



JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
—1901—

CONNECTIONS

joliet junior college magazine

HOLISTIC

STUDENT CARE

&

SUCCESS



FALL 2021



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The purpose of Connections is to strengthen the relationship between JJC, its alumni and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, Connections serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. Connections is published two times a year by the Communications and Marketing Division and the Institutional Advancement Office.



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JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
— 1901 —

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



When we kicked off the new academic year in August, I told the campus community that our mantra this year was “Tough times don’t last, tough teams do.” In fact, we invited all employees to a picnic to celebrate their incredible work to support our students and advance the institution this past year. Let me say for the record that our employees and YOU, our community partners, make up the ultimate tough team!

To serve our community at the high level we do, we have had to collectively overcome prolonged mental, emotional, and physical obstacles over the last year. Despite those obstacles, I am proud to share with you today some pretty incredible accomplishments that I know only the nation’s first public community college is worthy of!

Something we’ve focused on intensively is wraparound services and holistic support for students, which you’ll see in this edition of *Connections*. Providing access to wraparound services—which can include tutoring, counseling, child care, transportation and other non-instructional services—can help students, especially those at community colleges, complete their degrees. On July 1, the Student Development Division launched the new Center for Multicultural Access and Success to streamline student support services for minority, first-generation, undocumented, English language learners, and international students. This team provides seamless support services to increase retention and completion rates of diverse learners.

Lastly, I am humbled to have served for more than five years as president of this wonderful institution. As you may know, my retirement is August 30, 2022. The search for JJC’s next president launched in October. It is a national search led by the Pauly Group, a well-respected search firm with specific community college expertise. We anticipate bringing finalists to campus in March or April 2022. Ideally, I will be here to help support the transition. For more information, take a look at our Presidential Search web page at www.jjc.edu, which has a lot of detail on what the college and its community is looking for in its next leader.

Whether you are a taxpayer, student, alumni, or community partner, JJC is always a smart investment. We will continue to drive equity, access, education, and most importantly, make a difference.

Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.
President



Carta del Presidente – Conexiones, otoño de 2021

Cuando comenzamos el nuevo año académico en agosto, le dije a la comunidad del campus que nuestro mantra este año fue “Los tiempos duros no perduran, los equipos fuertes sí lo hacen”. De hecho, invitamos a todos los empleados a un picnic para celebrar su increíble trabajo de apoyar a nuestros estudiantes y hacer progresar a la institución el año pasado. Permítanme decir, para que conste, que nuestros empleados y USTEDES, nuestros socios comunitarios, forman el equipo más fuerte.

Para servir a nuestra comunidad manteniendo el alto nivel que tenemos, hemos tenido que superar colectivamente los obstáculos mentales, emocionales y físicos prolongados durante el último año. A pesar de esos obstáculos, me enorgullece compartir con ustedes hoy algunos logros bastante increíbles que sé que solo la primera universidad comunitaria pública del país se merece.

Otra cosa en la que nos hemos enfocado intensamente es el apoyo integral y los servicios integrales para los estudiantes, que verán en esta edición de Connections. Brindar acceso a servicios integrales, que pueden incluir tutoría, asesoramiento, cuidado infantil, transporte y otros servicios no educativos, puede ayudar a los estudiantes, especialmente a aquellos en universidades comunitarias, a completar sus títulos. El 1 de julio, la División de Desarrollo Estudiantil lanzó el nuevo Centro para el Acceso Multicultural y el Éxito (Center for Multicultural Access and Success) para agilizar los servicios de apoyo estudiantil para estudiantes minoritarios, de primera generación, indocumentados, estudiantes de inglés y estudiantes internacionales. Este equipo proporciona servicios de apoyo sin interrupciones para aumentar las tasas de retención y finalización de estudiantes diversos.

Por último, me siento honrado de haber trabajado durante cinco años como presidente de esta maravillosa institución. Como tal vez sepa, mi jubilación es el 30 de agosto de 2022. La búsqueda del próximo presidente de JJC se lanzó en octubre. Es una búsqueda nacional dirigida por Pauly Group, una empresa de búsqueda muy respetada con experiencia específica en universidades comunitarias. Prevemos traer a los finalistas al campus en marzo o abril de 2022. Idealmente, estaré aquí para ayudar a apoyar la transición. Para obtener más información, consulte nuestra página web de la Búsqueda presidencial en www.jjc.edu, que tiene muchos detalles sobre lo que la universidad y su comunidad están buscando en su próximo líder.

Ya sea contribuyente, estudiante, ex alumno o socio comunitario, JJC siempre es una inversión inteligente. Continuaremos impulsando la equidad, el acceso, la educación y, lo más importante, marcando la diferencia.

Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.

Presidente



LETTER FROM THE JJC FOUNDATION



Alumni and Friends,

If living through a pandemic has taught us anything, it is that holistic care needs to remain our top priority at JJC.

While we take great pride in the \$802,000 in scholarships the JJC Foundation awarded to students this year for tuition, fees and books, we were moved by the requests that came in daily from students seeking assistance through our Student Emergency Fund. So many of our student's lives were turned upside down during the pandemic and it was no longer just tuition costs that stood in the way of their goals. They also had to worry about how they were getting to campus and where their next meal was coming from.

Being able to alleviate many of these worries for students by providing gas cards, bus passes and grocery store gift cards became a top priority. We called on our alumni, friends and the JJC community to help us increase this fund and you showed up for us in ways we couldn't have imagined. Thanks to your generosity, we have supported our students with over \$70,000 in emergency needs.

As the end of the year approaches, threat of food insecurity, lack of transportation, and the financial strain of tuition and books will jeopardize many student's ability to continue with school. Thanks to the Student Emergency Fund, we can provide holistic support, ensuring they are on a path to success. You can help by making a donation to the Student Emergency Fund. Please contact me, use the enclosed envelope, or make a gift on our website at www.jjc.edu/givetojjc. Every gift, no matter the size, is changing a student's future.

Sincerely,

Kristin Mulvey, MSM

Executive Director, JJC Foundation

Executive Director, Institutional Advancement





JJC Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Approved

With supporting its students and community in mind, Joliet Junior College’s budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 was approved by the college’s Board of Trustees in June 2021. The total operating budget, at **\$10.93 million**, represents a **1.42% increase** over the previous year.

“In a year that affected all facets of our lives, I am proud of the collective work we did to support our students, employees, and community partners. JJC is the first community college in the nation. We take pride in our place in history, but do not rest in tradition. JJC in FY22 is transformed by this experience and ready to lead the future of higher education in Illinois and beyond.”

- JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT JJC’S BUDGET



Tuition Has Stayed Flat

JJC hasn’t increased tuition rates in four years.

2021-2022 School Year

\$148 per credit hour

2020-2021 School Year

\$148 per credit hour

2019-2020 School Year

\$148 per credit hour

2018-2019 School Year

\$146 per credit hour

Exceptional Faculty, Staff & Administrators

JJC is proud to hire quality individuals to serve our students.

78% of total operating expenses (unchanged from original budget projection)

Total Number of Employees: **1,297**

Total Faculty (FY21): **614**

Full-Time Faculty: **25%**

Part-Time Faculty: **75%**

Other Employees (FY21): **683**



JJC Wins National Award for Diversity Efforts

By Scott Harvey

Continuing its long history of achieving firsts, JJC added another outstanding achievement to its name earlier this spring: national winner of the American Association of Community Colleges' (AACCC) Award for Excellence in Advancing Diversity.

The AACCC Advancing Diversity Award recognizes a college that has made significant contributions to advancing diversity within college leadership, the community, and higher education. JJC earned the selection among two other national finalists.

JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell said the top finish in the diversity category signifies the college's contributions within its leadership, the community, and higher education.

"I am so thankful for every single person on our campus—every person has contributed to this journey, and shaped who we are today," said Mitchell. "Thank you to the American Association of Community Colleges for recognizing our work. We are meeting our DEI goals, and in the process, have found new ways to acknowledge and appreciate one another."

Mitchell noted the increased number of minority faculty and staff applications, which for two straight years has earned JJC the Top Employer for Diversity Jobs distinction by DiversityJobs.com.

In 2020, JJC launched the new Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Compliance to build upon efforts

to foster a climate of mutual respect and inclusion, in part through the advancement of JJC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Plan. Dr. Escortina Ervin, the college's first executive director of DEIC, champions these initiatives, tracks successes, and strategizes future DEI initiatives to keep the college moving forward with its goals.

"I am so thankful for every single person on our campus—every person has contributed to this journey, and shaped who we are today."

- JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell

Preliminary successes include an increase in the number of minority applications for both faculty (8%) and staff (6%) positions from FY17 to FY20. Between FY16 and FY18, fall-to-fall student retention rates increased from 67% to 82% by developing flexible new student orientations geared toward greater ADA accessibility and Spanish language opportunities.

JJC also implemented campus-wide, mandatory cultural competency trainings and completed a successful external review of all institutional job descriptions to ensure equity.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SUCCESS

Enhanced First Year Experience to support first-year student success

- Created a flexible approach for New Student Orientation (NSO): in person and now online
- ADA accessibility
- Spanish version
- Students completing NSO and advising session earned the following fall-to-fall retention rates:



FY 2016 – **67%**
FY 2017 – **71%**
FY 2018 – **82%**



AAC&J
AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES

2021 Winner
Advancing Diversity
at Junior College

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Blanca Castro '18

2016 President's Scholarship for
Returning Adult Students Recipient

President's Scholarship for Returning Adult Students

By Blanca Castro '18

Since I was in middle school in Mexico, I knew that I wanted to go to university. However, when I came to the United States at the age of 19, I got married and started my family. Even though I was fulfilled as a mother, I always wanted to return to school and complete my higher education.

In 2014, my dream of attending university started to become true when I was able to register in the English for Academic Purposes Program at Joliet Junior College (JJC). Being able to return to school at the age of 27, as an immigrant, first-generation, and adult student was one of the greatest blessings in my life. It was also one of the biggest challenges because I needed to learn a new language, a new educational system, and I needed to pay for college aside from supporting my family.

I always knew that no one can achieve their goals alone, and I was no exception. In 2016, I received the wonderful news that I was selected as one of the recipients for the President's Scholarship for Returning Adult Students founded by Dr. Judy Mitchell. Being one of the recipients of this scholarship positively impacted my life in two important aspects, economically and emotionally. It helped ease the economic stress of my tuition expenses so that I could focus on doing my best in my classes; it also changed the way that I saw myself

because being selected among many outstanding students showed me that someone believed in my potential to succeed.

“Being one of the recipients of this scholarship positively impacted my life in two important aspects, economically and emotionally.”

- Blanca Castro

At JJC, I was determined to excel in every class needed to complete my degree, and I did. In 2018, I graduated with High Honors and a 3.9 GPA. I am not going to lie, it was not easy. Every semester, I spent endless hours of study. I also spent many nights awake wondering how I would cover my children's needs and my tuition and books for the semester.

Five years have passed since I received this scholarship, and I can honestly say that thanks to the economic and emotional support that I received from JJC and this scholarship, my dream of completing my higher education came true when I graduated with my bachelor's degree in accounting from DePaul University.

FIRST-TIME RECORDS

49.5%
AS REPORTED
FOR FY2021



JJC STUDENT IN THE FIRST-GENERATION
OF THEIR FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE





Dr. Mitchell Wins Ethical Leadership Award

By Sam Sottosanto

Joliet Junior College President Dr. Judy Mitchell received the Gary W. Davis Ethical Leadership Award from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) in June 2021.

This award recognizes those who have demonstrated ethical decision-making skills and outstanding contributions in their work and volunteer service. Mitchell was among three JJC award winners at the ICCTA convention. Other winners included Former Board of Trustees Chairman Bob Wunderlich, who received the Certificate of Merit and graduate Alisha Brennon, who received the Pacesetter Award.

“When I accepted the role of the president, one of my four pillars was to focus on communications and outreach. It was critical to rebuild trust, respect and goodwill both internally and externally. I am passionate about the success of our college and the district we serve, and proudly represent JJC’s Core Values treating everyone with respect. I have learned a great deal over the years by listening and learning.”

- JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell



Mitchell's Community Efforts

In addition to her work at JJC, Mitchell is an enthusiastic volunteer and has previously been awarded the Woman of Distinction Award by the Zonta Club of Joliet. She volunteers with her husband at the Will County Habitat for Humanity, and she recently helped to launch a chair of governance committee for the group.



JJC Expands Health Programs, Police Station

By Scott Harvey

Joliet Junior College is meeting the demand for specialized healthcare workers by building out space for a new respiratory care therapy program. It's part of a series of construction projects totaling just under \$8 million that will grow academic options, enhance safety, and improve campus accessibility.

Meeting Healthcare Demand

Respiratory therapists examine and support treatment of patients with breathing or cardiopulmonary disorders. Their growing need has become even more pronounced due the pandemic, said Dr. Jorie Kulczak, dean of nursing, health and public safety.

“Employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow 21 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations.”

The respiratory care therapy program features classrooms, offices, a simulation lab, and private care room inside 7,000 square feet of previously unused space at Main Campus. It is currently awaiting curriculum approval before accepting applications.



New classrooms, a simulation lab, and office await students and faculty in 2022.

Enhancing Public Safety

The college recently began work to renovate and expand the JJC Police Department. Upon completion next fall, the 12,000 square foot facility in G-Building will feature new or modified rooms and offices, training space, an armory, holding area, and emergency operations center. A sally port and vehicle storage will also be added south of the building.

“In our current setting we are dispersed amongst several spaces,” said Police Chief Brandon Campbell. “This expansion will allow us to all be in one singular space which will make for better continuity for our officers and support staff. Such an expansion will also be beneficial for our visitors, faculty, staff, students, and community members.”

Campbell adds the project will provide a more modern and state-of-the-art dispatch center that will enhance communication.



Renderings of the Campus Police remodel, opening in fall 2022.



More Access Downtown

At JJC’s City Center Campus in downtown Joliet, the first of a two-phase project to the grounds adjacent to the building is complete. With more parking spaces and a new pedestrian plaza, students, employees and guests can enjoy greater access to the campus.

The City Center Campus, which opened in 2017, stands six stories at 96,000 square feet. It houses JJC’s Culinary Arts program, Department of Adult Education and Literacy, and Workforce Education.

New pedestrian plaza and more parking.

'We Are Each Other's Magnitude and Bond':

THE EMPOWERMENT OF

Women

AT JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

By Amy Chellino

Tell me,
what is it you
plan to do
with your one
wild and
precious life?

-Mary Oliver

Poet Mary Oliver thoughtfully asked, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Reflecting on how the answer to this question has changed for women brings to mind my personal experience as a student at Joliet Junior College in 1995. I was taking a U.S. history course and writing a paper about women's expected roles in the 1950s which were to be homemakers, wives and mothers. If college was an option, secretarial work or a teaching degree were the most likely courses of study. I had taken for granted that as a female student at JJC in 1995, I could ultimately choose any career path in which I was interested. I casually embraced the opportunity to do and be anything I wanted with my "one wild and precious life," which was remarkable when considering the history of women only a few decades prior. The choice for my future was mine alone and independent of social constructs that affected generations of women before me.

Gratitude for these endless opportunities is owed to numerous women, programs, and events at the college that paved the way for equal education and employment. Since JJC's beginning, and especially after the Women's Rights Movement of the 1960s, JJC has provided incredible pathways to fulfill educational and career goals. These milestones are highlights of the empowerment of women at JJC.



Susan Wood Leaves Her Mark, 1970

Susan Wood started her career at JJC in 1944 and held various positions including assistant dean and registrar. In 1967, she was appointed by the board as the interim chief administrator of JJC which was the highest position held by a woman at JJC up to this point. Upon her retirement in 1970, the yearbook affectionately expressed, "Susan Wood has an extraordinary history of determination and perseverance both in acquiring an education for herself and in helping others to gain it equally for themselves." Paging through the yearbooks, one will often come across Wood's photo holding her own among her male counterparts. She is the matriarch of JJC's mid-20th century history, and her "warm, considerate guidance" and dedication were emblematic of her status as a role model, paving the way for the women who followed in her footsteps.



Susan Wood




New Horizons for You Program, 1972

The Women's Rights Movement of the 1960s had created a shift in society and consideration for expanding opportunities for women. Akin to planting a flower garden, women's options for careers outside of homelife began to take root and grow. JJC's New Horizons for You was a grant-funded, tuition-free program "designed for the young homemaker who feels a lack in her life as well as the mature woman who is considering reentry into the work force," explained program coordinator Alice Herron. "[The program] is an effort to help today's woman make a careful assessment of her goals, her needs, and her potential," Herron continued. New Horizons for You was the gardener cultivating and expanding the confidence, potential, and freedoms for a community of women ready to redefine their social expectations and give back to the community through employment, volunteer work and self-empowerment.

Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm Speaks at JJC, 1972


Shirly Chisholm's barrier-breaking accomplishments include being the first African American woman in Congress in 1968 and the first African American woman to run for a major party presidential nomination in 1972. As a champion of women's and minority's rights, she spoke at JJC on November 1, 1972. As a figure of progress, she declared, "I want to be remembered as a woman... who dared to be a catalyst of change." Her message inspired women to expand their goals with the prospect for distinguished future success.



JUNIOR COLLEGE BLAZER

Serving the Entire Joliet Junior College Community

44th Year Number 5 Week of November 1-8, 1972 729-9020 Ext. 22



Congresswoman Chisholm

In Gym at 8:00 . . .

Shirley Chisholm Here T

Shirley Chisholm will speak on campus on Wednesday, November 1, at 8:00 p.m. in the gym. This will be her first speaking appearance in the Joliet area, and perhaps her last public appearance of the year according to Mr. Pillard.

Her forthcoming appearance at JJC has been arranged through the ardent efforts of the Office of Student Affairs. This event will be free to all JJC students, and will be open to the public for a \$1.00 admission charge. This is a tremendous opportunity for all students to see and hear one of America's most respected women politicians.

J. C. Environmental Group Endorses Candidates

President	George McGovern (D)
U. S. Senator	Percy (R) or Puelinski (D) Both Excellent
U. S. Congressman - 17th Dist.	John Houlihan (D)
Governor	Dan Walker (D)
Lt. Governor	Neil Hartigan (D)
Atty. General	William Scott (R)



Equal Right Amendment (ERA), 1975

On February 27 and 28, 1975, a rally in support of the Equal Rights Amendment was held on the JJC bridge. The ERA stipulated, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." Students Barb Wagner and Marilyn Fumagalli obtained over 200 signatures in less than three hours in support of equal rights for all Americans regardless of sex in terms of employment, education, divorce, property, etc. Political Science Professor Mary Anderson's students joined the Joliet ERA Coalition for a bus trip to Springfield on March 4, 1975 to support state efforts in a peaceful demonstration for women's equality. These important turning points promoted awareness of women's rights at JJC and provided students the important opportunity to stand up, represent and advance ideals of equality on campus and in our community, state and country.

Betty Friedan, Feminist, Author and Founder of the National Organization for Women Speaks at JJC, 1985

On November 18, 1985, Betty Friedan, world renowned author of the ground-breaking 1965 book *The Feminine Mystique*, delivered the keynote address at JJC's conference "The Changing American Family." Friedan declared, "We have to transcend the false polarization between feminism and family and consider restructuring the home and workplace to accommodate the demands and diversity of the new family." Friedan challenged the audience to continue to redefine society's expectations for women and further equal opportunities in education, compensation and each aspect of life.



Betty Friedan

The famous
bestseller that ignited
women's liberation

**BETTY
FRIEDAN**

**THE
FEMININE
MYSTIQUE**

1 1/2
MILLION
COPIES IN
PRINT



Gwendolyn Brooks, Illinois Poet Laureate, Speaks at Graduation, 1995

On May 12, 1995, Pulitzer Prize winning poet Gwendolyn Brooks addressed JJC graduates at the commencement ceremony. "We are each other's magnitude and bond," Brooks famously proclaimed. The progress of women's equality is due to the strength and motivation that comes from people working together in support of the cause. Women helping women has been a continuous process at JJC by uniting to create a college, community and country that can break down barriers. "Never stop thirsting for knowledge and caring for others," Brooks encouraged graduates.

Gwendolyn Brooks

JOLIET Junior College

SEX, GENDER, AND POWER CONFERENCE

Friday, February 13, 1998
Joliet Junior College
City Center Campus,
214 N. Ottawa St.

Sponsored By:
JJC's Women's College,
Institute of Economic
Technology and
The Social and Behavioral
Sciences Department

Women's College at JJC Founded, 1997

Professors Roya Falahi and Suzanne Pryga developed JJC's Women's College with grant funding from the Illinois State Board of Education and became the first community college in Illinois to establish a distinct Women's College within a college. The Women's College asserted, "Our mission is to integrate gender equity into all aspects of the educational process, from instructional methods to curriculum materials, to student support services. We advocate for gender equity in all College policies, programs, and procedures, educate the College community on gender issues, and work with on and off-campus groups in implementing educational programs, special projects, and outreach activities." Furthering prior initiatives, JJC's Women's College solidified the forward thinking and supportive nature of elevating women.

Sex, Gender & Power Conference, 1998

On Friday, February 13, 1998, JJC sponsored a conference focused on gender equality. Lecture topics included "From Cradle to Career: How Childhood Gender Role Socialization Influences Career Choices," "Men: Victim, Enemy or Both?" and "Female Imagery: The Skinny on Media Manipulation" with presenters from JJC and nearby universities. The conference solidified JJC as an institution committed to furthering the advancement of women.

Dr. Gena Proulx, First Woman President of JJC, 2006

In 2006, JJC elected its' very first woman as college president. When asked about being the first female president at JJC, Dr. Gena Proulx replied, "It's extremely significant...Being the first woman in this position says the board needed to diversify it's leadership ranks." This was a seminal moment in JJC's history further exemplifying the trailblazing spirit of the college. One of Dr. Proulx's greatest achievements was envisioning and overseeing the creation and construction of JJC's Campus Center which is the first building to welcome the community at Main Campus. The building—with its modern, green design—houses registration, the bookstore, library, disability services, and other central offices for student achievement and success. "The institution now has a true front door, and we have Dr. Proulx's strong leadership and vision to thank for that," commented Barbara DeLaney, former JJC Board of Trustee Chairperson. The Campus Center is dedicated to Dr. Proulx and is an emblem of her vision and leadership.



Dr. Gena Proulx



Dr. Judy Mitchell

President Judy Mitchell's Legacy as a Role Model for Future Generations of JJC Women, 2021

Dr. Judy Mitchell's legacy at Joliet Junior College encompasses one of leading with strength, confidence, generosity and kindness. "Envisioning...our future does not come without reflection on our past and gratitude to those who shaped JJC along the way," Mitchell wrote in an earlier issue of Connections. Tasked with guiding a college community through a global pandemic and reinforcing JJC as an equal opportunity employer and symbol for diversity, she is a representation of the current and future women of JJC and joins a legion of inspirational women.

Women's possibilities are vast and endless, and JJC is as an integral part of each journey offering enduring support and extending empowerment each step of the way.

Catholic Charities Childcare Services Available on JJC Main Campus

By Rachel Rose



Joliet Junior College and Catholic Charities Diocese of Joliet Head Start program have partnered to offer childcare services at Main Campus.

Under a three-year lease agreement approved by the JJC Board of Trustees, Catholic Charities will begin operating the college's Early Childhood Center at Main Campus. It includes two classrooms, office space, a small kitchen prep area, the outdoor playground, restrooms and storage.

Since 2019, Catholic Charities has leased some of that space, which is utilized by JJC students studying child development. Under the expanded agreement, students will continue to conduct observation hours at the ECC for their lab requirements.

Catholic Charities provides an early learning program that promotes school readiness for income eligible children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development.

"This partnership offers broad value to our students, employees, and offsets expenses in support of JJC's commitment to fiscal responsibility," said Dr. Judy Mitchell, president. "In the near future, this new agreement will also allow the college to expand the age of children served to infants and toddlers. Under our former childcare licensure, we could only enroll children from 30 months to six years."

Childcare services will operate Monday through Friday from 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The need for on-site childcare services for higher education students is a trend being recognized across the country.

According to the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), more than one in four college students (4.8 million) are parents with dependent children, and over 40 percent of these student parents are

single mothers. The number of undergraduates who are single mothers has more than doubled between the years 1999 and 2012.

With so many barriers in their way, such as the lack of childcare, the high cost of it, and the percentage of those living at or below the poverty line, more than half of student parents enrolled at colleges in the U.S. leave before completing a degree.

JC hopes to meet the needs of many of its student parents with this new agreement, offering critical support to see them through their goals at the college.

“This partnership offers broad value to our students, employees, and offsets expenses in support of JJC’s commitment to fiscal responsibility.”

- Dr. Judy Mitchell

“Catholic Charities is pleased to be expanding its Head Start program at JJC,” said Kathleen Langdon, interim executive director of development and communications. “This partnership will enhance both JJC students and the families participating in the Catholic Charities Head Start program. We can’t wait!”

The college is in year three of a four-year federally-funded CCAMPIS (Child Care Access Means Parents in School) grant. It provides the college nearly \$90,000 each year to support the participation of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of campus-based child care services. Funds are used to support the needs of primarily low-income students enrolled in Illinois higher education institutions.

JJC student-parents who meet the eligibility requirements for both Catholic Charities Head Start and CCAMPIS could receive financial support for child care. If they do not meet Head Start’s eligibility requirements, JJC will work with student-parents to find them a different agency to meet their childcare needs.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet is a faith-based organization that provides service to people in need and calls others of good will to do the same. The Agency offers Early Childhood Services in Will County, which includes the Head Start program. Other Will County services include homeless prevention, emergency services, counseling, Daybreak Center homeless shelter, alternative housing programs, and services for veterans.



New Statewide Study Reveals Economic Impact of JJC

By Kelly Rohder-Tonelli



The Illinois Community College Board, in collaboration with the Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies, generates a study on economic impacts of Illinois community colleges every five years. The study analyzes the economic impact of community colleges on students through the return on investment of educational attainment via increased earnings and employment. Dr. Mitchell was one of 15 individuals to serve on the Illinois Community College Board advisory team that provided insight and feedback for the project, released in October 2021.



Joliet Junior College Findings & Highlights

About **1,432** jobs in the district could be attributed to the college operations.

These operations were associated with about **\$128.7 million** in economic output.

**VALUE ADDED OVER
\$81.2 Million**

Service to Community

In a survey of the community colleges' business engagement, in 2019, **2,095 employers** were served by credit or noncredit programs at Joliet Junior College.

In 2020, including the recession, **1,643 employers** were served by the college. Activities ranged from curriculum and apprenticeship development and review, contract training, internships, and professional development to job placement.



Business and Industry: Expected Needs

Truck drivers, nursing assistants, and automotive service technicians in high demand.

Due to Baby Boomer retirement: Chemical Technicians. Paralegal & Legal Assistants, Human Resources Assistants, Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians, Calibration Technicians and Engineering Technicians, Except Drafters, Respiratory Therapists, Industrial Engineering Technicians.



Student Outcomes



The career job employment rate for Joliet Junior College completers fluctuated from year to year, but remained in the range of **78% to 85%**.

Among those who completed programs in 2009, **77.1%** were employed one year after graduating, and **90.0%** were employed in career jobs after **10 years**.



The highest career job employment rates were for those who studied for human services or architecture.

ENGAGE EMPOWER ELEVATE:

HOLISTIC

Student Services for Underserved Students

By Kelly Rohder-Tonelli



The Center for Multicultural Access and Success held a celebratory ribbon-cutting event in October.

JJC opened the Center for Multicultural Access and Success (CMAS) in the summer of 2021 to provide holistic student support services for minority, first-generation, undocumented, English language learners, under-prepared, and international students.

The launch of CMAS is a strategic realignment of existing multicultural and first-generation student service offices.

Higher education policy and advocacy organizations like Achieving the Dream are helping drive this work at the national level to improve success outcomes of low-income students and students of color. According to a piece published on Feb. 20, 2020 in Inside Higher Ed, the holistic support approach “requires colleges to tie support services into a seamless, timely and personal experience for every student...including comprehensive advising, scalable case management models, a change leadership framework and assessment using technology to improve these strategies as time goes on.”

Most importantly, this model creates a sense of community for students, encouraging personal

connections and support. At its core, the new CMAS team, led by Senior Director Deandre Butler, serves as advocates, coaches and mentors for JJC students. Butler has played a strong and consistent role at JJC over the last decade, leading the college’s Project Achieve program and Education Talent Search TRIO program, a federally funded program by the U.S. Department of Education in which eligible high school students in the Joliet district receive mentorship as they plan for their life after high school. Approximately 500 youth participate in this program of advising, college and career exposure, and more, each year.

In 2019, the Community College Business Officers organization named Butler the national recipient of its 2019 Bob Hassmiller Award for Humanitarian Service during the organization’s annual conference in Texas. The award is given to an individual who best exemplifies the service mindset by bringing assistance without discrimination, by ensuring respect for their fellow human beings, and by promoting mutual understanding, cooperation and friendship.



Dr. Yolanda Farmer, executive vice president, said the advocacy for the project, along with the opportunity to bring together two strong teams—the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and the TRIO program to scale the college’s diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts was key in making the Center a reality.

“The entire CMAS team is a group of incredible leaders,” Farmer said. “Their collaboration embodies what can be achieved institutionally when we work together as a college community. This Center represents the many diverse faces of our students. The collective passion I see in this team for students reminds us why we are here.”



CMAS VISION

The Center for Multicultural Access and Success will provide transformational services, experiences, advocacy and support for historically underserved students to encourage academic success, personal growth, collegiate persistence and graduation.

The Center for Multicultural Access and Success primarily helps the following types of students:

- Minority students
- First-generation students
- Undocumented students
- English language learners
- Under-prepared students
- International students

National and State Data

Higher education in the U.S. benefits from the participation of immigrant and international students. First and second-generation individuals comprise 28% of all students enrolled in higher education, a growing figure that underscores the importance of immigrant-origin students in the classroom and our workforce.

Illinois State Data

All Students in Higher Education in Illinois - **738,000**

First-Generation Immigrant Students - **75,000**

Second-Generation Immigrant Students - **139,000**

International Students - **51,966**

Source: Higher Ed Immigration Portal

<https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/state/illinois/>



Deandre Butler, senior director of the center, speaks to attendees at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Dr. Angie Kaysen-Luzbetak, dean of student success, speaks to the vision of the center at the October ribbon-cutting event.





Community Partners, Alumni Honored Virtually at Night of Stars

By Amanda Quinn

Joliet Junior College has a long history of honoring alumni and friends in the community for volunteerism, career achievement and their commitment to the college. After cancelling last year's Night of Stars, it was held virtually this April. The event honored three individuals, a community partner and major gift donors.

William Conte, a Senior Portfolio Manager and Senior Vice President from Morgan Stanley, was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. Conte has been active on the JJC Foundation Board since 2007, and is involved in numerous civic and philanthropic endeavors in the community. Conte is a first-generation college student. He graduated from JJC in 1985 and earned his bachelor's degree in finance from Illinois State University in 1987. Conte has received several professional recognitions throughout his career as a wealth advisor.

"When I walked through the doors of JJC, many possibilities were opened up to me. It was close to home and I had the support of my family and friends," Conte said.

Peter L. Neff, Professor Emeritus of English/World Languages, received the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award posthumously. Neff had significant influence within the college community for over 40 years. He started at JJC in 1968, after serving two years in the Peace Corps. Neff taught rhetoric and literature and was the first director of the college's honor program. He was also a tennis coach during his time at JJC.

"Pete thought JJC would be a stepping stone to somewhere else, but he fell in love with JJC and the Joliet area. He was passionate about teaching," said Pat Neff, Peter's wife.

Having been a partner for over 25 years, LyondellBasell was JJC's first recipient of the JJC Distinguished Partners in Excellence Award. LyondellBasell partners with JJC to educate a skilled-workforce, advance the economic prosperity of our community and engage students by connecting with academic programs.

In 2019, LyondellBasell received the Business/ Industry Partnership Award by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association for its partnership with Joliet Junior College.

In addition, the college recognized Board of Trustees Chairman Robert J. Wunderlich, who retired after 44 years of service. At the event, an announcement was made that the pedestrian plaza at the City Center Campus will be dedicated in his honor. Also, the JJC Foundation Board endowed the Robert J. Wunderlich Scholarship, recognizing his service to the college.

"I chose this path 44 years ago because I believed in what the college was doing and I continue to believe in what the college does: make education accessible. I will never retire from advocating for Joliet Junior College," said Wunderlich.

Visit Joliet Junior College's YouTube channel to watch the virtual Night of Stars, [youtube.com/user/JolietJrCollege](https://www.youtube.com/user/JolietJrCollege).

THE JJC FOUNDATION IS NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR:

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

Do you know an alumna/alumnus who has:

- Earned a degree from Joliet Junior College?
- Demonstrated outstanding success and distinction in their field?
- Provided humanitarian service to society?
- Demonstrated an interest in support of higher education, especially JJC?
- Nominees must be living at the time of their nomination.

To nominate someone, please fill out the form at [jjc.edu/alumniaward](https://www.jjc.edu/alumniaward).

Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award

Do you know someone who is:

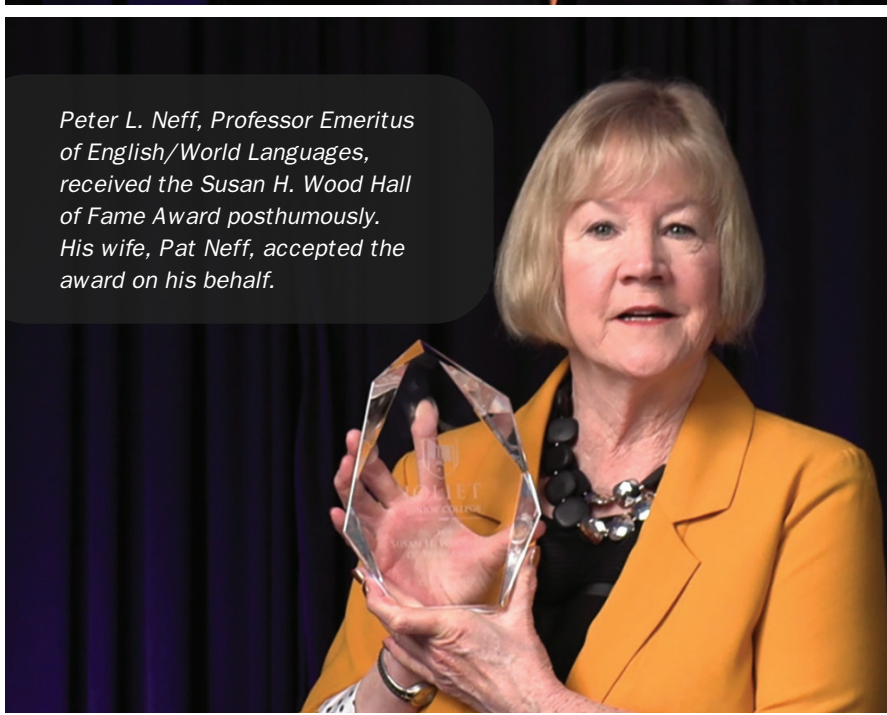
- A current or former faculty member, administrator or friend who has served Joliet Junior College in an exceptional way?
- A non-alumna/alumnus of Joliet Junior College?

To nominate someone, please fill out the form at [jjc.edu/susanwoodaward](https://www.jjc.edu/susanwoodaward)

William Conte '85, a Senior Portfolio Manager and Senior Vice President from Morgan Stanley, was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award.



Peter L. Neff, Professor Emeritus of English/World Languages, received the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award posthumously. His wife, Pat Neff, accepted the award on his behalf.



LyondellBasell was JJC's first recipient of the JJC Distinguished Partners in Excellence Award. Megan Borchers, Public Relations Lead, accepted the award.



START A SCHOLARSHIP AT JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

There are two types of scholarships available in the JJC Foundation. Annual scholarships are renewed each year and endowed scholarships exist in perpetuity.



Learn more about the scholarship option that would fit your giving interests:



JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
— 1901 —

FOUNDATION

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

\$500+

- Minimum: \$500 per year
- May be established in honor or in memory of someone
- You choose the criteria to identify potential recipients
- Sign a memorandum of agreement, created by JJC's Office of Institutional Advancement

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

\$30,000+

- Minimum: \$30,000 (can be payable over three years)
- May be established in honor or in memory of someone
- You choose the criteria to identify potential recipients
- The contributions become principal in a permanent investment account
- A portion of annual earnings fund the scholarship award, while the remaining is reinvested, increasing the principal in addition to the amount available for future awards
- Sign a memorandum of agreement, created by JJC's Office of Institutional Advancement

THANK YOU 2021 FOUNDATION SPONSORS

PLATINUM SPONSOR



Thank you to our business and community partners who have invested in the 2021 Foundation Sponsorship Campaign. These donors committed to sponsoring at least one of our signature events at the platinum, gold, silver or bronze level.

This year's special events included Virtual Night of Stars, Virtual Fine Arts Concert, JJC Athletic Golf Outing, and the JJC and the JJC Foundation 5K Run/Walk.

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As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains at least 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

For more information on JJC's sustainability efforts, visit www.jjc.edu/sustainability



The late Richard "Tex" Rivera began his career at Joliet Junior College as a student groundskeeper in 1974 and went on to earn his Associate's Degree in Applied Science in 1975. In his nearly 47 years at JJC, he held the titles of Custodian, Groundskeeper, Lead Groundskeeper, Superintendent of Road and Grounds, and Assistant Director of Facility Services.

Rivera was also actively involved in the college community as a member of the JJC Board of Trustee's Buildings and Grounds Committee, Chairman of the Facility Services Safety Committee, and served as both the President and Vice President of the Joliet Junior College Alumni Association. Rivera took great pride in the college and touched the lives of so many students, alumni and colleagues along the way.

Rivera's legacy will live on at JJC in the form of two scholarships through the Joliet Junior College Foundation. The Richard T. Rivera Memorial Grounds and Horticulture Scholarships have raised nearly \$6,500 and will support students studying horticulture and working in grounds.

Richard T. Rivera
1954 - 2020

WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit www.jjc.edu/stayconnected to submit your story and reconnect with your college.