



ROTARY CLUB OF BENICIA

Curt Johnston, Executive Director Solano County Educational Foundation



Curt Johnston, a fellow Rotarian from the Vacaville Rotary Club, has spoken to our club previously. Today, his focus today was about Valero's endowed scholarship, specifically for graduates of Liberty High School.

Curt started his presentation by giving us an overview of what is happening at Solano Community College. SCC enrolls about seven out of every 10 undergraduate students in California. Our community college system in California has 114 colleges and includes 2.1 million students. The UC California system has 10 universities and includes 183,000 students. The CSU system has 23 universities and includes 369,000 students. Our private sector college system has 148,000 students for 75 accredited four-year institutions.

Solano Community College has received various recognitions. The science and technology programs have been recognized state wide and internationally. SCC is one of 115 community colleges in California to be awarded a bachelors degree program. There have been two grant awards from the National Science Foundation for \$200,000 award to develop a biotech curriculum to be distributed nationwide, and a \$622,000 award program for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) student scholarships.

SCC also has over \$190 million in new construction to upgrade the campus infrastructures: Bio Technology in Vacaville, an automotive technology in Vallejo, a new performing arts center in

Fairfield, and science, chemistry & anatomy upgrades as well as a new Veterans' Center in Fairfield, a new aeronautics center at the Nut Tree Airport, and a new library in Fairfield. Curt shared specifics with us about each one of these projects.

The Solano Community College Foundation was founded in 1985. The Solano Community College Endowment Fund first received \$23,000 for scholarships. Between 2013-2017, over \$1.08 million dollars were raised for the college, which included over \$211,000 in student scholarships and stipends. The top priority is to assist SCC students with the greatest need. New fundraising programs to prepare for alumni giving programs include (1) facility naming rights, (2) Solano College Fund, (3) Dean's Club, and (4) Friends of Solano Community College.

Meanwhile, getting the word out about Solano Community College, especially to alumni, is critical in continuing to raise money. Current plans of involving community members as well as alumni include business networking services, a crab & shrimp feed dinner, the annual benefit gala, and a golf tournament.

We appreciate Mr. Johnston speaking with us about the vital changes that are occurring at Solano Community College, as well as the continued support of student success, especially financially. Thank you, Curt.

Noteworthy!

- * **February 13**, we will have a **special off-site** Rotary meeting at the Camel Barn Museum at 12:15. This is our regular meeting, and will include lunch as usual. We hope you are able to attend this special meeting.
- * **February 27**, we will have an **evening Rotary meeting**/social in lieu of our regularly scheduled luncheon meeting. Our social will be held at Estey Real Estate (216 First St) and begins at 5:30 PM. This social event will include appetizers. Members should plan on bringing whatever they plan to drink: beer, wine, etc. *We will NOT meet at 12:15 that day.* We hope this will provide an opportunity for those who have difficulty attending our regularly scheduled meetings to attend. Our social is also open to significant others and guests. We will take a preliminary headcount before this event so we can order appropriately. We are looking forward to seeing you!
- * There is an academic scholarship available for any previous graduate of Liberty High School — for educational use. But we are having a difficult time locating those students. **Do you know any graduates from LHS?** Are they attending college? An informational sheet is included with this newsletter. Your help is needed! Thank you.
- * Our **brand new Benicia Rotary website** will soon be released. This website showcases our lovely town and our club activities! More information when we GO LIVE soon.
- * Our Rotary Teacher-of-the-Month program is still alive. We will soon have our teacher recipients at our meetings so that we can help celebrate their successes.
- * The 13th Annual Rotary Golf Tournament committee has begun planning for our next tournament on **Friday, August 10, 2018. Save the date—** to play golf AND help us with the tournament! We need your help!

Happy Dollars!

- * Jim Trimble's current passion for collecting happy dollars is for money to help our Benicia Police Department provide services to citizens in need, and money for water wells in Uganda.
- * Diane Smikahl celebrated her 58th birthday by going to Sailor Jack's! She was \$20 happy.
- * Jon Dwyer helped celebrate wife Bonnie's birthday on January 2 by serving a gourmet hotdog lunch by the fire pit. What a guy! Also, his daughter arrived for the holidays and had \$150 to donate to our club. Jon added \$50 for a total of \$200 of happiness!
- * Reg Page inquired about why the coach of the Norte Dame game was pointing to the sky. Perhaps it was divine intervention?
- * Bob Triglia, one of our newer Benicia Rotarians, donated \$100 happy-sad dollars. We are sorry to hear that Bob's mother passed away, but happy to hear about how hard-working and kind she was. Bob, your mom sounded like a jewel! Please accept our condolences for your loss. 😭
- * Lori Tinfow was featured in *Benicia Magazine* in November! She was \$20 happy!
- * Sue Hutch was \$5 happy because her company went away! She had a fabulous holiday with her family members, but is happy to have her quiet and peaceful home back.
- * Sue Fisher Jones was \$5 happy because she had seven days of quiet at home after Christmas
- * Eric Hoglund watched the Pasadena Rose Bowl Parade on New Year's Day. He was concerned that the Rotary float in the parade didn't have any signage or logo indicating that it was created by Rotary. He donated \$3 complaint dollars!
- * Jim Trimble was \$20 happy because he and Chris hosted 18 people for Christmas dinner. Wife Chris suggested that all of the plates, silverware and goblets be washed BY HAND. (*Who does this????*) Jim washed all of it...by hand! BTW — Jim Trimble played the trumpet in high school and actually marched in the Rose Bowl Parade in 1964....all 5.6 miles of it!



The Valero Benicia
Liberty High School
Scholarship Info is on
the next page.



SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



Thanks to the generosity of Valero Benicia Refinery, students at Solano Community College that attended Liberty High in Benicia have an opportunity to receive a \$500 Scholarship.

To be eligible for the this scholarship, the student:

- Must have previously attended Liberty High School in Benicia;
- Must be enrolled in 9 or more units at Solano Community College (SCC);
- Must have a GPA of 2.5 or greater at SCC, or be a first-time college student; and
- Must complete a scholarship application by February 9, 2018.

For more information about scholarships at SCC go to:
<http://www.solano.edu/scholarships/>

To complete the required scholarship application go to: solano.academicworks.com

For general information or assistance contact:

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