

SAN JACINTO COLLEGESM

Summer 2022 • Volume 3 • Issue 2

CareerFocus



SENSATIONAL STEM:
STUDENTS ENGAGE
SENSES WHILE
EXPLORING COLLEGE,
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



**CPET OFFERS UNIQUE
CONNECTIONS FOR
STUDENTS AND INDUSTRY**



**TEAMWORK
KEEPS
LAB SCHOOL
A SUCCESS**

**ALUMNUS
TRASLAVIÑA
USES TRAINING
TO LAUNCH
CAREERS IN
MUSIC AND
TECHNOLOGY**



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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. 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.

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NEWS AND NOTES

FROM AROUND THE COLLEGE

SAN JAC CELEBRATES NEARLY 100,000 GRADS IN 60 YEARS

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

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

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

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

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

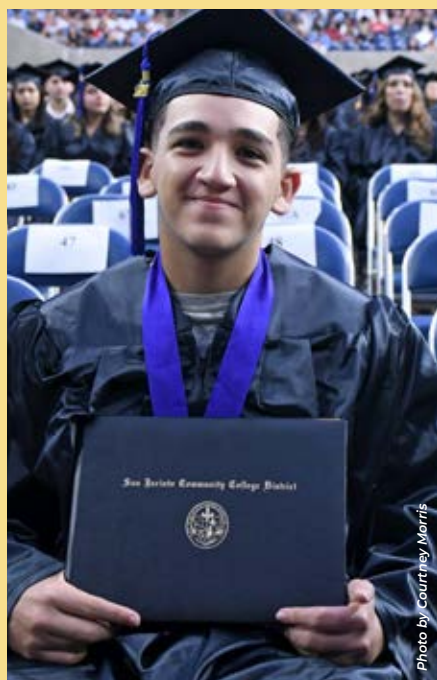


Photo by Courtney Morris



Photo by Courtney Morris



Photo by Courtney Morris



Photo by Neesha Hosen



Photo by Courtney Morris

SAN JAC HUNTING FOR A NEW MASCOT

The time has come. As one College with five campuses, extension centers, and a diverse community of students, employees, and alumni, San Jacinto College is transitioning from three mascots to one.

Historically, San Jac has had three campus mascots: the Central Campus Ravens, North Campus Gators, and South Campus Coyotes. While the Gulf Coast region's leader in higher education and workforce training, the College also boasts a rich athletic history. Its nationally ranked basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer, and track and field teams have produced 12 national championships and many celebrated professional athletes across several generations.

While remembering its storied past, San Jac looks forward to entering a new era with a new mascot.

This spring, the College welcomed new mascot suggestions. Submissions came from more than 1,400 people, including alumni, students, donors, employees, and community members, resulting in a wide range of ideas — from lions, jaguars, and eagles to ravens and supernovas and hundreds more.

The College's administration and Board of Trustees will narrow down the submissions before students, employees, and alumni cast their votes. The final decision will be announced in spring 2023. ■

► **Learn more about the mascot search and timeline at sanjac.edu/mascot.**

SEE TO SUCCEED GIVES K-12 STUDENTS CLEARER VISION, BETTER OUTLOOK

| By Courtney Morris

About 25% of children in the U.S. have vision problems that hinder learning. Christine Pettys was witnessing this firsthand.

Volunteering for See to Succeed this spring, the San Jacinto College eye care technology student had rotated to the refraction station, where a middle school student was sitting behind the mask-like phoropter.

The optometrist shuffled through lenses to reach the right settings for both eyes, then asked the boy to name the letters. In one eye, he had 20/400 vision, seeing only 20 feet away what the average person could see at 400. Now, correct lenses over both eyes, he gasped. Excitement building, he repeated each letter one by one.

“He didn’t know what it was like to see clearly,” Pettys said. “The way he read the letters across the room when a prescription was added in front of his eyes made me want to cry.”

For this student and almost 1,300 others from Pasadena ISD, See to Succeed provided a critical tool for classroom success: correct vision and healthy eyes.

Continuing the vision

The College’s eye care technology program has coordinated See to Succeed for more than a decade at the Central Campus. Cancelled in 2021, the event almost got cancelled this spring too because of social distancing concerns.

At the last minute, the City of Pasadena stepped in, providing Campbell Hall at the Pasadena Convention Center.

“When we reached out to the city regarding the need for a large venue, Mayor Jeff Wagner did not hesitate to rescue this year’s See to Succeed mission,” said Debra Clarke, San Jac eye care technology program director. “Pasadena ISD children received the urgent eye care they needed because of his quick actions.”

Throughout the week, Pasadena ISD bussed students to Campbell Hall. San Jac students spaced throughout the facility, screening children with stereo fly depth-perception, convergence, near visual acuity, and



Christine Pettys tests a Pasadena ISD student's vision.

Ishihara color tests. After the exams, children who received prescriptions got to choose frames.

See to Succeed covers the cost of frames, lenses, and emergency medical care for all participating children.

Changing the statistics

Kids Vision for Life estimates 90% of U.S. children who need glasses do not have them. Without good vision, these students face higher chances of dropping out of school, getting low-paid jobs, and even turning to crime.

Despite 20,000 Houston-area K-12 students having vision issues, many continue attending school without the issues resolved.

San Jac partners with Alcon, Berkeley Eye Center, Essilor Vision Foundation, Eye Care for Kids Foundation, Houston Health Department, Prevent Blindness Texas, University of Houston College of Optometry, and Walmart to change that. Through See to Succeed, children receive the eye care they need to succeed in school and life.

“Twenty thousand is a large number of children needing help — too large for any one entity, but together we can do great things,” Clarke said. “Our

partners all bring incredibly valuable skills to the mission.”

Building confidence

Pettys attended San Jac off and on several years before laser-focusing on eye care technology. Coming into See to Succeed, she looked forward to helping change students’ lives and perspectives.

“I’m the one who left with that in spades,” she said.

Case in point: the middle school student with 20/400 vision in one eye. Not only was he adjusting to a new school, but he was embarrassed he couldn’t read with that eye. After reassuring him, Pettys encouraged him to think about the color frames he wanted. Later, she helped him pick them out. He left grinning.

“I realized this was not just helping the kids see but giving them a whole new level of confidence, pride, and excitement to go out into the world and be who they were capable of being,” she said. ■

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

See to Succeed by THE NUMBERS



20,000 Estimated K-12 Houston-area kids with vision issues

63 School buses transporting students



333 Students receiving medical referrals

1,228 Glasses provided

SENSATIONAL STEM:

STUDENTS ENGAGE SENSES WHILE EXPLORING COLLEGE, CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

By Neesha Hosein and Courtney Morris

Two recent San Jacinto College events engaged current and future students in education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math. Students interacted with STEM experts while exploring the fields through hands-on activities.

STEAM Fair

Partnering with Pasadena ISD, the Central Campus hosted 170 intermediate and high school students and their family members for the daylong STEAM Fair April 8. The fair focused on the usual STEM fields as well as art.

Pasadena ISD students kicked off the day with campus tours, including ...

- Early college high school
- Science and health science buildings
- Artificial intelligence and robotics labs

After an inside look at San Jac programs, students presented their art and team projects, answering questions from College faculty and other guests.

“STEAM curriculum helps develop critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork skills while stimulating creativity,” said Patricia Steinke, Central Campus biology professor and fair coordinator. “We introduced

these students to our fine arts, science, technology, and early college programs in a fun format.”

Before the final awards ceremony, San Jac science faculty offered hands-on demos in labs.

“The event was an amazing opportunity for our district to partner with San Jac to inspire students to continue to pursue a future education and career path in one of many STEM fields,” said Holly Yoes, Pasadena ISD curriculum instruction specialist, intermediate science. “Our students enjoyed not only touring the campus and engaging in the expo but also sharing their own learning experiences and project work with College professors and students, their fellow students and teachers, and community members.”

Pasadena ISD students came from Beverly Hills, Bondy, Jackson, Miller, Park View, Queens, San Jacinto, South Houston, and Southmore intermediate schools and Pasadena Memorial High School.

STEM Symposium

Also on April 8, the STEM Symposium at the South Campus offered panels, demonstrations, career information, building tours, and door prizes for San Jac students.

The event included keynote speaker Commissioner Julian Alvarez III of the Texas Workforce Commission, a Q&A panel, and hands-on activities, including ...

- Robotics
- 3D printing
- Mobius strips
- Virtual reality bowling
- Dissected specimens
- Science experiments
- Microscope slides showing fungi, bacteria, and pond water paramecium

Showing samples of living microscopic organisms, biology professor Maxine Lane explained that what is under the microscope is a natural part of life. She also



A Pasadena ISD student presents on the South Texas Plains.

advised against the “five-second rule” when dropping food on the floor.

“This is a chance to introduce students to the world of microbiology and spark an interest in pursuing careers in that field,” Lane said.

Dr. Jackeline Webb, South Campus math professor and department chair, coordinated the symposium, a first for the College.

“Commissioner Alvarez’s presentation was outstanding and relevant to STEM job opportunities,” Webb said. “Participants also got to attend several innovative and interesting STEM demonstrations.”

Dr. Connie Gomez, South Campus department chair for physical sciences and chemistry, coordinated with faculty and lab supervisors to create engaging demonstrations.

“Building tomorrow’s STEM professionals demands giving today’s students every opportunity to see amazing phenomena, ask questions, and share in the excitement of those already in STEM,” Gomez said. “Any success is based on being able to leverage passionate faculty, rely on well-coordinated ambassadors, and be supported by amazing staff.” ■

► Learn more at sanjac.edu/STEM.

WHY PURSUE STEM AT SAN JAC?

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ALUMNA BRINGS MASSAGE TO **YOUR DOORSTEP**

| By Neesha Hosein

These days, just about anything can be delivered to your doorstep, even a massage. Can't seem to make time for a commute to relax those tense muscles? One San Jacinto College alumna might be able to help.

Nikita Morrow graduated from the massage therapy program at the South Campus in spring 2021. Since then, Morrow has launched Touch of Honey, a mobile massage business that serves Houston-area residents.

Before a session, clients fill out an intake form that details medical history and other important information like allergies, physical restrictions, and skin sensitivities. Morrow uses hypoallergenic products.

Her Nissan Moreno currently serves as her mobile office, accommodating her equipment perfectly in its trunk. After she arrives, it takes 20-30 minutes to set up, and she uses playlists, including genres like jazz, R&B, classical, nature sounds, and country. She plans to incorporate aromatherapy in the future.

Winning at school

"My experience [at San Jac] was rather interesting, considering I began the program during the height of the pandemic as well as the winter storm," Morrow said. "The courses were more

hybrid and a little fast-paced, but thanks to the instructors, we learned a lot in a short period of time."

Among her fondest memories are the connections she made with classmates and instructors. She credits one peer-turned-friend for helping her succeed.

"Cynetre [Williams] is amazing. Let's just start there," Morrow said. "We instantly connected and realized that we have one common goal: to win. Our study habits helped each other push through the hard times at school, and even after graduation, we didn't give up on each other. We met up for study sessions, made flash cards, and quizzed each other as we prepared for our licensing exam."

The two friends have continued to support each other as they navigate life as new therapists and business owners.

Creating Zen

In her mobile business, Morrow focuses on minimizing clients' physical discomforts.

"Touch of Honey is all about knowing your client and their needs," she said. "I believe that is what makes my company stand out. The goal is to create a Zen environment and experience while



Photo by Neesha Hosein

providing a massage that is calming and relaxing."

Morrow has learned a lot in her short time as a business owner, namely that making mistakes while learning and growing is part of the process and becomes a good learning experience.

Touch of Honey offers visits to residential and business locations. Morrow provides a full-size massage table and requires a clean, clear space that allows her to move around as needed. Her clients have been an eclectic mix.

"I've worked with people who have physically and mentally demanding jobs, like military personnel, police officers, nurses, lawyers, and clients in transportation," she said. "I've done a few birthdays, couples' sessions, and people just wanting to relax."

Caring for self and others

With a career serving others, Morrow has learned to take time for herself.

"I love being with my family and friends, so any chance I get to do that, I jump at it," she said.

She enjoys going to the movies or doing outdoor activities like swimming, rock climbing, nature walks, and beaches. Cooking and traveling are other favorites that she doesn't get to do often.

Work inspiration

Morrow's inspiration comes from her love of helping people, and the art of massage provides an opportunity to do just that.

"I enjoy helping people and minimizing stress and discomfort," Morrow said. "Being able to be present for someone makes me feel better."

Morrow's best advice for students is to "study and ask questions." She believes everyone experiences roadblocks in life that will make school seem challenging, but reaching the finish line is possible if you "just keep going." ■

► Learn more about San Jac's massage therapy program at sanjac.edu/program/massage-therapy.

“My experience [at San Jac] was rather interesting, considering I began the program during the height of the pandemic as well as the winter storm. The courses were more hybrid and a little fast-paced, but thanks to the instructors, we learned a lot in a short period of time.”

TEAMWORK KEEPS LAB SCHOOL A SUCCESS

| By Neesha Hosein

Multitasking is part of any job, but San Jacinto College's Dr. Albert Talley has taken it up a notch.

The department chair of child development, education, and psychology runs the Central Campus children's center/lab school. He's added more responsibilities recently.

"Daily operations have involved everything from working the front desk, helping in the kitchen, grocery store runs, assisting with break and lunch rotations, helping manage contracts, and making sure the teachers in the center have the support they need," Talley said.

Treating his assigned and volunteer duties with equal vigor, Talley has helped get lab school operations back to normal following altered pandemic operations.

"I can't say enough great things about our teachers and the job they have done," Talley said. "They come to work every day with a smile on their faces."

Teachers must be in their classrooms at specific times, so lunches are strategically scheduled to accommodate this.

"Dr. Talley stepped into the pre-K classroom with a suit, sat down on the floor, and started patting children to sleep so that the teacher could go to lunch," said



Natalia Atkins, lead children's center teacher. "He is always willing to help out in the back, even when wearing a nice suit."

Kitchen duty

Along with his administrative assistant Kaitlen Turner, Talley completed a food manager's certificate to help in the kitchen and make sure the school stays in compliance with the Texas Department of State Health Services. Turner calls it a team effort.

"I'm very appreciative that Albert and I work together as a team," she said. "And it's great to see the respect he has for those who report to him. I believe that speaks a lot about his leadership and character."

Both were happy to help where they could.

"There have been several times where we've been short in the kitchen, and I've worked with our teachers to make sure food or snacks are getting where they need to," Talley said. "The teachers haven't kicked me out of the kitchen yet."

Love of the job

"I stop by every classroom at least every other day," he said. "It gives me the chance to interact with the children and say hello."

Talley often helps with story time and other activities but avoids distracting from learning, although the kids enjoy when he stops by to "roar like a lion."

Teachers work on language development, literacy, math, science, and technology daily with the children to prepare them for school after they graduate from the children's center.

"I feel very blessed and enjoy knowing that I have the chance to see education come full circle, beginning with children at 6 weeks old and one day coming back as San Jac students," Talley said.

In his previous role as a basketball coach, Talley worked with college students aged 18 to 24. Although he felt he made an impact through sports, he never



Dr. Albert Talley with his daughter

ABOUT CENTRAL CAMPUS LAB SCHOOL

- Serves ages 6 weeks to 5 years
- Follows San Jac academic calendar
- Accredited by National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Recognized as Texas Rising Star provider

understood how early childhood education prepared children for the future.

Talley has met current students who once attended San Jac's children's center, and he is "pleased to know" the center continues to impact students and their families.

Outside of work

When he's not at work, Talley enjoys exercising, cooking, and spending time with his wife, 2-year-old daughter, and their Weimaraner. When he was a basketball coach at San Jac, he also taught yoga.

Talley believes student success is a common goal. He has enjoyed working at San Jac for the last decade and helps everyone he can. ■

► Learn more about the children's center:
sanjac.edu/child-care

EDGE CENTER GRANT PROGRAM CALLS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN AEROSPACE TRAINING

| By Melissa Trevizo

San Jacinto College and the Bay Area Houston Advanced Technology Consortium, or BayTech, seek candidates for the Wagner-Peyser grant for aerospace technician readiness.

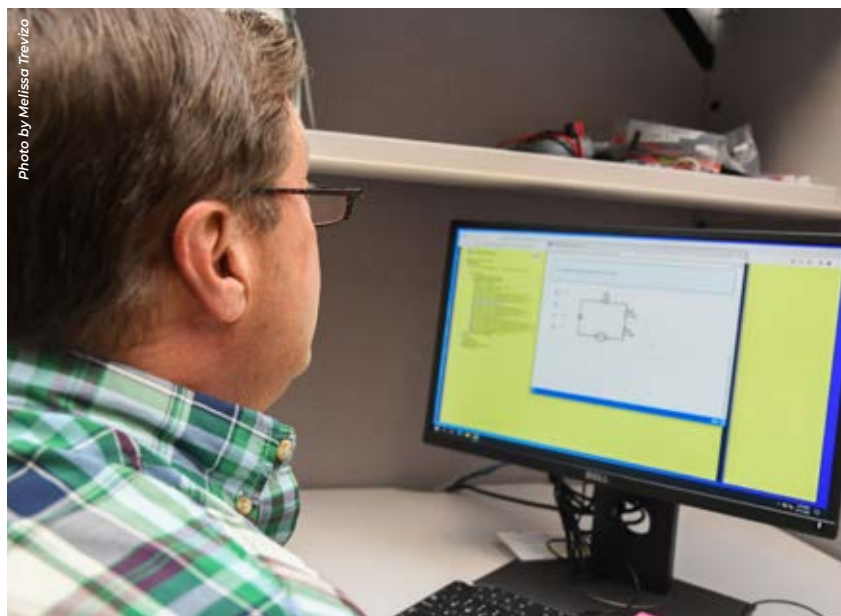
Training takes place at San Jac's EDGE Center, the official education training partner for the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport.

The grant covers 100% of tuition and nationally recognized certifications through CertTEC for eligible students.

Administered by the Texas Workforce Commission, the \$324,029 grant is funded through the office of Gov. Greg Abbott and the Texas Workforce Investment Council. It covers up to 50 participants. To be eligible, you must be:

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

The EDGE Center offers two tracks through the grant: certified composite



EDGE Center student Tom McKenzie receives aerospace training through the Wagner-Peyser grant.

manufacturing technician and certified basic electrical technician. Each track takes six to eight weeks to complete and uses online learning in a 75/25 model for composite manufacturing and 50/50 for basic electrical. Face-to-face tutoring is offered at least once a week.

Acceptance into the program requires candidates to be self-motivated and persistent to complete the fast-paced programs successfully.

One graduate who learned this firsthand is Christian Longoria, an Air Force veteran. In 2016, after an honorable discharge, Longoria earned his airframe and powerplant certificate and started his career with General Atomics, deploying to Afghanistan with the company at least six times.

“Unfortunately, my career ended in 2021 due to workforce reduction,” Longoria said. “I joined the BAHEP Cares veteran mentoring program, and that’s where I learned about BayTech’s Wagner-Peyser grant with San Jac.”

Longoria started at San Jac’s EDGE Center in November 2021 and earned his basic electrical technician certificate this spring.

“The certification tests were tough. It’s not just multiple-choice or memorization, it’s about troubleshooting and knowing the content well,” he said. “I have a lot of mechanical experience, but now adding the basic electrical certification to my resume makes me more marketable to employers.”

In May, Longoria started a new job in San Antonio working for Boeing on planes and helicopters in President Biden’s executive fleet.

“So far, we’ve had more than 34 graduates enroll in our aerospace training program using Wagner-Peyser grant program. We’ve also had 13 graduates earn their certifications and interview for jobs,” said Janis Fowler, San Jac’s director of aerospace education and workforce. “I’m proud to say that we are already hearing back that some of those graduates, like Christian, have been hired and started working in the industry.”

BayTech creates a pipeline of technician talent, working with industry partners to identify internships for grant participants and to help them find industry jobs.

“The need for aerospace manufacturing technicians is increasing at the Houston Spaceport,” Fowler said. “Over the next year, an additional 800 jobs will open for technicians like those who train at San Jac’s EDGE Center.”

Currently, there are many slots available for participants in this year’s electrical cohort. BayTech is optimistic that 50 more spots will open in September. ■

► To learn more about the Wagner-Peyser grant, contact Kylie Wischnewsky at 832-536-3242 or kylie@bayareahouston.com.

► To learn more about the EDGE Center, visit sanjac.edu/edge-center.

**San Jacinto College
and the Bay Area
Houston Advanced
Technology Consortium
seek candidates for the
Wagner-Peyser grant
for aerospace technician
readiness.**



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San Jacinto College's EDGE Center at the Houston Spaceport/Ellington Airport offers a comprehensive drone training program to help you get your Federal Aviation Administration certified drone pilot license and master drone flight. From operating drones for industries to becoming an entrepreneur, your opportunities will be endless!



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60TH ANNIVERSARY CULMINATES IN GALA RAISING \$430,000 FOR PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS

By Jacquelynn Conger

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

The College opened in September 1961 in a rented storefront in downtown Pasadena. By the end of the first week, San Jac had an enrollment of 876 students. Today, it boasts an enrollment of more than 41,000 credit and non-credit students each year and has grown to be a Top 5 community college in the nation.

Over the decades, the College expanded to five campuses across the East Harris County area, including the newest addition, Generation Park, in the Lake Houston area. Situated on a beautiful 57-acre lot, Generation Park features a 55,000-square-foot facility that houses general education and academic classes.

San Jac has increased its offerings to more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study, including university transfer courses, workforce certificates/training, and Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Applied Science degrees. Nursing, one of the College's original programs, recently expanded to include a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The program saw its first cohort graduate in December 2021.

San Jac celebrated the culmination of its 60th year with the "Step Brightly Into the Future" Gala presented by LyondellBasell and the Sinor Family. The gala took place Friday, May 20, at the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology at the Central



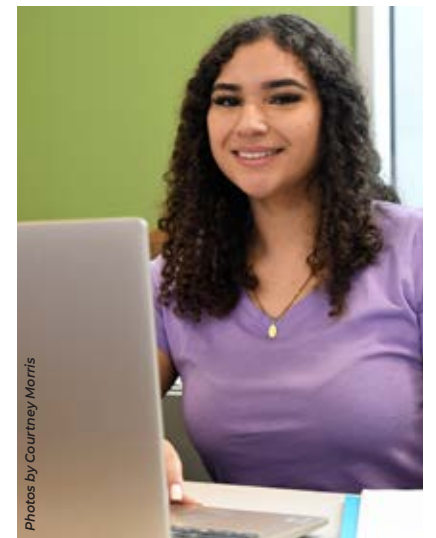
San Jac's newest campus, Generation Park

Campus. Generous donors gave more than \$430,000 for the Student Success Endowment Fund supporting Promise @ San Jac scholarships.

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

You too can make debt-free college available to an in-district high school graduate by joining the Promise Partners. ■

► Learn more at sanjac.edu/promise-partner.



Photos by Courtney Morris



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San Jacinto Electrical

Looking for a hands-on skill that is in demand across Houston? San Jacinto College's **electrical technology** program is the answer. Our program helps you master everything from simple residential wiring to complex commercial and industrial power and controls for the area's petrochemical plants and business infrastructure.

sanjac.edu/program/electrical-technology

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CPET OFFERS UNIQUE CONNECTIONS FOR STUDENTS AND INDUSTRY

| By Melissa Trevizo

The LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology offers San Jacinto College students innovative ways to connect with industry partners. This industry access gives CPET graduates a leg up when it comes to job placement.

Thanks to his athletics background, Jeff Pearce, coordinator for education and workforce at CPET, has developed some of these unique events, including Scout Week.

“As a volleyball coach, I would make sure our entire team was prepped when we knew a scout was coming to a practice,” Pearce said. “It gave everyone a chance to show their skill, and it is no different for CPET. Inviting industry into our labs and showcasing our students’ knowledge base and engagement opens up an avenue for conversation.”

Scout Week took place April 4-7 at the 151,000-square-foot complex with a separate 8,000-square-foot, two-story process training unit. Representatives from ExxonMobil, LyondellBasell, Chevron Phillips Chemical, and more observed students in the classroom or joined hands-on activities in labs.

“We leave it up to interpretation, but the goal is to get representatives in the classrooms and have them associate students’ names to faces,” Pearce said.



Students get real-world experience at CPET's glycol unit.

CPET and San Jac’s career services also team to present Industrial Virtual Interview Training Experience sessions. InVITE sessions take place like typical interviews, with students answering general and scenario-based questions, then getting feedback from a panel of CPET, industry, and career services representatives.

“We started with doing interviews three days a week, and slots started to fill up quickly,” Pearce said. “Career coordinators from our campuses help facilitate each interview and offer real-time feedback to students.”

Turner Industries, LyondellBasell, Arkema, Noltex LLC, Kaneka, W.R. Grace, INEOS, Performance Contractors, Olympus, and Chevron Phillips Chemical-Cedar Bayou representatives have volunteered their time to help students hone their skills.

“I’m proud of San Jacinto College for starting this initiative,” said Carla Thompson, workforce development manager for Turner Industries. “We are building our future and the competencies and expectations that are set out for the industry.”

David Gosnay, LyondellBasell operations manager for training and logistics, spends 60% of his workweek at the facility as a liaison between industry and education.

“LyondellBasell sees the value in workforce development,” Gosnay said. “Partnering with San Jac gets us in on a ground level to train students to a high industry standard. Students come to me for career advice, and I also observe course content and curriculum to make sure what’s being taught aligns with industry practices. We want that personal connection, and presence is important.”

These unique connections are paying off for CPET graduates like Summer Barnhill, who credits Gosnay among those who motivated her to make deeper connections at CPET.

“I started my new job as an operator at LyondellBasell in May,” Barnhill said. “I put all of my eggs in one basket with that one, and it paid off. I knew I wanted



CPET hosts LyondellBasell Signing Day.

LYONDELLBASELL SIGNING DAY

Hard work and dedication recently culminated in the LyondellBasell Signing Day, when 10 CPET graduates accepted and signed job offers with the company.

The signing day marked the beginning of petrochemical careers for these graduates, who were selected through a collaborative hiring process between San Jac and LyondellBasell’s Houston Operator Hiring committee. For the photo album, visit bit.ly/3waMuPe.

to work there after meeting David Gosnay at a job fair last year. Hearing him speak about the industry was inspiring.”

Planning events never stops for Pearce, who keeps an ever-expanding list of ideas on a whiteboard in his office.

“My goal is to get students in front of industry as much as possible,” he said. “If we can get them to network and make connections, we are setting them up for success.” ■

► Learn more about CPET at sanjac.edu/cpet.

COMPETITIVE CAREER PATH GETS **REAL**

| By Neesha Hosein

The San Jacinto College Real Estate Program prepares students for a competitive and evolving career path. But it's not all about selling houses.

Graduates from this South Campus program can pursue careers in property management, title companies, and commercial real estate or with apartment locators. Residential real estate agent is the most common job title in the field.

Starting point

For those with no experience, the occupational certificate in real estate is the best starting point. It consists of six classes required by the state to be eligible for a real estate license.

Anyone who already has a Texas real estate license or is licensed in another state can get credit for up to three classes, including Principles of Real Estate I and II and Law of Agency, according to David Turnquist, real estate instructor.

Job lowdown

“Much of what real estate agents do involves preparing contracts, addenda, and amendments and knowing

what forms to use and when to use them,” Turnquist said. “A real estate agent must be very organized and pay attention to deadlines on the contracts for each client.”

Much of the groundwork is done behind the scenes, so being well-trained and having good written communication skills are essential for success.

“Know the areas and market that you are working in so that when clients ask questions you know the answers,” Turnquist said. “Manage your time, and don't overcommit. Answer calls, texts, and emails in a timely manner, as this is one of the biggest complaints about realtors from consumers.”

Misconceptions

Pursuing a real estate career with high hopes of making easy money and setting flexible work hours will lead straight to two of the top misconceptions.

“For the most part, clients want to look at homes after work and on the weekends and holidays, so if you are getting into real estate to work your own schedule, you'd better think again,” Turnquist said. “There are

over 30,000 agents in the Houston area alone, which means you have a lot of competition.”

Another misconception is that real estate agents must be bubbly and outgoing. While this is never bad in any capacity, it's not a requirement for the job.

Despite personality types, it could take years to build up a client base before making a sizable income.

“Almost all real estate agents will be independent contractors who are paid by commission only, as in no salary or hourly pay,” Turnquist said. “If you don't sell anything, you don't make any money. The more you sell, the more you make. Depending on what broker you work for, the brokerage takes a percentage of your commissions as the broker split, which varies anywhere from 60/40 to 95/5 in favor of the agent.”

Current market

Houses are currently selling at a fast rate and with hefty price tags, which means the real estate industry is steadily growing. This gives a false sense that it is an easy way to make money. According to Turnquist, it is not as easy as it seems and is “extremely competitive.”

Turnquist encourages anyone embarking on a career in real estate to prepare for fierce competition. He said agents can be a bit ruthless in their tactics to get clients “and will even steal them from you.” The best method for success is to “show a client that you are the best one to help them and their needs.”

Why San Jac?

Studying real estate at San Jac means receiving college credit and the opportunity to earn a degree since it's an accredited institution.

“You can also use financial aid at San Jac but not at the proprietary schools,” Turnquist said. “We exceed the state minimum requirements in most of our classes, and we often hear from brokers across Houston that our students are better prepared and more knowledgeable than the students that came from other schools.” ■

► Learn more about San Jac's real estate program at sanjac.edu/program/real-estate.



ALUMNUS TRASLAVIÑA USES TRAINING TO LAUNCH CAREERS IN MUSIC AND TECHNOLOGY

| By Melissa Trevizo

An established musician and computer science engineer, San Jacinto College alumnus Juan Traslaviña splits his time between his passion for music and evolving technology.

“I came to San Jac because there was a scholarship opportunity in music,” Traslaviña said. “I wouldn’t have been able to go if it wasn’t for that scholarship. My mom was a single parent, and we didn’t have money set aside for college.”

While investing in his classes, Traslaviña traveled with the jazz band and music director Dr. Shelton Berg to various jazz festivals across the U.S. and the renowned Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland.

“As a student, it was an unbelievable experience,” he said. “I tried to soak in every moment.”

In 1985, Traslaviña graduated from San Jac with an associate degree in music. Then he earned his bachelor’s in computer science and master’s in software engineering from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

“I’m a huge advocate for supporting your alma mater,” he said. “My education at San Jac and UHCL gave me a knowledge base that helped launch my career.”

For the last 28 years, Traslaviña has served as principal engineer for local aerospace contractor Science Applications International Corporation, providing software engineering skills to NASA’s International

Space Station program, Commercial Crew Program, and the Gateway Program.

“I’ve been fortunate to lead the SpaceX software assurance team, something I never would have dreamed of,” he said. “My experience working with NASA has been amazing. Every day there is something I learned at San Jac that I apply to my work.”

Traslaviña has won several awards for his engineering work at NASA, including Group Achievement Award from Johnson Space Center, Achievement Award for Excellence in Program Performance, two Bravo Awards, and four Kudos Awards. He also hosts a monthly Technical Speaker Forum that brings together industry and academic professionals to share their experience and lessons learned on various topics with the NASA community.

“I have a mindset — shared by my first music teacher, Mr. Harris — that you should always be around people who are better than you at something because that’s how you learn and grow,” he said. “I have been honored and privileged to work with so many smart people throughout my career.”

In 2012, Traslaviña received UHCL’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

“I felt very honored and humbled to be in the company of great leaders and innovators who have come before me,” he said. “The award helped me remember with appreciation all the people that invested their time, love, and wisdom and continue to support my personal and my professional activities.”

In his music career, Traslaviña has performed throughout Houston, Europe, and the Bahamas



Photo by Courtney Morris



Photo courtesy of Juan Traslaviña

Juan Traslaviña performs a concert.



Image courtesy of Juan Traslaviña

Juan Traslaviña's CD 'Liberation'

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Are you a proud San Jac alumnus or alumna? Sign up for our newsletter at sanjac.edu/alumni. Or share your success story by emailing alumni@sjcd.edu.

under the name Juan Manuel. Seven of his 12 CDs contain original music. In 2001, he was invited back to the Montreux Jazz Festival to promote his CD “Liberation,” which was considered for Grammy and Latin Grammy nominations and was taken on two Space Shuttle flights.

“It’s been great staying connected with friends from college and an honor to apply what I learned at San Jac not only in my career in technology but also in music,” he said. “What the staff and faculty do at San Jac makes a difference for students, families, and communities every day.” ■

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HOW TO BUILD CONNECTIONS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

| By Courtney Morris

The last two years have taught us two things:

1. Anything that could be virtual was virtual.
2. Some things shouldn't be virtual ... like relationships.

If you've lost the skill of networking — or never had it to begin with — San Jacinto College Student Engagement and Activities and Career Services offices are here to help. SEA offers social and leadership events to help you connect with your peers and campus staff, while career services offers job fairs, cover letter/ résumé help, mock interviews, and more.

SEA specialist Ginnette Ruelas and career services coordinator Jennifer Cerda share how you can build connections for college and career success.

Q: Why should I focus on connecting/networking in college?

Ruelas: Connection stimulates your brain. You only know what you know. When you meet new people, you learn new things. A great way to meet people is to join our SEA organizations. Not only will you meet people who are interested in what you are, but they can connect you to others — even to a future job.

Cerda: Networking is a way of sharing different ideas and getting different people's perspectives. You begin to realize you don't have to stick to this general career you've been thinking of. There is a big job market out there. It really helps broaden your horizons.

Q: Why is in-person connection still important in a virtual world?

Ruelas: On Zoom, you can't see body language. When communicating, people back up their words with body language. When students met with us online, they still had fun, but they missed that personal feeling of "Someone is legitimately listening to me. I can tell through their body language." You get that in in-person events.

Cerda: It's important to practice those in-person skills and know how to interact face to face because you never know what environment you'll be placed in.



Students check out the career services booth at the Spring Fling.

What we're noticing in any industry is employers want students to know how to communicate verbally and non-verbally.

Q: I'm an introvert. What ideas do you have?

Ruelas: We make our SEA events very casual — come and go. Start slow. Some people are like, "Get in there, get in there." But attend a smaller event you're comfortable with. Don't overwhelm yourself. Then go to a bigger event next time. Invite a friend with you.

Cerda: Set small, manageable goals for yourself. For example, "I'm going to speak to at least three people at this event." During career fairs, we'll sometimes walk with shy students to different tables and help them ask questions. I notice after we break the ice they're going to tables on their own. They feel more at ease.

Q: How will networking skills help me in my career and life?

Ruelas: Be open-minded and listen when you're networking. When you meet people, you don't know what connections they may have. It's a connection to another connection. Also, be present. Enjoy where you are right now because your life is always changing. Remind yourself: "This is a good time for me. I'm doing something for myself. It's going to help me in the future."



Student Elsie Bura hosts a club booth at the Spring Fling.

GET CONNECTED

San Jacinto College SEA and Career Services offer events year-round for you to socialize and develop professional skills.

Find SEA in campus student centers:

- **Central Campus:** C14.100
- **South Campus:** S11.115
- **North Campus:** N12.104

Find career services in campus welcome centers:

- **Central Campus:** C27.1500
- **South Campus:** S6.120
- **North Campus:** N6.170
- **Generation Park Campus:** G2.101

Cerda: When you network, you market yourself. Research shows 90 percent of open positions are filled because of networking. You can have a drastic change in your lifestyle because of a relationship you've built with someone else in the industry.

Respect the other person's time, whether it's a brief call or a scheduled meeting. Be on time. Following up is also important. Send a thank-you or happy birthday/holiday message — keep up that relationship. ■

► **Learn more:** [sanjac.edu/engage](https://www.sanjac.edu/engage) or [sanjac.edu/career-services](https://www.sanjac.edu/career-services)

CHOOSE YOUR PATH

At San Jacinto College, our mission is to ensure you succeed and to empower you to achieve your goals, redefine expectations, and explore new opportunities.

With eight career pathways, you can equip yourself with the training and tools to succeed in a career, find your place in the world, and pursue the life you've always wanted. If you plan to earn an associate degree and transfer to a four-year university, we can help you along your path. If career training for a certificate or associate degree is more your focus, we can help you find the program that is right for you. Before you register for classes, you should discuss your career goals with a San Jac educational planner. We'll make sure you're selecting courses that meet the curriculum requirements of the certificate or associate degree you want to earn or four-year university you plan to attend. Learn more at sanjac.edu, or call 281-998-6150 to speak with an educational counselor. ■



Art, Humanities, Communication, and Design

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

Career Opportunities

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

Broadcast Technician	\$39,528
Choreographer	\$63,520
Editor	\$65,203
English Language and Literature Teacher, postsecondary	\$77,325
Film and Video Editor	\$50,756
Graphic Designer	\$51,198
Interior Designer	\$62,865
Interpreter/Translator	\$53,173
Lighting Technician and Media and Communication Equipment Workers	\$89,064
Special Effects Artist and Animator	\$63,904
Music Teacher, postsecondary	\$75,285
Music Directors and Composers	\$61,970
News Analysts, Reporters, and Journalists	\$54,664
Producers and Directors	\$61,873
Proofreaders	\$38,061
Public Relations Specialist	\$62,598
Sound Engineering Technician	\$53,662
Technical Writer	\$67,835



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 a bachelor's or master's degree)**

Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerk	\$44,878
Budget Analyst	\$90,730
Credit Analyst	\$81,737
Executive Administrative Assistants	\$65,160
Insurance Underwriters	\$73,078
Paralegal and Legal Assistant	\$53,406
Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerk	\$52,206
Real Estate Sales Agent	\$62,273
Real Estate Broker	\$85,751
Human Resources Specialist	\$71,357
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	\$48,101
Project Management Specialist	\$90,554



Construction, Industry Manufacturing, and Transportation

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

Career Opportunities

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

Automotive Service Technician and Mechanic	\$47,795
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialist	\$51,240
Captains, Mates, and Pilots	\$81,292
Chemical Plant and Systems Operators (Process Technology)	\$74,656
Construction Managers	\$99,661
Electrician	\$53,300
Environmental Science and Protection Technician (including health)	\$50,285
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanic and Installer	\$54,806
Medical Equipment Repairer	\$56,825
NDT Technician Level I	\$74,392
Occupational Health and Safety Technician	\$53,350
Plumber, Pipefitter, and Steamfitter	\$55,231
Sailors and Marine Oilers	\$47,596
Welder, Cutter, Solderer, and Brazier	\$51,146



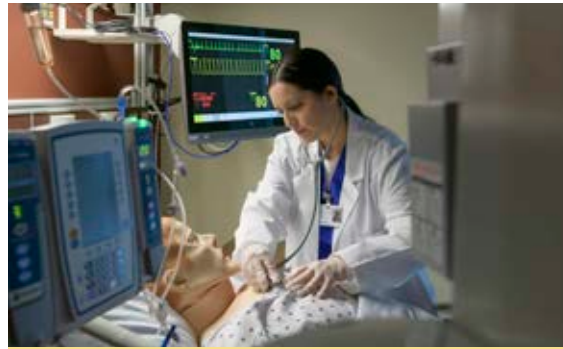
Education

Child Development /
Early Childhood Studies Teaching

Career Opportunities

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

Child Care Workers	\$23,385
Elementary School Teacher (except special ed)	\$58,773
Education Administrator, Preschool, and Child Care Center	\$61,518
Preschool Teacher	\$44,626
Secondary School Teacher (except special ed)	\$60,510
Substitute Teacher	\$48,806
Teaching Assistant (except postsecondary)	\$22,726
Vocational Education Teachers, secondary	\$61,717



Health Sciences

Cancer Data Management
Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Emergency Medical Services
Eye Care Technology
Health Information Management
Medical Assisting
Medical Billing
Medical Coding
Medical Laboratory 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)**

Certified Ophthalmic Assistant	\$42,500
Certified Ophthalmic Technician	\$51,733
Certified Tumor Registrar	\$54,049
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer	\$71,380
Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedics	\$37,222
Fitness Trainers	\$46,868
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurse	\$48,968
Medical Assistant	\$36,158
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians	\$53,884
Medical Records and Health Information Technician	\$47,459
Occupational Therapy Assistant	\$78,963
Pharmacy Technician	\$37,328
Physical Therapist Assistant	\$80,499
Radiologic Technologist	\$63,958
Registered Nurse	\$84,858
Respiratory Therapist	\$62,404
Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselor	\$51,439
Surgical Technologist	\$54,165



Public Safety and Human/Consumer Services

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

Career Opportunities

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

Baker	\$26,016
Chefs and Head Cooks (including Pastry Chefs)	\$57,417
Firefighter	\$54,145
Food Service Manager	\$58,738
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	\$24,617
Massage Therapist	\$39,093
Private Detectives and Investigators	\$50,805
Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists	\$48,239
Skin Care Specialists (Esthetician)	\$48,952



Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

Applications / Programming
 Biology
 Chemistry
 Cloud Computing
 Computer Science
 Computer Simulation and Game Design
 Cyber Security
 Desktop Support and Network Administration
 Engineering
 Engineering Design Graphics (Drafting)
 Environmental Science
 Geology
 Mathematics
 Microsoft and CISCO
 Physics
 Web Design

Career Opportunities

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

Accountant and Auditor	\$83,667
Agricultural and Food Science Technicians	\$41,404
Architectural and Civil Drafter	\$59,421
Chemical Engineer	\$147,023
Civil Engineer	\$99,583
Computer Network Support Specialist	\$80,283
Database Administrators	\$103,714
Environmental Engineering Technician	\$62,136
Information Security Analyst	\$118,476
Mechanical Drafter	\$64,122
Computer Network Specialist	\$75,268
Software Developers (Applications)	\$109,513
Web Developer and Digital Designer	\$73,192
Computer Programmers	\$103,555
Computer User Support Specialist	\$51,748



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	\$79,007
Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists	\$80,459
Mental Health Counselors	\$51,439
Clergy	\$60,981
Museum Technicians and Conservators	\$39,636
Psychologists	\$106,021
Philosophy and Religion Teachers (postsecondary)	\$55,802
Political Scientists	\$90,752 ^(statewide)
Sociology Teachers (postsecondary)	\$80,632
Social Science Research Assistants	\$36,902

* Salary source: texaswages.com, Gulf Coast Region, 2020 Annual WDA Wages

** Salary source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Noncredit Classes for Professional and Life Long Learners

Whether you're preparing for a career or picking up a new hobby, the San Jacinto College Continuing and Professional Development Division 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. Not only does the division provide vital training for workers, but you can enjoy picking 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. To learn more, visit sanjac.edu/cpd.

Workforce Development and Job Training

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 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

^^ Salary source: PQNDT 2019 Salary Survey

^^^ Salary source: Payscale, Houston Region

WELCOME HOME:

BAHA'I CLUB RETURNS TO SAN JAC ROOTS AFTER FOUR DECADES

| By Courtney Morris

Average height with a shock of wavy black hair and a contagious grin under his mustache, Hamid Nossrat hardly looked intimidating. But it was the tennis racket he was brandishing that alarmed the woman on the tractor.

Finally, she realized Nossrat was signaling and cut the engine. Mission explained, the San Jacinto College student and groundskeeper were soon touring the Central Campus, searching for a spot for the Baha'i Club to plant a tree.

In 1976, the club members planted the now long-gone mimosa tree with a plaque outside the library. Exactly 46 years later – April 21, 2022 – they reunited to dedicate nine new plaques honoring world unity.

Flowers for a green campus

Nossrat helped start San Jac's Baha'i Club in 1976. The club welcomed those from or interested in this faith, which promotes the unity of all people and religions and champions education



The Baha'i Club tree planting in 1976

as a barrier-breaker. Members met on Thursdays to mingle and plan activities.

Impressed by their involvement, then-president Dr. Thomas Spencer asked them to usher in graduates during a commencement ceremony.

"We were smaller than other clubs but more active than many, according to Dr. Spencer, who recognized and appreciated that," Nossrat said.

New to Houston and practically living on campus, club members wanted to beautify their home.

"The campus was so beautiful and the layout so nice, but we didn't have any flowers — nothing that bloomed," Nossrat said.

Two bake sale fundraisers later, they had scraped together the funds for a mimosa tree and plaque, and with Spencer's permission, they held a tree planting ceremony.

Warm welcome

San Jac connected these students. Some had faced persecution in other countries, but all found a home at the Central Campus.

Nossrat enrolled in San Jac's restaurant management program. Graduating from a West Germany university and studying in England made him one of the few members fluent in English.

Kamran Mouzoon, who came from Tehran, Iran, took ESL and basic courses at San Jac before pursuing architecture at the

University of Houston. Nossrat coached him and the others in English skills.

"Because we were new in this country, our language and capacity were very limited," Mouzoon said. "It takes a while to absorb the language. Hamid was instrumental in making sure the club moved forward."

Mouzoon recalls his culture shock. He once hitched a ride in a pickup only to discover he couldn't understand the driver's drawl. He also learned about Thanksgiving after spying apartment neighbors toting casseroles and pies.

While finding their feet in a new culture, Mouzoon and the others found a safe home at San Jac.

"As we came to classes and participated in the life of the campus, it made us a lot more comfortable, and we felt we belonged in this environment," he said.

Save the date: 2067

Today, many of the original club members not only boast advanced degrees but also have become successful global citizens.

Together, they returned to the Central Campus library to dedicate new plaques where the mimosa once stood. April 21 marks not only the Baha'i's most important holy day but also the United Nations' World Peace Day.

Because of a production issue, the plaques were not ready for the reunion, but College leaders, faculty, and guests from around the world joined to celebrate.



Hamid Nossrat (left) and Kamran Mouzoon with former administrator Dr. Ron Rucker (middle)

"We are honored to show our support for these alumni and celebrate our commitment to unity and solidarity in our efforts to make our community and the world a safer, more equitable place," Dr. Laurel Williamson, deputy chancellor and president, said.

Mouzoon, a Houston architect, designed the metal plaques, which will bear the Baha'i faith's nine tenets:

1. Oneness of God
2. Oneness of all religions
3. Oneness of mankind
4. Equality of rights for men and women
5. Elimination of prejudices of all kinds
6. Harmony of science and religion
7. Independent investigation of truth
8. Education for all
9. Protection of all cultural diversity


For Mouzoon, education plays a valuable role in every life from the cradle to the grave.

"Education is the way to eliminate prejudice worldwide," he said.

Nossrat added that "education is our duty and its performance a worship for humanity." Recalling the original tree planting, he asked guests to mark their calendars for the next reunion: April 21, 2067.

"Let's all promise we will meet here again in 45 years," he said, a twinkle in his eye. "Don't be late." ■

► **For the event photo album, visit bit.ly/3FvoURH.**



San Jacinto Helping Others

Are you a compassionate, willing listener who is eager to help others during difficult times? If so, the San Jacinto College **Mental Health Services** Program can give you the training you need to provide counseling and other specialized services to individuals and families who need it most.


sanjac.edu/program/mental-health-services

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North Campus
5800 Uvalde Road
Houston, Texas 77049

Maritime Campus
3700 Old Highway 146
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