

OPPORTUNITY

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NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

Harrison, Wilson claim trustee seats

Official results have been reported for the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees election, with voters selecting Judith Harrison for Position 3 with 51.42% of the vote and re-electing Larry Wilson to Position 4 with 60.77% of the vote.

Harrison, a former faculty member, brings four decades of San Jac experience to the Board. Wilson, who has served on the Board for the past 18 years, will continue in his role with his seasoned leadership and institutional knowledge.

Trustees set policies and ensure the College meets the community's educational and workforce needs. They play an essential role in supporting student success, approving budgets, and overseeing College growth and development.

Each elected position carries a six-year term. Wilson was sworn in on June 2, and Harrison on June 17.

Aspen Institute recognizes San Jac as Finalist with Distinction

The Aspen Institute named San Jacinto College a Finalist with Distinction for the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, ranking the institution as one of the top community colleges in the nation, out of more than 1,100 community colleges.

Aspen recognized San Jac's commitment to helping students succeed through strong onboarding,

advising, and clear transfer pathways. A key workforce training partner, the College also tailors programs to Gulf Coast industry needs.

The 2025 Aspen Prize results are as follows:

- **2025 Aspen Prize Winner:** Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
- **Finalists with Distinction:** San Jacinto College and South Puget Sound Community College
- **Rising Star:** Wallace State Community College-Hanceville
- **Finalists:** Georgia Highlands College, Moorpark College, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Northwest Vista College, Seminole State College of Florida, and Union College

Ravens softball, baseball reflect on year of growth and change

The San Jacinto College Ravens softball team secured a third-place conference finish, qualifying for the 2025 National Junior College Athletic Association Region XIV South Division tournament. The team demonstrated remarkable perseverance throughout its 2025 campaign, ending with an overall record of 26-31.

Lineup flexibility became a necessity as the team navigated player injuries throughout the season.

"I'm incredibly proud of the entire team for overcoming numerous obstacles throughout the season," Kelly Saenz, head coach, said. "Our sophomores showed leadership in a variety of ways, and our freshmen rose to the occasion, contributing to all areas."

The season featured a significant

achievement for Saenz, who reached her 800th career victory with a win over Lamar State College-Port Arthur. In postseason play, the Ravens' tournament run ultimately came to an end but not without a fight.

"While the season may not have gone exactly as we hoped, it provided valuable lessons in determination and many other qualities that we all took to heart," said Saenz.

The Ravens baseball team concluded its 2025 regular season play with an overall record of 39-15 and a conference record of 27-8, before sweeping the NJCAA Region XIV South Division tournament at Bossier Parish Community College.

The team's turning point came early in conference play when it swept Galveston College, igniting a remarkable 22-3 run. This dominant stretch showcased both the team's tenacity and growing confidence as players settled into their roles.

"We are a sophomore-led team, and the chemistry has always been solid," said Eric Weaver, head coach. "It took time to figure out which players fit best



Photo by Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

in certain roles within the pitching staff and the lineup. It is always night and day comparing August to May."

The Ravens' season reached its finale at the NJCAA Region XIV super regional tournament, where players battled against Blinn College.

"I'm extremely proud of our players and staff, just two wins shy of a World Series berth," Weaver said. "I can't thank our sophomores enough for the leadership and legacy they leave behind. For our returning freshmen, I look forward to building off this year."

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac athletics.



Photo courtesy of Janna Martin

SAN JAC HONORED WITH EDUCATION CHAMPION AWARD

By Jacquelynn Conger
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

San Jacinto College has been awarded the Education Champion Award as a part of the 41st annual Governor's Volunteer Awards.

This award honors the College's commitment to service learning and its impactful community service initiatives that provide students with hands-on experiences while benefiting the local community. The volunteer awards are presented by OneStar Foundation in partnership with the Office of the Texas Governor.

Service learning addresses community needs while offering students opportunities to apply their knowledge in real-world settings. One of the College's most impactful initiatives is the See to Succeed eye care clinic, a collaborative effort with the Houston Health Department that provides vision care for students in Pasadena Independent School District.

Each year, San Jac eye care technology program students assist with exams, guide children in selecting frames, and help process prescriptions. More than 1,000 students receive comprehensive eye exams, with hundreds of glasses prescriptions filled.

"Service learning transforms both our students' educational experiences and the lives of those in our community," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Chancellor.

"Through projects like See to Succeed and many others, our students gain valuable hands-on skills while making a real difference. We are honored to receive the Education Champion Award and remain committed to fostering civic engagement and academic excellence."

Since 2013, San Jac has embedded service learning into various academic programs, offering students opportunities to participate in projects that range from environmental conservation efforts with the biology department to historical oral history projects conducted by the history department.

The English department's writing project, launched in 2022, has engaged students in addressing social isolation among seniors by sending nearly 8,000 handwritten cards to adult-living facilities statewide.

Hosted by Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott, the Governor's Volunteer Awards recognize outstanding individuals and organizations that have significantly contributed to their communities through volunteerism and service. San Jac's selection as the Education Champion Award recipient highlights its dedication to fostering student engagement, civic responsibility, and workforce readiness.

San Jac eye care technology students continued their tradition of service in February 2025, when they volunteered at the See to Succeed clinic, further

demonstrating their commitment to education, health care, and community impact.

For more information about San

Jac's service learning initiatives, visit sanjac.edu. To learn more about the Governor's Volunteer Awards, visit onestarfoundation.org.



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College



Photo courtesy of OneStar Foundation

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
Throughout July	Summer camps for kids/teens	Varies	Register at sanjac.edu/summer-camps
July 7	Second 5-week term begins	Varies	All campuses and online
July 9, 17, & 24	Center for Entrepreneurship Financial Literacy Series	7-8 p.m.	Generation Park Campus / Contact sjc.cfe@sjcd.edu
Aug. 11	Summer hours end		Administrative offices return to regular business hours
Aug. 18	Fall classes begin	Varies	All campuses and online

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

HATS OFF TO CLASS OF 2025

By Neesha Hosein and Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Cheers erupted from the NRG Stadium stands and floor May 16 as San Jacinto College certified its spring 2025 graduates.

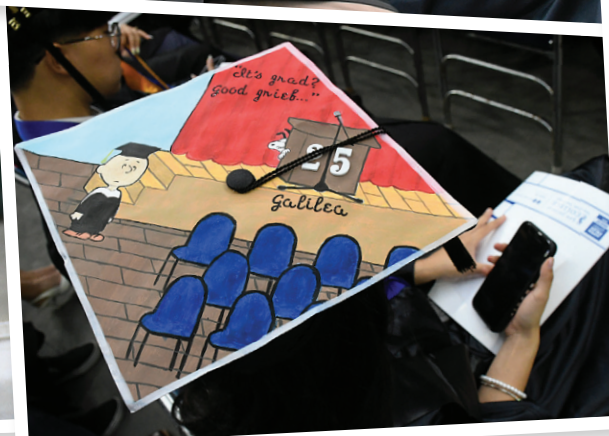
Approximately 2,900 San Jac students earned certificates and associate degrees, with 1,900 walking across the stage to accept their diplomas. The ceremony marked new beginnings for many — from parents seeking better careers to support their families to dual credit graduates getting a head start on their college journey.

Scan the QR code to view more graduation photos.



Spring commencement by the numbers:

- Veteran graduates: 61
- Dual credit graduates: 1,068
- Age range of grads: 16-70 years old



WHAT IS BIOTECHNOLOGY? SAN JAC PROGRAMS OFFER HANDS-ON LEARNING

By **Neesha Hosein**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

As Houston's biotechnology sector grows, so does the need for trained technicians.

The term "biotechnology" may sound complex, but San Jacinto College offers students a new way to look at biology, providing hands-on training for careers in biomanufacturing and lab environments — no advanced science background required.

Biotechnology is the use of biological systems and living organisms to develop useful products, including those that improve human health, with applications ranging from medications like Ozempic to advanced treatments such as chimeric antigen receptor or CAR T-cell therapy. The College program emphasizes practical techniques rather theory, preparing students to work behind the scenes in sterile, highly regulated environments.

"It's amazing that we can use cells to grow proteins of interest for patients who need it," said Kevin Rodriguez, biotechnology instructor at the South Campus. "This is where patients battling a disease like cancer can have their own immune cells reprogrammed to fight the disease in a targeted fashion, unlike chemotherapy, which is known to have a lot of side effects."

It's all about how to use what is known

about the natural world and apply these concepts to helping people.

Turning science into treatment

Biomanufacturing technicians play a crucial role in producing vaccines, cell therapies, and other biologic treatments used in modern medicine.

Technicians help manufacture personalized therapies without direct patient contact, making this field ideal for those who want to make a meaningful impact without working in traditional clinical roles.

"The people who do the best are those who truly feel a calling to help someone, whether it's cancer, vaccines, or immunocompromised patients, among other things," Rodriguez said. "A lot of our students are realizing a career in science is actually more attainable than they thought. You don't have to be proficient in science. We can help with that. We teach in a way that makes it easy to understand."

Supply and demand mean career growth opportunities

"The Texas Medical Center makes Houston a huge draw for this field," Rodriguez said. "Most companies that manufacture these types of drugs or products want to come to Houston to be close to the thousands of patients who travel to the medical center every day

from around the world."

Biomanufacturing facilities located nearby can reduce wait times significantly for patients who need time-sensitive treatments. When therapies like cell or gene treatments are made locally, they don't need to be shipped long distances in specialized containers via air or ground. Local production also reduces the chances of delays, storage temperature fluctuations, or logistical issues during transport.

The work environment is comparable to that of a surgical technician, requiring sterile or secured clean-room areas with multiple layers of protection that are required to safeguard against microbes.

Start fresh or build on existing knowledge

San Jac's biotechnology program accommodates various levels of learners.

Beginners and those who are pursuing or already have higher degrees in biotechnology can obtain hands-on experience outside of academic studies, maximizing workplace readiness.

Scan the QR code to learn more about degrees and certificates in biotechnology.



Photo courtesy by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College



REGISTER NOW

FALL CLASSES START AUG. 18

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MORE**



Photo courtesy by San Jacinto College

SHIFT GEARS INTO A NEW CAREER: SAN JAC'S TRUCK DRIVING PROGRAM

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

With a national driver shortage and transportation jobs growing steadily, San Jacinto College is preparing students for rewarding careers on the road with hands-on, industry-aligned training that leads to commercial driving credentials and in-demand positions.

San Jac's professional truck driver program prepares students for the Class A Commercial Driver's License exam through a comprehensive two-course curriculum. The program offers flexible scheduling, with day classes running Monday through Thursday for six weeks or weekend classes on Saturdays and Sundays for 12 weeks to accommodate working professionals.

Students complete approximately 300 miles of hands-on, behind-the-wheel driving across various terrains and traffic conditions. The curriculum covers critical skills:

- Operating manual transmission semi-trucks
- Trip planning
- Texas Department of Transportation regulations
- Maneuvers like backing, turning, and parking

Graduates receive both an occupational certificate and Department of Transportation certification.

"The full cost of the course is around \$4,300," said Tony Rich, CPD applied technology and trades director. "You can be out and working in a matter of weeks and start out making \$50,000 a year. That makes a great investment."

The timing couldn't be better to break into the transportation industry. Employment for heavy diesel and tractor-trailer truck drivers could grow 6% from 2020 to 2030, with approximately 231,100 job openings annually over the next decade.

With a Class A CDL, graduates can work as a commercial truck driver, long-haul cargo driver, hazmat driver, delivery driver, heavy equipment operator, or dispatcher.

San Jac has invested in innovative training technology, including the Virage Simulation VS600M driving simulator to enhance the program. This advanced system features a 180-degree forward field of view and high-resolution LCD screens with rearview mirrors, simulating virtually any heavy vehicle — from dump trucks to school buses.



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

"This technology allows our students more practice time mastering maneuvers like backing, parking, and shifting in a virtual setting before hitting the road," said Rich. "Over 75% of our classes are devoted to actual behind-the-wheel training. This gives our students a huge advantage as they start their careers."

Students may also qualify for free

tuition through programs such as the Texas Public Education Grant and partnerships with organizations like Volunteers of America. Eligibility includes residing in Harris County, holding a GED or high school diploma, and meeting specific financial or employment conditions.

Scan the QR code for more information.



Photo by Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

Why Become a Truck Driver?

- **Job Security and Demand:** The trucking industry consistently needs drivers, with ongoing demand for freight transportation nationwide. This ensures stable, recession-resistant employment.
- **Independence and Travel:** Truck driving offers significant autonomy. For the most part, you are your own boss on the road, managing your schedule and routes. Long-haul drivers get to see new parts of the country as part of their job.
- **Flexible Schedules:** Many truck drivers set their own schedules, offering better work-life balance. You can choose day or night shifts, weekdays or weekends — making it ideal for those seeking flexibility outside a traditional office job.

THIS MONTH *IN* SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook

Big news! San Jacinto College has been named a 2025 Governor's Volunteer Award winner.

San Jac was recognized for its commitment to service learning and community service initiatives that provide students with hands-on experiences while benefiting the local community.



117 Reactions | 9 Comments | 3,673 Impressions | 671 Engagements



Instagram

This is no joke! Future Promise Scholars have until April 30 to get their financial aid application in to remain eligible for the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship. Don't delay — get your application in today!



284 Likes | 13,305 Impressions | 378 Engagements

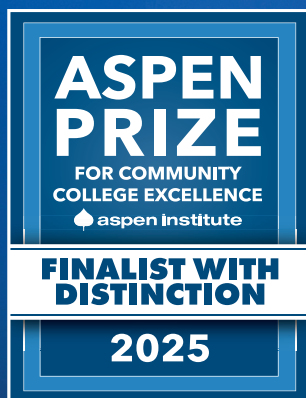


LinkedIn

Happy to announce that San Jacinto College has been named a Finalist with Distinction for the Aspen Prize! Help us celebrate by showing your support for San Jac as a top 3 community college in the nation!



271 Reactions | 226 Post-Link Clicks
 6,982 Impressions | 566 Engagements



YOUR GOALS. YOUR COLLEGE.



SAN JACINTO COLLEGESM

NORTH CAMPUS

5800 Uvalde Rd., Houston, TX 77049

CENTRAL CAMPUS

8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505

SOUTH CAMPUS

13735 Beamer Rd., Houston, TX 77089

MARITIME CAMPUS

3700 Old Hwy. 146, La Porte, TX 77571

GENERATION PARK CAMPUS

13455 Lockwood Rd., Houston, TX 77044

ONLINE

sanjac.edu/online

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San Jacinto College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Learn more at sanjac.edu/accreditation.

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VISION & MISSION



Vision — San Jacinto College will advance the social and economic mobility of all members of our community. We will be known for our excellence in teaching and learning, our intentional student-centered support, and our commitment to every student. We will be the preferred workforce and economic development partner in the region and a champion for lifelong learning. San Jacinto College will inspire students to explore opportunities, define their educational and career paths, and achieve their goals and dreams.

Mission — San Jacinto College is focused on student success, academic progress, university transfer, and employment. We are committed to opportunities that enrich the quality of life in the communities we serve.

SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



A gift to the San Jacinto College Foundation transforms lives, enriches our community, and provides tomorrow's community leaders. For more than 25 years, the Foundation has helped thousands of students reach their goals. Our former students and graduates have filled vital roles in hospitals, classrooms, executive offices, manufacturing plants, and laboratories across our region and beyond. They have also won the World Series and NBA championships, starred in major motion pictures, and created major theatrical productions. Help our students today with the gift of education. Contact the San Jacinto College Foundation at 281-998-6104 or visit sanjac.edu/foundation.

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. The College is ranked second in the nation among more than 1,100 community colleges, as designated by the Aspen Institute, and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. As a Hispanic-Serving Institution that spans five campuses, plus an online college, San Jacinto College serves approximately 45,000 credit and non-credit students annually. It offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA+ by Standard & Poor's and Aa2 by Moody's.

For more information about San Jacinto College, visit sanjac.edu.

San Jacinto College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Learn more at sanjac.edu/accreditation.

