SAU Tech’s fall semester started off with the opening of a new residence hall with apartment style living and the new student and activity center. The center has been a long-awaited addition to the campus and provides a new cafeteria area, campus bookstore, private dining and meeting areas, a large meeting space that doubles as an indoor tennis court, and offices for the college’s student life staff. The student center provides areas that can be rented for community and business events. The activity center has a gym, workout and recreational areas. The new facilities have been the effort of college staff, the SAU Tech Foundation, and public and private donors.
Staff & Faculty Awards

2014 Professional Staff Excellence Award
Lee Sanders

2014 Faculty Excellence Award
Eddie Horton

2014 Alumni of the Year Award
Gayle Brock

2014 Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award
Mike Cash

2014 Support Staff Excellence Award
Kimberley Carpenter

Congratulations
To our staff, faculty, adjunct faculty and alumni!

Academic All-Star

Jessica Flannigan, SAU Tech’s 2014 Arkansas Community College Academic All-Star had this to say about attending SAU Tech and her experiences in the college’s honors program. “While my most meaningful educational experience has been my entire freshman year at SAU Tech, I would have to say that it was enhanced by my involvement with the SAU Tech Honors Program and Student Leadership Program. I am thrilled alone at the opportunity to learn, but the experience is even better when I can be involved and have fun while doing so. The Honors Program has also introduced me to a more in depth learning environment that cleverly challenges my mental thinking. In the beginning, I was afraid that taking Honors classes was going to be difficult, but in the end I have come to realize that the subjects go beyond the norm which makes me think harder and be more creative with the subject’s assignments. In conclusion, the instructors I had last year were extremely helpful and encouraging when I found tasks and assignments too difficult to face on my own, and the Honors Program and Student Leadership Program always keeps me thinking and busy. I have always felt at home at SAU Tech. The attention teachers give students makes the educational experience very rewarding.” As an Academic All-Star recipient, Jessica can attend her choice of an Arkansas four-year college on scholarship.
Progress on TAACCCT 3 Grant Project

The SouthWest Arkansas Community College Consortium (SWACCC) is comprised of seven two-year colleges committed to the economic development of the southwest region of Arkansas. Under the Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnership: Unleashing Potential! (RAMP UP) initiative, SWACCC was awarded an $8.4 million U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration, Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant in 2013. The focus of the grant is on advanced manufacturing and targets TAA-eligible workers, veterans, long-term unemployed, and other adults in the region. Through this funding, member colleges are revising and developing courses and programs of study that are industry-driven and that will result not only in college credentials but nationally-recognized industry credentials as well. These valuable credentials can be a first step to a good paying, local job and the first rung on the ladder of success for students who have the desire to improve their skills in crafts such as welding, industrial technology, and logistics.

In partnership with regional manufacturing employers, three strategies are pursued:
(1) engaging regional employers in sector partnership to enhance one or more sets of stacked and latticed credentials,
(2) significantly leveraging employers to integrate "in-plant" work-based learning opportunities into systems of stacked and latticed credentials, and
(3) enhancing student advisement and career counseling in partnership with employers.

SAU Tech’s contact for the TAACCCT project is Amy Perrin and she can be reached at aperrin@sautech.edu.

GED Smarter Sentencing Program

Anna Aultman enrolled in GED classes at SAU Tech Adult Education, Columbia County in May of 2013 as part of Columbia County’s Smarter Sentencing program. She scored low on her intake Test of Adult Basic Education, but she diligently attended class, and she began to show improvement.

Anna’s first teacher, Gail Mooney stated that “Anna struggled with a lack of confidence at the start. However, once she realized what could be accomplished with a little extra effort it was time for her to soar. Anna can do anything she sets her mind to do. I am thrilled she is doing great things for her future.”

She has been a student for 15 months, and has improved her reading and math scores by 6.3 and 6.8 grade levels, respectively, and she has improved her language scores by almost nine grade levels. She has accumulated 137 hours of class attendance for July and August of 2014, and she is in the final stages of preparation for her official GED test. Her teachers and center administrators admire her attitude toward her education, work ethic, and consistent attendance. Diane Cary, Center Coordinator for SAU Tech Adult Education, Columbia County, says of Anna’s turnaround, “She’s a whole new person. She has come such a long way, and I am so proud of her!”

Patsy Baker, who has worked with Anna since her early days in the program, said, “Anna has come a long way since the first day I met her during her intake. She is a joy to have in class, and when she does have to be absent, she is missed.”

As a member of Smarter Sentencing, Anna is the only student in the program who has complied with all the court’s orders. “I think that the teachers are very inspiring,” Anna said. Once Anna completes her GED she plans to attend college and major in psychology. Ultimately, she would like to work with children.
Career Academy Faculty Receives Awards

Jessica Young, SAU Tech Career Academy Health Sciences Technology Faculty, received two awards this year. She was awarded the SkillsUSA Advisor of the Year and the Arkansas Career Technical Education New Faculty Member of the Year Awards.

Jessica graduated from SAU Tech’s nursing program in 2001. She is an LPN and a certified CPR instructor. She has been teaching in the Health Science Technology program for the career academy since the fall of 2008.

Jessica currently serves on several boards - SkillsUSA Arkansas District 6 Board Member, SkillsUSA Arkansas State Officer Advisor, Fordyce School District Board Member, Arkansas School Board Association Professional Member, Arkansas Association for Career and Technical Educators, HSTE President-Elect National Education and Team Member for SkillsUSA, serving on the Medical Terminology Team.

Jessica sees herself as a nontraditional educator who uses “outside of the box” thinking. This is evident in her use of social media for student communication, and the results of her teaching has led to the following awards for students: 2008-2009 Gold Medalist/State Officer, 2009-2010 Gold Medalist/State Officer & Bronze Medalist, Medical Terminology, 2010-2011 Bronze Medalist, Medical Terminology & Silver Medalist, Medical Terminology, 2011-2012 Bronze Medalist, Basic Health Care Skills; Bronze Medalist, Nurse Assisting; Gold Medalist, Nurse Assisting; Gold Medalist, Medical Terminology; Bronze Medalist Tie, Medical Terminology, 2012-2013 Bronze Medalist, Nurse Assisting; 2 Gold Medalist/State Officer(s), 2013-2014 Bronze Medalist, Basic Health Care Skills; Gold Medalist, Basic Health Care Skills; Silver Medalist, First Aid/CPR; Gold Medalist, Nurse Assisting.

Jessica is married to Michoal Young and they have four children: Callie, Christian, Noah, and Marc. Her hobbies include the promotion of the student organization SkillsUSA, community service, digital photography and firearms/target practice.

Long-Time SAU Tech Employee is 2014 State Employee of the Year

Robert White of Southern Arkansas University Tech was announced as the Arkansas State Employees Association’s 2014 Outstanding State Employee. He is the director of Secondary Educational Services, a department that includes a concurrent credit and dual enrollment program as well as high school services - all to better prepare high school students for college.

White, with the State of Arkansas for 40 years, is described as someone who works continuously to implement programs that better meet students’ needs and prepare them for college or employment after high school graduation.

Each year the Arkansas State Employees Association recognizes an Outstanding State Employee during the Annual Convention. Employees are nominated by coworkers or supervisors who believe the nominee demonstrates commitment and integrity while serving the State of Arkansas.
Our Students

SAU Tech multimedia student, Miranda Sink, has been busy lately working on the set of Maze Runner building the intricate wooden model of the maze seen in the photo on the right. Miranda built the model “stick by stick,” creating the prop for the newly released movie. She is now working on the American Horror Story: Freak Show as a Prop Master/Prop Assistant learning real world skills while earning $26 an hour in New Orleans, LA.

For the first time, Southern Arkansas University Tech and AAR Aircraft Services of Hot Springs, Arkansas combined forces to bring the SkillsUSA Aviation Maintenance Technology competition to the Hot Springs Convention Center. The students were judged in 12 areas of expertise including sheet metal structural work, flexible and rigid fluid line fabrication, precision measurement, weight and balance, safety and human factors, safety wiring, and other skills. SAU Tech student Ryan Taylor took the gold medal overall and SAU Tech student Jake Butler took the silver medal.

L to R: Jake Butler and Ryan Taylor

Sean Kirkendall, SAU Tech Computer Information Technology major, placed seventh in Help Desk and sixth in Cyber Security at the 2014 Phi Beth Lambda National Leadership Conference held in Nashville, Tennessee on June 24 – 27. Over 1,800 of the best and brightest college students from across the United States and two countries traveled to the historic city of Nashville to make some history of their own as they showcased their talents as future business leaders and vied for the opportunity to win over $79,000 in cash awards. Sean was among the many from Arkansas who brought home at least one award which was a part of the 52 individual and team wins across 57 business and business-related competitive events offered. Southern Arkansas University Tech placed in two of the events this year. The computer information systems program at SAU Tech trains students to work on computers as a computer repair technician or as a network specialist. For more information on this program call 870.574.4500.
SAU Tech has New Programs in the Works

SAU Tech has had a high school career academy program in place for cosmetology for many years. Since that time the college has been asked by community members to offer a college-level program where a student can obtain the training and hours to qualify for a cosmetology license in Arkansas. This program is what SAU Tech refers to as in-demand based on the feedback of the community we serve. The college is exploring the possibility of offering a full cosmetology program in the near future. More information will be available on the college’s website, Facebook page, and in the local news when the program is approved to take students.

Other new programs include the simulation and game design program that is now offered under the multimedia degree program. Students learn to make digital characters and write story lines for video game development. The skills acquired in this program are also applicable to developing simulation equipment used in areas such as the military or medical fields. The college has also added a supply chain management emphasis under the engineering technology program. This program provides the skills needed to work with logistics in large companies such as Lockheed Martin.

SAU Tech is also offering some courses requested by community members. While SAU Tech cannot offer a four-year social work degree, it does offer the basic courses needed to transfer into a four-year college’s social work program. SAU Tech has added the field experience class that social work majors take in the beginning of their program. The course offers the flexibility of doing the course work online while completing the field experience in the community in which the student lives.

Other courses that are of interest include our entrepreneurship classes. These are classes that can help the student learn how to start and run their own business. The college also offers an entrepreneurship center with free resources for anyone wanting more information on how to begin a business. For information on any of these courses or programs, call 870.574.4500 or go to sautech.edu.

Tell Us What YOU Want!

SAU Tech has been in the Camden community since 1968. The college provides technical and transfer degrees and other services such as concurrent college credit to high school students, business and industry training courses, adult education, and community education. As with everything we do, we want to make sure we are meeting the needs of our community-YOUR needs. Please take a few moments and go to our website and let us know what programs you would like to see us offer. We want to know what YOU want! http://www.sautech.edu/academics/programSuggestion.aspx
Why Community Colleges Matter

The expense of attending college is increasing at a rapid rate. The decision to attend college is now many times solely dependent on whether the benefits outweigh the cost. According to research, the benefits of attending a community college can go a long way in off-setting the cost of an education. The job market for the future is technical-based and is exactly what community colleges can offer. Community colleges are less expensive and do a great job of preparing the traditional student to transfer to a four-year university. In Arkansas the student is protected by a law that ensures that the Associate of Arts in General Studies will transfer to all of the state’s four-year public universities. Many community colleges, such as SAU Tech, even offer the Associate of Arts in General Studies online. The General Studies degree contains all the basic courses students must take whether they are studying to become a doctor or a social worker.

For many students the traditional college path does not seem appealing. This is where community colleges really show their worth. Community colleges are able to offer short-term and two-year technical degrees that prepare students for work. Everything from nursing (11-months) to welding (9-months) is offered at SAU Tech—all tailored to fit the student. A quick completion time means less money spent and a faster track to earning a living.

In the U.S., community colleges have been pushed front and center by the Obama Administration as the front line to train workers for manufacturing, healthcare, computer technology, and a host of other career technical fields. While many high school graduates do not consider their local community college a valid option, this is an outdated idea which needs to be changed. Flexibility, affordability and relevant job training all add up to student success at the local community college. Some community colleges, such as SAU Tech, offer students the option of living on-campus and making the transition from high school to college in a smaller more secure environment.

Check out SAU Tech and what we have to offer you at www.sautech.edu.

Share Your Story with Us!

If you attended SAU Tech in the past, we would like you to share your story with us. Tell us about your career and what you are doing and what attending SAU Tech meant to you. You can complete the form on the home page of our website and we will use your story in our publications and online on our website. We want to hear from YOU! www.sautech.edu/mystory
Enjoying the View