

OPPORTUNITY

NEWS



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NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

Grads ready to pursue dreams

The NRG Stadium floor looked like a black tide May 14 as San Jacinto College graduates rose to their feet to move the tassels on their mortarboards.

During the evening ceremony, 1,626 graduates walked across the commencement stage to accept their diplomas. The College awarded 3,352 certificates and degrees.

Students start at San Jac for many reasons — from getting a solid foundation before transferring or reskilling mid-career to earning a workforce certificate or degree. This spring's graduates ranged from 14 to 74 years old, proving it's never too early or too late to pursue dreams.

Congrats to the class of 2024!
View photos at bit.ly/SJC-Grads-Spring-24.

Honors students earn accolades

San Jacinto College honors program students racked up accolades this spring.

In early March 2024, the Texas State Historical Association presented C.M. Caldwell Awards for best research papers in Texas history. Of four awards

for freshmen and sophomores, three went to San Jac honors students:

- First place: Victoria Gorton
- Second place: Vanessa Maciel
- Fourth place: Tatum Dixon

These students' papers may be published in next year's "Touchstone," the Walter Prescott Webb Historical Society's journal. This year's "Touchstone" featured articles by San Jac's 2023 winners: Annie Forte, Tony Gamage, Lana Tran, and Nancy Zamora.

In addition, the Walter Prescott Webb Historical Society named the College's South Campus Chapter, advised by Dr. Abbie Grubb, its Chapter of the Year.

Later in March, 20 San Jac honors students presented their research at the Great Plains Honors Council conference. Competing against other community college and university students with under 60 credit hours, four students won John Britt Poster Awards in social sciences and STEM categories:

- Caroline Noonan
- Chloe Stegner



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

- Michaela Todd
- Denise Toledo

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac's honors program.



Glitz, glam for good cause

Lights, camera, action! Students got top billing at the San Jacinto College and LyondellBasell Hollywood Nights Gala presented by the Sinor Family May 17.

The gala raised nearly \$680,000 for the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship, which ensures high school graduates living in the College's taxing district can earn a certificate or associate degree debt-free.

"We are grateful to LyondellBasell for their title sponsorship and the Sinor Family for being our presenting sponsor, along with many other companies, organizations, and individuals who have committed their



Photo by Nate LaValley, San Jacinto College

support to our Promise Scholars," said Robert Cage, Foundation executive director.

During the event, the College also presented its Legacy Award to LyondellBasell for supporting students, staff, and workforce education.

The Promise @ San Jac Scholarship is open to all in-district high school seniors, regardless of high school GPA or family income. The scholarship covers tuition, books, and supplies so students can focus on their studies.

View gala photos at bit.ly/SJC-Hollywood-Nights-Gala. Learn more about the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship by scanning the QR code.



NEW PROGRAMS COMING IN FALL 2024

By Neesha Hosein
San Jacinto College

San Jacinto College is offering several new degrees and certificates in fall 2024. These programs will support the needs of the local job market, ensuring students are equipped with relevant skills for in-demand careers.

Criminal Justice, Associate of Arts

The Associate of Arts degree in criminal justice is designed for transfer to complete a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice or other compatible degree plan.

This associate degree will transfer to any public Texas four-year college or university with a criminal justice major.

Locations: Central Campus, North Campus, and San Jac Online

Sociology, Associate of Arts

Interested in studying social interaction, social change, and the causes and consequences of group behavior? Sociology majors examine these and various topics like social stratification and inequality, race relations, gender and sexuality, marriage and family, crime and violence, economics, politics, and religion.

The College offers transfer paths for students planning to complete a major at a four-year or upper-level institution.

Locations: All campuses

Mental Health Addiction Study, Associate of Applied Science

Are you a good listener who enjoys offering comfort to others during tough times? This degree plan prepares students to become mental health

technicians, and it combines the mental health substance use disorder counseling Level 2 certificate and the mental health substance use prevention specialist occupational certificate.

The mental health addiction study program trains students to offer specialized counseling and assistance to individuals and families grappling with the challenges of substance abuse. Each program offers a practicum class that allows students to apply classroom skills in a treatment setting.

Graduates will be able to work in substance abuse and mental health facilities in both private and nonprofit organizations such as:

- In-patient psychiatric and outpatient hospitals
- Veteran affairs clinics
- Nursing homes
- Research facilities
- Pain management clinics
- Counseling and drug rehab centers

Locations: North Campus, South Campus, and San Jac Online

Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Associate of Applied Science

Discover a rewarding career as a magnetic resonance imaging technologist. Gain essential skills in MRI procedures and patient care and collaborate with medical teams through hands-on clinical rotations.

Students will learn about the heart of health care innovation and position themselves for success in this thriving field.

MRI technologists use magnetic fields and radio waves to aid in diagnosing diseases. They ensure patient care, adhere to safety protocols, assess image quality, and exercise professional judgment.

Graduates can find employment in hospitals, clinics, or imaging centers.

Location: Central Campus

Dance Instructor, Certificate of Technology

Passionate about dance? San Jac's dance instructor program offers tailored coursework led by experienced instructors. Get the skills and hands-on experience needed to transform the love for dance into a new profession.

The program provides basic preparation for entry-level employment, developing skills in pedagogy, movement, technology, and performance,

culminating in a two-semester internship at a local dance studio.

Graduates may pursue work as:

- Dance instructors/teachers
- Movement coaches
- Choreographers

Location: South Campus

Barbering, Certificate of Technology

Want to help others look and feel their best? The barbering program at San Jac prepares students for a rewarding career.

Students train to become licensed Class A barbers in Texas. The 1,000-hour program (31 college credits) offers

comprehensive technical and practical training in barbering, including shaving, clipper cutting, men's grooming, and men's facials. Graduates are eligible to take the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation exam. Work opportunities include barber shops, dual barber/cosmetology salons, spas, or entrepreneurship.

Locations: North and South Campuses

Scan the QR code to explore all San Jac's programs.



FIVE REASONS TO CHOOSE ONLINE EDUCATION AT SAN JAC

By Neesha Hosein
San Jacinto College

Online education can be a saving grace to many individuals. San Jacinto College offers 26 associate degrees and 34 certificates 100% online, providing convenience and quality education from home.

Distance learning students have access to all the same resources available to every student at the College, including admissions advising, financial aid, education planning, counseling, tutoring, and career services. These services are available via live chat or Zoom.

Save valuable time

For many individuals, every minute counts when commuting between locations. Online education eliminates worries about traffic congestion, lengthy commutes, or waiting for public transportation. No need to search for a parking spot, make long treks across campus, or stress about arriving late to class. Less time spent in transit means more personal time.

Spend less

Enrolling in an online class can result in significant savings on transportation costs like gas, public transportation fares, and vehicle maintenance. This reduces the chance that car-related issues will hinder attending classes. Being home could mean less need to purchase meals and saving on childcare expenses.

Students statewide can register for online classes at San Jac, which eliminates the need to relocate and deal with moving costs.

Family time

For some students, sacrificing valuable family time and having limited availability for personal responsibilities are deal breakers.

“There is the convenience factor of

online education,” said Niki Whiteside, assistant vice chancellor, instructional innovation and support. “Some students might have a full-time job and are unable to make it to campus, and others may not have a caretaker for their loved ones.”

Studying in the comfort of home frees up valuable time and supports better work/life balance.

Health and wellness

Health issues like chronic pain can make it challenging to get to class. Attending school can also feel overwhelming for those dealing with mental health concerns.

“Anxiety, depression, and PTSD can make it hard to get to campus or feel

comfortable while on campus,” said Cayman Tirado, mental health services program director at the North Campus. “By having remote options, it can lower the barriers and allow interaction with safe boundaries.”

Attending remotely offers students the comfort of a familiar environment.

“This can create a sense of security as well,” Tirado said. “One my students shared that it was hard for her to get out of bed some days due to her depression. Just sitting up in bed and logging on to class helped her start to feel better and more connected.”

Flexible options

San Jac offers three types of online classes that offer more flexibility:

- **Online anytime:** Classes are 100% online, with no scheduled meeting times.
 - **Online on a schedule:** Classes are 100% online, but there are scheduled days and times each week where faculty and students meet via Zoom.
 - **Hybrid:** This type combines online and in-person classes. Lectures may be offered online, and hands-on lab work is offered on campus.
- “Students appreciate the flexibility of online learning,” Whiteside said. “By having the different modalities available, it helps students fit the pursuit of higher education into their lives.”

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac’s online programs.



TURNING EDUCATION INTO OPPORTUNITY: MORALES FINDS SUCCESS THROUGH CONNECTION

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Amy West and Ana Morales first crossed paths in Dr. Ivy Jenkins' principles of imports class at the San Jacinto College North Campus. This chance meeting led to a new job for Morales and a new colleague for West.

West, a port entry supervisor for the Port of Houston, came to San Jac as a 27-year veteran in the world of logistics.

"I have worked in the industry for almost 30 years, and with encouragement from friends and family, I decided to come to San Jac and get my degree," she said. "It was a bit daunting at first, but the staff here is amazing. Dr. Jenkins always checks in on us to ensure we are OK, which means a lot to me."

When a full-time position became available at her terminal, West knew she had great applicants sitting beside her daily in class and shared the

opportunity with Jenkins.

"I encouraged all the students in the class to inquire about the open position," Jenkins said. "It's always a great idea to get a job in the industry if possible. Experiential learning is a valuable tool."

After learning about the job opportunity, Morales wasted no time applying and was interviewed just before the College's winter break. With her determination and skills shining through, Morales was offered a

logistics coordinator position at the Port of Houston.

"I was nervous to apply," Morales said. "I didn't think I had enough experience, but I gave it a shot anyway. Dr. Jenkins encouraged me to go for it, and I'm so glad it worked out."

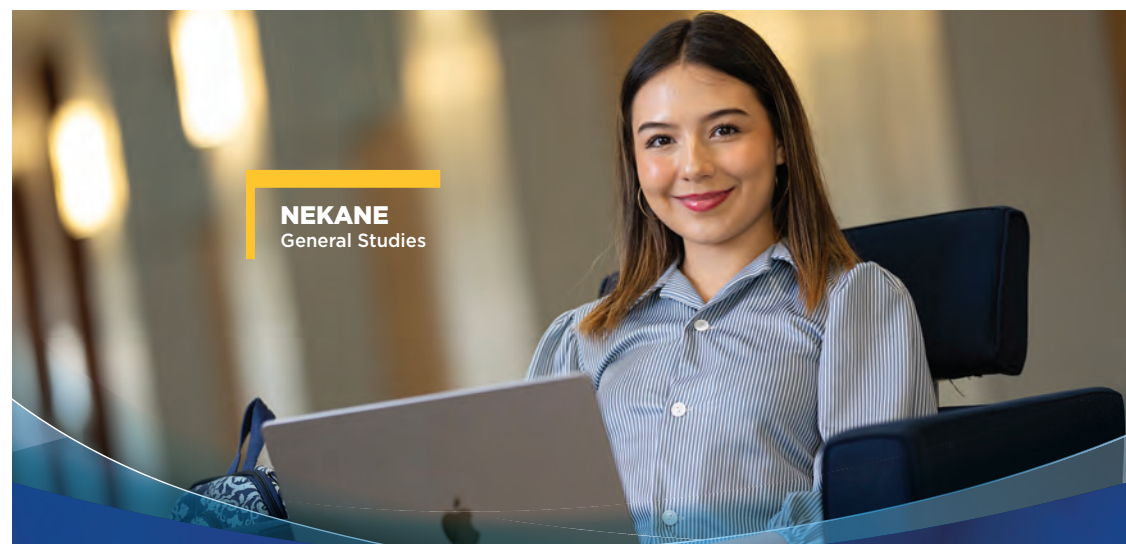
Morales has been with the Port of Houston for five months, and according to her boss, West, "she's killing it."

"We had over 60 applicants for the coordinator role, but Ana

definitely stood out," West said. "She has been a great asset to our team, and I know that the education she's getting is top-notch."

Morales and West continue their studies in the program while balancing their professional roles. Their story underscores the importance of grabbing opportunities and forging connections.

"You never know who you will sit next to in class," Morales said. "It might be your next boss."



NEKANE
General Studies



Photo by Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL CLASSES!

FALL 2024 CLASSES BEGIN **AUG. 19**

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CONVENIENT
CAMPUSES AND
ONLINE

CENTRAL CAMPUS
8060 Spencer Hwy.
Pasadena, TX 77505

SOUTH CAMPUS
13735 Beamer Rd.
Houston, TX 77089

NORTH CAMPUS
5800 Uvalde Rd.
Houston, TX 77049

MARITIME CAMPUS
3700 Old Hwy. 146
La Porte, TX 77571

GEN PARK CAMPUS
13455 Lockwood Rd.
Houston, TX 77044

SAN JAC ONLINE
sanjac.edu/online

SAN JACINTO
COLLEGE

An Equal Opportunity Institution

**REGISTER
TODAY**



Chain of Commerce

From small shops to large corporations, businesses rely on international trade to function. You can become a vital link in this chain of commerce. San Jacinto College's global logistics and supply chain management program can prepare you for careers in transportation, international logistics, and supply chain management industries.

Career opportunities include exporting, freight forwarding, government jobs, importing, trade compliance, and more.

Scan the QR code to learn more.



CONTINUOUS RUN BRIDGES CLASSROOM KNOWLEDGE WITH REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Since 2021, the continuous run at the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology at San Jacinto College has evolved from a capstone project into an immersive experience that provides students with real-world insights and skills.

During the continuous run, students operate the facility's 8,000-square-foot glycol unit during shifts from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for three days. This initiative began as an overnight event exclusively for process technology students but has expanded to various disciplines within CPET, including welding, electrical, and truck driving.

This initiative offers students a unique vantage point beyond traditional classroom settings. They gain exposure to live maintenance scenarios, troubleshooting challenges, and interdisciplinary collaboration. By experiencing real-time operations and maintenance tasks, students develop a holistic understanding of plant dynamics.

"A typical day kicks off with a safety meeting, followed by a briefing on the day's agenda," said Jeff Pearce, CPET education

and workforce coordinator. "Startup procedures precede ongoing operations, punctuated by sample testing to ensure product quality."

While students inside the glycol unit's control room are starting up, maintenance projects are scheduled, with student operators overseeing and facilitating tasks. Shift changes every four hours and duty rotations every two hours ensure each student gains diverse experience.

"I've been here all three days of the run, and it's been busy," said Alexa DeLuna, CPET student. "Between getting the hang of the unit and getting into a flow with the other students, we have also been talking about future opportunities with several companies. I feel comfortable now on the console, in operations, and in special projects."

Traditionally, participation was reserved for students close to graduation, particularly those enrolled in the operations course. However, adding maintenance components has broadened participation to include students from all stages of their academic journey.

"I'm acting as a maintenance contractor this year, but next year, I'll be one of the operators

running the unit," said Andre Johnson, CPET student. "I have over 10 years of experience in refinery hydro blasting and emergency response. I'm familiar with the equipment, but learning what's required to run the unit is an eye-opening experience. I'm taking notes now so that when it's my turn I'll be better prepared."

Key learning outcomes encompass a spectrum of skills, from technical proficiency to teamwork and problem-solving. The continuous run cultivates adaptability, critical thinking, and professionalism by immersing students in real-world scenarios.

"The continuous run serves as a bridge between academia and industry, inviting industry partners to observe student performance," said Shawn Dickerson, process technology department chair. "By mirroring industry practices, CPET aims to showcase the skills and capabilities of its students, facilitating potential on-site recruitment opportunities."

These recruitment opportunities benefit students and the industry alike. As oil and gas sector representatives observe the students running their shifts, they can speak with them on the spot, giving them a leg up against



Photo by Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

the competition.

"It's great to see the students in the field troubleshooting and problem-solving in real time," said Shane Harrington, Baystar production superintendent. "San Jac has the proper training facilities to set up individuals for success when they come to us in the field. They are fluent in reading piping and instrumentation diagrams and have a great understanding of equipment. It's been a successful partnership, and

that's why we continue to return each year."

The continuous run is one way CPET commits to experiential learning and industry relevance. As it continues to evolve, it remains a cornerstone of the educational experience, preparing students for the rigorous professional world.

Scan the QR code to learn more about CPET.

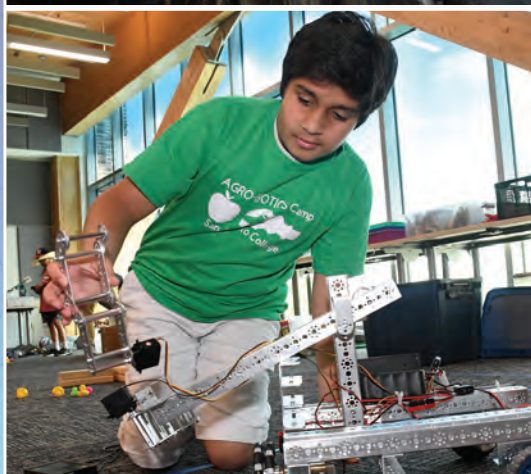


SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
Throughout July	Summer camps for kids/teens	Varies	Register at sanjac.edu/summer-camps .
July 18	Promise @ San Jac deadline		Future Promise Scholars: Deadline to apply for financial aid and enroll for full-time classes for fall 2024. Learn more at sanjac.edu/promise .
Aug. 19	Fall classes begin	Varies	All campuses and online

All times and event schedules listed are subject to change. For more information, visit sanjac.edu/calendar.

THIS MONTH *IN* SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook

Interesting facts about spring 2024 commencement:

- Our youngest graduate is 14
- Our most senior graduate is 74
- 916 dual credit students are graduating
- 67 veterans are graduating



483 Reactions | 21 Comments | 67 Shares

Instagram

Caps off to our Ravens for taking their creativity to the next level!



798 Likes | 2 comments | 30 Saves

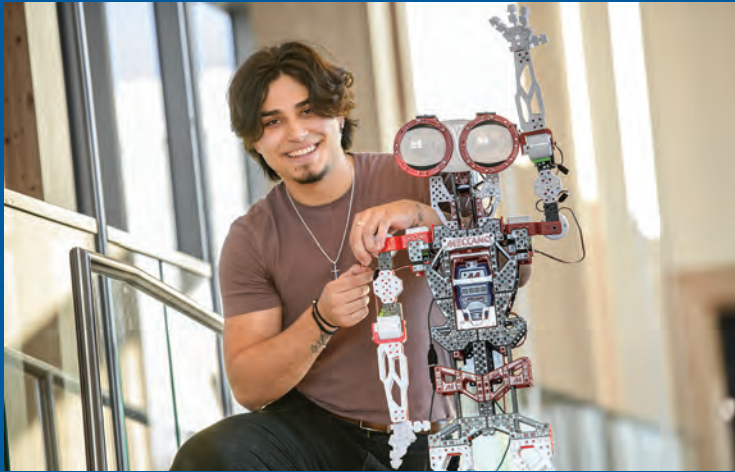
LinkedIn

Looking for something fun for the kiddos this summer? The College hosts a variety of fun and enriching summer camps for kids of all ages at each of its campuses. There is something for every interest — from athletics and career exploration, to music and STEM, and everything in between!



26 Reactions | 5 Shares | 300 Clicks

YOUR GOALS. YOUR COLLEGE.



SAN JACINTOSM COLLEGE

NORTH CAMPUS

5800 Uvalde Rd., Houston, TX 77049

CENTRAL CAMPUS

8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505

SOUTH CAMPUS

13735 Beamer Rd., Houston, TX 77089

MARITIME CAMPUS

3700 Old Hwy. 146, La Porte, TX 77571

GENERATION PARK CAMPUS

13455 Lockwood Rd., Houston, TX 77044

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VISION & MISSION



Vision — San Jacinto College will advance the social and economic mobility of all members of our community. We will be known for our excellence in teaching and learning, our intentional student-centered support, and our commitment to every student. We will be the preferred workforce and economic development partner in the region and a champion for lifelong learning. San Jacinto College will inspire students to explore opportunities, define their educational and career paths, and achieve their goals and dreams.

Mission — San Jacinto College is focused on student success, academic progress, university transfer, and employment. We are committed to opportunities that enrich the quality of life in the communities we serve.

SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



A gift to the San Jacinto College Foundation transforms lives, enriches our community, and provides tomorrow's community leaders. For more than 25 years, the Foundation has helped thousands of students reach their goals. Our former students and graduates have filled vital roles in hospitals, classrooms, executive offices, manufacturing plants, and laboratories across our region and beyond. They have also won the World Series and NBA championships, starred in major motion pictures, and created major theatrical productions. Help our students today with the gift of education. Contact the San Jacinto College Foundation at 281-998-6104 or visit sanjac.edu/foundation.

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. The College is one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College is a Hispanic-Serving Institution that spans five campuses, serving approximately 41,000 credit and non-credit students annually. It offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA+ by Standard & Poor's and Aa2 by Moody's. For more information about San Jacinto College, visit sanjac.edu.

