

OPPORTUNITY

SAN JACINTO COLLEGESM

NEWS

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NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

Hispanic Outlook magazine ranks San Jac on its Top 100 lists

The Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine recently ranked San Jacinto College in its Top 100 Colleges and Universities for Hispanics issue. San Jac ranked third on the science technologies/technicians degree list and ninth on both the 2019-2020 total enrollment four-year schools and total associate degrees granted lists.

“San Jacinto College continues to strive and improve in its efforts to serve the ethnically diverse communities of east Harris County,” said Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. “Landing in the top 10 of all three of these national lists validates our efforts and highlights the need for continual support and outreach.”

According to data in the Oct. 11 issue of the magazine, the College had 25,106 Hispanic/Latino students enrolled in 2019-2020, or 58 percent of the entire student enrollment. It also had 2,568 Hispanic/Latino students – or 56 percent of the total students enrolled – graduate with an associate degree that same academic year.

The College also had 128 Hispanic/Latino students enrolled in the science technologies/technicians degree, making up 50 percent of the total number of students enrolled in the degrees. Data for the rankings is from the NCES IPEDS database for community colleges granting the most degrees in the 2019-2020 academic year.

San Jacinto College is a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution as defined by the U.S. Department of Education. An HSI must have a full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic origin at the end of the award year.

Donations exceed Giving Tuesday goal

The San Jacinto College Foundation not only met but exceeded its \$10,000 goal for Giving Tuesday by more than 20

percent on Nov. 30.

Generous donors gave \$12,165 in 24 hours to support San Jac students' educational goals.

The Foundation thanks everyone who supported the Giving Tuesday initiative, providing scholarships for students who could not complete a degree or certificate without financial help.

Although Giving Tuesday is over, you may still support the San Jacinto College Foundation. Donations are always welcome and accepted. To donate:

- Visit sanjac.edu/foundation.
- Contact Courtney Hunter, alumni and annual giving coordinator, at 281-998-6104.
- Mail your donation (checks only) to 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Suite 210, Pasadena, TX 77504. Make payable to San Jacinto College Foundation.

Generation Park hosts community open house

The community recently got an inside look at the educational and enrichment opportunities available at San Jacinto College's newest campus, Generation Park, in northeast Houston.

The Generation Park Campus hosted a come-and-go community open house Nov. 8 with self-guided tours of the 55,000-square-foot facility and booths to meet support services staff and learn about campus resources.

“We were delighted to showcase our beautiful facility and let the community know about what we currently offer and how we will expand to further meet the needs of northeast Houston,” said Dr. Destry Dokes, Generation Park Campus executive director. “San Jacinto College has a reputation for excellence, and Generation Park is proud to carry on that standard.”

Opened in August 2020, Generation Park gives northeast Houston residents flexibility when it comes to their education, offering associate degrees and academic courses that transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

No matter their age or stage of life,



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

students can choose from eight- and 16-week courses in face-to-face, online, and hybrid formats. The campus offers experienced faculty and a variety of support services and resources to help students reach their goals and transfer.

The 57-acre, master-planned campus is off Beltway 8 at West Lake Houston Parkway and Lockwood Road.

For more information about Generation Park, visit www.sanjac.edu/generation-park or call 281-998-6150.

Student veterans honored for service

San Jacinto College held its annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Central Campus Welcome Center Nov. 11. Students, faculty, staff, and administrators honored and thanked those who have served in the armed forces.

“San Jacinto College honors veterans

who swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies,” said Holly Morrison, manager, veteran services. “This ceremony honors those veterans who protect the freedoms we hold dear.”

Dr. Laurel Williamson, deputy chancellor/president of San Jac and U.S. Army veteran, was the honored guest speaker.

“Veterans are changed by their military service,” Williamson said. “What you may not think about is how it has also changed the lives of others around you and at times has changed history. I salute my fellow veterans today and hope that San Jacinto College will serve you well, as you have served us.”

Two veteran students from each campus received San Jacinto College Foundation scholarships. These 2021 scholarship recipients included:

- **Central Campus:** Oscar Heysquierdo, Marine Corps, and Brandie Hackney, Army
- **Maritime Campus:** Darrell Charles, Navy, and Mariah Guerra, Marine Corps
- **North Campus:** Ramon Trevino, Marine Corps, and Carolina Tracy, Marine Corps
- **South Campus:** Viet Nguyen, Army, and Kayla Garcia, Army

To see the full photo album, visit www.flickr.com/sanjacintocollege.



Photo courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

The San Jacinto College Foundation presented scholarships to veteran students. Left to right: Mariah Guerra, Maritime Campus; Kayla Garcia, South Campus; and Carolina Tracy, North Campus.

AYE, AYE: MARITIME GRADUATE EARNS CAPTAIN'S LICENSE AT 21

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Jennifer Del Angel was a bored teenager during summer break when her mom signed her up for a camp at the San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center in 2015.

Now 21, Del Angel has graduated from the institution and is one of the youngest captains with Sea Tow Galveston.

"I didn't know what maritime was when I went to my first camp," she said. "I just needed something to do for the summer. I ended up learning so much about the industry and the different job opportunities."

Del Angel returned for summer camp two more times before enrolling as a student in the maritime transportation



Photo courtesy of Sophia Primera, San Jacinto College

program in fall 2018.

"I fell in love with the maritime industry and working with my hands," she said. "It's a whole different world out on the water, and I wanted to be

part of it."

As a student, Del Angel completed internships with Texas Mooring LLC and Sea Tow Galveston.

"Both companies kept me on, even after the internship period was over," she said. "I stayed with Texas Mooring in a mechanical role for a year, and my internship at Sea Tow Galveston gave me a wider range of experience working with the U.S. Coast Guard and learning how the industry operates in and out of the water."

After earning her associate degree, Del Angel received an offer for a full-time position as a deckhand with Sea Tow Galveston. A year later, she earned her captain's license and commands her own boat with the company.

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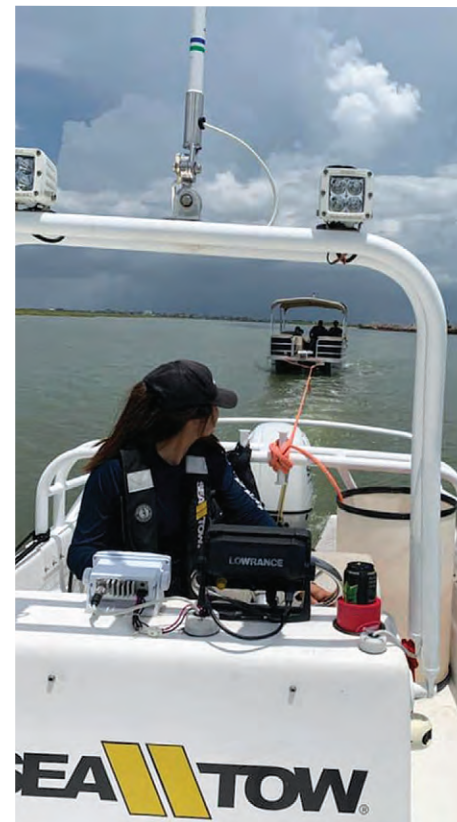


Photo courtesy of Sea Tow Galveston

SAN JAC PROMISES TO COVER TUITION COSTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

By **Courtney Morris**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

High school seniors attending a participating high school or living within



Photo courtesy of San Jacinto College

the San Jacinto College District have one fewer thing to worry about regarding their future as the College expands the Promise @ San Jac scholarship.

These scholarships will ensure all high school graduates who live in the College district — including those in Channelview, Deer Park, Galena Park, La Porte, Pasadena, and Sheldon ISDs and portions of Pearland and Humble ISDs — can earn a workforce credential or an associate degree at San Jac with 100 percent of their tuition and books covered.

"San Jacinto College is always looking at how we can remove barriers that students face in achieving their professional and educational goals," said Dr. Allatia Harris, vice chancellor of strategic initiatives, workforce development, community relations, and diversity. "We are promising that in-district high school graduates who

attend San Jac full time and work hard can have a bright future where paying for a quality education is no longer a concern."

The \$30 million donation from MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett in spring 2021 was the largest in the College's history and will help fund an endowment supporting all in-district high school seniors who enroll and attend San Jac full time starting the fall after graduation.

Promise @ San Jac is a last-dollar scholarship covering students' remaining financial need after federal and state aid, grants, and other scholarships are applied, so students will need to apply each year for the FAFSA or TASFA. Students must also maintain a 2.0 GPA and take 12 hours each fall and spring semester to remain eligible for the scholarship.

Promise started in fall 2020 as a collaboration between the College and Pasadena ISD's South Houston, J. Frank Dobie, and Sam Rayburn high schools. Expanding Promise to cover all in-district high school graduates creates a stronger community and workforce. With fewer worries about school expenses, students can not only focus on their studies but also have a better chance of transfer, sustainable jobs, and an enriched quality of life.

To learn more about the Promise scholarship and view enrollment/eligibility requirements, visit www.sanjac.edu/promise.

Promise deadlines

To qualify for the Promise scholarship, students must complete these steps:

1. Complete a Promise @ San Jac online pledge by Feb. 10, 2022.
2. Apply to San Jac through ApplyTexas at no cost by March 10, 2022.
3. Apply for financial aid by April 14, 2022.
4. Enroll and register for full-time classes at San Jac by July 7, 2022.

Learn more: www.sanjac.edu/promise

BUNSEN BURNERS BY DAY, CARNIVOROUS PLANTS BY NIGHT

Professor's passion for learning spurs award for chemistry teaching

By Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

"I didn't know molecules did that!" Dr. Jose Nuñez never tires of hearing that. In fact, you might catch him smiling the rest of the day after astounding a student in chemistry lab.

"There is an excitement in sharing what you are passionate about with others," he said.

This October, Nuñez became San Jacinto College's fifth chemistry professor in the last eight years to receive the American Chemical Society-Greater Houston Section Two-Year Award.

The award honors one Houston-area two-year college chemistry or chemical science teacher who challenges and inspires students, pursues

extracurricular chemistry work, and stays up to date in the field.

Nuñez has taught general and organic chemistry at the South Campus since fall 2015. But teaching extends beyond the classroom for him. He is San Jac's faculty advisor for the University of Iowa Continuing Umbrella of Research Experience (CURE) Program, where undergraduate students participate in cancer research.

Nuñez has mentored small groups of students in synthesizing simple organic molecules that belong to a family of compounds called chalcones, or anti-inflammatory and anti-tumor agents. Beyond teaching students this process, he cultivates their critical thinking skills and understanding of basic experimental chemistry.

"Another benefit of the research I do is that students are exposed to scientific research and ideas that are new to them — completely different concepts that may open up their curiosity about what chemists really do," he said.

While he enjoys sparking students' curiosity, Nuñez also tries to remove financial barriers that keep them from taking classes to begin with. He has advocated for using free and low-cost open educational resources in San Jac chemistry classes rather than traditional printed textbooks, which can cost up to \$300 each.

Dr. Christopher Wild, South Campus dean of health and natural sciences, said

Nuñez blends humor with compelling, relevant examples in the classroom and is approachable while maintaining high standards.

"Dr. Nuñez is so popular among the student body that his courses fill up in the first few days of registration, and I am inundated with requests to be let into his classes after they close," Wild said.

What makes teaching exciting for Nuñez? Reaching students who have no idea what chemistry is, giving them a new lens to view the world around them.

"I find that extremely exciting — that you have been part of that development, of that 'wow' moment when students are able to analyze their surroundings using concepts they learned in your class," he said.

Nuñez feels humbled to have that kind of impact on students — and humbled by the ACS-GHS award.

"A lot of great people who have great contributions are nominated, and I knew it may have been a long shot to receive it," he said. "The award really reflects the work that the chemistry department does ... providing our students with an undergraduate research experience for a few years now."

Research is not just his profession but also his hobby. In spring 2020, Nuñez picked up two carnivorous plants to occupy himself during quarantine.

"I educated myself online on how to care for them, how they feed, etc.," he



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

said. "I have bought quite a few more plants since then. It's a hobby that got out of hand!"

What started with Venus flytraps has expanded to sundews, pitcher plants, aquatic waterwheels, and bladderworts. The amateur botanist likens the experience to when he mixed chemicals to perform his first reaction.

"[It was] a sort of intellectual stimulation that made me want to learn more," he said.

Globetrotting researcher

Dr. Jose Nuñez holds a doctorate in chemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles. He has performed postdoctoral research not only at Texas A&M University but also at the Institute of Organic Chemistry at the Friedrich Alexander University, Erlangen-Nuremberg, in Germany.



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
Jan. 12	CPD: Conversational Spanish	12-1 p.m.	Register at community.engagement@sjcd.edu or call 281-476-1893
Jan. 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	Closed	All campuses, online
Jan. 18	First day of spring 2022 semester		All campuses, online
Jan. 19	CPD: Safety Info Session	12-1 p.m.	Register at community.engagement@sjcd.edu or call 281-476-1893
Jan. 22-29	Artists for Hope Charity Dance Contest		South Campus, Fine Arts Building
Jan. 27	Mindfulness Experience	12-1 p.m.	Register at community.engagement@sjcd.edu or call 281-476-1893

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



WELDING STUDENT TAKES SKILLS UNDER THE SEA

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Sharon Guerrero has studied welding only a year at the San Jacinto College North Campus, but she is already making a splash in the industry.

In November, Guerrero placed third in an underwater welding competition against other welders nationwide.

“I was so shocked to earn third place against so many other welders who have been at it for years,” she said. “I’m really proud of myself for going for it and doing so well.”

Guerrero, who is also known as “miss welds,” has a growing following on Instagram, where she showcases photos of her welding skills, art, and tools of the trade. The Ocean Corporation discovered her account and invited her to its first annual Women in Welding Conference.

“We invited 30 female welders from across the country to learn more about underwater welding and engage in some friendly competition,” said Richard Johnston, instructor, The Ocean Corporation. “We wanted to raise awareness about the industry and clear up any misinformation about safety in



commercial diving.”

The Ocean Corporation has been training individuals for the commercial diving and non-destructive testing industries for more than 50 years.

Guerrero attended the conference with fellow students Itzayana Garcia and Iliana Perales and San Jac welding instructor Emily Choate.

“Welding underwater is incredibly different than surface welding,” Choate said. “You can’t see as well and have to trust your angles. It definitely took me out of my comfort zone, but I truly enjoyed every part of it.”

As a third-place winner, Guerrero received gifts from sponsors like Outlaw Leather, Rugged Charms, and the

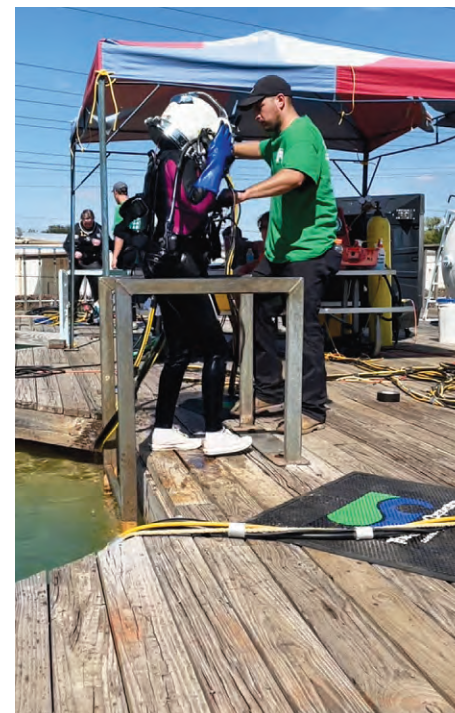
American Welding Society. The Ocean Corporation also inspected her welding piece, which passed, earning her an AWS D3.6 Underwater Welding certificate.

“I really enjoy learning new things,” Guerrero said. “During the competition, I was confused on what to do. The water was cloudy, and all of the instructions left my brain. Thankfully, an Ocean Corporation student was there for guidance, and I succeeded.”

Though she placed in the competition, Guerrero doesn’t see a career as a commercial diver in her future.

“I want to work in the welding field to gain enough experience and one day come back to San Jac as an instructor,” she said. “I enjoy explaining things and showing people how something’s done. I want to empower other women to try it and mentor them. If I can do it, you can do it.”

Learn more about San Jac’s welding program at sanjac.edu/welding.



Photos courtesy of Ocean Corporation



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ICONNECT CENTERS BRIDGE GAP, OFFER SAFE SPACE TO STUDENTS

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

At San Jacinto College, student success is the top priority. Faculty and staff help remove barriers that make it difficult for students to attend classes, focus, and thrive.

One outlet that helps eliminate these barriers is the campus iConnect Centers managed by resource and inclusion specialists.

Specialists D'Ante Richardson-Jones, Imelda Rodriguez, and Joshua Shankle answer some frequently asked questions.

Q: What are the iConnect Centers?

IR: The iConnect Centers are unique spaces that welcome students to study, meet with faculty and study groups, or enjoy camaraderie with the College community. We act as a bridge to



everything offered by student services. It is a safe space with safe people.

Q: What services do they provide?

JS: The iConnect Centers offer computer access, limited free printing, special programs, free school supplies, and student success workshops throughout the school year. We also have free hygiene products, access to bus passes, free snacks, and charging stations.

Q: Who can use these centers?

DRJ: Each currently enrolled student has access to the iConnect Center. We serve all students across all spectrums. Our goal is to help you succeed in any way we can.

Q: What if I'm embarrassed to ask for help?

JS: We never want anyone to feel ashamed or lost because they have a need. Our "take care" boxes are placed

in discreet areas within the center for students to take what they need without being watched. We become familiar with the faces we see and establish understanding and trust so students feel comfortable expressing their needs.

Q: Who are the resource and inclusion specialists?

IR: We are professionals who provide academic support services to



Visit the iConnect Centers:

- **Central Campus:** C3.141 (Administration Building)
- **South Campus:** S8.1022 (Academic Hall)
- **North Campus:** N8.146 (Spencer Building)

students and help them navigate the college experience. We host student-focused equity chats to discuss issues important to students. We establish an understanding that we are safe, you can trust us with your need, and we will meet your needs to the best of our ability.

Q: Do the centers take donations?

DRJ: Yes, the iConnect Centers collect donations of hygiene products, school supplies, backpacks, and snacks.

Q: How do I learn more about these centers?

JS: Stop by any of the centers and speak with a specialist, or email us at iConnectCtr.Central@sjcd.edu, iConnectCtr.North@sjcd.edu, or iConnectCtr.South@sjcd.edu.



Photos courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College



Maritime continued from page 3

"Our senior captain was deployed to the National Guard for over a month and Jennifer stepped up in his absence," said Elizabeth McMillin, manager, Sea Tow Galveston Bay. "Her mechanical inclinations have made her so valuable and her attention to detail is terrific. She has really been an amazing asset to the company."

As a young woman in a male-dominated industry, Del Angel enjoys defying others' expectations.

"I look young for my age," she said. "Sometimes when I pull up during a job, the client thinks my deckhand is the captain. I love showing them that I'm more than competent."

Del Angel credits her drive to prove she can be the best to her parents and her mentor, Captain Amy Arrowood, director, San Jac maritime credit program.

"Captain Amy has helped me a lot," she said. "She fought for me and helped me get my internships. I look at her as a role model of what women in our industry

can achieve."

Del Angel plans to continue learning in the industry, possibly qualifying to captain larger vessels in the future.

"Saying yes and trying new things brought me to that first maritime camp," she said. "Now I have a career I love. My education has opened up a world of opportunity for me, and I'm forever grateful."

Learn more about San Jac's maritime training at sanjac.edu/maritime.

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

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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 20 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. San Jacinto College is among the top five community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence in 2021 and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College spans five campuses, serving 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.