

SENIOR FOCUS

WINTER 2023



**SAN JAC GALLERIES
OFFER CULTURE
TO COMMUNITY**

**PAVING THE
WAY FOR
WOMEN IN
INDUSTRY**





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LIFELONG LEARNING

San Jacinto College offers a variety of leisure learning courses to help you expand your horizons and have fun! You can enjoy our short courses year-round, along with flexible schedules and easy registration.



SPRING 2023

- DANCE
- CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH
- EVENT PLANNING
- MUSIC
- WELLNESS

For more information and a complete list of courses, visit sanjac.edu/cpd or call **281-542-2020**.

CONTENTS



Questions about San Jacinto College programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Contact Center at 281-998-6150. Comments or questions about the publication can be directed to the San Jacinto College External Relations Department at 281-998-6152.

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Visit San Jacinto College online at sanjac.edu.
Call us at 281-998-6150.



Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/SanJacintoCollege and Twitter and Instagram @SanJacCollege.

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 citizens of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. San Jacinto College is among the top five community colleges in the nation, as designated by the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence, and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College serves approximately 41,000 credit and non-credit students annually and offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. San Jacinto College's impact on the region totals \$1.3 billion in added income, which supports 13,044 jobs. 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, call 281-998-6150, visit sanjac.edu, or join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter.

SeniorFocus is published three times a year by San Jacinto Community College District, 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Suite 210, Pasadena, Texas, 77504, in partnership with Academic Marketing Services.

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2 News & notes

3 Mambo your way to better brain health

4 San Jac galleries offer culture to community

6 Paving the way for women in industry

7 Online student Rebecca Parker: grandma, business owner, and self-proclaimed workaholic

8 Promise @ San Jac Scholarship Q&A: What you need to know

NEWS & NOTES

from around the College



Senior Wellness Expo honors veterans

San Jacinto College hosted its annual Senior Wellness Expo with a twist Nov. 11 at the Central Campus. For older adults and caregivers, the free expo featured a wall of honor with veterans' photos and notecards for guests to sign. Veterans who attended also received framed patriotic quotes and flag pins.

San Jac's Continuing and Professional Development Community Engagement Division organized the event. Through community service provider booths, fitness demos, speakers, health screenings, and vaccines, seniors learned about resources and activities that contribute to happy, healthy lives.

Another bonus was a safe environment to meet others.

"Research shows that socializing helps increase longevity and life fulfillment, so our expo was a fun event with long-term benefits," said Dr. Janice Sullivan, CPD dean of community engagement.

More than 30 sponsors and non-profits supported the expo. To view the event photo album, visit bit.ly/seniorexpo22.

▶ Want to learn about other community events? Have ideas for workshops? Contact CPD Community Engagement at 281-476-1893 or community.engagement@sjcd.edu.



Chancellor delivers annual State of the College address

San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer delivered the annual State of the College address Nov. 10 at the LyondellBasell

Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology on the Central Campus.

The theme for this year's State of the College address was "A focus on the opportunities that are enriching to yoU, the commUnity." Audience members included the College's Board of Trustees, elected officials, industry partners, community leaders, and San Jacinto College Foundation donors.

▶ To view the event photo album, visit bit.ly/SanJacSOTC22.

To view the 2022 State of the College recording, visit bit.ly/SOTCvideo22

MAMBO YOUR WAY TO BETTER BRAIN HEALTH

■ By Courtney Morris

What if keeping your brain healthy were as simple as trying a new activity?

According to Harvard's Institute for Aging Research*, you can train your brain to improve memory and focus. Start by finding a new physical or creative outlet — something that forces you to think, learn, and practice. Remember: Striving to improve is even more important than mastering the activity.

If you're looking to learn something new, San Jacinto College Continuing and Professional Development Division has you covered. From learning how to salsa or mambo to planning a classmate reunion or speaking conversational Spanish, you can choose from many noncredit lifelong learning courses to pick up new skills and meet others.

Spring 2023 lifelong learning courses include:

- Latin Dancing
- Conversational Spanish: Beginners
- Event Planning 101
- Ukulele for Beginners
- Chi Kung/Qi Kong
- Gentle Yoga
- Pilates
- Tai Chi

While class times vary, most of these classes are on weekdays between 5-7 p.m. Course costs range from \$35-\$140, with most on the lower end.

"We want to enrich the quality of life in the communities we serve," said Dr. Janice Sullivan, CPD dean of community education. "Our lifelong learning courses do just that, engaging your body and mind while connecting you with others who live near you. If there's a class you want us to offer, let us know. We're here to serve you."



► To view lifelong learning courses, visit sanjac.edu/CPD, and click the yellow button "Spring 2023 Schedule PDF." To register, call 281-542-2020.

**Source: health.harvard.edu/mind-and-mood/train-your-brain*



SAN JAC GALLERIES OFFER

■ By Melissa Trevizo



San Jacinto College's galleries stayed busy in fall 2022, with six exhibits at the Central, North, and South Campuses. The galleries, an extension of the art and design program, welcome guest artists to bring culture to the campus community and expose students to different media.

Central Campus

The Central Campus featured "Dear Black Boy" by philanthropist, photographer, and cinematographer Brian Ellison Sept. 20 to Oct. 13 in tandem with the FotoFest Biennial 2022.

Central Campus will continue to nurture its relationship with FotoFest, an internationally recognized Houston arts organization, as a biennial participating space.

Ellison's exhibit documented the everyday experience of young Black American males and the "expiration" of their childhoods. The artist's work challenged Black masculinity ideas and racial injustice through the education-to-prison pipeline.

From Oct. 25 to Nov. 22, the Central Gallery presented "Fresh Cut: A Still Life Remix," featuring collages by artist John Forse. Set against a rainforest backdrop and amplified by 1990s electronica music, the fractured collages came to life in a multi-sensory experience.

"Each show at the Central Gallery speaks not only to our campus demographic but also to our community," said Carmen Champion, Central Campus gallery coordinator. "Exposure to various exhibits fosters critical thinking and introduces new ideas that transfer to other disciplines. This connects our students, faculty, staff, administration, and the public."

North Campus

The North Gallery kicked off the fall with "Off-Kilter," a collection of Houston artist Heather den Uijl's new paintings, Sept. 8 to Oct. 6.





CULTURE TO COMMUNITY

“The exhibits we have hosted this past semester have really made me feel like we are back on track after pausing during the pandemic. We remain committed to bringing engaging, thought-provoking exhibits on a variety of topics to our students and the local community.”

Bradly Brown,
South Gallery curator

Den Uijl created abstract paintings with hyper-saturated colors, complex interwoven layers, and abstract geometrical forms that slip, slide, float, and wobble past each other. These immersive visual experiences functioned as independent hybrid environments where distillation, flattening, and fragmentation resist closure.

From Oct. 20 to Nov. 17, the North Gallery presented San Jac adjunct instructor Tiffany Nesbit’s mixed media collection “Bluegrass Nest.” Nesbit crafted the pieces from childhood memories, when she helped shepherd her family’s small farm and protect the domestic animals from nighttime “monsters” that came from the woods and waterways. Her characters use humor and play to memorialize the animals’ spirits that once lived there.

“North Gallery is an educational resource for our students — a tool to help young artists on their path to living a creative life,” said Joe Clark, North Gallery coordinator. “At the same time, we are very aware of and grateful for the opportunity to serve our community. As the longest-running art space in East Houston, we strive to host shows that are visually and conceptually challenging.”

South Campus

The South Gallery presented an exhibit from the Burning Bones Press, a Houston-based printmaking studio founded in 2011 by Carlos Hernandez and Pat Masterson. Open Sept. 5 to Oct. 13, this exhibit featured more than 70 artworks by 22 members and affiliated artists. Students and the community could also attend workshops led by artist Cathie Kayser to learn how to hand-fold books using traditional origami techniques.

From Oct. 31 to Dec. 8, the South Gallery featured “REDUX,” an exhibit of works by 11 visual arts alumni who have established diverse, successful art and design careers after studying various media. These artists, who represented 10 years of excellence in arts education, included ...

- Amaechina Blot
- Imhotep Blot
- Karolina Cantu
- Rodrigo Gamarra
- Michael Karydas
- Disha Khakheria
- Eden Lopez
- Matthew Napoli
- Ariel Rivera
- Jeri Venegas
- Tristan Veronie



PAVING THE WAY FOR WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

■ By Neesha Hosein

With 48 years in the petrochemical workforce, Linda Brown has witnessed an evolution of change in the industry — more women, technology, and safety in the workplace.



Brown, a San Jacinto College process technology adjunct professor for 17 years, uses her hard-earned knowledge to train process technicians how to work safely and efficiently.

Teaching at San Jac is her “love job.” She relishes the opportunity to help others succeed.

“I train students to understand fundamental basics to become a process technician in the refinery and petrochemical environment,” Brown said. “That includes things like how to open and close valves, how a process system works, how units operate, safety, personal protective equipment, and routine maintenance.”

More than just an income

Salary draws many to petrochemical careers. Brown teaches there is more to this field than the money.

“First night of class, I scare them on purpose so they know the gravity of this career,” Brown said. “I tell them if you do the wrong thing you can jeopardize your life and lives around you, including the community.”

If students express self-doubt, Brown tells them “bear with me for about two weeks,” after which most stick with the program. Brown considers the course evaluations proof that students are learning a lot and enjoying her classes.

It wasn't always easy

Brown worked as a keypunch operator at NASA in the 1970s during the Apollo era and Nixon administration. After a layoff, a recruiter told her about an industry position for which they wanted women to apply. Her husband, Jesse, a plant operator, was her inspiration for embracing the opportunity. She was one of only four women hired as a process operator at Charter Oil Refinery.

Although most of her male counterparts were unkind and management tried to talk her out of staying, Brown stuck with it, passed the probationary period, and became a permanent employee. While working full time and raising a family, Brown earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Houston.

“Being a female in this industry has made me challenge myself a lot,” she said. “I got to a point when I knew more than the men around me. Knowledge is power, and they could not manipulate me. That's a driving force.”

Knowledge and experience mean everything

Brown can boast several firsts.

“I am the first female to become a chief operator on a fluidized catalytic cracking unit on the Houston Ship Channel,” she said. “I am the first female to become a process expert lead supervisor in charge of four refinery operating units in southern California and to become a refinery shift foreman responsible for operating the facility on the Houston Ship Channel.”

The Crown Central Petroleum refinery management team and employees named their Linda Brown Training Center in her honor.

Brown is proud to see how times have changed for the better.

“The tides have turned,” she said. “It's much better today. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission upholds regulations, and all the things I've experienced are no longer tolerated. I feel like I'm treated as a professional. Process technology is amazing.”

► For more information about San Jac's process technology program, visit sanjac.edu/program/process-technology.

ONLINE STUDENT REBECCA PARKER: GRANDMA, BUSINESS OWNER, AND SELF-PROCLAIMED WORKAHOLIC

■ By Melissa Trevizo

As San Jacinto College refines its online certificate and degree programs, many students are already taking advantage of the current selection. One of these students, Beaumont resident Rebecca Parker, is returning to college to reskill with a second degree in entrepreneurship/business after a successful career in the nonprofit world.

Parker's daughter Haley bought Guber of Southeast Texas, a regional food delivery service, in July 2019 and turned to her mom for help running the business.

"Although I had computer knowledge, there was so much I did not know about running my own business," Parker said. "My husband suggested I go back to school. San Jac had all the classes I needed for a certificate and a degree available online. It was perfect for me."

She began looking at different colleges and courses and programs that would align with the business knowledge she needed. When she discovered San Jac's entrepreneurship program, she knew she'd found the right fit.

"The entrepreneurship certificate had a wide range of classes that covered all the basics

of owning your own business," she said. "So far, I have benefited from every class and incorporated skills directly back into the business."

The entrepreneurship program offers an Associate of Applied Science degree in business management/entrepreneurship and two certificate tracks — a certificate in technology in business management/entrepreneurship and Level 2 certificate in business management/entrepreneurship. The certificate options, each fewer than 45 credit hours, can provide a fast track into entrepreneurship or apply towards the associate degree. The associate degree plan is a two-year program ideal for those looking to run their own business or transfer to a university.

For Parker, becoming a business owner and a student was something she did on faith after having worked in the nonprofit world since 1992. Her nonprofit career focused on fundraising and took her to the Sam Houston Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Young Audiences of Houston, St. Martin's Episcopal Church, and Shriners Hospital.

"At first, stepping out to working for ourselves was intimidating," she said. "Owning a business consumes your life, and there are zero days off. I have to be dedicated to both school and work and manage my time well. Thankfully, I love what I do."

Besides wanting her business to succeed, Parker cites her family as an equally important motivation to prove that she can do whatever she sets her mind on.

"I have always told my kids and grandchildren about the importance of education. They have heard the words come out of my mouth a million times," Parker said. "Now they are seeing me back in school. My grandkids find it hilarious that their 'Nina' has homework just like them. If I am not here by the time they reach college, I want them to remember that they can do it — just like I did."

Despite nearing an age where most people consider retirement, Parker seems to be gaining momentum in her new career with no plans on slowing down anytime soon.

"I'm a little bit of a workaholic," Parker said. "How can I not be? I am blessed to wake up every day and do something I love with one of my kids. It's a great feeling. I keep threatening to retire in nine years, but no one believes me."

▶ To learn more about the business management entrepreneurship program at San Jac, visit sanjac.edu/program/entrepreneur.



Q & A



PROMISE @ SAN JAC SCHOLARSHIP WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Melissa Trevizo

The Promise @ San Jac Scholarship is a last-dollar scholarship that covers up to three years of tuition, books, and supplies at San Jacinto College for in-district high school graduates.

Have a grandchild or someone else you know who may qualify? Roberto Mendez, Promise coordinator, shares important information you can pass on.

Q: Who is eligible for the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship?

A: Promise is for students who live in San Jac's taxing district at the time of high school graduation. To find detailed information on requirements and maintaining eligibility, visit sanjac.edu/promise-san-jac-requirements.

Q: What is a last-dollar scholarship?

A: If a student receives financial aid, other scholarships, or grants but they are not enough, Promise will cover the remaining balance. If the student doesn't qualify for any other assistance, Promise will cover the full in-district tuition. It also covers up to \$600 in books and supplies per semester.

STEPS TO BECOME A PROMISE SCHOLAR

1. By Feb. 16, 2023, complete the online Promise pledge and apply to San Jac through ApplyTexas.org.
2. By April 20, 2023, submit a FAFSA or TASFA to be eligible for financial aid.
3. By July 13, 2023, enroll and register for full-time classes at San Jac:
 - Complete all enrollment steps, including any financial aid verification, and register for classes.
 - Fall 2023 registration for all students opens April 17.

Q: How long will the scholarship provide financial support?

A: Promise will cover students for up to three years or until they earn their first associate degree or reach 72 college credit hours, whichever comes first.

Q: Is there a minimum or maximum number of credit hours a student can take in a semester?

A: Promise does make an exception to the

full-time (12 hours) requirement but only if you are in your last semester and require less than a full-time load to graduate. The maximum number of credit hours placed by the institution is 18 for fall and spring and 14 for summer. Promise Scholars are held to this same restriction.

Q: Can Promise Scholars take classes online or attend multiple campuses?

A: Yes, they can! San Jac has five locations, but we are one college. Promise covers all instructional methods, including face-to-face, online on a schedule, and online anytime.

Q: Why should eligible students make the Promise pledge?

A: Completing the steps to become a Promise Scholar helps students relieve the financial burden on their families and creates a pathway for students where college is attainable for everyone. A debt-free education allows students to focus on their studies without stressing about the bottom line.

► To learn more about the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship, visit sanjac.edu/promise.

You can partner with us to make debt-free college available to more students! Learn more at sanjac.edu/promise-partner.

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS



Jan. 5

Small Business Workshop Series: Financing Your Business Part 2

7-8:30 p.m.

Free/Generation Park Campus
(to register, email
centerforentrepreneurship@sjcd.edu)

Jan. 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Closed

All campuses, online

Jan. 19

Small Business Workshop Series: Financial Plan Review

7-8:30 p.m.

Free/Generation Park Campus
(to register, email
centerforentrepreneurship@sjcd.edu)

Jan. 31

Pathways to Your Future

4-7 p.m.

Learn about construction, industry,
manufacturing, and transportation
programs and careers/Central
Campus (C26 and C45)

Feb. 2

Small Business Workshop Series: Business Marketing

7-8:30 p.m.

Free/Generation Park Campus
(to register, email
centerforentrepreneurship@sjcd.edu)

Feb. 10-11

Artists for Hope 2023 Charity Dance Concert

7 p.m.

South Campus, Proscenium
Theatre, S15.151
(tickets: sanjacdance.ticketleap.com)



Feb. 15-18

“You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown!”

7:30 p.m.

Central Campus, Powell Arena
Theatre (C13)

Feb. 16

Small Business Workshop Series: Lender Matchmaking

7-8:30 p.m.

Free/Generation Park
Campus (to register, email
centerforentrepreneurship@sjcd.edu)

Feb. 19

“You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown!”

2:30 p.m.

Central Campus, Powell Arena
Theatre (C13)

Feb. 19

Auditions: Student-Produced Plays and Films

8 p.m.

Central Campus, Powell Arena
Theatre (C13; open to public)

March 13-19

Spring Break

Closed

All campuses, online

March 24-25

San Jac Student-Produced Plays and Films

7:30 p.m.

Central Campus, Powell Arena
Theatre (C13)

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

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13735 BEAMER ROAD
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77089

NORTH CAMPUS
5800 UVALDE ROAD
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77049

MARITIME CAMPUS
3700 OLD HWY. 146
LA PORTE, TEXAS 77571

GENERATION PARK CAMPUS
13455 LOCKWOOD ROAD
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77044

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