedness system for up-to-date information. Students can also view SLCC's emergency procedures by going to slcc.edu/emergency-prepare/emergency-procedures.aspx.



■ Photo courtesy of CDC via AP

COVID-19, commonly called the coronavirus, was first detected in Wuhan, China, in late 2019. (CDC/ Alissa Eckert, MS; Dan Higgins, MAM)

Bruin Days aim to amp up student involvement

Riley O. Smith

Contributing Writer

Every semester, the Salt Lake Community College Student Association hosts Bruin Days events at the South City, Taylorsville and Jordan campuses. The events boast a variety of activities spanning from tie-die day to spirit day. All SLCC students are welcomed with free snacks and the chance to snag SLCC swag.

This semester's Bruin Days were held in late February.

According to Lina Nguyen, a communication major and publicity vice president for SLCCSA, the activities are held to educate students about the student association, inform them of what events are coming up and to market student association involvement.

"We are always looking for people," Nguyen states. Her role on the council includes planning and promoting student association events throughout the year.

As students themselves, the student association council has an idea of what appeals to students and what encourages them to attend and participate in events.

"We are the voices of the students," Nyguen explains. "We hear what they want and then we come up with different ideas that would help bring in more students."

Organizers also create and plan Bruin Days to reach the broadest number of students, Nguyen says.

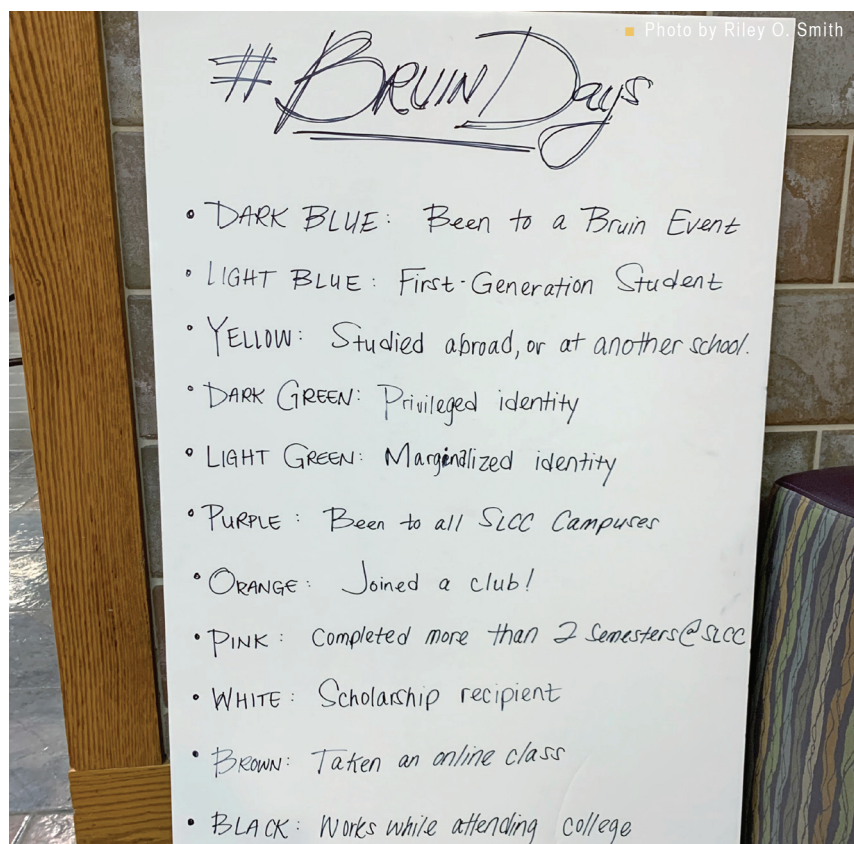
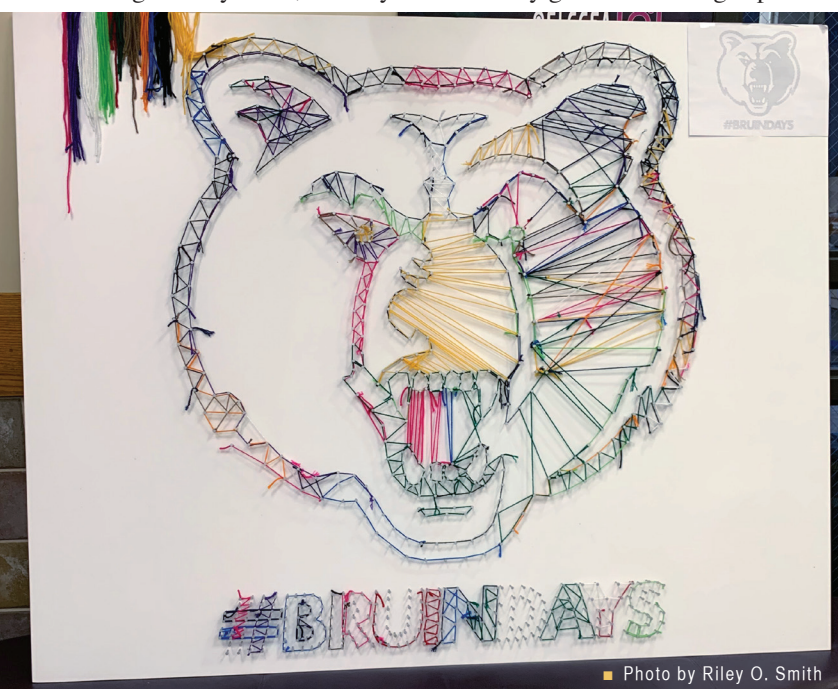
"We're not just thinking about us, but of students all around, so diversity, inclusivity, all of that, too," she explains.

Jon Jacobsen, a science and surgical technology major and student association executive vice president, says the group is always looking for ways to get more students to attend Bruin Days.

"We'll get a good amount of people [to attend], but it's not as much we'd hoped for," he says, explaining that offering free stuff encourages students to participate. "Each event is different depending on who is targeted... For this event, it will be free food and free swag items, such as pop sockets, shirts, sustainability utensils and food, which is what attracts starving college students."

While Bruin Days includes fun activities and snacks, it's also an opportunity for students to learn more and possibly get involved. Nguyen says she joined because she wanted her school experience to be about more than just studying.

"I wanted to do more than just go to school and work, and... SLCCSA was the first thought of my mind," she says. "It's a really good networking experience,



Poster for the Bruin Days event outside the Student Life and Leadership office at the Taylorsville Campus, encouraging students to participate by dressing up.

and I've had so much fun being on this committee and being a part of the Student Association."

Vukota Brunker, a council member and vice president, says his involvement with the student association has led to both academic and professional guidance.

"I have met a lot of people that have helped me decide my major and help me go down the right path," he says, noting connections also led to scholarships and jobs with Weber State University's athletics department.

Brunker admits student participation at a commuter school like SLCC can be difficult, but handing out flyers, making announcements and ensuring free food encourages students to learn more about academic and career opportunities.

"I think the biggest reason people should get involved [in SLCCSA] is that they meet a lot of people," he says. "You also get to plan a lot of events, and it's a lot of expertise that helps you get ready for the real world."

Emilly Vang, a pre-health science major, says that although she has not participated in any Bruin Days events, she has noticed booths that SLCCSA sets up at the Taylorsville Redwood campus.

"A few things that would make me want to attend [Bruin Days] would probably be accessibility. Free food is always appreciated," she notes.

As far as being motivated to be a part of SLCCSA, Vang says fashion could sway her.

"One thing that would make me want to join SLCCSA is cool team gear," she says. "I almost joined the anatomy club because of their cool t-shirt design."

If students are interested in joining SLCCSA, the process is simple, Brunker says. Students can go into the Student Life and Leadership office in the west hallway of Student Center building at the Taylorsville Redwood campus, and talk to a support worker, who can help them fill out the application.

Teachers walkout, demand funding

Tyler Bearss
Contributing Writer

The streets of downtown Salt Lake City flooded with red t-shirts as the Salt Lake Education Association’s “Walk for Students” kicked into gear on Feb. 28. Students, teachers and parents gathered at the federal building on State Street and marched to the Capitol, demanding more legislative funding and smaller class sizes.

Nearly 2,000 people made the trek, many of them holding signs pleading for Utah legislators to give more funding to schools for things like supplies and student counseling.

Tyler Kahn, a sixth-grade teacher at Newman Elementary in Salt Lake City’s Rose Park neighborhood, says the funding would mean more support for teachers. “It would provide supplies for my students – and not computers – but the basics like pencils and paper,” he explains, noting that his and many other schools need more money to provide basic materials for students.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Utah ranks 50th in the amount of money spent per child. This means every other state in the nation provides teachers more money to educate children and have more one-on-one time with those students.

Recently, the Utah House Education Committee approved a 4% increase in the WPU, or weighted pupil unit, which is the money schools are given per student. According to a list of talking points given out during the rally, teachers want at least 6% to give the children classroom materials and developmental support.

Patrick Gardner, a science teacher at Horizonte Instruction and Training Center says, “science is hands on and it’s very expensive.” This increase would translate to \$1,234 more per student and allow teachers like him to keep his classes running. It would also give students more opportunity to experiment and learn.



Photo by Tyler Bearss

A sea of red shirts fills the steps at the Capitol as teachers and parents bring their concerns to Utah lawmakers.



Teachers carry homemade signs telling lawmakers that the current funding isn't enough.



Photo by Tyler Bearss

People listen as speakers address the crowd gathered inside the Utah Capitol Building.

Utah House Speaker Brad Wilson, in a statement, called the march an “unnecessary disruption,” adding that there are “more productive ways to express concern.”

At the end of the rally Sens. Luz Escamilla and Derek Kitchen, both Democrats from Salt Lake City, welcomed protestors to the Capitol. “This is your house... the Salt Lake City Democrats are fighting for you,” Escamilla told the crowd.

The rally lasted about an hour and a half, and though teachers and students were energized by the large group effort, they aren’t sure what impact the walkout made.

“We are cautiously optimistic,” says Katrina Herd, a kindergartner teacher at Mountainview Elementary who walked out with her colleagues. “We have definitely been burned in the past.”

» SLCC Student Association treat Bruins to Mardi Gras celebration

Tamra Rachol
Staff Writer

Salt Lake Community College broke out the beads last week in celebration of Mardi Gras. The event, hosted by the SLCC Student Association, took place on Feb. 25 at the Taylorsville Redwood campus. The festivities included Cajun food, palm readers, casino-style games and live jazz music.

Mardi Gras, which is French for “Fat Tuesday,” originated hundreds of years ago, as a day of indulgence before the religious observation of lent, in which Christians commit to giving up some of their most tempting luxuries for 40 days.

“This is the second year we’ve done this event. Last year, we received such an overwhelming amount of positive feedback that we had to bring it back...we want to try to make this an annual event,” Vukota Brunker, central region vice president of the SLCC Student Association, says.

Students started the night out with chips to use at the game tables. Winnings were traded in for raffle tickets and then entered into the drawing for blankets, Hydro Flasks and a camping hammock.

Students Eddy Galindo and Jamie Chong walked away feeling pretty good about their future after a mystical tarot card reading.

“It was really cool. It looks like we have some travel in our future,” Chong states.

For Galindo, it was all about the music.

“I loved the jazz,” she says. We were able to try out some of our dance moves that we learned in our social dance class.”



■ Photo courtesy of Salt Lake Community College Student Association

SLCCSA member Wyatt Bringham shows off his winnings.



■ Photo by Tamra Rachol

Students lined the hallway eagerly waiting their turn for the mystical tarot card and palm readers from Cat & Cauldron.



■ Photo by Tamra Rachol

Students were able to try their hands at casino roulette, craps and blackjack in hopes of winning that lucky lottery ticket. Games were provided by Common Cents Casino Parties.



■ Photo courtesy of Salt Lake Community College Student Association

Students enjoy a game of poker during the Fat Tuesday celebration.



■ Photo courtesy of Salt Lake Community College Student Association

Students were treated a night of casino games, music and Cajun cuisine.



■ Photo by Tamra Rachol

The G Brown Quintet won over the crowd with their ‘straight ahead’ jazz (left to right, Dave Weisenberg on keyboard, George “G” Brown on trumpet and SLCC proVost Clifton Sanders on saxophone).

Virtual reality is making a presence in college classrooms

Cheryl Miller

Contributing Writer

Colleges have evolved to allow technological advancements. Now with the invention and progression of virtual reality, students in higher education can experience, practice and learn subjects by being immersed in a VR environment.

Matt Merkel, assistant professor in the communication department at Salt Lake Community College, says VR may be a useful tool under the right circumstances. “Can you really teach Aristotelian philosophical theory by VR?” poses Merkel, who has taught at SLCC for 10 years.

Among his course load, Merkel teaches video production, which he says would be hard to replicate in a VR environment because of the hands-on nature of the class.

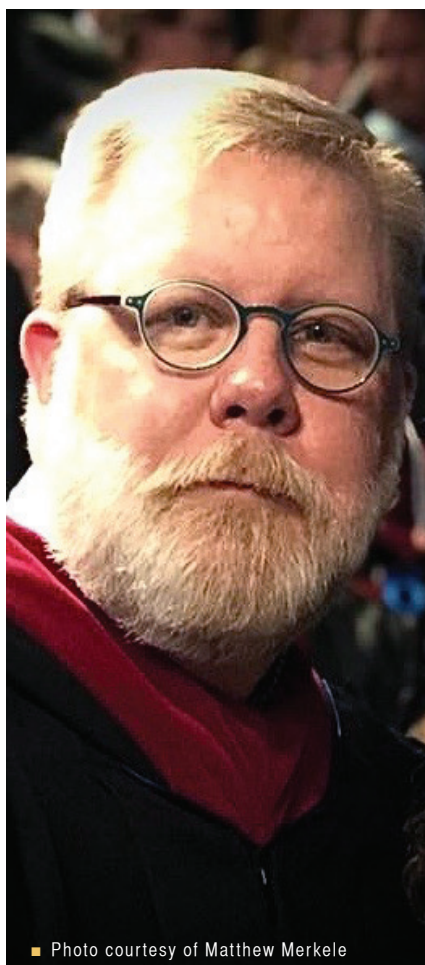
“You can’t do that by VR,” he says. “[It] has the capability and potential to be another tool that can be used in the educational arsenal, but I don’t know if it will ever truly replace the relationship that needs to happen between student and professor and the learning process.”

With VR being an unlikely replacement for specific communication courses, that doesn’t mean it isn’t making an impact in education.

Universities around the world are implementing VR into architecture studies and marketing, according to InstaVR.com. The University of South Wales is one of the leaders in creating interactive exercises to engage students in virtual learning environments. One of many courses taught is crime scene investigation, which is done through apps they have created themselves.



■ Photo courtesy of Ashley Hughes



■ Photo courtesy of Matthew Merkele



■ Photo courtesy of Abe Sessions



■ Photo courtesy of Aaron Miller

Abe Sessions, business major

Aaron Miller, University of Utah MBA student

Aaron Miller, a former SLCC student currently attending the University of Utah, says, “During my time in medical school, they did use augmented reality where they would have mannequins that looked like people. These mannequins could simulate what is happening to a real person as they are in an emergency situation like bleeding to death or septic shock.”

In the medical field, VR is often used for training surgeons before they go into surgery. But while virtual reality and augmented reality contribute to education both in the medical field and other fields, it likely won’t replace teachers anytime soon.

With VR and augmented reality readily available to implement, it all depends on whether students prefer the technology to a real-life professor.

“I would rather a real teacher... feels more personal and easier to ask questions,” says Abe Sessions, a SLCC business major.

Human interaction is an important experience, both physically and mentally, students say. The professor-student relationship will continue to be an important aspect of education.

“VR for education would hurt my eyes,” says Ashely Hughes, a psychology major. “I 100% prefer sitting in a real class with a real teacher. I like being hands on and getting the feel of the class.”

Matt Merkel, professor of journalism and digital media

Ashley Hughes, psychology major

Attorney and author advocates for future of Wayuu people

Nathan Olmedo

Contributing Writer

Salt Lake Community College welcomed attorney and author Estercilia Simanca Pushaina, Feb. 27, for a discussion about the inequalities the Wayuu indigenous people face from the Colombian government.

Pushaina, who spoke at the Taylorsville Redwood campus, is of Colombian-Wayuu descent and legally represents the indigenous population.

"The Wayuu are a group of roughly 800,000," says Pushaina. The group is based in the Guajira Peninsula area, residing in Colombia and northern Venezuela.

During her talk, Pushaina detailed battles she has had with the Colombian government over identification complications for Wayuu peoples during election periods and the overall racial injustices placed on these individuals.

"We have a social responsibility to our local people... there is strength in this area," she says.

Over a Latin-inspired lunch of pupusas, empanadas and rice and beans, Pushaina engaged SLCC students and faculty with a dialogue on her own struggles, like the "Born on Dece. 31" rhetoric that they faced and determination to make life better for the Wayuu through short stories and social media presence.

Pushaina is active on Twitter and often begins her petitions that way. "Use Twitter! Use social media," she urges.

The entirety of Pushaina's presentation was in Spanish, her native tongue. Attendees who don't speak Spanish were given English translator headsets.

"My students were calling her the modern-day Rosa Parks. She is so inspiring," says sociology Assistant Professor Zendina Mostert, who brought some of her students to the event.

Val Sederholm, an adjunct faculty member in SLCC's history department, says he left the talk with a great appreciation of Pushaina's life and the Wayuu.

"It was great to actually see her after hearing so much about her," he says. "I haven't read any of her short stories, but I hope to in the future. I came in knowing a little, but I learned much."

While Pushaina says she has seen progress for the Wayuu indigenous population, she also looks forward to doing more, like opening a law firm so others may be inspired to push for representation and against discrimination.

"If people don't want to hear me, that's where I want to speak the loudest," she says.



■ Photo by Nathan Olmedo

Pushaina begins her presentation, which includes a slideshow of photos taken in the indigenous areas of the Wayuu, in the Oak Room on the Taylorsville campus.

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ESTERCILIA SIMANCA PUSHAINA

Lawyer, entrepreneur and Wayuu writer Estercilia Pushaina Simanca rose to fame with her short story "Manifiesta no saber firmar: Nacido 31 de diciembre" (Declared Unable to Sign: Born December 31). Her story recounts the Colombian government's mass voter ID campaigns in the Wayuu territory during election time. The story was later adapted into a documentary and, in 2012, won first prize for the Biennial Contemporary Indigenous Art of Mexico. It was also the starting point of Ms. Pushaina Simanca's lawsuit against government officials in the Registraduría who issued personal identification documents to the Wayuu with made-up names and each with the same birthday: December 31.

This lawsuit demonstrated the state's inability to recognize its citizens' cultural and linguistic complexities. In 2014, the lawsuit also forced the Registraduría to start issuing official documents for indigenous people according to their family-given names and with explicit reference to their clans' territories.

Currently, there is a lawsuit pending about the unconstitutionality of Law 43 of 1993 and its violation of indigenous rights to equality. Borderland indigenous groups whose territories include parts of Colombia and Venezuela, are not considered Colombian citizens and, as a result, about 400,000 Wayuu people do not have access to public services and may not legally work in Colombia. Ms. Simanca Pushaina is fighting for the Wayuu and other indigenous groups' rights to dual citizenship.

■ Photo by Nathan Olmedo

Poster offers details about Pushaina's background and highlights a current lawsuit against the governments of Colombia and Venezuela on the basis of equality for Wayuu indigenous people.

Students **discuss** making the most of campus recycling

Kayla Nuckels

Contributing Writer

Salt Lake Community College has been recycling cardboard and paper since 1995, with advancements improving the process each year. In 2010, the school received a one-time funding that began a centralized recycling program.

The partnership between the Facilities Division, Environmental Club and Student Life and Leadership has set a goal to grab large quantities of recyclable items made by the college.

Cardboard, paper products, broken pallets, newspaper, plastic, glass, batteries, toner cartridges, steel and electronic waste are some examples of things SLCC recycles, according to the Facilities Services at slcc.edu.

Melisa Benitez, a photography major at SLCC, says she's glad to see the school make a commitment to recycling.

"I think students put the recycling bins to use around campus, especially if it's next to a garbage can, because you can see your options," Benitez explains.

She says the school could also do a lot more to encourage environmentalism. "Something I think that can be encouraged to make our campus greener, is to offer discounts on drinks for bringing your own cups. Something little but could be effective."

Zach Lemon, a current SLCC student majoring in visual arts and design, says he thinks there could be more bins placed around campus.

"I honestly don't know if I remember where any recycling bins are. Maybe there's not as many as people assume," Lemon says. "Maybe they could implement even more recycling bins around campus, so it is even more convenient for the students and staff to recycle."

can and cannot be thrown in the bin and serve as reminders to recycle.

"If we place warning signs and labels above trash and recycle bins to let people know how important it is to recycle your trash properly, more people would be hesitant to just throw things wherever," he explains. "They would actually pay attention to what they are doing, because they will worry more about people seeing them and feeling judged for not disposing of their trash the way society expects them to."

At SLCC, the recycling program requires all food debris and lids to be removed from all containers when recycled. Once the facility magnet belt separates the metals, the lid becomes a contaminant and is discarded as waste instead of being recycled. If the recycling stream becomes contaminated, it will cause the recycled item to be rejected by the recycler and thrown into the landfill, according to the school facilities services website. The recycling program's success depends on students to appropriately discard waste in the correct containers.

Jon Vigil, a current student at SLCC, says he typically uses whatever bin is closest, whether recycling or not.

"For me, my recycling habits are 50/50. I don't overthink it," he says. "If everyone knew why exactly they were recycling and were more educated on how the recycling process works, they would probably make more of an effort. If people were reminded to recycle every-day, they would do it."

Students can also join SLCC's recycling team and environmental Club at SLCC to help gather and sort everything recyclable. For more information, visit slcc.edu/sustainability.



■ Photo by Marcie Young Cancio

Students talk about their recycling habits on campus.

SLCC takes steps to improve graduation rates

Henry Rosas

Contributing Writer

Salt Lake Community College wants more students to graduate.

Suffering declining graduation rates in recent years, SLCC administrators are focusing on giving out more diplomas. According to the school's Student Right to Know information, academic year 2018-2019 had a graduation rate of 27% and a transfer rate of 47%. SLCC is working on increasing its graduation rate by offering resources to students that include tutoring and learning services, academic and career advising, disability resource centers, and veterans centers.

Some students seeking assistance, however, often struggle to visit resources centers due to a variety of reasons, including work or other pressing responsibilities.

Jeremiah Borrowman, coordinator of SLCC's Gradation Office, says students can always contact the office for assistance and leave a message. Staff, Borrowman says, will typically return messages in less than 24 hours. SLCC also offers online advising and tutoring, making it more accessible to students.

Besides increasing completion rates, whether through graduation or pathway certificates, one of SLCC's goals is to help students transfer to four-year institutions.

Kenneth Salguero, who works for library Technical Services, says he has noticed the increased attention on graduation.

"Right now, SLCC is making a lot of changes when it comes to student service and academic advising," Salguero says. "A lot of those changes, such as creating degree pathways and streamlining student services, will be helpful in improving

the graduation rate."

SLCC, Borrowman says, is constantly working on new ways to help students reach the next step. In the recent years, he says, the school has increased applications for graduation by 20% through digital messaging communication rather than traditional mail. The Graduation Office is also awarding students with certificates to increase graduation rates through a program called Auto Awarded, which recognizes milestones students have completed automatically, such as finishing general education requirements.

"We have done studies, and we found out that students who receive this award from major milestone are more likely to complete [school]," Borrowman says.

One factor interfering with completion rates is that students often leave the hardest coursework, particularly math classes, for last, Borrowman says. Students should be doing the opposite, he suggests, taking the most challenging classes first. If they don't do well, he explains, they always have the next semester to retake it.

The biggest thing in progressing in one's education, however, is goal setting, Borrowman says.

"I believe people need a vision for themselves," he notes. "They need to have a goal."

The Graduation Office can be reached at 801-957-4035, 801-957-5176 or Graduation@slcc.edu.



■ Photo by Marcie Young Cancio

Students gather for Salt Lake Community College's 2019 commencement ceremony.

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Opinion Students of every major can gain from the PSL

Submitted by Emma Fox, communication department intern

I'd like to paint a picture that isn't hard for Salt Lake Community College students to imagine: you've finished your classes for the day, braved windchills that whipped through your parka like it wasn't there, and coughed through inversion that is thick enough to draw circles in. As you trudge across campus you wonder, is it worth it to visit the Presentation Skills Lab this afternoon?

The labs from 4:30-6:30 p.m. aren't your only options for the PSL, but they may be the hardest to get to, especially when your favorite pajama pants are waiting at home and you're into a new series on Netflix. Many professors will ask you to give presentations, and whether you attend a morning or afternoon session, the PSL will give you the skills to overcome anxiety, gain career-building interview skills, and amplify your performance.

The PSL is a free, open lab created to assist students with presentation assignments. As students, we will be asked to give presentations across disciplines, in a variety of classes, in ways we couldn't have dreamed of. For many, giving presentations is anxiety-inducing. Maybe you've never given a presentation before, or you have and you know that your palms get sweaty, and you feel as if you're standing in a bucket of ice. Feeling anxiety about public speaking is normal. If you want to overcome it, come to the PSL. We'll give you the tools to harness your fear and be an effective public speaker.

Public speaking is more important than it might seem. Every line of work involves public speaking in some form. Last semester, I gave a presentation in my Calligraphy class, proving that even art students have to give presentations.

Why do our professors like to torture us so? Because presenting helps us develop the professional skills we need to communicate well in the workplace and to get the jobs we want. When interviewing for a position, you will use presentation

skills to convince potential employers that you have what it takes. When seeking representation in a gallery, you will use presentation skills to show your portfolio. Learning these skills while we're undergraduates is an investment in our futures. Come to the lab, and we'll give you the skills to highlight your best self.

Some who attend the lab see an increase in the quality of their grades. At the PSL, we help students to amplify their performances and shine as public speakers. We can work on organization models to give clarity to your presentation, create strong introductions and conclusions, and narrow your topic. Most times, students who are struggling with their presentations don't realize their topic is too broad. Sometimes, it's good to have another person who can help you get back on track. When you visit the PSL, a communication professor will be there with the guidance you need to help you amplify your performance.

Springtime weather this semester may be unpredictable; it may snow (again), and there may be icicles dangling from your eyebrows. The lab, however, is toasty and warm, and with new expanded dates and times, the lab is more available to you than ever. We now meet every Monday at the Taylorsville-Redwood campus in TB 323A from 9 to 11 a.m., and again from 1 to 3 p.m. Every Tuesday, we meet at South City campus in room 2-131 from 10 a.m. to noon, and again from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. On Wednesdays, we return to Taylorsville-Redwood and meet from 9 to 11 a.m., and again from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. If you can resist the lure of Netflix, these labs will help you gain skills and confidence. If you can't resist the lure of staying home in your pajamas, we have an online lab that meets every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For the WebEx URL, visit our page at slcc.edu/pslslcc.

Join us in the PSL—we'll help you amplify your performance!

■ Photo courtesy of the Presentation Skills Lab

PSL PRESENTATION SKILLS LAB Spring 2020 Schedule

TAYLORSVILLE

Every Monday

beginning **February 10**

AM

9:00 - 11:00

PM

1:00 - 3:00

TB 323A

Every Wednesday

beginning **February 12**

AM

9:00 - 11:00

PM

4:30 - 6:30

SOUTH CITY SCM 2-131

Every Tuesday

beginning **February 11**

AM

10:00 - Noon

PM

4:30 - 6:30

For online lab times visit slcc.edu/pslslcc

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