ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Submission

SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE
Santa Rosa Junior College Libraries
Frank P. Doyle Library & Herold Mahoney Library
libraries.santarosa.edu
Executive Summary

As the 10th oldest of 114 colleges in the California Community College system, Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) has a legacy of academic excellence and deep roots in the diverse communities it serves in Sonoma County, California. The year 2018 represented the 100th anniversary of Santa Rosa Junior College and provided a welcomed moment of reflection to celebrate and reaffirm our commitment to academic achievement. Dedicated to making higher education accessible to all and removing barriers to goal attainment, the SRJC Libraries are an essential partner in this shared history and shared commitment to student success.

SRJC has two libraries that offer services to approximately 28,000 enrolled students a semester. The Frank P. Doyle Library is a four-story structure on the Santa Rosa campus, and the Herold Mahoney library is a two-story structure on the Petaluma campus. The resourceful, creative, and inventive spirit of the SRJC libraries creates opportunities for leadership in times of fundamental change. The libraries spark intellectual curiosity and foster academic excellence by building a discovery experience that increases access to scholarly materials and librarian support. Believing that lives can be changed through opportunity and access, we embrace the ongoing creation of an exceptional learning and research environment that is reflected in our physical and virtual spaces. The SRJC Libraries focus on ways to shape and strengthen student learning through a strong user-centered orientation. We invite engagement, listen to our communities, and actively define our academic libraries as vital partners in higher education.
The mission of Santa Rosa Junior College is to passionately cultivate learning through the creative, intellectual, physical, social, emotional, aesthetic and ethical development of our diverse community. The college supports this mission with a commitment to strong philosophical values.

**SRJC Values**
- Academic excellence through innovative instruction
- Celebration and support for diversity and community
- Creative responses to social and technological changes

The SRJC Libraries actively integrate these values into library programs and services to invite discovery, change lives, and increase student success. Two campus libraries offer robust research support, information literacy instruction, and rich physical and virtual collections that continually evolve to meet the changing ways students study and learn.

Supporting pedagogical trends and technological advances, the SRJC Libraries most recently embarked on a three year initiative to reimagine dynamic physical spaces at the Doyle and Mahoney college libraries. The resulting redesign offers innovative and responsive spaces for students to study, connect, collaborate, learn, and create knowledge. With digitally infused research spaces, modernized architecture, and updated furnishings, the SRJC Libraries foster experiential learning and facilitate innovative instruction and research.

### About the SRJC Libraries

#### Mission & Values

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### Annual Activity

- **587,780** Visits to SRJC Libraries last year
- **10,406** Research Tasks Supported
  
*Helping students navigate the complex information landscape*

- **8,097** Students taught in 347 course-integrated sessions
- **2,176** Students taught in 80 for-credit information literacy classes
Frank P. Doyle Library

Designed in colors that reflect Sonoma County’s natural environment—the green of the oak trees and gold of the grasses on the hillsides—this library is 145,000 total square feet with 1,045 student seats in a variety of configurations, including individual carrels and group study rooms with wireless screen-casting for collaboration.

Features

Prominent features include:

- 280 computer workstations and a Tech Gear Desk for laptop, calculator, and digital equipment checkout
- Digital color television studio and two large technology enriched classrooms for video conferencing and distance learning
- Six digital media suites to support media viewing, virtual reality technology, audio recording and mixing, web and graphic design, and more
- A white noise generator to block ambient sounds and maintain quiet zones

In accordance with SRJC’s goal of sustainability, Doyle is an energy efficient and environmentally friendly building:

- A rooftop array of 77 KW photovoltaic solar panels that generate a significant amount of the electricity used in the building, estimated to save the college between $20,000 and $30,000 per year in energy costs
- An air conditioning system that makes 350 tons of ice at night, when energy costs are lowest, then circulates water through the ice during the day to chill it before sending it through the building
- Over 80% of roof and ceiling tile contents derived from recycled materials
- Recycled materials used in carpets and upholstery
- Green and nontoxic building materials used whenever possible to reduce outgassing and the use of nonrenewable petroleum-based resources
Herold Mahoney Library

Considered to be one of the most technologically advanced libraries in Sonoma County, the Herold Mahoney Library is also the architectural and cultural heart of the campus. The building was prominently featured in the 2009 Library Design Showcase of the American Library Association for its balance of many design elements, including technology, sensitivity to immediate surroundings, and accessibility. Mahoney Library is the first building on the Petaluma campus to meet district sustainability standards.

Features

At 35,000 square feet, this facility is located at the heart of the campus and offers:

• 300 reader seats
• More than 50 computer workstations and a laptop checkout program
• Group study rooms with wireless screen-casting
• A quiet study room for concentrated work
• A premier art gallery which highlights local as well as internationally recognized artists
• A mixed-use Reading Room that brings the college and community together for a vibrant array of events
• A 28-station teaching lab
• A conference and meeting room with video conferencing capability
• Strategic placement of the building’s many ceiling-to-floor windows and skylights to maximize the use of natural sunlight
01 INVITING DISCOVERY

Sparking intellectual curiosity and fostering academic excellence

Santa Rosa Junior College Libraries are dedicated to collaboration with faculty from all disciplines. Our work with instructors has led to innovative instructional practices where we play pivotal roles in student learning and achievement. Our innovations include integrating emerging technologies into study spaces, developing experiential learning events, and designing a research hub to foster peer-to-peer collaboration and provide intensive research support for our diverse community.

SRJC VALUE: Academic excellence through innovative instruction
1.1 Exploring Emerging Technologies

These projects demonstrate the way learning is catalyzed by the redesign of traditional library spaces into interactive, tech-infused learning environments.

Digital Media Suites

The SRJC Libraries partnered with faculty in Communication Studies, Digital Arts, and Computer Sciences to transform library spaces into six digital media suites for students to create projects. Students in broadcast journalism, film production, web design, animation, digital music, virtual reality and other applied digital arts can use the library’s digital suites for their assignments. A new Tech Gear Desk promotes the use of emerging technology across the disciplines and supports experiential learning in the libraries. By working as a team, librarians, staff, and faculty are furthering SRJC’s mission to passionately cultivate learning by offering resources needed for creativity.

Collaborative Technology

To facilitate group projects, the SRJC Libraries outfitted study rooms with large, flat panel screens and screen-casting software. Students can download a free app and project their assignments onto the screen so they can consult with each other while editing their work in real time. This technology also allows students to practice giving presentations assigned to them in Speech classes or for video demonstrations assigned in their American Sign Language courses. In a survey of students who used the screen-casting software more than 70% responded that the technology made it easier for them to complete assignments.

Connectivity

Student demand for learning technologies is on the rise. In one survey more than 700 students requested increased connectivity in the library, due to the proliferation of hand held devices. Another survey showed that 87% of students rely on using library technology for completing assignments which contributes to continued success. We responded by creating multiple connectivity points using tech-infused furniture and offering laptops and iPads for check out. Librarians from several regional schools have toured the facility to see how they can implement similar tech-infused furniture into their libraries to increase connectivity and meet student demand.
1.2 Experiential Learning

The SRJC Libraries value innovation that is responsive to student learning and enhances educational opportunities. We build substantial relationships with faculty to foster a sense of community and to further the goals across our campuses. SRJC Librarians spark students’ intellectual growth by collaborating with faculty for experiential learning.

Encouraging Interaction

SRJC librarians created a building-wide “Art Talk” interactive campaign which uses smart phone technology to make fine art accessible to a generation of digital natives who are less familiar with physical libraries. Doyle’s collection of 80 artworks on permanent display were created by SRJC faculty and staff to showcase the talents of our community. By placing their smart phones over a QR code located next to the building’s artwork, students are connected to a video interview with each artist explaining his or her inspiration and creative thinking behind each piece. For some, that may even include a peek into an artist’s sketch-books and life experiences.

Inviting Student Expression

The Mahoney Library Gallery has linked displays to student art projects, and students have an opportunity to learn about curation through interactive workshops on how to feature their creations. Additionally, we play a pivotal role in Dias de los Muertos, a campus-wide celebration of Latino culture. Each year the Mahoney Library Gallery transforms into one large altar, filled with marigolds and papel picado. Altars are created by SRJC groups including the Puente learning community and Our House intercultural center. SRJC Libraries hosts an all-day workshop where students create their own sugar skulls to add to the gallery display. In 2018, more than 200 skulls were decorated and added to the altars.

“One of my favorite features of the Mahoney Library is the art gallery. Not only is the art beautiful but the space is inviting and allows students to embrace creativity.”
1.3 Sustained Academic Support

Student researchers look to the SRJC Librarians as a critical support partner in their academic journey. Librarians noticed that students spent increasing amounts of time at the reference desk because of their complex questions. The SRJC Libraries responded by redesigning the traditional reference desk into a zone that welcomes sustained research support. Called the Research Hub, this new study zone provides seating for clusters of students to invite collaboration with the support of a nearby librarian, reinforcing the critical role the library performs in relation to student success.

Peer-to-Peer Learning

The Research Hub is conducive to peer-to-peer learning, as shown by our nursing students who often create study groups to help them through that challenging program. When they have a group assignment or are tackling a research-intensive assignment, we use the research hub to provide guided assistance to find evidence-based scholarly research. Because of the research hub, students can move seamlessly from guided practice to peer-to-peer learning to assignment completion, taking advantage of a myriad of learning practices. In 3 months, more than 200 students met with librarians in the Research Hub.

Fostering Learning Communities

The dynamics of peer-to-peer learning are also instrumental with English as a Second Language students, who can feel insecure or timid about asking for help. They often rely upon each other for added guidance as they navigate the unfamiliar terrain of academic English. Our research hub helps them accomplish their group projects and overcome library anxiety. By working with ESL faculty, librarians use the Research Hub to create a safe space for students to tackle the challenge of conducting academic research in a new language. The libraries reach a higher concentration of underrepresented groups than exists in the SRJC population mix.

Support for Acceleration

SRJC is adapting to statewide directives to accelerate pathways to completion. SRJC Librarians collaborate with a number of faculty to find the best means of supporting students who are expected to engage in college-level research, even if they may be reading at the 8th grade level. Collaborations include small group intensive help, librarian-teacher “fireside” chats, and class exercises about how information is created through methods of inquiry. To measure the success of such collaborations, a pre/post-test assessment determined that the rate of student success on an assignment increased by 42% after a library intervention.
SRJC Libraries are committed to eliminating barriers to success for all of our students. The diversity of our student population has qualified SRJC to be named a Hispanic-serving institution, and we have focused on fostering equity for a wide range of students. The evolving face of the library community is reflected in the diversity of services available through the SRJC Libraries. Building a culture of inclusion is a hallmark of the college and is reflected in increased sensitivity to the needs of our students and a celebration of the cultural differences that enrich our lives.

SRJC VALUE: Celebration and support for diversity and community
2.1 Equity in Access

Through reflection and action, the SRJC Libraries create opportunities for all students, especially the underserved. Librarians are active college partners in ensuring academic preparedness to further SRJC’s mission of fostering success in our diverse community.

Closing the Equity Gap

The SRJC Libraries have successfully applied for grants to close the equity gap. We partnered with student services colleagues to improve access to vital resources to underserved populations. We provided textbooks and long-term check outs of technology at our newly created Tech Gear Desk. These programs helped SRJC become a more equitable institution for 11 under-represented groups and helped them achieve academic outcomes. We found students who use any library service experience increased success and are more likely to continue their education, as illustrated below.

In a survey, students report increased access to textbooks is either helpful (41%) or is critical to (56%) their success. We found similar results when students were asked about the impact of the laptop loan program. Our survey showed students find this service either facilitates (34%) or is crucial to (56%) their success. A survey on the effect of the calculator loan program reveals that students found it to facilitate (19%) or to be crucial to (79%) their success.

“I couldn’t afford my textbooks. Being able to use the textbooks available to me through the library was crucial to my success this semester.”
We offer a one-unit, credit class (LIR 10) to assist students with the challenge of college-level research. We offer the class in face-to-face and online environments. Our instruction has proven to be valuable to students, who often tell us that they wish they had taken the course earlier. To measure the effectiveness of our teaching, we routinely assess student learning outcomes, and we use innovative methods to capture our work.

For example, we used a common assessment to measure our success in teaching students how to evaluate sources. We compared the performance of students who believed that they could test out of the class with those who took the class. In a nearly perfect mirror image, 73% of students received scores of competent or higher when they took LIR 10, and 71% of students who took the Credit by Exam received scores of developing or lower.

"LIR 10 was short but packed with information that has already been useful and will definitely help me through the rest of my college career and beyond. At the beginning, I thought I knew how to research but now I have all the tools I need to get good grades in my classes."
2.3 Inclusive Library Environments

The SRJC Libraries are committed to creating student-centered spaces foster individual expression. We are a key player in manifesting SRJC’s mission to provide emotional and social support of our diverse community.

Library Responds to a Community in Crisis

In October 2017, a firestorm travelling at high speeds on winds exceeding 60 miles per hour devastated the Santa Rosa Junior College community. By the time the Tubbs Fire was extinguished, over 5,300 structures had been destroyed. Over 900 SRJC students had lost their homes or residences and over 60 college employees were permanently displaced.

Grappling to provide support to the community in the midst of such catastrophic damage, the SRJC Libraries joined an emergency rapid response support team of critical college partners. While the campus was still closed and classes were cancelled, the library doors were opened to provide SRJC students with a welcoming and safe haven. Students were given food, shelter, emotional support, and access to computers and the internet as they began the process of reconnecting and rebuilding their lives. In this time of heightened stress and emotion, the library became the home for open counseling sessions by college mental health professionals, offered therapy dogs to comfort the traumatized, and created a place for librarians to solicit critical information about what types of physical and emotional support students needed. The librarians created listening boards to help students express their feelings and articulate their needs. On handwritten scrolls (see image), the student shared an outpouring of responses, revealing their thoughts, fears, and needs. These library scrolls were placed in a time capsule that the students created to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the college, representing the student voice in a time of great trial for the college.

Honoring Community

In 2018, just months after the devastation of the fires, the college celebrated its 100 year anniversary. The SRJC Libraries played an active role in commemorating our history, providing documents, photographs, and historical records from the library archives as well as playing a strong role in coordinating college events and festivities. The June 2018 issue of College & Research Libraries News featured an engineering class photograph from the archives in recognition of this significant celebration and reflects the library’s vital role in preserving historical record and fostering understanding of our college community and culture.
Celebrating Different Cultures

Through substantial liaison teamwork the SRJC Libraries have sponsored and promoted intellectual engagement that recognizes, promotes and values the differences within our college and community. The SRJC Libraries were honored to receive a grant from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities for the program Latino Americans: 500 Years of History. The program is part of an NEH initiative, The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square, which is designed to demonstrate the critical role humanities scholarship can play in our public life. The SRJC Libraries partnered with History department faculty to offer lectures, listening panels of students, and film screenings that fostered rich dialogue about the shared heritage among students. Participants voiced appreciation for the stronger sense of cultural recognition, empathy to individual journeys, and a sense of feeling connected with the larger college community.

“The goals of the grant were to facilitate an understanding of our differing cultures as a means of enrichment, to bring the college and community together in deliberate and thoughtfully guided discussions, and to help facilitate a deeper appreciation for the shared evolving history of our community.”

Emotional Support through Therapy Dogs

We provided therapy dogs for our students, and one dog, Ibarra, was so popular that she visits the campus every other week and is searchable in the catalog for individual check-out.

1. [Ibarra : therapy dog].

View Catalog Record

Location

Mahoney Reserve Desk (Petaluma Campus) -
Students tell us they would like to “live at the library” because we have designed it around their needs. Supporting pedagogical trends and technological advances, the new learning commons at Doyle and Mahoney Libraries are active and innovative spaces for students to study, connect, collaborate, learn, and create knowledge.

**SRJC VALUE:** Creative responses to social and technological changes
3.1 Student Voices

SRJC students represent and reflect a broader range of diverse life experiences. The SRJC libraries invite student input to inform and shape programs and services so they are empowered to create a learning environment that suits their varied needs.

Learning Environments

We actively solicited students to share their wishes for study environments. Through the creation of active listening spaces, we learned that students preferred four different study environments: areas for collaboration and open discussion (21%), places designed for paired learning (23%), individual semi-private zones for intensive reflection (33%), and tech-infused huddle rooms for digital assignments (23%).

The learning commons invite collaboration and knowledge creation, while offering spaces that encourage learner reflection and research. Design elements include:

- Six digital media suites for audio recording and mixing, virtual reality, web design, green screen, animation, and high definition film screening
- Increased small group, individual & semi-private study areas
- Expanded research support facilities, including a new Tech Gear Desk
- Group study rooms with wireless presentation technology to support collaborative work and instantly connect and share assignments with a phone, tablet, or laptop
- A computer teaching lab with flexible furniture to encourage active learning
- Quiet zones to support optimal study environments

After redesigning the libraries, we asked students if we were successful in meeting their needs. Their responses suggested that they were overwhelmingly happy with the balanced approach we took in creating our learning commons. More than 90% of the comments we received from our feedback board were positive.
3.2 Responsive Environment for Technological Innovation

The SRJC Libraries have led the college in use of vanguard technologies to expand and sustain access to resources and services that strengthen student engagement in an increasingly digital learning environment. The SRJC Libraries also help create digital environments to assist in academic achievement for our online students.

Leading Web Design in an Environment of Change

The college’s first mobile website was created by the SRJC librarians who recognized growing student reliance on hand held devices. Adapting to rapidly changing web architectures, the SRJC librarians were also the first in the college to embrace responsive design technology, offering students an improved research and discovery experience on any mobile device or desktop computer. Most recently, the SRJC librarians led the college’s first Drupal 8 design that supports library access in a constantly evolving digital environment.

Bringing Libraries into Online Instruction

When the California Community College system of 114 colleges migrated to the Canvas learning management system, the Council of Chief Librarians commissioned SRJC librarians to develop an in-depth handbook of ideas and best practices, “A Library Presence in Canvas.” This guidebook is readily available on the Online Education Initiative website, and it features simple instructions and transferable code. Librarians across the state can implement these strategies to bring the academic library into the online classroom. By developing a pathway to integrate services and materials into online classes, SRJC librarians created a model for implementation at colleges throughout California.

Integrated Research through Discovery

The SRJC Libraries pioneered new technology as the first California Community College to implement an integrated discovery service for library research. Offering novice researchers a seamless path across previously fragmented print and digital collections, the discovery service eliminates barriers to successful exploration of resources. Our philosophy of innovation motivated us to spearhead the implementation of a new statewide discovery system that will cross 114 California community colleges. By doing so, our students will soon be able to access a wealth of resources in a single unified system.
3.3 Partnerships in Teaching and Learning

The SRJC Libraries build college community, foster student learning and engagement and faculty productivity through dynamic collaborations.

Communities of Practice

Each year SRJC Librarians lead new faculty through a Community of Practice that highlights effective use of educational technology in instruction. Changes in the information landscape offer new ways to enrich instruction and require training and support. By partnering with professional development and instructional design colleagues, the librarians leverage their familiarity and expertise to offer new instructors innovative ways to introduce learning technologies into their teaching environment. The Community of Practice format creates strong bonds between librarians and discipline faculty and sets the stage for lasting professional relationships.
Librarian Scholars

SRJC has a culture of ongoing professional development, unique to many community colleges. Although librarians face no pressure to publish or stay involved in the scholarly conversation, we regularly publish articles, devise research studies, and attend regional and national conferences. Librarians are active in local and national organizations, serving on public library boards and ACRL committees. We also are a leader in providing professional development opportunities, such as hosting a Discovery Day Camp for librarians who wanted to learn more about implementing a discovery layers and an informal UnConference for community college librarians in northern California.

Partners and Pathways

Librarians have been part of college-wide efforts to serve students who typically lack support due to their background and life experience. Librarians are involved in a wide variety of learning communities, such as Puente, Connections, and Umoja. We also worked with the Gateway to College program, which invites students between the ages of 16 and 21 who are no longer in high school to attend the program, earn their high school diploma and concurrently work towards a college level certificate. Our work with faculty extends to providing them with resources and ideas to revitalize their classes with innovate uses of technology.

Creative Strategic Alliances

Santa Rosa Junior College is facing a five-year, college-wide program of budgetary reductions in response to declining enrollments and changing socio-economic demographics in Sonoma County. SRJC librarians were faced with challenging reductions that potentially threatened the scope of services we so carefully developed. Once such reduction affected our open hours. Students were dismayed by these reductions. Responding with creativity and innovation, the librarians created a ‘university partnership’ revenue generating model. We invited a local private university to work with us by giving them the opportunity to offer their night and weekend graduate courses in the library. The partnership met the fiscal needs of both organizations and offset budget shortfalls to allow the library to be open later and longer hours to meet student demand. Similarly, the SRJC Libraries partnered with colleagues in Media Services to reduce operating costs of both programs by integrating the media collections into Doyle Library. This integration helped meet reduction targets and created room to reallocate funds for a much needed Media Librarian part-time position to help faculty and students identify quality video content, navigate challenging licensing requirements, and explore captioning options to meet accessibility requirements.
The SRJC Libraries demonstrate excellence in a wealth of arenas: We are active scholars who collaborate with colleagues for dynamic learning experiences; we provide support for students who are particularly vulnerable; and we spearhead technological change, both within our college and across the state. Our culture of creativity and our commitment to responding to the needs of our students and our community helps us weather budget reductions, technological change, and literal firestorms. Our resilience, innovation, and commitment to our college’s mission ensures that we are at the heart of our communities. With a dynamic group of librarians, a dedicated team of library support staff, and creative administrators, we embody our values and mission of cultivating learning with both passion and compassion and are, thus, an invaluable part of Sonoma County and our students’ experience with higher education.

“I love the library, it is a great place to spend time doing homework and studying; knowing that whatever you need to succeed is there.”
hello! 587,780 Visits to SRJC Libraries last year

INVITING DISCOVERY
Sparkling intellectual curiosity and fostering academic excellence

8,097 Students taught in 347 classes
2,176 Students taught in 80 sections of LIR10
10,406 Research Tasks Supported
Helping students navigate the complex information landscape
92% Students who predict improvement after a research appointment

CHANGING LIVES
Expanding opportunities and eliminating barriers

30,432 Textbook Loans
Ensuring access to required course materials for all students
97% of students who use textbooks on reserve report it is critical or helpful to their success.

Students Using the Textbooks on Reserve Were

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GUIDING STUDENTS
Providing responsive learner-centered environments

ACCESS 10,839 Questions Answered
Eliminating obstacles to using library resources

SUPPORT 13,944 Problems Solved
Creating a helpful environment for assignment completion

WAYFINDING 13,715 Locations Found
Providing a safety net for students new to SRJC and academic life
INCREASING SUCCESS
Engaging students and sparking intellectual curiosity

IN THE SCHOLARLY CONVERSATION

93% of students who use our laptop and calculator loan program persist and stay enrolled

87% of students who use textbooks on reserve persist and stay enrolled

5% Higher GPA for students who use library services

“ I love the library. It is a great place to spend time doing homework, knowing that whatever you need to succeed is there.”

“Everyone is friendly and extra helpful. They eased my anxiety.”

CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH INFORMATION

91,341 Items Circulated
182,772 Print Books
170,000 eBooks
3,701,463 Database Sessions
224,156 Article Downloads
15,263 Videos Streamed

STUDENT VOICES
Contributing to a transformative education

“Having access to computers, printing, and a quiet study space has been vital to my success.”

“The libraries are vitally important to students and excellent for everybody else.”

“Without textbooks on reserve, I would have to drop most of my classes.”

“The libraries are so supportive and positive...A+.”

The Sonoma County Junior College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, ethnic group identification, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic condition, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or sexual orientation in any of its policies, procedures or practices; nor does the District discriminate against any employees or applicants for employment on the basis of their age. This non-discrimination policy covers admission, access and treatment in District programs and activities including but not limited to academic admissions, education services and athletics and application for District employment.
December 6, 2017

ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Awards Committee
Association of College and Research Libraries
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2795

Dear Committee Members,

Community colleges hold a unique position in higher education, serving diverse constituencies and quickly adapting to meet the changing needs of students from all walks of life. Through open access enrollment and a philosophy of equity in education, our community colleges are bastions of opportunity for all. At Santa Rosa Junior College, our instructional programs and academic support services touch the lives of many students, including young adults who are just beginning their academic journey, active professionals seeing workforce training for career development, incarcerated students seeking a second chance, military veterans, first generation students, single parents, and many more.

The Santa Rosa Junior College Libraries are a vibrant and integral part of the community college experience. Our libraries mirror the open access philosophy of our college and present our students with diverse opportunities for information discovery, knowledge exploration, and individual growth. Through the vision and leadership of the faculty librarians, both campus libraries have successfully transformed traditional library designs into highly engaging learning spaces that meet student demand for access to fast-changing technologies and online access to scholarly materials. Through rich partnerships between librarians and discipline faculty, students enjoy a solid safety net of academic support that has strong correlation to increased educational goal attainment and student success. The librarians also design and teach a highly effective information literacy instructional program that supports academic rigor and fosters an informed citizenry.

The Libraries at Santa Rosa Junior College rise up to meet the needs each student, leading with excellence to fulfill the promise of a life enriched through education. I am proud to offer my support for their consideration for this national award and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Frank Chong
November 30, 2019

ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Awards Committee
Association of College and Research Libraries
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2795

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to provide a letter of support for the Santa Rosa Junior College Libraries in consideration for an ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries award. I welcome the opportunity to highlight some unique areas of responsive innovation and instructional excellence, thought leadership, and dedication that speak to the vision and vitality of the SRJC Libraries.

The SRJC Librarians fearlessly explore and embrace the constantly evolving landscape of information generation and use to the benefit of teaching and learning at the College. Their nimble ability to investigate and understand increasingly tech-reliant trends in pedagogy have made them vital partners with discipline faculty who look to the librarians to help instructors effectively integrate these trends into classroom information discovery and use. The contribution of the librarians is so highly recognized that the College even awards discipline faculty professional development credit for consulting with the librarians. Through these partnerships, the librarians have created opportunities to improve the quality of instruction and integrate the vital network of academic support services offered through the SRJC Libraries into the instructional fabric of the College.

This responsive leadership and willingness to adapt library programs and services to the changing nature of instruction extends beyond our College to the statewide network of community college libraries. Santa Rosa Junior College is one of 114 community colleges in the California Community Colleges system. The SRJC Librarians have served as thought leaders in key areas of academic librarianship that have fostered rich dialogue across the system. For example, the SRJC Librarians partnered with the California Community Colleges Council of Chief Librarians to host a statewide series of discussions with instructional librarians about ways to integrate the new ACRL Framework for Information Literacy into community college library skills instruction. Groups of librarians met physically and virtually to explore the possibilities offered by the new Framework and formed lasting collaborations across the colleges. The SRJC
Libraries also hosted a statewide “Unconference” that connected over 100 community college librarians from across the state in a highly participatory day of professional collaboration at the Frank P. Doyle Library. Regional events, including a Discovery Day Camp for North Bay librarians and other County library partnerships that are not highlighted in this report come to mind. This feedback shared with me from a librarian at Ohlone College summarizes the high caliber of leadership exhibited by the SRJC Libraries: “I have to say that over the years we have often looked to “what is Santa Rosa doing?” as a great source of inspiration and ideas!”

Finally, I’d like to emphasize the dedication of the SRJC Librarians and all members of the SRJC library team. The professional dedication of all who are part of the library team is phenomenal. The College has turned to the SRJC Libraries to provide an infrastructure of support for equity in access and diversity in voices. All members of the SRJC Libraries have collaborated with College departments and funding programs to quickly adapt and develop library services that meet the evolving needs of our student body. New support services have been launched to get textbooks and technology into the hands of our most needy students. New digital labs and tech gear services have been implemented to meet student need to access high quality educational technology for digital assignments. Evening programs that response to the needs of underrepresented populations offer focused support for information and technical literacy development. Additionally, the library team jumps into action to host and facilitate campus wide discussions on timely topics and crucial conversations. The SRJC Libraries are vital and active partners in supporting and achieving the mission of the college to be an inclusive, diverse and sustainable learning community that engages the whole student.

Thank you for considering the SRJC Libraries for this prestigious award. I am honored to be associated with the SRJC library team and am proud of their commitment to the academic achievement and success of our students.

Sincerely,

Alicia Virtue
Senior Dean, Learning Resources & Educational Technology
December 4, 2018

To the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Selection Committee:

I am pleased to write a letter of support for SRJC Libraries. The Doyle and Mahoney libraries are vital components of our District, and librarians are consistently active in shared governance. I cannot remember a time when a librarian has not been part of the Academic Senate, and, most recently, I was fortunate to have a librarian serve as my vice-president. Her leadership was invaluable; particularly in times of turbulence, I could count on her.

Additionally, I have recruited former senators to serve in leadership roles on key committees. College Council, consisting of the leaders from all constituent groups, is the highest policy recommending body and is responsible for the review and supervision of all District shared governance committees. I chose a long-time librarian who had valuable institutional knowledge with board policies and abundant experience in shared governance to chair this council during a time of great change at our college. Project Learn is a committee which ensures that the college is meeting accreditation standards related to Student Learning Outcomes. The Senior Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences chairs this committee, and he specifically asked one of our librarians to be designated as the Academic Senate representative because of her contributions to streamlining the reporting process and her commitment to professional development in instructional design and authentic assessment.

Librarians also provide immeasurable support for students. As a Philosophy instructor, I recognize that libraries are irreplaceable when it comes to education in the Humanities, as they help students recognize the wealth of knowledge that informs our disciplines. Because our librarians work closely with students and faculty, they are instrumental partners for our educational mission. The level of support they provide—along with their commitment to responding to students’ needs—is unparalleled.

One testament to their importance to students was made clear when budget cuts led to a reduction in hours. Students felt the impact of this loss and showed great commitment to the library when they spoke to senior administrators and came to Board meetings to express their desire for increased hours at the library. No fewer than three students voiced their concerns during our open forum, and Board members and other administrators were impressed by the seriousness of their statements.

Because of the impact libraries have upon our students and the consistent and meaningful role librarians play in shared governance and providing a faculty voice on issues related to institutional effectiveness and statewide and campus-wide instructional initiatives, they have made themselves essential to the work of SRJC.

Thank you for considering our excellent libraries for this much-deserved recognition.

Sincerely,

Eric Thompson
Academic Senate President
Santa Rosa Junior College
December 3, 2018

Dear Selection Committee,

I am so happy to have the opportunity to write this letter of support and to fully convey my feelings about how important and impactful the library is to Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) students. First, let me tell you a little bit about myself, so you can see why I am a good person to speak on behalf of SRJC students. I am currently serving on the SRJC Board of Trustees as the elected Student Trustee, I formerly was the Vice President of Regional Affairs for the statewide Student Senate of the California Community Colleges, and most importantly, I have been a student assistant at the SRJC Library for almost three years.

As the Vice President of Regional Affairs for the California Student Senate, I spoke to many student governments throughout the state, as it was my job to share best practices and knowledge of resources with different colleges. In my observation, students whose institutions had a library with lots of services and accommodating hours generally did better academically than those that did not. This experience showed me how extremely important college libraries are to the success of underserved students.

What makes the SRJC Library different from the others is our passion and commitment to our students. The library works hard to provide services and resources to help students grow and achieve their goals. As a student assistant at the library, I can report that we have many very important resources. I work at the Reserve Desk at our library, which means I check out textbooks and other resources to students. All they need to check out these textbooks is a Student ID, which means a student can check out at least $600 worth of textbooks at any given time, all for free. For those who do not know, Sonoma County is a very expensive place to live. I personally do not know if I would be able to even go to school right now if I did not have access to the textbooks we have at the library. In my work at the Reserve Desk and as Student Trustee, I also get to meet many students who tell me they also would not be able to go to school if the library did not provide these materials.

I have also lived through a three-year remodel of library spaces that the library team did to meet changing student needs for more access to technologies. The libraries got grants and used the funds wisely to create collaborative spaces and put textbooks, calculators, and laptops into student hands for them to practice speeches and to complete assignments and projects.

The most wonderful thing though, is that we give a safe place for students to use these wonderful resources. When library evening hours were cut this semester due to budget cuts many students came to Board meetings to share how they were affected. I then saw the library team go into action to create partnerships that resulted in finding funding to keep the library open later for students.

In conclusion, I know that I and many other students deeply depend on the library for their college success. It is my sincere hope you will agree with me how unique and wonderful the SRJC Library truly is.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Robert Martinez

SRJC Student Trustee, Library Student Assistant, History Student