

OPPORTUNITY

SAN JACINTO COLLEGESM

NEWS

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100,000 grads in 60 years

NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

Support groups connect, encourage students

Connected students are successful students. San Jacinto College students are finding a safe space to share their journeys, thanks to newly launched mental health support groups.

This spring, mental health counselors College-wide guided discussion and lent an ear during six-week in-person and online support groups.

“We recognized the importance of students sharing their stories with other students in a safe environment,” said Tanesha Antoine, dean of student support services. “Many students feel alone and isolated, but support groups offer them a way to connect and share their thoughts, ideas, and struggles.”

The groups met once a week for about an hour in Central, North, and South Campus student engagement and activities game rooms. Online groups followed the same format but allowed students to join from anywhere via Zoom.

Topics ranged from adapting to

college, finding balance, and handling stress/anxiety to dealing with depression, embracing campus diversity/inclusivity, and building healthy relationships. Students could attend any or all sessions.

According to Antoine, students not only welcomed the groups but shared more ideas to shape the next round of options.

“Group therapy not only provides a source of additional support but can also build social skills and help individuals learn more about themselves,” Antoine said.

The groups, which will continue this fall, are open to any enrolled student 18 or older. The only other requirement to join a support group? Show up.

For more information about the groups, contact joe.hartsoe@sjcd.edu or sharif.haj-muhammad@sjcd.edu.

Leadership summit revives student life

San Jacinto College Student Engagement and Activities is reimagining students’ on-campus experience.

On April 22, SEA brought together

student leaders and advisors to review policies and brainstorm ways to increase student engagement post-pandemic.

“We help our students execute their ideas on campus,” Brian Bui, student engagement coordinator, said. “If we listen to them, together we can create something meaningful and make positive changes that can impact the largest number of students.”

The daylong event included an icebreaker, roundtables, and award ceremony for students who had made a big impact in 2021-2022. Working with advisors, students examined what student life is like now and where they want it to be.

Ashley Winslow, South Campus student government president, feels collaboration among student organizations will revive on-campus engagement. She helped gather feedback from peers about what they needed to feel supported and successful at San Jac.

“A big part of being a leader is recognizing the need for change and advocating for solutions to accomplish those changes,” Winslow said. “This is definitely not an easy task, but it is absolutely necessary to provide effective leadership and create progress.”



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

During the summit, students focused on the entire College rather than specific campuses, and advisors shared their perspective. Bui anticipates making the summit an annual event to improve the student experience.

“Making decisions based on what is told versus what we believe is important to ensure we are delivering the experiences students want,” Bui said. “That adds value to their time at San Jac.”

SEA is reviewing the summit feedback and will streamline some processes to allow student organizations to focus more on their missions.

60TH ANNIVERSARY CULMINATES IN GALA RAISING \$450,000 FOR PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS

During the 2021-2022 academic year, San Jacinto College celebrated 60 years of service through education, partnerships, and growth in East Harris County.

The College opened in September 1961 in a rented storefront in downtown Pasadena. By the end of the first week,

San Jac had an enrollment of 876 students. Today, it boasts more than 41,000 credit and non-credit students each year and a Top 5 ranking nationally.

Over the decades, the College expanded to five campuses, including the newest addition, Generation Park, which opened in fall 2020 in the Lake Houston area.

San Jac has increased its offerings to more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study, including university transfer courses, workforce certificates/training, and Associate of Arts, Associate of

Science, and Associate of Applied Science degrees.

Nursing, one of the College’s early programs, recently expanded to include a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The first BSN cohort graduated in December 2021.

On May 20, San Jac celebrated the culmination of its 60th anniversary with the “Step Brightly Into the Future” Gala presented by LyondellBasell and the Sinor Family. Gala donors gave more than \$450,000 for the Student Success Fund endowment supporting Promise @ San Jac scholarships.

“Thank you to everyone who sponsored and attended this year’s gala,” said Teri Crawford, San Jacinto College Foundation executive director. “With the support of these generous donors, the Promise @ San Jac scholarships will allow all in-district high school seniors to earn an associate degree or workforce certificate at San Jac without having to worry about the cost of tuition or books.”

You too can make debt-free college available to all in-district high school seniors by becoming a Promise Partner. Learn more at sanjac.edu/promise-partner.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

PTK TEAM CELEBRATES RECOGNITION

By Neesha Hosein
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society recognized 20 college presidents with the Paragon President Award during PTK Catalyst 2022, the society's annual convention in Denver, Colorado, April 7-9. One of the winners was San Jacinto College South Campus provost Dr. Aaron Knight.

A person can win the Paragon award only once, and students submit the nomination. To be eligible, candidates must be in their role for fewer than three years. The 20 recipients were chosen from 426 other candidates, including eligible chancellors and CEOs.

"This is a great honor because PTK students are the leaders of tomorrow,"

Knight said. "Their commitment to excellence is inspiring. I am always happy to support the organization in any way I can."

One of his favorite aspects of working with PTK is meeting with the officers and sponsors at the start of each academic year and hearing them present the plans for their annual service project.

"Last year they worked on supporting local foster kids, and this year they worked to highlight the role of various learning styles in education," Knight said. "I enjoy seeing the thoughtfulness and passion these student leaders bring to their work. I am also grateful for the opportunity to work with our chapter sponsors, Elizabeth McKinley and Lambrini Nicopoulos, and all who support this fine organization."

Other winners

At PTK Texas Regionals in Frisco, Texas, March 10-12, Lambrini Nicopoulos, life sciences department chair and PTK Alpha Gamma Zeta chapter co-advisor, was recognized with the Hall of Honor Award. Nicopoulos also received the Horizon Award with co-advisor Elizabeth McKinley, business professor, during the PTK Catalyst Convention in Denver.

Nicopoulos is thrilled to have been recognized.

"I strive to be there for our students and to make an impact in their lives," she said. "This award is just a tangible representation of the growth I get to see in our students each semester. I am proud to be a significant part of their lives. I am extremely lucky to have the guidance and support of my co-advisor and friend, Elizabeth McKinley."

Nicopoulos became involved with PTK as a San Jac student and was inducted into the Mu Omicron Chapter at the Central Campus.

"As a faculty member, I had opportunities to assist the south chapter of PTK for several years," Nicopoulos said. "Then I was fortunate enough to be asked by Elizabeth McKinley to serve as a co-advisor. I have served in that capacity for the past six years."

Overview of winners*Catalyst*

- Top 100 chapters (of more than 1,300 chapters)
- Paragon Award for New College Presidents - Dr. Aaron Knight
- Distinguished Advisor - Lambrini Nicopoulos
- Coca-Cola Bronze Scholar - Ashley Winslow
- Jack Kent Cooke Scholar - Sadokat Khakimova
- Gustwhite Scholar - Sadokat Khakimova
- International Officer - Sadokat Khakimova
- 5 Star Chapter



Photo courtesy of San Jacinto College

Regionals

- Top Chapter in Texas (top 15 out of 92 chapters in Texas)
- Award of Merit for College Project (Cranium/Learning Styles project)
- Honors In Action - Theme 4 Award of Merit - Expressions of Truth (inequities in K-12 schools)
- Hall of Honor for College Presidents - Dr. Aaron Knight
- Hall of Honor for Advisors - Lambrini Nicopoulos
- Distinguished Chapter Officer - Deannella Vitaoe
- Horizon Awards for Advisors - Elizabeth McKinley and Lambrini Nicopoulos
- Outgoing Regional Officer - Ashley Winslow
- Incoming Texas Regional Officer District IV - Deannella Vitaoe
- Competitive Edge Pins - eight chapter members (finished the PTK Competitive Edge Program)
- Hall of Honor for Members for District IV- eight students
- 5-Star Chapter

Other

- PTK Founders Model - Anthony Gamage (officer)
- All Texas Academic Team - Elsie Bura and Ashley Winslow (officers)
- New Century Workforce Scholar - Felice Reyes (member)
- Mary Hood Scholarship - Ashley Winslow (officer)
- Walter B. Cooper Scholarship - Alexandra Flores (officer)



**REGISTER
TODAY!**

**FALL 2022
CLASSES START
AUGUST 22**

**SAN JACINTO
COLLEGE**

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

FOUR GENERATIONS FIND SUCCESS AT SAN JAC

By **Neesha Hosein**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

One family's San Jacinto College journey began in the 1960s and has continued across four generations.

Mike Turner, engineering design graphics instructor at the North Campus, has been teaching at the College for six years, but his father started the trend. Known by most as Pete, Turner's father taught at the Central Campus while holding a full-time job as an instrument technician at NASA.

"My father taught instrumentation as an adjunct in the 1960s," Turner said. "I started attending here beginning in the fall of 1971, and two of my sons attended, one beginning in 1997, the other starting in 2004. My oldest grandson attended San Jac around five years ago."

Graduated and returned

Turner originally wanted to be an English teacher. As a student, he was on the San Jac newspaper staff and enjoyed covering sports. He transferred to the University of Houston to study radio and television, but a new opportunity knocked, and he opened the door.

In high school, Turner had completed drafting classes and obtained field experience with an air conditioning company drafting house plans. He also had his father's encouragement and expertise, so when an engineering company offered him a part-time, entry-level drafting job working

in reproduction and blueprints, he embraced the chance. He eventually worked his way up to a full-time position and into a lifelong career.

"Although I elected to stay in engineering design, I always hoped I would be able to get the opportunity to teach," Turner said. "When I left the engineering business in 2016, the chair of the engineering design graphics department at San Jac, who I had known since second grade, suggested that I apply for a teaching position that was coming up in the department."

Turner accepted the position in August 2016 and has never looked back.

"Among my favorite facets is sharing anecdotes about my years in the business and what they will experience in the working world," Turner said. "I always tell my classes on the first day that we're going to learn a lot about drafting, some about the business, and a little about life."

Turner understands firsthand the path to self-discovery. He enjoys mentoring his students and encourages them to pursue the careers for which they have a zeal.

San Jac legacy continues

Turner's eldest son, Stephen, graduated in 2002 with a degree in general studies. He then transferred to UH, majored in political science, and now works in the restaurant industry. His stepson Tyler graduated in 2008 in culinary arts and is working for a beverage distribution company. His grandson Blake majored in music at San

Jac and currently manages music lessons for a local Guitar Center.

Life outside the dream job

Until about 12 years ago, Turner played bass guitar in a classic rock band as a hobby. Since then, he has devoted much of his time to 10 grandchildren, ages 8 to 25. He recently celebrated his 30th wedding anniversary. When he can find the time, he enjoys reading military history and biographies.

Turner is proud to be not only a lifelong Houston-area resident but also a sixth-generation native Texan, his

maternal ancestors settling in Milam County in 1834. Two of his third great-grandfathers fought in the Texas army during the revolution, and one died in the massacre at Goliad in March 1836. Turner is a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas because he descended from Texas revolutionaries.

What is the key to happiness?

"Do what you love, be content with what you have, and spend your time around people who like to laugh with you," Turner said. "Someday may never come."



Photo courtesy of Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
June - August	Summer camps for kids and teens	Varies	sanjac.edu/summer-camps
June 6	Summer classes begin		All campuses, online
June 17-19	Juneteenth holiday	Closed	All campuses, online
July 2-4	Independence Day holiday	Closed	All campuses, online

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



SAN JAC TAKES SILVER IN TROUBLESHOOTING COMPETITION

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

San Jacinto College placed second at the 2022 North American Process Technology Alliance Troubleshooting Competition V on Saturday, April 23, the College's fifth consecutive year to participate.

"San Jac has placed first three times in our past efforts, but we didn't place in last year's virtual competition," said Joseph Zwiercan, department chair, petrochemical/energy. "We are so proud of our team for bringing us back into contention. We always strive to be the best."

Hosted at San Jac's LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology, the competition saw 15 teams

of four face off to earn the top spot. San Jac sent two teams into the competition, Steam Turbine and Delta V, with only Steam Turbine placing in the finals.

"Our team practiced using the Simtronics program for three months to prepare for the competition," said Jorge Rivera, Delta V team captain. "There are a lot of variables that could cause a problem, and we had to work as a team and communicate to do well."

The finals competition tested the teams' troubleshooting skills in recognizing and resolving problems with various energy industry-related scenarios and using computer-based simulation and virtual plant environment software.

"The troubleshooting skills competition is a benefit to the students because it allows them to demonstrate

the knowledge they've acquired over the last two or three years before they graduate through real-life exercises," said Eric Newby, NAPTA president/executive director.

Students also participated in mock interviews with industry representatives, virtual reality training, and hands-on experiences in CPET's 19 labs.

"It's important to us to connect students with industry members from refining, chemicals, and process — industries that will be their potential employers," Newby said. "They learn more about what the job requires, get tips on resume writing, and might even get the chance to interview for a job during the competition."

NAPTA hosted the competition at San Jac partly because of its long partnership



Photo courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

with the College.

"San Jac has been an active member of NAPTA since 1996 — active in our committees and conferences and now as the host of our competition," Newby said.

Members of the silver medal team included team captain Frank Gorom, Juan Cubelli, Seif Maaiah, and David Nguyen.

For the event photo album, visit bit.ly/3s8JtOk.

ELIZONDO CHOSEN FOR TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

San Jacinto College North Campus Student Government Association president Christian Elizondo has been selected to join 12 college students statewide for the new Texas Community College Student Advisory Council.

Young Invincibles, The Education Trust in Texas, Every Texan, and Breakthrough Central Texas organize and support the council as a joint initiative of the Texas Postsecondary Advocates Coalition for Equity.

"I'm honored to join the efforts of these organizations," Elizondo said. "The internship is all about research and finding what is best for students. As the SGA president, it's my job to be the voice for all students, and this creates an opportunity for me to extend



Photo courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

that responsibility."

The council includes first-generation college students, veterans, student

government leaders, and Texans of diverse races, ethnicities, ages, and backgrounds.

As part of a paid fellowship through early 2023, Elizondo will engage in the work of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance and subsequent legislative activity.

"Right now, our focus is researching funding for students and what the true needs are across all community colleges in Texas," Elizondo said.

Passed in 2021, Senate Bill 1230 established the Texas Commission on Community College Finance to make recommendations to the 88th Texas Legislature. While the commission is not required to include a student member, its membership is encouraged to reflect the state's geographic and ethnic diversity. The commission seeks stakeholder input and accounts for

equity in student outcomes in alignment with the state's postsecondary goals.

"We call on Texas leaders to ensure that student perspectives are included in key planning and recommendation building," said Elizabeth Kufor, southern program coordinator for Young Invincibles. "We are eager to learn from these students about the issues that concern them and the ideas they have for enhancing the experiences and outcomes of community college students across the state."

On top of his studies and his role as SGA president, Elizondo also serves as an English tutor on the North Campus.

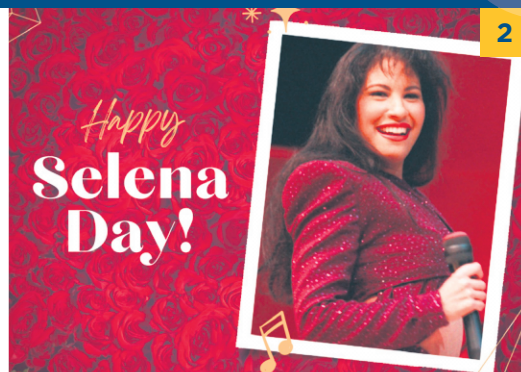
"It's important to get involved and be active on campus and in your community," Elizondo said. "Not only can you help others, but you can challenge yourself and make meaningful connections."

SAN JACINTO
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Your Goals. Your College.

THIS MONTH IN SOCIAL MEDIA



1



2

1 About 1,500 students participated in the Spring 2022 commencement ceremony — our largest commencement yet!

2 On Selena Day, San Jac commemorated the late Queen of Tejano on what would have been her 51st birthday.



3



4

3 San Jac Student Engagement and Activities hosted Spring Fling events at South, North, and Central Campus where students could support and engage with student organizations.

New Mascot Ideas Wanted!

San Jac needs your ideas for a new mascot!
Submit your ideas today!

FORM OPEN: April 4-29, 2022
SCAN OR VISIT: <https://bit.ly/38boROc>

5



6

4 Four of our processing technology students took second place at the annual NAPTA Troubleshooting Skills Competition! Team “Steam Turbines” coached by instructor GC Shah competed against 15 teams from colleges across the country.

5 Students, employees, and community members discussed their ideas for a new College mascot!



7

6 San Jac Student Government Association shared photos from this year’s Leadership Summit.

7 On Throwback Thursday, students were surprised to learn that former President Bill Clinton once visited San Jac in the early 1990s!

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SAN JAC CELEBRATES NEARLY 100,000 GRADS IN 60 YEARS

Story and Photos by
Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

From a humble beginning with five graduates 60 years ago, San Jacinto College launched 3,295 students into better careers and brighter futures this spring.

On May 13, a sea of black caps and gowns filled the floor of NRG Stadium for the College's spring 2022 commencement ceremony.

Sixty years ago, San Jac ended its first academic year with a graduating class of five students, all transfers from other colleges. This spring the College awarded nearly 4,000 degrees and certificates

to students.

Since San Jac opened in a Pasadena storefront in fall 1961, almost 100,000 graduates have left the College empowered to achieve their goals and explore new opportunities.

Congrats to the class of 2022! For the photo album, visit bit.ly/3Pu9fq0.

Spring 2022 Graduation by the Numbers:

- Age gap between oldest and youngest graduate: 54 years (15 and 69)
 - Degrees/certificates awarded: 3,984*
 - Graduates at commencement: 1,500
- *Number as of press deadline



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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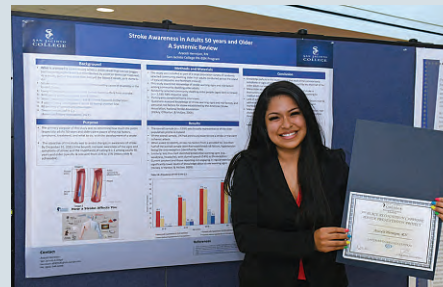
VISION & MISSION



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 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.