

# CAPITAL PROJECTS SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE



*Architectural Rendering of the Lindley Center for STEM Education*

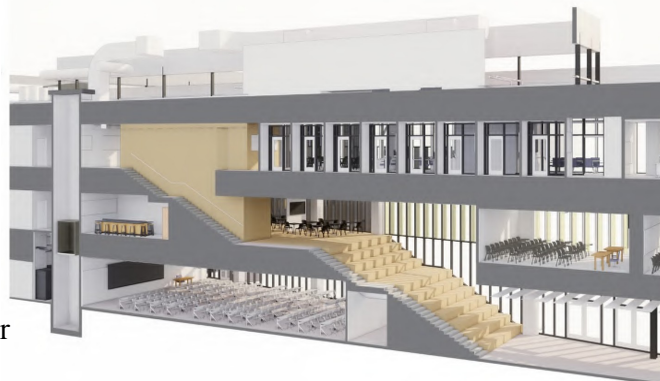
## The vision behind the new Lindley Center for STEM Education

At the March 8, 2022, Board of Trustees meeting, Dr. Victor Tam, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), provided an exciting peek at the teaching and learning that will take place inside the walls of the new state-of-the-art Lindley Center for STEM Education currently under construction. The new three-story, 100,000 square foot building replaces Bech and Shuhaw Halls. The Lindley Center will house the following programs: Chemistry & Physics, Engineering & Applied Technology, Mathematics, and MESA. The new center also has the capacity to house classes in Wine Studies, Astronomy, and Environmental Sciences.

“This was a true team effort,” said Dr. Tam, who shared the visioning process used in March 2016 to determine how best to use the space. Central design themes include:

- Enhancing academic support with adjacency and connectivity to outside classroom resources
- Student-centered spaces to foster community and belonging, with connectivity to instructors

— Continued on page 2



*Rendering of the new building cross-section with views of the Learning Staircase and Large Lecture Hall*



SRJC MESA Program to co-locate in new STEM building in Fall 2023 - page 3



Progress on the SRJC Foundation — page 3



Up before the rooster crows: 4 AM construction starts — page 5

**March 21 - 27**  
**SPRING BREAK**  
**No Classes**

A Look Ahead:  
*The New Construction Trades Center at the Petaluma Campus*

— *Lindley Center, continued from page 1*

Hands-on learning with real world lab experiences “Students learn best by doing,” said Dr. Tam. “The Innovation Center is not just a maker space. This is a hands-on, four room, interconnected lab that takes students through the entire creation process.”

The Design space will allow students to collaborate, research, and create using the latest CADD software. Next, the Make space is where students will bring their projects to life working with an industrial 3D printer, laser cutter and other equipment.

“The Break space is where students will test out their creations—and things inevitably may break,” said Dr. Tam, adding that this space will also be an exhibition and display place. The Virtual Reality Lab is situated next door, so students interested in architecture, interior design, 3D modeling, animation, and gaming will be outfitted with VR goggles in order to create and interact with virtual worlds.

The new building is designed to provide learning and socializing on all three floors, including a modern learning staircase where small student groups can gather to collaborate on projects, share notes, or reflect on their academic experiences. Other features of the new building include a new STEM Student Success Center, student club meeting space, a collaborative engineering classroom, two new Chemistry labs and a data analysis lab, a new physics lab, a new 135-person lecture hall, and a third floor terrace. The new building allows for the co-location of the SRJC MESA Program with STEM Disciplines.

“It’s great to have two student support spaces in the same building,” said Dr. Tam. The STEM Success Center is on the second floor at the top of the Learning Staircase. The MESA Center is on the first floor down the hall from the Innovation Center. Dr. Tam thanked Dr. Chong and the Board of Trustees, and Sonoma County for supporting this project by passage of Measure H.

Dr. Tam also acknowledged the following departments and individuals for their work in developing this first-rate design:

- **Capital Projects** - Serafin Fernandez, Rhonda Ross, and Daniel Mendez-Cisneros
- **Chemistry** - Bill Cusworth, Joe Fassler, Matthew Fontana, Milena Kalagorgevich, Mas Iimura, Orlando Raola, and Jesse Tamayo
- **Engineering & Applied Technology** - Todd Amos, Vince Bertsch, Robert Grandmaison, Danny Millspaugh, Reg Parks, and Dawn Urista
- **Information Technology** - Dan Exelby, Gamal Mansour, Matthew McQuaig, Mike Roth, Mark Rudlin, Kevin Snyder, and Greg Wycoff



*The Learning Staircase leads to the STEM Success Center at the central intersection of the building on the second floor.*



*The STEM Success Center will provide students academic support through workshops and access to models, as well as large and small group, partner and individual study spaces.*



*The third floor contains a spacious terrace and student spaces connected to faculty offices.*

- **Mathematics** - Mark Ferguson, Tim Melvin, Ann Schott, and Kat Valenzuela
- **MESA Program** - Darci Rosales and Jessica Zambrano
- **Multi-purpose Spaces** - Benjamin Goldstein, Joel Grogan, Kevin Sea
- **Physics** - Greg Davis, Saska Gjorgjievska, Leon Hsu, and Jan Kmetko



## SRJC MESA Program looks forward to co-location with the STEM disciplines in Fall 2023 when the new Lindley Center for STEM Education opens

The Statewide California Community College Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program was established in 1970 to serve educationally and economically disadvantaged students majoring in calculus-based majors, so they can excel in math and science and attain STEM degrees from four-year institutions.

With academic advising, professional mentoring, academic assistance, drop-in tutoring, small group study sessions and transfer counseling, MESA provides an environment that allows students to succeed and transfer to earn a STEM bachelor's degree. The MESA Program at SRJC serves an average of 150 STEM transfer students each year.



## The SRJC Foundation Project is providing a new home for the philanthropic organization supporting our students—

*The SRJC Foundation provided over \$4.36 million in student scholarships during the 2020-2021 academic year*

The construction crew is preparing the groundwork for the home of the new SRJC Foundation Office Building, which provided over \$4.36 M in student scholarships during 2020-2021.



*Did you know that the SRJC Foundation continues to be ranked #1 among the 116 California community colleges for scholarship distribution, and is recognized among the top community college foundations in the nation? Since 1969, more than \$180 million has been received from SRJC's generous community of donors to help students achieve their academic and career goals.*

Excavation of the perimeter foundation, setting concrete forms and installation of underground utilities will be followed by pouring the foundation in April. This project has a 12-month timeline with a move-in date of January 2023.

One of the ways the SRJC Foundation supports the college is by providing donor recognition through naming opportunities. To learn more about this, please visit: <https://foundation.santarosa.edu/naming-opportunities>

## MEET THE SRJC CAPITAL PROJECTS TEAM: Rhonda Ross, Project Manager (Harris & Associates)

"It is exciting to be working on a project this size from the ground up," said Rhonda Ross, who is the Project Manager for the Lindley Center for STEM Education. "We have a great team and have made excellent progress. I feel very fortunate to be doing what I am doing."

Rhonda joined the Capital Projects Team less than a year ago, bringing with her over 18 years' experience supervising technically challenging construction projects that include projects at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, University of California–San Francisco, Kaiser Permanente, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Rhonda grew up in Southern California and moved to Northern California at age seventeen. She earned her BA from Humboldt State University before moving to Sonoma County. She has worked as a truck driver, a construction worker, and an electric estimator for PGE.

Rhonda said that the turning point that set her on her present career trajectory began when she was 24. "I was a heavy equipment operator." Rhonda became an Electric Estimator/Service Planner at PG&E when a supervisor asked if she would like to be a Facilities Project Manager.

Rhonda earned her credential as a Project Management Professional (PMP), training in Uniform Building Codes at SRJC, and a Certificate in Construction Management from Sonoma State University.

Rhonda bought a house in Santa Rosa six years ago and used her extensive construction experience to make it her dream house, which she shares with her Golden Retriever Lacey and an eight-month old yellow Labrador, Joey.

"I completely gutted the house," Rhonda said. The house is light, airy, and filled with windows. "It's an open concept design, which I love."

Rhonda does a great deal of hiking with her dogs. "I'm a good trainer," she said. "Lacey is certified to visit hospitals and schools in Hawaii."

Rhonda and Lacey lived in Kauai for four months. They visited preschools, giving demonstrations on



how to approach dogs and how to take care of them. Rhonda is planning to give Joey scent training and will possibly do search and rescue with the pup when he is older.

Rhonda has two children. Her son Dakota works in the wine industry, and her daughter Coree is a counselor for Kaiser Permanente Santa Rosa. Rhonda recently used her real estate license to help Dakota find a house in Cotati. "It was nice being able to give back my commission in order to help with closing costs," she said. Now Rhonda is hoping to do the same for her daughter Coree, the mother of her two grandchildren, three-year-old Hank and one-year-old Ryan.

"We live in Paradise," Rhonda said. "Camping, fishing, and wine tasting."

Another passion Rhonda holds is Hawaiian outrigger canoeing, and she is a member of two clubs: He E Nalu O Marin Outrigger Canoe Club and Lokahi Outrigger Canoe Center in Petaluma. She typically rows one to three times a week and enjoys competing in The Race / Round the Rock, which offers a series of courses around Alcatraz Island and designed for varying skill levels. Rhonda competes in the long course, a challenging 9-12 mile race designed for experienced crews and steers-people familiar with challenging conditions. She completed her last race in 1 ½ hours.

Hiking, fishing, camping, wine tasting and canoeing all in Rhonda's own backyard. Working in construction management often means long commutes. Today, Rhonda only needs to walk out the front door of her 425 Elliott Avenue office and cross the street to be at the construction site of the Lindley Center and has a front row seat from the window above her desk.

"And my commute from home is only six minutes long," Rhonda added. "Life is good."

**"We live in Paradise." —Rhonda Ross about life in Sonoma County**



## Crews at the Lindley Center for STEM Education Project and the Student Housing Project up before the rooster crows

*4 AM construction starts minimize disruption for SRJC neighbors*

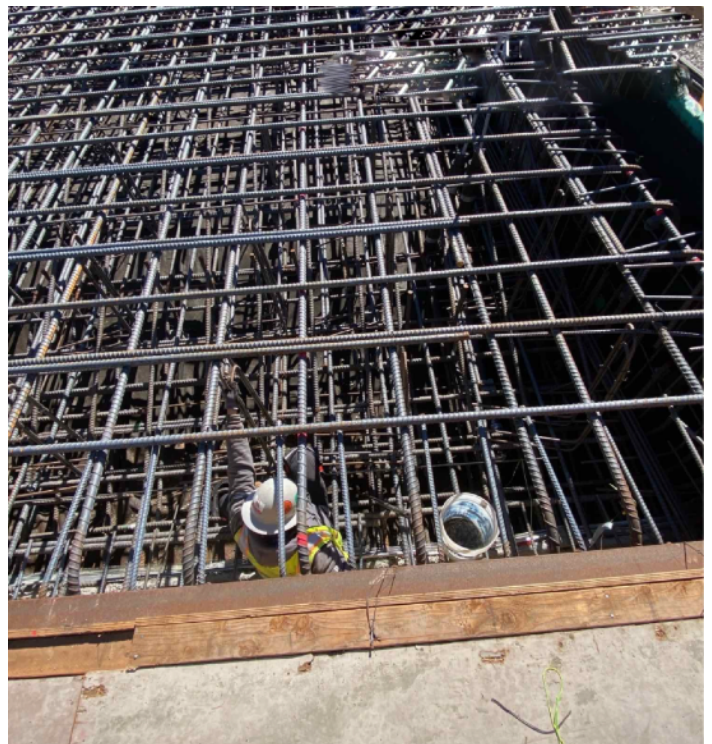


*The Lindley Center for STEM Education construction site during a recent 4 AM concrete pour.*

Construction crews and project managers arrived at their sites before daybreak in order to pour concrete with minimal disruption to SRJC neighbors. The work at 1952 Armory Drive, address of the Student Housing currently under construction, had its first two early starts in February. received three early starts—4 AM—in February and the first week of March to pour the major mat slab. Early starts began in March for the new Lindley Center for STEM Education and will continue into April. Both of these projects are scheduled for completion in Fall 2023.



*STEM building construction crew hard at work early in the morning.*



*Inspection of steel by the Student Housing crew as they get ready for their third concrete pour earlier this month.*

Visit [capitalprojects.santarosa.edu](https://capitalprojects.santarosa.edu) to read about these and other projects.



## Garcia Hall Renovations Project

*Anticipated completion is this June*

Bond Measure H, passed by Sonoma County taxpayers in 2014, includes on its project list important health and safety upgrades. Thanks to the voters' investment in education, Garcia Hall, built in 1936, is undergoing a \$4 million renovation that includes lead and asbestos abatement and a new roof, which are all complete. Other important interior renovations and classroom upgrades are underway. After all the renovations are completed,

Garcia Hall will be the new location for the SRJC Communications Studies Department, which offers classes in Communication, Speech, Film and Media Studies, and Journalism.



*Photo depicts the framing in of Garcia Hall's auditorium seating.*

## Shone Farm Project Updates

*With Measure H Funds and state grants, major upgrades and construction continue to enhance the 365-acre outdoor learning laboratory for SRJC's Agricultural/Natural Resources Department*



Thanks to Measure H, and with additional Strong Workforce Grant funding, Shone Farm is sowing the harvest of community support. Pictured above (left) is the new produce processing facility, the Alvin J. Hansen Sustainable Agriculture Facility, nearly complete. The new refrigeration / cooler installation is going out to bid soon and fencing is underway. Porter Barn, which received a new roof, paint, and corral improvements, recently had a new agricultural lab completed (center), and (right) materials have been delivered for the new greenhouse. Not pictured are the new agricultural buildings, walkways, and courtyard, to name a few. Shone Farm continues to be a Sonoma County treasure.

### Briefly Noted—

On March 15, 2022, the Transportation and Public Works Department made a recommendation to the Santa Rosa City Council to approve the temporary road closure of Elliott Avenue between West Emeritus Driveway and East Emeritus Driveway. The agenda item did not pass.