

SLCC receives support for occupational therapy program

Private benefactor donates funds

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WESTERN Rehabilitation Institute recently donated \$1,500 to the new Occupational Therapist Assistant training program at SLCC. The donation was presented by Wes Walker,

CEO/administrator at Western Rehabilitation Institute.

The training program will only be offered until an accredited program is in place at SLCC, said Elwood Zaugg, dean of occupational education.

"The money from WRI will assist in funding a director needed for the two-year program, and it will help us begin the accreditation process," said Zaugg. "A director needs to be on board six months before the technical classes begin. WRI has boosted our funds and increased awareness and attention that will hopefully result in additional contributions from others interested in this arena."

Eunice Zee-Chen, program director of WRI's outreach clinics and past president of the Occupational Therapy Association of Utah, said, "Certified occupational therapist assistants are in high demand. There is a great need for their services."

SLCC is currently offering classes for those interested in a career as an occupational therapist assistant. According to Bill Laney, director of continuing education, more than 70 individuals have already signed up for the introductory class. SLCC will offer the two-year training as soon as complete funding is in place.



SLCC directors and staff tour the Western Rehabilitation Institute facility to see the variety of activities directed by certified occupational therapists.