

OPPORTUNITY

SAN JACINTO COLLEGESM

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NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

Fiscal affairs, purchasing departments earn national kudos

Two departments that steward San Jacinto College's finances recently earned national recognition.

For the 14th consecutive year, the College's fiscal affairs department received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

This top recognition for governmental accounting and financial reporting went to the College for its 2019-2020 annual comprehensive financial report.

"This award epitomizes our team effort to ensure all College transactions are recorded appropriately for reporting," said Bill Dickerson, director of accounting and financial services. "It represents the true meaning of collaboration from all the areas within the College that help create the annual comprehensive financial report."

Covering the U.S. and Canada, the GFOA is a major professional association serving nearly 19,000 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial government officials and other finance practitioners.

The College's purchasing department also took the spotlight with the 2021 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award.

This award from the National Procurement Institute Inc. honors public and non-profit agencies that demonstrate procurement excellence by embracing



Photos courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

innovation, professionalism, productivity, leadership, and e-procurement.

Of this year's 181 award winners, San Jac is one of only three Texas community colleges — and only 12 higher education institutions overall — to receive the award.

"By focusing on accountability, integrity, and financial stewardship, the contracts and purchasing team helps the College fulfill its mission of student success," Ann Kokx-Temple, chief procurement officer, said. "I am very proud of the entire team for their professionalism and their ability to adapt to all challenges that come their way."

This is the eighth time and seventh consecutive year the purchasing department has won this award.

Arrington nominated for Coach of the Year

Tom Arrington, San Jacinto College head baseball coach, is the first junior college coach the Harris County Houston Sports Authority has ever nominated for Coach of the Year as part of the Houston Sports Awards.

Arrington earned the nomination alongside Astros manager Dusty Baker, University of Houston football head coach Dana Holgorsen, and University of Houston men's head basketball coach Kelvin Sampson. The winner will be announced during the award ceremony April 20, 2022, at the Wortham Center.

Arrington is entering his 22nd season as San Jac's head coach. In that time, he has led the Gators to 11 National Junior College Athletic Association JUCO World Series appearances, including six in the national title game, culminating as the national runner-up in 2003, 2004, 2010, 2012, 2016, and 2017. His 40 wins and 64 total games at the JUCO World Series is an all-time record.

Arrington can also add "Hall of Fame" to his signature, as the veteran coach entered the NJCAA Baseball Hall of Fame in 2018. Last April, he nabbed his 900th career win in a 7-3 victory over Alvin Community College. As of press time, he is only 37 wins shy of 1,000.

Arrington began his coaching career in



Photo courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

1991 at the College of Mateo. Later came stops at San Francisco State University and College of Marin. In 2000, he arrived in Houston as San Jac's assistant coach, focusing on pitchers. He became head coach nearly two seasons later and athletic director for the North Campus in 2011.

The Mill Valley, California, native began his playing career at College of Marin, where he was an all-conference selection. He then played two years at Texas A&M University, where he earned two letters, was all-conference, and was named the Southwest Conference tournament MVP. He also earned the C.E. "Pat" Olsen MVP award.

Arrington played professionally for the Triple A team of the Texas Rangers; in Guadalajara, Mexico; for the Salt Lake Trappers; and for the Single A farm team of the Montreal Expos.

Additional honors at the Houston Sports Awards include Athlete of the Year, College Athlete of the Year, Sportsmanship of the Year, Moment of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

'Reigning Fire' show features welding art

Collaborating with North Gallery, the San Jacinto College North Campus welding program presented a metal art showcase in February.

The installment, "Reigning Fire: Metal Fabrication Art Show," featured welded sculptures and other designs created by students in the metal sculpture and art metals welding courses.

"Even if you don't feel like you are a creative person or call yourself an artist, these courses are still for you," Emily Choate, welding instructor, said. "We highly encourage working as a team to share ideas. A basic idea could easily turn into a work of art."

The projects created in the art metals courses became the featured artwork in the "Reigning Fire" showcase, some forged by students who had never picked up a torch before.

One of these students, Juan Suarez, was a phlebotomist pursuing a nursing degree before he enrolled in a welding course at the Central Campus.

"I had been in the medical field for 15 years and lost my passion for it," Suarez said. "I have always been artistic and good with my hands, so I gave welding a try. I feel like I've found my passion again."

Suarez's piece, a cutlery owl, sits atop a 6-foot metal tree with intricate beads running down its trunk and adorned by hand-cut leaves.

"If you had told me six months ago I'd be creating an owl out of spoons and forks for an art showcase, I don't know if I would have believed you," Suarez said. "The art metals and metal sculpture courses have helped me tap into my potential and open up to new possibilities."

Opening up those opportunities is exactly Choate's goal in introducing these courses.

"Seeing someone come in with little to no experience and turn out an amazing piece is so rewarding for me and for the students," Choate said. "I want them to feel comfortable tapping into their creative sides and thinking outside the welding booth."

This is the first art showcase at the North Campus to feature pieces from the art metals courses, but it will not be the last.



Photo courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

ARTISTS FOR HOPE: A PARTNERSHIP OF ARTISTRY AND CHARITY

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

The San Jacinto College South Campus dance program celebrated its seventh annual Artists for Hope charity concert at the end of January. The event raised nearly \$2,000 for the local homeless population through Hope for Houston.

Artists for Hope, the brainchild of dance instructor Jamie Williams, is an event she created because of personal loss and a desire to give back to the community.

“When I started teaching at the College full time, my mother had just passed away,” said Williams. “Shortly after that, I found out a student and a colleague had family members diagnosed with cancer. I saw myself in these women, and it pulled at my heart.”

Determined not to “sit by quietly,” Williams began to research how she could give back through her unique position at the College.

“We found a company that would organize a charity concert, sourcing the dancers, venue, and studios,” she said. “I didn’t love the idea that someone from the outside would come in to do the work. I already had the contacts and the

venue. I wanted to take it on myself.”

That first year, Williams was overwhelmed by the dance community’s response.

“I contacted 10 or 12 dance companies hoping someone would want to be involved,” she said. “All of them said yes. They were all ready and willing to donate their time and talents.”

Over the years, AFH has donated profits to Cancer Research Institute, Project Joy and Hope, Unbound Houston, Houston Children’s Charity, RaiseUp Families, Dance Houston, and most recently Hope for Houston.

“We try to choose a charity that is boots on the ground and in the community but could use more exposure,” said Williams. “Giving back financially is the main goal, but bringing awareness to a worthy cause is an added bonus.”

Class is in session

AFH features two days of free master classes with professional dance instructors.

In addition to San Jac dance students, this year’s AFH master classes welcomed 80 dancers from local studios and high schools, Houston-based professionals, and Lamar University students.



“We decided to offer these classes because it’s not always an option for our students and community to attend pricey workshops and concerts downtown,” said Williams. “By keeping the classes free, we are providing a service to our local dance community.”

Shifting focus

“During the height of the pandemic, many dancers were creating dance films,” said Williams. “You couldn’t really have live performances, so we had to adjust and hone a new skill. It was one of the only ways to continue creating and sharing your work.”

The AFH International Dance Film Festival was born through this adjustment. Through a platform called Film Freeway, Williams and fellow instructor Jennifer Salter set their festival parameters and hoped for the best.

“We had 60 film submissions from 13 different countries the first year,” said Williams. “We didn’t intend for the festival to reach internationally, but we are so pleased it did.”

This year, the festival featured films from nine artists from Canada, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Switzerland, and the U.S.

Win-win-win

“We’re in a very unique position. Because the College owns the venue, we can donate 100 percent of the profits to charity,” said Williams. “The master class teachers are paid through the program budget, and the performers donate their time. We don’t take any part of the profit because we don’t need to.”

Williams sees the partnership between the AFH event and the Houston dance community as a win-win-win situation.

“It’s my favorite type of result,” she said. “The audience gets exposed not only to the San Jac dance program but also to some of the finest dance artistry Houston has to offer. The dance companies get to give back to a great cause, and we raise money for charity. We couldn’t have planned a better outcome.”



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Salter, San Jacinto College

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
March 6	Coyotes Softball vs. Navarro	1 & 3 p.m.	South Campus, Softball Field
March 8	Coyotes Softball vs. Midland	12 & 2 p.m.	South Campus, Softball Field
March 8	Gators Baseball vs. Galveston	6 p.m.	North Campus, Baseball Field
March 9	CPD: Conversational Spanish	12-1 p.m.	Register: community.engagement@sjcd.edu or 281-476-1893
March 9	Gators Baseball vs. South Suburban	2 p.m.	North Campus, Baseball Field
March 11	Small Wonders: Insects in Focus exhibit ends		South Campus, Fine Arts Building
March 12	Gators Baseball vs. Galveston (Special Needs Day)	2 p.m.	North Campus, Baseball Field
March 14-20	Spring break (no classes held)		All campuses, online
March 16	Coyotes Softball vs. Blinn	3 & 5 p.m.	South Campus, Softball Field
March 17	Gators Baseball vs. Wharton	6 p.m.	North Campus, Baseball Field
March 22	Gators Baseball vs. Alvin	6 p.m.	North Campus, Baseball Field
March 23	CPD: Career Info Sessions - Drones	2-3 p.m.	Register: community.engagement@sjcd.edu or 281-476-1893
March 23	Coyotes Softball vs. Angelina	4 & 6 p.m.	South Campus, Softball Field
March 26	Gators Baseball vs. Alvin	2 p.m.	North Campus, Baseball Field
March 28	Doin’ the Most: 2022 Juried Student Art exhibit starts		South Campus, Fine Arts Building
March 28	Gators Baseball vs. McLennan	2 p.m.	North Campus, Baseball Field
March 29-31	Computer Information Technology Expo		Online
March 30	CPD: Your Health Matters with MD Anderson	12-1 p.m.	Register: community.engagement@sjcd.edu or 281-476-1893
April 2	Gators Baseball vs. Coastal Bend	2 p.m.	North Campus, Baseball Field

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



EXPLORE YOUR TECH CAREER OPTIONS WITH CIT EXPO

By Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Want to break into the tech industry? Learn how to get started with San Jacinto College's free virtual computer information technology expo March 29-31, 2022, via Zoom.

The three-day event will showcase nine CIT programs that can connect you to a tech career with plenty of advancement opportunities.

Register by March 25 at sanjac.edu/CIT-expo.

Enter high-wage, in-demand field

If you are self-motivated, hardworking,

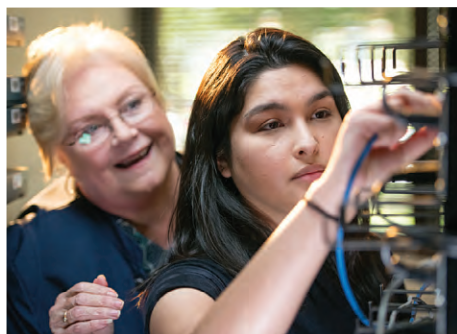


Photo courtesy of San Jacinto College

and tech-minded, San Jac's CIT programs have you covered. Launch a stable, rewarding career after hands-on training under instructors with industry expertise.

With a CIT degree, certifications, and experience, you can advance from an entry-level position to one earning more than six figures a year.

"Computer science and computer technology are great fields to enter now since so many high-demand and high-wage jobs are available," said Kevin Morris, South Campus dean of business and technology. "Jobs are available for students with associate degrees or higher. San Jac even supports some industry certifications, which are very valuable in obtaining a job."

Throughout the three-day expo, each CIT program will host a 45-minute to 1-hour live or pre-recorded session. Learn about everything from program length, prerequisites, and admission requirements to internships, career opportunities, and salary potential.

Some sessions may also include virtual facility tours, demos, and perspectives from current students, alumni, and employers.



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

Choose your training path

San Jac offers many CIT pathways for you to pursue. Fast-track your career with our certificates or Associate of Applied Science degrees, or transfer to a bachelor's degree program after earning a computer science Associate of Science degree.

Unsure which program to pursue? We can help you choose. Ask yourself a few questions:

- **Do I want to repair, install, and build computer/network systems?**
 - Cloud Computing
 - Cyber Security
 - Desktop Support and Microsoft Network Administration

- Network Administration Cisco Specialty
- **Do I want to design and program hardware, software, or webpages?**
 - Application/Programming
 - Computer Simulation and Game Design
 - Web Design
- **Do I want to manage people or software programs that support tech systems?**
 - Computer Science (transferrable A.S. degree)

Learn more

After attending the CIT expo, visit:

- sanjac.edu/CIT for individual program webpages and contact info
- sanjac.edu/connect to schedule an appointment with an admissions advisor (new students) or educational planner (current students)

Not a San Jac student yet? Start the application process by filling out the online Texas higher education application at goapplytexas.org.

Learn more about the CIT expo and programs or view session recordings after the event at sanjac.edu/CIT-expo.

SAN JAC STUDENT RECEIVES WHEELS OF FORTUNE

By Neesha Hosein
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Wrapping gifts can be a fun yet daunting task. Imagine if the gift was a car.

The Bates Collision Center in Channelview did just that, making the recent holiday season extra special for San Jacinto College student Destini Rhodes. The education major received a mystery vehicle loaded with even more wrapped gifts as part of the annual Responsible Parenting Award organized by Bates and Harris County Department of Education's Head Start program.

"We wanted to do something more than just talk about family and family values," said Lee Bates, Bates Collision

Center president. "Responsible parenting is so important ... but it becomes even harder in some families where all the pieces aren't in place. One big piece that's often missing is reliable family transportation."

Their annual tradition began in 1999 after a car repair colleague did the same, inspiring the Bates. Since then, the company has given two refurbished vehicles each year to Head Start parents who demonstrate responsible parenting.

And the winner is ...

Head Start and Bates locate families with a "demonstrated record of good parenting and a drive toward independence and determination to hold down a job, even with the real need for

a car," said Leila Bates, Bates Collision Center vice president.

To qualify, nominees must provide proof of employment, a valid driver's license, and a clean driving record. They also write an essay explaining their goals and how reliable transportation could help them achieve these goals. A committee of Bates employees evaluates the candidates and selects two families to receive a vehicle.

Rhodes made the cut and received a phone call from Lee Bates with the good news. She called it "a great blessing," even though she is the "I got it" type who rarely asks for help.

"For a unanimous group of people to think that I'm doing a great job at parenting my children is so



Photo courtesy of Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College

heartwarming," Rhodes said. "I get mom guilt sometimes just like we all do, and this reminded me I am doing a great job. I'm grateful for everyone who had anything to do with the behind-the-scenes effort that went into that very special day."

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STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE KNOW-HOW IN MOCK GRAND JURY

By Neesha Hosein
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

As their final project last fall, San Jacinto College criminalistics students presented in front of a mock grand jury. The evidence spoke for itself as students showcased what they'd spent a semester learning.

In small groups, they presented crime scene photos, bullet trajectories, blood spatter analysis, and pertinent facts to the jury about their assigned cases.

"It is one of the best projects that we have ever done on the Central Campus," Dr. Robyn Ring, criminal justice professor, said. "The mock grand jury members offer insight, support, and let the students know that they believe in what they are doing and learning."

The grand jury volunteers included professors, the campus provost, education professionals, a department chair, and a Harris County deputy constable. Ring believes such an experience shows students "everyone at San Jac is interested in their education."

It was both a presentation and interactive platform in which jury members posed questions about the case: How far was the victim from the shooter? How does the blood spatter indicate bullet direction? In what part of the building was the evidence found?

"This assignment prepares them



to work extensive crime scenes, write reports, then make their case presentation to grand jury members or trial presentations," Ring said. "This assignment is geared to help them understand the system and the importance of following the protocols to handle evidence and make assumptions of what the evidence indicates happened."

More than just fingerprints

The criminalistics class is a hands-on, evidence- and lab-based learning experience that teaches students how to approach and think about a crime scene. They use scientific protocols to identify and handle evidence, record and document a crime scene, and think critically about what the evidence indicates.

Students cover complex issues. For example, they studied decomposition by burying a dead animal to see what bugs it attracts and what that determines. They also participated in blood spatter

and bullet trajectory labs.

Ring endeavors to show students that "a crime scene is more than photos and tape measures," although those are important.

"We are always working to improve our equipment, and now I am working on getting a total laser scanner and perhaps a drone," Ring said. "We want to give students a glimpse of what the world might look like in years to come."

Hands-on learning

To prepare for crime investigation, students need a slew of skills. They get lots of help from faculty.

"Anna Cummings, who teaches drafting, spent a week showing them CAD so their drawings are more like what they would do in the workplace," Ring said.

Criminal justice professor John White taught report writing, another relevant skill. Students also learn the administrative and business side to develop a well-rounded understanding of what they will be expected to do once hired.

"The crime scenes are thought out and planned so there is a logical conclusion," Ring said. "We measure and set up the scenes. We want to know what the conclusion of the evidence should be before the students see it and work it."

Faculty create some of the fake blood



Photos courtesy of Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College

spatter in the spatter labs to incorporate into the scenes. Ring's motto is, "The evidence should tell the student what happened." The crime scenes are made to speak a simple and plain language, "but if you don't know how the evidence speaks, then you might miss what the evidence says."

Students learn to translate the evidence. It doesn't take a lot to believe that "people lie, evidence doesn't."

Grand jury day

Every team has an appointed leader, similar to how police operate. Some leaders, however, emerge naturally and take on the authoritative role. The three team members divide the work, and discussion includes evidence, bullet trajectory, and blood. One person presents the findings to the mock grand jury, representing their teamwork in the case analysis. The other team members chime in as needed.

"There is an incredible amount of work for even these scenes where nobody's life is balancing on the court outcomes," said Ring. "But you might not be able to convince them of that. Hopefully, they feel the pressure of getting it right."

To learn more about the criminal justice program, visit sanjac.edu/program/criminal-justice.

Wheels continued from page 4

The fender reveal

"It's our favorite day of the year, when we get to see the smiles on the families' faces as they tear off the bright wrapping paper to find their shiny 'new' car inside," Leila said.



Photo courtesy of Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College

Rhodes and her kids unwrapped the vehicle, a 2011 Chevy Equinox, during a ceremony attended by city officials,

Bates staff, local media, and other supporters. Her kids received wheels of their own — three bicycles with helmets, each a perfect fit. Smiling, the kids opened a few of the gifts that filled the trunk before hopping inside to check out their future ride.

"My kids were so excited, especially to see so many presents," Rhodes said. "They opened two gifts before Christmas, but the rest I had to hide for Christmas morning."

A little kindness drives a long way

Rhodes no longer has to worry about how she will get her kids to school or make it to work herself.

"I do not have to ask anyone for help, which is something very hard for me," she said. "I have a huge

weight lifted off my shoulders."

Although caring for her child with autism has become her "everyday life," she emphasized that "autism isn't everything about him." Her son's diagnosis and the experiences of being a parent with an autistic child inspired her major and career goals in early childhood education. With only two courses left at San Jac, Rhodes plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in early childhood or special education.

"I am very passionate about early childhood and the importance it plays in laying the foundation for the rest of a person's life," she said. "I know a lot of the challenges a parent goes through with an autistic child, and I want to be a part of helping parents receive all the support available to them."



SAN JACINTO COLLEGE THROUGH THE YEARS: 1990-1999



sanjac.edu/60-years

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EXPECTANT MOM NEVER GUESSES DAUGHTER WILL PURSUE SAME PROGRAM 21 YEARS LATER

By Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

You could say Jordin Olivarez is finishing what she started 21 years ago.

In December 2000, the San Jacinto College student's mom, Stacy Harris, was pregnant when she began the new eye care technology program. Her daughter "attended" classes with her until she was born the next June.

Now the 20-year-old Olivarez is on track to graduate from the College's eye care technology program herself.

"We both did it to get on our feet. She needed something to start providing for me. I was the same age as her, and I wanted to work in an adult field," said Olivarez, a former restaurant hostess.

Once she earns her occupational certificate, she will have the skills to enter the optical field like her mom before her.

Eyes on San Jac

Olivarez took a year off after high



Photo courtesy of Stacy Harris

Stacy Harris and her daughter Jordin Olivarez

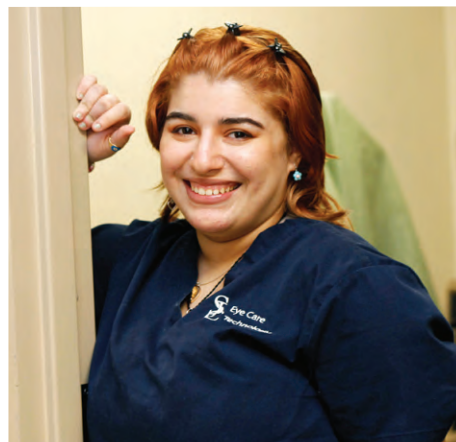


Photo courtesy of Lauren Lowe, San Jacinto College

Jordin Olivarez

school, working while figuring out her next steps. She wanted to find a career that interested her and paid better than seating restaurant guests, but nothing had clicked yet.

Harris stepped in to help.

"Just like my mom did, I told Jordin about San Jacinto College and how they have a lot of programs to help students learn skills and kick-start their careers," she said.

Then, in a "why not?" moment, Harris shared how the eye care program had launched her into the workforce.

After graduating in summer 2001, Harris landed an optician job. She got married, welcomed another daughter, and continued working while moving with her active-duty husband.

In all, Harris worked almost a decade in eye care until she became a single mother again. She joined the Army herself and eventually wound up with her girls in Washington, D.C., with positions

Eyeing a career in eye care?

Gain the knowledge and skills to work under a licensed eye care professional. Learn how to perform diagnostic tests, fit patients for glasses and contact lenses, and more.

With 100 percent job placement, San Jac's eye care technology program at the Central Campus guarantees student success!

Learn more at sanjac.edu/program/eye-care-technology.

at the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.

Thanks to the Hazlewood Act, her veteran disability, and Texas residency, Harris could offer her daughter this perk: 100 percent of tuition covered at San Jac.

That sealed the deal. And with a little more time, Olivarez was eyeing just one program. Everything had finally clicked.

Partners in the journey

Now 1,400 miles away from her mom and sister, Olivarez admits the distance has challenged her. But she is staying with her grandfather while taking classes.

Although "not a big school person," she has found a comforting routine in helpful teachers and hands-on training.

This spring, Olivarez started her practicum at Safety RX, a local company that creates custom prescription glasses

for industrial workers. Unlike her classmates, she has an unusual study buddy—her mom. They connect via FaceTime for tutoring sessions.

"It's kind of nice that she understands and can help me through everything," Olivarez said.

Twenty years apart, mom and daughter share similar journeys.

Although Harris already has a storied career behind her, she thanks San Jac for writing the first chapter and for giving her daughter options too.

"I am grateful for programs such as these that help single moms like me and others in similar situations gain skills for a better future," she said. "I am very proud of Jordin and hope this program provides the same kick-start to her career as it did mine."



SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

REPORT TO THE
COMMUNITY
2021

The College celebrates a successful year and looks forward to the future. Learn more about the highlights and accomplishments of 2021 by visiting

sanjac.edu/report-community

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MARITIME CAMPUS

3700 Old Hwy. 146, La Porte, TX 77571

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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 20 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. San Jacinto College is among the top five community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence in 2021 and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College spans five campuses, serving approximately 41,000 credit and non-credit students annually, and 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. San Jacinto College's impact on the region totals \$1.3 billion in added income, which supports 13,044 jobs. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's.

