

SAN JACINTO COLLEGESM CareerFocus

Fall 2023 • Volume 4 • Issue 2

DANCING FULL CIRCLE:
HOW SALTER'S PASSION
FOR DANCE BROUGHT
HER BACK TO SAN JAC



**PROFESSOR
SHAH**
CELEBRATES
DECADES OF
SUCCESS



**WREATH-MAKING
MASTERY:**
STEP-BY-STEP
INSTRUCTIONS FOR
CRAFTING STUNNING
WREATHS



FROM EXPLORER TO
DRAFTER: **ALUMNUS
JUSTIN BEWLEY**



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SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

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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

PLEDGE NOW FOR PROMISE @ SAN JAC SCHOLARSHIP

High school seniors who live in San Jacinto College’s taxing district can now pledge for the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship.

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

The deadline to pledge to become a 2024 Promise Scholar and apply to the College is Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024. To learn more about the scholarship and view enrollment and eligibility requirements, visit sanjac.edu/promise.

DAVIS ROUSE RE-ELECTED, CANTÚ-WILSON ELECTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson

Erica Davis Rouse has been re-elected to Position 1, and Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson elected to Position 2 on the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees.

Davis Rouse founded Reach One 713 with her husband in 2016. She has volunteered with several non-profits — including Making It Better Texas, Yellowstone Academy, and Pasadena ISD — and is an advisory board member for the Smahrt Girl Foundation. Davis Rouse was first elected to the Board of Trustees in 2017.

Cantú-Wilson is the creative director for Marquee Consulting Inc. and oversees the Luxlead Institute. Previously, Cantú-Wilson served the College for nearly 10 years. Most recently, she was director

of teaching and learning initiatives and special projects, functioning as the College liaison to external education partners.

On June 5, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution to name outgoing trustee Dr. Ruede Wheeler as a trustee emeritus. Wheeler has served on the Board since 1986 and chaired the San Jacinto College Finance Committee. Wheeler, who practiced dentistry in La Porte for more than 40 years, is also a member and past president of the La Porte Rotary Club.

View the Board of Trustees reception photos at bit.ly/SJCNewBoard.

DOKES NAMED GENERATION PARK CAMPUS PROVOST

Dr. Destry Dokes has been named provost of the San Jacinto College Generation Park Campus. He has been serving as the executive director of the campus since 2020.



Dr. Destry Dokes

With more than 20 years of leadership experience in medical and higher education administration and a doctoral degree in business administration

from Walden University, Dokes has shown his ability to hold organizational leadership roles.

He serves as board chair of YMCA Lake Houston and board member of Partnership Lake Houston and is the Summer Creek Rotary Club past president. Additionally, Dokes has developed instrumental partnerships with Humble ISD, Service Wire Inc., and East Harris County Empowerment Council.

Dokes and his team have continued to develop campus enrollment by creating strong community partnerships.



Erica Davis Rouse

PROMISE SCHOLAR MAKES PROMISE TO SELF: NO DOUBTING, KEEP TRYING

| By Courtney Morris

What does a debt-free degree look like? For Promise Scholar Mya McCray, it means fewer financial worries and the chance to explore her options.

The C.E. King High School graduate has attended San Jacinto College through the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship since fall 2022. This scholarship — available to all in-district high school seniors — covers an associate degree or certificate at San Jac 100% after other financial aid.

Growing up, inspired by an aunt in uniform, McCray pictured herself as a police officer too. She researched and applied to several universities during her senior year, but housing and tuition always created roadblocks. Her school counselor and her parents encouraged her to pursue Promise @ San Jac instead.

The scholarship has allowed her to take classes full time, work part time, and even live in her own apartment for a season.

“I’m a very independent person,” she said. “I like doing things on my own.”

At San Jac, McCray also discovered nursing — not fighting crime — is her true passion. A natural caretaker when her mom and grandparents got sick, she wants to help others get healthy again. After finishing her basics, she plans to apply for the College’s licensed vocational nursing program — a step up from her current job as a certified nurse aide.

“That’s what I love about San Jac: I have time to think about what I want to do,” she said.



Promise Scholar Mya McCray

McCray’s advice for future Promise Scholars? If you’re not sure what career to pursue, find your passion first.

Despite being independent and the first in her family to attend college, McCray has learned to lean on San Jac’s student resources. She has met with a peer tutor for English classes and used San Jac Marketplace for groceries and café meals.

“San Jac is very helpful and understanding,” she said. “If you need help with schoolwork, you can go to campus,

email, or call. Tutors are always available. If you’re going through anything personal, there are counselors you can talk to on campus too.”

McCray’s advice for future Promise Scholars? If you’re not sure what career to pursue, find your passion first.

“I know how you feel,” McCray said. “I didn’t know what I wanted to do. Apply for the Promise Scholarship, complete your basics, do some research, and get your mind on what you really want. By the second year, figure out what you want to do.”

While Promise @ San Jac has removed financial stress, McCray already knows a thing or two about removing distractions

Apply for Promise @ San Jac Scholarship

The scholarship is open to all in-district high school seniors (class of 2024) who complete all steps and enroll full time at San Jac in fall 2024.

2024 Deadlines:

- Sept. 1, 2023: Promise pledge opens.
- Feb. 22, 2024: Pledge and apply to San Jac.
- April 25, 2024: Complete FAFSA or TASFA.
- July 18, 2024: Complete all enrollment steps.

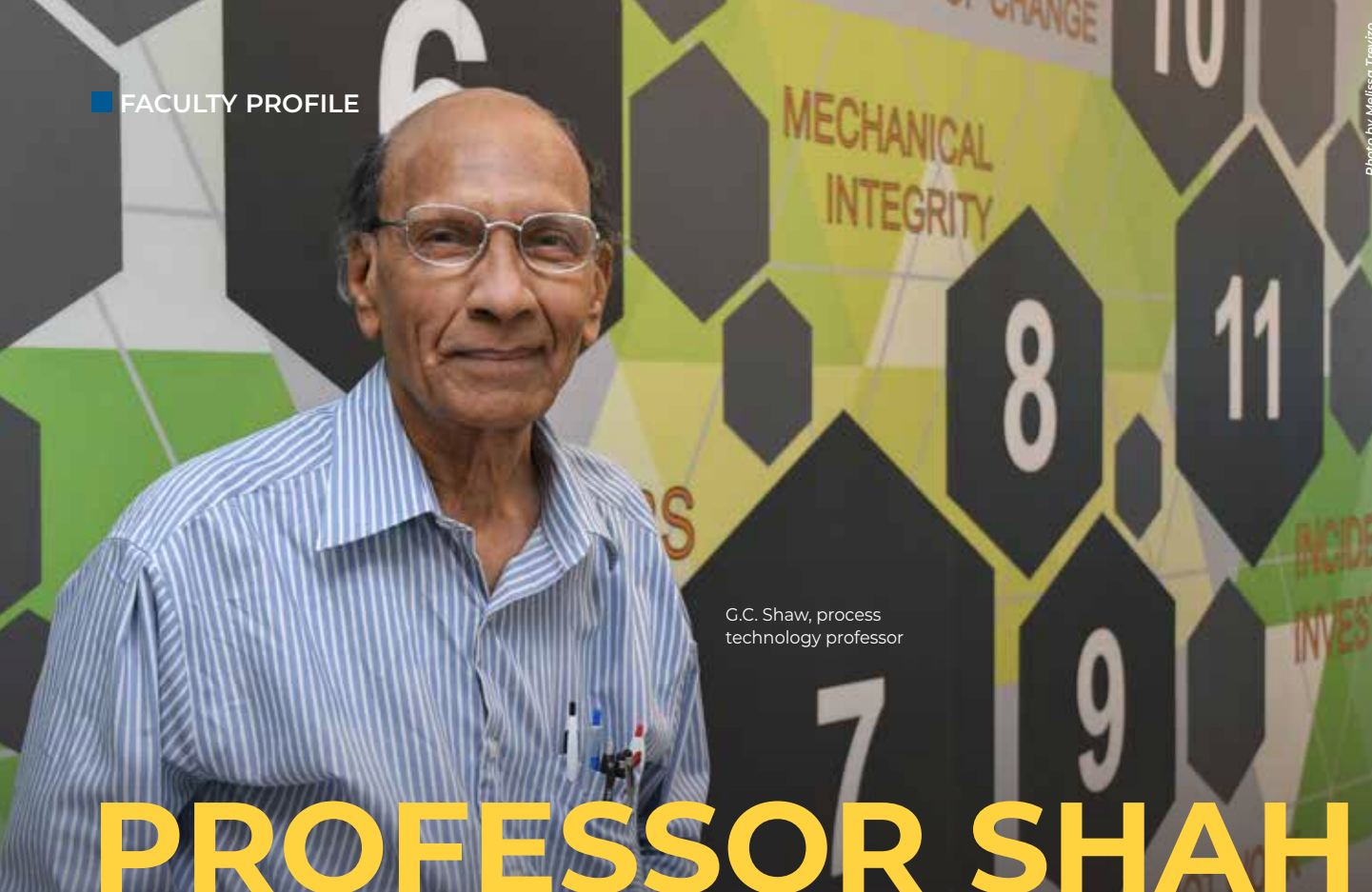
► Learn more at sanjac.edu/promise or scan the QR code.



to focus on the goal. She sees herself continuing from licensed vocational nurse to registered nurse, then someday working as a travel nurse.

“I have a lot of goals in my life,” she said. “I’m young, but I’m taking it one step at a time.”

When doubts creep in, she says to keep trying your best: “Don’t ever say you can’t do it if you haven’t tried.” ■



G.C. Shah, process technology professor

PROFESSOR SHAH

CELEBRATES DECADES OF SUCCESS

“I strongly believe teamwork and trust can reward us with stellar safety performance — any place, any time.”

| By Melissa Trevizo

Process technology professor G.C. Shah has been teaching at San Jacinto College since 1992. Among his most significant accomplishments? Seeing his students strive through hard work and dedication to succeed.

“When I visit plants, I often run into supervisors, shift leaders, and operators who were my students,” Shah said. “This makes me extremely happy and so proud to be a part of their success story.”

Shah’s story spans a long career in the petrochemical field. He holds master’s degrees in chemical engineering as well as process control and instrumentation. Throughout his career, he has worked in many areas across the industry, including refining, and served as a consultant on instrumentation, fire protection, and environmental health and safety.

“Safety is a huge part of operating in the petrochemical industry,” Shah said. “I have seen incidents firsthand that impact entire communities.”

According to Shah, one of the best ways to ensure safety is open communication and teamwork.

“In my previous work, we had a safety culture that thrived on working together,” he said. “Our job was to get things back to operating safely and without unnecessary delays. We were able to do so because we didn’t let bureaucracy get in the way. I strongly believe teamwork and trust can reward us with stellar safety performance — any place, any time.”

Shah passes this teamwork emphasis to his students. In April 2023, he led two student teams to win first and second place at the 2023 North American Process

Technology Alliance Troubleshooting Skills Competition.

Process technology alumnus Austin Self says Shah’s thoroughness helped prepare their team for the win.

“Mr. Shah would look at every possible unit, hypothesize every upset, and send us his notes,” Self said. “We were constantly deep diving into every possible failure or ‘what if.’ We practiced on the modules and watched YouTube videos on the process. We didn’t leave any stone unturned.”

Shah sees the win as a group effort among students, faculty, and staff.

“I am deeply grateful to my leaders and colleagues. It is their support and my team’s enthusiasm that helped us win,” he said. “Without this, we would not have been successful. I do not have

adequate words to express my gratitude to everyone!”

With over 30 years of teaching under his belt, Shah takes pride in the professional relationships he’s built over the course of his teaching career.

“I find great inspiration from the fine staff, faculty, and support partners at San Jac,” he said. “I have been fortunate to have worked with folks in operations and maintenance. They treat me like their family. We are all in this together — we are one team.” ■

► Learn more about the program by searching for process tech at sanjac.edu or scanning the QR code.





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ROAD TO RECOVERY: ALUMNUS GIVES HOPE AMID DRUG EPIDEMIC

| By Courtney Morris

“Can you give me one day clean?”

Jesse DeLeon, Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans treatment program manager, sits across from an 18-year-old addicted to crack. He instructs the young man, head down, slumped in his chair, to sit up.

“If you can give me one day, you can give me three,” DeLeon says. “If three, then seven. Separate yourself from high-risk situations. One week from today, we’re going to sit down, and I’ll ask you the same question.”

Working with teens and adults struggling with addiction, DeLeon has learned to let them hit rock bottom. Only if they’re willing to change can he help.

Rising above dysfunction

DeLeon understands addiction firsthand. In the 1970s, he grew up in north Houston with a functioning alcoholic father and an enabling mother. Several of his seven siblings later struggled with addiction themselves.

“Growing up in that era was crazy,” he said. “Everyone was getting high. In school, people wore marijuana leaves on necklaces.”

At 13, tired of his dad stumbling in drunk and beating up his mom, DeLeon ran to an aunt’s house, where he lived throughout early high school. Only years later did he realize he’d grown up in a dysfunctional home.

Later, working in IT in Dallas, DeLeon returned to school after the tech industry bottomed out. He pursued bachelor’s

and master’s degrees and a new career path: teaching developmental college classes. Once again, he came face-to-face with drug addiction, this time among his students.

In 2008, DeLeon moved back to Houston to help care for his dad after surgery. Just before his dad passed away, he told him he forgave him for everything he’d done to their family: “But I’m doing this for myself so I can move forward.”

“His whole life, he didn’t feel he did anything wrong,” DeLeon said. “That’s what addiction does to you. You live in denial and don’t realize what you’re doing to others.”

Becoming a drug counselor

Tired of the drug epidemic, DeLeon finally decided to become part of the solution.

At this point, San Jacinto College entered the picture. Cayman Tirado, currently San Jac’s mental health services program director, met with him to plan his academic path. In a year, he finished five drug and alcohol abuse counseling classes and became a licensed chemical dependency counselor.

“From the start, Jesse stood out as ambitious and dedicated to helping individuals with substance use disorders,” Tirado said. “He has unwavering compassion.”

In 2019, DeLeon completed his associate degree in mental health counseling to become a full-time drug counselor. Today, he helps teens on juvenile probation and adults with DWIs and small drug



Alumnus Jesse DeLeon guides others from addiction to hope

possession charges in outpatient/reintegration court cases.

To commit to lasting change, each person must see the addiction lifestyle isn’t bringing success.

“When you show them dollar for dollar how much they’ve spent on drugs and alcohol for the last 10 years while living in a \$20,000 house, it’s getting them to make that decision themselves,” he said. “You can’t force change on anyone.”

Promoting change

In substance abuse counseling, DeLeon’s reward is not earning a fat paycheck but seeing someone get sober and move forward.

Up to 30% of clients, like DeLeon’s dad, deny the problem. The other 70% accept how drugs disrupt their lives and begin to think and carry themselves differently.

Be Part of the Solution

Learn more about the program by searching for mental health at sanjac.edu or scanning the QR code.



When former clients message him that they’ve bought houses, married, or reunited with kids, DeLeon always responds the same: “It wasn’t me. You did the work.”

Even so, he plays a part, showing the path from dead-end addiction to hope.

“What’s the ultimate goal of a person’s being?” he said. “It’s leaving this world better than when you got here.” ■



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Salter

DANCING FULL CIRCLE:

HOW SALTER'S PASSION FOR DANCE BROUGHT HER BACK TO SAN JAC

| By Melissa Trevizo

Starting at San Jacinto College as a student in 2001, Jennifer Salter already knew dance would be a part of her future. As a dance professor at the South Campus, Salter says her life has come full circle.

"I have been a dancer since I was 3, and I just knew this was my path," she said. "San Jac is where my heart is. I love this program and knew I'd return here one day."

Salter grew up in Pasadena, training as a competitive dancer and joining the dance team in high school.

"We competed locally and nationally for several years," Salter said. "I remember long Saturdays and late evenings at the studio rehearsing for any number of competitions or performances, but I loved it!"

When it came time to decide on her college major, Salter never skipped a beat and chose to pursue her passion.

"I honestly cannot remember talking to anyone about what I would study in

college," she said. "This was an easy answer for me — dance, of course. Why would I even consider anything else?"

After San Jac, she transferred to Sam Houston State University and earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance in 2005. She took a two-year hiatus from academia to pursue dance in New York City before returning to SHSU to earn her master's degree.

"While I was in New York, I was taking every class I could, watching performances, and working jobs that paid very little," she said. "It was a fun time in my life where I was free to explore my passions."

Salter returned to Houston after completing her master's degree and began searching for teaching jobs. Initially looking for drill team instructor positions, she realized higher education was her calling. In 2014, she began teaching in San Jac's dance program as an adjunct instructor.

"My passion for teaching dance is not only sparked in the studio, where I get to explore movement and watch my students discover their purpose, but it's also during lecture time in my dance appreciation courses," she said.

Salter has taught full time in the program since last fall and enjoys changing students' perspectives.

"Academic and concert dance are very different from studio and drill team dance," Salter said. "A lot of what we work on at San Jac is meaning-making. It is much more emotionally involved. About one semester into the program, I can see students change how they approach dance and movement."

Her artistic endeavors have led her to create dance films, photography, and graphic design, and her choreography has been recognized and presented at local and regional festivals.

Several of her dance films have premiered at national film festivals and art exhibits around Houston. Salter served as a grant panelist for Houston Arts Alliance and partnered with Frame Dance Company to develop curriculum and instructional videos for Houston ISD's middle school dance programs.

"I feel so lucky to have found my passion for dance and creativity early in life but even luckier that I had people who nurtured my journey," Salter said. "I can only hope to be as inspiring and supportive for my students as they were for me." ■

► Learn more about the program by searching for dance at sanjac.edu or scanning the QR code.



WREATH-MAKING MASTERY

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR CRAFTING STUNNING WREATHS

By Melissa Trevizo



Photos by Melissa Trevizo

STEP 1

Select a theme or color scheme for your wreath. This could be based on a season, holiday, or your personal style. Wired wreath bases are available in many shapes and sizes. For a novice, Johnson suggests starting with a round frame. There's also no need to break the bank on supplies.

"I buy the majority of my supplies at the Dollar Tree," said Johnson. "If I can't find what I need there, I will source items at Hobby Lobby and Michaels."



STEP 2

Lay out your cutting mat, and make sure you have all your tools and materials handy.

"A crucial tool is a table to work on," said Johnson. "Having proper space for all your materials, and taking your time is important. The process is time consuming but so much fun."

Wreaths are fun, versatile decorations that can be customized for any occasion or season. Making your own wreath allows you to infuse your personal style and originality into your creation.

San Jacinto College Continuing and Professional Development instructor Diana Johnson offers classes in both wreath making and bow making for community engagement.

"You don't need crafting experience to join my course," said Johnson. "Your most important tool is a positive attitude."

Whether you're a novice or an experienced DIY enthusiast, follow Johnson's step-by-step guide to create a wreath that will add a touch of style to your space.



STEP 3

Using your cutting mat's ruler, measure the mesh ribbon to size (about 18 inches long) and cut using the rotary tool or scissors. Once cut, begin rolling one end of the mesh until the raw edge is no longer visible. Use a crafting clamp to hold this rolled side and repeat on the other end.

Once you have your rolled ends, gather the mesh until both sides come together. At this point, you will use a chenille stem to twist tie the center of the mesh, creating a bow. With the remainder of the loose chenille stem, attach the bow to the wired wreath base. Repeat this process three times in each section of the base or until it begins to fill out.

"The longer your mesh is, the fluffier your wreath will be," said Johnson. "You have flexibility to make your wreath as full as you like. There is no wrong answer when creating a wreath."



STEP 4

Measure the mesh tubing and wired ribbon using your cutting mat. Cut them to the desired length and add them to the top of the mesh ribbon bow. You will attach these items using the remaining chenille stems from the mesh ribbon.

"A fun way to detail your wired ribbon is to dovetail the ends," said Johnson. "You get a perfect dovetail by folding the ribbon in half lengthwise. Then, cut from the fold at a right angle towards the open end."



STEP 5

Incorporate decorative accessories. Attach other accessories such as pinecones, ornaments, or other elements with hot glue. Johnson recommends using Gorilla Glue brand glue sticks for extra hold, especially for outdoor wreaths.

"One tip I learned the hard way is using silicone finger caps to protect from the hot glue," said Johnson. "They are available at most craft stores and will save you from those annoying burns."

STEP 6

Apply your final touches. Inspect the wreath for any loose decorations or glue strands. Make any necessary adjustments to ensure everything is secure, then hang and enjoy! ■

► To learn more about Johnson's classes on wreath and bow making, email amber.buras@sjcd.edu.

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED:

- Wired wreath base
- Chenille stems (pipe cleaners)
- Wired and mesh ribbon
- Mesh tubing
- Glue gun
- Glue sticks
- Silicone finger caps
- Rotary cutter or scissors
- Crafting clamps
- Decorative accessories
- Cutting mat





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ALUMNA SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON TERM MANI-PEDI

| By Neesha Hosein

Shannon Bullard-Dorsey recently graduated from the nail technician program at San Jacinto College's South Campus, but her specialty isn't the bling.

The Army veteran has been doing nails since she was a teenager.

"My mom ended up in a nursing home when I was a teen, and I would visit her and do her manicures and pedicures," Bullard-Dorsey said. "Her roommate asked if I could do hers, and I agreed. After a few weeks, I ended up doing nails on the whole floor. I discovered that nurses don't get paid to do that, nor do they have the time."

Seeing the need for medical nail care more than three decades ago sparked a passion she is finally pursuing as a career.

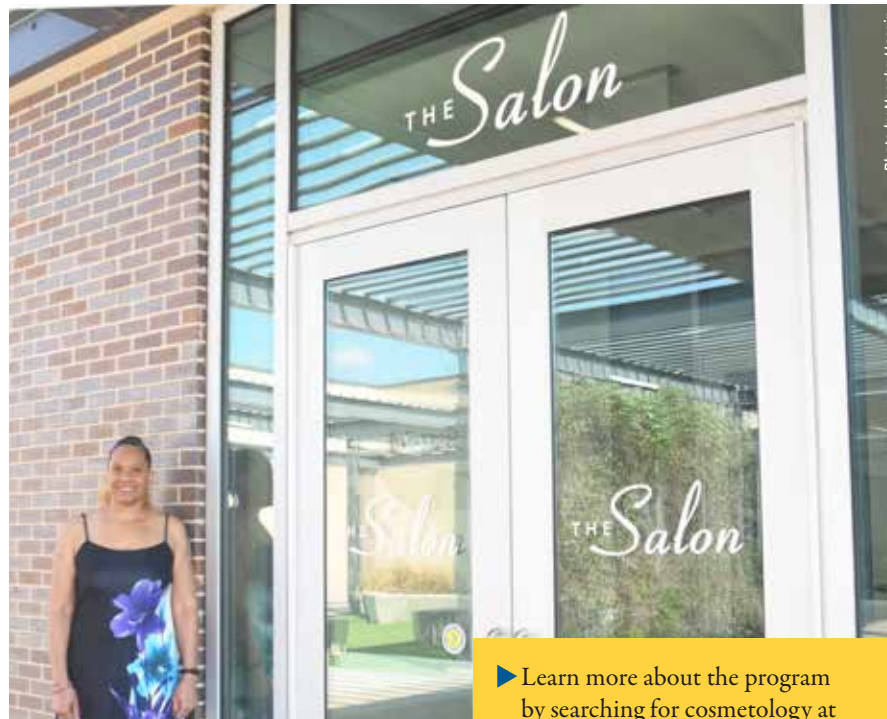
"This my third career," she said. "I went from high school to college, then became an executive assistant, human resources manager, then got called in the military, where I was for 15 years."

After retiring from the military, she thought — what now? After doing nails for family and friends as a hobby for decades, she decided it was time to take it up a notch.

The San Jac experience

Bullard-Dorsey learned more than just nail care at San Jac.

"The experience was enlightening from the first day," she said. "I'd just turned 50, and I noticed almost everyone else was around 18 or 19. It was a little awkward at first, but most of the subject matter



Shannon Bullard-Dorsey

was familiar, so that was comforting. I only thought I knew about nails until this program."

Lessons included different acrylic nails like hard and soft gels and press-ons and things that affect nail quality like prep, adhesives, and cuticle work. Bullard-Dorsey is well-versed in what clients should look out for when visiting a salon — from smells and ventilation systems that protect lungs to proper tool and furniture sterilization. The science aspect meant understanding bacteria and fungi that can grow on nails.

She also learned about massage techniques and health conditions that require extra caution when applying pressure to hands and feet.

► Learn more about the program by searching for cosmetology at sanjac.edu or scanning the QR code.



"I also learned about electricity, specifically regarding the equipment and how it affects people when we're working on their hands with different currents," Bullard-Dorsey said. "We also have to know safety protocols and a bit of chemistry."

SkillsUSA

Cosmetology instructor Pandora Freestone met Bullard-Dorsey at the BUORLive 2022 Nail Art Student

Competition, where she took third place as a Level 1 student. Impressed by her accomplishment, Freestone encouraged her to join SkillsUSA.

"She is a great leader and getting better every day," Freestone said. "I'm excited to see the future Shannon is creating for herself and her family. She has truly inspired me."

Bullard-Dorsey is the current SkillsUSA president for the South Campus chapter. She believes the organization empowers students not only with technical skills development and training but with opportunities like public speaking, networking, leadership, group work, and critical thinking — all of which prepare her for the professional world.

Future career plans

"I graduated with my nail tech certificate of technology, passed the Texas state written and practical exams, and received my license," Bullard-Dorsey said. "I'm planning on getting my medical certification next year, and I'm working on an art degree at San Jac, which will help me with my drawing and painting for nail art."

Starting a mobile medical nail care business is her ultimate goal, focusing on the elderly, the chronically ill, and people with special needs and mobility issues. This career opens doors to work with podiatrists, hospitals, nursing homes, and individuals.

"I enjoy helping people and making them feel healthy and beautiful," Bullard-Dorsey said. ■

ABACUS PARTNERS WITH SAN JAC TO TRAIN FUTURE PLUMBERS

By Melissa Trevizo

Abacus Plumbing has partnered with San Jacinto College to outfit the College's new plumbing technology program at the North Campus.

After committing to support the program, Abacus sought out the support of one of its longtime valued suppliers, National Wholesale Supply, to donate tools, equipment, piping, hardware, and other plumbing materials for the students to use in their hands-on training lab.

"To build an exceptional plumbing program along the Gulf Coast requires a great amount of support from industry, and Abacus has stepped up to support this project and ensure we have the right facility to fill the workforce gaps," said Durrell Dickens, industrial technology department chair.

Abacus is a leading provider of plumbing, air conditioning, and electrical services in the greater Houston area. Established in 2003, the company has garnered a reputation for top-notch service and the highest quality workmanship.

"Abacus is committed to helping develop the workforce of the future by forming partnerships like the one we have with San Jac," said Tony Patiño, Abacus president. "It is important for us to help provide a pathway to the industry for future plumbers and educate students about the opportunities that exist in the trades."

The partnership began when Dickens happened to meet Abacus business development representative Joey Scheffler at the Houston Home Show.

"This has been a great opportunity for us to partner with an established college right in our backyard," Scheffler said. "This gives



Abacus and San Jacinto College representatives come together to celebrate the partnership

us a chance to share our experience with a younger generation and encourage them to explore the trades."

This fall, the College rolled out seven new programs to meet the needs of the growing workforce in Houston and along the Gulf Coast. The plumbing technology program will ensure students learn how to identify the different types of water supply systems, read and sketch blueprints, understand plumbing codes, install and maintain plumbing piping and fixtures, and work with a variety of tools and equipment.

Graduates earning the plumbing technology occupational certificate will enter a field predicted to grow 22% in

Texas over the next 10 years. The 16-credit hour, two-semester program prepares graduates for their licensing exam through the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners.

"There isn't a program in the Houston area quite like this, and it is meeting a huge industrial training need," said Dickens. "With an aging workforce, there is a shortage of tradespeople, including plumbers. We hope to meet that need without requiring students to travel elsewhere for training."

Though the program is starting with a small cohort of students this year, it will open to dual credit students in fall 2024,

▶ Learn more about the program by searching for plumbing at sanjac.edu or scanning the QR code.



and the College expects to see a boom in enrollment.

As far as the partnership between San Jac and Abacus? Patiño sees this as the start of something larger.

"Abacus started as a plumbing company, so this program is near and dear to us. But we don't want to stop there," he said. "We would love to partner with other programs like HVAC and electrical. This is just the first step of many." ■



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CULINARY MAJOR BLENDS COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY



Photo courtesy of Maggie White

| By Neesha Hosein

When Maggie White decided it was time to pursue her dream career, San Jacinto College's culinary arts program seemed like the perfect place to start.

"I have always wanted to work in the culinary field," said White, a cosmetics account executive. "My grandmother and aunt ran small restaurants and cooked while I was growing up. It's a family thing and makes me feel connected to them. I love feeding people."

White toured a couple of other schools and chose San Jac because she believes "the education is just as good for a fraction of the cost." She chose to specialize in pastries — an extension of her love for beauty, fashion, and all things esthetically pleasing.

Opportunities galore

White has found the hands-on training at the North Campus valuable since it prepares her for work in a professional kitchen.

"Chef [Andrea] Huerta does this class where you're a sous chef for a day, and you have to plan the menu in advance, set up your teams, and your vision," she said. "You get to direct and manage the process, then present it. This was my favorite class

because it was like managing a kitchen in real life."

The program includes concepts of cake decorating, plated desserts, chocolates and confections, supervision, sanitation, and safety. Pastry students also work with culinary classes, contributing treats for the on-campus bistro and College events.

In her final class, Quantity Bakeshop Production, White will help create gingerbread houses for display in the lobby of the North Campus Cosmetology and Culinary Center just before Christmas. Then the student-designed gingerbread village will go to the MD Anderson children's ward as part of a fundraiser, connecting their work with the community.

Belong Kitchen

White finds meaning in community involvement and accepted the opportunity to volunteer with Belong Kitchen last winter. The company provides paid employment for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a supportive environment.

"It's a beautiful program," White said. "A mother started the restaurant so her daughter would have a place to work. I

“Chefs Huerta and [Melissa] Menendez have a lot of experience. I'm confident applying what they've taught me in the field. I've done a few freelance gigs, and I felt prepared for it.”

have a 5-year-old son on the spectrum, and I think what they're doing is amazing. I don't think there are enough opportunities for adults on the spectrum to be able to get work. Their volunteers help out with the more labor-intensive duties.”

Belong Kitchen prepares grab-and-go meals. Since White has culinary experience, she got the chance to make cakes. Aside from baking, she assists with labeling products, portioning items for the display case, and cutting up meats.

White finds the work very fulfilling for personal and professional reasons.

"Everyone who works there is really sweet and close-knit. It's almost impossible to get a job there because no one leaves, so I feel lucky," White said. "One reason I wanted to volunteer with Belong was to have an experience with adults on the spectrum. The experience helps me plan ahead and get ready for when my son is older."

What the future holds

"Chefs Huerta and [Melissa] Menendez have a lot of experience," White said. "I'm confident applying what they've taught me in the field. I've done a few freelance gigs, and I felt prepared for it."

White will graduate this fall with the pastry chef specialty certificate of technology. She feels it's important for her son to see her graduate. She plans to start her own small business that encompasses her passion for cooking and events.

White envisions establishing a wine bar, providing event rental space, and offering charcuterie and pastries for events, delivery, and grab-and-go options. ■

► Learn more about the program by searching for culinary arts at sanjac.edu or scan the QR code.





ASHLEY
Early Childhood
Education

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STUDENT SUPPORT RESOURCES YOU NEED TO SUCCEED IN 2023-2024

By Courtney Morris

Sometimes your issue goes beyond finding a classroom or remembering an assignment deadline.

From groceries to counseling and tech support, check out these resources to help you succeed at San Jacinto College in 2023-2024!

Meals and winter gear

If you're taking at least three credit hours, you may use San Jac Marketplace, a convenience-style store. Receive up to 30 pounds of groceries per week, no matter what your income level. You can also get 16 café meals per month if a full-time student and eight meals per month if part-time.

"If you don't have the ability to purchase these things at home, that could hinder your experience at San Jac," said Brandon Ward, student engagement and support director. "We don't want you in the classroom worrying about things you don't have at home."

The Marketplace is open Monday through Thursday in the student centers at Central, South, and North Campuses. Hours vary per campus.

Also nearby is the Coat Closet, where you can pick up coats, gloves, and hats in winter. To learn more about San Jac Marketplace, café meals, and the Coat Closet, contact sanjacsea@sjcd.edu.

After-hours advising

Busy during the day? Get help on weeknights and weekends through virtual advising.

"We offer virtual services during late-night hours to be more accessible for you," said Adriana Elizondo, advising, career, and



Brandon Ward, student engagement and support director, in San Jac Marketplace

transfer director. "For academic planning, you should still go to your assigned program advisor. But these virtual advisors can handle quick questions about registration, account holds, and degree plans."

Virtual advisors can help Monday through Thursday, 2-11 p.m., and Sunday, 5-10 p.m.:

1. Visit the live virtual lobby (www.whos-next.com/sanjac/actvirtual).
2. Sign in.
3. A virtual advisor will contact you when you're next in line.

Also, check out the live chat option in your SOS account.

Free counseling

Dealing with stress or something more? Whatever your challenge, you can access free short-term counseling with the College's licensed mental health counselors.

"When you're too stressed, you won't function as you once did," said Robert Murray, mental health services director.

"Come to student support services or schedule an appointment on the College website. We will listen in a non-judgmental way and help you problem-solve."

To get started ...

- Meet with a counselor by visiting the advising, career, and transfer office in each campus welcome center.
- Schedule a virtual appointment: appointments.sanjac.edu (click Student Support Services > In-Person or Virtual > Mental Health Counseling).
- Or call 281-998-6350, then the campus extension:
 - ext. 1014 (Central Campus)
 - ext. 2317 (North Campus)
 - ext. 3444 (South Campus)

Technology service desks

San Jac's information technology services staff have set up on-campus service desks to help with ...

- San Jac network issues, including Wi-Fi connection
- Password resets
- Student loaner laptop pick-up and drop-off
- Multi-factor authentication
- Support with College-issued devices
- Other minor technology-related questions

Tech service desks are available at Central Campus (C1.129), North Campus (N8.112), and South Campus (S12.118). Learn more by contacting tech support at 281-998-6137.

100% Online programs

San Jac Online offers 60 fully online associate degrees and certificates in business, industry, education, health science, public safety, human/consumer services, and STEM.

This means you can earn a workforce-ready credential on your schedule with plenty of time left for family and more. The entire process from registration to graduation is available online, and you have a network of online and on-campus resources to help you reach the finish line.

Learn more at sanjac.edu/programs/online.

Resources at your fingertips

If you're on campus, look for "San Jac on the Go." Almost weekly, student engagement and support staff set up tables in high-traffic buildings, sharing resources and answering questions to improve your college experience.

"If you take advantage of the resources here, you'll do better as a student, and your academic experience will be better," Ward said. "We're here to help you." ■



Julianne Bautista, campus support supervisor, at tech service desk

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

| | |
|--|-------------|
| API Inspectors..... | \$150,703** |
| Automotive Body and Related Repairers | \$45,637 |
| 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 |



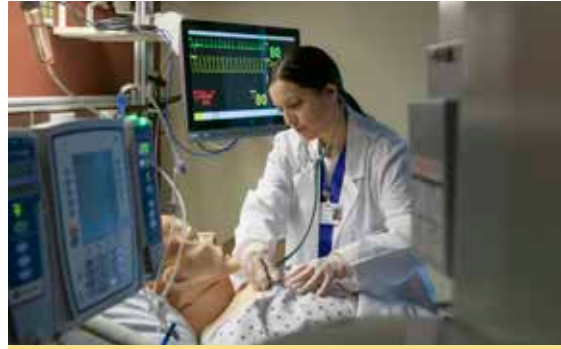
Education

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
 Cyber Security
 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 ^(statewide) |
| 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 ^(statewide) |
| Psychologists (All Other)..... | \$119,662 |
| School Psychologists | \$79,729 |
| Social Science Research Assistants | \$60,201 |
| Sociology Teachers (Postsecondary)..... | \$81,281 |

* 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

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

FROM EXPLORER TO DRAFTER: ALUMNUS JUSTIN BEWLEY

By Courtney Morris

Justin Bewley might not consider himself an explorer, but the path to his current drafting career involved plenty of exploration.

In high school, Bewley took career and technical education classes, exploring everything from health science to drafting.

“I think, like most high school kids, you think you know, but you don’t,” he said.

After graduating in 2008, Bewley enrolled in San Jacinto College’s process technology program, thinking he would become a chemical plant operator. When it wasn’t the right fit, he left classes for an auto parts store job.

Fast forward to 2014. Encouraged by friends and family, Bewley tried a basic computer-aided design class at San Jac, enjoyed it, and continued taking classes for several semesters until another job opportunity came his way.

Finally, plagued by back injuries from his weight and previous construction work, Bewley came to a crossroads.

“Do I want to be considered disabled at 29, or do I want to get healthy and go to school — maybe change careers?” he asked himself.

In 2021, Bewley lost weight, got his health back on track, and re-enrolled in the engineering design graphics program. No changing course this time.

“What I really liked was the 3D modeling. Being able to draw or model something in 3D and see how the parts come together — that made me think this is something I want to do.”



Photo courtesy of Justin Bewley

Justin Bewley

“When I set my mind to something, I do the best I can,” he said.

Growing up, Bewley had always enjoyed working with computers and sketching buildings on paper. Engineering design graphics offered just that: a field that merges creativity and technical savvy. Drafters translate others’ ideas into working drawings, maps, plans, and 3D models using computer-aided drafting and modeling software. Their work is essential in many fields — from architecture, manufacturing, and engineering to construction and oil and gas.

“What I really liked was the 3D modeling,” Bewley said. “Being able to draw or model something in 3D and see how the parts

come together — that made me think this is something I want to do.”

His final project — the most challenging and rewarding part of the program for him — involved taking apart a switchblade knife and modeling every piece, down to tiny screws, in 3D. Then he created a video showing how the parts come together.

North Campus engineering design graphics instructor Mike Turner described Bewley as a “conscientious student.”

“He was never one to look for shortcuts and always gave his best effort,” Turner said. “While there might be several ways to complete a task, he made sure it was correct on completion. The engineering business is an exact one, with little room for error or deviation from standards or codes.”

In May 2022, Bewley earned his Associate of Applied Science in engineering design graphics with a petrochemical/industrial specialty. He also already had a drafting job lined up at HMT Tank, thanks to a recommendation from another professor, Roy Parish.

After getting experience at HMT Tank in 2D drawings for chemical storage tank repairs, Bewley now works in Dashiell’s civil engineering department, creating 2D drawings of steel structures and concrete foundations for electrical substations. Thanks to both jobs, he’s considering transitioning his design skills to construction project management and pursuing a bachelor’s degree in either construction management or engineering.

As a seasoned explorer, Bewley shares this advice with others: Explore your options while in school to eliminate any field that doesn’t fit. When challenges come — and

As a seasoned explorer, Bewley shares this advice with others: Explore your options while in school to eliminate any field that doesn’t fit. When challenges come — and they will — ask your professors or tutors for help.

they will — ask your professors or tutors for help.

“You have to be ready to overcome some challenges in any program you take on,” he said. “Take different classes in different disciplines so you can get a feel for those areas.... Use your resources, and don’t give up.” ■

Is Engineering Design Graphics for You?

If you are detail-oriented, tech-savvy, and design-minded, the San Jacinto College Engineering Design Graphics Program can lead you to a rewarding, essential career in many industries. Classes are available at the Central, North, and South Campuses.

► Learn more about the program by searching for engineering design graphics at sanjac.edu or scanning the QR code.





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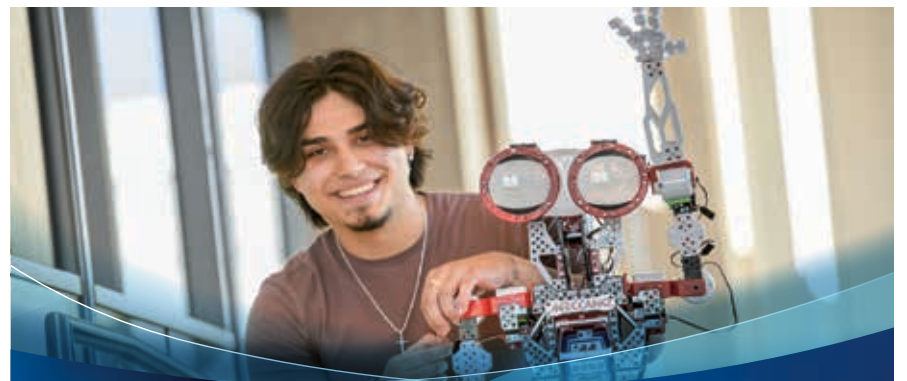
ALWAYS IN DEMAND

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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**SCAN TO
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ENGINEERING PROGRAM

DESIGNING DREAMS

Open the door to unlimited career options with San Jacinto College's **engineering program**. As an engineer, you can turn ideas into reality — designing smartphones, shaping space travel, and much more!



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SPRING 2024 CLASSES START JAN. 16

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