

OPPORTUNITY

SAN JACINTO COLLEGESM

NEWS

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NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

Students start STEM strong, thanks to San Jac, Rice grant

A collaborative San Jacinto College and Rice University grant will give students the resources to sustain a science, technology, engineering, and math degree plan and pursue a connected career.

San Jac and Rice faculty and administrators celebrated their partnership during an AIM for STEM luncheon April 20.

In fall 2021, both institutions received the \$995,417 AIM for STEM grant from the National Science Foundation. Grant co-principal investigators — San Jac’s Dr. Rachel Garcia and Dr. Jackeline Webb and Rice’s Dr. Richard Tapia — aim to increase students earning Associate of Science degrees and continuing to higher STEM degrees.

During the luncheon at the Central Campus, Tapia, a renowned Rice professor and researcher, touched on his community college roots. An advisor saw his potential and encouraged him to pursue UCLA. The rest was history for him.

“You play an important role in the country’s education,” Tapia said about San Jac. “I’m happy and honored to work with you on this grant project.”

AIM for STEM funds a three-year partnership to provide professional development opportunities for San Jac’s math and college prep faculty.

Rice’s Tapia Center for Excellence and Equity will facilitate a Summer Institute in Mathematics. San Jac math and college prep faculty will participate in intensive pedagogy sessions, focus on evidence-based theories, develop curriculum, and tour Rice research labs to observe math principles in current research advancements.

Dancing toward success: Program recognized for original work

San Jacinto College’s dance program celebrated success at the South-Central regional conference of the American College Dance Association March 16-20 in Beaumont.

Since the pandemic had disrupted the conference the last two years, San Jac students were excited to finally attend.

“Listening to the students describe personal experiences from a class that felt life-changing or discuss theoretical facets of a dance performance among their peers is the definition of a successful event,” Jennifer Salter, dance professor, said.

The conference takes place every spring in regions nationwide. Students connect with dancers from other institutions, take classes in a variety of dance genres, and watch performances. The event allows them to network, explore options for transferring to a four-year program, and consider a future in dance.

This was a first experience for all 11 San Jac students who attended with dance professors Salter and Jamie Williams.

Williams choreographed a piece called “Gravity Dumb” that numbered among 11 out of more than 35 featured at the event’s gala concert. Of the 11 selected institutions, San Jac was the only



Photo courtesy of San Jacinto College

two-year program.

“Though it is always affirming to feel seen and recognized for my work, the most exciting part about having my piece selected was experiencing it with this particular group of performers,” Williams said. “They have worked hard for two semesters to perfect the work and make it everything I envisioned.”

To learn more about the South Campus program, visit sanjac.edu/program/dance.

Gala, Promise Partners fill financial gaps for future students

Thank you to the San Jacinto College community for making debt-free college possible for in-district high school graduates!

On May 20, the sold-out “**Step Brightly into the Future**” Gala raised more than \$430,000 to support future San Jac students. This happened thanks to generous individual and corporate sponsors, including presenting sponsors LyondellBasell and the Sinor Family.

The gala supported the Promise scholarship for future students like Evan Mayes, a musician who comes from a family of seven kids. Promise is paving the way for this recent Deer Park High School graduate to earn an associate degree without stressing himself or his parents financially. The last-dollar scholarship covers up to three years of tuition and books.

“I feel pretty awesome about having an opportunity to go to San Jac, especially with the Promise program, where I can attend for free,” Mayes said.

If you couldn’t attend the gala, you still have a chance to become a **Promise Partner**.

We don’t ask for your help lightly. With climbing prices from the gas pump to the grocery store, you feel the impact of inflation, and so do our students. They need help now more than ever. Become a Promise Partner for as little as \$10/month for five years.

How could this make a difference? This is what your monthly gift could mean over five years:

- With \$10/month (\$120/year), you cover half a semester.
- With \$20/month (\$240/year), you cover one full semester.
- With \$40/month (\$480/year), you cover two semesters.
- With \$80/month (\$960/year), you cover a student’s associate degree!

Your gift will go toward endowment earnings to pay for Promise scholars’ tuition. As a thank-you for becoming a Promise Partner, you’ll receive a handmade pottery mug to remind you of the part you play in a student’s success story.

Learn more at sanjac.edu/promise-partner. View the gala photo album at bit.ly/38fHFMH.



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

FREE JOB TRAINING EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES

By Neesha Hosein

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Life happens, and financial woes and tough times can make it tempting to hit pause on educational goals. However, the good news is San Jacinto College has a way for students to earn a certification for a high-demand career at no cost.

With free job training at San Jacinto College, students can alleviate concerns about the cost of education. The grant allows more students this valuable opportunity.

Funding for this opportunity is through the Governor's Emergency Relief Fund. Once basic requirements are met, students can choose from any of the eligible programs, and the grant covers tuition costs for up to three semesters, with a \$2,500 max distribution per student.

Expanded eligibility

Students who have not been enrolled in high school or college for at least six months are now eligible to apply, regardless of their college progress. Previously, the funding required applicants to complete at least 50% of their degree prior to application, but with this expanded eligibility, students just beginning their college journey can also qualify.

Other eligibility requirements:

- Be a Texas resident eligible for in-state tuition
- Have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (if you have not done this yet, there is still time)
- Have financial need and are eligible for federal Title IV aid
- Do not have to be enrolled or hold postsecondary credit to be eligible for reskilling grant program support (as of March 9, 2022)
- May be enrolled in short-term, non-



Photo courtesy of San Jacinto College

eligible Title IV workforce credential programs but are Title IV eligible

- Confirm you were affected by COVID-19
- Be enrolled in one of the approved FJT programs full or part time
- Apply by Sept. 1

Career opportunities

The grant covers several credit areas of study under health science, business, industrial technology, education, and technology. It also covers many non-credit certificates, including certified

nurse aide, EKG technician, phlebotomy, truck driving, CompTIA Security+, aerospace aviation structures technician, fiber optics technician, maritime, and more.

"The free job training offered at San Jac is a great way for someone looking to advance or change careers to do so quickly and with no cost to them," said Shelley Rinehart, assistant vice chancellor of instructional support and program efficiency. "With such a variety of programs offered, we are sure to be able to help you take that next, or even first, step in your career path."

There is still time

Don't delay, because interested applicants must register before fall classes start on Aug. 22 to be eligible for these funds.

Find the eligibility survey and more information at sanjac.edu/finish-line or contact Finish.Line@sjcd.edu or 281-991-2680.

SAN JAC NAMED FINALIST FOR 2023 ASPEN PRIZE

By Amanda Fenwick

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

The Aspen Institute named San Jacinto College one of the 10 finalists for the 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. This newest honor follows the College's recognition as an Aspen Prize Finalist with Distinction in 2021, Aspen Prize Finalist in 2019, and Aspen Prize Rising Star in 2017.

The \$1 million Aspen Prize is the nation's signature recognition of community colleges that are achieving

high and equitable outcomes for students.

"It is truly an honor to again be recognized by the Aspen Institute as a top 10 finalist for the Aspen Prize," said San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. "This recognition speaks to the commitment of everyone at San Jacinto College to ensure our students have every opportunity to complete their education goals."

San Jac was recognized by the Aspen Institute for its support of students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Within one week, the College moved to altered operations, shifting most courses to an online format with all employees working remotely. Laptops were distributed to students who had significant needs for them, and Wi-Fi hotspots were created in College

parking lots for those who did not have access at home. The food markets, a collaboration with the Houston Food Bank, increased their production and provided a drive-thru option for students.

"We leaned in to our prior experience in this area to move our entire catalog of classes online when the pandemic hit," said Dr. Laurel Williamson, College deputy chancellor and president. "It was a complete team effort from every faculty and staff member to ensure a seamless transition from in-person to online courses so that students could complete the semester on time."

The Aspen Institute also recognized San Jac for its work around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

College-wide discussions around equity began in late October 2020

and continue today. A deep dive into College data has occurred to identify achievement gaps among cohorts of students. These have all led to a focus on instructional and student support strategies that address the challenges students face and set them up for success.

Another point that the Aspen Institute contributed to San Jac's top 10 finalist recognition is its commitment to making higher education accessible to all students. In May 2021, the College received the largest gift in school history—a \$30 million donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott and her husband, Dan Jewett.

The College used a portion of the donated funds to create the 21Forward Scholarship.

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SAN JAC TEAMS END 2022 SEASON STRONG

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

The San Jacinto College softball and baseball teams finished the 2022 season strong with appearances at their respective National Junior College Athletic Association tournaments after winning their regional tournaments in May.

The softball team (42-16) went 3-0 at the Region XIV Tournament to earn an automatic bid to the NJCAA Softball World Series. The Coyotes defeated Paris Junior College, Tyler Junior College, and Bossier Parish College to earn their sixth appearance in the national tournament. For the first time in the program's history, the softball team became back-to-back conference and regional champions.

In its sixth national tournament appearance, San Jac was the 12th seed

and ultimately fell to fifth-seed Odessa College 4-1 in seven innings and to fourth-seed Seminole State 9-8 to end the season.

“Even though the championship did not end as we wanted it, the girls fought hard and had a great season,” said Kelly Saenz, Coyotes head coach. “I am very proud of them and the hard work they put into the season.”

The Gators baseball team returned to the JUCO World Series for the 28th time in school history, making back-to-back appearances and the sixth trip in seven years. San Jac (45-20) defeated Tyler Junior College and Wharton County Junior College (twice) in the Region XIX South Regional Tournament and Alvin Community College in the Mid-South District Qualifier to earn a return trip to Grand Junction, Colo.

The Gators advanced at the World



Photo courtesy of Nate LaValley, San Jacinto College

Series, defeating reigning national champions McClennan Community College 15-7 in the opening day of the competition. Facing Wabash Valley College in the second round, the team fought a nine-inning battle, eventually falling with a score of 10-8. The Gators' national bout ultimately ended with a loss against Central Arizona College 16-4.

“I am extremely proud of the players and coaches for their hard work and commitment toward the continued success of San Jac baseball,” said Tom Arrington, Gators head coach. “Though our tradition of excellence is mostly perceived by how well the team performs on the field, I am even more proud of their character and how much they have grown as young men. They have built friendships that will last a lifetime and will always be able to reflect on the 2022 season with fond memories.”

Arrington nabs 1,000th career win

Head Baseball Coach Tom Arrington nabbed his 1,000th career win April 29 with a 7-3 victory over Alvin Community College.

Arrington recently ended his 22nd season as San Jac's head coach. In that time, he has led the Gators to 13 NJCAA JUCO World Series appearances. His 42 wins and 70 total games at the JUCO World Series is an all-time record.

Arrington began his coaching career in 1991 at the College of Mateo. Later came stops at San Francisco State University and College of Marin. In 2000, Arrington arrived in Houston as San Jac's assistant coach, where he focused on the pitchers. He was named head coach nearly two seasons later and athletic director for the North Campus in 2011.

Additionally, Arrington was added to the NJCAA Baseball Hall of Fame in 2018, and earlier this year, he was nominated for Houston Sports Awards' Coach of the Year.



Photo courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
June - August	Summer camps for kids and teens	Varies	sanjac.edu/summer-camps
July 2-4	Independence Day holiday	Closed	All campuses, online
Aug. 22	Fall semester starts		All campuses, online

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





Photos courtesy of Port Houston

STUDENTS SET SAIL TO NEW CAREERS THROUGH MARITIME AND LOGISTICS YOUTH EXPO

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

More than 500 Houston-area high school students and 35 industry partners visited the San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center for the annual Maritime and Logistics Youth Expo April 29.

The Port of Houston Partners in Maritime Education Program supports the event, while San Jac, Harris County Precinct 2, the Houston Pilots, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary serve as co-sponsors.

"Students have an opportunity to speak with academic, industry, and federal

partners regarding maritime and logistics workforce opportunities right here on the water at San Jac," said Amy Arrowood, the College's director of maritime credit.

Jacque Young-Hall, maritime education outreach manager at Port Houston, organizes the event each year.

"More than half of the current maritime workforce is over 50 years old and looking at retirement," Young-Hall said. "This event gives our industry partners access to recruit for entry-level positions, apprenticeships, and internships, filling in those gaps."

Over the last decade, Port Houston has invested more than \$5 million in maritime education by collaborating

with San Jac and other local academic partners. This program introduces an increasing number of young adults to port-related career opportunities and encourages higher education learning in maritime, logistics, and other industry-related fields of study.

"San Jac has been a pivotal partner in the Maritime and Logistics Youth Expo, hosting the event on campus each year," Young-Hall said. "We are thrilled to provide this opportunity to students in the region, opening their eyes to potential career paths."

To learn more about the San Jac maritime program, visit sanjac.edu/maritime.



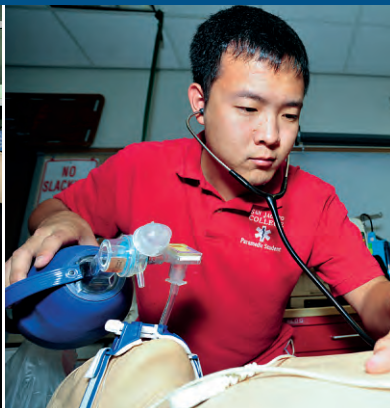
Photos courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College



Photos courtesy of Corinne Zilnicki, U.S. Coast Guard



SAN JACINTO COLLEGE THROUGH THE YEARS: 2010-2019



sanjac.edu/60-years

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

JENKINS SHARES VISION FOR CREATING K-12 TO WORKFORCE PIPELINE FOR GLOBAL LOGISTICS, SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Logistics and supply chain are hot topics these days, with the availability of products increasingly unpredictable. More than ever, careers in the industry are in demand.

Ivy Jenkins, new professor of global logistics and supply chain management at the San Jacinto College North Campus, knows this well with 25 years of industry experience under his belt.

“I went straight into the workforce after high school, and I’ve always worked in logistics in some capacity,” said Jenkins. “When I finally started pursuing my degree, I knew it would be in logistics because it’s what I know and where my passion lies.”

Jenkins’ higher education journey started like many non-traditional San Jac students — just beginning to seek his degree at 38.

“I was downsized from my operations management position because I was the only manager without a degree,” Jenkins said. “My wife, Dr. L.R. Griffin Jenkins, had been encouraging me for years to get my degree, and I had resisted, but now I’m so glad that I did. I wouldn’t be where I am today without her.”

Now, with an associate degree from Lone Star College and bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Our Lady of the

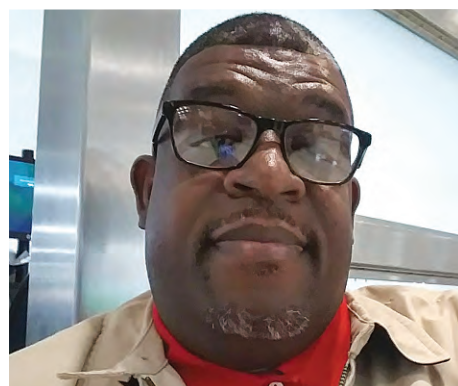


Photo courtesy of San Jacinto College

Lake University, Jenkins is still pursuing education as a doctoral candidate at Sam Houston State University. This gives him a unique connection to his pupils.

“It hasn’t been that long since I first started pursuing my degree,” Jenkins said. “I have been in those seats just like my students, and I’m not that far removed from where they are now.”

Jenkins taught at Lone Star College for six years as an adjunct before developing curriculum for corporate, traditional, and dual credit students as a workforce advisor.

“It was my wife who encouraged me to apply for the full-time professor position at San Jac,” he said. “This is what I have been working toward, and it’s been a long time coming.”

The future for global logistics and supply chain management careers is bright, with the U.S. Bureau of Labor

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The remainder of the funds are being used to establish the Student Success Endowment to fund the Promise @ San Jac scholarship.

Next steps in the Aspen Prize

selection include multi-day site visits, a review by a distinguished jury, and a late spring 2023 announcement of the Aspen Prize winner.

To learn more about San Jac and the Aspen Prize, visit sanjac.edu/newsroom.

Statistics predicting a 30% growth in the industry from 2020 to 2030.

“The industry is in demand, but don’t think you are going to walk in as CEO,” said Jenkins. “Entry and mid-management positions are out there, but I encourage my students to continue their education. Pursuing a bachelor’s or master’s degree opens the job market even wider and provides more room for promotion.”

As the only full-time professor for the high-demand degree, Jenkins hopes to grow the program and its resources

to better serve the community and students.

“I want to see the program grow to the point where we have strong relationships with industry and K-12 partners,” he said. “A seamless transition from high school and dual credit student to community college student that flows into a pipeline for internships and then permanent jobs with our industry partners is my vision.”

Learn more about the program at sanjac.edu/program/global-logistics-and-supply-chain-management.

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You could get
FREE TUITION for
your training through
the Wagner-Peyser grant!

If eligible, you could receive 100% of your tuition and the cost of CertTEC certifications covered through this 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.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- ✓ Either a U.S. citizen or authorized to work in the U.S.
- ✓ At least 17
- ✓ Registered in selective service (if male), unemployed, and ready to work

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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.