



Gail Miller School of Business
SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FALL 2023

BIZBUZZ

GAIL MILLER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF

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Gail Miller School of Business
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Jeffrey Coker
Interim Dean



LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Hello Friends.

I hope this letter finds you are doing well. With the fall semester just past mid-terms, the end of the semester and holiday season coming quickly upon us, I wanted to take couple minutes to share some updates happening around the Gail Miller School of Business. First, for those of you that don't know, we are in the middle of the planning stage for our building remodel and addition. We have just entered the design phase with the architects and contractors. In this phase we will start detailing the all the aspects of the building. At this time, construction is estimated to be completed in May of 2026. Seems like a long way down the road, but it will be here before your know it. More to share in the coming months. In the meantime, take a look at a few of the most recent conceptual photos!

Our end of semester GMSB JAM session will take place in early December, look for announcements and dates of various activities. It would great to have you participate and work with us to build community.

I would like to offer an early CONGRATULATIONS to those students who will be completing their required credits and planning to graduate at the end of the semester. Reminder to all, did you know that you technically graduate when you complete all required credits and coursework in your degree plan? The actual commencement ceremony occurs each year in early May which is separate from when you actually graduated. You will need to apply for the ceremony. Check with the graduation office when you are ready. The spring semester begins on Monday January 8, 2024. Do your best to register for classes early so you have the best opportunity to select the courses and schedule you want.

As we all move towards the end of the semester, do your best to get some rest and give yourself plenty of time to prepare for things. Not only does this include school, but family, friends, work, and all the other things life will throw your way. You are not in this alone. You may have to do the work, but we are all here to support your efforts. Communicate effectively and ask for HELP if you need it.

On behalf of all the faculty and staff in the Gail Miller School of Business, we wish you the very best. Enjoy the remainder of the semester, enjoy your time away to refresh to spend with family and friends, Happy Holidays, and a very Happy New Year! Look forward to seeing you in 2024!!!

Jeffrey Coker
Interim Dean, GMSB



Gail Miller School of Business
SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Future Larry H. and Gail
Miller Family Business
Building.



SLCC DECA Students Win International Recognition!

Fourteen SLCC DECA students traveled to Orlando, Florida to participate in the DECA International Career Development Conference. Students competed individually or in teams. They competed against students from 2- and 4-year colleges such as Rutgers, University of Arizona, UNLV, Gonzaga University, and Michigan State. There were also competitors from Canada and other U.S. territories.



International 2nd Place Winners: Madeline, C'Era. & Nyasha

The students were accompanied by Jen Klenk, Marketing faculty, Daysi Hernandez, Management faculty, and the DECA Co-Advisors.

While in Orlando, the students also visited Disney Springs, Downtown Disney, and Walt Disney World.

| Students | Event | National Rank | SLCC Major |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| Madeline English | Travel & Tourism | 2 nd Place | AS Business |
| Nyasha Paradzai & C'Era Valdez | International Marketing | 2 nd Place | AS Business, AS General Studies |
| C'Era Valdez, Calista Bourdos, Nyasha Paradzai | Sales Challenge | Top 10 | AS General Studies, AS Business, AS Business |
| Joey, DuShane, Ben Brown | Business Ethics | Finalists | |
| Ben Brown | Managerial Accounting | Finalist | |
| Damon Henry | Human Resources | Finalist | |
| SLCC DECA Chapter | International Passport Team Award | | |
| Genesis Ruiz | International Passport Individual Award | | AS Business |
| Cali Bourdos | International Passport Individual Award | | AS Business |
| Beau Colledge | International Passport Individual Award | | AAS Geospatial Technology |
| Cameron Christensen | International Passport Individual Award | | AAS Business Management |



SLCC FBLA Students Win Big at National Conference!

Nineteen SLCC students in the Future Business Leaders organization traveled to Atlanta, GA, June 22-25. Students competed in two or more events, some individually and some in teams. They competed against 2- and 4-year colleges from across the nation, such as Purdue, Rutgers, Wharton, Cornell, Penn State and Texas A&M. The students were accompanied by Jen Klenk, Marketing faculty member and the FBLA

Advisor.

While in Atlanta, students visited the Civil Rights Museum, Martin Luther King Jr. National Park and birth home, and the Georgia Aquarium.

| Students | Event | National Rank | SLCC Major |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Nyasha Paradzai | Public Speaking | 1 st Place | AS Business |
| Madeline English | Administrative Technology | 1 st Place | AS General Studies |
| Aspen Kessler & Ben Brown | Human Resources | 2 nd Place | ?? , AS Business |
| Annette Richards | Emerging Business Technology | 3 rd Place | Personal Interest |
| Annette Richards | Impromptu Speaking | 3 rd Place | Personal Interest |
| Madeline English & C'Era Valdez | Integrated Marketing Communications | 3 rd Place | AS General Studies, AS General Studies |
| Aspen Kessler | Information Management | 4 th Place | ?? |
| Stephanie Mahina | Future Business Executive | 5 th Place | AS Business |
| Marcos Monroy | Marketing Analysis & Decision Making | 5 th Place | AS General Studies |
| Stephanie Mahina, Madeline English, & Genesis Ruiz | Community Service | 5 th Place | AS Business, AS General Studies, AS Business |
| Diana Zahidi, Frida Diaz, & Marcos Monroy | Business Sustainability | 6 th Place | AS Business, AS Business, AS General Studies |
| Cali Bourdos & Genesis Ruiz | Business Presentation | 8 th Place | AS Business, AS Business |
| Cali Bourdos, Genesis Ruiz, & Nyasha Paradzai | Sales Presentation | 8 th Place | AS Business, AS Business, AS Business |
| Romaldo Ayon, Nelson Aparaez | Management Analysis & Decision Making | 9 th Place | AAS Bus Mgmt, ??? |
| Ben Brown | Strategic Analysis & Decision Making | 9 th Place | AS Business |
| Stephanie Mahina | Impromptu Speaking | 10 th Place | AS Business |



Spotlight on Faculty: SLCC Faculty Member Completes Doctorate degree in 2023!

In May 2023, Kristi Green, Associate Professor of Business Management, completed her Doctor of Education degree from the University of Wyoming. This was the culmination of three years of hard work. She completed the degree while working full-time and managing as a single mom to raise her two young daughters.

Kristi's dissertation research was a passion project. Kristi is a product of Venezuelan and American parents. She has a goal to move into higher education administration and wanted to learn more about college leadership for Latina women. Her dissertation topic was "Counterstories of Latinas in the Pipeline to Community College Leadership".

Her research revealed that the Hispanic population is the fastest growing minority in the US, but they are falling short in education compared to their white counterparts. It is well-researched that minority students persist and perform better when they see people like themselves reflected in the faculty and administration, but there are very few Hispanics in faculty and higher education leadership positions which creates a self-reinforcing cycle of marginalization. The study looked at the lived experiences of Latina women who have established mid-level careers as leaders at community colleges such as faculty, directors, and associate deans, but are wanting to move into executive leadership positions during their career. This population has insight on the barriers and supports they've needed to get to where they are and then what support and challenges, they face as they continue to move up in their career. Their stories are counter to the majoritarian narrative and seek to change structural rules and societal norms. From their ideas and voices, Kristi discussed the themes of immigration and legal status, anti-essential-

ism, hegemony, and anti-subordination. From this discussion, she established practical implications for community colleges.

When asked why she decided to pursue a doctorate degree, Kristi replied, "It was for me. Also, I knew I'd want future opportunities that required a doctorate, and I didn't want to feel rushed or miss opportunities because I didn't have it."

What were your feelings as you started on your doctorate; excited, afraid, overwhelmed, proud, etc.?
Kristi: "I was excited, super stoked they accepted me. Every semester I felt overwhelmed with the course material, and I asked myself, "why did I sign up for this???" but I just went page by page, module by module, assignment by assignment and I did it."

What were your greatest obstacles as you worked on your degree? (costs, time, family obligations, doctorate program processes, etc.)

Kristi: "I was a single mother for the whole time. I started the program when Sophie was 4 and Madeline was 6 and I finished when they were 8 and 10. So literally half their lives!! I had to learn how to juggle it all. Also, I did have to pay a lot of it out of pocket. Some semesters only 1 class was offered, and you must have 2 classes to qualify for financial aid, so I paid for those out of pocket. I guess it's good because my student loans aren't that much???"

Another hurdle I hit was after I did all my class work and passed my exams- the Assistant Provost decided they no longer would accept my master's degree credits, so I was 23 credits short of graduating. I had to create a defense for myself, I had all the faculty

Kristi Green, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Business Management



and program Associate Deans and the acceptance committee on my side. I consulted with a lawyer, and I told the school I had done so. They were holding a meeting to decide my fate that I was not invited to and could only hope others would make my case and advocate for me. Even with a whole team of faculty and advisors on my side, it was still up to the Assistant Provost if I could continue in the program. Luckily, someone told their legal department what was going on and their council called the Assistant Provost and told him to cease and desist immediately as this would be a very easy lawsuit for me to win. During this time, I still completed my prospectus and had my dissertation ready for approval on the hopes I would be able to continue. Ironically, my dissertation discusses how Latinas face challenges structural or administrative issues like this and have unconventional credentials that then bar them from moving into higher education leadership, and that's exactly what was happening to this Latina.

What are things you wish you had known before you started the program?

Kristi: I wish I had known that even the simplest of dissertations takes over a year to complete. You have a very short period of time to do your portion, and then you wait weeks or a month for IRB approvals to get back to you, committee members to get back to you, etc. It was a lot of hurry up and wait.


What are your feelings now that you have completed your doctoral program? What are your future educational/professional goals?

Kristi: "I feel like the sun shines again! I'm much more relaxed and relieved. I did realize how much I had ignored and let go during this time and so I've spent the summer catching up on things. It's still surreal to be called Dr. Green. I'm proud of myself

and I know I'm a good researcher! I didn't know that was a talent and skill I had before this program. I eventually would like to move into administration, but I'm loving being faculty and will stay at SLCC for a long time."

Who would you like to thank for their patience, support, guidance, love, etc. while you worked on your doctorate?

- **Barbie Willett-** Best boss! For her continual support and allowing my classes to be my professional development. For letting me have subs for my lecture courses while I was taking my preliminary exams."
- **Everyone at SLCC-** for making it easy to see the application of what I was learning. For letting me pick their brains, giving me access to our books and materials, for letting me interview them for assignments. Some of by name: Allison McFarlane, Dennis Bromley, Jeff Coker, Maria Ammar, Celia Duarte, Kristen Morley, Barbie Willett.
- **For my mom,** Tochi Green, who brought me up to know both my cultures and inspired my dissertation topic.
- **-For my girls,** Madeline, and Sophia, who were troopers through it all and my best cheerleaders.
- **-My amazing professors and committee that** taught me and supported me so well and advocated for me! Namely, Dr. Jonathan Carrier, Dr. Keonghee Tao Han, and Dr. Amanda DeDiego.

Kristi says, "It was worth it! My study was qualitative, and it was an honor to tell these women's stories!" 

Recipe Highlight: Citrus Turkey Brine



Keri Karabats
Associate Professor, Culinary Institute

Ingredients:

- 1 gallon cold water (divided)
- 1 cup table salt (or 1 ½ cups kosher or coarse salt)
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 4 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 large lime
- 1 large lemon
- 1 medium orange
- 1 medium white onion, cut into thick slices
- 4 whole bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme

Method:

1. Gather the ingredients.
2. In a large saucepan, bring 4 cups of water to a low boil. Add the salt and sugar and stir until they are completely dissolved.
3. Cut the lemon, lime, and orange into eight pieces each.
4. Add all the remaining ingredients to the saucepan. Reduce the heat to low and cover. Let simmer for 30 minutes.
5. Pour this mixture into a large pot. Add the remaining water (cold) and refrigerate the brine until it is completely cooled.
6. If you are using a frozen turkey, it must be completely defrosted before brining. Place the poultry and brine in a large plastic container. The poultry should be fully surrounded by the brine. Keep the turkey refrigerated throughout the brining time. Brine for 1 hour per pound. Do not brine for more than 24 hours.
7. Thoroughly rinse all the brine from the turkey before cooking. Otherwise, there will be a salty flavor to the turkey.

Notes:

- This recipe is enough for a 10- 12 pound bird
- You should not need to salt any stuffing you put into the turkey as it will be well-seasoned by the turkey juices during roasting.
- If you are using a turkey rub, you can omit the salt.
- The drippings will be salty, so you may need to adjust seasonings when using them to make gravy.
- Your turkey will need to be fully immersed in the brine, so you may need to increase the brine for larger birds.

Culinary Student Interview: Brianna Espinoza



1. Where are you currently working and what do you like about it?

I currently work at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center. I love my job because I can work in different parts of the culinary field. One day I could be doing a dinner service and the next I could be helping banquets with an event. I've learned a lot from being there.

2. What would your favorite or last meal be?

I'm honestly a simple person when it comes to food. I really like taco variations in any form, hard shell, soft shell, nachos, or burritos. It's something so simple but can be so good when you're really craving one. However, if I were to choose my last meal, it would be anything from my mother's cooking. Her food will always hit better than anything made by a restaurant or chef, it just brings me back to my childhood.

3. Who is your favorite celebrity Chef or TV show and why?

I can't choose a favorite celebrity Chef, however, my favorite show would be Cutthroat Kitchen. Besides the fact that the show is fun to watch, it's cool to see how fast chefs can adapt to challenges and sabotage being thrown at them.

4. What was your favorite Culinary Institute Class?

I've loved all the classes I've taken so far at SLCC. One of my favorites would Baking I. I haven't always loved sweets or pastries but taking this class has gotten me to like the sweet side of the field too.

5. What advice would you give to those starting out?

My advice to those starting out would be to not let fear consume you and to just try everything. I didn't know what path I wanted to try out when I first started but I took classes from both sides, and I've not only learned a lot but have started to see where I want to be in the future. The field is large and might seem scary but when you look at it, we're all a tight-knit community that's here when you need it.

Accounting, Finance, and Paralegal Studies

Paul Benner,
Associate Dean



The difference between an Associate of Science (AS) and an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree is that AS degrees are designed primarily for the purpose of preparing students for transfer to a 4-year college or university, while AAS degrees are designed to prepare students to complete a 2-year program of study that prepares students to move directly into the workforce.

Accounting

“The U.S. tax code was written by A students. Every April 15, we have to pay somebody who got an A in accounting to keep ourselves from being sent to jail.” - P. J. O'Rourke.

The AAS in Accounting is a two-year program designed to help you become one of those “A students.” The 2-year program requires 28 credits in financial, managerial, payroll, cloud-based, and intermediate accounting as well as an accounting capstone. There are several computer science and business courses as well as some general education. Elective courses include such topics as government/non-profit, federal income tax, financial statement analysis, and financial management. Our graduates are prepared for a variety of accounting careers within small, medium, and large organizations.

If you like detailed work involving numbers that really makes a difference to organizations, consider accounting.

Financial Services

“To get rich, you have to be making money while you're asleep.” — David Bailey

The AAS in Financial Services prepares students to help their clients build wealth over their lifetimes, retire comfortably, and achieve their financial goals. They know how to make money while they are asleep.

There is no academic degree required in order to become a financial advisor. You do, however, need to pass some licensing examinations before you can legally invest another person's money. Our program prepares students to pass the Securities Industry Essentials (SIE) exam, which demonstrates to potential employers that the student is nearly ready to pass the trading license exams.

The 63 credit-hour program includes courses on personal finance, investments, financial planning, accounting, economics, computer proficiency, and math. In addition, by creatively scheduling general education classes as electives, graduates can transfer to 4-year schools as a junior. We have negotiated an articulation agreement with the University of Utah that continues the program through to a Bachelor of Science with an emphasis in financial planning.

Consider Financial Services as a career. It's rewarding both personally and financially.

Paralegal Studies

A paralegal is a person who babysits lawyers while writing a 10,000 word document and calls it a “brief.” - Found on a mousepad

Paralegals are truly a lawyer's right hand. Trained in research, writing, the basics of law, trade-specific tech tools, and patience, the paralegal is the detail-oriented individual who makes sure the forms are prepared correctly and filed in a timely manner. They assist their attorneys in all manner of preparation for court or negotiations. Being a paralegal is interesting, challenging, and stimulating. SLCC's AAS in paralegal studies is a 2-year program that prepares graduates to be immediately productive in a law firm, corporation, or government agency. As the only paralegal program in Utah that is approved by the American Bar Association (ABA), SLCC's graduates are in high demand in the workforce. According to Ziprecruiter, paralegals in Utah earn an average of \$51,424 annually, with many earning much more!

For career and educational advice in any of these fields, feel free to contact our division office at (801) 957-4357 or email paul.benner@slcc.edu. We will put you in touch with our faculty or administration to help you plan your educational pathway to the career you seek.

Staff Spotlight: Rachel Murtagh



What is your current job title?

Administrative Assistant I [for the Division of Accounting, Finance, and Legal Studies]

When did you start working at SLCC (how long have you been employed here)?

October 1, 2021 (two years now!)

Where did you receive your Education? (degrees, certifications attained, etc.)

I earned a general associates at Montgomery College (MD) and Blue Ridge Technical & Community College (WV)

Previous employment/past experiences :

Dan Jones Call Center (1 year) & Cicero (4 years)

What do you like most about working at SLCC, particularly in the Gail Miller School of Business?

Working at a college is very different from working at a for-profit company. The focus on students and their success is very refreshing. I love the team here at the School of Business. I always feel so supported and know that if I need help or advice I can always turn to someone!

Personal facts about yourself:

Everyone knows I love animals. I love to bird watch and identify them with the Merlin app. I have two black cats at home, Magpie (mine) and Obi (my sister's). This year I've also gotten into foraging. I made some choke-cherry jelly with a friend that was absolutely delicious.

My sister, Sarah, is also my twin!

VITA TAX CLINIC

By: Jovana Sisovic and Noah Goodlett

For the 7th year in a row, SLCC students participated in the Westminster VITA Tax Clinic - an official IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. SLCC students, alongside Westminster University students, former Tax Clinic alumni, and community volunteers from BYU and University of Utah, served over 2,700 clients and brought back over \$3.8 million in tax refunds to local community members during the 2023 tax filing season.

Westminster Tax Clinic operates from the end of January through April 15th, and focuses on serving the underserved community members - low-to-moderate income taxpayers, English Second Language clients, person with disabilities, the elderly, members of the Armed Forces and their spouses, veterans, and anyone in need!

To participate in the Westminster VITA Tax Clinic, students undergo an official Tax Clinic training, get IRS certifications, and undertake the training to assist clients with financial advocacy services. The Tax Clinic training also covers ethics, cultural sensitivity, tax law, tax software, and proper client interviewing skills.

For the 9th year in a row, Westminster Tax Clinic has been the largest VITA site in Utah, and SLCC students deserve to be credited for their contribution to this ranking! SLCC students can participate in the Tax Clinic by choosing to volunteer or by enrolling for academic credit through signing up for ACCT 2570. Although the work is performed by joining the Westminster Tax Clinic, students who choose the option of enrolling for academic credit, pay tuition to SLCC (at SLCC tuition rates). SLCC students enjoyed being part of the program that has such a huge impact on the community, making a change in the lives of those they served, and being able to gain practical tax experience.

If you'd like to support the Tax Clinic and your fellow SLCC students, you can always schedule an appointment to get your taxes done for free through the VITA program! All Tax Clinic services are always 100% FREE. Call/text 801-210-8291 to learn more or visit westminsteru.edu/TaxClinic.

During the 2023 tax filing season, Westminster Tax Clinic operated six days a week from three locations: (1) Salt Lake County Government Center (2001 S State Street), (2) SLCC West Valley Center (3460 S 5600 W), and (3) Kimball Junction Center (1885 W Ute Blvd.). In the upcoming, 2024, tax filing season, the Tax Clinic will have additional sites opening in Ogden, Coalville, and Heber.

For more information, please contact Jovana Sisovic at jsisovic@westminsteru.edu or Wendy Gunn at wendy.gunn@slcc.edu.



Student Volunteers
from the 2022 VITA
Tax Clinic



More from the Gail Miller
School of Business

GMSB Website:



Important Dates:

