

# OPPORTUNITY

# NEWS



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# NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

## Pledge deadline soon for Promise @ San Jac Scholarship

High school seniors who live in San Jacinto College's taxing district have until Feb. 22, 2024, to pledge for the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship.

This scholarship ensures all in-district high school graduates — including those in portions of Clear Creek, Pearland, and Humble ISDs, as well as all of Channelview, Deer Park, Galena Park, La Porte, Pasadena, and Sheldon ISDs — can earn a workforce credential or an associate degree with 100% of their tuition, books, and supplies covered. The scholarship doesn't have any GPA or financial restrictions, meaning all in-district graduating seniors qualify.

Other deadlines for future Promise Scholars to remember include:

- April 25, 2024 – complete and submit a FAFSA or TASFA
- July 18, 2024 – complete all enrollment steps and register for fall classes

To learn more about the scholarship and view enrollment and eligibility requirements, visit [sanjac.edu/promise](http://sanjac.edu/promise).

## You're invited to Hollywood Nights Gala May 17

Mark your calendar for a memorable evening! You're invited to San Jacinto College's Hollywood Nights Gala Friday, May 17 — a glamorous black-tie affair hosted by the San Jacinto College Foundation.

The gala will raise funds for the

Promise @ San Jac Scholarship, which provides a debt-free degree or certificate to in-district high school graduates. We're shifting the spotlight from college debt to dreams, and we need your help. You can help ensure the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship and debt-free education are available to students for generations to come.

The gala will take place from 6-9 p.m. at the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology at the Central Campus. Beyond supporting students — our rising stars — you can look forward to a cocktail hour, a delicious menu, and an entertaining evening mingling with other community members.

Take on a supporting role today to give students and their dreams center stage! Learn more about gala tickets and sponsorship opportunities:

- Call 281-998-6104.
- Email [foundation@sjcd.edu](mailto:foundation@sjcd.edu).
- Visit [sanjac.edu/gala](http://sanjac.edu/gala).



Graphic courtesy of San Jacinto College



Photo courtesy of San Jacinto College



# MARITIME STUDENT NAVIGATES WHALES, GLACIERS DURING ALASKA INTERNSHIP

By **Melissa Trevizo**  
San Jacinto College

Against Alaska's rugged coastline, San Jacinto College maritime student Eva Wilson navigated an adventurous summer as she interned with Allen Marine Tours.

As a deckhand on St. Elisabeth from May to August 2023, Wilson worked 40-50 hours a week tying lines, running engine checks, turning on generators, and doing other general boat maintenance.

"I had an excellent base knowledge going into my internship," Wilson said. "Line handling was a big part of my day-to-day tasks, and San Jac prepared us well. I also had a lot of boat maintenance tasks that I was ready for, thanks to the diesel engine and troubleshooting experience. Compared to interns from other maritime programs, I felt like those of us from San Jac had a bit more experience and knowledge."

Allen Marine Tours is a family-owned business and one of the oldest tour companies in Alaska. It operates vessels from the ports of Ketchikan, Sitka, and Juneau, where Wilson was stationed. She logged 89 sea days in three months.

"We would take tourists on three-

hour whale-watching tours in the Pacific Ocean," said Wilson. "I saw 40 or 50 individual whales this summer, but we saw them hundreds of times. It was a great experience."

Though the work was demanding, Wilson and her fellow interns enjoyed one day off each week to explore the beautiful Alaskan wilderness.

"We got to climb up to a glacier on a seven-hour hike. I also climbed up a mountain for the first time," she said. "It was hard, and it was raining the whole time. When we came down, our motivation was to get burgers from this great food truck we knew."

Wilson learned about the summer internship during a San Jac maritime campus job fair.

"Allen Marine was doing Zoom interviews," said Wilson. "Some people didn't want to travel to Alaska, but it sounded exciting to me. One of my instructors encouraged me to apply, and I got the job. I'm so glad I did."

Growing up in Florida, Wilson always had a fascination with the water. When she heard about San Jac's Maritime Campus, she knew it was the right fit.

"Right now, my focus is on brown water, tug, and tow boats, but one day, I'd like to be a captain on an unlimited

tonnage ship," she said. "I'd love to work on a cruise ship or a cargo ship. Maybe I'll move to Alaska. There are a lot of opportunities on the Alaskan Marine Highway."

Wilson will return this summer to work for Allen Marine Tours in Juneau as a deckhand.

Scan QR code to learn more about the maritime program.





# FROM CLASSROOM TO COSMOS: SAN JAC STUDENTS COMPETE IN TEXAS SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM DESIGN CHALLENGE

By **Melissa Trevizo**  
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

In fall 2023, a group of six San Jacinto College North Campus students competed in the Texas Space Grant Consortium 2023 Design Challenge sponsored by NASA for over \$10,000 in scholarships.

This unique academic experience offers undergraduate students an opportunity to propose, design, and fabricate a solution toward solving research objectives important to NASA and its mission.

The San Jac team competed against 17 other groups from 13 Texas higher education institutions, including two other community colleges. Each team chose a NASA topic and developed a design idea from that prompt.

The team — students in professor Kazi Rashed's introduction to engineering course — chose the name Apollo 24 to represent their collective of two women and four men.

Apollo 24 Design Team:

- Avery Burton
- Oscar Camargo
- Ruth Garcia
- Silvestre Morfin, team deputy
- Jocelyn Rodriguez, team leader
- Alexander San Miguel

Even though it was her first semester at San Jac, Rodriguez was happy to lead the team.

“When Dr. Rashed

announced the competition, we just kind of looked around at each other and formed groups,” Rodriguez said. “It’s exciting to be working on something that NASA scientists saw. It’s kind of a dream for all of us.”

The team chose to address the design needs of the NASA microgravity neutral buoyancy experiment, specifically creating a hand carrier for lunar extravehicular activity tools. The toolbox design went through several mockups before the team landed on its final entry.

“One of the challenges we faced was creating a functional design without pinch points that could cause a tear in a spacesuit,” Camargo said. “We initially thought about a scissor lift, but Avery suggested a lever system. Silvestre made our scale models out of cardboard, and Ruth created the triangular design. I created our team flight patch. We all pulled from our previous knowledge and shared equally.”

Morfin attended San Jac as a dual credit student in auto collision repair. Still, after working with machines for several years, he became curious about their designs and how they work. He’s now pursuing an associate degree in engineering at San Jac.

“I started sketching designs at work and shared them with the engineers,” Morfin said. “It made me excited to do what they do one day.”

Garcia became interested in engineering while working as a



Photo by Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

fire watch in the oil and gas industry.

“I watched them pour concrete and looked at the design plans. I wanted to know what would be built,” Garcia said. “I could see the full vision, and I found the idea of seeing a project to completion fascinating.”

The team presented its designs and research to NASA and Texas Space Grant Consortium personnel in November at the fall 2023 Design Challenge Showcase.

To learn more about the Texas Space Grant Consortium 2023 Design Challenge, visit [bit.ly/TSGCDesign23](https://bit.ly/TSGCDesign23).



Photo courtesy of Ruth Garcia



# POZOLE: A HEARTY, HEALTHY DISH FOR THE NEW YEAR

By **Neesha Hosein**  
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Pozole is a traditional Mexican stew usually found at taquerias as a weekend special or at special occasions like for Mexican Independence Day or holiday celebrations.

Chef Melissa Menendez, culinary instructor at the San Jacinto College North Campus, makes this dish often. She finds the soup comforting when the weather gets cold.

“I don’t often serve this with anything besides the garnishes, as it is quite filling,” Menendez said. “This soup has a lot of healthy vegetables for its garnish — you have a little bit of every food group.”

**Yield:** 1/2 gallon  
(6-8 servings)

## Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 1/2 pounds boneless pork shoulder, cut into 1-inch cubes
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- 1 large onion, chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 4 cloves garlic, minced (about 4 teaspoons)

- 8 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground ancho chile
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground chile de árbol
- 1 (30-ounce) can hominy, rinsed and drained
- 2 limes, cut into wedges
- 1 avocado, diced
- 1 large red onion, finely chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 1/2 cup finely chopped fresh cilantro leaves
- 1/2 cup sliced radishes
- 1/2 cup green cabbage, shredded
- 1 1/2 cups crushed tortilla chips

## Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325° F.
2. Heat oil in a large Dutch oven or heavy bottomed saucepot over medium-high heat. Generously season pork with salt and pepper. When oil is shimmering, brown meat on all sides, about 7 minutes total. Reduce heat to medium, add onion and garlic, and sauté, stirring periodically, until they begin to soften, about 4 minutes.

3. Add chicken broth, oregano, ancho chile powder, and chile de árbol powder to pan. Stir to combine, and season with salt and pepper as needed. Bring to a boil, cover, and transfer to the oven to cook until pork is fork-tender, about 2 hours.
4. Remove soup from oven and transfer pork from broth to a platter to cool. When pork is cool enough to handle, shred meat and discard any gristle. Strain broth and return liquid to pan. Add hominy and shredded pork. Season with salt, if necessary, and simmer over medium heat for 30 minutes.
5. Ladle into bowls immediately and serve with lime wedges, avocados, red onions, cilantro, radishes, shredded cabbage, and tortilla chips.

**Notes:** The soup may be made a day in advance. Reheat it on the stovetop and don’t add the toppings until you’re ready to serve. For those who don’t eat pork, chicken is a good substitute.



Photo courtesy of Melissa Menendez

## SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	Closed	All campuses and online
Jan. 16	Spring Classes Begin		All campuses and online
Feb. 1-29	Guest Artist: Gale Rodriguez	Varies	Free   Grant Fine Arts Center, North Campus Gallery (N1.106)   Contact <a href="mailto:joe.clark@sjcd.edu">joe.clark@sjcd.edu</a>

All times and event schedules listed are subject to change. For more information, visit [sanjac.edu/calendar](http://sanjac.edu/calendar).

# 7 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE BUYING OR SELLING A HOME

By Courtney Morris  
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

When Cathy Treviño held the keys to her first home, she also got the keys to her new career.

Fascinated with the home buying process, Treviño switched from teaching/coaching aspirations to real estate. Since completing San Jacinto College's real estate program, she has worked in the field almost three decades. Today, she serves as board chair for the Houston

Association of Realtors and a managing broker of Texas for LPT Realty.

"There are so many steps in the home buying and selling process," Treviño said. "It's our job to help walk you through it and make it the best experience possible."

Looking to buy or sell a home? The San Jac alumna shares what you can expect:

## 1. What's the current market like?

It's been a seller's market for

a while. Now [with mortgage interest rates rising to 7.5%] we're starting to see more of a balanced market. Buyers can ask for seller concessions or negotiate the asking price. Homes are staying on the market about 45 days rather than selling like hotcakes, so buyers have more choices — more inventory.

## 2. What should I look for in a real estate agent?

Hire someone that's professional, attentive, understands the market, has good

marketing strategies, and will communicate with you. Interview at least two to three agents. Not all agents are the same. When looking to buy, find an agent who knows the area, can explain the process from beginning to end, and answers the phone. Then it's very important to sign a buyer's representation agreement or a listing agreement [if selling] to ensure you're both working together.

## 3. How do I determine what I can afford?

Get prequalified for a loan. Every buyer is different. Whether you're a first-time homebuyer or teacher, there are programs you can qualify for. It's our job to ask the right questions and connect you with a lender who can fit you with the right loan and program to meet your mortgage payment.

## 4. Can I still negotiate a good deal these days?

A lot depends on the seller. When a home is sitting on the market for a while — maybe because of age or needed upgrades — your agent is looking at comparables, seeing what has sold in the area. Has this home been priced accordingly? We give our best advice and can suggest creative financing options.

## 5. What's the timeline for buying a home?

Once you execute an offer, it takes about 30-45 days to close if you're getting the lender all the documentation needed. A lot depends on the buyer, property, survey, appraisal, inspection, and more. You need an experienced agent who can walk you through



Photo courtesy of Cathy Treviño

the process. Full cash deals are quicker if everything is clear on the title. But the process takes about the same even if you're paying a large amount of cash.

## 6. When selling, how can I make the biggest impact with least time and money?

There are many different programs out there. Some companies will repair your home, and you can pay at closing. We have connections to contractors, house cleaners, etc. You may not have the means, but we can connect you to the right program. Often, we'll even stage a home ourselves. If it's cluttered, I encourage clients to take things down — like family photos.

## 7. How do I show my home safely?

If anyone knocks on the door and asks to see your home, deny the showing. Point them back to a realtor. When we make appointments, we want to make sure the client is prequalified and accompanied by a realtor. They're looking to purchase a home, not scoping out your possessions.

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE GALA

HOLLYWOOD  
★ NIGHTS ★

MAY 17, 2024



JOIN US AT THE GALA OR  
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[sanjac.edu/about/foundation/gala](https://sanjac.edu/about/foundation/gala)

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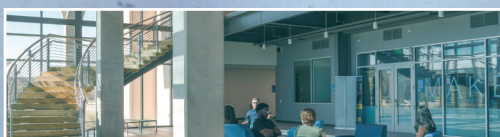
Scan QR code to learn more about San Jac's real estate program.

Search for agents, homes, and communities at [har.com](https://www.har.com) (Houston Association of Realtors).





## THIS MONTH IN SOCIAL MEDIA



### 5 Programs at San Jac You Didn't Know Existed



### Instagram

Did you know these programs existed? Comment below which program you think deserves to be on this list.



382 Likes | 8 Comments | 29 Saves



### Facebook

The National Night Out Block Party was held at North Campus this year! This event fosters police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Together, we celebrated 40 years of National Night Out with police vehicle tours, games, music, food, and much more!



50 Reactions | 2 Comments | 2 Shares



### X

Honored to be recognized for our enduring commitment to excellence and equity in student success as an eligible institution for the 2025 #AspenPrize@AspenHigherEd



7 Likes | 2 Retweets | 12 Post Clicks



### LinkedIn

Anthony Zambrano was a triple threat: high school valedictorian, National Merit Scholar, and San Jac associate degree graduate. Last fall, he transferred to Texas A&M University. He shares his secret to success: "Life has lots of hiccups. Keeping your focus, not procrastinating, and knowing what you want to accomplish can take you far."



81 Reactions | 2 Comments | 130 Post Clicks



# YOUR GOALS. YOUR COLLEGE.



## SAN JACINTO<sup>SM</sup> COLLEGE

### NORTH CAMPUS

5800 Uvalde Rd., Houston, TX 77049

### CENTRAL CAMPUS

8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505

### SOUTH CAMPUS

13735 Beamer Rd., Houston, TX 77089

### MARITIME CAMPUS

3700 Old Hwy. 146, La Porte, TX 77571

### GENERATION PARK CAMPUS

13455 Lockwood Rd., Houston, TX 77044

### ONLINE

[sanjac.edu/online](https://sanjac.edu/online)

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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](https://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 one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College is a Hispanic-Serving Institution that spans five campuses, serving approximately 41,000 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 and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's. For more information about San Jacinto College, visit [sanjac.edu](https://sanjac.edu).

