

OPPORTUNITY

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NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

Summer camps blend fun and learning for youth

San Jacinto College offered a variety of fun and enriching summer camps for kids and teens of all ages and interests – from sports and STEM to fine arts and career exploration.

With hands-on activities, each camp provided an engaging way for young learners to stay active and curious over the summer.

Youth staged “Alice in Wonderland” at the KidSpot theatre camp, developed their entrepreneurial plans in the Young CEO camp, and explored creativity and engineering skills with Lego: Build, Code, Conquer!



Photo by Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College

Other camps included...

- Baseball
- EnergyVenture
- Exploring Industry
- Maritime Career Days
- National Summer Transportation Institute
- Robots Rumble
- STEM from Dance
- Young CEO Camp

Scan the QR code to view camp photos.



Logistics students win transportation scholarships

Three San Jacinto College students – Ana Morales, Marlon Watts, and Amy West – received scholarships from the International Transportation Management Association in June.

The scholarship supports students pursuing transportation-related fields, including logistics, supply chain management, maritime administration, marine

transportation, and international transportation focused on cargo movement, distribution, and warehousing.

To qualify for the scholarship, students must be enrolled in a logistics-related major, maintain a minimum 2.7 GPA, and complete at least 12 semester hours within the past year. The rigorous selection process reflects the scholarship program’s commitment to supporting the next generation of transportation and logistics professionals as the industry continues to grow in the Houston area.

“Seeing students successfully apply and receive the award fills me with pride and a sense of accomplishment,” said Ivy Jenkins, logistics and supply chain management instructor. “Knowing that students I have mentored and taught have earned this prestigious honor reaffirms that the care, time,

and effort I invested have produced a rewarding outcome.”

Watts, one of the scholarship recipients, is a North Campus heavy diesel instructor. He earned his associate degree in May and hopes to pursue San Jac’s Bachelor of Applied Technology in logistics and supply chain management in spring 2026.

“This award not only alleviates some of the financial stress of continuing my education but also inspires me to keep striving toward my goals,” Watts said. “The industry is constantly evolving, and I’m confident further education will open new doors and empower me to make a meaningful impact.”

Scan the QR code to learn more about the logistics and supply chain management program.



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College



Photo courtesy of Ivy Jenkins

PROMISE PARTNER: BAYLOR ALUMNA SUPPORTS FUTURE SAN JAC RAVENS

By Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Mandy Gosch didn't have to attend San Jacinto College to understand the importance of helping other students go there.

The sky may be the limit for dreams, but the wallet is often the limit for achieving them.

"A lot of kids have these aspirations of what they want to be — maybe a doctor, a welder, or a dentist," Gosch said. "The world is open for them to explore. But there's a big reality in that sometimes that's really expensive. And it's hard to pursue your dream when you [wonder], 'How am I going to pay for this?'"



When the 30-something Baylor University alumna attended the San Jacinto College Foundation's gala last year, she wanted younger students to have the same opportunity she had: to explore their career options and earn a degree.

Becoming a Promise Partner — providing a debt-free certificate or degree to a local high school graduate through the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship — resonated.

"It was an easy yes for me," she said.

Pivoting career plans

More than a decade ago, Gosch started at Baylor determined to become an obstetrician/gynecologist and deliver babies. One microbiology class and organic chemistry class later, she realized her interests lay in a different field: psychology.

"Knowing what you want to do is just as valuable as knowing what you don't want to do, because that helps you narrow down and see where your interests match your unique skills," she said.

She pivoted, thanks to the chance to "test her options" in college.

Helping grads, shelter dogs

Today, Gosch serves as chief of staff for Pasadena-based Pinnacle Reliability. As a member of the executive leadership team, she runs the company's coordination/engagement department. Psychology — understanding people and their motivations — is key in this role.

Serving on Pinnacle Reliability's philanthropy board, Gosch has participated in many local education initiatives. Supporting the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship and helping future San Jac Ravens was a no-brainer, even for a Baylor Bear.

Giving is a lifestyle for Gosch. Along with five friends, she also runs Lola's Lucky Day, a nonprofit that rescues stray or owner-surrendered dogs from shelters. She fosters senior dogs until they can transfer to new parents or strokes the paws of hospice dogs that are spending their last moments with her.

Making a lasting impact

From furry friends to high school graduates, Gosch believes in helping others — not for the recognition but "because it's the right thing to do."

"If you can do good in the world and you can help a kid eventually become a thriving member of society by contributing to the Promise Program, do it," she said. "They might never know your face. They might never know your name, but the impact that you're going to make on their lives is lasting."

Scan the QR code to learn more about becoming a Promise Partner.



Photos courtesy of Mandy Gosch

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
Aug. 5	Financial Literacy Networking	6-7 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
Sept. 4	Financial Literacy Networking	6-7 p.m.	Generation Park Campus / Contact sjc.cfe@sjcd.edu

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

ALUMNUS CREDITS CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY FOR TRIPLE-MAJOR SUCCESS

By Jacquelynn Conger
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

For San Jacinto College alumnus Muhammad Zain, community college wasn't a steppingstone. It was a launchpad — one that propelled him toward triple majors, a perfect GPA, and now medical school at Texas A&M University.

“San Jac was truly special because of the close-knit community and the many opportunities,” he said. “The smaller classes helped me build real relationships with classmates and professors — something much harder to find at a large university.”

That sense of connection led to unexpected opportunities. With guidance from his professors, Zain earned his first research experience and presented at the Great Plains Honors Conference and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. His chemistry professor Dr. Phoung Doan was his influence.

“Dr. Doan's passion for chemistry was contagious,” he said. “She supported me every step of the way — from tutoring to research to preparing for medical school. Her belief in me gave me confidence.”

After transferring to the University of Houston, Zain continued to excel, graduating with three degrees and maintaining a 4.0 GPA. He credits San Jac for building a solid foundation and teaching him responsibility while still offering support.

“Unlike the large classes at UH, at San Jac I could easily reach out to professors or get help from the Student Success Center,” he said. “That made a huge difference in my academic journey.”

Even after transferring, Zain

stayed connected to San Jac by leading group study sessions for students taking general chemistry.

“Becoming [a supplemental instruction leader] was my way of giving back to the place that gave me so much,” he said. “I want to help other students succeed.”

Even before San Jac, he wasn't alone in his journey. His older brother Saad Nadeem, who also earned triple majors and a 4.0 GPA at UH, served as a role model and motivator.

“There was always a healthy rivalry between us, but more than that, Saad was my mentor,” Zain said. “He helped me with time management, research, and finding extracurricular opportunities. His path really paved the way for mine.”

And he always had his family's support.

“I knew early on I wanted to go to medical school, and that meant putting in my best effort from day one,” he said. “During tough times, my family supported me. I'll never forget when my brother literally took my laptop away so I'd take a break.”

As Zain prepares to begin medical school, he's keeping an open mind about his future specialty.

“I want to explore everything before choosing a field,” he said. “Ultimately, I want to be a compassionate, well-rounded physician who makes a real difference.”

For his family, immigrants from Pakistan, his and his brother's academic success is deeply meaningful.

“They sacrificed everything to give us this opportunity,” he said. “To see both of us reach this point means everything to them and to me.”



Photo courtesy of Muhammad Zain

PATIENT, NURSE MENTAL HEALTH TAKES SPOTLIGHT AT COMPASSION IN ACTION CONFERENCE

By Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

With one out of five U.S. adults experiencing mental illness each year*, there's never been a more critical time for nurses to put on their oxygen masks first.

San Jacinto College's Compassion in Action nursing conference on June 6 taught future nurses how to provide compassionate, evidence-based care to individuals with mental health needs while also emphasizing self-care, resilience, and emotional well-being.

The half-day conference drew 500 nursing students Collegewide and presenters from San Jac's Memorial Hermann and HCA hospital partners.

Mary Carrillo, Memorial Hermann Southeast vice president of nursing and chief nursing officer, opened the conference. Carrillo, a San Jac nursing graduate herself, encouraged students to take their time progressing through the field and to trust the journey.

"Know your why, and hold onto it," she said. "When you have those tough days, go back to that why. If your why isn't strong enough, pause and ponder."

Another presenter, Sepideh Nash, focused on empathy for patients struggling with psychiatric issues. No matter their mental health condition, people can react similarly in situations outside their control. Nurses and patients alike can cope in unhealthy ways.

"What do you do when you're stressed out? Is what you're doing perpetuating the cycle or symptoms you're dealing with?" said Nash, a Memorial Hermann licensed marriage and family therapist behavioral health educator. "We're swinging through the Taco Bell drive-thru, binge-watching Netflix, and mindlessly scrolling on our phones because we want to disassociate. Our patients are no different."

Nash emphasized validating the patient's experiences and asking

questions that will move the patient to a level of comfort.

Students like Frederique Yombo found the conference invaluable as they prepare to enter the workforce. Yombo, an associate degree nursing student, plans to work in the intensive care unit while pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at San Jac next.

"I learned to recognize signs that a patient might be in distress and to recognize signs that I am burnt out and need to reach out for help," Yombo said.

This first-ever Collegewide nursing conference allowed students to meet peers across nursing programs while equipping them to care for a growing population of patients with mental health diagnoses.

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac's nursing programs.

*Source: National Alliance on Mental Illness



Ladder of Nursing

San Jac offers multiple ways to enter the nursing field or advance your career:

Certified Nurse Aide:

- 6 months
- Trains for entry-level health care role

Vocational Nursing:

- 1 year at North or South Campus
- Trains to become a licensed vocational nurse (LVN)

Associate Degree Nursing:

- 2 years at Central or North Campus
- Trains to become a registered nurse (RN)

LVN/Paramedic to RN Transition Nursing:

- 2 years at South Campus
- Trains LVN or paramedic to become an RN

Bachelor of Science in Nursing:

- 1 year (100% online)
- Expands working RN's leadership skills and career options



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College



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PROFESSOR TAKES CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH DRONE CERTIFICATION

By Neesha Hosein
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

John White, San Jacinto College criminal justice professor, completed drone certification training at the College's EDGE Center. Sharing his new expertise with students will give them a competitive edge in the workforce.

Drones, also known as unmanned aircraft systems by the Federal Aviation Administration, are widely used in military and civilian contexts.

A valuable skill

"The use of [drones] is almost mandatory for even the smallest of public safety departments," said Robert Boettcher, EDGE Center instructor.

Taking the course was a strategic move as White believes instructors need firsthand experience in the skills they recommend to students.

Thanks to grant funding, the criminal justice program bought a drone to familiarize students with drone skills and legal aspects.

"Drones are becoming critical tools in public safety situations, such as searching for escaped inmates or gathering evidence," White said.

Drones can reduce the time needed to investigate car accident scenes, for example.

"[Drones benefit] the public by clearing the road again for travel and allowing the department to use this extra time to close investigations more quickly," Boettcher said. "They are equipped with a variety of sensors that can capture visual, thermal, and lidar, and that data can be used to reconstruct a 3D model of a crime scene."

Why is training important?

Drones are not toys.

"Operating an aircraft can be quite challenging," Boettcher said. "It requires knowledge of different subjects, such as regulations, weather, human factors, risk analysis and more. But the most important reason why training is important is for the unexpected ... a competent instructor



will help ensure the pilots make the right decision at the right time when something out of the ordinary happens."

The EDGE Center course emphasizes real-time piloting rather than simulations. Students practice outside, navigating around obstacles and following flight paths on a screen.

Drone operation comes with rules, responsibilities, and real-world consequences.

"You have to consider privacy regulations, the Fourth Amendment, Supreme Court case laws, and search and seizure," White said. "I knew there would be FAA regulations, but I didn't know there were so many. The FAA controls airspace and the safety of our airways. You can't just operate them outside leisurely without knowing the guidelines."

To fly a drone commercially, an FAA license is required. Recreational drone users must also pass a safety test and carry proof of certification.

Drone certification is a practical skill that adds value in many fields, but you must learn the basics — the difference between recreational and commercial, safety, how high they can fly, and what

areas are off limits.

White learned more than he imagined.

"Now it's not just something I've heard of but something I've accomplished, and it gives me a new thing to teach the students that is relevant to their other coursework," he said.

The EDGE Center also provides a Flight Operations course that expands upon the knowledge of the FAA Remote Pilot Certificate. The class prerequisite is either successfully completing the Part 107 exam prep course or holding a current FAA Remote Pilot Certificate.

"[The Flight Operations course] includes additional safety, awareness of local laws, and the opportunity to fly drones in a safe environment indoors," said Clint Harris, San Jac director, aviation and aerospace education workforce development. "This offers students the opportunity to practice flight maneuvers under the observation of an experienced instructor."

Scan the QR code to learn more about EDGE Center training.



Photos courtesy of John White

THIS MONTH *IN* SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook

San Jacinto College and Texas State University have officially teamed up! You can now work toward your Texas State University bachelor's degree in business — right here at San Jac! More options, less stress, and your goals within reach!



1,027 Reactions | 36 Comments

170,216 Impressions | 4,759 Engagements



Instagram

Hats off to all 1,900 (!!!) amazing graduates who walked across the commencement stage!



1,823 Likes | 42,390 Impressions | 2,121 Engagements



LinkedIn

San Jacinto College and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation have partnered on a new program that accelerates students' entry into the cosmetology industry. About 130 students in cosmetology, barbering, massage therapy, manicuring, and esthetics took their final and state licensing exams simultaneously, getting them into the workforce much faster.



123 Reactions | 212 Post-Link Clicks

7,006 Impressions | 351 Engagements

YOUR GOALS. YOUR COLLEGE.



SAN JACINTOSM COLLEGE

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5800 Uvalde Rd., Houston, TX 77049

CENTRAL CAMPUS
8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505

SOUTH CAMPUS
13735 Beamer Rd., Houston, TX 77089

MARITIME CAMPUS
3700 Old Hwy. 146, La Porte, TX 77571

GENERATION PARK CAMPUS
13455 Lockwood Rd., Houston, TX 77044

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VISION & MISSION



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

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

SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



A gift to the San Jacinto College Foundation transforms lives, enriches our community, and provides tomorrow's community leaders. For more than 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.

