

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE SM

Summer 2025 • Volume 6 • Issue 2

CareerFocus



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STUDENTS FIND THEIR PATHS THROUGH SAN JAC'S T-TEN PROGRAM



SKY'S THE LIMIT

STUDENTS LAND RESEARCH ON INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION



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SAN JACINTO COLLEGE



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About San Jacinto College

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.

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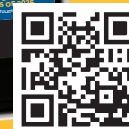
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NEWS AND NOTES FROM AROUND THE COLLEGE



Photo courtesy of Janna Martin

RAVENS SOFTBALL, BASEBALL REFLECT ON A 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, with head coach Kelly Saenz highlighting collective growth as a strength.

“I’m incredibly proud of the entire team for overcoming numerous obstacles throughout the season,” she said. “Our



Softball player Madelyn Perez

sophomores showed leadership in a variety of ways, and our freshmen rose to the occasion, contributing to all areas.”

The season featured a significant personal 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.

“The team battled until the very end, trusting in themselves and one another,” said Saenz. “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.”

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.

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 industry needs across the Gulf Coast region.

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

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

Ultimately, 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.



HURRICANE PREP TIPS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

By Neesha Hosein

As hurricane season approaches, taking proactive steps can help minimize risk and loss for Gulf Coast small businesses. San Jacinto College's Ali Shah, emergency management director, and Deanna Clark, manager of records management, share basic preparation tips.

What initial steps should business owners take to prepare for hurricane season?

Shah: Ensure your business has the proper insurance coverage to recover from a hurricane. Coverage can be tricky and confusing with different policies, waiting periods, providers, etc., for different types of events. Speak to a commercial insurance professional to make sure your business is adequately covered.

How far in advance should preparation begin when a storm is forecasted?

Shah: Preparation should start 90 days before hurricane season starts, but operationalizing the plans should start when the storm enters the Gulf and is projected to impact our area. Since storms can vary in size, speed, and intensity, following guidance from trusted sources is vital. All our local news stations have apps, and their weather forecasting is accurate in tracking storms.

What should a formal hurricane preparedness plan entail?

Shah: Preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. All four of these areas need to be addressed for a plan to be complete and functional as they feed into each other for a holistic strategy to deal with hurricanes that may impact a business.

Create a communication plan and share that with your employees. This will ensure that they know what to expect and when to communicate back with you. Have a backup plan for when the routine communication mechanisms fail.

What are ways to protect important documents, data, and inventory?

Clark: Make sure you have multiple copies of essential records in various formats and locations. The more copies the better in the event some are destroyed or damaged. We recommend using the 3-2-1 backup method: Have three copies in two different formats in at least one alternate location for each of your essential records. Having a paper copy (especially contact lists) is helpful in a power or network outage.

Avoid storing records on the floor, near windows, or near pipes as this makes them susceptible to water damage. If you only have records in a paper format, it is a good idea to digitize those so you have backup copies in case the paper record is damaged.

Shah: A weatherproof document storage box is best, but in a pinch, a large Ziploc-type bag or waterproof bag will do.

Have past hurricanes taught us lessons about being proactive?

Shah: Absolutely, the National Institute of Building Sciences estimates that for every \$1 spent on mitigation you save \$6 on disaster related losses. Hurricanes Ike, Harvey, and Beryl all had a major impact on San Jac. Through robust pre-incident planning and prompt recovery



activities, we minimized our losses and returned to normal operations.

What should people who haven't experienced a major storm know?

Shah: We have been experiencing busier-than-usual hurricane seasons for the past few years, and it is not uncommon to have 20+ named storms, very few of which impact us directly. That can lead to complacency when you hear about another storm brewing. It is important to pay attention, though, as you never know which storm will track toward us, and time lost in preparation can lead to higher losses for the business.

Clark: Following a disaster, the first step is to assess the damage and stabilize your records. This may require professional assistance. If your records are damaged, you can learn how to salvage your records at archives.gov/preservation/disaster-response/salvage-procedures. ■

INTERESTED IN STARTING A SMALL BUSINESS?

The San Jacinto College Center for Entrepreneurship is offering a Small Business Management Academy certificate this summer, Tuesdays and Thursdays, through Aug. 14, 6-8:30 p.m.

This eight-week course offers specialized training that will help entrepreneurs discover what is needed to successfully operate, sustain, and grow a business.

Registration is required.

For more information, email sjc.cfe@sjcd.edu or scan the Center for Entrepreneurship QR code.



SKY'S THE LIMIT: STUDENTS LAND RESEARCH ON INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

By Courtney Morris

Three ... two ... one ... liftoff! On Nov. 4, the ground shuddered as the SpaceX rocket roared off the launchpad at Kennedy Space Center.

What made the sight even more spectacular to Marcus Pitre, Maheen Bukhari, and Amna Qureshi — sitting on bleachers at the nearest viewing site — was knowing their science experiment was aboard.

Competitive edge

In fall 2023, a year earlier, 52 San Jacinto College students competed in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program*, hoping to send their research projects on a supply mission to the International Space Station.

Pitre, Bukhari, and Qureshi met through the South Campus STEM Club and formed a team with chemistry professor Dr. Carrie Owens as their advisor.

They proposed using the mustard plant species *Arabidopsis thaliana* to measure cell wall growth in microgravity versus on Earth.

“All the right elements have to come together for plants to grow,” Pitre said. “If we can grow plants [for food] in space, we can have longer space flights.”

Experiment challenges

The team’s proposal won. But the hard part was still ahead: optimizing the experiment to fit inside a 7-inch mini lab operated by clamps an astronaut would open or close in space.

Challenges ranged from sourcing NASA-approved supplies to finding lab space on campus to work together every week.

“This team was testing something that’s never been done before at San Jac,” Owens said. “Our department made sure we had all the supplies needed.”

With all deadlines and safety checks met, their experiment launched in early November for six weeks in space.

In late January — with the microgravity and ground control experiments back together — the teammates finally compared the results. Their findings? Two seeds germinated in microgravity versus one seed in the control experiment.

They speculated that microgravity allowed water to move freely among all the seeds, whereas uneven water distribution on Earth meant the seeds received different amounts of moisture.

While the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program project is complete, Pitre, Bukhari, and Qureshi have discussed doing more gravity trials. With more time, they might see more seeds grow in the control experiment — and grow enough to see clear differences from the microgravity experiment.

Trial and error are part of the process, though.

“Projects are big undertakings, even as an advisor,” Owens said. “Seeing



something through from proposal to testing with optimization to an actual experiment takes planning and patience.”

Lessons learned

What’s next for the teammates? High school juniors Bukhari and Qureshi are both completing associate degrees at the College through Clear Horizons Early College High School, with Bukhari eyeing a science career and Qureshi biomedical engineering or cybersecurity.

Pitre, a computer engineer, is taking prerequisites to reskill for a critical care medicine career.

“It’s definitely been a unique experience — learning to work together as a team and use the college lab equipment,” Qureshi said.

Although Pitre has managed teams before, he gained an appreciation for the planning, checks, and balances behind every launch.

“One thing I always leave with [my teams] is we don’t manage time — we manage our use of time,” he said. “That’s what we need to succeed with these ventures. This team did a good job of that.”

Bukhari remembers her parents’ surprise as she broke the news about their team winning the space competition.

“It was very unexpected,” Bukhari said. “I didn’t think we’d be the team.”

Lesson learned: Prepare for the unexpected. ■

**The Student Spaceflight Experiments Program [or just “SSEP”] is a program of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSSE) in the U.S. and the Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Space Education Internationally. It is enabled through a strategic partnership with Nanoracks LLC, which is working with NASA under a Space Act Agreement as part of the utilization of the International Space Station as a National Laboratory.*

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac’s STEM programs.





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HATS OFF TO CLASS OF 2025

Photos by Neesha Hosein and Courtney Morris

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.

Spring commencement by the numbers:

Veteran graduates 61

Dual credit graduates 1,068

Age range of grads 16-70 years old





Congratulations!



SAN JAC PREPARES FOR NEW VIRTUAL CAMPUS LAUNCH

By Neesha Hosein

San Jacinto College Online, the College's newest campus, will launch in fall 2025.

The virtual campus represents a major shift in how the College will support online students, offering a streamlined, consistent learning experience across all virtual courses.

The College first considered launching the virtual campus all at once, but after reviewing enrollment trends and early planning in summer 2024, it was evident more time was needed. A team of faculty, staff, and administrators recommended a phased rollout, which the Strategic Leadership Team approved.

Seamless support

San Jac students can pursue 60 certificates and degrees fully online.

With a phased launch, San Jac Online will improve the student experience significantly, addressing several common challenges that current online students face. Many online students are unsure which campus their courses are offered through or whom to contact for assistance. This can lead to confusion and unnecessary delays.

One goal of San Jac Online is to simplify the process. Students enrolled online may also take on-campus courses, giving them flexibility in how they learn.



Confusion around course formats and campus support has highlighted the need for a more streamlined process. Students sometimes enroll in the wrong courses without fully realizing the schedule differences, and navigating between campuses for assistance can lead to delays and frustration. Centralizing support through San Jac Online creates a more seamless and efficient experience from the start.

San Jac Online will provide a single point of contact for students and College staff, allowing them to get the guidance they need faster without being bounced between multiple campuses.

Consistent course options

A key aspect of the virtual campus will be consistency in online course offerings. All sections of a particular online course

will feature aligned textbooks and a consistent basic course design. This will allow students to focus on learning the material rather than struggling to navigate different course set-ups.

“One of the key goals of the new campus is to ensure that every section of the same online course uses the same textbook and course design in our learning management system,” said Niki Whiteside, interim chief officer of online learning for San Jac Online. “Research shows this approach leads to better outcomes for online learners by combining the expertise of our faculty and best practices in instructional design.”

Achieving the goals

One goal of San Jac Online is to simplify the process.

Students enrolled online may also take on-campus courses, giving them flexibility in how they learn.

For Whiteside, the most important goal of San Jac Online is clear — student success.

“The goal of San Jac Online’s launch is to ensure the College is best suited to support students choosing online learning to reach their goals,” she said. ■

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





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HOW PROMISE @ SAN JAC CHANGES LIVES: EMILY GARCIA

By Melissa Trevizo

For Ravens softball player Emily Garcia, the path to higher education was made possible through athletic opportunity and financial support. In her third year at San Jacinto College, Emily has found an academic and athletic home, thanks to the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship.

Recruited to San Jac's softball program by coaches Kelly Saenz and Kelsey Walters, Garcia carefully considered her college options. The College's proximity to home was a bonus, but what truly influenced her decision to enroll was the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship.

This last-dollar scholarship covers in-district high school graduates' tuition, books, and supplies for up to three years, kicking in after all other forms of financial aid have been applied.

"Promise meant that I could go to school and not worry about how much it would cost, and it meant that my dad did not have to stress over money," Garcia said.

Her father, Michael Garcia, echoed her sentiments.

"The scholarship meant we didn't have to struggle to send my daughter to school. It meant a lot knowing that she could go to college and earn her associate degree debt-free," he said.

Garcia is currently pursuing an associate degree in education — following a long-held dream of becoming a teacher.

"Something about helping children grow and learn makes my heart so happy," she said. "I want to become a



Father and daughter at a softball game

first-grade teacher and create a safe classroom environment for my future students. No matter how hard things are at home, I want them to know that they are safe and loved when they are in my classroom."

Her time at San Jac has been "overwhelmingly positive."

"I've had a lot of help when I needed it with my academics," she said. "In the iConnect Center, the staff helps read over papers, and there's someone available for every subject. This support system has been crucial to my success."

Garcia first learned about the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship through announcements during her senior year at North Shore Senior High School and quickly shared the news with her family.

"When my daughter told me about the Promise program, we both agreed it was the best option for us," her father said.



"You have to sit back and think about how paying for college will affect your family. The Promise Scholarship is so worth it, and you can earn your associate degree without debt."

The application process was straightforward: Dad and daughter completed it together in just one day. For prospective students considering the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship, Garcia's advice is clear and simple.

"You have to sit back and think about how paying for college will affect your family," she said. "The Promise Scholarship is so worth it, and you can earn your associate degree without debt."

Her father shares the same enthusiasm in his advice to other parents.

"Take the opportunity. If you think college isn't in the budget but want your

child to attend, this is the best option," he said. "One of the main points I bring up when they ask why Emily is at San Jac is Promise and, of course, softball. Getting a good education is my No. 1 priority." ■

Scan the QR code to learn more about the **Promise @ San Jac Scholarship.**



‘YOU KNOW YOU’:

DOCTOR’S ADVICE FOR OTHER FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS CHASING BIG DREAMS

■ By Courtney Morris



Robin Torres felt lost, alone. Not only was El Paso 800 miles from family, but hospitals nearby had begun setting up portable morgues. Life in fall 2020 was fragile.

But Torres couldn’t give up. And reflecting on his family’s sacrifices, he wasn’t about to.

“I’m a bit stubborn,” he said.

Discovering medical path

Growing up in Detroit, the son of immigrants, Torres trusted that life would put him where he belonged.

In 2011, life put the recent high school graduate in Houston, blocks from San Jacinto College’s North Campus. He enrolled as a general studies major, following his father’s advice to find a career using “brains instead of body.”

Uninterested in science at first, he caught a biology professor’s enthusiasm

and joined a biodiversity project classifying campus flora and fauna.

“As much as I enjoyed it, I discovered I didn’t want to work with animals and bugs,” he said.

What did interest Torres were people. Another San Jac biology professor, Dr. Yuli Pernia, encouraged him to consider biomedical courses.

Her stories of working as a medical doctor in South America broke the glass ceiling he had created for himself as a first-generation, minority student.

Overcoming isolation

In 2014, Torres completed a biology associate degree and started a pre-med pathway at the University of Houston. But classes with 200-plus students overwhelmed him, and he struggled asking for help.

“I felt like everyone knew what they were doing and I didn’t.... I felt embarrassed to ask classmates for help or to go see pre-med advisors,” he said. “It would have saved me a lot of headaches if I had done that earlier.”

After his bachelor’s degree, he took several gap years to work and apply to multiple medical schools.

The first time he applied, he didn’t get accepted. Pernia and several other doctors encouraged him not to give up: With medical school acceptance rates as low as 2-3%, few people make it the first time.

Persistence paid off. In early 2020, he got accepted to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso.

Torres moved to El Paso just as the world was shutting down. Although he fought loneliness during pandemic lockdowns, this time he connected with other students through online study sessions.

When lockdowns lifted, he volunteered for the El Paso Health Education Awareness Team, which hosted public lectures and workshops on COVID-19. This sparked his interest in public health and emergency medicine.

In May 2024, he graduated with his M.D. degree.

Shifting from mentee to mentor

Now completing his medical residency in Austin, Torres credits his success to his parents and people like Pernia who saw his potential and encouraged him. That’s why he mentors pre-medical students, helping them navigate the

complex medical school application process.

“I didn’t want people, especially first-generation students like myself, to feel lost like that,” he said. “It’s very easy to give up when you have all these barriers.”

Today, Torres has achieved more than he ever imagined. Along the way, he learned not to compare himself to others or assume everyone else is more knowledgeable or equipped.

He encourages younger students to ask for help — but to trust their gut.

“It can be scary to figure out what you want to do, but you know you,” he said. ■

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac’s STEM programs.



Robin Torres (right) with mentor Yuli Pernia

DRIVEN TO SUCCEED:

STUDENTS FIND THEIR PATHS THROUGH SAN JAC'S T-TEN PROGRAM

By Melissa Trevizo

Thinking about shifting your career into high gear? San Jacinto College's Toyota Technician Training and Education Network program might be just the ticket.

At San Jac, you don't just learn how to turn a wrench. You get hands-on experience with the cutting-edge technology that powers modern vehicles while building connections with local dealerships.

Just ask recent graduates Jayden Glassmeyer, Richard Harris, and Kirula Silva — students who found their passions and future careers through San Jac's T-TEN program.

San Jacinto College offers automotive technology degrees in several focus areas:

- Ford Automotive Student Service Educational Training (ASSET)
- Future Automotive Service Technicians (FAST) — a general automotive technology degree program
- General Motors Automotive Service Education Program (ASEP)
- Honda Professional Automotive Career Training (PACT)
- MOPAR Career Automotive Program (CAP) — covers Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, and Fiat vehicles
- Toyota Technician Training and Education Network (T-TEN)

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



Jayden Glassmeyer

Jayden Glassmeyer's journey to become an automotive technician is a great example of how community colleges provide direction and opportunity.

Glassmeyer came to San Jac through a Clear Falls High School college readiness program. With university acceptance challenging due to a lower GPA, he chose San Jac for its proximity and affordability.

"I originally went for a business degree," he said. "Even though I was interested in working on cars, a business degree seemed more beneficial long-term."

During his second year at the College, he learned from a program coordinator that he could pursue both paths simultaneously. In May, he graduated with associate degrees in business and automotive technology.

His choice of the T-TEN program stems from personal experience with his first car, a 1996 Toyota Corolla.

Since his internship last semester, Glassmeyer has worked at Sterling McCall Lexus and believes San Jac's automotive program stands out for its technical depth.

"We learn the very nitty-gritty compared to others who didn't go to T-TEN. It's one thing to know how something works but another to know the principles it operates on," Glassmeyer said.

With 10 Automotive Service Excellence-level certifications under his belt, he aims to bridge his technical expertise with his business knowledge.

"I still want to work on cars for a decent amount of time but eventually move into a corporate position that allows me to still be hands-on in the shop," he said.

"We learn the very nitty-gritty compared to others who didn't go to T-TEN. It's one thing to know how something works but another to know the principles it operates on."

Richard Harris

Richard Harris was initially drawn to San Jac with dreams of becoming a music teacher. He played cello and flute and performed in the color guard at Deer Park High School.

“Music was and is a huge part of my life,” he said. “It just didn’t work out for me after doing my research on the job market.”

This realization led to exploring real estate as an option that might suit his people-oriented personality. Yet something was still missing.

“Throughout all this and even during high school, I had my 2004 Corolla, and I learned how to do a lot of repairs on that,” he said. “I always enjoyed working on the car.”

A friend encouraged Harris to consider automotive work as a career path. At San Jac, he discovered the T-TEN program through an advisor and has enjoyed the San Jac experience.

“The in-classroom stuff has been absolutely amazing,” he said. “I have learned oodles of information.”

What does he enjoy the most about working on vehicles?

“My favorite part is the end when a car comes in with multiple problems. When the customer approves the repairs and you successfully fix everything, it’s a great feeling,” Harris said. “There’s nothing better than returning a car to its owner in good working condition again.”

With five ASE-level certifications completed, Harris looks forward to being in the shop, getting his hands dirty.

“I want to continue putting my hands on those wrenches and working on cars because it’s satisfying to me,” he said. “Every car is different. It’s always a new puzzle.”



Kirula Silva

Initially pursuing mechanical engineering at the University of Houston, Kirula Silva discovered that San Jac’s T-TEN program offered a more direct route to his lifelong passion.

“My end goal from the beginning was to work with cars. That was something that I’ve always been passionate about when I was younger,” he said.

For Silva, the transition to the T-TEN program felt natural.

“In my family, we have a lot of Toyota vehicles,” he said. “My uncle’s got an original 1989 Toyota pickup truck, first original owner. I have a very fond appreciation for Toyota and Lexus. T-TEN was just kind of a no-brainer for me. The hands-on nature of the program set it apart for me also.”

This practical experience has proven invaluable during his internship at Sterling McCall Lexus.

Already building his catalog of ASE-level certifications, this graduate is well-positioned for success. He plans to continue as a service technician while pursuing a bachelor’s degree in business.

“I’ve had aspirations of opening my own shop, but I know that’s a long way away,” he said.

What drives his passion for automotive work?

“I think of it as just helping people out,” Silva said. “I also enjoy learning as I go and fixing new problems that I’ve never encountered before.”

“My end goal from the beginning was to work with cars. That was something that I’ve always been passionate about when I was younger.”

SAN JAC TRANSFORMS LIVES WITH AFFORDABLE BACHELOR'S DEGREE OPTIONS

By Melissa Trevizo

Community colleges have long served as pillars in the community, contributing to workforce development, skills training, flexible learning, and the local economy. Launching its fourth bachelor's degree in spring 2026, San Jacinto College provides innovative pathways for students seeking advanced education.

"San Jacinto College aims to drive economic growth by transforming lives through education," said Shelley Rinehart, assistant vice chancellor for instructional and support program efficacy. "Our goal is to improve our students' economic and social mobility, creating a lasting legacy for future generations."

Here are San Jac's bachelor's degrees:

Bachelor of Applied Science in education

If you're a paraeducator/paraprofessional or early childhood educator, consider San Jac's Bachelor of Applied Science in education with an emphasis in early childhood. This degree will prepare you to work with children from six weeks through third grade. You may also work in an early childhood organization like Head Start or apply for teacher certification to teach preschool through third grade in public schools.

"What sets our particular bachelor's degree apart is that it is designed for working paraeducators," said Rinehart. "If you're already working in a school district or at an early learning center, then you can use those observation hours for the degree."

- **Location:** Central Campus or San Jac Online
- **Salary Potential:** \$64,650 (elementary school teachers)*



Bachelor of Applied Technology in logistics and supply chain management

This program, coming in spring 2026, provides you with an affordable, high-quality pathway into one of the nation's fastest-growing industries.

With the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projecting a 19% growth in logistics jobs by 2033, the demand for skilled professionals continues to rise. The greater Houston area, a hub for global trade and transportation, needs more degreed professionals who can navigate complex modern supply chains.

- **Location:** North Campus or San Jac Online
- **Salary Potential:** \$72,157 (logisticians)*

Bachelor of Applied Technology in information technology with an emphasis in cybersecurity

This degree will give you a flexible pathway to enter the cybersecurity field:

- Start as a security analyst or security operations center analyst
- Specialize in network/cloud security, threat intelligence, incident response, and more
- Advance to high-level positions like chief information security officer

If you're looking for versatile training to match a versatile market, look no further. With a cybersecurity degree, you can find a job that aligns with your unique interests and strengths. Cybersecurity jobs are popping up as fast as new cyber threats, and the field offers plenty of opportunities for career advancement.

- **Location:** South Campus
- **Salary Potential:** \$113,284 (information security analysts)*



Bachelor of Science in nursing (RN-to-BSN)

San Jac's 100% online BSN program allows you to learn from where you are. The learner-centric BSN program follows an eight-week course model, which builds on previous education and experience.

The three-semester, 31-credit-hour program focuses on these concepts:

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

The BSN program answers the needs of both industry and working registered nurses. Top health care organizations advocate for entry-level nurses to hold BSN degrees, and many health care institutions prefer BSN-prepared nurses for leadership, specialized, and research roles. This program allows registered nurses with associate degrees to continue their education conveniently and affordably.

- **Location:** Central Campus or San Jac Online
- **Salary Potential:** \$108,164 (medical and health services manager)*

*texaswages.com, 2023 median wages, Gulf Coast region

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac's bachelor's degrees.





CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY

BACHELOR'S DEGREES

With a **bachelor's degree** from San Jacinto College, you can land a high-wage job or advance in your current career.

**Bachelor of
Science in Nursing**

**Bachelor of Applied
Science in Education**
*Emphasis in
Early Childhood Education*

**Bachelor of Applied
Technology in IT**
Emphasis in Cybersecurity

**Bachelor of Applied
Technology in
Logistics and Supply
Chain Management**

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SAN JAC HONORED WITH EDUCATION CHAMPION AWARD

By Jacquelynn Conger

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.



CHOOSE YOUR PATH

At San Jacinto College, we empower you to achieve your goals, redefine expectations, and explore new opportunities. With more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight areas of study, you can get the education you need for a rewarding career.

Before registering, discuss your career goals with a San Jac advisor. Whether you pursue workforce training or earn an associate degree to transfer, we'll connect you to the program that's perfect for you. Learn more at sanjac.edu or call us at 281-998-6150. ■



Art, Humanities, Communication, and Design

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

Career Opportunities

(some may require bachelor's or master's degree)¹

Art, Drama, and Music Teachers (Postsecondary)	\$80,710
Broadcast Technicians	\$42,670
Choreographers	\$41,379
Editors	\$66,242
English Language and Literature Teachers (Postsecondary).....	\$82,752
Film and Video Editors.....	\$53,248
Graphic Designers	\$51,950
Interpreters and Translators.....	\$55,450
Lighting Technicians.....	\$62,848
Media and Communication Equipment Workers	\$45,460
Music Directors and Composers.....	\$86,528
News Analysts, Reporters, and Journalists	\$58,437
Producers and Directors.....	\$62,738
Proofreaders and Copy Markers	\$49,275 <small>(statewide)</small>
Public Relations Specialists	\$60,447
Sound Engineering Technicians.....	\$46,088 <small>(statewide)</small>
Special Effects Artists and Animators.....	\$84,929
Technical Writers.....	\$74,069



Business

- 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 bachelor's or master's degree)¹

Accountants and Auditors.....	\$81,733
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks.....	\$46,303
Budget Analysts	\$86,113
Credit Analysts	\$74,666
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants.....	\$70,141
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	\$44,972
Human Resources Specialists	\$63,208
Insurance Underwriters.....	\$76,819
Paralegals and Legal Assistants.....	\$58,957
Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks	\$48,785
Project Management Specialists	\$97,147
Real Estate Brokers.....	\$63,290
Real Estate Sales Agents.....	\$50,669



Construction, Industry, Manufacturing, and Transportation

- Automotive Technology
- Autonomous Vehicle
- Biomedical Clinical Equipment Technician
- Construction Management Technology
- Diesel Technology
- Electrical Technology
- Environmental Health and Safety Technology
- Heavy Diesel Equipment/Crane Technician
- Instrumentation
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Maritime Transportation
- Non-destructive Testing
- Pipefitting
- Plumbing Technology
- Process Technology
- Welding Technology

Career Opportunities

(some may require bachelor's or master's degree)¹

Analyzer Technician.....	\$90,400 ²
API Inspectors	\$150,703 ³
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics.....	\$47,382
Autonomous Vehicle Technicians	\$37,440 ⁴
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	\$58,848
Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels..	\$120,250
Certified Welding Inspectors	\$124,797 ³
Chemical Plant and System Operators.....	\$106,492
Construction Managers.....	\$100,872
Crane and Tower Operators.....	\$73,619
Electricians	\$59,495
Environmental Science and Protection Technicians (Including Health)	\$47,637
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers.....	\$54,209
Instrument Fitter	\$66,800 ²
Instrument Technician	\$67,800 ²
Medical Equipment Repairers	\$50,549
NDT Technicians Level I	\$74,392 ³
NDT Technicians Level II	\$104,931 ³
NDT Technicians Level III.....	\$130,096 ³
Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	\$61,084
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$60,281
Sailors and Marine Oilers.....	\$61,964
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers.....	\$51,875



Education

Child Development / Early Childhood Studies
Teaching

Career Opportunities

(some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)¹

Career/Technical Education Teachers (Secondary)	\$67,183
Childcare Workers	\$27,883
Education and Child Care Administrators, Preschool and Daycare.....	\$47,818
Elementary School Teachers (Except Special Ed).....	\$64,650
Preschool Teachers (Except Special Ed).....	\$34,231
Secondary School Teachers (Except Special Ed and CTE)	\$66,266
Substitute Teachers (Short-term)	\$31,472
Teaching Assistants (Except Postsecondary)	\$29,593



Health Sciences

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

Career Opportunities

(some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)¹

Cancer Registrars/Abstractors	\$60,644 ⁵
Certified Ophthalmic Assistants	\$42,500 ⁶
Certified Ophthalmic Technicians	\$51,733 ⁶
Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians	\$52,075
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	\$81,870
Emergency Medical Technicians.....	\$37,399
Health Information Technologists and Medical Registrars	\$76,732
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$59,015
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists.....	\$85,852
Medical Assistants	\$38,742
Medical Records Specialists	\$45,760
Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$72,621
Opticians, Dispensing.....	\$35,802
Paramedics	\$57,723
Pharmacy Technicians	\$43,506
Physical Therapist Assistants	\$76,673
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians.....	\$76,589
Registered Nurses.....	\$92,935
Respiratory Therapists	\$77,987
Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors.....	\$57,098
Surgical Technologists	\$63,501



Public Safety and Human/Consumer Services

Chef Training
Cosmetology
Criminal Justice
Fire Protection Technology
Massage Therapy
Pastry Chef

Career Opportunities

(some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)¹

Bakers.....	\$29,593
Barbers.....	\$35,987
Chefs and Head Cooks (Including Pastry Chefs).....	\$51,828
Firefighters.....	\$54,315
Food Service Managers.....	\$67,411
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists.....	\$29,596
Massage Therapists.....	\$51,755
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$69,082
Private Detectives and Investigators	\$47,379
Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists	\$47,486
Skincare Specialists (Estheticians)	\$36,861



Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

- Applications/Programming
- Biology
- Biomanufacturing Technology
- Chemistry
- Cloud Computing
- Computer Science
- Computer Simulation and Game Design
- Cybersecurity
- Desktop Support and Network Administration
- Engineering
- Engineering Design
- Graphics
- Engineering Technology
- Environmental Science
- Geology
- Mathematics
- Microsoft and CISCO
- Physics
- Web Design

Career Opportunities

(some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)¹

Agricultural Engineers.....	\$98,420	<small>(statewide)</small>
Agricultural Technicians	\$39,246	<small>(statewide)</small>
Architectural and Civil Drafters.....	\$58,562	
Biological Technician.....	\$50,021	
Chemical Engineers	\$166,461	
Chemical Technicians.....	\$89,982	
Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$63,084	
Civil Engineers.....	\$87,333	
Computer Network Support Specialists	\$56,592	
Computer Programmers	\$96,895	
Computer User Support Specialists	\$55,018	
Database Administrators.....	\$101,738	
Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$67,472	
Environmental Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$53,997	
Environmental Engineers.....	\$125,050	
Food Science Technicians.....	\$62,295	
Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$75,338	
Industrial Engineers.....	\$108,559	
Information Security Analysts.....	\$113,284	
Mechanical Drafters.....	\$71,109	
Mechanical Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$65,496	
Mechanical Engineers.....	\$118,773	
Software Developers.....	\$125,722	
Web and Digital Interface Designers	\$80,879	
Web Developers.....	\$93,184	



Social and Behavioral Science

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

Career Opportunities

(some may require a bachelor's or master's degree)¹

Anthropologists and Archeologists.....	\$58,714	
Clergy.....	\$57,390	
Clinical and Counseling Psychologists.....	\$56,228	
Museum Technicians and Conservators	\$24,536	
Philosophy and Religion Teachers (Postsecondary).....	\$84,551	
Political Scientists.....	\$106,267	<small>(statewide)</small>
Psychologists (All Other)	\$128,835	
School Psychologists	\$80,189	
Social Science Research Assistants.....	\$45,482	
Sociology Teachers (Postsecondary).....	\$84,942	

Salary Sources

¹Unless otherwise noted, source: texaswages.com, Gulf Coast region, 2023 annual WDA median wages

²Source: Lightcast, Houston metropolitan statistical area, 2025

³Source: PQNDT 2019 Salary Survey

⁴Source: Nuro, estimated starting salary

⁵Source: National Cancer Registrars Association, 2022

⁶Source: Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology

Noncredit Classes for Professional and Life Long Learners

Whether you're preparing for a career or picking up a new hobby, San Jacinto College Continuing and Professional Development offers a variety of noncredit courses for workforce training and lifelong learning. Workforce courses keep employees up to date on the latest industry technology and are available through contract training, open enrollment, and grant funding. You can also pick up new skills you've been eager to learn. CPD offers lifelong learning courses to promote leisure learning and to help you extend your horizons. Learn more at sanjac.edu/continuing-education.

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
- Health Career Pathways Partnership Grant
- TPEG
- TWC Business Funding Opportunities

SPARKS FLY IN 'REIGNING FIRE NO. 2': WELDING MEETS ART AT NORTH CAMPUS

| By Melissa Trevizo



This spring, San Jacinto College's North Campus welding program collaborated with the North Gallery for "Reigning Fire No. 2: Industrial Art Showcase," featuring creations from metal sculpture and art metals welding courses.

Welding instructor Emily Choate welcomes experienced artists, welders, and newcomers alike: "Even if you don't call yourself an artist, this class is still for you. A basic concept can transform into artwork."

This marked the second collaboration between the welding program and gallery.

"We're honored to showcase these fantastic sculptures," said gallery curator Joe Clark.

Students also crafted a permanent "Beestro" sculpture for the North Campus culinary arts herb garden, featuring honeycomb cells with café and bakery scenes, flowers, and bees created using various welding techniques.

As students continue exploring welding's artistic potential, their work redefines the intersection of art and industry. ■

Scan the QR code to learn more about the **welding technology program**.





TRAINING FOR

CAREERS THAT PAY

- Air Conditioning Technician
- Auto Repair Technician
- Computer Aided Design
- Engineering Technician
- Mariner
- Medical Imaging Technician
- Plumber

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Houston, TX 77049

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