

# San Jacinto College

Spring/Summer 2019 Volume 1 • Number 35

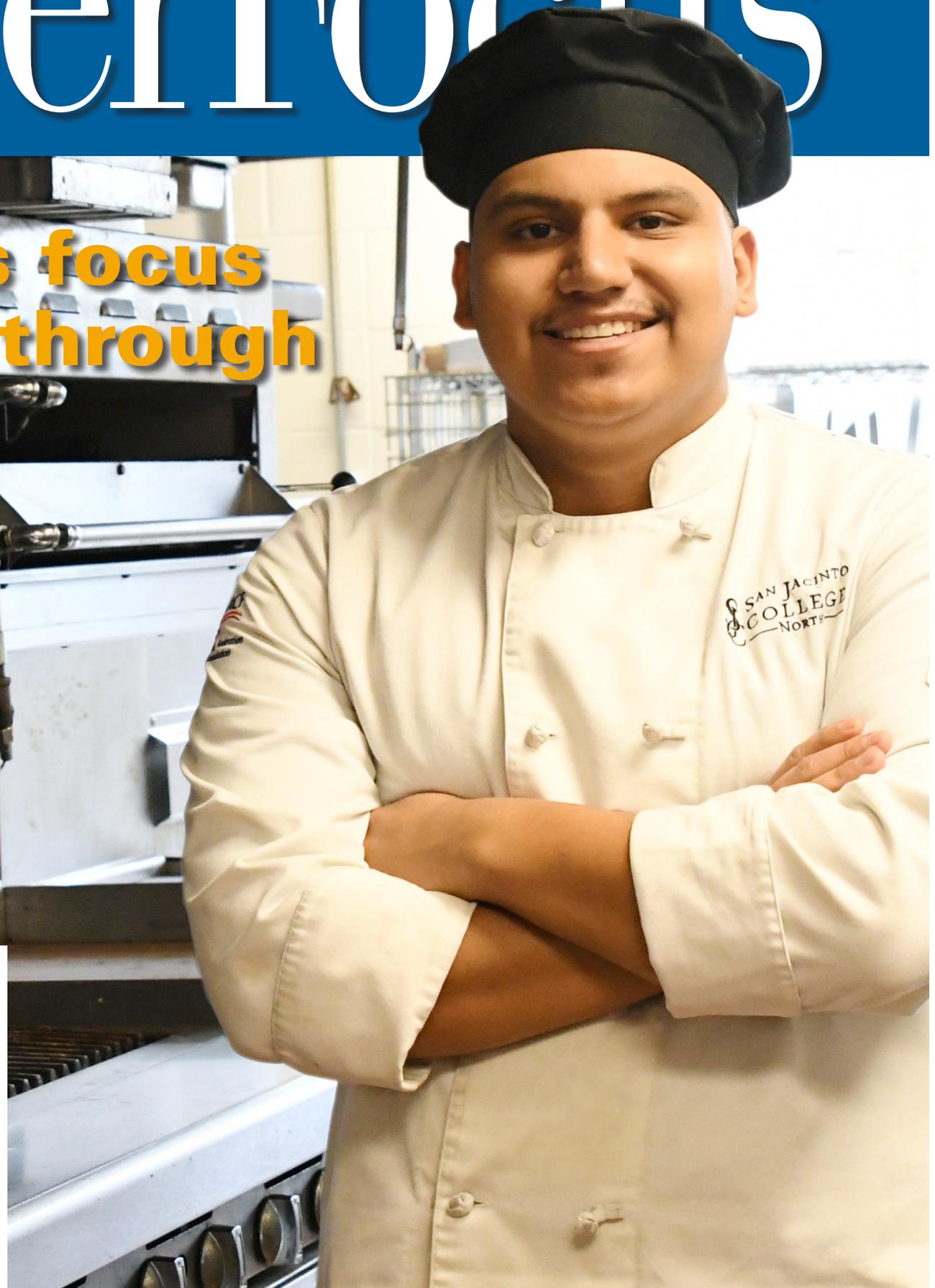
# CareerFocus

**Herrera finds focus and passion through culinary arts**

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Set sail to a rewarding future in **Maritime Technology**

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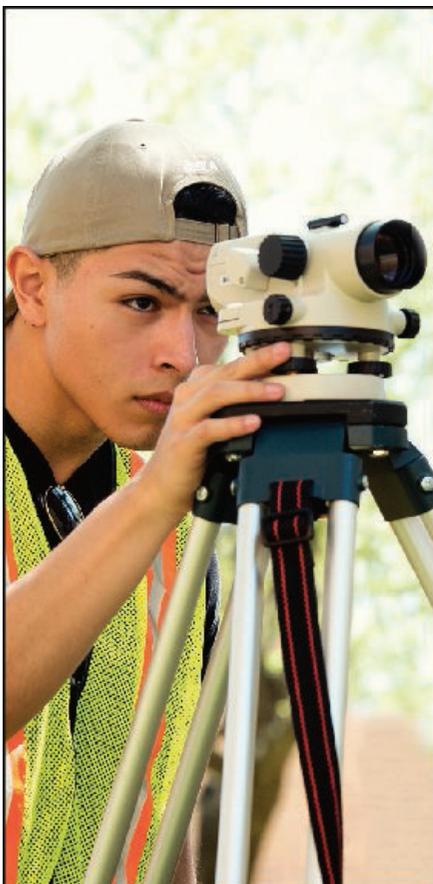
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**About San Jacinto College**

Surrounded by monuments of history, industries and maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the citizens of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's. San Jacinto College is a 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence Top 10 institution, a 2017 Aspen Prize Rising Star Award recipient and an Achieving the Dream Leader College. The College serves approximately 45,000 credit and non-credit students annually, and offers eight areas of study that puts 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.

For more information about San Jacinto College call 281-998-6150, visit [sanjac.edu](http://sanjac.edu) or join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter.

CareerFocus 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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**ON OUR COVER:**

Cristhian Herrera enrolled in the culinary program at the North Campus.



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# News And Notes

FROM AROUND THE COLLEGE



## San Jacinto College to break ground on new campus

San Jacinto College is expanding its accessibility to residents of North Houston with a new campus located in Generation Park, and will host a groundbreaking ceremony in just a few short weeks on April 23. Owning 57 acres in the area, the College will be constructing a 50,000 square foot facility that will house general education and academic classes, and will be designed to fit the workforce needs of the businesses in the area.

Several of the fastest growing zip codes in the Houston area are adjacent to the proposed Generation Park Campus, and the population around Generation Park is growing at approximately twice the rate of the rest of the College district.

“We know that growth is occurring more rapidly in that part of Houston, and we are committed to responding to the higher education needs of the residential and business populations,” said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor.

The Generation Park Campus is set to open for classes in fall 2020.

## San Jacinto College North named Business of the Year

San Jacinto College North was recently named the 2019 Business Organization of the Year by the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce. Honored at the organization’s annual gala, the award was accepted on behalf of the College by San Jacinto North Provost Dr. William Raffetto and Dr. Allatia Harris, Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives.

“This award symbolizes the contribution San Jacinto College has made to the community over many years,” Raffetto said. “Our faculty and staff have helped to shape and transform thousands of lives of people in our service area, and being recognized as the Business Organization of the Year is a testament to this effort.”

San Jacinto College’s North Campus is home to more than 25,000 area students each year, providing access to more than a dozen different programs and areas of study to the surrounding communities and citizens of Galena Park, Channelview, Sheldon, and Humble Independent School Districts. The North Campus will also soon be home to a new, state-of-the-art Cosmetology and Culinary Center, currently under construction and set to open in spring 2020.



## Maritime program wins national Bellwether Award

San Jacinto College’s Maritime program was recently named the 2019 Bellwether Award recipient in Workforce Development, awarded by the Community College Futures Assembly to the most innovative community college workforce program in the nation.

“We are thrilled to win the prestigious Bellwether Award,” said Dr. Allatia Harris, San Jacinto College Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives. “San Jacinto College is proud to be the educational provider for mariners beginning their careers as well as those coming ashore in Houston, and having our program recognized nationally is a testament to our commitment to our mission.”

The Bellwether Awards are an integral part of the Community College Futures Assembly, focusing on cutting-edge, trendsetting programs that other colleges might find worthy of replicating. The awards are widely regarded as the nation’s most competitive and prestigious recognition for community colleges, and are presented annually to colleges with outstanding and innovative

programs or practices in three categories: workforce development, instructional programs and services, and planning, governance, and finance.

Selected from a competitive, nationally reviewed field of hundreds of Bellwether applications, San Jacinto College’s Maritime program took the top honor in workforce development, categorized as public and/or private strategic alliances and partnerships that promote community and economic development by producing workforce.

“All of San Jacinto College has played an instrumental part in the success of the Maritime Program,” said John Stauffer, Associate Vice Chancellor of the Maritime Technology and Training Center. “Our goal at San Jacinto College Maritime is to provide a solution for a shortage of mariners in the Gulf Coast Region. We are accomplishing this through strong partnerships with our industry partners and our community to provide the skilled workforce needed to build a stronger regional economy. Winning this prestigious award was a total team effort.”



San Jacinto College’s 45,000-square-foot Maritime Technology and Training Center is home to more than 70 USCG-approved courses and Texas’ first and only associate degree in maritime transportation program. Led by a uniquely qualified staff of USCG-approved Ship Captains, Chief Engineers, and former U.S. Military and Merchant Marine Officers, these dedicated mariners have more than 225 years of industry experience combined and are committed to shaping the maritime leaders of tomorrow. ■

# Harris County's newest judge continues to inspire at San Jac

By Torrie Hardcastle

Ever since her days dressing up in a bathrobe as a child, Erica Hughes knew she wanted to be a judge. After years of hard work, she achieved her goal in the historic 2018 election that saw 17 African American women elected to judgeships in Harris County, all of whom were recently sworn into office in early 2019.

In addition to now presiding over the Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 3 and serving as a judge advocate in the Texas Army National Guard, Judge Hughes also finds time to shape young legal minds as an adjunct professor at San Jacinto College.

"I've always liked to teach and have a passion for it," she said. "It's very rewarding to witness students achieve goals and to hear about their successes. That's why I keep coming back to San Jacinto College every semester."

A faculty member at San Jacinto College North Campus since 2010, Hughes teaches civil litigation, interviewing, investigating, and family law, and is beloved by students and well-respected by her fellow faculty members, says Jeanette Liberty, San Jac's paralegal program director.

"Erica is such an outstanding role model, and our students look to her as someone aspirational," she

said. "By becoming so successful, Erica puts in students' minds that they are capable, too."

"I want to convey to students that they can be what they want to be," Hughes said. "There may be roadblocks or obstacles, but don't be defeated by those circumstances. Those goals may be delayed, but not denied. Don't let anyone dim your light. I have taught in this position since 2010, and now I have this new role. Don't be afraid of change and trying new things."

While serving as a role model in the classroom and on the bench, Hughes is also providing opportunities outside of the classroom, hosting a San Jacinto student as her intern at the courthouse in spring 2019. "It's all about lending a helping hand and paying it forward," she said. "These students are capable of so many great things and I'm glad to be able to help them on their journey." ■

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**"I've always liked to teach and have a passion for it. It's very rewarding to witness students achieve goals and to hear about their successes. That's why I keep coming back to San Jacinto College every semester."**



Photo courtesy of Judge Erica Hughes.

# San Jac paralegal student attends State of the Union on behalf of Dreamers

By Torrie Hardcastle

The 2019 State of the Union was more than just a televised address for San Jacinto College paralegal student Devani Gonzalez. Gonzalez was invited by Texas Representative Sylvia R. Garcia to attend the event in the nation's capital as the Congresswoman's guest and to represent the many Dreamers who call Texas home.

As a graduate of San Jacinto College's criminal justice program, Gonzalez has hopes of becoming a police officer, but her DACA status makes her ineligible to serve the community that she says has given her so much over the years. Unwilling to give up on her dream, she is continuing her education in San Jac's paralegal program, while also substitute teaching, as she waits to see what the future has in store for her and her fellow DACA recipients. Her experience at the State of the Union is one that she hopes can help heighten the visibility of the plight of Dreamers and what it means to have to fight for your home.

## What was your reaction when you were approached with this opportunity?

When I received the call from Cesar Espinosa, the Executive Director of FIEL Houston, I was instructed not to discuss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity until it became official. I was excited and nervous all at the same time! I was excited to have the honor of being Representative Garcia's guest for the State of the Union, since she's the first Latina woman in the state of Texas to hold such position. I was nervous, because not only was I representing myself, Houston Dreamers, my community of Galena Park City, Galena Park Independent School District, the Community Volunteer Fire Department, but also my fellow students of San Jacinto Community College.

## Why was it important to you to accompany Congresswoman Garcia to the State of the Union?

It was important for me to accompany her in order to show people the real face of undocumented immigrants. My main goal has always been for people to see that Dreamers

are no different from people born here in the United States. After all, we speak, look, and act like most Americans.

## What was the biggest highlight of the experience for you?

The biggest highlight during my time in Washington D.C. was the reactions I would get from people when I would explain to them who I was and why I was there. These were people from different backgrounds, cultures, and age groups. Overall, the support was overwhelming! The most common reaction was a combination between confusion and anger, because they couldn't believe that I was just like them, but with such limited opportunities due to my immigration status.

## What do you hope your fellow students learn from your involvement?

I hope my fellow students learn from my experience and see that there's always a better tomorrow. Four months ago I was leaving one of the darkest chapters in my life. I was starting from zero after being involved in a toxic relationship, while also having to understand why my best friend had committed suicide. Never in a million years would I have thought this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was going to be given to me, but I now understand that everything happens for a reason. Tough times don't last, tough people do!

## How has San Jac helped prepare you personally and professionally for an opportunity like this?

San Jac helped me prepare by having such great professors. My number one supporter since my first semester at San Jac has been my former criminal justice

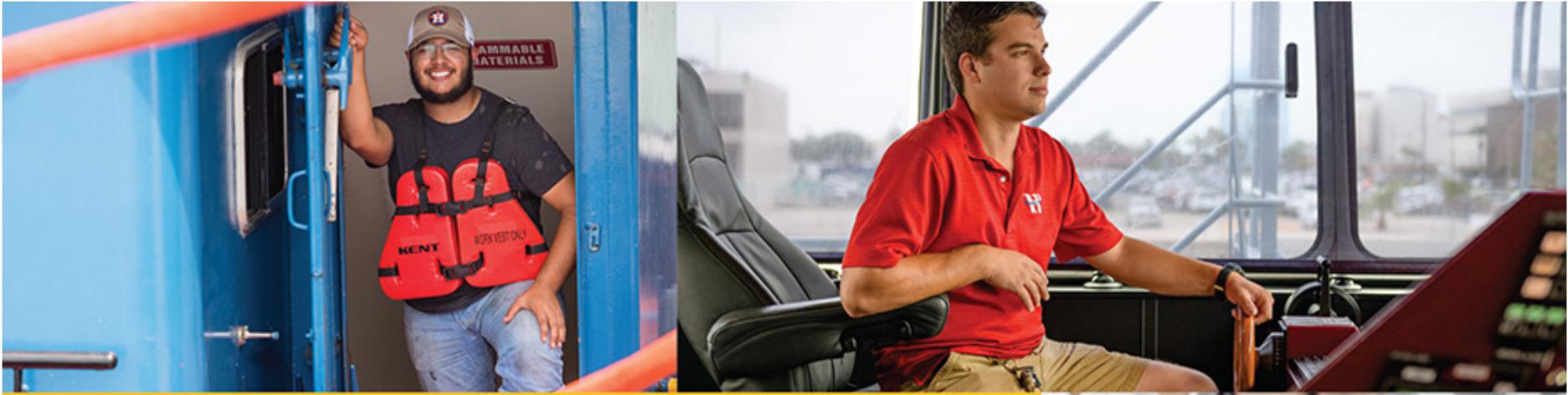


Photo courtesy of Devani Gonzalez.

professor Brienne Crumpler. She has helped me recognize what my weaknesses are as a woman and how to turn them into strengths. Dr. Durell Dickens, the department chair of industrial technology who is also a former criminal justice professor of mine, has been an inspiration when it comes to my career and educational goals. Lastly, Professor Jeanette Liberty from the paralegal program motivates me to follow my dreams by showing me how happy a person can be when they do what they love. I get motivated by her being so exciting during her lectures. I could keep on going and going, naming many more professors, because everyone at San Jac has their students' best interests at heart.

## Any final takeaways you'd like to share?

I may not have been born here, but this country raised me. I share the same goals and ideas as my fellow students. We Dreamers did not come here to take from this country. We came to be a part of it. We came to contribute our unique gifts. We are prepared to give back to the communities that invested in us, we're just fighting for the chance to do so. ■



## SET SAIL TO A REWARDING FUTURE IN MARITIME TECHNOLOGY

The demand for highly-trained seafarers has continued to grow as Port Houston remains one of the world's busiest. To meet this need, San Jacinto College has developed a comprehensive maritime training program with U.S. Coast Guard-approved courses that are designed to train both the working mariner and the future maritime workforce. Experience real-world training on cutting-edge bridge and engine room simulators, as well as lifeboats and rescue boats, and a host of other critical training equipment at our Maritime Campus.

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# FAFSA 101



By Andrea Vasquez

Whether you're a brand new or current college student, the financial aid process can seem overwhelming at times. Filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a starting point for many forms of financial aid including grants, scholarships, work study opportunities, loans, and more. Here are several tips to completing the FAFSA:

## HAVE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS READY

before you begin to fill out the FAFSA online. If your parents still claim you as a dependent on their income tax forms, you will need to have these items for them as well:

- Social Security Number
- Driver's license
- Federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of earned income

FASFA is now based on prior year tax information. For example, if you will be enrolling in the 2019-2020 academic school year, then you will need financial information from 2017.

- Bank statements and investment records
- Untaxed income records (child support received, interest income, and veterans noneducation benefits)

## CREATE AN FSA ID

- Visit FAFSA.gov
- If you have never completed a FAFSA, click "Start Here."
- You will then be asked if you, the student, are completing the application or if you are the parent completing the application for your student.
- If you are filling out the FAFSA for yourself, select "I am the student."

- Select the blue highlighted "Create one" link to create an FSA ID

An FSA ID is an electronic signature meant to verify your identity. Your FSA ID must not be shared with other You and your parents cannot have the same FSA ID to login. Your (and your parents' if you are a dependent student) FSA ID will be used to sign in and submit the FAFSA.

- You will be redirected to FSAID.ed.gov.
- Follow the instructions to create your FSA ID.

## COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA

- After confirming your FSA ID, you can login to FAFSA.gov.
- Enter your basic personal information.
- List the colleges, universities, and/or career schools you would like to receive your FAFSA information.

You must list at least one school to receive your information. The schools you list will use your FAFSA information to determine the types and amounts of aid you may receive. Use the Federal School Code Search to find the colleges you're interested in including on your FAFSA form. San Jacinto College's school code is 003609.

- Determine your dependency status

The FAFSA form asks a series of questions that determine whether you are a dependent or independent student for purposes of applying for federal student aid. If you are a dependent student, you must report parent information, as well as your own information, on your application.

- Enter financial information from the documents you gathered in step 1.
- To save time, and reduce the chances of being selected for verification, use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) to import the previous year's tax information.

The IRS DRT takes you to the IRS website, where you'll need to provide your name and other information exactly as you provided it on your tax return. Some information will be prepopulated from your FAFSA form.



At the IRS site, you'll see a page that indicates that your tax information is available. (For security and privacy protections, you won't see the actual information.) You can choose to import your information into the FAFSA form, or you can cancel your request and return to the FAFSA site.

If you choose to import your information into the FAFSA form, you'll find that on the FAFSA site, and instead of your tax information being displayed, you'll see "Transferred from the IRS" in the appropriate fields. You will not be able to make changes to those answers.

- Sign and Submit your FAFSA

To ensure the application functions properly, make sure the pop-up blocker in your browser allows pop-ups from fafsa.ed.gov.

Be sure to sign with your FSA ID (your username and password) so your FAFSA form will be processed as quickly as possible. (If you log in to the form by providing your FSA ID, you won't be asked for it again when it's time to sign. However, if you're providing parent information, one of your parents will be required to sign your application.)

**REMEMBER THAT THE FAFSA IS FREE.** You should never have to pay a fee for filling out or completing the FAFSA. Be aware of fraudulent emails, links, and websites, asking you to pay a fee for assistance in completing the FAFSA. Only official U.S. Department of Education websites will have .gov in their website addresses.



Be sure to check with the San Jacinto College financial aid office, or visit [sanjac.edu/financial-aid](http://sanjac.edu/financial-aid) about priority FAFSA deadlines, financial aid events, and any assistance with completing the FAFSA. ■

# Herrera finds focus and passion through culinary arts

By Melissa Trevizo

The path to San Jacinto College wasn't always clear for Cristhian Herrera, but now that he is enrolled in the culinary program at the North Campus, he sees nothing but success in his future.

After taking a few courses at a neighboring community college, Herrera felt like it wasn't the right fit for him. That's when some of his friends told him about San Jac.

"A few of my friends from the neighborhood were attending San Jac for welding," Herrera said. "I was already attending college somewhere else and it really wasn't my cup of tea. After my first semester, I applied and it was completely different experience."

It was during that time that Herrera started taking basic courses while working at a local restaurant. That job helped direct him to the culinary field.



"I was working in a restaurant as a food runner," Herrera said. "Eventually I moved up to the kitchen and started to play around during the slow season. I would see what I could make and experiment with new dishes. Staff members started coming in and asking me to cook them off-menu specials. It made me feel good that I could make people happy through food."

As he progresses through the culinary program, Herrera is also gaining priceless on-the-job experience through his work with the Houston Restaurant Group owned by James Beard Award winner Hugo Ortega. Through this experience, Herrera has worked at some of Houston's top restaurants, including Backstreet Café, Hugo's, Caracol, and Xochi.

"Chef Hugo is very open and loves culinary students," Herrera said. "My time there is so valuable. If you take the time to observe and learn, it will come back to you. One day I'd love to be a sous chef at one of his restaurants, but I still have a lot left to learn." ■

 To learn more about the culinary program at San Jacinto College, visit [www.sanjac.edu/career/chef-training](http://www.sanjac.edu/career/chef-training).

# New certifications allow students more options to enter education and health care fields

By Andrea Vasquez

Finding a pathway into the education and health care industries can be tricky. There are so many areas to choose from, and finding the right training option can seem overwhelming. San Jacinto College's Continuing and Professional Development (CPD) division has two new certification options that will help make those choices easier.

Two new certifications that CPD will offer are the educational aide and community health worker certifications. Created in collaboration with the CPD education and the College's childhood development departments, and funded by CPD's Adult Education and Literacy grant, the educational aide certification enables students to gain entry-level employment at local independent school districts as paraprofessionals (educational aides). The curriculum meets all the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and Every Student Succeeds Act, and prepares students to take the ParaPro Assessment as the final step to obtaining the certification.

"The educational aid certificate combines face-to-face classroom instruction, online learning, as well as observational hours, making it a great first step into an



educational/teaching pathway," said Abijah Kratochvil, San Jacinto College CPD director of education and life long learning. "The College's child development program collaborated with us to develop the curriculum so that once certified, students can receive Credit for Prior Learning toward an occupational certificate and an Associate of Applied Science in early childhood education. This means that in one semester, a student can receive their educational aide certification, a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, graduate with an occupational certificate from the college, and be certified to teach or assist in teaching children from birth through 12th grade."

In addition to this new educational certification, CPD is also offering a new community health worker certification. Houston is celebrated as one of the most diverse cities in the country, so it's no surprise that more than 145 languages are spoken in the city alone. With that comes the health care needs of 4.8 million patients visiting the more than 85 Houston area hospitals each year, in which there are bound to be language and cultural barriers when it comes to stressful medical situations.

"A community health worker is a liaison that provides cultural mediation between health care, social services, and the community," added Kratochvil. "They also have a close understanding of the ethnicity, language, socio-economic status, and life experiences of the communities they serve. The only prerequisites are that students must be at least 18 years of age and a Texas resident. This makes it a perfect certification for people who are



**"The educational aid certificate combines, face-to-face classroom instruction, online learning, as well as observational hours, making it a great first step into an educational/teaching pathway!"**

working on their high school equivalency (GED) if they do not have a high school diploma. Students undergo 160 hours of training in eight core competencies: communication, interpersonal service coordination, capacity-building, advocacy, teaching, organizational skills, and knowledge based on specific health issues." ■



For more information on the educational aide and community health worker certifications, contact [CPDEducation@sjcd.edu](mailto:CPDEducation@sjcd.edu).

# Summer of STEM at San Jac

By Andrea Vasquez

From adventures in aerospace and exploring the energy industry to building your own robot, San Jacinto College's Continuing and Professional Development (CPD) division has something to foster that science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) creativity for young, aspiring innovators.



## Aerospace Academy

The San Jacinto College Aerospace Academy introduces young students to STEM careers in the aerospace industry. Funded by a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission and collaborating with NASA, the Aerospace Academy offers activities like the Aeroventures Camp where students were introduced to rocketry, including concepts of thrust, propulsion, cargo distribution calculations, and basic laws of motion. Students also had the chance to learn how to properly fly drones, which represented satellite technology.

This summer, the Aerospace Academy will host the new MARSS Quest (Mission to Advance Research on Space Settlements) STEM camps. These four one-week camps in June and July will introduce students to the emerging science and technology being developed by NASA and the aerospace industry on their lunar and deep space venture to Mars. Students will learn the challenges NASA faces in designing and building a space habitat for long-term use. Student will actually design and build life support system operations (air/water quality), food production, radiation control, waste recycling, human health, navigation, and communications systems adapted for use on another planet. The camps will also feature visits from aerospace industry experts and tours of university aerospace and makerspace labs.

## EnergyVenture

One of the most popular and longest-running San Jacinto College STEM camps is EnergyVenture. Supported by Shell Oil Company for more than 10 years, EnergyVenture has hosted more than 1,500 students within that time. The weeklong day camps give middle school students a glimpse into careers within the energy industry, including engineering, geology, and process technology. Students perform lab experiments, win prizes, tour energy-related production facilities, and hear from professionals currently working in the field. The summer 2019 EnergyVenture camps will take place at San Jacinto College in June and July.



## Robot Ruckus

A robotastic summer awaits at the Robot Ruckus Camp in June at San Jacinto College. Suited for students entering grades 4 – 6 campers will enjoy all aspects of robotics by participating in playshops and robot arenas during four fun-filled days. Creativity and inspiration will be leveled up using Ozobots, Spheros, and LEGO robots. Campers will also experience coding, sensor use, and will leave the camp with their very own robot creation.



## STEM Survivor

For middle school students who thrive on competition, the STEM Survivor camp is the place to be! Using a team/tribe structure, students compete in activities that help them understand buoyancy/chemical reactions, energy, robotics, and structures. Activities include: buoyancy experiments with submarines and aluminum boats; making lemonade and ice cream snacks to understand chemical reactions; creating solar ovens for cooking s'mores; constructing windmills and wind bag structures for energy; sphero robot bowling; coding ozobots for racing; LEGO Mindstorm sumobots for robotics; Rube Goldberg machine challenges; potato circuits; and augmented and virtual reality activities. STEM Survivor takes place at San Jacinto College in July 2019. ■

**i** For more information on San Jacinto College CPD 2019 STEM summer camps, including registration fees and camp dates, visit [sanjac.edu/summer-camps](http://sanjac.edu/summer-camps).



# Cosmetology alumnus Ellis gives back to the community

By Melissa Trevizo

After 36 years in the cosmetology industry, San Jacinto College South Campus alum David Ellis attributes his success to two things; his education and his work ethic.

“I owe a lot to San Jac,” Ellis said. “I wouldn’t be where I am today if it weren’t for the College. I love to come back and speak to students and promote the programs.”

Ellis, who was among of the first cohort of graduates to complete the cosmetology program at the South Campus, has worked in film, television, fashion, and often creates red carpet looks for award season.

**“I owe a lot to San Jac. I wouldn’t be where I am today if it weren’t for the College. I love to come back and speak to students and promote the programs.”**

“If you told me at 19 years old when I graduated that I would be working with designers and actors, I wouldn’t have believed you,” Ellis said. “I truly think anyone can do this, you just have to have the skills and determination.”

Ellis believes that all of San Jacinto College’s cosmetology graduates possess the skills they need to be successful, even in a saturated marketplace.

“Schools are turning out so many hair dressers today, but you can always spot a San Jac student,” Ellis said. “San Jac sends graduates out prepared to join the workforce. That’s not always the case with other schools, and that is a big factor when hiring someone.”

So, what is Ellis’ advice for students in the cosmetology program?

“Your first year out of cosmetology school, you need to go into a shop that is very busy and fast-paced,” Ellis said. “You can pick up great time management skills there. When you are making mistakes in what is almost a factory environment, that’s where you learn quickly, what works and what doesn’t.” ■

**i** To learn more about the cosmetology program at San Jacinto College, visit [www.sanjac.edu/career/cosmetology](http://www.sanjac.edu/career/cosmetology).



# Personal Training alumna Geri Niess changes lives through fitness

By Melissa Trevizo

As a personal trainer for more than five years, Geri Niess was looking for a refresher course to enhance her knowledge and in turn benefit her clients. She chose the personal trainer certification program at San Jacinto College, because it was different and it was hands-on.

“Most personal training certifications are online,” Niess said. “Trainers come out of those programs and get lost when it comes to dealing with clients. The San Jac program allows you to become client-oriented because you are using practical skills in the classroom.”

As the first graduate of the program launched—in fall 2014—Niess now owns a thriving business through Camp Gladiator (CG), teaching classes six times a week with as many as 80 students at a time. Her boot camp enrollment of more than 230 clients ranks her as the No.1 CG trainer in the Houston area and in the top five in the nation, but she’s not stopping there.

“I started in 2015 with only five campers, and I want to be the first female Camp Gladiator trainer to hit 300 clients in the nation,” Niess said. “At CG we work as a team to grow each other’s locations. It’s a collaborative effort. Trainers are helping other trainers and 99 percent of my new clients hear about my boot camp via word of mouth from current clients.”

For Niess, the biggest benefits of being a personal trainer is seeing lives changed and building relationships with her clients.

“Impacting lives is the key to being a personal trainer,” Niess added. “When you see the before and afters of some the campers who have made a total transformation, you really understand the impact you’ve helped make on someone else’s life.”

Not only does Niess make connections with the new clientele, but she has also started recruiting her family for boot camps, including her husband and children.

“I feel like I’m not only impacting the lives of strangers, who become my family, but my own family as well,” Niess said. “It’s beyond rewarding.”



Niess’ son Jonathan is one of her children who attend the CG boot camp, but he says being coached by his mom is nothing new to him.

“I’ve just checked in for my 70th training session with Camp Gladiator,” Jonathan Niess said. “She has always been a coach to me. She used to coach my soccer team as a kid, and she’s been teaching me my whole life. It was a natural transition to join her camp and I’ve seen such a difference in my energy levels and health.”

Making a difference in the lives of others was only one of the reasons Niess chose to become a personal trainer. The other reason? Her passion for fitness.

“I’ve always been active, starting sports when I was very young,” Niess said. “I signed up for another boot camp and fell in love with it. I love my job. It doesn’t even feel like work, I feel like I’m playing all the time.” ■



To find out more about San Jacinto College’s personal trainer certification visit [www.sanjac.edu/career/personal-trainer](http://www.sanjac.edu/career/personal-trainer).

# No stigma, no problem

## College's food pantries provide hot meals through voucher program

By Andrea Vasquez

With the costs of attending college rising each year, many students roaming the campus halls don't know if they'll be able to eat each day. Food insecurity affects 42 percent of community college students nationwide, according to a recent study by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice. Since 2014, San Jacinto College has provided its students with campus food pantries in an effort to eliminate this barrier to student success. What began with 15 student requests has now served more than 2,000 students to date.

But what if you're a student with no access to a stove or microwave? What if you don't own a can opener? These situations still plague students, and this fall, the College took its food pantry program a step further by providing food vouchers with each food pantry disbursement that occurs every two weeks. Made possible by PepsiCo and Barnes & Noble, students who receive a disbursement

also receive two food vouchers per week for use at any of the campus cafes. This allows participating students to have at least two hot meals each week on campus.

"Although students have been experiencing food insecurity for years, it's always been one of the silent, hidden barriers to student success," said Hilda Boyce, San

Jacinto College director of auxiliary services. "Looking at the high schools where many of our students come from, nearly 80 percent were on free or reduced lunch, so making that transition from high school to college poses a challenge when it comes to eating a hot meal each day."

But the College didn't stop there. In a world where almost all transactions are done electronically, knowing that there could also be additional sensitivities to students presenting physical paper vouchers to the cafe cashiers, the "vouchers" are actually access code numbers with the \$8 voucher amount assigned to the student's access code. Therefore, when a student pays at the cashier and gives them their access code, no one knows whether they're an athlete or another student providing their access code for their meal funds. No stigma, no problem.

"San Jacinto College wants to remove barriers for our students so that they can be successful, and one of the largest is food insecurity," said Dr. Kelly Mizell, San Jacinto College director of Pathways/special projects. "In the College's recent Student Financial Wellness Survey (Trellis Company, 2018), more than 60 percent of our student population reported that they have low or very low food security. It is very difficult for anyone to do their best when they are hungry. We will continue to work with our partners in the community to help our students stay on the path to achieving their dreams." ■

**i** For more information on the San Jacinto College food pantries and food voucher program, visit [sanjac.edu/engage](http://sanjac.edu/engage).



# ANSWER THE CALL

## Careers in Emergency Medical Technology

Every minute in the U.S., someone urgently needs medical help. You can provide this assistance and potentially save lives with an EMT degree or certificate from San Jacinto College. In addition to classroom instruction, our program puts you on the front lines of emergency care, where you will be taught by seasoned professionals in real-world critical situations.

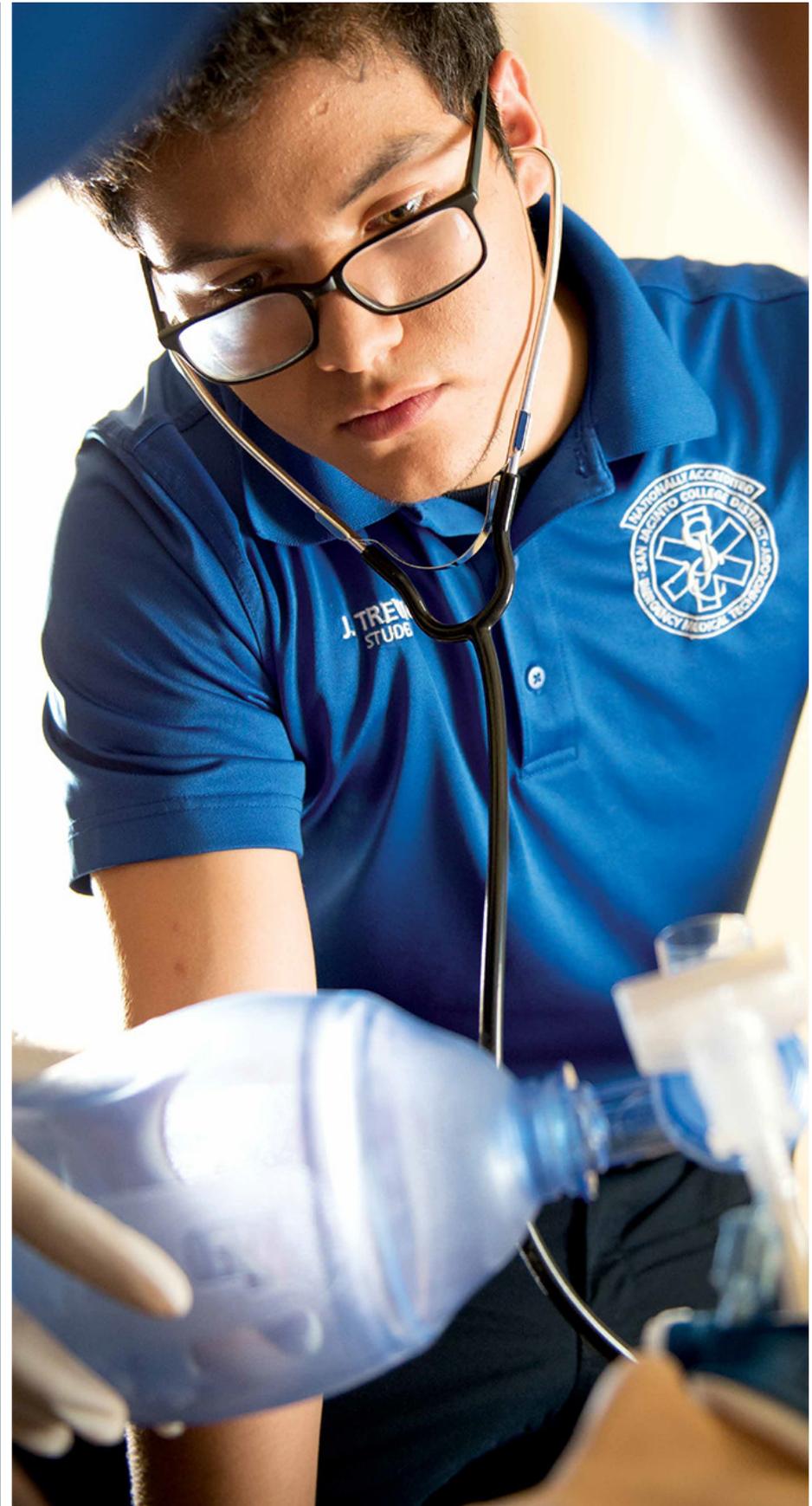
The EMT program prepares graduates to work in a variety of emergency medical service areas which include fire departments, government agencies, hospital ambulance services, law enforcement offices, and more.

Are you ready to answer the call?

**Enroll today at [sanjac.edu](http://sanjac.edu).**

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# Gallery's Brown hopes to deliver culture to the South Campus

Gallery curator and art professor Bradly Brown hopes to see the San Jacinto College South Campus' art gallery become a cultural hub between the Museum District and Galveston.

"I think we fill a cultural void in this area," Brown said. "Our students don't always have the means or resources to visit museums in Houston's museum district and I'd like to think we can help to fill that space for them."

The South Gallery has featured a variety of installations from artists all over the United States, including many by San Jacinto College's own students.

"I like to think of our space as not just an art gallery," Brown said. "It is a multidisciplinary space where we can feature all of the things that inspire art, like science and history."

The gallery's latest exhibit, *Super Tuning*, by artist Trey Duvall used industrial elements to emulate human emotions and experiences.

"Part of the idea behind Duvall's art is the deterioration of the installation over time," Brown said. "He often draws on the contradictions in life. 'I know one thing, therefore I know nothing.'"

Duvall's installation was just one of many featured recently at the South Campus Gallery; including *Carrot Cake*; with more than 40 original artworks by famed animator Chuck Jones, *League City Legacy*; an installation of items from the Butler Longhorn Museum, and *Not-So-Lone-Star Studios*; a collection of jewelry and metal art created by Texas makers to name a few.

"With our installations, we are looking do more than just display artwork," Brown said. "I'm interested in using each exhibition as an opportunity to create an artistic experience or an installation that complements the work itself."

Brown, who took over as the South Gallery's curator also manages the work study program for art gallery interns.

"I think that the internship program can be invaluable for art students," Brown said. "We teach them the proper way to handle and display pieces of art, how to break down and clean the space after an installation and make it fresh for a new one. They are the boots on the ground for each of the exhibitions we are lucky enough to display." ■



 To learn more about the fine arts program at San Jacinto College, visit [www.sanjac.edu/career/art-design](http://www.sanjac.edu/career/art-design).

# Real estate program Q & A



By Andrea Vasquez

According to the Houston Association of Realtors (HAR), a total of 24,984 single-family homes sold from June – August 2018. With summer being the best time for sellers and the time of year that home buyers get serious about their house hunts, what better way to transition into a career in real estate than through San Jacinto College's real estate program. Program director David Turnquist took some time to answer some of the most common questions about the program.

## Q: What kinds of careers are available in real estate?

**A:** There are many to choose from including real estate agent, broker, appraiser, inspector, leasing agent, property manager, loan officer, and commercial property specialist just to name a few.

## Q: How much money do real estate agents make?

**A:** Real estate agents are independent contractors and work under the supervision of a licensed broker. Agents earn money by commissions on the sales they make. If you don't sell anything then you don't make any money. If you sell a lot of homes, then you'll make a lot of money. The amount of money you make is really up to you and how hard you want to work. The average first year real estate agent earns less than \$20,000, however, the average experienced agent with at least five years of experience can earn more than \$60,000 a year, with many agents earning more than \$100,000 a year. The potential is there if you have a business plan and work hard at marketing yourself.

## Q: How long does it take to complete the program and get a license?

**A:** The sales agent license requires six courses that are required by the Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC), which can be completed in one semester (16 weeks) if a student is attending full time. After completion of those six courses, students are eligible to take the TREC licensing exam. A broker license requires 900 clock hours (60 semester hours), which the Associate of Applied Science in real estate meets. Students can complete the Associate of Applied Science in real estate in two years if they attend full time.



## Q: Are there any fees to obtain a state license?

**A:** Yes. There is a \$205 application fee to TREC, and the state licensing exam costs \$54. Once you have your license, you can expect another \$500-\$1,000 in membership fees to TREC and HAR. There will also be additional costs such as purchasing lockboxes, signs, flyer boxes, and other necessary items to operate your real estate business.

## Q: Which campuses offer the real estate courses?

**A:** We offer real estate courses at the Central, North, and South Campuses each semester, including the summer. The six state-required courses are offered in the morning, evening, and online.

**i** For more information about San Jacinto College's real estate program, visit [sanjac.edu/career/real-estate](http://sanjac.edu/career/real-estate).

# Certificate programs offer first steps and second chances

By Torrie Hardcastle

Keep your life moving forward. That's the headline for San Jacinto College's Continuing and Professional Development (CPD) division, but for some of the programs' disadvantaged participants, it's more of a daunting task than a motivational mantra.

With non-credit courses and an array of certification programs, CPD offers everything from cake decorating and tai chi to accounting and project management, with dozens of categories in between. The programs will often see inquisitive kids at summer camps, eager teens looking to get a jump on college, or senior citizens keeping active with life-long learning courses like scrapbooking. But while the non-credit courses can be a fun way for folks to dip their toe in new waters, some course participants—like those from local women's shelters—see the certification programs as their last hope to get back on their feet.

"It can be a lifeline," says John Suarez, Director of CPD's business & professions division. "Helping these ladies learn basic skills like accounting, payroll, or bank teller positions can open opportunities for them to find something stable and make it easier for them to transition out of the shelters."

Many shelter residents and their disadvantaged classmates find their way to CPD programs through San Jacinto College's partnerships with local nonprofits and social service organizations in the community, such as the United Way, as CPD aims to find meaningful ways to better the quality of life for local residents who may not have the personal resources to seek out such opportunities.

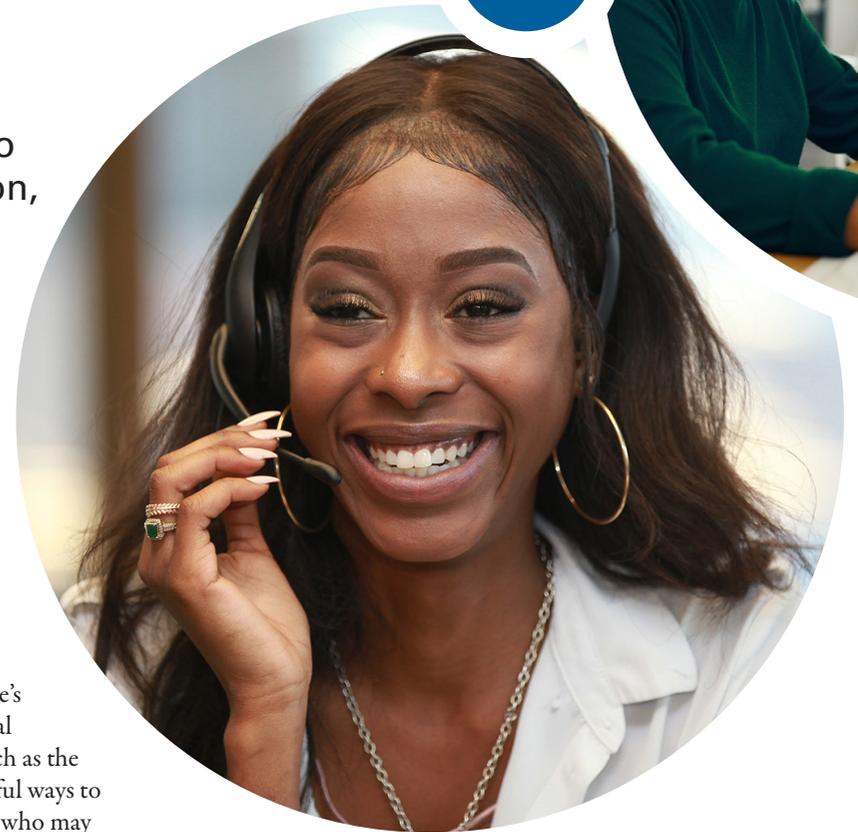
"It's always a privilege to work with Bridge Over Troubled Waters and Bay Area Turning Point because it makes such a difference in those lives," says Laura Martinez, CPD's skills training coordinator, who spearheads the nonprofit networking. "We've taught classes at BakerRipley right across the street from housing projects where the residents can easily walk over and take part in trainings that help them on the path to stability. They can come away with a sense of pride and a tangible job skill that helps make them more marketable to employers."

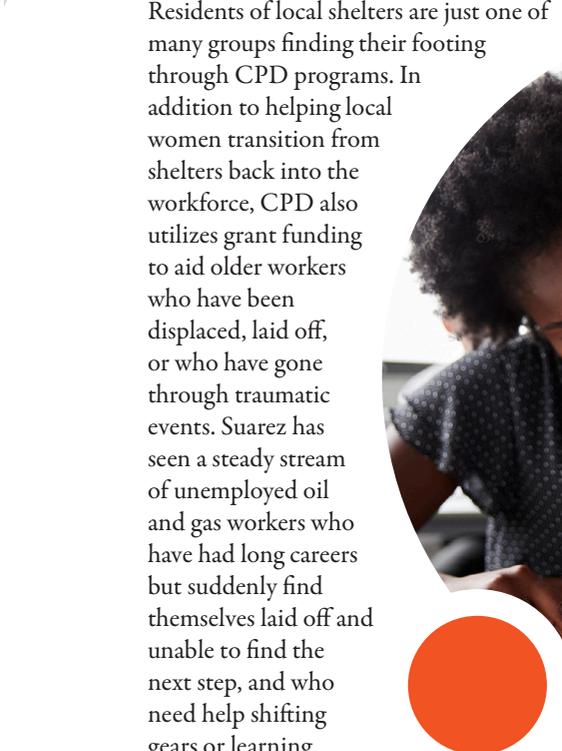
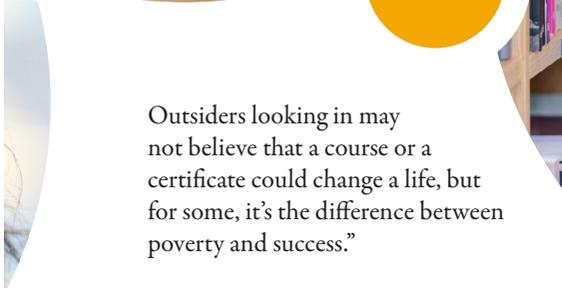
For Annette Williams, one of CPD's business & professions professors and a former adoption supervisor for Child Protective Services, teaching courses filled with struggling students is a meaningful reflection of her own journey as a single mother now working toward her PhD. Years ago, as a newly divorced mother of three having to rely on the government for help, Williams saw what it was like to be thrown into unexpected circumstances. "I ended up being a part of the system that I'm now helping people get out of," she says.

Williams is one of San Jacinto College's faculty members who has taught courses off campus, traveling to areas and organizations that need it the most, setting up classrooms in places like the United Way to be more accessible to course participants in need. "I can't think of one student who came in whole," she says. "Most are broken in some form or fashion. With us, they are able to learn new skills, complete the courses, and walk away feeling empowered, feeling important, and feeling ready."

**"It can be a lifeline. Helping these ladies learn basic skills like accounting, payroll, or bank teller positions can open opportunities for them to find something stable and make it easier for them to transition out of the shelters."**

**John Suarez, Director of CPD's business & professions division.**





Outsiders looking in may not believe that a course or a certificate could change a life, but for some, it's the difference between poverty and success."

Residents of local shelters are just one of many groups finding their footing through CPD programs. In addition to helping local women transition from shelters back into the workforce, CPD also utilizes grant funding to aid older workers who have been displaced, laid off, or who have gone through traumatic events. Suarez has seen a steady stream of unemployed oil and gas workers who have had long careers but suddenly find themselves laid off and unable to find the next step, and who need help shifting gears or learning additional skills.

"You end up with a lot of disillusioned, discouraged, angry folks who are struggling with what to do next," Suarez says. "We are able to help them reorient, get their confidence

back, get a new skillset, and get some hope back, which is perhaps one of the best things."

The career refocusing is paying off with both economic success and emotional empowerment for the once-downtrodden workers, Suarez says. "When you see a grown man crying because we were able to help him land a job, that's very fulfilling for the people here, and at the end of the day, it's all about people helping each other," he says.

Financial assistance is also available to qualifying participants through grant-funded scholarships so that those in need are able to complete courses, earn a certificate, and be job-ready with zero out-of-pocket expenses, says Sarah Janes, CPD's associate vice chancellor. "Something even as small as a \$50 background check in a hiring process is extremely daunting

**"It's always a privilege to work with Bridge Over Troubled Waters and Bay Area Turning Point because it makes such a difference in those lives."**

**Laura Martinez, CPD's skills training coordinator**

for some of these families and it's really humbling to see that," she says.

Janes champions the division's ability to help struggling adults transition back into the workforce and back onto solid ground, but says the CPD programs are also designed to truly help students transition through all phases of their lives. "From cradle to career," she says. "We are here with courses to help parents develop their child-rearing skills, summer camps for kids, camps for older students, open enrollment courses for the public to explore new fields, apprenticeships for students who've narrowed their focus, and continued certifications for professionals of all ages to enhance their skills or successfully change careers."

Williams agrees that she has seen the power of what the CPD programs can provide to participants from all walks of life, saying "For many, it's switching careers, others are just getting their feet wet, and for some—it's a saving grace."

**i** For more information about San Jacinto College's Continuing and Professional Development programs, please visit [www.sanjac.edu/continuing-professional-development](http://www.sanjac.edu/continuing-professional-development).

# Choose your path

At San Jacinto College, our mission is to ensure you succeed and to empower you to achieve your goals, redefine expectations and encourage exploration of new opportunities. With eight career pathways, you are encouraged to not only equip yourself with the training and tools needed to succeed in a career, but to find your place in the world and pursue the life you've always wanted. If you plan to earn an associate degree and transfer to a four-year university, we can help you along your path. If career training for a certificate or associate degree is more along the path you choose to take, we can help you find the program that is right for you. Before you register for classes, you should discuss your career goals with a San Jacinto College educational planner. We'll make sure you're selecting courses that meet the curriculum requirements of the certificate or associate degree you want to earn, or four-year university you plan to attend. Learn more at sanjac.edu, or call (281) 998-6150 to speak with an educational counselor. ■



## Art, Humanities, Communication & Design

- Art & Design
- Audio Engineering
- Communications
- Dance
- English
- Interior Design
- Modern Languages
- Music
- Speech
- Theatre and Film

### Career opportunities (some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)\*

Broadcast Technician .....	\$42,314
Choreographer .....	\$78,961
Editor .....	\$97,160
Film and Video Editor .....	\$58,102
Graphic Designer .....	\$49,012
Interior Designer .....	\$58,495
Multimedia Artist and Animator .....	\$59,797
Musicians and Singers .....	\$26.96** per hour
Public Relations Specialist .....	\$66,759
Sound Engineering Technician .....	\$54,148



## Business

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Business Management
- Business Office Technology
- Economics
- Entrepreneur
- Long Term Care Administration
- Paralegal
- Real Estate

### Career opportunities (some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)\*

Accountant and Auditor .....	\$88,921
Budget Analyst .....	\$92,271
Credit Analyst .....	\$84,978
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants .....	\$61,846
Financial Analyst .....	\$99,775
Paralegal and Legal Assistant .....	\$61,457
Real Estate Sales Agent .....	\$72,477



## Construction, Industry Manufacturing & Transportation

- Air Conditioning Technology (HVAC)
- Automotive Collision Repair
- Automotive Technology
- Biomedical Clinical Equipment Technician
- Construction Management Technology
- Diesel Technology
- Electrical Technology
- Electronics Technology
- Environmental Health and Safety Technology
- Instrumentation
- International Business Logistics & Maritime
- Maritime Transportation
- Non-destructive Testing
- Pipefitting
- Process Technology
- Welding Technology

### Career opportunities (some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)\*

API Inspector .....	\$132,028^^
Automotive Body and Related Repairer .....	\$40,637
Automotive Service Technician and Mechanic .....	\$47,259
Captains, Mates and Pilots .....	\$121,048
Chemical Plant and Systems Operators .....	\$68,577
Electrician .....	\$55,261
Environmental Science and Protection Technician, Including Health .....	\$46,694
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanic and Installer .....	\$48,265
Helper - Electrician .....	\$36,859
Helper - Plumber, Pipefitter and Steamfitter .....	\$36,916
Medical Equipment Repairer .....	\$49,208
NDT Technician Level I - III .....	\$65,927^^
Occupational Health and Safety Technician .....	\$57,338
Plant and Systems Operators (all others) .....	\$45,181
Plumber, Pipefitter and Steamfitter .....	\$53,761
Quality Inspector .....	\$37,340**
Sailors and Marine Oilers .....	\$42,737
Welder, Cutter, Solderer, and Brazier .....	\$51,641



## Education

Child Development / Early Childhood Studies  
Teaching

### Career opportunities (some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)\*

Elementary School Teacher (except Special Ed) .....	\$62,302
Secondary School Teacher (except Special Ed) .....	\$61,844
Education Administrator, Preschool and Child Care Center.....	\$47,422
Preschool Teacher .....	\$32,297
Child Care Workers .....	\$22,765



## Health Sciences

Cancer Data Management  
Dietetics  
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)  
Eye Care Technician  
Health Information Management  
Kinesiology  
Medical Assisting  
Medical Billing and Coding  
Medical Lab Technology  
Mental Health Services  
Nursing  
Occupational Therapy Assistant  
Pharmacy Technician  
Physical Therapist Assistant  
Radiography  
Respiratory Care  
Sonography Medical Imaging  
Surgical Technician

### Career opportunities (some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)\*

Athletic Trainer .....	\$58,527
Certified Dietary Manager .....	\$51,029^^^
Certified Ophthalmic Assistant.....	\$45,000***
Certified Ophthalmic Technician.....	\$52,200***
Certified Tumor Registrar .....	\$51,032^^^
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer.....	\$84,975
Emergency Medical Technician.....	\$34,081
Environmental Science and Protection Technician, Including Health .....	\$46,694
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technician .....	\$54,175
Medical Assistant .....	\$30,467
Medical Records and Health Information Technician.....	\$45,396
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Worker .....	\$42,538
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) .....	\$48,783
Personal and Fitness Trainers .....	\$39,210**
Pharmacy Technician .....	\$34,873
Physical Therapist Assistant.....	\$68,013
Radiologic Technicians.....	\$61,595
Registered Nurse .....	\$78,800
Respiratory Therapist.....	\$61,664
Surgical Technologist .....	\$52,102



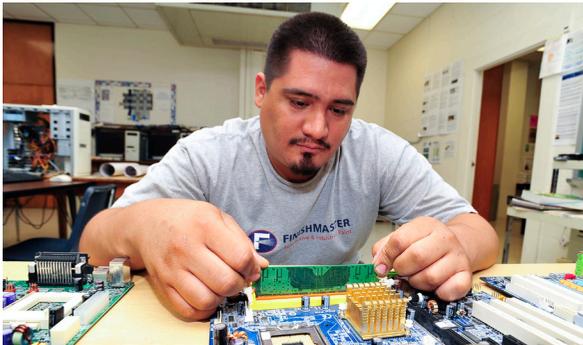
## Public Safety & Human/ Consumer Services

Chef Training  
Cosmetology  
Criminal Justice  
Fire Protection Technology  
Massage Therapy  
Pastry Chef  
Personal Trainer  
Restaurant Management

### Career opportunities (some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)\*

Chefs and Head Cooks (including Pastry Chefs).....	\$45,267
Correctional Officers and Jailers.....	\$43,337
Food Service Manager .....	\$62,976
Hairdressers, Hairstylists and Cosmetologists.....	\$34,041
Massage Therapist.....	\$33,101
Municipal Firefighter .....	\$50,257
Personal and Fitness Trainers .....	\$39,210**
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers.....	\$64,659
Private Detectives and Investigators .....	\$53,426
Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists .....	\$45,485
Skin Care Specialists (Esthetician).....	\$28,596

## CareerFocus Program



### Science, Computer Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

Applications / Programming  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Computer Science  
Computer Simulation & Game Design  
Desktop Support & Network Administration  
Engineering  
Engineering Design Graphics (Drafting)  
Environmental Science  
Geology  
Information Technology Security  
Mathematics  
Microsoft & CISCO  
Physics  
Web Design

#### Career opportunities (some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)\*

Accountant and Auditor .....	\$88,921
Agricultural and Food Science Technicians.....	\$75,835
Chemical Engineer .....	\$151,306
Chemists .....	\$83,915
Civil Engineer.....	\$115,226
Computer Network Support Specialist .....	\$74,005
Computer Programmer .....	\$87,537
Database Administrators.....	\$89,358
Desktop Publisher .....	\$44,235
Drafter.....	\$76,944
Environmental Engineer .....	\$134,022
Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, Including Health.....	\$46,694
Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health .....	\$93,174
Geological and Petroleum Technicians.....	\$82,887
Information Security Analyst.....	\$98,250
Mathematicians .....	\$43,269
Mechanical Drafter.....	\$71,427
Mechanical Engineer.....	\$113,474
Multimedia Artist and Animator.....	\$59,797
Network and Computer Systems Administrator.....	\$101,942
Physicists.....	\$108,735
Software Developers (Applications).....	\$110,000
Software Developers (Systems Software).....	\$113,701
Web Developer .....	\$74,929



### Social & Behavioral Science

Anthropology  
Government  
History  
Philosophy  
Psychology  
Sociology

#### Career opportunities (some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)\*

Psychologists .....	\$95,141
Philosophy and Religion Teachers, Postsecondary .....	\$90,397
Anthropologists and Archeologists .....	\$87,903
Political Scientists .....	\$83,376
Sociology Teachers, Postsecondary .....	\$73,060
Clinical, Counseling and School Psychologists.....	\$67,160
Public Relations Specialists.....	\$66,759
Counselors.....	\$63,632
Mental Health Counselors .....	\$48,623
Museum Technicians and Conservators .....	\$45,455
Social Science Research Assistants .....	\$31,921

\* Salary source: texaswages.com, Gulf Coast Region, 2016 Annual WDA Wages  
\*\* Salary source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
\*\*\* Source: Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology  
^ Salary source: ASQ QP Fall 2015 Salary Survey

### Noncredit Classes for Professional and Life Long Learners

Whether you're preparing for a career or picking up a new hobby, the Continuing and Professional Development (CPD) division at San Jacinto College offers a variety of noncredit courses for workforce training and lifelong learning. The workforce area of the division offers courses that keep workers up-to-date on the latest technologies in industries found in the Gulf Coast region. These courses are available through contract training, open enrollment and grant funding. Not only does the division provide vital training for workers, many participants find enjoyment by picking up new skills they've been eager to learn. CPD also offers lifelong learning courses that offer people a variety of affordable lessons developed for the purpose of leisure learning and to help people extend their horizons. To find out more, visit [sanjac.edu/cpd](http://sanjac.edu/cpd).

#### Workforce Development and Job Training

Applied Technology and Trades  
Business and Professions  
Computers, IT, CNC, PLC & Robotics  
Health Occupations  
Maritime

#### Corporate Training and Consulting

Applied Technology and Trades  
Business and Professions  
Computers, IT, CNC, PLC & Robotics  
Health Occupations  
Internships  
Maritime

#### Community Programs

Aerospace Academy  
Education  
GED / Test Prep  
Life Long Learning  
Open House Events  
Youth Programs

#### Grants

ult Education and Literacy  
DOL H1B Ready to Work Petrochem Grant  
Health Career Pathways Partnership Grant  
TPEG  
TWC Business Funding Opportunities  
TWC Fast Start II – HVAC

^^ Salary source: PQNDT 2015 Salary Survey

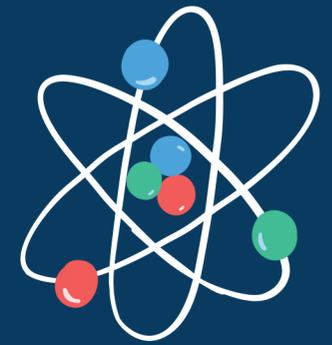
^^^ Salary source: Payscale

# Salary source: National Cancer Registrars Association

## Salary source: ANFP 2010 Salary and Benefits Survey

# SUMMER CAMPS

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For more information, please visit:  
[www.sanjac.edu/summer-camps](http://www.sanjac.edu/summer-camps)

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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77049**

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13735 BEAMER ROAD  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77089**

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3700 OLD HWY. 146  
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