

OPPORTUNITY

NEWS



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NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

San Jac recognized as national top 10 community college

San Jacinto College once again ranks among the top 10 community colleges in the nation, according to the Aspen Institute.

The 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence top 10 finalist announcement follows the College's recognition as an Aspen Prize Finalist with Distinction in 2021, Aspen Prize Finalist in 2019, and Aspen Prize Rising Star in 2017.

Since 2011, San Jac has increased the number of certificates and degrees awarded by nearly 72%.

The Aspen Prize finalists

(including the two winners of the \$1 million prize) are:

- Amarillo College, Texas (winner)
- Broward College, Florida
- Imperial Valley College, California (winner)
- Hostos Community College, New York
- Kingsborough Community College, New York
- Moorpark College, California
- Northwest Iowa Community College, Iowa
- San Jacinto College, Texas
- South Puget Sound Community College, Washington
- Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, Wisconsin

Future Promise Scholars, it's time to enroll

Current high school seniors who live in San Jacinto College's taxing district have just one more step to qualify for the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship.

If you've met all deadlines so far — pledging, applying to San Jac, and completing your FAFSA — the scholarship is yours if you **enroll and register for full-time classes by Thursday, July 13**. Register early for best course selection.

Promise @ San Jac covers an associate degree or certificate at San Jac 100% after other financial aid, meaning less stress and a debt-free start on your future. Other benefits:

- Available to all in-district high school seniors, regardless of GPA or household income
- Books covered up to \$600/semester
- Quality education near home
- Better career options

after graduation

More than 4,600 high school seniors, or 64% of all eligible, are on track to become Promise Scholars this fall.

San Jac expanded the scholarship to every in-district high school in 2022. Although

some Promise Scholars have already graduated, nearly 2,200 more are currently earning degrees and certificates without student loans.

Learn more at sanjac.edu/promise or contact promise@sjcd.edu.



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

SAN JAC TAKES GOLD, SILVER AT NAPTA COMPETITION

By **Melisa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

San Jacinto College students took first and second place at the 2023 North American Process Technology Alliance Troubleshooting Competition April 11 — the College's sixth consecutive year to participate.

"We are so proud of our team for bringing home gold and silver. We always strive to be the best," said Joseph Zwiercan, petrochemical/energy department chair.

Hosted at the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology, the competition saw 12 teams face off to earn the

top spot.

San Jac sent two teams into the competition, both under the guidance of professor G.C. Shah. Student Derrick Bryan served as the first-place team's captain.

"When our team's name was called, I couldn't believe it," Bryan said. "I know everyone at San Jac is very proud of us, and I am happy we got to show off our education we have been working so hard toward."

Winners included...

- First Place: Luis Alvarez, Derrick Bryan, Justin Espinosa, and Austin Self

- Second Place: Rueben Llanas, Zachary Burch, and Tyler Duke



Photo courtesy of Melisa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

NORTH CAMPUS KARATE INSPIRES CONFIDENCE, IMPROVES STRENGTH

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Perry Mayorga-Guerrero is passionate about physical fitness, safety, and — most of all — making connections with his students.

Mayorga-Guerrero, a San Jacinto College North Campus instructor, meets with his students for three hours each Tuesday and Thursday evening for karate and kickboxing classes. These students are more to him than a number. They are his family.

“Many of my students have been with me for years. They’ve seen my family grow, and we’ve become close as well,” said Mayorga-Guerrero. “When we have new students come

in, we welcome them into that family. The more experienced students help guide the new ones, and we grow together.”

San Jac’s North Campus karate program, a partner of the American Society of Karate, boosts self-confidence and discipline while teaching students karate and other martial arts techniques. The course incorporates high-intensity interval training, kickboxing, karate sparring, karate katas, and self-defense.

“Everyone has their own fitness level. There are things that some students can do that others can’t, and that’s OK,” Mayorga-Guerrero said. “I try to build people up in that way because they can be hesitant



and feel uncomfortable. If you are sweating and doing the work, you are already doing great. There’s no showboating in our class, only support.”

The karate program has a core group of students who register each semester, but it is open to all San Jac students. This semester, the students range from 18 to 54. One of Mayorga-Guerrero’s students, 40-year-old Araceli Abrego, has been taking the class for the last 14 years and often serves as a student teacher when she is needed.

“When I first started karate, I was very shy and overweight. I wasn’t very ambitious or disciplined,” said Abrego. “Now through karate, I’ve dropped

65 pounds, and my self-confidence and discipline are higher than ever. More than that, I’ve made lifelong friends who have become like family.”



Photos courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

Mayorga-Guerrero encourages this supportive environment because he remembers his first day in a karate course at San Jac 20 years ago.

“If you knew me back then, you wouldn’t believe where I am today,” he said. “I hated sweating, even as a child. I only joined the class because of my required P.E. credit, and I liked that it was indoors.”

His instructor, Diana Gray, started the program at the Central Campus in 1989.

“She was so enthusiastic, and she made me want to go further,” Mayorga-Guerrero said. “I started assistant teaching two years later, and in 2006 I got my black belt.”

In February, Mayorga-Guerrero took five students to an American Society of Karate invitational tournament, and four of them won first place.

“I’m so proud of what my students can accomplish, even in one semester, but it makes me even more proud to see them come back again and again and watch their growth,” he said.

To learn more, follow the program on Instagram @ [sanjacnorth_karate](#) or email perry.mayorga-guerre@sjcd.edu.



SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
June-July	Summer camps for kids and teens	Varies	sanjac.edu/summer-camps
June 5	Summer classes begin	Varies	All campuses and online
June 19	Juneteenth National Independence Day	Closed	All campuses and online
July 4	Independence Day	Closed	All campuses and online

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



DRUM ROLL, PLEASE: THE RAVEN'S NAME IS ...

Photos by Neesha Hosein, Courtney Morris, and Melissa Trevizo
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

San Jacinto College, your new mascot is Poe the Raven!

The San Jac community celebrated "one College ... one mascot" with three campus rallies April 25. Poe the Raven soared through a banner at South Campus, boogied down a softball cheer line at Central Campus, and burst from a

baseball team mosh pit at North Campus.

The festivities included music, ice cream, games, and mascot T-shirts launched by Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer.

Students, employees, and community members voted on both the mascot and its name.

Check out more rally photos at bit.ly/MeetTheRaven.



NEW CERTIFICATE, DEGREE PROGRAMS ROLLING OUT THIS FALL

By Jacquelynn Conger
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

San Jacinto College is rolling out new programs to meet the needs of the growing workforce in Houston and along the Gulf Coast.

New programs include...

Autonomous vehicle (certificate of technology) – Students will learn how to service and manage autonomous vehicles. They will study the industry standard and Automotive Service Excellence, which will make them eligible for employment and a desired candidate at any automotive facility.

Biotechnology (certificate and Associate of Applied Science degree) – Students will get real-world experience

in a pilot-scale bioprocessing center that includes upstream, downstream, and fill-finish training. The curriculum will also include cell and gene therapy and other innovative, developing industry sectors. Students will have immediate transferable skills on cutting-edge equipment used in today's most advanced biomanufacturing operations.

Engineering technology (A.A.S. degree) – Students will develop the theoretical and practical understanding of the safety, processes, systems, tools, and techniques necessary to construct, refine, operate, and maintain an engineering design. Engineering technicians apply basic engineering principles and technical skills to support engineers engaged in various projects.

Heavy diesel equipment/crane technician (certificate of technology and A.A.S. degree) – The heavy diesel equipment/crane technician program will expose students to diesel engine components and hydraulics. Students will also take electrical classes to gain experience maintaining and repairing the entire piece of equipment.

Medical laboratory assistant (occupational certificate) – In this program, students will train to enter the workforce proficient at specimen collection and processing. They will also learn how to report lab data and perform minimal complexity testing in a health care setting. Additionally, they will gain experience working in conjunction with other health care disciplines.

Plumbing technology (occupational certificate) – Students will 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.

The College will also launch its second bachelor's degree, a **Bachelor of Applied Science in education** with an emphasis on early childhood. This

degree, which will focus on early childhood through third grade, is ideal for current para-educators. Most of the new programs will be available beginning fall 2023. The bachelor's degree and biotechnology program will roll out in spring 2024. With these new programs, students will have the opportunity to gain the skills to enter the evolving job market with confidence. For more information about these new programs, visit sanjac.edu.



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Programs for
Ages 6-18!

Learn, Play, Grow,

AT SAN JAC SUMMER CAMPS

SAN JACINTO
COLLEGE

sanjac.edu/summer-camps

An Equal Opportunity Institution



Shutterstock image

RNS WANTING FLEXIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY CAN START WITH SAN JAC'S BSN PROGRAM

By **Courtney Morris**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Almost 25 years into her hospital nursing career, Monica Manthey was done waiting.

Manthey called a family meeting to discuss the next year with her husband and teen son: She had been accepted into San Jacinto College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. She was not backing out this time.

"I've registered, and the classes are paid for," she said. "You'll have to figure out what's for dinner and run the household."

Manthey was finally continuing her education to pursue a career dream: becoming a clinical instructor.

Are you a working registered nurse ready to take the next step in your career? You too can earn your BSN degree conveniently and affordably at San Jac for more earning potential and

professional growth.

Apply April 18 through Aug. 17, 2023, for the fall 2023 cohort.

High quality at low cost

San Jac's three-semester BSN program (31 credit hours) builds on your experience through fully online eight-week courses focused on health care trends, public/global health policy, community health, ethics, and leadership.

Program tuition is around \$2,600 for in-district students and \$6,900 for out-of-district. Every BSN student will receive a scholarship.

"At San Jac, associate degree nursing is our launching pad, not our landing pad," Dr. Veronica Jammer, RN-to-BSN department chair, said. "BSN is really the natural next step."

After earning your BSN degree, you may specialize in advanced practice or

leadership positions, such as ...

- Direct patient care
- Public health
- Inpatient/outpatient services
- Education
- Management

As a proud San Jac associate degree nursing alumna, Manthey looked to her alma mater once again for quality training.

"My education at San Jac helped me succeed prior to my BSN," she said. "The integrity, responsibility, and purpose that was instilled in us as a group — I took those to heart in my years of practice. Now with my BSN, if I wanted to go into an administrative position, they've given me the groundwork to succeed again."

BSNs in high demand

Not only is nursing the nation's largest health care profession, but Houston

boasts some of the highest employment and pay rates for RNs nationwide.

Today, more health care employers seek BSN-prepared nurses to keep pace with evolving health care. With the BSN program, San Jac meets not only area workforce needs but also busy RNs' needs.

"The program was designed to help all nurses in the community pursue higher education to support upward mobility within the nursing profession," said Dr. Rhonda Bell, Central Campus dean of health and natural sciences.

Manthey is proof. While pursuing her BSN, she navigated 12-hour nursing shifts, work committees, a husband who worked evenings, and two sons in their senior years of high school and college.

"I completed the BSN program despite having a busy life," Manthey said. "Life did pop up, and I had to learn how to deal with that as well as stay on task. But I completed my degree in the time allotted, and it flew by. If I was able to do it, anyone can."

Apply by Aug. 17 for fall 2023 BSN cohort

Application requirements:

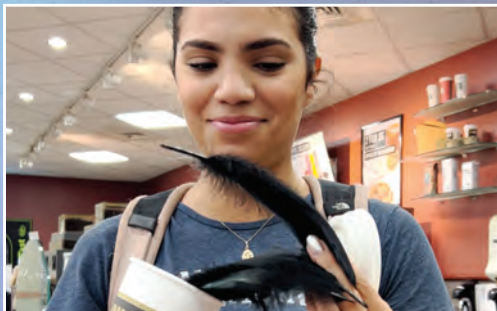
- Meet with program coordinator in advising, career, and transfer department
- Hold an A.A.S. degree in nursing from accredited institution
- Have grades of C or higher in all previous nursing transfer courses
- Hold an unencumbered Texas RN license
- Be currently employed as an RN
- Have cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher throughout program
- Submit one recommendation letter from a health care supervisor or former nursing faculty

Learn more at sanjac.edu/bsn or email sanjacbsn@sjcd.edu.



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

THIS MONTH *IN* SOCIAL MEDIA



Instagram

Will it be Poe, Edgar, Jack, Maverick, or Sam? Voting is open to **EVERYONE** — students, alumni, employees, and the entire San Jac community! Go vote now for your favorite!



178 Likes | 5 Comments | 6 Shares



Facebook

The Raven is landing on campus soon, but it still needs a name! Voting is open to **EVERYONE** — students, alumni, employees, and the entire San Jac community!



65 Reactions | 138 Comments | 14 Shares



Twitter

April is Community College Month! Community colleges exist to fill communities' many needs and interests. Yet, many Americans view them as inferior. This month, we'll highlight just a few ways our students, staff, & faculty prove them wrong!



12 Likes | 4 Retweets | 13 Post Clicks



LinkedIn

"I want to be clear: community colleges are not 'less than' other higher education institutions. To those who promote the negative stigma surrounding community colleges, I would say that their perception is outdated and inaccurate. Community colleges are evolving, adapting to the changing needs of our society, and providing students with the education they need to succeed." — Jose Valentine, Dean of Enrollment Services



302 Reactions | 20 Comments | 21 Shares

YOUR GOALS. YOUR COLLEGE.



SAN JACINTOSM COLLEGE

NORTH CAMPUS
5800 Uvalde Rd., Houston, TX 77049

CENTRAL CAMPUS
8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505

SOUTH CAMPUS
13735 Beamer Rd., Houston, TX 77089

MARITIME CAMPUS
3700 Old Hwy. 146, La Porte, TX 77571

GENERATION PARK CAMPUS
13455 Lockwood Rd., Houston, TX 77044

ONLINE
sanjac.edu/online

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VISION & MISSION



Vision — San Jacinto College will advance the social and economic mobility of all members of our community. We will be known for our excellence in teaching and learning, our intentional student-centered support, and our commitment to every student. We will be the preferred workforce and economic development partner in the region and a champion for lifelong learning. San Jacinto College will inspire students to explore opportunities, define their educational and career paths, and achieve their goals and dreams.

Mission — San Jacinto College is focused on student success, academic progress, university transfer, and employment. We are committed to opportunities that enrich the quality of life in the communities we serve.

SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



A gift to the San Jacinto College Foundation transforms lives, enriches our community, and provides tomorrow's community leaders. For more than 25 years, the Foundation has helped thousands of students reach their goals. Our former students and graduates have filled vital roles in hospitals, classrooms, executive offices, manufacturing plants, and laboratories across our region and beyond. They have also won the World Series and NBA championships, starred in major motion pictures, and created major theatrical productions. Help our students today with the gift of education. Contact the San Jacinto College Foundation at 281-998-6104 or visit sanjac.edu/foundation.

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. 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.

