

OPPORTUNITY

NEWS



2 News from
Your College

3 San Jac Support
You Can Depend on

4 San Jac,
Solugen Partner

NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

Inaugural bachelor's degree cohort celebrated

San Jacinto College hosted a celebration Aug. 2 for its inaugural Bachelor of Applied Science in early childhood education cohort.

This new program caters to both paraprofessionals who have already earned an associate degree in early childhood education and students who are just beginning their childhood education journey.

The program offers flexible pathways, allowing students to apply previous education and valid credentials toward their final requirements for graduation. Graduates will be ready to work with children from six weeks through third grade.

As most of the program is offered online, the celebration provided an excellent opportunity for students, faculty, and administrators to connect before the start of the semester. Those attending the come-and-go event enjoyed dinner, kids' activities, and camaraderie with fellow future educators.

View event photos at bit.ly/SJC-BAS-Celebration. Scan the QR code to learn more about the new bachelor's degree program.



Teams wrap up 2024 season with accolades

The San Jacinto College softball team made an impressive showing



Photo by San Jacinto College

at the National Junior College Athletic Association World Series in Oxford, Alabama.

The Ravens, demonstrating their tenacity, faced off against Temple College in their opening match, narrowly losing 1-0. However, they returned with a convincing 4-1 victory over Iowa Western. Their journey concluded with a hard-fought 3-2 defeat against Galveston College, securing them a spot in the top 10 nationally.

This year marks the team's seventh appearance in the NJCAA Softball Division I World Series and the first time under their new Ravens moniker. The team's performance was highlighted by eight players earning all-Region 14 South Conference or all-region honors. Notably, Arriana Wright was named the Player of the Conference and Region.

On the baseball front, the Ravens saw their season come to an earlier-than-expected end in the Region 14 Super Regional tournament. The team started strong with a victory over Blinn College, but their hopes of securing a World Series run were dashed in subsequent games. Despite the setback, the Ravens finished the season with a commendable

40-21 overall record.

The baseball team also boasted an impressive roster, with 11 players earning all-Region 14 South Conference or all-region honors. Jake Bennett was the Region 14 South Conference Co-Offensive Player of the Year.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the teams.



Summer camps entertain, educate local youth

Theatre? Check. Maritime? Check. Robots? Check.

Whatever their interests, local kids and teens had their pick of San Jacinto College summer camps to match.

Youth staged "The SpongeBob Musical" in the KidSpot theatre camp, developed their entrepreneurial plans in the Young CEO camp, and painted with robots in the STEAM: STEM + Arts camp.

Other camps included...

- Camp STEMPACT
- EnergyVenture
- Exploring Industry Career Fairs
- Maritime Career Days
- Music and Band
- National Summer Transportation Institute
- Robotics Rumble
- Softball
- STEM from Dance

Check out summer camp photos at bit.ly/SJC-summer-camps-24.



Photo by Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College

SAN JAC SUPPORT YOU CAN DEPEND ON FROM ADMISSION TO GRADUATION

By Courtney Morris
San Jacinto College

Enroll. Take classes.
Graduate.

The process might seem straightforward, but a lot happens between registering for classes and framing your diploma.

At San Jacinto College, support starts the moment you apply. From career counseling to academic accommodations, we're here to ensure nothing stands between you and your dreams.

Don't know where to start? You can find many support services by visiting one of the campus welcome centers:

- Central Campus: Building C27
- North Campus: Building N6
- South Campus: Building S6

Or you can meet with support staff by scheduling a virtual appointment at whos-next.com/sanjac/appointments.

Whether you're a current or prospective student, here are five San Jac support areas you should know about:

1. Groceries and Meals

Would you like 30 pounds of free groceries per week? If you're enrolled, you qualify for groceries, meals, toiletries, and other household essentials from the SJC Marketplace.

The Marketplace is here to help you succeed... because it's hard to study on an empty stomach!

Find the Marketplace in the student centers:

- Central Campus: C14.218
- North Campus: N12.211

• South Campus: S11.109
Learn more:

sanjacsea@sjcd.edu

2. Mental Health Counseling

Studying, working, and maintaining relationships are challenging enough without adding self-care to the mix.

If you're experiencing anxiety, depression, or persistent stress (and struggling to take care of yourself), don't keep powering through. It's OK to ask for help.

Reach out to one of San Jac's mental health counselors. Our counselors provide free, short-term counseling in person and virtually.

Find us in the campus welcome centers:

- Central Campus: C27.1500 (281-998-6350 ext. 1014)
- North Campus: N6.170 (281-998-6350 ext. 2317)
- South Campus: S6.120 (281-998-6350 ext. 3444)

3. Accessibility Services

Need extra support to reach your academic goals? If you have a documented disability or challenge (like ADHD, brain injury, chronic illness, learning/communication disorder, mobility challenge, etc.), you can create an accommodation plan with an accessibility services coordinator.

Your accommodations could include...

- Extended time for test taking
- Sign language services
- Captioning services
- Special technologies
- And more

If you identify as neurodivergent (with a brain difference like ADHD, autism, dyslexia, etc.), you may fill

out an intake form for our neurodiversity support services, which offers one-on-one coaching and support groups.

Learn more: sanjac.edu/support/accessibility or accessibility.services@sjcd.edu

4. Tutoring

San Jac's Student Success Centers are your go-to for in-person and online tutoring. You can find the centers in each campus library (or in Room 105 at the Generation Park Campus).

Beyond tutoring, the centers offer study resources like...

- Textbooks

- Computers
- Workshops
- Test prep sessions
- Spaces to study alone or with a group

Plus, on-hand tutors can answer any questions that come up while you study.

Learn more: ssctutoring@sjcd.edu

5. Career Resources

Sometimes making the leap from classroom to career feels daunting. That's why San Jac offers career assessments, interview prep, and comprehensive job listings.

Want a full- or part-time

job? On-campus job or remote internship? Or not sure what you want? Our career and transfer specialists can help you weigh your interests and skills, research industries and careers, and consider areas to grow.

Learn more: career.centers@sjcd.edu

Support to the Finish Line

You may have started college alone, but we won't let you finish alone. San Jac supports your success from start to finish!

Scan the QR code to learn more about our support resources.



Photo by San Jacinto College

SAN JAC, SOLUGEN PARTNER ON CUSTOMIZED BIOTECH TRAINING PROGRAM

By Neesha Hosein
San Jacinto College

San Jacinto College has formed a new partnership with Solugen, a leader in industrial biomanufacturing, to deliver customized corporate training to enhance the skills and competencies of industrial biotechnical laboratory staff.

San Jac is the first institution in the region to offer such customized corporate training for industrial biotechnology companies, setting a new standard in biomanufacturing education.

“Solugen places a high priority on engaging community partners,” said Dr. Christopher Wild, executive director of San Jac’s Center for Biotechnology. “As a part of that effort, which aligned with the College engaging biotech companies, the relationship blossomed.”

The training currently is offered to the Greater Houston region with plans to become a training destination for biopharma and industrial biotechnology companies in the southeastern U.S.

First cohort kicks off training program

The College hosted its first cohort of 10 Solugen trainees in May.

The weeklong “Foundations of Biotechnology” includes both theoretical and hands-on components, covering a range of critical topics from contamination control to pilot plant operations. The course is led by Dr. Nicole Bradley, who has more than 12 years of research experience and five years in biopharmaceuticals and quality control, and Kevin Rodriguez, a San Jac alumnus with a process development background and more than three years of biopharmaceutical manufacturing experience.

“Trainees learned everything from contamination control to pilot plant operations and everything in between,”

said Bradley, biotechnology program director and professor. “They learned how to limit and control contaminations as well as how to improve accuracy and reproducibility in their experiments and products.”

The course includes:

- Introduction to pilot plant operations (theory)
- Basic data analysis and analytical calculations (theory)
- Sterilization and decontamination (theory)
- How to use and calibrate a pH meter (theory/hands-on training)
- Pipette training and repeatability assessment (hands-on training)

“I think the training was incredibly enriching for both the trainees and the San Jac faculty,” Bradley said. “It was a wonderful collaboration from start to finish, and there were some knowledge

gaps that the senior-level trainees were able to fill in for us as well.”

Developing the partnership

San Jac and Solugen’s partnership is a significant step toward addressing the workforce needs in the rapidly growing field of industrial biomanufacturing in Houston. This collaboration benefits not only the College and its students but also the broader community by opening new career paths in a field with increasing employment opportunities.

“San Jacinto has been a critical community partner for Solugen in Houston,” said Dr. Konrad Miller, Solugen vice president of manufacturing science and technology. “As the workforce needs for the industrial biomanufacturing sector evolve, we have been working closely with faculty at the Center for

Biotechnology to tailor curriculum. We’re excited about the prospect of utilizing their new short-course offerings to cross-train our teams on industry best practices.”

“Providing onboarding training for future hires is a goal,” Wild said. “Additionally, through our partnership, continuing to engage Solugen on community events will be essential to building familiarity with families regarding careers in this sector.”

With an exclusive partnership with the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training, San Jac is positioned to become a biomanufacturing training leader.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the biomanufacturing program.



Photo by Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College

TIDWELL OVERSEES LAUNCH OF SAN JAC'S NEW ONLINE CAMPUS

By **Neesha Hosein**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

San Jacinto College will launch its newest campus, San Jac Online, in fall 2025 with Dr. Ken Tidwell as the chief officer for online learning.

Tidwell joined San Jac in March 2020, a week before the COVID-19 shutdowns. Over the past four years, he has served as the dean of workforce development and the interim associate vice chancellor for the Maritime Campus.

Tidwell's journey into online learning began in the early 2000s when he taught distance

learning courses in the Air Force. His passion for online education continued as he transitioned into community colleges, where he primarily taught online courses and served as dean for arts and sciences and online learning at a previous institution.

Tidwell led online learning from design, management, and faculty collaboration in his first instructional leadership role. In 2014, his doctorate program included educational technology with research focused on predicting online student success through applying self-regulated learning theory traits.

"When the College announced this new direction for the district and the new leadership role, I jumped at the opportunity to return to something I love," he said. "Additionally, I have never stopped teaching online regardless of my administrative role."

In the last 15 years, Tidwell has taught undergraduate and doctoral online students at three community colleges and one university. The experience has allowed him to stay up to date on technological advances and research in student learning and "provides a strong toolbox to partner, collaborate, and lead

online learning at San Jac to accomplish our mission — a focus on student success, academic progress, university transfer, and employment."

Collaboration is key

The San Jac Online implementation team has more than 20 departments and groups across the district.

In the next few months, various offices and groups will analyze data, guidelines, and federal, state, and accreditor requirements to help launch the new campus.

Tasks include creating a strategic course and enrollment plan for online students, determining personnel needs, and implementing a transition plan for staff moving to the online campus. Setting quality expectations for online teaching, identifying professional development resources, and establishing marketing plans and system integrations to support online student services are other important actions in the planning process.

"While we journey in this implementation and creation phase, we lean into the activity with all its questions and unknowns by trusting the system, embracing the process, and seeing the good San Jac Online will bring to our district," Tidwell said. "I want us to love and have fun creating an online campus for our students."

Online learning becomes norm

When Tidwell arrived at San Jac in 2020, he was surprised by limited online learning options, especially given the national growth in community college distance learning from 2014 to 2020. The pandemic forced all Texas students into online learning, compelling faculty, instructional designers, and support staff to adapt quickly. "COVID led to San Jac and

Texas catching up with the rest of the nation regarding online learning," he said. "Now students know they can do it. It gives students a little more decision-making power for how they choose their college experience to support their life needs and goals."

Tidwell believes this is a good thing: Online learning is not replacing traditional classroom options but becoming one part of a variety of learning options.

Why is San Jac the best choice for online learning?

San Jac Online offers 50 certificates and degrees fully online, providing cost-effective tuition without commuting costs. The College supports students, aiming to grow and add new programs while ensuring learners are never alone by integrating their home, family, and workplace into the San Jac community.

"We will come out the other end of fall 2025 with an enhanced learning environment for all students, a distinguished and stronger College for our team, and an increased value to the communities we serve in an ever-growing digital world," Tidwell said.

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac Online.



LIVE UP TO

YOUR PROMISE

With the **Promise @ San Jac Scholarship**, in-district high school seniors are eligible for money to cover tuition and course materials at San Jacinto College!

 SAN JACINTO
COLLEGE

TO PLEDGE, VISIT
[SANJAC.EDU/PROMISE](https://sanjac.edu/promise)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE:



An Equal Opportunity Institution



Photo by Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

FAITH, FAMILY, EDUCATION: LOPEZ'S INSPIRING CAREER IN HIGHER ED

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Siloe Lopez, coordinator of orientation and campus tours, started his journey at San Jacinto College more than 20 years ago as a student. His work at San Jac now impacts countless students, helping them find a sense of belonging and purpose.

After graduating from North Shore Senior High School in 2000, Lopez entered San Jac with a keen interest in media production, inspired by his parents' guidance and a scholarship opportunity.

"I thought I wanted to work for a news channel and be behind the camera," he said. "After a year, I realized it wasn't for me. So I focused on my basics and pursued an audio engineering degree."

While attending the North and Central Campuses, Lopez found influential mentors in audio engineering instructor Les Williams and music instructor Randy Snyder, who played crucial

roles in his development.

"I met a lot of people as a student at San Jac and gained valuable experiences," Lopez said. "It took me about four years to finish because I was working on two associate degrees — one in audio engineering and one in general studies."

In 2005, Lopez continued his education at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma, where he majored in music business and minored in urban ministry. After graduating in 2009, Lopez spent a few years in Oklahoma working in the university's admissions office, sparking a lifelong commitment to a higher education career.

"I never imagined working in admissions, but the opportunity presented itself, and I embraced it," he said. "Working in admissions introduced me to the world of outreach and recruiting."

In 2012, motivated by a desire to return to his roots, Lopez moved back to Houston and joined the University of Houston-

Clear Lake admissions team.

Eager to return to San Jac, he was hired as an educational planner in 2019.

Due to departmental changes, his role expanded, and he became an outreach advisor during the challenging COVID-19 season. Lopez adapted using his video production skills during the pandemic to enhance student outreach. He created how-to videos on applying to college and setting up advising appointments, ensuring students received continuous support despite remote constraints.

Today, Lopez is a cornerstone of San Jac's student orientation program, currently servicing the Central, North, and South Campuses. His favorite aspect of the role is connecting with students and their families.

"I'm always actively engaged with students," he said. "Every student has a unique story, and I take pride in being part of their onboarding experience. I want

everyone to feel welcomed and supported, and I strive to ensure no one feels left out. I love seeing students return and hearing how we've positively impacted their San Jac experience."

Lopez's faith and family influence his love for connecting with people and bringing a smile to their faces.

"Education was always emphasized in my family, but serving others was just as strong, making sure to put God first in everything," Lopez said. "I remember we would knock on doors as a kid, and my job was to

pass out candy and tell people, 'Jesus loves you.' That is where I started loving people. Everyone has a need, whether they speak it or not. That's why I try to keep a positive attitude and make a difference daily."

Outside San Jac, Lopez enjoys spending time with his wife and family and playing and recording music.

"I play the drums, guitar, piano, and saxophone," he said. "I also lead worship at my local church, where my dad is a pastor, and have my own recording studio."



Photo by Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
Through Sept. 25	Guest Artist: Celia Butler	Varies	Central Campus Gallery, Davis Library (C21.163) Contact carmen.champion@sjcd.edu
Sept. 2	Labor Day	Closed	All campuses and online
Sept. 17-Oct. 24	Small Business Management Academy	6-8:30 p.m.	Tuesdays and Thursdays only Generation Park Campus, Center for Entrepreneurship Contact sheila.simon@sjcd.edu
Sept. 30	Registration opens for winter mini and spring		
Oct. 9-Nov. 6	Guest Artists: Vanessa Monokian and Tina Hernandez	Varies	Central Campus Gallery, Davis Library (C21.163) Contact carmen.champion@sjcd.edu
Oct. 16-19	"The SpongeBob Musical"	7:30 p.m.	\$15 general admission Central Campus, Slocomb Auditorium (C12)
Oct. 20	"The SpongeBob Musical" matinee	2:30 p.m.	\$15 general admission Central Campus, Slocomb Auditorium (C12)
Oct. 24-Nov. 2	"The Pits" World Premiere	TBA	Free South Campus, Flickinger Fine Arts Center, Black Box Theatre (\$15)

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

THIS MONTH *IN* SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook

San Jacinto College has named Eric Weaver as the next head coach of the Ravens baseball team. “We are pleased to welcome Eric Weaver back to San Jacinto College, this time as head baseball coach,” said Dr. Allatia Harris, vice chancellor for strategic initiatives at San Jacinto College. “Eric has extensive coaching experience at the JUCO Division 1 level and maintains excellent contacts in the Houston region, which will serve our program well. His focus on developing student-athletes both on the field and in the classroom was among many things that stood out about Eric, and we look forward to supporting him as our next baseball coach.”



1,296 Reactions | 280 Comments | 51 Shares



Instagram

Felt cute, might delete later.



472 Likes | 7 Comments | 72 Shares



LinkedIn

Christian Bionat has been named Vice Chancellor of External Relations at San Jacinto College, where he will oversee marketing, fundraising, and government affairs efforts. Bionat comes to the College from the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) where he served as Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy.



487 Reactions | 54 Comments | 7 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+ by Standard & Poor's and Aa2 by Moody's. For more information about San Jacinto College, visit sanjac.edu.

