

OPPORTUNITY

NEWS



2 News from Your College

3 Garcia Paints Full Career in STEM, Leadership

4 Moon Family Carries on Legacy of Giving

NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

Next deadline for Promise @ San Jac Scholarship approaching

Attention, high school seniors applying for the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship: You have until April 25, 2024, to finalize and submit your FAFSA or TASFA application. This crucial step is necessary to maintain eligibility for this scholarship for fall 2024.

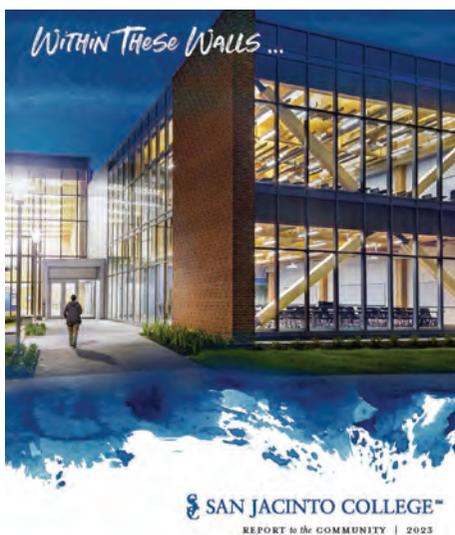
Promise @ San Jac ensures all in-district high school graduates — including those in portions of Clear Creek, Pearland, and Humble ISDs, as well as all of Channelview, Deer Park, Galena Park, La Porte, Pasadena, and Sheldon ISDs — can earn a workforce credential or an associate degree with 100% of their tuition, books, and supplies covered. The scholarship doesn't have any GPA or financial restrictions, meaning all in-district graduating seniors qualify.

To learn more about the scholarship and requirements, visit sanjac.edu/promise.

Chancellor's Report to Community now available

Each year, San Jacinto College publishes the Chancellor's Report to the Community to inform donors, community influencers, and area partners about student and employee success, innovative learning experiences, and involvement with the community.

This year's Report to the Community is titled "Within these walls..." because



of the great things happening within the College. This publication tells the stories of students transforming dreams into realities, faculty and staff leading by example, and donors changing impossible to "I'm possible."

View the 2023 Report to the Community by scanning the QR code.



San Jac music students achieve All-State honors

Twenty-eight San Jacinto College music students were selected for two-year college All-State choir, jazz band, and symphonic band — the highest honor community college music students can achieve.

Four of these students have earned spots in two different ensembles or through two different instruments.

"For the third year in a row, San Jac has more students represented in the All-State ensembles than any other community college in the state," said Lynne Brandt, department chair of music and audio engineering. "We are so proud of their hard work and hours of rehearsal time that led to their achievement."

Central Campus percussion student

Carlos Hernández-Chavarria won the Texas Community College Band Directors Association concerto competition. He is the second student from San Jac to win this honor. Hernández-Chavarria performed with the all-state symphonic band at the Texas Music Educators Association conference.

Each year since 2020, the College has increased its qualifying students:

- 2024: 28 qualifying students, concerto competition winner, faculty presentation
- 2023: 23 qualifying students, concerto competition winner, steel band performance
- 2022: 17 qualifying students
- 2021: Pandemic (no convention)
- 2020: 10 qualifying students

The students performed with other all-state musicians in concerts scheduled during the annual Texas Music Educators Association conference at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio.



Photo by Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

DIFFERENT STROKES: GARCIA PAINTS FULL CAREER IN STEM, LEADERSHIP

By Courtney Morris
San Jacinto College

Starving artist. Now there's a phrase that gave college-bound Rachel Garcia pause.

While she liked sweeping a paintbrush across a canvas, swirling colors together, Garcia decided to channel her creativity into science instead. After all — with the Texas Medical Center, Port of Houston, and NASA nearby — she'd have plenty of STEM career options.

Today, with a Ph.D. in chemistry, the former chemistry professor and physical sciences department chair serves as San Jacinto College's associate vice chancellor of teaching and learning. In honor of Women's History Month, we celebrate women like Garcia who lead change in their fields.

Garcia shares her career journey, her advice to younger women, and one passion she hasn't given up.

Q: Describe a woman who motivated you to reach higher.

A: My mom — she struggled

financially when she was separated from my dad and took on a few jobs so she could move on her own. Watching the relationship dynamic between my parents made me believe I should never be financially obligated to stay in a failing relationship. I put my education and career first until I had financial security on my own.

Q: What's the biggest career challenge you've overcome?

A: Understanding that everyone is not built the same. When I started, I thought the hard skills I learned in my formal education were obtainable for anyone. If people didn't obtain the same results as me, they were not trying hard enough. I didn't consider we all have strengths and weaknesses and that my weakness was someone else's strength. Once it dawned on me that I worked with people who complement my skill sets, I built relationships and accomplished much more.

Emotional intelligence is critical. Leadership training has helped me understand myself and better serve others.

Q: What led you to San Jac?

A: I met the former chemistry department chair at an American Chemical Society event. I was a new stay-at-home mom and decided to teach evening classes to get a break. After eight months, I went back to the workforce but kept my adjunct role at San Jac. I loved San Jac's focus on student support and success. That dedication to students resonated with me, and the rest is history.

Q: What excites you about your current role?

A: I get to provide solutions to a variety of aspects of the College. The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning oversees College Community Week and College Community Day, but we are involved in so many other functions College-wide — from the Chautauqua lecture series, book discussions, and new faculty academy to curriculum and the course catalog.

I enjoy working with my team and amazing leader, deputy chancellor Dr. Laurel Williamson.

Q: You received the Outstanding Women in Texas Government Award in 2018.

Tell us about that:

A: I had no idea I was nominated, and winning was one of my most memorable experiences. Being recognized for your hard work and dedication is important for anyone's well-being, and I was happy that San Jac and Texas leadership recognized me for my contributions. It still motivates me to do my best every day. People notice your work ethic.

Q: What advice do you have for the next generation of women?

A: Society has certain expectations of you as a woman — and possibly ethnic expectations too. As a Hispanic woman, I think many people think of servitude.... Don't spend copious amounts of energy to disprove that, like I did. It drained me and drove me to become defensive. You can use people's perceptions to your advantage, even if you know you're nothing like what people think you are.

The most important thing is to make a good impression. If you're comfortable with yourself, you can control how you engage with

others — how you present yourself. Carry yourself with dignity and pride.

Q: Do you still pick up a paintbrush?

A: I do! Now it's with my two daughters, who love art as much as I do.



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
March 7-8	"Henry V"	7 p.m.	Tickets: sjcstheatreilm.ludus.com South Campus, Flickinger Fine Arts Center, Proscenium Theatre (\$15.151)
March 9	"Henry V"	2 p.m.	Tickets: sjcstheatreilm.ludus.com South Campus, Flickinger Fine Arts Center, Proscenium Theatre (\$15.151)
March 11-17	Spring Break	Closed	All campuses and online
March 22-23	Central Campus Student-Produced Plays and Films	7:30 p.m.	\$10 general admission Central Campus, Powell Arena Theatre (C13)
March 28-April 11	Guest Artist: Neil Jody	Varies	Free Grant Fine Arts Center, North Campus Gallery (N1.106) Contact joe.clark@sjcd.edu
March 29	Spring Holiday	Closed	All campuses and online (no weekend classes March 29-31)
April 1-May 2	Student Art and Design Show	Varies	Free Grant Fine Arts Center, North Campus Gallery (N1.106) Contact joe.clark@sjcd.edu
April 3-6	"The Boys Next Door"	7:30 p.m.	\$10 general admission Central Campus, Powell Arena Theatre (C13)
April 7	"The Boys Next Door" (Matinee)	2:30 p.m.	\$10 general admission Central Campus, Powell Arena Theatre (C13)

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

MOON FAMILY CARRIES ON LEGACY OF GIVING

By Neesha Hosein
San Jacinto College

Rose Moon believes generosity cultivates inspiration for young people to pursue an education by helping to ease their financial burdens.

Moon and her husband established the John H. Sr. and A. Rose Moon Endowed Scholarship at San Jacinto College. (Read about one of the recipients on Page 6.)

“We’ve been involved with San Jacinto College for more years than I can count,” Moon said. “My husband wouldn’t have supported San Jac if he didn’t fully believe in its greatness. He believed it was a tremendous asset to

the community and reasonably priced for what you get back from the College.”

John H. Moon Sr. came from humble beginnings. Without the means to attend college, he got a job at a hardware store. The store owner became a mentor and encouraged him to go to college, even providing a personal scholarship to support his education.

Moon Sr.’s family instilled in him a strong work ethic, and he was a star student throughout his school years. At 16, he graduated high school. By 21, he had earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with honors in accounting and finance and had passed his certified public accountant exam to

become the youngest CPA in Texas history.

Moon was born in northeast Texas and met her husband in Port Neches.

“I’m a Texan through and through — from the era when Bum Phillips was coaching,” she joked. “Two years after I met John, we were married, started a family, and I didn’t have the chance to go to college.”

Moon Sr. passed away in December 2022, just a few months after they celebrated their 64th anniversary. The couple have two sons, John Jr. and Randall, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

“His legacy and accomplishments

are hard to live up to,” Moon Jr. said. “He experienced hardships early on, and someone’s generosity gave him the boost he needed to go on to a successful life and career in banking and business.”

Moon considers the College a first-class institution and a great place for people to pursue their education.

“It is important to focus on the impact these donations have on the students’ lives, not only for a short time but to guide them through their studies until they enter the workforce,” she said. “All of my encounters with the people of San Jacinto College have been wonderful.”



Photo by Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College



ONLINE DEGREES

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**Fall classes start
August 19**



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FUELING JOB GROWTH: COLLEGE TO OFFER TRAINING FOR BIOMANUFACTURING BOOM

By Neesha Hosein and Jacquelynn Conger
San Jacinto College

Houston has a reputation as a leader in gas, petrochemical, aerospace, health and medicine, and research and development and is now opening new doors to the burgeoning fields of biotechnology and biopharma.

San Jacinto College is an exclusive provider of National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training-licensed programs.

“Houston already has a number of biomanufacturing companies, and many will eventually relocate here, so the region is primed and ready for growth in this industry,” said Dr. Christopher Wild, assistant vice chancellor/vice president for biotechnology.

In spring 2024, the College launched a series of non-credit biomanufacturing classes at the South Campus, providing corporate training and onboarding for new hires

and existing workers in this industry.

“It’s important to both meet the current workforce needs and train the anticipated future workforce,” Wild said. “Regional biomanufacturing companies will be able to look to us to deliver this specialized training.”

Training focus

Eventually, the College plans to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in biomanufacturing technician, a Level 1 certificate, and an advanced skills certificate. This area of study will resonate with many, specifically biology majors. For example, biomanufacturing technicians will participate in manufacturing human therapeutics that are generated from biological systems. Graduates could pursue positions in cutting-edge medicine like vaccine manufacturing and cell and gene therapies.

Students will learn theoretical concepts to better understand the scope and purpose of the work, but focus will be on the technical study of manufacturing human therapeutics, as in the hands-on aspect. Although the program will cover a broad spectrum, it will not be math and science heavy.

Creating a robust training program empowers the College to attract future biomanufacturing companies to the Houston area, creating more job opportunities.

Preparing for the future

The College recently broke ground on the new Center for Biotechnology at the Generation Park Campus. This



state-of-the-art facility, which is being built in collaboration with McCord Development Inc., will provide comprehensive, hands-on training with realistic good manufacturing practices simulated environments. The hope is to be functional by 2025.

“This opens doors for Generation Park students and the community,” said Destry Dokes, Generation Park Campus provost. “It gives students the opportunity to explore this emerging field and learn the foundational elements of biomanufacturing and biopharma. It also helps current employees in that field who are looking to upscale.”

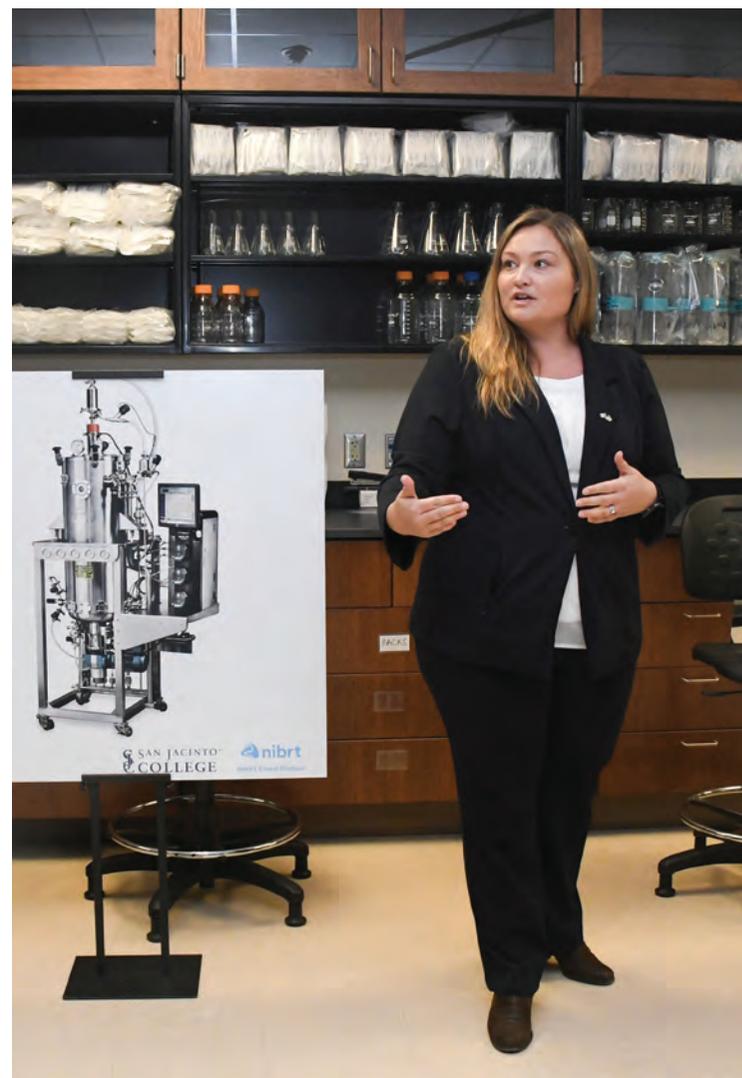
San Jac also hosted a ribbon cutting for the biomanufacturing training program at the South Campus. This program marks the initiation of the College’s comprehensive biotechnology offerings, beginning with an onboarding certificate designed to equip new professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to seamlessly enter the field.

The biomanufacturing

training program, a two-week hybrid initiative, integrates theoretical knowledge, practical hands-on experience, and exposure to industry practices. Furthermore, the program is customizable to meet the specific training needs of industry partners. Future offerings will expand to cover all aspects of biomanufacturing, specialized instrumentation and equipment training, and advanced techniques, ensuring that San Jacinto College remains at the forefront of biotechnological education.

“As we unveil the biomanufacturing training program, we are taking a significant step toward meeting the growing demands of the biotechnology sector right now,” Wild said. “This program is designed to provide a seamless entry into the field for new professionals, with a focus on practical experience and exposure to industry practices.”

To learn more about biomanufacturing training, scan the QR code.



Photos by Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College

KEEP CLIMBING: GREEN FULFILLS PROMISE TO SELF 20 YEARS LATER

By Courtney Morris
San Jacinto College

“Life for me ain’t been no crystal stair... But all the time I’ve been a-climbin’ on.”

Langston Hughes’ poem “Mother to Son” resonated with 10-year-old Catherine Green. Raised by a single mom, she had already dealt with trauma. But she never imagined one day she’d show her own children how to keep climbing.

Green dreamed big from the time she was little. First, there was ballerina. Then pediatrician. Then missionary. The dreaming stopped at 17 when she saw two pink lines on a pregnancy test. A year later, she went from a sheltered teen to a young mom dropping out of high school and moving into a government apartment.

Although no one in her immediate family had attended college, a great-aunt saw her ambition: “Catherine wants to go somewhere. God has plans for her life.”

That was the encouragement Green needed. She completed her high school diploma and had a university application ready to go when she found out she was pregnant again. For a season, the 21-year-old dropped off her two kids with her mom while she juggled work and college classes, but it was too much.

“It was a hard thing to decide at a young age to put off school,” she said. “I made a decision when my kids were young that once they were off to college I would return.”

Over the years, Green worked in everything from nursing home care to air conditioning. Even while



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

making only \$6.25 an hour and living in public housing, she ensured her kids got to school and finished their homework before dinner.

“My mom is an amazing, strong woman, and she raised a strong woman,” she said.

From her teen years, Green struggled with depression. Instead of turning to therapists or psychiatrists — not the standard in her culture — she found strength in God. Because of her experiences, she enjoys ministering to homeless people and encouraging everyone, like a “big sister,” to take the right path.

One day a light bulb turned on. What if she became a

business consultant? She could not only help people in the projects bring their business ideas to life but also create a non-profit connecting homeless youth to basic resources.

“I don’t just want to feed the poor,” she said. “I want to give them the tools not to fall backward.”

By this time, Green’s daughter and son were both attending universities. It was time to fulfill her personal promise. In fall 2021, she enrolled in the associate degree business program at San Jacinto College. Despite picking up many skills

throughout the years, she hungered to learn more in the classroom.

“The best decision I have made was to return to school,” she said. “No matter how hard it gets, I persuade myself to get back in there.”

Challenges? Yes. Without a car, she takes Uber to get to classes. She also studies harder now to retain knowledge. And she has to muster confidence to believe professors who praise her writing. But there have been rewards too — like receiving the John H. Sr. and A. Rose Moon Endowed Scholarship through the San Jacinto College Foundation.

“I’m honored and indebted,” she said. “I don’t take it lightly and pay it forward through words of encouragement to others.”

In May 2024, Green will graduate, then transfer to a university business administration program. Over the last 20 years, she has experienced her share of “splinters and boards torn up.” Instead of waiting for crystal stairs, she kept climbing. If you have a dream, don’t sit down, she says.

“Five years is going to turn into 10 years,” she said. “My five years turned into two decades. Do it now.”

THIS MONTH *IN* SOCIAL MEDIA



Instagram

Spring 2024 classes start in one week — it's not too late to register if you haven't yet!



211 Likes | 1 Comment | 64 Shares



Facebook

We hope you accomplish all your goals this year!



67 Reactions | 10 Comments | 5 Shares

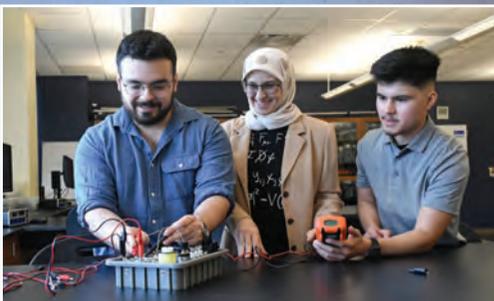


X

The San Jac Board of Trustees has approved a new bachelor's degree in information technology with an emphasis in cybersecurity. Scheduled to begin in fall 2024, this will be the 3rd bachelor's degree that the College will offer.



1 Like | 11 Link Clicks



LinkedIn

One moment, Raul Diaz and Estevan Salinas had been sitting in a physics classroom. The next, unpacking luggage in a Saint-Genis-Pouilly apartment on the France/Switzerland border, with the Jura Mountains spanning the horizon. The two San Jacinto College students are the first in their families to attend college and are now the first San Jac students to have interned at CERN, the European Council for Nuclear Research in Geneva, since the pandemic.



51 Reactions | 3 Shares | 46 Link Clicks

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MARITIME CAMPUS

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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 and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's. For more information about San Jacinto College, visit sanjac.edu.

