

# CareerFocus

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE<sup>SM</sup> Spring 2020 Volume 1 • Issue 38

College to Open New Welcome Center

Former Life Flight patient pursues Paramedic Program



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# CareerFocus

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

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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 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.

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# News and Notes

from around the College

## Process Technology Students Volunteer to Build Playground

The process technology student council from San Jacinto College's Central Campus recently volunteered its time helping to build a Kaboom playground at Atkinson Elementary School.

"I found out about the event via the school's Facebook page and brought it to our p-tech student council," said Jeff Pearce, coordinator for education and workforce at the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology. "They quickly organized more than 20 people to volunteer. They spent their day off working for their community and giving back. It was so inspiring to see."

The students donated their time to spread mulch, assemble equipment, mix and pour concrete, landscape, and so much more.

"The day of the build, there were San Jac hard hats, shirts, and students all over the job site," said Pearce. "I'm proud to be a part of an organization that pushes to make a difference in their communities."



## San Jacinto College Foundation Launches Gala with a Twist

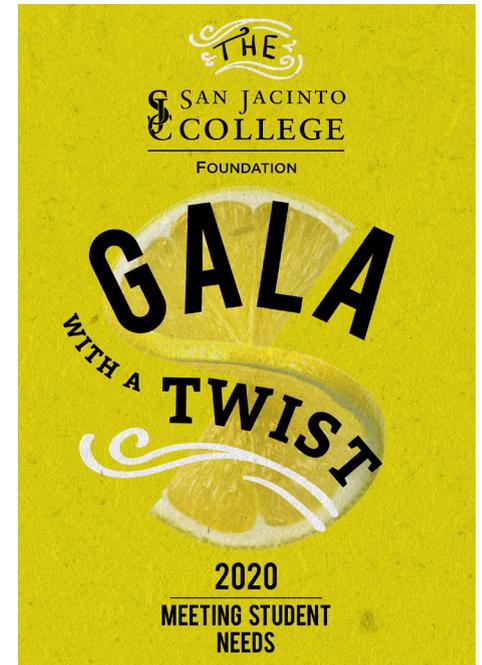
The San Jacinto College Foundation has invited the community to participate in its 2020 Gala with a Twist, announcing the fundraising campaign at the College's January board of trustees meeting.

For this year's campaign, 100 percent of proceeds will benefit San Jac students with immediate needs. Donations will offset costs such as tuition, books, food, clothing, transportation, and child care for students who have found themselves in unexpected circumstances and need urgent assistance.

"We're thrilled to take a new, virtual approach to our gala this year," said Ruth Keenan, the foundation's executive director. "It's a new decade, and we're excited to mix things up a bit. Launching this engaging, online fundraiser in lieu of our traditional dinner event allows us to significantly reduce costs and focus on what matters most—helping our students succeed."

The foundation serves more than 30,000 students each year and has awarded more than 12,000 scholarships over the past decade to help San Jac students reach their educational goals.

Community members wishing to contribute to this year's Gala with a Twist fundraiser can learn more about the campaign and can donate at [sanjac.edu/twist](http://sanjac.edu/twist) or by phone at 281-998-6104.



## CPET, Maritime Campus Welcome Japan Delegates

San Jacinto College welcomed visitors from Pasadena's sister city, Hadano, Japan, in early January.

Twelve delegates from Hadano—city hall staff, board of education members, teachers, and students—visited the Pasadena area Jan. 6-11.

During their stay, the delegates toured the College's LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology (CPET), exploring custom industrial labs. They also visited the Maritime Technology and Training Center, where they practiced steering vessels in simulated bridge rooms.

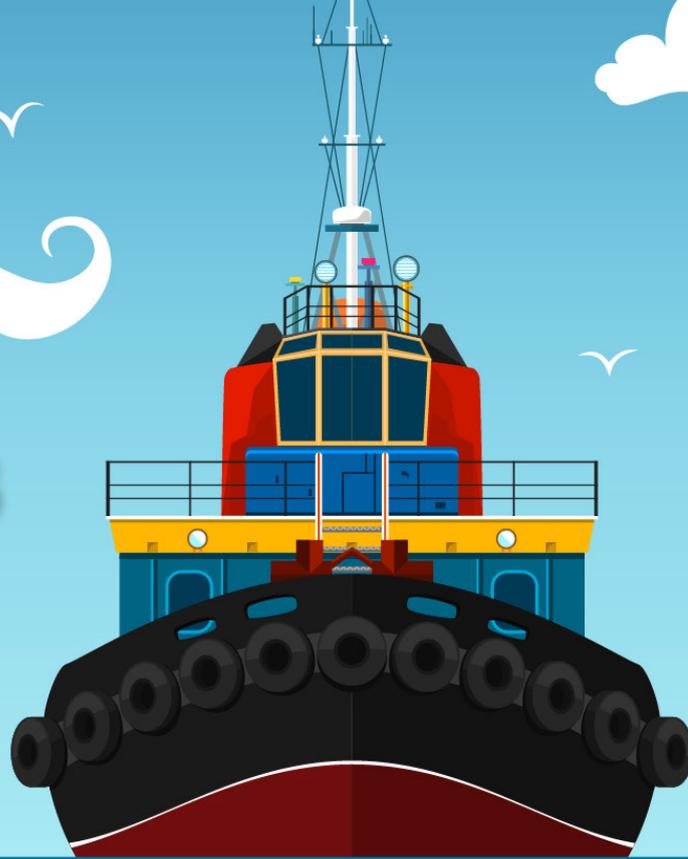
"We had both (San Jac) facilities recommended for the visit due to the programs offered. Our guests were very impressed with both visits," said Gayle Holder Carter, president of the Pasadena Sister City Association.

In addition, the Hadano delegates toured and made presentations at local K-12 schools, the San Jacinto Monument, NASA Johnson Space Center, Japanese-owned company Kuraray, and other places. Most stayed in private homes to experience family life in a Houston suburb and enjoyed local culinary experiences.

Sister cities for 55 years, Pasadena and Hadano alternate visits annually through the Pasadena-Hadano Sister City Association. ■



# Maritime Students Throw Down for Skills Competition



By Sophia Primera

The San Jacinto College Maritime program hosted the 2019 Maritime Throwdown Competition Houston Regional Qualifier. The annual industrial maritime line-handling and line-throwing skills competition was created to increase skill and safety while showcasing the maritime industry to the public.

The qualifier featured San Jac maritime students and industry professionals from six different maritime companies all competing for the best time in various obstacles simulating situations in the field. Prizes included a brand new 4X4 ATV and more than \$15,000 for winners, who qualified for the finals in May 2020 in St. Louis, Mo., at the Inland Marine Expo (IMX).

The 2019 winners include: Aim challenge—Smalls Whitaker, Cheryl K Marine, winning the longest throw in distance caught with a single-part line; line handling course—first place, Stephen Conner, NGL Marine, and second place, Smalls Whitaker; and overall best time—Grant Seibolt, San Jac sophomore maritime student, who finished third overall in the throwdown. ■

Photos by Sophia Primera and Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College



# Inspired by Rescuers, Former Life Flight Patient Pursues **paramedic program**

By Courtney Morris

While it engulfed bystanders in a sandstorm, the Life Flight helicopter landing at San Jacinto College's North Campus took Victoria Duran back to another event. Eight years earlier, Duran flew inside Life Flight—as the victim of a T-bone collision.



Photos by Sophia Primera, San Jacinto College

Waking up later in ICU, the high school junior knew life would forever be different. What she didn't realize was the accident that led to her being life-flighted would also launch her life mission: to become a flight medic.

## The Reunion

Now a first-year paramedic student at San Jacinto College, Duran is fulfilling this mission. And this December, she fulfilled a second one: meeting the compassionate first responders who inspired her career choice.

EMS instructor Kristine Kern arranged the reunion after hearing Duran's story.

"I asked Victoria if she had ever met the flight crew. She said she had not but always wanted to meet them," Kern said. "This started my mission!"

Within minutes of posting on Facebook, Kern began connecting dots to Duran's fire, EMS, and Life Flight rescuers. She invited them to meet the paramedic-in-training during an EMS field day at the North Campus Dec. 7.





**“The odds were against me that day, and if it weren’t for your fast acting and incredible care, I don’t think I would be here today.”**

Five original crew members—four from the Baytown Fire Department and one from Life Flight—showed up. Life Flight also routed a helicopter to the reunion so Duran could enjoy a real tour this time. Wiping away tears, Duran presented each group a framed thank-you letter with before and after recovery photos.

“The odds were against me that day,” she wrote, “and if it weren’t for your fast acting and incredible care, I don’t think I would be here today.”

Duran’s flight nurse, Clint Kneuve, gave her a “Flight Crew” T-shirt and patch and showed her around the “bird.”

“It’s kind of cool because sometimes I hear about someone a month out but never this far out,” Kneuve said. “It’s neat to see (Victoria’s story) come full circle.”

Baytown Fire Department’s Lieutenant Lukasz Bednarek said the accident stands out in his memory.

“To hear she not only made it but is also pursuing a career in this makes it worthwhile to do what we do,” Bednarek said.

Duran is following in Bednarek and Kneuve’s footsteps since both completed San Jacinto College’s paramedic program more than a decade ago.

### The Accident

On Easter Sunday 2012, Duran, her mom, and sisters were heading to a family get-

**“This event is really what drew me to EMS. I wouldn’t be here walking and talking without these first responders. I would like to give back to someone else who could be in the same situation down the road.”**

together when a truck T-boned their SUV, slamming into the right backseat door where Duran sat. She was ejected from her seatbelt, and the SUV rolled several times. When first responders arrived, Easter baskets and smashed confetti eggs littered the highway and median.

Although her family had only minor bruises, Duran was bleeding internally and had broken almost everything on the right side of her body—jaw, arm, hip, and leg. Emergency responders rushed to stabilize her and move her to a safe area for Life Flight pick-up.

Between being hit and waking up in ICU with her mouth wired shut and her mom sitting beside her, Duran remembers nothing.

“When I was finally stable enough, my mom told me the damage that was done,” she said. “I wasn’t crying or complaining, just taking it in.”

Hospitalized for 23 days, she endured several surgeries, breathing treatments, and a skin graft. An outgoing cheerleader just weeks earlier, she left the hospital in a wheelchair, her mouth still wired shut.

Through physical therapy that spring and summer, Duran learned to walk, eat, and talk again. She also completed missed school assignments and finals so she could start her senior year on time. Her biggest recovery milestone, though, was returning

to varsity cheer as a flyer, the cheerleader lifted during stunts. She trusted only one other cheerleader to lift and catch her—her younger sister.

“I knew she wouldn’t let me fall,” Duran said.

### The Journey

Two days before the reunion, Duran celebrated her last accident-related medical appointment: dental implants. Despite 16 reconstructive surgeries and internal hardware, she has kept a positive attitude about the accident.

“This event is really what drew me to EMS,” she said. “I wouldn’t be here walking and talking without these first responders. I would like to give back to someone else who could be in the same situation down the road.”

As she anticipates earning her associate degree in EMS in 2021, she credits her thick skin and career passion to the journey she’s experienced.

“This is real life here. These men and women are risking their lives to save others’ lives,” Duran said. “It gives me strength to move on and attend my clinicals and appreciate everything I do. Schooling is tough, but I’m more than happy to be here and do this.” ■



**PARAMEDIC**

# San Jac Launches BSN Program for Fall 2020

By Courtney Morris

Are you a licensed registered nurse looking for more job stability, marketability, and professional growth? These perks await you in San Jacinto College's new Bachelor of Science in nursing (RN-to-BSN) program.

Beginning fall 2020 at the Central Campus, the BSN program will be the College's first baccalaureate degree. The BSN degree is becoming the most common route to enter nursing, and the new program is a cost-effective, convenient pathway to earn the credential.

The application period for the first cohort will be March 16 to June 30, 2020.

## Gateway to Opportunities

A nursing educator for more than 50 years, San Jacinto College is expanding its credentialing trajectory to meet today's need.

"At San Jac, associate degree nursing is our launching pad, not our landing pad," Dr. Veronica Jammer, RN-to-BSN department chair, said. "BSN is really the natural next step."

After earning their BSN degree, RNs will have more opportunities to specialize in advanced practice or leadership positions.

Not only will program graduates have better professional options, enhanced credibility, and increased earning potential, but they may also work in direct patient care, public health, inpatient/outpatient services, education, and management.

## Low Cost, High Quality

San Jacinto College's BSN classes will cost the same low tuition rate as the College's other credit courses. The hybrid program will build on working RNs' experience

through eight-week courses that combine in-person and distance learning.

"You are an ideal candidate for the BSN program if you are driven, already working in health care delivery, and want to make a greater impact," Dr. Jammer said.

The program will be learner-centered, engaging students through self-directed learning and appreciative inquiry. Faculty will concentrate on these concepts:

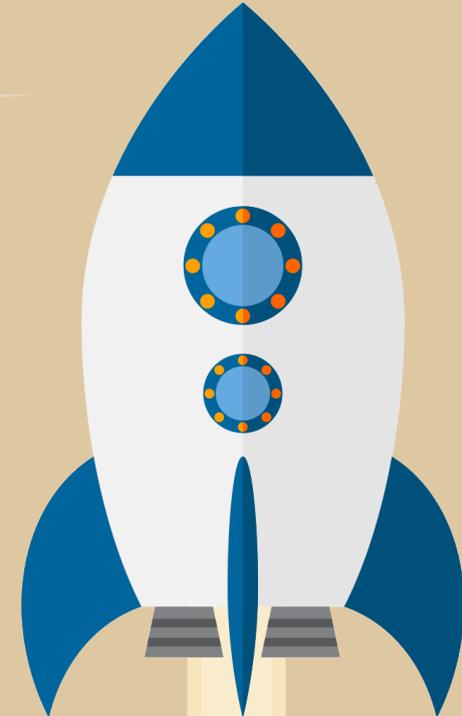
- Community health nursing
- Nursing research
- Public and global health policy
- Informatics
- Leadership

As a capstone project, the program will require students to determine a community health need, collect data, and design a project to meet that need.

## BSNs in High Demand

In 2010, an Institute of Medicine (IOM) report highlighted necessary changes so nurses could keep pace with the evolving health care industry. IOM recommended that 80 percent of RNs hold a BSN degree by 2020. In 2017, the Texas Legislature authorized community colleges to offer workforce-related bachelor's degree programs, including BSN.

Not only is nursing the largest health care profession in the U.S., but Texas and Houston boast some of the highest employment and pay rates for RNs nationwide. And demand is growing, especially for nurses with higher credentials. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, an estimated 44 percent of health care organizations require new nurses to hold a BSN degree.



Dr. Rhonda Bell, Central Campus dean of health and natural sciences, said San Jacinto College has always answered the call of area workforce needs. But the BSN team also designed the program to answer the call of busy RNs.

"Why would a student want to come to our program? It's because of how we've designed it," Dr. Bell said. "We're nurses. We know how it is to juggle families, school, and work. From the very beginning, we made sure not to lose that vision. We want the nurses in this community to have the opportunity to return to school, but we also want the school to meet them where they are."

## Apply Now

Applicants must have completed all bachelor's degree prerequisites to qualify for the first cohort in fall 2020. Although the program is designed for completion in one year, students who are interested in part-time status should contact the department chair.

Interested in applying for the BSN program? For prerequisites, admission requirements, and other information, visit [www.sanjac.edu/bsn](http://www.sanjac.edu/bsn) or email [sanjacbsn@sjcd.edu](mailto:sanjacbsn@sjcd.edu).

San Jacinto College's BSN program has received all required approvals from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Board of Nursing, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. ■

# Engaging the Next Generation of

# engineers

## Staff Spotlight: Dr. Connie Gomez



By Andrea Vasquez

Going above and beyond is second nature to engineering professor Dr. Connie Gomez. Whether it's staying late to offer tutoring, making time to mentor students, collaborating with other faculty to secure national grant funding for continued student research projects, or driving a College bus full of students to NASA Johnson Space Center, it's no surprise why Gomez was named San Jacinto College's 2019-2020 Minnie Stevens Piper nominee.

Since 1958, The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation has recognized outstanding professors from two- and four-year colleges and universities, both public and private. One of its biggest programs is the Piper Professor Program. Ten awards of \$5,000 are distributed annually to college professors for superior teaching. Nominations are based on submissions by each college or university in Texas.

"This is such an incredible honor," said Gomez. "All of our faculty do outstanding work and support our students as much as we can. I'm honored to be nominated and am lucky to work with such amazing peers whom I learn from as well."

Providing students with unique research opportunities is something Gomez is constantly curating. One of the College's annual STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) program highlights is the Undergraduate Research Symposium. The event allows STEM students to present their research to faculty, staff, students, and local educational and industry experts. Proving these opportunities is just one way

Gomez strives to prepare her engineering students, tailoring the project, teams, and research methods to the students' needs.

"Our Undergraduate Research Center provides students with a space to conduct their research and collaborate on other research projects so that they get university-level research experience at a community college," she said. "We know that a lot of our students are commuter students, so the traditional research and internship work experiences don't work for them. They have to work to afford tuition, in addition to their other life necessities, so a lot of our STEM faculty want to provide our students with opportunities to gain actual STEM research experience they can list on their resumes. Most of our faculty have research projects that our students assist with, while others offer literature research which is crucial to the entire process. These students also present their research, which allows them to hone their public speaking and presentation skills that will help them excel as professionals in their chosen STEM career fields."

Gomez also values mentorship and collaboration, giving back whenever and however she can. To date, she has mentored more than 50 students and 14 adjunct professors with no desire to stop any time soon. She frequently visits local high schools to give presentations on what the College's engineering program has to offer and what kinds of career opportunities are available in the engineering field. She is also involved in ongoing research collaborations with six other institutions for the joint partnership Wheels of Change grant awarded from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provides research opportunities for agricultural engineering sustainability.

"At the end of the day, it's so rewarding when I hear former students tell me how prepared they felt for their university engineering programs and the kinds of research, internship, and job opportunities they're getting. That tells me we're doing something right. We're preparing the next generation of innovators while we continue to be leaders in STEM education."

In addition to the annual Minnie Stevens Piper nominee, the College also has annual faculty and staff excellence awards. The recipients are:

### Faculty Excellence Award

**recipients:** Dr. Abbie Grubb, History Professor, South Campus, and Gail Mason, Department Chair of Business/Information Technology, North Campus

### Staff Excellence Award recipients:

Kathy Burris, Cosmetology Sr. Administrative Assistant, Central Campus; Dana Kostecka, Sr. Executive Assistant, Deputy Chancellor & President, District Office; and Mandi Reiland, Manager of Executive Operations for the Chancellor and Board of Trustees, District Office

### Administrator Excellence Award

**recipient:** Tanesha Antoine, Director of Educational Planning, Counseling, and Completion, District Office. ■

# College Opens New Welcome Center

By Andrea Vasquez

San Jacinto College Central Campus students will soon be able to access all student services under one roof—the new Central Campus Welcome Center.

Funded by the College's 2015 bond referendum of \$425 million, the 43,000-square-foot Welcome Center will serve as a central hub for student services, including educational planning, financial aid, enrollment services, business office, testing, orientation and campus tours, veteran services, and career services. The building will also have a new computer lab and multi-purpose room to host workshops, trainings, campus events, and meetings. The College's North and South Campuses currently have Welcome Centers, built in 2011 and 2012 respectively, as part of the College's 2008 bond referendum.

"This new Welcome Center will be a one-stop shop for our students to get all of the assistance they need to enroll and stay enrolled at San Jacinto College," said Van Wigginton, San Jacinto College Central Campus provost. "We are focused on removing barriers to student success, and this centralized location for student services

is just one of the ways we are ensuring that students have access to all of the essential enrollment and financial services they need to succeed in completing their associate degree or technical certificate."

San Jacinto College Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Services, Joanna Zimmermann, adds that the new Welcome Center will also serve as the "front door" of the campus.

"Having the Welcome Center as its own dedicated space in a more accessible area on campus will help new students find their starting point for enrollment and all other student services they'll need when they're here," said Zimmermann. "Prior to the new building, all of our student services were in different areas, some tucked away that were not easy to find. Now students will have a central location with parking available and a familiar place on campus they know they can always visit for student resources." ■

## Welcome Center

- Groundbreaking October 2018
- Opening spring 2020
- 43,000 square feet
- Student services housed:
  - Educational planning, counseling, and completion
  - Financial aid
  - Testing
  - Orientation and campus tours
  - Enrollment services
  - Veteran services
  - Career services
  - Business office



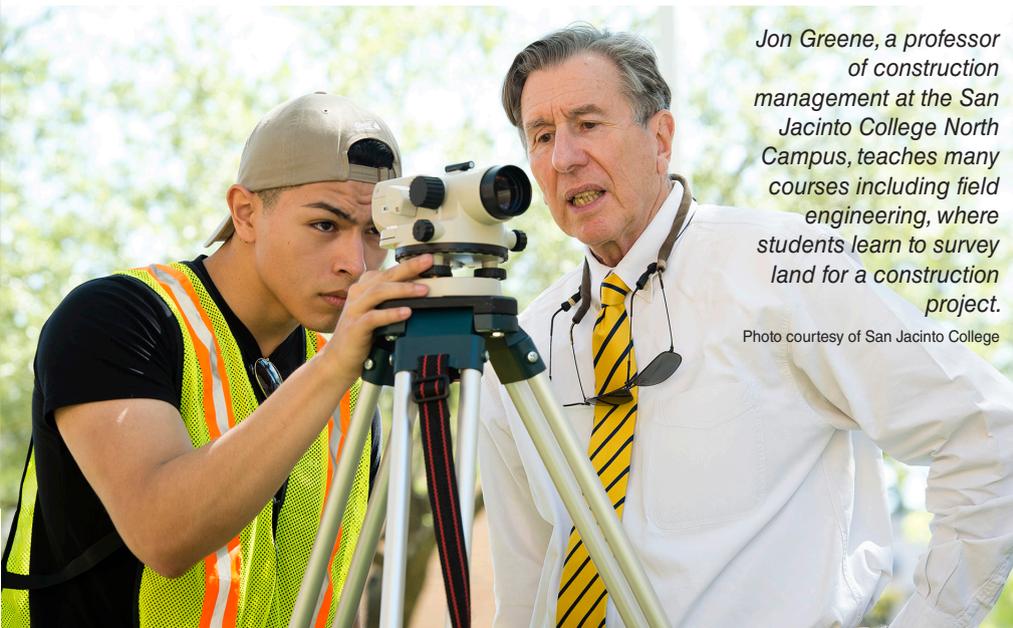
For more information on student services and resources, visit [sanjac.edu/student-services](http://sanjac.edu/student-services).

# Building Better Managers

## San Jacinto College Construction Management Technology

By Melissa Trevizo

The construction management technology program at San Jacinto College offers students the chance to work in the booming commercial and industrial construction industry. For alumnus Paul Bain, the program offered a second chance at finding his dream career.



*Jon Greene, a professor of construction management at the San Jacinto College North Campus, teaches many courses including field engineering, where students learn to survey land for a construction project.*

Photo courtesy of San Jacinto College

“I spent ten years as a public relations professional, working for companies and on my own,” Bain said. “I wasn’t happy, and I knew I had a knack for project management. San Jac was the perfect choice for me to change my career trajectory in a fiscally responsible and expedient way.”

Before applying to San Jacinto College, Bain visited Jon Greene, professor of construction management at the North Campus to talk about his options.

“I knew there were a few fields where project management is utilized the most: tech, oil and gas, and construction,” Bain said. “I didn’t think construction management was an option without a four-year degree.

Jon was truly interested in advising me and guiding me through the process.”

Greene, a retired civil engineer with 40 years of experience in construction and project management, strives to teach students all aspects of the construction industry and the projected job outcomes. In addition to a project manager, students can also work as an estimator, scheduler, or any other junior-level member of management.

“At San Jacinto College, we provide students a bigger picture of what the construction industry is, including trades that do the labor like welding and electrical to the trades that manage the labor like construction management,” said Greene. “It’s my job to teach the construction managers the hard

and soft skills they need to be successful from day one in the management team.”

During his time as a student, Bain also worked as an intern for Tellepsen during their work on the Lehr Library and the North Campus.

“I was walking to class one day, and I saw a Tellepsen sign go up on some new construction,” Bain said. “I asked Jon if they might need an intern, and he encouraged me to find out. I walked across the street right into the construction trailer and asked for an internship. They gave me the job, and I spent the rest of my semester learning construction hands-on.”

Bain, who has now worked for Tellepsen for five years as an estimator, has established a formal internship program with the company. Many of his interns still work on San Jacinto College construction projects today.

“Our interns are on their site nine out of 10 days,” Bain said. “On that 10th day, we take them to see different construction sites. We want to expose our students to as much construction as possible.”

The program offered at the San Jacinto College North Campus allows students to participate in the conceptual development and organization of a construction project, pricing and procurement, cost scheduling, and the overseeing of its organization, estimating, scheduling, and the implementation of the project. Students will

**“I didn’t think construction management was an option without a four-year degree. Jon was truly interested in advising me and guiding me through the process.”**

**Paul Bain, alumnus**

enter the construction industry and work in either industrial, commercial, residential, or heavy civil construction.

“What I love about the program at San Jacinto College is that the philosophy of what it means to be a leader is emphasized throughout the program,” Bain said. “Beyond the textbook, the program specifically spends time on making sure students understand the essence of what is being accomplished. Not just ‘this is the code; learn it.’ But also why is this code in place and how do you explain it to others?” ■

**To learn more about the construction management technology program, visit [www.sanjac.edu/construction-management-technology](http://www.sanjac.edu/construction-management-technology).**

# Continuing the College Mission

## Destry Dokes

By Andrea Vasquez

In fall 2020, San Jacinto College will open its new Generation Park Campus. At the helm will be Executive Director Dr. Destry Dokes. As the days near to its opening semester, Dr. Dokes discusses his leadership vision for the new campus.

"I'm looking forward to developing our fifth campus, along with an engaging culture that promotes the College's values, and encouraging an intentional focus on working with students, faculty, staff, ISDs, industry partners, and our community to advance San Jacinto College Generation Park as an educational campus of choice," said Dr. Dokes.

With more than 20 years of leadership experience in the medical and higher education administration sectors and a doctorate degree in business administration from Walden University, Dr. Dokes is no stranger to organizational leadership roles. Before his career in higher education, he served in administrative and operational roles in Houston's Medical Center. He

later joined Houston Community College (HCC), where he served as an advisor, interim president of HCC Northeast College, and Chief Operations Officer of HCC Northwest during his six years there. "I appreciated the chancellor's confidence in me to lead the college, which proved to be instrumental in preparing me for this new role at San Jacinto College."

As the Generation Park Campus executive director, Dr. Dokes believes that success is tied to experience from the moment students walk through the doors to the day their name is called at graduation. "If students have the best possible student experience from every step from the enrollment process to the faculty members teaching their classes, that creates advocates for San Jacinto College. They will encourage their friends and family members to join in that success and accomplish their own goals, and that is something that perpetuates the College's mission of committing to opportunities that enrich the quality of life in the communities we serve."

Leading the new San Jacinto College Generation Park Campus along with Dr. Dokes will be Dr. Kelly Mizell, director of instructional services, and Sonia Townsend, director of student support services. Together they will open the new \$26 million, 57-acre campus with an initial 55,000-square-foot facility that will house general education and academic classes, focused on the educational needs of students looking to transfer to four-



year colleges and universities. The College's Generation Park Campus has a projected enrollment of more than 3,000 students for its inaugural semester in fall 2020.

"Students attending the Generation Park campus can expect to experience a beautiful campus specifically designed around student engagement, student services, academic learning, and training needs," said Dr. Dokes.

Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor, adds that the new campus facility will continue the College's global reputation as a leader in workforce training.

"San Jacinto College is proud to be part of this rapidly growing area, and we are positioned to serve the needs of the northern part of our taxing district," said Dr. Hellyer. "We look forward to serving the surrounding area by being an academic transfer partner and a resource for workforce training." ■

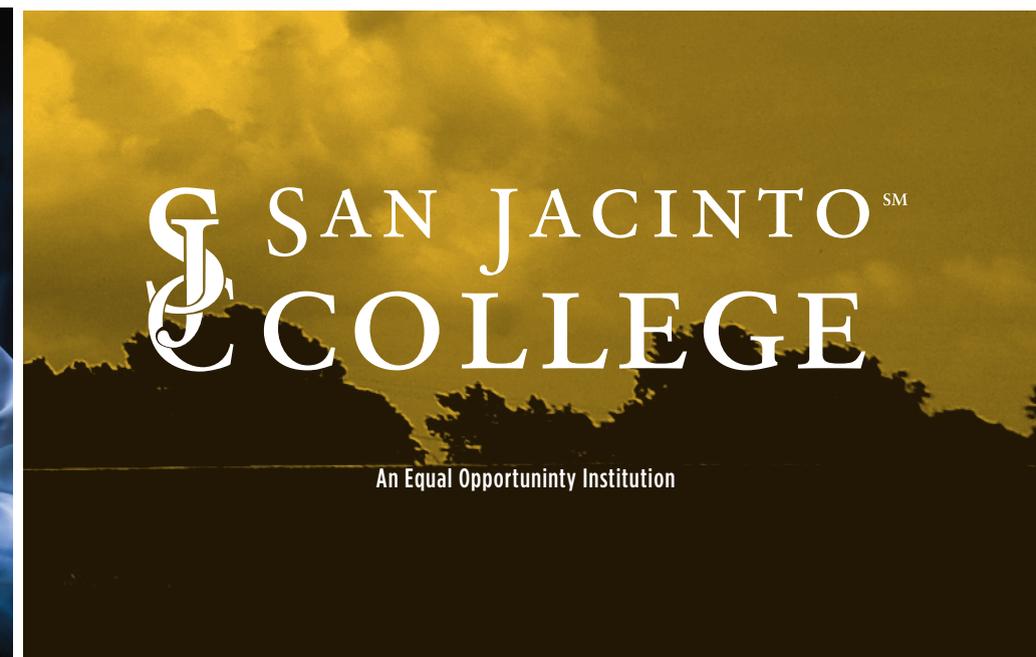




2019 **SAN JACINTO COLLEGE**  
**REPORT** TO THE  
**COMMUNITY**

The College celebrates a successful year and looks forward to a new decade. Learn more about the highlights and accomplishments of 2019 by visiting

[sanjac.edu/report-community](http://sanjac.edu/report-community)





# Campus Culture Bringing Art to Life



By Melissa Trevizo

Gallery curator and art professor Bradly Brown hopes to see the San Jacinto College South Campus 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 U.S., including many by San Jacinto College’s own students.

“Our space is more than 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.”

One of the gallery’s latest exhibits, Golf Coast, brought Houston’s bayou system indoors and transformed the entire gallery into a seven-hole mini-golf course. The piece incorporated works from contributing artists Gao Hang, Iva Kinnaird, and Gregory Ruppe, as well as San Jac students.

Community members and patrons were also encouraged not only to play through the exhibit but to contribute to

the art by creating their own pieces at a maker station. The interactive exhibit saw more than 800 visitors, making it the most well-attended exhibit to date.

Exhibits like this keep patrons coming back.

“I saw the event on Facebook and thought it would be fun,” said Kim Bauman, Pearland resident. “I love to be creative, and this was the perfect opportunity. We’ve come to the South Gallery’s exhibits before, and I think we’ll be back again.”

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 how to 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.” ■



# Entrepreneurial Spirit

## Forging your own path

By Andrea Vasquez

Being your own boss is a dream for many but not for Samantha Wishlinski. The San Jacinto College business entrepreneur alumna always knew she would run a business of her own, taking after her mother. Today she owns and operates her organic bath and body products company, Sam Wish.

“My mother ran her own painting business and always inspired me to follow my passions and make a living from my craft,” said Wishlinski, who graduated from the program in fall 2013.

Wishlinski says that owning a business simply starts with an idea. After that, the technical, legal, and financial aspects of building that business may not come as easily to new business owners ready to launch their goods or services.

“I consider myself to be pretty creative-minded, so basic business courses like accounting, website design, and even technical writing were super helpful for me to learn the backend part of running a creative business,” she said.

From selling her products online and at small craft markets to expanding to stores across Texas and having her own brick-and-mortar space at Caravan Co-op in Austin, Wishlinski says that San Jac’s business entrepreneur program helped her create a holistic business plan to ensure her creativity merged with business savvy.

“The business entrepreneur program provided me with the skills I needed to forge a path for my own business and absolutely helped with the



overwhelming task of creating it all on my own,” she said.

While deciding to start your own business is a personal and professional leap on so many levels, Wishlinski says that faith and determination are key to staying the course.

“Being an entrepreneur is hugely a matter of willpower and just simply the courage to keep working at your dreams,” she said. “I’ve faced so many challenges like down seasons or changing cities where business drastically slowed down, and I was left to wonder if it would ever pick back up again. But I think that as long as you have faith in yourself and the courage and determination to keep putting one foot in front of the other, things always turn out in the end.” ■

Photos by Andrea Vasquez, San Jacinto College



**“My mother ran her own painting business and always inspired me to follow my passions and make a living from my craft.”**

## Business Management - Entrepreneur

- Available Credentials: Associate of Applied Science, Level 2 Certificate, and Certificate of Technology
- Campuses: Central, North, and South
- Credit Hours: Associate of Applied Science (60), Level 2 Certificate (45), and Certificate of Technology (30)
- Courses (Reflecting the Associate of Applied Science):
  - Introduction to Accounting I
  - Business Computer Applications
  - Communications in Management
  - Principles of Management
  - Human Relations
  - Introduction to Computerized Accounting
  - Small Business Management
  - Principles of Selling
  - Employment Practices
  - Negotiations and Conflict Management
  - Payroll and Business Tax Accounting
  - E-Commerce Marketing
  - Cooperative Education - Business Administration and Management, General Leadership
  - Small Business Financing
  - English Composition I
  - Contemporary Mathematics (Quantitative Reasoning or higher) or College Algebra
  - Principles of Microeconomics or General Psychology
  - Business and Professional Speech
  - One elective: Art Appreciation, Music Appreciation, or Introduction to Philosophy

# Virtual Internships

By Courtney Morris

James “J.D.” Isaacks is proof life doesn’t have to follow a certain trajectory.

In fact, the recent San Jacinto College alumnus took a reverse route: he worked in the computer programming industry before getting schooled in the industry. Isaacks already owned two application development companies before he stepped into the College’s admissions office.

While a San Jacinto College student, he began offering virtual internships to his peers through his company Rogue Dev Studios (RDS), LLC. In 2018, he earned his associate degree in computer science.

Despite this non-traditional timeline, one thing is certain about Isaacks: his passion for sharing his industry experience. Now both a virtual internship provider and computer information technology (CIT) adjunct faculty member at the South Campus, he introduces budding programmers and developers to higher-level concepts that make bachelor’s degree courses seem like review.

“I strive to make a classroom environment that feels more like an indy development company than a college classroom,” he said.

While Isaacks studied at the College, Pamela Betts, computer science/CIT professor, saw his extensive experience in the gaming industry, technical tests, alphas, and betas.

Betts’ idea: What about creating virtual internships for other students through RDS? Students could connect with industry in the classroom to accelerate their learning. For someone who gamed more for the technical thrill of breaking the programs and reporting bugs than for entertainment, Isaacks was up for the challenge.

“This internship is completed almost entirely in the classroom, and participation replaces project grades in the course,” said Isaacks, who serves as both project manager



## Helping Students Level Up

and lead developer for students over a 16-week semester.

Now that Isaacks teaches at the College, the virtual internships run in other CIT instructors’ classrooms. Taking on actual clients, the interns have access to RDS’s resources and staff and follow the company’s code standards and operating procedures. The experience builds teamwork, pacing, project management, and other soft skills.

For one ongoing project, students helped create the Universal Authorized Report Generator, a tax reporting software framework, for the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission(UTC).

Former virtual intern Gabriel Rosales contributed to the original team of about seven students. Now a software developer, he still refers back to the code problem solving and teamwork skills he gained in the internship.

“It’s been a huge part of my career so far. The internship taught us a lot from an educational standpoint and a business standpoint,” Rosales said. “I still use those practices now.”

Picking up from another group, intern John Mai and his classmates worked on the backbone of the software. He described it as a fast-paced, learning-charged environment.

“It brought a whole breadth of information than I’d ever had before —brought [industry and] academics together,” Mai said. “I was learning things that I would learn in later courses.”

The interns have condensed thousands of Excel spreadsheets into a single automated report system for the UTC accounting team.

“We have taken associate-level students through several master-level concepts and created something unique in the computer science field: a brand-new data structure,” Isaacks said.

With these achievements comes a huge time commitment: Isaacks can spend 60 hours a week assisting virtual interns, in addition to pursuing his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering and teaching Game and Simulation Programming I and Object-Oriented Design/Game Design at the College.

He jokingly “blames” Betts not only for pitching the internship idea but also for roping him into teaching.

“While it started with the internships, we have been collaborating for the last two years to completely overhaul computer science courses. It has been a great partnership, combining my up-to-date industry experience with her 20-plus years of academic teaching,” he said.

Above all else, Isaacks encourages students to make the leap from acquiring classroom knowledge to tackling projects.

“Do something—almost anything—but do something. Our industry is about two things really: what you can show and how you interact,” he said. “A person with soft skills and projects to show can get a good job with just an associate degree.” ■

Photos by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

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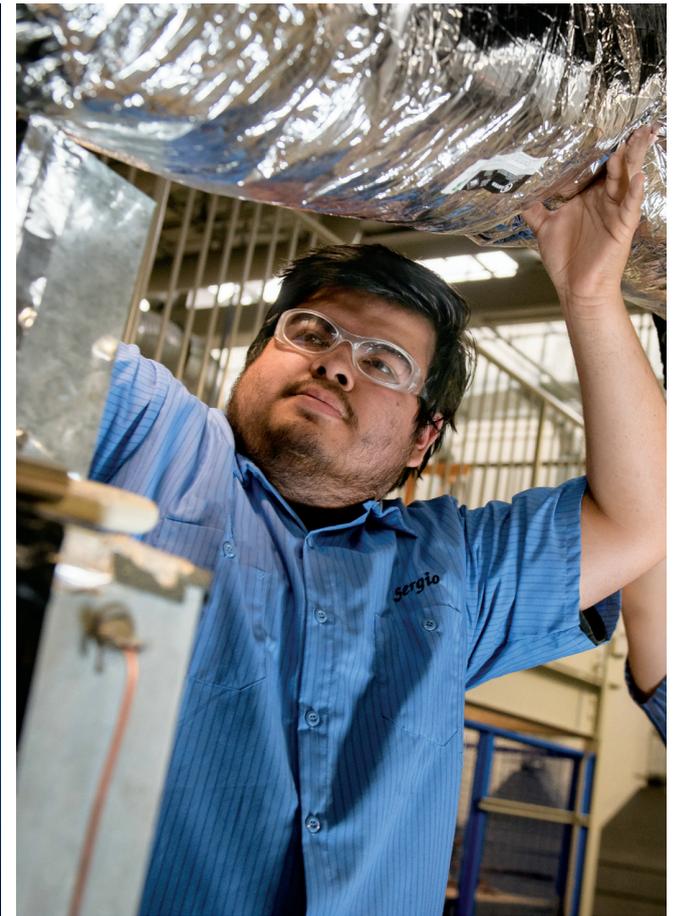
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WELDING





# PIPEFITTING

*By Melissa Trevizo*

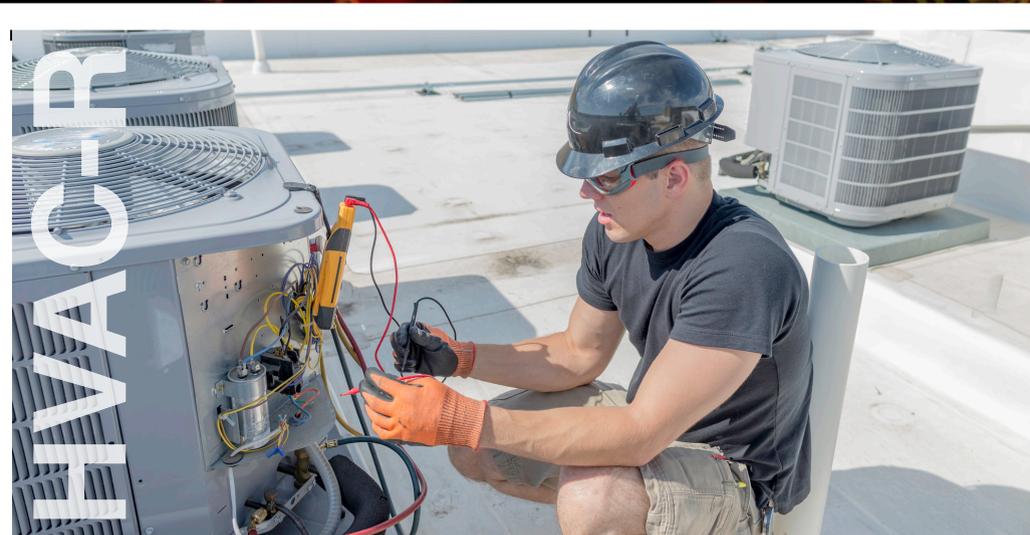
The industrial workforce continues to employ a large portion of today's working population in areas such as construction and manufacturing technologies.

Whether you need to prepare for a career, upgrade current job-related skills, or learn a new skill, the San Jacinto College Continuing and Professional Development Applied Technology and Trades Division offers courses and programs for a number of industrial professions taught by instructors who are experts in their field.

Enroll in one of 23 hands-on trade courses in areas like automotive body collision, construction, diesel, electrical/electronics, HVAC/refrigeration, and welding.

San Jacinto College offers seven manufacturing training stations, most of which are computer-generated. The stations emphasize robotics, electrical, and quality control.

In welding, electrical, and pipefitting, San Jacinto College serves as an NCCER accredited training and assessment location, which means the instructors are of the highest competency and skill level.



To learn more about the applied trades from the San Jacinto College Continuing and Professional Development program, visit [www.sanjac.edu/our-programs/continuing-professional-development/workforce-development-job-training/applied](http://www.sanjac.edu/our-programs/continuing-professional-development/workforce-development-job-training/applied).

# 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 explore new opportunities.

With eight career pathways, you may not only equip yourself with the training and tools to succeed in a career but also 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 your focus, 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. ■



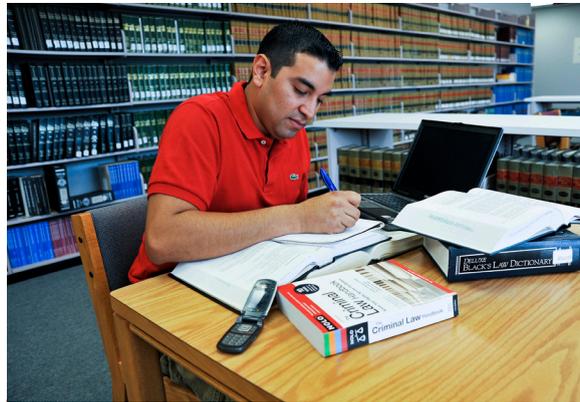
## Art, Humanities, Communication, and Design

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.....	\$36,117
Choreographer .....	\$61,813
Editor.....	\$66,528
Film and Video Editor.....	\$46,449
Graphic Designer.....	\$45,612
Interior Designer.....	\$54,114
Multimedia Artist and Animator.....	\$57,651
Musicians and Singers.....	\$22.60** per hour
Public Relations Specialist.....	\$58,222
Sound Engineering Technician.....	\$64,669



## Business

Accounting  
Business Administration  
Business Management  
Business Office Systems and Support  
Economics  
Entrepreneur  
Long Term Care Administration  
Paralegal  
Real Estate

### Career opportunities

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

Accountant and Auditor .....	\$76,309
Budget Analyst .....	\$80,417
Credit Analyst .....	\$69,068
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants .....	\$60,755
Financial Analyst.....	\$87,552
Paralegal and Legal Assistant.....	\$54,768
Real Estate Sales Agent.....	\$67,455



## Construction, Industry Manufacturing, and 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 Global Logistics  
and Supply Chain Management Instrumentation  
Maritime Transportation  
Non-destructive Testing  
Pipefitting  
Process Technology  
Welding Technology

### Career opportunities

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

API Inspector.....	\$145,622^^
Automotive Body and Related Repairer.....	\$38,540
Automotive Service Technician and Mechanic.....	\$39,550
Captains, Mates, and Pilots.....	\$118,709
Chemical Plant and Systems Operators.....	\$71,453
Electrician.....	\$55,448
Environmental Science and Protection Technician, Including Health .....	\$40,913
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanic and Installer.....	\$48,779
Helper – Electrician .....	\$30,609
Helper – Plumber, Pipefitter, and Steamfitter .....	\$35,642
Medical Equipment Repairer .....	\$42,161
NDT Technician Level I .....	\$71,884^^
NDT Technician Level II .....	\$101,397^^
NDT Technician Level III.....	\$125,699^^
Occupational Health and Safety Technician .....	\$53,314
Plant and Systems Operators (all others).....	\$41,236
Plumber, Pipefitter, and Steamfitter.....	\$53,243
Sailors and Marine Oilers.....	\$36,201
Welder, Cutter, Solderer, and Brazier .....	\$47,979



## 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) .....	\$58,009
Secondary School Teacher (except Special Ed) .....	\$59,525
Education Administrator, Preschool, and Child Care Center.....	\$42,961
Preschool Teacher .....	\$26,840
Child Care Workers .....	\$21,396



## Health Sciences

Cancer Data Management  
Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
Emergency Medical Services  
Eye Care Technology  
Health Information Management  
Medical Assisting  
Medical Billing  
Medical Coding  
Medical Laboratory Technology  
Medical Radiography  
Mental Health Services  
Nursing  
Occupational Therapy Assistant  
Personal Trainer  
Pharmacy Technician  
Physical Therapist Assistant  
Respiratory Care  
Surgical Technician

### Career opportunities

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

Athletic Trainer .....	\$59,824
Certified Ophthalmic Assistant.....	\$51,032 <sup>^^^</sup>
Certified Ophthalmic Technician.....	\$41,268 <sup>^^^</sup>
Certified Tumor Registrar .....	\$53,296 <sup>^^^</sup>
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer.....	\$72,455
Emergency Medical Technician.....	\$34,456
Environmental Science and Protection Technician, Including Health .....	\$40,913
Medical Assistant.....	\$32,445
Medical Records and Health Information Technician.....	\$42,515
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Worker .....	\$43,896
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) .....	\$47,758
Fitness Trainers.....	\$35,732
Pharmacy Technician .....	\$34,776
Physical Therapist Assistant.....	\$72,842
Radiologic Technologist.....	\$64,492
Registered Nurse .....	\$79,507
Respiratory Therapist.....	\$59,927
Surgical Technologist.....	\$53,692



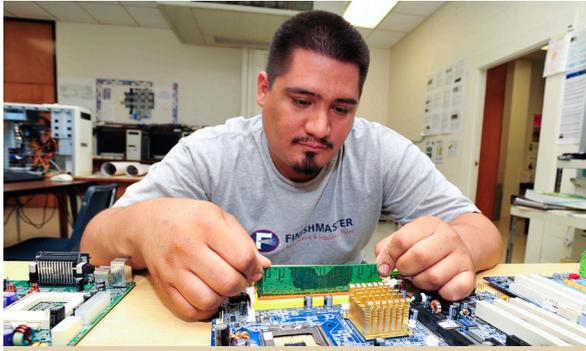
## Public Safety and Human/Consumer Services

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).....	\$40,953
Correctional Officers and Jailers.....	\$42,621
Food Service Manager .....	\$60,036
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists.....	\$20,981
Massage Therapist.....	\$35,302
Firefighter .....	\$51,734
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers.....	\$62,648
Private Detectives and Investigators .....	\$52,509
Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists .....	\$44,526
Skin Care Specialists (Esthetician).....	\$19,540



### Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

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

#### Career opportunities

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

Accountant and Auditor .....	\$76,309
Agricultural and Food Science Technicians .....	\$47,505
Chemical Engineer .....	\$137,233
Chemists .....	\$90,215
Civil Engineer .....	\$106,006
Computer Network Support Specialist .....	\$76,184
Computer Programmer .....	\$89,024
Database Administrators .....	\$95,250
Desktop Publisher .....	\$39,929
Drafter .....	\$45,805
Environmental Engineer .....	\$106,637
Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, Including Health .....	\$40,913
Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health .....	\$83,739
Geological and Petroleum Technicians .....	\$60,275
Information Security Analyst .....	\$101,382
Mechanical Drafter .....	\$66,592
Mechanical Engineer .....	\$98,761
Network and Computer Systems Administrator .....	\$93,294
Physicists .....	\$99,556
Software Developers (Applications) .....	\$108,408
Software Developers (Systems Software) .....	\$102,435
Web Developer .....	\$74,533



### Social and Behavioral Science

- Anthropology
- Government
- History
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Sociology

#### Career opportunities

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

Psychologists .....	\$109,609
Philosophy and Religion Teachers, Postsecondary .....	\$80,091
Anthropologists and Archeologists .....	\$85,882
Political Scientists .....	\$93,683
Sociology Teachers, Postsecondary .....	\$79,570
Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists .....	\$68,865
Counselors .....	\$61,949
Mental Health Counselors .....	\$54,018
Museum Technicians and Conservators .....	\$37,016
Social Science Research Assistants .....	\$42,538

\* Salary source: texaswages.com, Gulf Coast Region, 2018 Annual WDA Wages \*\* Salary source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Noncredit Classes for Professional and Life Long Learners

Whether you're preparing for a career or picking up a new hobby, the San Jacinto College Continuing and Professional Development (CPD) division offers a variety of noncredit courses for workforce training and lifelong learning. The division's workforce area offers courses that keep workers up to date on the latest technologies in industries 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, but many participants find enjoyment by picking up new skills they've been eager to learn. CPD also offers lifelong learning courses to promote leisure learning and to help people extend their horizons. To learn 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, and Robotics Health Occupations
- Maritime

#### Corporate Training and Consulting

- Task/Job/Organizational Performance Analysis
- Training Needs/Gap Analysis
- Measuring Training Effectiveness and ROI
- Implementing Effective On-the-Job Training
- Apprenticeships
- Transitioning Training from a Functional Unit to a Business Unit Train-the-Trainer for Regulatory Compliance
- Strategies for Selecting, Training, and Qualifying Shift/Relief Supervisors
- Approaches to Team Training and Diagnostics
- Organizational and Human Performance Needs Assessments

#### Community Programs

- Aerospace Education and Workforce Education
- Life Long Learning
- Youth Programs

#### Grants

- Adult Education and Literacy
- DOL H1B Ready to Work Petrochem Grant
- Health Career Pathways Partnership Grant
- TPEG
- TWC Business Funding Opportunities

^^ Salary source: PQNDT 2018 Salary Survey

^^^ Salary source: Payscale, Houston Region



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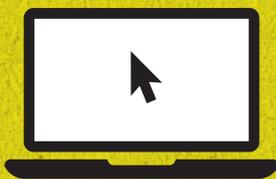


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