



STUDER™
COMMUNITY INSTITUTE



2025

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



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Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends and Community Partners,

As I reflect on the past year at Studer Community Institute, I am filled with gratitude and pride. I am grateful for the progress we have made together, and for the people who make our work possible.

At the heart of our mission is a simple belief: when people have access to opportunity and knowledge, communities thrive. This year, our Building Jobs and Building Brains programs brought that belief to life in meaningful ways.

Through Building Jobs, we strengthened workforce pathways and developed leadership skills through targeted trainings that convened employers, educators, and job seekers. We also hosted our annual business and leadership conference, EntreCon, bringing together entrepreneurs, business leaders, and innovators to share ideas, build connections, and support economic growth across our region.

Through Building Brains, we expanded access to early learning resources and early literacy support. We brought back our annual event, Light Up Learning, to share the work of the program with others in the community. Our continued partnership with area hospitals ensured that families were informed, equipped, and supported with tools and resources that promote healthy development from the very beginning.

This work would not be possible without the commitment of our generous sponsors and community partners. Your investment in Studer Community Institute is an investment in the strength and future of our community. Your support allows us to innovate, collaborate, and extend our reach to those who need it most.

We are equally grateful for our volunteers, whose dedication, time, and expertise amplify our impact in countless ways. Their generosity reflects the very spirit of community that drives our mission forward and strengthens every program we deliver.

Our sincere thanks also to the Board of Directors, whose guidance, leadership, and stewardship ensure that we remain focused, accountable, and forward-thinking. Their vision continues to shape our strategic direction and long-term success.

Finally, I am deeply appreciative of the SCI staff, whose professionalism, creativity, resilience and unwavering commitment brings our mission to life every day. Their belief in this work – and in the people we serve – is evident in every partnership built and every outcome achieved.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We are honored to work alongside you and look forward to the progress we will continue to make—together.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Ballard".

Katie Ballard

About Studer Community Institute

Founded in 2015, SCI became a nonprofit in 2016. Dedicated to improving the community we serve with a focus on education in boosting kindergarten readiness, and to provide vital skills-training to small business owners, with leadership and personal growth training to help their businesses to succeed and grow.



Vision And Mission

Mission

Our mission is to improve the quality of life
for all people in the diverse communities
we serve

Vision

To make our community the greatest place to live
in the world.

While this may sound a bit far fetched, year after year,
little by little, we continue to see the results of
investing in our community. Everything we do works
towards building a community we can be proud to call
home.





STUDER™
COMMUNITY INSTITUTE



Board of Directors



Kathy Sandstrom - Board Chair
Retired, Heitman LLC



Quint Studer
Founder, Studer Community Institute



Dr. Katie Crawford
Pediatrician
Ascension Sacred Heart



Laura Jackson
Asst. Manager, Learning &
Development NFCU



Charles James
Shareholder, Clark Partington



Christopher Janes
Managing Partner
Michles & Booth



Shannon Libbert
Senior Partner, Kingsley Gate



Sena Maddison
Communications Strategist



Sonshine Moorer
Owner,
Sonshine's Community Inc.



Mort O'Sullivan III
Retired Managing Member of the
Gulf Coast Region Warren Averett,
LLC CPAs & Advisors



Joy Powell
Director, Community Health Programs
Baptist Health Care



Bert Thornton
Retired, Chief Operating Officer
Waffle House

Meet The Team



Katie Ballard

Executive
Director



Chris Heaney

Director of
Building Jobs



Paige Marcin

Director of
Building Brains



Kim Martin

Data & Communications
Coordinator



Ashley Misleh

Special Events
Coordinator



Our Volunteers

Volunteers are the lifeline of Studer Community Institute, dedicating their time, skills, and passion to advance our mission. Their support allows us to extend our reach and amplify our impact, from organizing community events to providing direct services. Our volunteers bring diverse perspectives and talents, enriching our programs and fostering a collaborative spirit.

EntreCon®, EntreCon® Extras, Light Up Learning, Gingerbread House Competition - our volunteers are with us every step of the way, making sure these events are possible, and their support is invaluable. We are so very grateful for each and every one!



Building Brains Program

2025 IMPACT



5,678

BIRTHS



4,747

PARENTS WITH BRAIN BAGS



964

NEWSLETTER SIGN-UPS



1,644

FAMILIES CURRENTLY
RECEIVING TEXT MESSAGES

INSIDE THE BUILDING BRAINS PROGRAM



INFORM: BUILD A BRAIN

The Build a Brain video is based on a research collaboration between SCI and Dr. Dana Suskind of The Thirty Million Words Center at the University of Chicago. It's four and a half minutes that can be a life changer for parents. Easy to grasp and utilize takeaways are designed to inform and empower parents on the importance of early brain development.



EQUIP: BRAIN BAGS

The Brain Bags equip parents with resources and tools that will help them be successful. It includes a Baby Steps guide that serves as a milestone book for brain development, along with the Building Blocks Magazine, two baby books, and a toy. It all helps foster the ability to develop babies' brains.



SUPPORT: BASICS INSIGHTS

A key part of SCI's effort to support parents in early brain development is the Basics Insights Text Messaging Service.

The messaging service sends twice a week texts giving science-based tips, activities, and reminders to enhance your baby's growing brain.



OVERALL KNOWLEDGE GAIN:

In 2025, parents reported that they had a 70% knowledge gain after watching the Build a Brain video.



Building Jobs

2025 IMPACT



605+

INDIVIDUALS ATTENDED
LIVE TRAININGS
(ENTRECON® and
ENTRECON® EXTRAS)



157

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED
CUSTOM TRAININGS



24

BUSINESSES IN OUR
VMS PROGRAM



50

VMS SESSIONS TOOK
PLACE

*based on data collected in 2025

BUILDING JOBS PROGRAMS:

VENTURE MENTORING SERVICE
(VMS) PROGRAM

LIVE TRAININGS - ENTRECON® CONFERENCE
AND ENTRECON® WORKSHOPS

CUSTOMIZED TRAININGS



Light Up Learning

March 6, 2025



- Raised over \$24,000 day of event
- Over \$67,000 in sponsorships
- 120 bulbs sold for Building Wall
- Over 30 community volunteers
- Special thanks to the Pensacola Fire Department for event set-up support
- All funds raised will benefit the Building Brains program





The Giving Wall

Please consider donating to SCI's Building Brains Program

THE WHY:
The key to a healthy future, is a healthy start. 85% of brain development happens in the first three years of life. The words, interactions and positive experiences a child receives during this time lays the foundation for lifelong success. With your support, these funds go directly to our efforts to build babies' brains, helping to move the needle forward on kindergarten readiness.

HOW IT WORKS:

- See our staff at the Giving Wall table
- Purchase a light bulb by scanning the provided QR code. You will then be given a bulb.
- Turn your bulb on and light up the wall.
- If you are lucky and turn on the "pink" bulb, you have won a \$1000 gift card to Elebash Jewelers.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



EntreCon® 2025



**EMBRACING
COLLECTIVE
GROWTH**

- 2 days
- 6 Keynote sessions
- 22 Collective speakers
- Lunch 'n lean
- 385+ attendees
- 70 volunteers
- Unmeasurable energy
- Lifetime of inspiration



THANK YOU TO OUR ENTRECON® SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSOR



AWARDS SPONSOR

35Mules™

INNOVATION HUB



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LANDRUM • PENSACOLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE •
PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL • TRANSFORMATION CHURCH • THE WATSON FIRM

SUPPORTERS

BLAB TV • BLAKE JONES PHOTO • BODACIOUS • BUFFALO ROCK • CHICK-FIL-A BAYOU
FIVE ELEVEN EVENT SPACE • GREEKS CATERING & EVENTS • HONEY BAKED HAM
HUMMINGBIRDS FLOWERS • LIGHT BRIGHT EVENTS • PERFECT PLAIN BREWERY
PIE IN THE SKY PARTIES • RELEVANT AV SOLUTIONS • ROWE'S MOVING • SALZ STUDIO
SONNY'S BBQ • VOICES OF PENSACOLA • WHIM COTTON CANDY

Combined Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2025	Building Brains	Building Jobs	Administration
Total Revenue	\$167,642	\$282,113	\$145,426
Program Service Expenses	\$371,105	\$373,724	\$113,159



*unaudited

Contact Us



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