

SRJC Radiologic Technology Program Update

March 2022



Moving Forward...a note from the Program Director

It's been wonderful to see everything starting to bloom and our beautiful campus come to life again as more classes and services are opening after the constraints of COVID over the past two years. I'm told that SRJC will be completely open when the Fall semester begins.

- The RT program will be bringing back the student recognition awards for Compassion and ALARA. These awards will be by nomination from CIs only and open to all students in both first- and second-year classes. Look for criteria and nomination forms to be posted soon on the RT program website.
- In July of 2021, the JRCERT completed its review of our program and awarded SRJC an 8-year accreditation.
- We hired a new full-time Instructor/Lead Clinical Coordinator, Christine McLarty. You will find her readily available to answer all your questions relating to clinical instructors, onboarding, and clinical procedures. Email: cmclarty@santarosa.edu.
- Many clinical sites have begun to allow student volunteers back in their facilities.
- I am working closely with faculty and SRJC to re-assess our program admission requirements.
- We are planning to resume in-person Clinical Instructor Seminars and Advisory Committee meetings in 2023.

I am looking forward to moving forward with each of you in the 2022-2023 school year.

Tammy Alander, Program Director

"The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion." – Paulo Coelho

Faculty Spotlight



Joanne Robertson

Joanne Robertson is an Associate Clinical Instructor and has been teaching for SRJC in the classroom, on-campus labs, and in the clinical sites for 33 years. She loves to help her students meet their goals in "the best career in the world," and is committed to instilling the values of compassion, empathy, and excellence in all patient interactions. The reward for this passionate endeavor is that she often sees "the grads" (her beloved alumnae!) during her clinical rounds in five counties, and observes that their lives are happy, rich, full, and have provided them with a good and meaningful livelihood that will someday sustain them in their retirement.

She has also served SRJC in many other capacities and departments, including the following: Contract Education, Work Experience, Consultant, Grant Writer, Health Careers Academy, and Summer Health Careers Institute. She has been a Program Director in six imaging programs (Continued next page.....)

Joanne Robertson, continued....

throughout Northern California, where she simultaneously taught.

Joanne is now happily “back home” after having lost her house and belongings in the 2017 Tubbs Wildfire. But the tasks of rebuilding a home and life required that she temporarily suspend her 30+ year-old business as a consultant, starting up medical imaging training programs in Ultrasound, MRI, and Radiologic Technology for private companies and for public colleges. The “house project” is far from done, but she is back to hosting friends and family at her new haven and is expecting grandson #2 in May 2022. Life is good!

POLICY CHANGES:

Covid-19 in the clinical setting... no changes yet.

- All students must comply with the State of California mandate to be fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19.
- To reduce student exposure to COVID-19 students must always wear an N-95 mask and face shield in the Emergency Department.
- Students may not participate in any Chest X-Ray in the Emergency Department unless the patient has been confirmed COVID negative.
- Students may not participate in any exam that involves a COVID -19 positive patient or PUI until a negative test has been confirmed.

New Uniforms are coming!

Starting in Fall 2022, new students will be able to order scrubs in pre-approved styles with the SRJC Rad Tech logo already embroidered on them. The uniforms will include a lab coat. Students are required to wear their SRJC scrubs, ID and dosimeter unless they anticipate being required to go to the OR that shift. If they do go to the OR and go back to X-ray temporarily, they will be required to wear their SRJC lab coat over the OR scrubs provided by the hospital.

To shield or not to shield...

In Fall of 2021, ARRT issued a statement regarding gonadal shielding. In short, they state that

- Health care institutions may adopt varying degrees of gonadal and fetal shielding recommendations.
- Schools with imaging programs should teach students about shielding and the effects of fetal and gonadal radiation exposure.
- ARRT’s exams may not specifically refer to gonadal and fetal shielding procedures, but they will include topics on patient radiation exposure and protection.
- Students and R.T.s have the ethical responsibility to act in the best interests of each patient.

SRJC will follow these recommendations and continue to teach shielding. Clinical sites who do not require shielding may grade students on other aspects of radiation protection, such as collimation, following protocol regarding pregnancy status, repeat minimization, monitoring Exposure Index and selection of technical factors.

Thank you to every clinical site, clinical instructor, lead clinical instructor and department manager for your continued dedication to the SRJC Radiologic Technology Program and our students!