Dear San Jacinto College family and friends,

This year concludes 22 years of the San Jacinto College Honors Program—more than two decades of student successes. From the first year, the program has challenged students by asking, “Why not be the best?” and every year, students have answered that question by striving to be their best in every way. In that time, students have transferred to public and private universities across Texas and the nation. Our program boasts transfers to universities like Rice University, The University of Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor University, Lamar University, Sam Houston State University, University of Houston, and Texas State University. Our students have succeeded in completing their educational endeavors and in fulfilling their life dreams. The Honors Program counts engineers, physicians, educators, business men and women, attorneys, computer/technology experts, musicians, and artists among its alumni.

From this rich heritage, we can look confidently to the future. Recently, the program has blossomed on each San Jacinto College campus, with phenomenal growth in both students served and classes offered and created. The program should also be noted for the accomplishments of students and faculty. The 2018-19 academic year was one of the most successful ever. Students presented their research locally, regionally, and nationally at some of the most prestigious gatherings in their fields.

As you read about the many achievements of our students and the faculty who mentored them, remember that these are the future leaders of Texas and the United States. These young men and women have chosen to accept the challenge and become the best. The future is bright. Without question, the quote that applies to the Honors Program and San Jacinto College is, “The best is yet to be.”

Have fun reliving a year in the life of the Honors program!

Eddie Weller, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of History
District Honors Program Director
This past year has been an outstanding one for the San Jacinto College Honors Program. As one of the foremost community college programs in the nation, it boasts many diverse accomplishments. Without question, the Honors Program has lived out the values of the College: student success, excellence, innovation, collaboration, sense of community, diversity, integrity, and accountability.

Student success and excellence have gone hand-in-hand this year. Perhaps the greatest example of this was the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. This year NCUR accepted abstracts from more than 3,500 undergraduate students to present their research. Of these, only 53 were from community colleges. San Jacinto College had 16 of the presentations—almost one-third of those accepted. The more difficult acceptance is in the oral presentation category; NCUR accepted only 14 from community colleges, with seven of these student presentations coming from San Jacinto College. These students represented various fields such as engineering, chemistry, physics, biochemistry, English, interdisciplinary studies, and history. The Council on Undergraduate Research, based in Washington, D.C., sponsors NCUR each year, making it the most prestigious undergraduate conference in America. The specifics of students’ research can be found on page 9. These projects also underscore the values of innovation and collaboration because of their cutting-edge research and team presentations for several of the group projects that were accepted.

Many other examples exist of both excellence and student success. For example, San Jacinto College had 21 students present their research at the Great Plains Honors Conference at the University of Texas at Tyler, the most student presentations in the College’s history. In April during Honors Week, more than 100 students presented their research for other students, faculty, and administrators. These campus Honors showcases were a highlight of the year. In addition, the Central Campus hosted a showcase of student research in November, and the South Campus held an Honors behavioral and social sciences showcase in the fall.

In addition, the Honors Program strives to excel at both sense of community and diversity. To build community, the Honors Program held orientations in August for approximately 100 students to meet their peers. Another community-building activity was the annual Honors Program Retreat at Camp Cho-Yeh near Livingston, Texas. More than 60 students and faculty attended with one of the highlights being the keynote address by Dr. Tyler Olivier, North Campus biology professor and Honors faculty member. Through activities, speakers, campfire fun, and group skits, the camaraderie grew among the students. It is more than evident that these friendships intersected ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic lines. Honors Program students accept each other’s quirks and hobbies, understanding that differences make the program interesting. It is also the key aspect of what makes the College’s Honors Program one of the elite community college honors programs in America.
WHAT MAKES AN HONORS COURSE?

Honors courses are not about doing more work or busy work or more problems, reports, and papers. Instead, the courses go into greater depth through material that challenges and enriches students’ experience.

San Jacinto College has adopted an easy-to-remember definition: a course should be **REAL**.

Every Honors course should have at least two of the following four components:

- **Research**: Each course should incorporate research appropriate to the field of study. This should be more in-depth than traditionally done in a freshman or sophomore class. The Honors Program highlights student research, seeking opportunities where students can present their research, either through papers or poster sessions.

- **Enrichment Activities**: These activities can be varied; they might include a trip to a museum, an art event, or a location that implements what they are studying, etc. Again, the activities should be appropriate to the course and discipline. These might be hands-on experiences or trips and include a different way of teaching that might not work in a traditional course.

- **Academic Rigor**: Every Honors course should have academic rigor. San Jacinto College gives top grades for hard work, offering courses that are in-depth and engaging. These courses should prepare students to take any course at any university in the country.

- **Leadership**: Courses allow students to develop leadership abilities through service-learning, group presentations, and other activities. Students will also have leadership opportunities outside of class.

HONORS PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The San Jacinto College Honors Program offers academically talented and highly motivated students special opportunities for enriched learning and recognition. The program provides a stimulating range and depth of scholarly pursuits within an interdisciplinary context.

The Honors Program also offers students the opportunity to receive scholarships; to make presentations at local, state, regional and national conferences; to be published in academic journals; to attend cultural events; and to interact with other academically motivated students.

WHAT MAKES AN HONORS COURSE?

**OVERVIEW**

Each faculty member, whether teaching an Honors course for the first time or for the 17th year, must present to a committee of the Honors Council describing what makes his or her course an Honors course. The faculty member must do this presentation each time he or she teaches a course in the Honors Program for the first time. For instance, if a professor teaches HIST 1301 and HIST 1302, he or she must present for each course, although each presentation may be similar.

Presentations will be given prior to the semester the course is offered. Once a faculty member has been approved to teach a specific Honors course, he or she will not be required to present to the Honors Council again regarding that specific course.

**PROCESS**

Each professor will prepare and email a copy of the proposed Honors course syllabus with a cover sheet to Ms. Janna Barton, Honors Program administrative assistant, who will forward it to the committee members in advance. The cover sheet will explain what is different in this class from a similar non-Honors course in the discipline.

At the meeting, the professor may take up to 15 minutes to explain what makes the course an Honors course. Afterwards, the council members may ask questions for up to 15 minutes concerning the course. After the faculty member leaves, the council will discuss the course. Each course will receive one of the following ratings:

- Approved for inclusion in the Honors program
- With minimal changes, approved for inclusion in the Honors program
- Please revise and resubmit for reconsideration for inclusion in the Honors program
- Declined for inclusion in the Honors program

Each rating will have constructive comments from the committee members with ideas that a faculty member might want to include in the future. Even faculty members with approved courses may want to consider the council’s suggestions.

**RATING RUBRIC**

Courses under consideration for inclusion in the Honors Program will be rated using the **REAL** standard:

- Research
- Enrichment activities
- Academic rigor
- Leadership

All Honors courses are required to uphold academic rigor, which is not merely “more work” but different assignments, testing, or activities that found in non-Honors sections of the course. Writing is an important part of most honors courses, whether essay exams, research papers, or reflective pieces. In addition to academic rigor, a good Honors course will include at least one or more of the REAL components.
The San Jacinto College Honors Program had an incredible year in 2018-19. Its many accomplishments occurred across all three campuses throughout the entire year.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-2019

**HONORS WEEK**
From April 23-25, San Jacinto College campuses celebrated Honors Week, with more than 100 students presenting research for other students and faculty. This was the fifth year for the College-wide event. The Honors Program extends thanks to the support of a large cadre of Honors faculty.

**PIZZA WITH THE PROFS**
Each semester, the Honors Program hosts “Pizza with the Prof” at each campus to introduce the upcoming schedule of courses to students. This event brings students and faculty together in an informal setting outside of the classroom. Campuses also offer other social events throughout the year.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**
Nineteen students presented 16 class research projects at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) hosted this year by Kennesaw State University, April 11-13. (For more about the papers, see page 9). NCUR, the top undergraduate research conference in America, is sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research (www.cur.org) based in Washington, D.C. Of the more than 3,000 student projects chosen for presentation, only 53 community college student proposals were accepted based on their research abstracts. Almost one-third of all the accepted community college proposals were from San Jacinto College. Traditionally, oral presentations are the most difficult to have accepted, and of the 14 community college oral presentations, seven were from San Jacinto College! Students came from multiple disciplines, including engineering, history, biology, English, chemistry, physics, and art.

**GREAT PLAINS HONORS CONFERENCE**
Twenty-one San Jacinto College students presented their research at the Great Plains Honors Conference held April 5-7 at the University of Texas at Tyler. Approximately 80 colleges and universities from six states belong to the GPHC, and this was the largest contingent of program participants in San Jacinto College’s history, including both oral and poster presentations.
This year's theme for the Honors Program Retreat was “Transformations: Acknowledging, Assessing, and Achieving Change,” taken from the Phi Theta Kappa study topic. More than 60 students attended the gathering. Dr. Tyler Olvier keynoted the event with this message: "A few things in life are for certain. If you are doing it right, change is one of them." After the movie "Muppets in Space," students enjoyed a campfire and s'mores, discussed the topic in groups, and developed short skits to address a question each group received.

### NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

Continuing its annual service to honors education, the San Jacinto College Honors Team participated in the 53rd annual meeting of the National Collegiate Honors Council in Boston, Massachusetts, Nov. 6-10, 2018. Ashton Isbel-Williams, a North Campus student, participated in the Forum on Diversity. Dr. Pamela Maack served as a table facilitator at the "Developing in Honors" session, while Dr. Eddie Weller chaired the Texas Honors Council meeting and co-chaired the Two-Year College Committee meeting and the Two-Year College Issue Forum. Dr. Weller also co-presented "Developing Honors Learners: An Inclusive Admission Strategy" with Bruce Thompson of Frederick Community College, led one of the two community college “Beginning in Honors” sessions for new honors directors, and served as a community college expert in the Consultants Center. During the convention’s final event, he received the 2018 Ron Brandolini Award for Excellence at a Two-Year Institution.

### FALL RETREAT

This year more than 100 students graduated with honors during the calendar year. From summer 2018 to May 2019, 104 students completed at least 15 hours of Honors courses with an A or B grade and an overall GPA higher than 3.0.

Of these students, 18 graduated with at least 24 hours of Honors credit, earning the "Distinguished Honors Graduate" designation. At the end of each semester, family and friends attend the Honors Program celebration for those graduating with honors.

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

This year 16 research projects encompassing the work of 20 San Jacinto College Honors Program students were chosen for inclusion at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, the most prestigious undergraduate research conference in America. To put this in perspective, only 53 projects from 14 community colleges were chosen of more than 3,500 abstracts accepted. San Jacinto College had 16 of the presentations—almost one-third of those accepted. Approximately 500 colleges and universities participate each year.

#### GROUP PROJECTS

- **Brendon Davis, Steven Smidley, and Anthony McIntyre**, "Educational Cohenbium CAD Model"; South Campus
- **Karina G. Eguren and Blanca Torres**, "The Synthesis of Alkoxyl Derivatives of 2-(3,4-dimethoxybenzylidene)-1-indanone and their Polymorphogenetic Properties"; South Campus
- **Anthony McIntyre and Ahmad Al Abdallah**, "Analyzing Data Rate Limitations of CMS’s Hardware"; South Campus
- **Osvaldo Perez** and **Linda Jimenez**, "4. Educational Brain CAD Model"; South Campus
- **Osvaldo Perez** and **Danh Nguyen**, "Improvements on Fog Harvesting Techniques and Materials"; South Campus
- **Thi Kieu Ngoc Vu, Hien Mi Ho Huynh**, and **Linda Jimenez**, "Basic Physics of Protein Therapy"; South Campus

#### INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

- **Marcus Agustin**, "Long-term Nitrogen Dioxide Trends over Large Cities in Texas: Comparing Satellite and Ground Observations"; South Campus
- **Carlos Argueta**, "Analyzing Properties of Concrete with Embedded Plastic Foam"; South Campus
- **Mehak Khatani**, "Galveston’s Legend: Nicholas Joseph Clayton"; South Campus
- **Adriana Molendres**, "Emma Tenayuca: San Antonio Community Activist"; South Campus
- **Abdallah Houhamad**, "Lebanese and Syrians in Texas"; South Campus
- **Joshua Naisbitt**, "Lebanese and Syrians in Texas"; South Campus
- **Tyler O’Neal**, "Analysis of Exposed 3D Printed Polylactide Materials in Low Earth Orbit"; South Campus
- **Amy Perez**, "John T. Biggers: The Motivations behind Texas’ Most Celebrated African American Artist"; South Campus
HONORS PROGRAM TEAM

With more than 75 years of combined experience at San Jacinto College, the Honors Program team includes five people: a district-wide director, an Honors coordinator for each campus, and an administrative assistant for the program.

**JANNA BARTON**
The program’s administrative assistant, Janna Barton, has been at the College for 20 years, having worked in almost all of the South Campus academic departments before coming to the Honors Program in fall 2008. She has completed the Staff Training for Effective Management (STEM). In 2016, she was named one of three finalists for the Administrative Assistant of the Year by the National Collegiate Honors Council.

**DR. PAMELA MAACK**
After earning a Ph.D. in anthropology from Northwestern University, Dr. Pamela Maack joined the San Jacinto College family full time in 1992. She has taught in the Honors Program since 1997, winning the Honors Program Professor of the Year for 2001-02. She returned as the Central Campus coordinator in 2014. Well known for her research of the Waluguru people, she has worked with them in Tanzania on three occasions. During her last trip, Dr. Maack worked as a consultant for USAID and the International Red Cross on the effects of AIDS on families and children in Tanzania. She has also participated in numerous archaeological digs during her career. Her daughter Kate is a graduate student at the University of Texas.

**CODY POGUE**
At the North Campus, Cody Pogue, the newest Honors coordinator, took on this role in fall 2017 after teaching in the program for four years. Having earned his M.A. in history from Sam Houston State University, he also has graduate hours in government, allowing him to teach both history and government. In addition, Pogue is the sponsor of the Great Outdoors Club, leading students on camping trips throughout the year. Before coming to San Jacinto College in 2012, he worked as a museum technician at the George Bush Presidential Library, ran as a candidate for the Texas House of Representatives, and held numerous positions on local political campaigns. In his free time, he enjoys backpacking with his dog, holding long philosophical discussions with anyone who will listen, and playing an active role in local politics.

**DR. ABBIE GRUBB**
A well-known expert on Japanese internment during World War II, Dr. Abbie Grubb joined the Honors Program team in 2015 as South Campus coordinator. After completing her Ph.D. in American history from Rice University, she worked at the Maritime Museum until San Jacinto College hired her in 2010. Since then, she has developed the museum studies course for the College and served as the local Walter Prescott Webb Society (History Club) advisor. She is a former member of the Houston History Alliance Board of Directors and co-chaired the alliance’s annual conference in 2015. Her husband, Ken, is also a history professor, and they have an adorable son, Tony.

**DR. EDDIE WELLER**
Dr. Eddie Weller, director of the Honors Program, earned a Ph.D. in American history from Texas Christian University. His dissertation became a biography of the New Deal Senate Majority Leader: Joe T. Robinson: Always a Loyal Democrat (University of Arkansas Press, 1998). Dr. Weller founded the Honors Program in 1996 and has taught in it every year since then. He served as director until 2006 and has also served two terms as department chair, first of social sciences and later behavioral and social sciences and education. In 2013, he once again became the Honors Program director. As a historian, he has served as the president of the Southwestern Social Sciences Association and the Southwestern Historical Association and as secretary and member of the Texas State Historical Association Board of Directors. Dr. Weller now serves on the East Texas Historical Association Board of Directors. He has also served as the president of the Great Plains Honors Council and as chair of the Two-Year College Committee of the National Collegiate Honors Council. He received the 2018 Ron Brandolini Award for Excellence at a Two-Year Institution from the National Collegiate Honors Council.
HONORS PROGRAM FACULTY AND COURSES

2018-2019

Courses and labs* offered, year
FACULTY INVOLVED, YEAR

Courses and labs* offered, year

HONORS PROGRAM FACULTY AND COURSES

FALL 2018

Conerly, Tonja SOCI 1301 3H1 South
Bonnette, Stephen PSYC 2301 3H1 South
Bonnette, Stephen PSYC 1300 3H1 South
Atalay, Carlos PHIL 1301 3H1 South
Anderson, John MATH 2414 3H1 South
Norris Sands, Farran HUMA 1301 3H1 South
Weller, Cecil HIST 1302 3H1 South
Grubb, Abbie HIST 1301 3H2 South
Grubb, Abbie HIST 1301 3H1 South
McCoy, Charles HIST 2301 3H1 South
Beyer, Marcia GOVT 2305 3H1 South
Gomez, Connie ENGR 1201 3H1 South
Smith, James ENGL 1301 3H2 South
Golden, Paullett ENGL 1301 3H1 South
Blackburn, Janet ECON 2301 3H1 South
Doan, Phuong CHEM 1111 3H1 South
Doan, Phuong CHEM 1311 3H1 South
Nichols, Mary BIOL 1306 3H1 South
Pitre, Louis BCIS 1305 8H6 South
McAuliffe, Kristen ACCT 2301 3H1 South
Goains, Christopher PHYS 2125 2H1 North
Goains, Christopher PHYS 2325 2H1 North
Miller, Tammy PSYC 2301 2H1 North
Aiman, Edwin PHIL 1304 2H3 North
Aiman, Edwin PHIL 1301 2H2 North
Hernandez, Guillermo MUSI 1306 2H1 North
Ollis, William MATH 2318 2H1 North
Ollis, William MATH 2328 2H1 North
Shaghai, Shu MATH 2414 2H1 North
Hernandez, Guillermo MUSI 1306 2H1 North
Aiman, Edwin PHIL 1301 2H2 North
Aiman, Edwin PHIL 2301 2H1 North
Aiman, Edwin PHIL 1304 2H3 North
Mills, Tammy PSYC 2301 2H2 North
Gosain, Christopher PHYS 2325 2H1 North
Gosain, Christopher PHYS 2125 2H2 North
Maldonado, Kristen ACCT 2301 3H1 South
Prins, Linnea RCS 2301 3H1 South
Nichols, Mary BIOD 1306 3H1 South
Nichols, Mary BIOD 1306 3H1 South
Dean, Phuong CHIM 1311 3H1 South
Dean, Phuong CHIM 1113 3H1 South
Blackburn, Janet ECON 2301 3H1 South
Golden, Paullett ENGL 1301 3H2 South
Smith, James ENGL 1301 3H2 South
Golden, Paullett ENGL 2301 3H1 South

HONORS PROGRAM ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

HONORS PROGRAM COURSE ENROLLMENT

FALL 2010-2018

ENROLLMENT BY CAMPUS

Central North South Total
31% 35% 34%

ENROLLMENT BY CAMPUS

SPRING 2019

Central North South Total
19 22 23 64
19 22 23 64

HONORS PROGRAM COURSE ENROLLMENT

SPRING 2019

Central North South Total
19 22 23 64
19 22 23 64

HONORS PROGRAM ENROLLMENT BY CAMPUS

SPRING 2019

Central North South
31% 35% 34%

HONORS PROGRAM ENROLLMENT BY CAMPUS

SPRING 2019

Central North South
31% 35% 34%

*Courses and lab are only counted once. Sections only count once per campus.
OBSERVATIONS FROM THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVENESS

The San Jacinto College Institutional Research and Effectiveness Office (IR&E) provides the Honors Program data over many aspects of the program. The 2018-19 data highlight student success and retention in courses. Nationally across honors education, one challenge is keeping honors students engaged in courses and in school. Often, students will leave without finishing because a well-paying job (in his or her mind) comes along. Unfortunately, honors students nationwide often quit before earning their degrees. Thus, retention and success rates for honors students are often lower than the general student population, making it vital for colleges to watch these numbers. However, at San Jacinto College, Honors students have higher retention and success rates than non-Honors students. These charts compile IR&E data:

[Charts showing gender, ethnicity, and age distribution for Honors vs. Non-Honors students]
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

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.

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.

VALUES
Integrity: We Act Honorably and Ethically
“We conduct ourselves in ways that are professional, instill confidence, and promote trust.”

Inclusivity: We Grow Through Understanding
“We respect and learn from the diversity of our cultures, experiences, and perspectives.”

Collaboration: We Are Stronger Together
“We believe in the power of working together.”

Innovation: We Embrace New Possibilities
“We anticipate change, explore opportunities, and create continuously evolving solutions.”

Accountability: We are Responsible Individually and Collectively
“We take ownership for our commitments and outcomes.”

Sense of Community: We Care for Those We Serve
“We demonstrate concern for the well-being and success of our students, our communities, and our people.”

Excellence: We Strive for Outstanding Results
“We take risks, we assess our work, and we aspire to improve the quality of everything we do.”

COLLEGE-WIDE STUDENT SUCCESS RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HONORS</th>
<th>NON-HONORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>82.2%</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
<td>71.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>83.7%</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COLLEGE-WIDE RETENTION RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HONORS</th>
<th>NON-HONORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FALL 2016</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALL 2017</td>
<td>94.2%</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALL 2018</td>
<td>94.4%</td>
<td>93.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>