Making Connections
When these students opened the doors at JWCC, some had a plan and others needed to find a path. Now as 2016 graduates, they are making connections with four-year schools and employers.

Oscar Rivera
Psychology

Katelyn Wolf
Accounting

Melinda Miller
Nursing

Chris Harland
Computer Science

Katie Wolfenbuttel
Nursing

Oscar Rivera
Psychology

Katelyn Wolf
Accounting

Melinda Miller
Nursing

Chris Harland
Computer Science

Katie Wolfenbuttel
Nursing

Austin Mast
Evan Schreacke

Evan Schreacke
Evan Schreacke

Brad Unmisig
Scott Lentz

Brad Unmisig
Scott Lentz

Alyssa Cothren
Business

Brandi Cothren
Business

Lindsey VanTress
Business

Kevin Schmidt
Computer-Aided Design

Dakota De Freitas
Biology/Pre-Med

Ashley Liebig
Shipping/Receiving

Munachiso Okonkwo
General Studies

Cody Wilkens
Agriculture

Tanner Zanger
Business

Koby Brown
Physical Education

Kaleb Bridgewater
Veterinary Medicine

Allison Fox
Biology/Occupational Therapy

Alyssa Cothren
Business

Brandi Cothren
Business

Lindsey VanTress
Business

Kevin Schmidt
Computer-Aided Design

Dakota De Freitas
Biology/Pre-Med

Ashley Liebig
Shipping/Receiving

Munachiso Okonkwo
General Studies

Cody Wilkens
Agriculture
Connecting Career Paths

Many career paths begin at John Wood. Those paths often connect JWCC alumni together in key industries to keep the community moving forward.

HEALTHCARE

The first step in the careers of Maria Berhorst, Dr. Tim Jacobs and Dr. Sam Wilson all started at John Wood. Several steps later their paths intersected at Quincy Medical Group.

“John Wood gave me such a solid foundation, especially on the technical side of nursing. The critical and practical skills I put to use early in my career also prepared me for my bachelor’s and master’s level courses.”

—Maria Berhorst ’03, MS, RN-C-LNC, CHRNQMG Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nursing Officer

Maria Berhorst earned her associate degree in nursing from JWCC in 2003. Today, she serves as chief operating officer and chief nursing officer at QMG. Berhorst says the foundation she received at JWCC made all the difference. In her current role, Berhorst is pleased to see that JWCC nursing graduates have the same excellence in their preparation. “The John Wood nurses we hire are second to none,” she said. “They are right up there with all other nurses we hire from schools across the country.”

QMG Ambulatory Physician Dr. Tim Jacobs and his family have made attending JWCC a family affair. In the mid-1980s Jacobs took science classes through JWCC to prepare for medical school. He returned to JWCC in the mid-2000s, as the Trail Blazers team doctor and led the effort for QMG to provide trainers for JWCC.

“Being away from home, I learned to be on my own and had great support from Coach Rodriguez and my professors,” Wilson said.

—Dr. Tim Jacobs, D.O. QMG Ambulatory Physician

Dr. Sam Wilson followed his example. His two oldest sons each spent a year at JWCC, and his daughter took a few classes at JWCC during her college career wishing in retrospect she would have completed the first two years of her bachelor’s degree at John Wood.

Dr. Sam Wilson found her way from Leroy High School near Bloomington, Illinois, to JWCC through basketball and softball scholarships, and is now a proud member of the Quincy community. She earned an associate in science degree in biology from JWCC in 2008 as part of her plan to become a physical therapist.

“She is second to none,” she said. “They are right up there with all other nurses we hire from schools across the country.”

AGRICULTURE

A passion for agriculture connected them to JWCC. Today, they use their education and skills at ADM in Quincy to link farmers with the products they need to feed and fuel the world.

“Completing the full ag associate degree at JWCC helped me take less classes at Wisconsin when I transferred and I was better prepared than the other students there,” Sharpe shared. “I also had more leadership and practical experiences because I participated in livestock judging and ag club.”

—Ranay Sharpe ’12

ADM National Account Sales Coordinator

Ranay Sharpe joined JWCC from across the river in Shelbyville, Missouri, to play basketball with the Lady Trail Blazers. She continued her athletic career at University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Now she lives in Palmyra, Missouri, and started her career with ADM.

“Thanks to John Wood, she remains right at home working in the region and industry she loves. “I found JWCC online, visited and knew right away it was for me,” Wright said. “All my classes transferred to WIU, and I had a lot of connections in the ag community thanks to two years of internships at John Wood,” she said. “I’m so glad I went to JWCC. I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Manufacturing

The nationally recognized credentials and career services at John Wood helped Josh Brummet ’15 find his path to success with Michelmann Steel in Quincy.

“Before John Wood, I was making minimum wage and didn’t have any skills to set me apart from anyone else,” Brummet said. He started taking classes in JWCC’s manufacturing program and began to realize how education could improve his life. Soon, instructors and career services staff at John Wood came to him with job offers from regional employers.

“At first I thought a couple classes were all I needed because they helped me get a better job, which paid a lot more than what I was making,” Brummet remembered. JWCC’s Manufacturing Coordinator Jim Fuhrman advised Brummet to keep working toward a certificate to solidify his skill set.

“He gave me some great advice, and I became a certified production technician and precision machinist,” he said. “Because I finished my certification, I have a solid position at Michelmann Steel.”

MARICELMAN

The John Wood nurses we hire are second to none, she said. They are right up there with all other nurses we hire from schools across the country.

“The biggest plus was how much our professors genuinely cared about us, I’m still close with all of them,” Courtney said. “I also had amazing internship opportunities in my first two years of college at the Orr Research Center. When I went to WIU I went right into upper level ag classes totally prepared.”

—Sara Courtney ’07

ADM National Account Sales Coordinator

Sara Courtney wanted to stay close to her family farm outside of Quincy. She found a close-knit, caring atmosphere a few miles east at JWCC’s Agricultural Education Center. Today she serves ADM sales teams and clients across the country.

“John Wood is a great asset for our community. It gives young people a top-notch start to their education, especially if they aren’t sure of their career path, or even if they have made that decision. I see so many students go away to school and come back after they realize how much John Wood has to offer.”

—Dr. Sam Wilson ’08, D.P.T.

ADM National Account Sales Coordinator

Chelsea Wright always knew she wanted to stay close to her home in Basco, Illinois, but wasn’t sure she could find a nearby ag program. Thanks to John Wood, she remains right at home working in the region and industry she loves.

“I found JWCC online, visited and knew right away it was for me,” Wright said. “All my classes transferred to WIU, and I had a lot of connections in the ag community thanks to two years of internships at John Wood,” she said. “I’m so glad I went to JWCC. I wouldn’t have it any other way.”
A professor stands in front of the class for 45 minutes delivering a lecture. Students write notes.

"Any questions?" Silence ensues.

The professor asks again "Really, no questions? Ok, complete these problems. We’ll see how you did next week." If you haven’t been in a college classroom in a while, you may think this is how it works.

Think again. Especially in Cathy Stephens’ accounting classes. This veteran JWCC professor has flipped the formula on how to use precious classroom time and her students are reaping the rewards.

Instead of listening to a classroom lecture, students watch a series of short videos on specific topics before they step into class. Inside the classroom, students begin homework using Connect accounting software that poses problems. If students answer incorrectly, the software won’t let them continue. That’s when the hands go up and Stephens comes to the rescue.

"It’s so much better than getting stuck on a problem and giving up, or worse, wasting time doing things the wrong way," JWCC sophomore Amber Brink shared.

Brink’s classmate Christopher Turner agrees and says the “flipped classroom” approach saves him valuable time outside of school, which he often spends working or taking care of his family.

“We get a quick five-minute refresher as soon as we come into class, then use the rest of the time working on assignments,” Turner said. "I find out right away if I’m missing something because the software tells me. I ask for help from the professor, master the concept and move on to the next lesson."

Stephens says the “flipped classroom” approach helps students gain confidence and provides a key personal connection that helps the learning process.

"Now students know if their answer is right or wrong before they turn in the assignment," Stephens said. "When they know it is wrong, I can step in and explain on the spot. That’s when learning takes place."

**New Facility to Serve the Southeast**

In the fall of 2017, JWCC will lease a new facility in the former JDJ/Crossing building adjacent to the Pittsfield Industrial Park on U.S. Route 54 to better serve the southeastern portion of its district.

The new facility will be named the JWCC Southeast Education Center and will include approximately 10,000 square feet on the main level and feature new amenities recommended by the community to help grow enrollment at the center.

In addition to classrooms and offices, the center will include a space for community special events and training, a cyber café area connected to fiber optic high-speed internet for public use, and upgraded lab space for Certified Nursing Assistant and pre-requisite nursing courses. Additional space on the second level of the building will be available for future expansion.

**Concurrent Enrollment Boosts Mt. Sterling Center**

JWCC opened a new facility on North Capitol in Mt. Sterling in May 2013 to expand offerings and outreach in Brown County.

Since the new facility opened, JWCC doubled enrollment in Mt. Sterling, primarily due to concurrent enrollment courses taken by Brown County High School students at the center. In the first year of operation during the 2013-14 academic year, JWCC enrolled 80 students in 220 credit hours. Two years later, 168 students took 474 credit hours at the center.

The increase was boosted by a scholarship program funded by the Tracy Family Foundation, dedicated faculty and staff led by Jeanne Yingling, and support from the Brown County School district.

**Classrooms of the Future**

A mobile Kaap board wirelessly transmits notes to students’ mobile devices.

A 100-inch touch screen may become the white board of the future at John Wood Community College.

A $42,100 grant from the Marion Gardner Jackson Trust (MGJT) to the JWCC Foundation helped JWCC create two interactive labs to experiment with ways to embed more technology into classroom learning environments.

The new labs feature multiple types of interactive equipment such as 100-inch touch screens, SMART podiums with interactive displays and 360 mirroring to wirelessly connect smart phones and mobile devices with projection systems.

A mobile Kaap board allows instructors to wirelessly transfer class notes to students’ devices.

Even walls and furniture are interactive. Casual furniture groupings help students work as a team and brainstorm by writing notes on walls coated with whiteboard paint.

Classroom walls transform into 100-inch interactive touch screens.

JWCC professors and staff members will be trained on the new technology this summer and fall. Tours of the labs are available for schools and community workshops will be held on technology topics.

**JWCC’s 2015-16 Ag students at the Agricultural Education Center near Perry.**

**Large Crop of Freshmen at JWCC Ag Center**

Increasing yield is always the goal in agriculture, and JWCC achieved that task this fall, enrolling 59 percent more freshmen students than the year before. In the fall of 2015, 32 students entered JWCC’s Agricultural Education Center near Perry, Illinois, compared to 19 the previous fall.

**Top in the Nation**

JWCC’s Agriculture Club competed against 600 students from 11 states at the 2016 National Postsecondary Agriculture Student Conference. Adam Wright of Carthage earned first place honors in the Career Planning Plant Systems competition.
New Paths to Transfer Tech Credits

Career and technical students often complete a certificate or two-year degree with the intent to immediately enter the workforce. Now, they will be able to enter the local workforce and also have pathways to continue their education by transferring credits into applied, four-year bachelor’s degrees for managerial careers in technical fields. jwcc.edu/career-technical

Renewed Partnership with Blessing-Rieman

John Wood Community College and Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing and Health Sciences renewed a collaborative agreement to combine resources to deliver nursing instruction for students in JWCC’s Associate Degree in Nursing program. Starting the fall of 2016, all JWCC nursing students will take all pre-requisite and first year nursing courses at JWCC. JWCC students will receive instruction at Blessing-Rieman in their second year to complete requirements to graduate from John Wood with an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN). jwcc.edu/nursing

Customized Training Helps Adams Telephone

Training is nothing new for Adams Telephone, based in Golden, Illinois. However, improved communication among employees from top down and bottom up, Jim Broemer, Adams’ chief executive officer shared, “We’ve been through different training programs, whether online or bringing someone in from out of town, and it ends up being a waste of time due to the new information is difficult,” Broemer said. “By working with John Wood we were able to develop a focused training program spaced out over time to promote implementation and real use. This provided much more success.” Broemer now recogntizes JWCC’s customized training for both employees and recently started new training with Microsoft products through John Wood. “JWCC provides a solution that allows a company to focus on specific issues or topics with continued feedback and the ability to shift training as needed.” For more information on customized training options, contact Gordon Forbes at 217.641.4929 or gforbes@jwcc.edu. View training options at jwcc.edu/customized

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A community campaign is currently under way to raise $200,000 to provide a portion of the technology and furnishings for the New Southeast Education Center.

We want to use existing resources wisely and help members of these communities gain more access to education that can improve their quality of life,” said JWCC Board of Trustees Chair Jim Gay shared. “The new center will remain close to home for college courses and workforce training.

Funds raised will support the purchase of projection systems, SMART podiums, new furnishings and health groceries as part of the Carry out Caravan program. JWCC’s Brown County Retired and Senior Engagement Award as part of their work with the illinois governor’s Business Volunteer Engagement Award.

Community Campaign for New Southeast Education Center.
SUCCESSFUL CONNECTIONS

TOP 10 RANKING
Schools.com ranked JWCC in the Top 10 among Illinois' 48 community colleges based on several factors, including a greater percentage of students successfully transferring to four-year universities.

FIVE STAR STATUS
John Wood Community College’s Alpha Tau Gamma chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society earned five-star status from the international headquarters of PTK, which is the highest honor awarded to individual chapters.

FINE ARTS FLOURISH
Art students collaborated to create a Music of the Spheres mural inspired by musical, literary and visual art references. The mural is available for public viewing in the lower level of the Heath Center just south of the auditorium lobby.

EARLY CHILDHOOD GOLD STANDARD
JWCC’s early childhood curriculum earned Gateways to Opportunity status, the ‘gold standard’ professional credentialing system which recognizes excellence in preparation of early childhood care providers.

LOCAL FOODS IN LOCAL STORES
Vegetables grown on JWCC’s demonstration market farm produced by the College’s sustainable local foods program are used at Thyme Square, Bailey’s Fudge, and Bittersweet Confections in Quincy and sold at County Market, Hy-Vee and Grown-n-Gathered. Produce will also be donated to local food pantries this summer.

PROFESSORS EMERITI
The distinction of Professor Emeritus was awarded to retiring faculty members Mark Moore (natural sciences) and Carol Sharpe (office technology/computer science) at JWCC’s 41st commencement, during which, JWCC conferred 510 degrees and certificates.

ALL-ACADEMIC HONORS
Caitlin Lee of Barry and Brandon Carl of West Point were among a select group of Illinois Community College student leaders named to this year’s Illinois Community College Board All-State Academic Team and nominated for the 2016 USA TODAY ALL-USA Community College Academic Team.

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UPTICK IN ENROLLMENT
JWCC was one of just eight community colleges to show an increase in enrollment and one of six to record an increase in credit hours for the spring semester. The College has increased enrollment for three consecutive semesters.