

SAN JACINTO COLLEGESM CareerFocus

Spring 2024 • Volume 5 • Issue 1



FORMER SEE TO
SUCCEED PATIENT
**ENVISIONS EYE
CARE CAREER**

**ALUMNA
EMBRACES
JOURNEY TO
SELF-DISCOVERY**



IVINS
HONORED AS TEXAS
EDUCATION THEATRE
ASSOCIATION
EDUCATOR OF YEAR

FROM
CAR LIVING TO
CARDIOVASCULAR
NURSE



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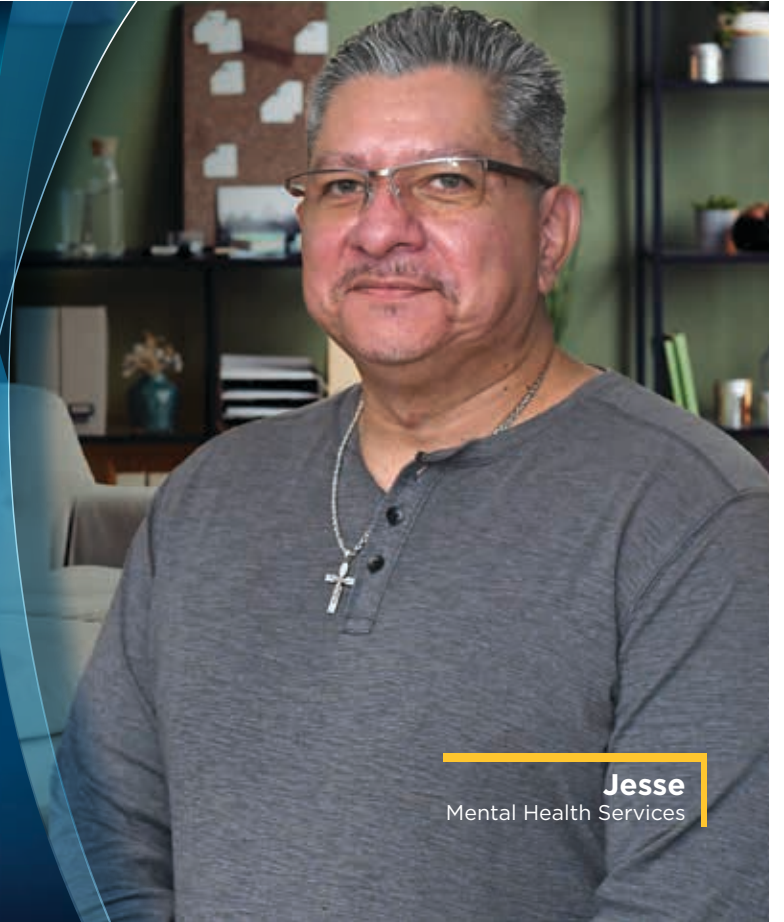
Jesse wanted to bring hope to people whose lives were impacted by drug addiction. He pursued San Jac's mental health services program to become a licensed chemical dependency counselor.



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Jesse
Mental Health Services

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CareerFocus



2



10



4



12



6



15



7



16

- 2** News and notes from around the College
- 3** Five reasons to choose online education at San Jac
- 4** Former See to Succeed patient envisions eye care career
- 5** Alumna embraces journey to self-discovery
- 6** From car living to cardiovascular nurse
- 7** Kids explore industry labs through San Jac, Kuraray partnership
- 8** Get on the fast track to financial, banking savvy
- 10** Want job security? Pursue new cybersecurity bachelor's degree
- 12** Ivins honored as Texas Education Theatre Association Educator of Year
- 13** Trellis grant enhances mental health services for students
- 14** College to offer training for biomanufacturing boom
- 15** Hollywood Nights Gala to benefit Promise @ San Jac Scholarship
- 16** Transfer: Take your San Jac degree to the next level
- 17** Choose your path
- 20** San Jac celebrates National Apprenticeship Week

SAN JACINTOSM COLLEGE

Questions about San Jacinto College programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Contact Center at 281-998-6150. Comments or questions about the publication can be directed to the San Jacinto College External Relations Department at 281-998-6152.

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About San Jacinto College

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.

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NEWS AND NOTES

FROM AROUND THE COLLEGE

COLLEGE ANNOUNCES EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

San Jacinto College recently named its 2024 Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award nominee and Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards recipients.

Dr. Tyler Olivier, Generation Park Campus STEM department chair, is the College's 2024 Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award nominee. Olivier has been teaching at San Jac for eight years, with nine years' experience at the collegiate level.

Since 1958, the non-profit, charitable Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation has recognized outstanding professors from two- and four-year Texas public and private colleges and universities. One of the foundation's biggest programs is the Piper Professor Program. Ten awards of \$5,000 are distributed annually to college professors for superior teaching based on submissions by each college or university.

San Jac Faculty Excellence Award recipients include...

- Elizabeth McKinley, accounting/general business, South Campus
- Diana Perez, cosmetology, South Campus
- Richard Garcia, maritime transportation, Maritime Campus
- Sheina Farooqui, occupational therapy assistant, South Campus
- Cheryl Mott, college preparatory mathematics, Central Campus

Staff Excellence Award recipients include...

- Earle Thomas, manager, financial aid/application process, District Office
- Imelda Rodriguez, coordinator/resource specialist, Central Campus
- Genoveva (Veva) Garcia, manager, campus business offices, Central Campus
- Goldie Tabor, coordinator, division operations, South Campus



Dr. Tyler Olivier, Minnie Stevens Piper Award nominee

The Administrator Excellence Award went to...

- Joanna Zimmermann, associate vice chancellor student services, District Office
- Scott Hairston, director, grants development, District Office

Criteria for the College's Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards nominations include addressing the nominee's last two years of work and service in the following areas:

- Ability to serve as a role model and work collaboratively with others
- Possession of exemplary attributes or qualifications
- Contribution to addressing or meeting the needs of our students and/or our employees
- Dedication, service, and involvement in the College community

STUDENTS PREPARING EXPERIMENT FOR SPACE LAUNCH

San Jacinto College announces the winning Student Spaceflight Experiment Program project that will be conducted both in the classroom and on the International Space Station.

Under the mentorship of South Campus chemistry professor Dr. Carrie Owens, a dedicated team of San Jac STEM Club students — Amna Qureshi, Maheen Bukhari, and Marcus Pitre — is now embarking on a journey of scientific discovery. The group was selected from a pool of 52 students to represent San Jac in this gravity-defying adventure.

The Student Spaceflight Experiment Program provides students the opportunity to design, propose, and conduct experiments in microgravity aboard the International Space Station. Proposed projects went through a rigorous selection process involving two-stage evaluation.

In the initial round, the College took charge of the evaluation, reviewing numerous proposals submitted by aspiring student scientists. The second round, however, is overseen by the Student Spaceflight Experiment Program's national review board, which evaluates not just San Jac's submissions but any other high school or college's to determine which experiments will prepare for execution in space.

The chosen experiment, titled "Comparison of *Arabidopsis thaliana* germination and cell wall growth in microgravity versus standard conditions," reflects the program's commitment to advancing scientific knowledge in unique environments. Through the spring semester, the team will set up its experiment, adhering to the stringent safety protocols required for space-bound projects.

Additionally, San Jac is encouraging creativity through an art patch competition. Students from the College and area school districts will submit patch ideas, and the chosen designs will accompany the experiment to space. ■

FIVE REASONS TO CHOOSE ONLINE EDUCATION AT SAN JAC

| By Neesha Hosein

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.

1

Save valuable time.

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

2

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 also mean saving on meals and child care expenses.

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

3

Pursue 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.

4

Prioritize 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, North Campus mental health services program director. “By having remote options, it can lower the barriers and allow interaction with safe boundaries.”

Attending remotely offers students the comfort and security of a familiar environment.

“One my students shared that it was hard for her to get out of bed some days



due to her depression,” Tirado said. “Just sitting up in bed and logging on to class helped her start to feel better and more connected.”

5

Enjoy 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.

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



- **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.” ■

FORMER SEE TO SUCCEED PATIENT ENVISIONS EYE CARE CAREER

| By Courtney Morris



Sebastian Solis

VISION FOR SUCCESS

See to Succeed took place this year Feb. 26-March 1 at the Pasadena Convention Center. Approximately 20,000 K-12 students in the Houston area have vision issues. Each year eye care volunteers and professionals evaluate 1,300+ Pasadena ISD students, providing prescriptions, glasses, and medical referrals.

Terrifying in a good way. Sebastian Solis describes the moment he stared at the chalkboard through glasses. The white squiggles and blobs transformed into words.

“It wasn’t that I couldn’t understand the content,” Solis said. “I just couldn’t see.”

Complaining about headaches, the 6-year-old had visited the school nurse. But it was his eyes, not his head. While his parents wanted to help, money was tight. Instead, his school bussed him to See to Succeed, where San Jacinto College eye care technology students and eye professionals examined him, diagnosed him with 20/200 vision, and fitted him for free glasses. Solis remembers looking

through tray after tray of frames in all colors and styles.

“It was like being in a candy shop,” he said.

His new pair of Coke-bottle glasses helped him “see to succeed” throughout elementary school.

Fast forward almost 20 years. Interested in health care since high school, Solis had considered San Jac’s radiography and nursing programs. But with his family’s history of vision problems, the eye care technology program seemed the natural step. He started in fall 2022.

“The thing that solidified everything was when I started practicing on fellow students

that first semester,” he said. “The minute I got into this role play of teaching the patient, I loved it.”

In the spring semester, Solis learned he would get hands-on training by giving eye exams to real patients, Pasadena ISD students with vision issues. This service-learning opportunity, See to Succeed, would bring together medical partners and professionals to provide eye exams, glasses, and medical referrals. His jaw dropped.

“It was an aha moment,” Solis said. “This is the program I was a part of.”

In February 2023, See to Succeed celebrated its 100,000th student. Participating for the second time, Solis trained other student volunteers and helped kids stay calm during the non-contact, or air-puff, tonometer test.

“It was a blessing for me to return that favor for the community,” he said.

Since completing his certificate of technology in summer 2023, Solis has been taking additional optical training and looking at optical offices and private practices. He eventually hopes to return to the College for his associate degree. Whatever the case, there’s no doubt his vision is helping others restore theirs.

“Sight helps us experience the world,” he said. “Providing the necessary screening to help save someone’s sight is my No. 1 drive.” ■

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac’s eye care technology program.





ALUMNA

EMBRACES JOURNEY TO SELF-DISCOVERY

| By Neesha Hosein

One San Jacinto College student succeeded beyond her own expectations.

Umahi Agwu completed her grade-school education in Nigeria, where her family is from, and came to Houston to start her college journey. As a life science major with dreams of becoming a doctor, she knew there was much to accomplish before reaching that finish line.

To become more familiar with the field, she found an opportunity to shadow a doctor at an obstetrics and gynecology clinic. But Agwu's discomfort around blood and needles proved medicine was not the practical career choice.

While helping her dad run his beauty supply company, she realized she had a knack for business instead. She joined the San Jac Investment Club, got involved

with Future Business Leaders of America, and soon forged a new career path.

Mosaic mentorship boosted confidence

The Mosaic program, which supports Black students through mentorships, connected Agwu with Melanie Sanchez, integrated reading and writing professor. Having a mentor was very helpful for Agwu, as Sanchez advised her with writing essays, applying to colleges, and landing a science lab internship at Rice University and guided her through starting a student club.

"Umahi is an exemplary student," Sanchez said. "She worked diligently to establish a student organization, the Transfer Student Association, which helps students stay on track with application deadlines and submissions to their desired four-year

“Umahi is an exemplary student. She worked diligently to establish a student organization, the Transfer Student Association, which helps students stay on track with application deadlines and submissions to their desired four-year university after completing their studies here at San Jacinto College.”

– Melanie Sanchez

university after completing their studies here at San Jacinto College.”

When Sanchez first met Agwu through Mosaic, she noticed that Agwu clearly displayed academic excellence, and it was important, as her mentor, to ensure that she recognized that in herself.

“What was once a shy, bashful student has risen to be a determined, vocal leader,” Sanchez said. “Umahi is driven to make a positive impact in our community and global society, respectively. More importantly, she has proven her greatness to herself. Umahi is going to show Duke University and the world the brilliance of a scholar from San Jacinto College.”

Collecting accolades, building a future

Business professor and Phi Theta Kappa advisor Elizabeth McKinley has taught Agwu in class and beyond, working with her in the honor society.

“She has a grasp on concepts when they are presented in class, is a hard worker, and was a joy to work with in PTK,” McKinley said.

A few of Agwu's accomplishments include serving as the PTK student vice president and being recognized as part of its All-Texas Coca-Cola Academic Team. She was one of 15 students to receive PTK's 2023 Hites Transfer Scholarship of \$10,000. Winners were selected from more than 2,700 applicants based on outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and

engagement in college and community activities.

In 2022 and 2023, Agwu placed in the top 10 in the U.S. at the Future Business Leaders of America Collegiate Division's state and national competitions.

Agwu never thought attending Duke University was possible. An acceptance letter, a campus tour with her parents, and inspiration from a Duke alumna she met during the visit proved otherwise.

She started her first semester at Duke in fall 2023 as an economics major.

“It has been going very well, a little rough at first, but definitely a great experience so far,” Agwu said. ■



Umahi Agwu

FROM CAR LIVING TO CARDIOVASCULAR NURSE

By Courtney Morris

In 2017, Kiri Rohne had a dream: to move out of her four-door home, a Toyota Cressida.

Five years later, not only would she be out of her car, but she would also be working in a hospital after completing the entire nursing pathway — from certified nurse aide to Bachelor of Science in Nursing — at San Jacinto College.

Overcoming late start

At 31, Rohne thought it was too late and too costly to pursue college.

“It felt like I had to make money to live or go to school,” she said.

Despite being practically homeless, she wanted to help others as a nurse. While working at Chick-fil-A, she learned San Jac offered scholarships and affordable tuition — plus flexible classes to fit around her job and life.

“For someone who was barely providing for herself, it gave me hope that I would be



able to go to school to become a nurse no matter how long it took me,” she said.

Rolling up sleeves

In 2018, Rohne finished San Jac’s six-month certified nurse aide program, got her license, and started working with nursing home residents. This role deepened her desire to continue training so she could help patients of all ages with more than just daily living activities.

When she transitioned to the vocational nursing program, Rohne faced her biggest challenge yet. After full days of classes and clinicals Monday through Friday, she worked “double weekends” at the nursing home — almost 17-hour shifts Saturday and Sunday. She continued this grueling schedule while going straight into the LVN to RN transition nursing program.

“There were a lot — and I do mean a lot — of tears through the process, and

exhaustion was definitely a thing,” she said. “But to get where I wanted to be, I was going to have to push through it to make it happen.”

A registered nurse by 2021, Rohne still wasn’t done. With her “get ‘er done” attitude, she immediately enrolled in San Jac’s one-year BSN program — training that would open nursing leadership roles.

Reaping the rewards

Today, Rohne is a board-certified cardiovascular nurse at HCA Health Care Clear Lake Heart Hospital. No longer does she worry about a steady paycheck or a reliable roof.

While San Jac’s simulation labs and hands-on clinicals prepared her for real-world nursing, she credits much of her success to her support system — from the College’s counselors, financial aid representatives, and tutors to nursing faculty.

“I remember the teachers and staff being so sympathetic and going out of their way to help me or meet up with me to go over work,” she said. “I always knew they wanted me to succeed. They didn’t just say it, but I could feel it, and that helped more than they know.”

Now, as a nurse, Rohne fulfills her two core desires: helping and learning.

“Health is more than just physical, and I strive every day — every shift — to help brighten the spirits of my patients,” she said. “There is also a side to me that always craves learning ... and the nursing field is quite literally packed with things to learn.”

Embracing struggles and success

Some people choose to forget their past, but not Rohne. She embraces the journey she’s traveled, knowing that her difficulties led to sweeter success. Was the stress worth it?

“I’m proud of my story and how hard I fought to get here,” she said. “When people ask me where I graduated, I’m proud to say San Jacinto College.”

Although Rohne wouldn’t change her past “because it helped make me the nurse I am today,” she has one suggestion for San Jac: “Now y’all need a master’s program.” ■

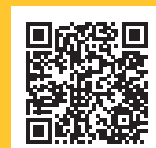
BSN DEGREE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Working RNs, earn your Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree affordably and conveniently at San Jac. Enjoy community college tuition rates and a 100% online program. Plus, every BSN student will receive a scholarship!

Apply April 17-Aug. 16 for the fall 2024 cohort. Learn more:

- Visit sanjac.edu/bsn.
- Contact sanjacbsn@sjcd.edu.

Scan QR code to learn about all of San Jac’s nursing programs.





KIDS EXPLORE

CUTTING-EDGE INDUSTRY LABS THROUGH SAN JAC, KURARAY PARTNERSHIP

By Melissa Trevizo

Fourth graders from the Japanese Language Supplementary School of Houston recently spent a Saturday at San Jacinto College's LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology to learn more about industry and STEM. The event and day's activities were sponsored by Kuraray America Inc.

"As a global leader in specialty chemicals and a member of the Houston community, Kuraray understands the importance of investing and giving our time to benefit students pursuing professions in STEM," said Takaharu "Tim" Kawahara, Kuraray America Inc. president and CEO. "We believe that 'together we can achieve more.' Our partnership with San Jacinto College exemplifies our belief that nurturing talent and fostering innovation and mentorship are key not only to the development of our future workforce but also to bettering the

The students spent time in four of CPET's state-of-the-art labs, including the glass distillation lab, the 8,000-square-foot glycol distillation unit, the Emerson performance learning platform lab, and the process equipment lab.

local communities where our employees live and work."

The students spent time in four of CPET's state-of-the-art labs, including the glass distillation lab, the 8,000-square-foot glycol distillation unit, the Emerson performance learning platform lab, and the process equipment lab.

The CPET facility houses degree programs in process technology, instrumentation, electrical, inspection technologies, and environmental health and safety. The

building's 35 labs are used for degree programs, education outreach, and incumbent worker training based on the needs and desires of the industry.

"At San Jac, we believe in the power of education to shape a better future," said Jeff Pearce, CPET education and workforce coordinator. "This partnership with Kuraray and the Japanese Language Supplementary School not only enhances the learning experience for these students but also strengthens the bonds between

our College and the communities we serve."

The Kuraray team exhibited different science experiments using materials manufactured by its company. Kuraray is a world leader in performance-based polymer and specialty materials technologies, including resins, chemicals, fibers, and textiles. The company operates many subsidiaries worldwide, including Kuraray America Inc., headquartered in Houston.

"Kuraray has partnered with San Jacinto College in various capacities for several years," said Kawahara. "In addition to participating in key school events like career fairs, we also sponsored the Kuraray chemistry lab, which provides hands-on experience for local students. We see real impact through our collaboration with San Jacinto College as we work together to maintain our region's leadership in energy, particularly specialty chemicals. Our team looks forward to opportunities to continue our current collaboration and further educate and inspire the next generation." ■

Scan the QR code to learn more about CPET.



GET ON THE FAST TRACK TO FINANCIAL, BANKING SAVVY



| By Melissa Trevizo

Ever wonder about the fine print on your loan? Or what it takes to repair a credit score? San Jacinto College Continuing and Professional Development offers finance fundamentals, a four-week program that gives individuals a solid foundation in banking and financial literacy.

Students review financial products, credit scores, interest rates, loan terms, compliance, regulation, and customer service.

“I worked as a mortgage loan officer for several years, and I’ve seen firsthand people come in without any knowledge of how credit works or how debt-to-income ratio can affect their financial health,” said Kimberley Ward, continuing and professional development training coordinator. “This course will give students seeking employment in the financial space a base knowledge and delve deep into banking relationships.”

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall employment in business and financial occupations is projected to grow faster than average from 2022 to 2032. About 911,400 openings are projected each year in these occupations due to employment growth and the need to replace workers who leave the field — good news for students looking to enter finance.

After completing this course, participants will understand the banking job

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall employment in business and financial occupations is projected to grow faster than average from 2022 to 2032.

opportunities beyond a teller position and learn how to...

- Develop a financial health plan
- Read credit reports and incorporate credit scores
- Read financial statements
- Calculate a debt-to-income ratio
- Grow a banking relationship
- Calculate interest rates and understand loan terms

“The curriculum for this program is unique to San Jac,” said Sheila Simon, continuing and professional development director. “We originally developed the program for bank tellers but saw a greater need for all banking professions. This gives people looking to enter the financial world a great introduction into the topics and

content they will be working with daily in the future.”

The course is offered both in person and online to accommodate all students. The course costs \$475 but falls under the Texas Public Educational Grant Program for qualifying students.

TPEG provides need-based scholarships to a limited number of students, awarded on a first-come, first-served basis during the fall and spring semesters. If eligible, students may receive two grants each academic year: one in the fall semester and one in the spring semester. ■

Scan the QR code to learn more and determine whether you qualify for TPEG.





TEXAS PUBLIC EDUCATION GRANT

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER

If you qualify, you could receive **Texas Public Education Grant** money to train in one of these continuing and professional development programs:

- ADVANCED MANUFACTURING
- BUSINESS
- HEALTH OCCUPATIONS
- AEROSPACE
- COMPUTERS/IT
- TRUCK DRIVING

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PROGRAM

WANT JOB SECURITY?

PURSUE SAN JAC'S NEW CYBERSECURITY BACHELOR'S DEGREE

| By Courtney Morris

Can a community college give you industry certifications, experience, and a bachelor's degree for an exploding tech field?

Check. Check. Check.

Beginning fall 2024, San Jacinto College is offering yet another higher degree at a lower cost: the Bachelor of Applied Technology in information technology with an emphasis in cybersecurity.*

If you'd enjoy protecting individuals and companies from ever-increasing cyberthreats, get the knowledge and skills you need to enter the high-wage, high-demand cybersecurity field.

Why this new bachelor's degree?

Many students graduate with a bachelor's degree and no experience or have experience but no higher degree, so the Bachelor of Applied Technology meets the top requirements of most cybersecurity job postings.

While many tech companies hire based on skills, some still require a bachelor's degree for good starting positions and better promotions. So said industry members on San Jac's tech advisory committees.

"It still remained a barrier for some of our students to promote or even get entry-level positions with less than a bachelor's, so it made sense," said Kevin Morris, South Campus dean of business and technology. "Why don't we cover all the bases?"

San Jac decided to expand its cybersecurity training from certificates and an Associate of Applied Science to a bachelor's degree, increasing graduates' marketability and meeting industry need.

From cloud and smart technology to e-commerce platforms, technology is advancing at breakneck speed. With that growth come skyrocketing cyberthreats and attacks. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a 35% job growth in the cybersecurity field from 2021 to 2031 — higher than the average for all occupations.

What does the program offer?

The Bachelor of Applied Technology program will include...

- Face-to-face and online learning
- Daytime and evening courses
- Entry-level courses available College-wide
- Program-specific courses at the South Campus
- Network security, cryptography, ethical hacking, and broader legal and ethical issues
- Extensive practical application

You may complete the bachelor's degree in two years if you've already earned San Jac's Associate of Applied Science in cybersecurity. A related associate degree — like networking, cloud computing, or help desk — may require some foundational cybersecurity courses.

San Jac's information technology services staff are creating a security operations center at the South Campus Engineering and Technology Center for hands-on, real-life cybersecurity and analytics experience. Whether you're pursuing the associate or bachelor's degree, you'll analyze live data alongside the College's cybersecurity staff to practice monitoring, detecting, and responding to real cyberthreats.

"Students will gain a working understanding of how cybersecurity enables the business to achieve success," said Joshua Dray, San Jac chief information security officer. "This is missing in traditional cybersecurity training, as students are not usually trained to understand how cybersecurity fits into a business context."

Cybersecurity courses will include a hands-on component in the security operations center, including an optional semester-long internship. Eventually, students may even partner with the College's LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology to learn about the cybersecurity needs of operational technology environments.

"As Houston has a large oil and gas industry, this would be a prime target for

students to specialize in, providing more career opportunities," Dray said.

Why should you pursue this degree?

The College's newest bachelor's degree will give you a flexible pathway to enter the cybersecurity field:

- Start as a security analyst or security operations center analyst
- Specialize in network/cloud security, threat intelligence, incident response, and more
- Advance to high-level positions like chief information security officer

Plus, you'll pay the same tuition as a community college freshman or sophomore for upper-level courses.

If you're looking for versatile training to match a versatile market, look no further. With a cybersecurity degree, you can find a job that aligns with your unique interests and strengths.

"The demand for cybersecurity experts is expected to continue growing as businesses and governments invest more in digital security," Morris said. "This program ensures students are well-prepared to enter a field with abundant career prospects." ■

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac's cybersecurity programs.



**Pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges*

SECURE YOUR FUTURE

Cybersecurity jobs are popping up as fast as new cyberthreats, and the field offers plenty of opportunities for career advancement. According to [texaswages.com](https://www.texaswages.com), information security analysts earn a median annual salary of \$110,512 in the Gulf Coast region. ■

PLUMBING TECHNOLOGY

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Are you a problem solver looking for a growing field? In just one semester, San Jacinto College's **plumbing technology** program will prepare you to launch your career as a tradesman plumber.



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TEACHING

**BACHELOR OF APPLIED
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IVINS

HONORED AS TEXAS EDUCATION THEATRE ASSOCIATION EDUCATOR OF YEAR

| By Melissa Trevizo

San Jacinto College theatre artistic director Dr. Jerry Ivins was named the 2023 Higher Education Educator of the Year by the Texas Education Theatre Association.

"I am deeply honored by the award," said Ivins. "Seeing the past recipients, I am humbled to be included with these theatre educational giants."

This prestigious recognition honors theatre educators who have made meaningful contributions to their field.

"Dr. Ivins' dedication and passion for teaching have not only informed and inspired his colleagues but also nurtured the creativity and talent of countless students, setting the stage for the cultivation of the next generation of outstanding theatre artists and educators," said Travis Springfield, Texas Education Theatre Association president.

Ivins has taught at San Jac for 28 years. He not only is the artistic director for the College's Central Campus theatre program but is also heavily involved in the University Interscholastic League one-act play competition as a judge, an adjudicator, and a licensed contest manager. He runs two area and two regional contests and the state

one-act play contest each year for 4A, 5A, and 6A schools. For the Texas Education Theatre Association, Ivins serves as the state theatre competition director of operations.

"My colleague at the University of Houston once said, 'If something is happening in theatre education in Texas, Ivins either knows about it or is running it,'" he said. "I can't help it — it's my passion."

And Ivins wouldn't have it any other way. His passion stems from his own experience as a theatre student.

"Theatre saved my life. I couldn't look anyone in the eye or speak to anyone. I joined the theatre to meet a girl, and it ended up being my life's work," he said. "It has provided me a safe haven. If I can do that for someone else, I've done what I needed to do."

Ivins was honored at an awards ceremony Sept. 29 at the Moody Gardens Convention Center in Galveston. ■

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac's theatre and film programs.



Dr. Jerry Ivins

“ Dr. Ivins' dedication and passion for teaching have not only informed and inspired his colleagues but also nurtured the creativity and talent of countless students, setting the stage for the cultivation of the next generation of outstanding theatre artists and educators. ”

– Travis Springfield

TRELLIS GRANT ENHANCES MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

| By Neesha Hosein

San Jacinto College is one of eight higher education institutions in Texas to be awarded the Mental Health and Wellbeing Grant from the Trellis Foundation, a public charitable organization focused on enhancing postsecondary attainment for Texas students.

Before the grant

San Jac looked at the pandemic's impact on enrollment, instruction changes, and the daily lives of students and faculty. Although the College created San Jac Cares to reach out to students throughout the pandemic, many struggled to adapt to new realities at school, work, or home.

“San Jac leadership recognized the need for more flexible options for student mental health care,” said Suzanne Sambell, grant writer, office of resource development. “Our student support services staff also wanted to be able to provide more specialized training to staff and faculty so they could more effectively recognize students in mental distress, provide meaningful advice and counseling, and create effective referral systems for those needing assistance beyond what the College can provide.”

In spring 2021, the College restructured counseling offices, securing licensed mental health counselors at each campus and enhancing the system for tracking mental health care requests.

“As the grant writer, I worked very closely with Tanesha Antoine [student support services dean and grant leader] to establish

what she would like to accomplish for her office,” Sambell said. “We developed a list of improvements and needed resources for the student support services that she felt would most benefit San Jac students, faculty, and staff, and we named the project Assess and Improve Mental Health Services.”

Survey helps identify student mental health needs

In October 2022, the College received \$195,775 from the Trellis Foundation to support mental health and neurodiversity programs over a two-year period. Trellis connected San Jac with the JED Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes emotional health and suicide prevention for young adults.

The JED collaboration offered an opportunity to participate in the Healthy Minds Study, developed by University of Michigan. The survey explores mental health, service utilization, and related issues among college students. Antoine explained that students are often unaware of the extent of support services available to them, so the team is eager to hear what they have to say.

About 200 students completed the survey as of Dec. 13. Antoine is confident the survey results will help the team develop a plan to meet students' needs and better understand their perspectives on mental health services.

“We have explored how to provide unique experiences for our students that we can



tie to their mental health, such as goat yoga and engaging speakers that have shared experiences,” Antoine said. “We also understand that we need to build connections and engage with our online students.”

Funding will also help increase staffing, expand available hours, support a marketing campaign and social media presence, and improve overall awareness and engagement efforts.

The plan

The grant money will help support the goals of the Assess and Improve Mental Health Services project:

- Assess through Healthy Minds Study survey
- Create an awareness campaign for the College's mental health and basic needs resources and services

- Expand the number of mental health counselors and hours of counseling services
- Build culturally appropriate mental health resources so all student groups feel comfortable seeking help
- Create peer-led support groups to reduce stigma for those seeking mental health counseling

Antoine feels the college community should engage in efforts to support students. Being aware, spreading the knowledge, and sharing ideas are ways others can support these efforts. ■

Scan the QR code to learn about student mental health resources.



FUELING JOB GROWTH: COLLEGE TO OFFER TRAINING FOR BIOMANUFACTURING BOOM

By Neesha Hosein and Jacquelynn Conger

Houston has a reputation as a leader in gas, petrochemical, aerospace, health/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, San Jac executive director of biotechnology and South Campus dean of health and natural sciences.

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.”

Focus of training programs

Eventually, the College plans to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in biomanufacturing technician, a Level 1 certificate, and an advanced skills

“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.”

– Dr. Christopher Wild

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 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 to enter the field seamlessly.

The biomanufacturing training program, a two-week hybrid initiative, integrates theoretical knowledge, practical hands-on experience, and exposure to industry practices. The program is also 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 San Jac 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. ■

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac’s biomanufacturing technology program.



HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS GALA

TO BENEFIT PROMISE @ SAN JAC SCHOLARSHIP

LyondellBasell serving as title sponsor for College's bi-annual gala

By Amanda Fenwick

The San Jacinto College and LyondellBasell Hollywood Nights Gala presented by the Sinor Family will take place on Friday, May 17, 2024, at the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology at the Central Campus.

Hosted by the San Jacinto College Foundation, this black-tie affair will celebrate students and their ability to reach for the stars and achieve their educational goals. All event proceeds will go to the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship, an opportunity for any high school graduate who lives in the College's taxing district to earn a certificate or associate degree debt-free.

"We look forward to a glamorous night of celebrating our San Jac stars — our amazing students — while raising money for the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor. "We thank LyondellBasell for being our title sponsor and supporting the important work we are doing to provide a trained and skilled workforce. We also appreciate the Sinor Family and each of our other sponsors for their commitment to the Promise Scholarship and San Jacinto College."

The Hollywood Nights Gala will feature a cocktail and networking hour at 6 p.m., where guests can interact with students,

bid on silent auction items, take part in a gift card punch wall, and sample delicious appetizers and drinks. Afterward, guests will enjoy a three-course dinner, followed by the presentation of the Legacy Award and remarks from Promise Scholars and College leaders.

The Promise @ San Jac Scholarship is open to all high school seniors in San Jacinto College's taxing district, regardless of GPA and family income. To receive the scholarship, students must meet all deadlines for pledging and applying to San Jac, completing all financial aid documents, and enrolling full time at the College for the fall semester after their graduation. In addition, they must complete their certificate or degree within three years. The Promise @ San Jac Scholarship covers the cost of tuition, books, and supplies so students can attend without financial worries. ■



Learn more about the Hollywood Nights Gala at sanjac.edu/gala and Promise @ San Jac Scholarship at sanjac.edu/promise.

View photos from the 2022 gala at bit.ly/SJCGala22.

TRANSFER: TAKE YOUR SAN JAC DEGREE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

By Courtney Morris

“Transfer ... is that some kind of payment sent to your bank?”

Crystal Ramirez Moreno, San Jacinto College transfer pathway coordinator, understands students' confusion. The transfer process can seem puzzling, especially if you don't even understand the term. So she's used to explaining what transferring means and how to navigate the process.

At San Jac, you not only get a high-quality education but also cut your tuition costs by thousands as you complete an associate/two-year degree, the first half of a bachelor's degree. If you're starting at San Jac or considering coming here, Moreno shares what you need to know about transferring your college credits or associate degree toward a higher degree at a university.

Q: Is there more than one way to transfer from San Jac to a university?

A: There are multiple ways. You can earn a full associate degree here start to finish. Or with “reverse articulation,” you can transfer to a university and take your remaining classes there to complete an associate degree and send that information back to San Jac to finalize your degree.

There's also “dual enrollment.” If you have only a few classes left to finish your associate degree, you can enroll early at a university while finishing your program at San Jac.



Crystal Ramirez Moreno

Q: How can San Jac help me transfer?

A: You will have a program advisor assigned to you based on your chosen program of study. This advisor can help answer questions about different majors, classes, career paths, and even university transfer options. As you get to know your advisor, you will become more aware of drop deadlines, registration timelines, and even available scholarships or internships. Your advisor can also help you learn about universities with strong programs in your major or unique experiences like study abroad or summer camps. Your advisor is a great advocate to have on your side!

Q: What's one of the biggest challenges students face?

A: Decision fatigue. With a wide array of options and many institutions having your major, you can have trouble deciding where to transfer. You also have to look at your finances and figure out how you'll get to the new school. Students are often paralyzed about deciding. But remember, your decision isn't permanent. You can change later if you need to.

Q: If you could give me one tip, what would it be?

A: Start early. Students often think, “Once I complete my degree, then I can look at transferring.” But even the first semester

— when classes aren't as challenging — is a good time to start the conversation with your program advisor, do campus tours, and attend transfer fairs. In your third and fourth semesters, homework and exams are harder to plan around.

Q: How can I get ready for a university?

A: Once you decide on a university, you'll work with your program advisor to map out courses needed for that major at that school — and the right classes that will meet San Jac's requirements to earn an associate degree. Do a university campus tour or virtual visit with the admissions office to get a feel for what the school is like and connect with the academic department.

Finally, have conversations with your support structure at home and San Jac — your family, friends, and professors. Make sure you're setting yourself up for the rigor of university.

Q: Anything else I should know?

A: San Jac is here to support you — whether you need mental health counseling or groceries through our San Jac Marketplace. But from one school to the next, you'll have support to reach your goals. Your university will also help with things like counseling and food. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

If you're pursuing nursing, education, or cybersecurity, you may not need to transfer to another school. San Jac now offers three affordable bachelor's degree programs you can enter after completing related associate degrees:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Bachelor of Applied Science in Education with early childhood education emphasis (starting spring 2024)
- Bachelor of Applied Technology in information technology with cybersecurity emphasis* (starting fall 2024)

**Pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges*

Scan the QR code to learn more about transfer support at San Jac.



CHOOSE YOUR PATH

At San Jacinto College, we empower you to achieve your goals, redefine expectations, and explore new opportunities. With our 200-plus degrees and certificates across eight areas of study, you can get the training and tools to find a rewarding career and pursue the life you've always wanted.

Before registering, discuss your career goals with a San Jac advisor. Whether you pursue workforce training or earn an associate degree to transfer, we'll connect you to the program that's perfect for you. Learn more at sanjac.edu or call us at 281-998-6150. ■



Art, Humanities, Communication, and Design

- Art and Design
- Audio Engineering
- Communications
- Dance
- English
- Interior Design
- Modern Languages
- Music
- Speech
- Theatre and Film

Career Opportunities

*(some may require bachelor's or master's degree)**

Art, Drama, and Music Teachers (Postsecondary)	\$79,766
Broadcast Technicians	\$44,591
Choreographers	\$53,216
Editors	\$60,170
English Language and Literature Teachers (Postsecondary)	\$79,269
Film and Video Editors	\$52,529
Graphic Designers	\$51,158
Interior Designers	\$60,519
Interpreters/Translators	\$46,033
Lighting Technicians	\$62,805
Media and Communication Equipment Workers	\$45,418
Music Directors and Composers	\$84,731
News Analysts, Reporters, and Journalists	\$58,295
Producers and Directors	\$62,376
Proofreaders and Copy Markers	\$39,379
Public Relations Specialists	\$60,015
Sound Engineering Technicians	\$55,065
Special Effects Artists and Animators	\$80,512
Technical Writers	\$78,024



Business

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Business Management
- Business Office Systems and Support
- Economics
- Entrepreneur
- Long Term Care Administration
- Paralegal
- Real Estate

Career Opportunities

*(some may require bachelor's or master's degree)**

Accountants and Auditors	\$80,671
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	\$45,586
Budget Analysts	\$86,251
Credit Analysts	\$75,771
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	\$76,495
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers ..	\$45,011
Human Resources Specialists	\$61,962
Insurance Underwriters	\$67,279
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$58,341
Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks ...	\$50,002
Project Management Specialists	\$94,834
Real Estate Brokers	\$59,675
Real Estate Sales Agents	\$62,447



Construction, Industry, Manufacturing, and Transportation

- Air Conditioning Technology (HVAC)
- Automotive Technology
- Autonomous Vehicle
- Biomedical Clinical Equipment Technician
- Construction Management Technology
- Diesel Technology
- Electrical Technology
- Electronics Technology
- Environmental Health and Safety Technology
- Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Heavy Diesel Equipment/Crane Technician
- Instrumentation
- Maritime Transportation
- Non-destructive Testing
- Pipefitting
- Plumbing Technology
- Process Technology
- Welding Technology

Career Opportunities

*(some may require bachelor's or master's degree)**

API Inspectors	\$150,703**
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$47,718
Autonomous Vehicle Technicians	\$37,440**
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	\$55,754
Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels	\$104,581
Certified Welding Inspectors	\$124,797**
Chemical Plant and System Operators	\$101,005
Construction Managers	\$99,366
Crane and Tower Operators	\$71,285
Electricians	\$59,249
Environmental Science and Protection Technicians (Including Health) ...	\$46,636
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$49,474
Medical Equipment Repairers	\$49,511
NDT Technicians Level I	\$74,392**
NDT Technicians Level II	\$104,931**
NDT Technicians Level III	\$130,096**
Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	\$64,859
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$59,798
Sailors and Marine Oilers	\$74,988
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$51,454



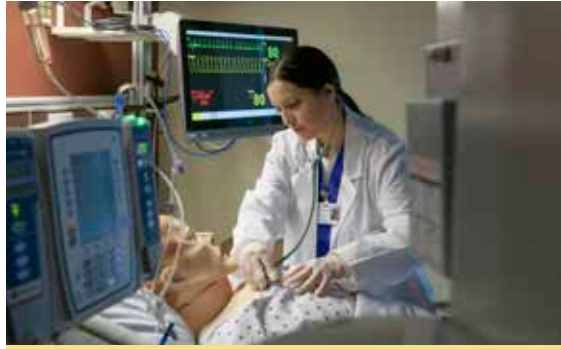
Education

Child Development/Early Childhood Studies
Teaching

Career Opportunities

*(some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)**

Career/Technical Education	
Teachers (Secondary).....	\$63,328
Child Care Workers	\$23,106
Education and Child Care	
Administrators, Preschool and Daycare	\$48,485
Elementary School Teachers	
(Except Special Ed)	\$62,409
Preschool Teachers (Except Special Ed).....	\$29,560
Secondary School Teachers	
(Except Special Ed and CTE).....	\$62,398
Substitute Teachers (Short-term)	\$30,123
Teaching Assistants (Except Postsecondary)	\$27,230



Health Sciences

Cancer Data Management
Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Emergency Medical Services
Eye Care Technology
Health Information Technology
Medical Assisting
Medical Billing
Medical Coding
Medical Laboratory Assistant/Technology
Medical Radiography
Mental Health Services
Nursing
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Personal Trainer
Pharmacy Technician
Physical Therapist Assistant
Respiratory Care
Surgical Technician

Career Opportunities

*(some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)**

Cancer Registrars/Abstractors.....	\$60,644 [^]
Certified Ophthalmic Assistants	\$42,500 ^{^^}
Certified Ophthalmic Technicians	\$51,733 ^{^^}
Clinical Laboratory	
Technologists and Technicians	\$50,271
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$79,257
Emergency Medical Technicians	\$36,114
Exercise Trainers and	
Group Fitness Instructors	\$47,607
Health Information Technologists	
and Medical Registrars	\$71,812
Licensed Practical and	
Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$54,209
Medical Assistants	\$37,619
Medical Records Specialists.....	\$39,838
Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$76,651
Opticians, Dispensing.....	\$34,710
Paramedics	\$48,785
Pharmacy Technicians.....	\$39,651
Physical Therapist Assistants	\$77,043
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$75,318
Registered Nurses.....	\$82,223
Respiratory Therapists	\$76,660
Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and	
Mental Health Counselors	\$49,124
Surgical Technologists	\$59,576



Public Safety and Human/Consumer Services

Chef Training
Cosmetology
Criminal Justice
Fire Protection Technology
Massage Therapy
Pastry Chef
Restaurant Management

Career Opportunities

*(some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)**

Bakers	\$29,963
Chefs and Head Cooks	
(Including Pastry Chefs).....	\$47,974
Firefighters.....	\$49,864
Food Service Managers.....	\$64,952
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and	
Cosmetologists.....	\$26,578
Massage Therapists	\$48,448
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers.....	\$64,705
Private Detectives and Investigators	\$52,030
Probation Officers and	
Correctional Treatment Specialists	\$49,915
Skin Care Specialists (Estheticians)	\$36,019



Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

- Applications/Programming
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Cloud Computing
- Computer Science
- Computer Simulation and Game Design
- Cybersecurity
- Desktop Support and Network Administration
- Engineering
- Engineering Design Graphics
- Engineering Technology
- Environmental Science
- Geology
- Mathematics
- Microsoft and CISCO
- Physics
- Web Design

Career Opportunities

*(some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)**

Agricultural Technicians	\$37,506 <small>(statewide)</small>
Architectural and Civil Drafters.....	\$59,650
Chemical Engineers.....	\$133,677
Chemical Technicians.....	\$60,480
Civil Engineers	\$91,956
Computer Network Support Specialists.....	\$64,551
Computer Programmers.....	\$85,725
Computer User Support Specialists.....	\$52,207
Database Administrators.....	\$104,625
Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians.....	\$65,093
Environmental Engineering Technologists and Technicians.....	\$48,124
Food Science Technicians	\$65,406
Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians.....	\$75,730
Information Security Analysts	\$110,512
Mechanical Drafters.....	\$64,750
Mechanical Engineering Technologists and Technicians.....	\$63,089
Software Developers.....	\$117,158
Web and Digital Interface Designers.....	\$83,364
Web Developers	\$74,004



Social and Behavioral Science

- Anthropology
- Government
- History
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Sociology

Career Opportunities

*(some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)**

Anthropologists and Archeologists	\$53,521
Clergy	\$50,407
Clinical and Counseling Psychologists	\$81,622
Museum Technicians and Conservators	\$48,398
Philosophy and Religion Teachers (Postsecondary)	\$79,215
Political Scientists	\$98,883 <small>(statewide)</small>
Psychologists (All Other).....	\$119,662
School Psychologists	\$79,729
Social Science Research Assistants	\$60,201
Sociology Teachers (Postsecondary).....	\$81,281

Noncredit Classes for Professional and Life Long Learners

Whether you're preparing for a career or picking up a new hobby, San Jacinto College Continuing and Professional Development offers a variety of noncredit courses for workforce training and lifelong learning. Workforce courses keep employees up to date on the latest industry technology and are available through contract training, open enrollment, and grant funding. You can also pick up new skills you've been eager to learn. CPD offers lifelong learning courses to promote leisure learning and to help you extend your horizons. Learn more at sanjac.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/continuing-ed-student.

Workforce Development and Job Training

- Applied Technology and Trades
- Business and Professions
- Computers, IT, CNC, PLC, and Robotics
- Health Occupations
- Maritime

Corporate Training and Consulting

- Task/Job/Organizational Performance Analysis
- Training Needs/Gap Analysis
- Measuring Training Effectiveness and ROI
- Implementing Effective On-the-Job Training Apprenticeships
- Transitioning Training from a Functional Unit to a Business Unit
- Train-the-Trainer for Regulatory Compliance
- Strategies for Selecting, Training, and Qualifying Shift/Relief Supervisors
- Approaches to Team Training and Diagnostics
- Organizational and Human Performance Needs Assessments

Community Programs

- Aerospace Education and Workforce Education
- Life Long Learning
- Youth Programs

Grants

- Adult Education and Literacy
- Health Career Pathways Partnership Grant
- TPEG
- TWC Business Funding Opportunities

* Unless otherwise noted, source: texaswages.com, Gulf Coast Region, 2022 annual WDA median wages

** Source: PQNDT 2019 Salary Survey

*** Source: Nuro, estimated starting salary

^ Source: National Cancer Registrars Association, 2022

^^ Source: Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology

SAN JAC CELEBRATES NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK WITH PRE-APPRENTICESHIP SIGNING CEREMONY

By Melissa Trevizo

During National Apprenticeship Week this past November, San Jacinto College held a pre-apprenticeship signing ceremony connecting industry partners with area school districts through memorandums of understanding.

“With the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board emphasizing the importance of work-based learning, it is important to document our strong programs in this area,” said San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. “What better way than through pre-apprenticeships? These give our students more options for the future of their economic mobility and security.”

Hellyer and representatives from each school district signed memorandums of understanding Nov. 16 in diesel, welding, pipefitting, plumbing, electrical, heating/air-conditioning, and maritime technology.

Lee Price, the Texas state director of the U.S. Department of Labor, spoke to students present at the signing about the importance of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities. According to Price, the number of apprenticeships in Texas has doubled since 2015 to approximately 30,000 apprenticeships in 900 programs statewide.

“What we are doing today supports the registered apprenticeship program in

Texas,” he said. “These pre-apprenticeships allow you to gain valuable skills for a future career. I want to challenge you to do your best and become a leader. The Department of Labor is here to help in any way we can, and we want to be a partner for you to succeed.”

San Jac numbers among only two community colleges in Texas designated as a U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Ambassador — an initiative that brings together industry, labor, education, equity, and workforce leaders to partner with the Office of Apprenticeship. Ambassadors communicate the value of registered apprenticeships as a workforce strategy in high-demand industries and develop and

expand opportunities for people who have been underserved historically.

This San Jac signing event was the first of its kind in Texas, according to Price. Industry partners included Apache Industrial Services, Buffalo Marine Services, Pfeiffer & Son Electrical, and Port Houston.

The four independent school districts represented were Channelview, Galena Park, Sheldon, and Texas City. ■

To view the signing photos, visit bit.ly/sjc-dol-signing-23.



From L to R: Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jac Chancellor; Jon Lavin, U.S. Department of Labor apprenticeship training representative; Lee Price, U.S. Department of Labor Texas state director; and Dr. Sarah Janes, San Jac associate vice chancellor of continuing and professional development





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If eligible, you could receive 100% of your tuition and the cost of CertTEC certifications covered through the Wagner-Peyser grant.

Teaming with BayTech, San Jacinto College will offer the training at its EDGE Center, the official education training partner for the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport. You could be ready for an internship or job opportunity in as little as eight weeks.

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Aerospace Basic Electrical Technician

Aerospace Structures Technician

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Petrochem Technician: **\$82,812**

Respiratory Therapist: **\$77,357**

Drafting and Design Technician: **\$60,205**

Diesel Technician: **\$56,739**

Firefighter: **\$51,388**

Annual Wages; Source: Texaswages.com

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