

JOHN WOOD



SUMMER 2020 COMMUNITY UPDATE

TRAIL BLAZER





President Michael Elbe
John Wood Community College

Our Mission —

John Wood Community College enriches lives through learning by providing accessible educational opportunities and services at an exceptional value.

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On behalf of the Board of Trustees and myself, I personally welcome you to enjoy our summer newsletter highlighting the success of our students and the many accomplishments of your community college. With great pride, I report that during one of the most difficult periods in our lifetime, JWCC faculty and staff rose to the occasion to fulfill our **Mission of Enriching Lives Through Learning**, helping our students achieve personal success. In May, the College conferred more than 600 degrees and certificates. Our graduates are transferring to 4-year colleges/universities or entering the local workforce in head-of-household careers in healthcare, manufacturing, transportation/logistics and agriculture.

This past spring during the month of March, we found ourselves in the middle of a global pandemic. After seeing our community, our faculty, our staff and many others rally to find a safe way to ensure community and student success, I shared a video outlining my **3 G's** to provide perspective. The first **G was Grit**. Many people including our students, faculty and staff dug in their heels and gritted their teeth to find a way to make it through this most challenging time. After time, they all revealed my second **G, Grind**. We were in the stay-at-home order for 10 weeks. I witnessed community members, business leaders, our faculty, staff and students grind through their work to make it to the finish line and say we will prevail. And prevail they did! So, my last **G is Grateful**. I am grateful for our community college district and this tri-state area for allowing us to serve your educational needs. My attitude is one of gratitude for our students who hung in there to achieve their goals, and to our faculty and staff who went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the College achieved our #1 Strategic Goal, Student Success.

We prevailed and stayed **Trail Blazer Strong!**

So, enjoy this newsletter as we share some of the stories of the past year in the life of John Wood Community College.

On behalf of the entire JWCC family, thank you for allowing us to serve your lifelong learning pursuits.

With gratitude,

Michael Elbe

President, John Wood Community College



JWCC Contributes to Community COVID Partnership

“John Wood Community College will be the community’s partner and leader in education, workforce training and lifelong learning”
 – JWCC Vision.

JWCC lived its mission during the COVID-19 global pandemic by joining with community leaders to offer leadership, support and resources through the Adams County Together task force and throughout the entire JWCC district through the efforts of staff, faculty and students.



President Michael Elbe and JWCC alumnus Quincy Mayor Kyle Moore were two of 16 leaders who leveraged knowledge and resources to educate, prepare, empower and advocate for West Central Illinois.



Adams County Together Task Force

“During trying times, our communities seem to come together with strength to carry us through and to lift us up. The Adams County Together team links the talents of leaders throughout our business community, faith-based organizations, government, non-profits and community partners. Working together, we are able to align our response to the pandemic that is holistic, forward-thinking, and seeks to put our neighborhoods, cities and region in a stronger position than where we were a few short months ago. The Adams County Together team is an example of the vision of John Wood Community College reaching beyond its doors and impacting communities in each of the nine counties JWCC serves.”



—Quincy Mayor Kyle Moore
 JWCC Alumnus, 2001

MORE AFFORDABLE ✓

FAMILIAR ✓

SMALLER ✓

SAFER ✓

CLOSER TO HOME ✓

jwcc.edu/getstarted

JWCC Students to Benefit from In-Person and Top Ranked Online Learning Experiences this Fall

JWCC plans to utilize a mixture of in-class instruction with remote learning for the fall 2020 semester to allow students the most flexible and safest opportunity to have some traditional classroom experience while adhering to social distancing practices. JWCC’s small, affordable and familiar environments are more valuable than ever for students, wherever they might live. Online learning is also a differentiator for JWCC students as the College is ranked the best online community college in the state of Illinois by SR Education Group.

TRAILBLAZER



Corina Reid
Mt. Sterling, IL
Associate in Arts

"I had a lot of college classes completed and really wanted to complete my degree. I only needed three, and two of the new classes in education were just being offered at JWCC's Mt. Sterling Center, which helped me as a paraeducator in Brown County. I took an online biology class and finished my degree without leaving town. I'm so grateful to have had access to the classes I needed to help me reach my goal!"



Adelyn Cox
Pittsfield, IL
Associate in Arts

"I loved JWCC's friendly atmosphere and affordability! I've earned my associates and will now transfer to Illinois State University this fall to major in International Business with a minor in Business Management."



Priscilla Lyell
San Diego, CA
Associate in Applied
Science – Fire Science
Highest Honors

"I went back to college at 50 years old – and mostly online! I'm so lucky to have found JWCC's ad in Firehouse Magazine because the staff has made this such a fantastic experience. I'm now working at the Coronado Island Fire Station in San Diego."



Kailyn Mast
Fowler, IL • Associate
in Science • Honors

"I chose John Wood because it was close to home and I was able to work full-time at Bergman Nurseries. Coming from a small high school, JWCC was a great way to start college and work my way into a big university. I plan to attend Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and one day become a high school agriculture teacher."



Kristen Inman
Quincy, IL
Certificate – Practical Nurse

"As a mom of two, I've had many stressful and overwhelming days trying to get through each class, but I put all my effort into my education and now I'm better for it. I'm going to continue my education to become a Registered Nurse and hopeful that next year at this time I will be an OB nurse."



Jonas Hibbert
Mendon, IL
Graduate of Smart Start 2x2
Graduated Unity High School
and JWCC at the same time.
Associate in Arts – Business

"John Wood helped me start my college career earlier than my peers, which has saved time and money. All of my credits transferred to Lindenwood University, where I will start as a junior this fall. Completing the first two years of college before graduating high school is certainly challenging, but it's rewarding having the massive head start!"



Brady Bockenfeld
Quincy, IL • Associate in Arts
Law Enforcement

"I received the best education at half the cost of other colleges and I graduated without any student loan debt. I want to pursue a career as a State Trooper because the sense of pride and satisfaction that I receive when I'm able to help someone in need gives me the utmost joy. I hope I can be a role model to younger generations."



Ariel Holbrook
Quincy, IL
Associate in Applied
Science – Accounting

"I had a hard time getting up the motivation to apply to JWCC two years ago after I lost my brother in a car accident, but I told myself I would make something of myself and make him proud. It's never too late to go back to school. I love doing taxes and one day I hope to become a self-employed accountant."

STRONG

2020 graduates all had different challenges and paths, but all remained Trail Blazer Strong. Students shared their journeys this year and their paraphrased quotes are below.



Jaelyn Likes

Bluffs, IL

Associate in Arts
Highest Honors • PTK

"John Wood has prepared me to transfer to my next step in life by teaching me important life skills through student government and giving me some of my best friends! I will attend University of Missouri – St. Louis this fall to study occupational therapy."



Brittany Weathers

LaGrange, MO

Associate in Arts – Business
High Honors • PTK

"I transferred in to JWCC and met some great people through classes and TRiO Support Services for first-generation college students. I've had a great experience at John Wood for which I am very thankful and I will transfer to Quincy University to obtain my bachelor's degree in management."



Taylor Neff

Hannibal, MO

Associate in Applied Science
– Surgical Technology

"I was able to be a cheerleader for my first two years of college while earning my surgical technology degree. My amazing teachers and advisors pushed me to succeed. Now I'm ready to join the surgery teams that change and save lives every day."



Jonathan Deck

Steinen, Germany

Associate in Arts – Accounting
High Honors

"The past two years have been some of the most exciting of my life and I've met so many genuine people. As an international student, I could always rely on the help of my teammates, coaches, staff and faculty. I'm happy and blessed to continue my studies at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee."



Unathi Thango

Richards Bay, South Africa

Associate in Arts

"I live and breathe the game of soccer and was grateful to play for John Wood. I will transfer to Southwest Baptist University to complete my bachelor's degree in exercise science and hope to become a professional soccer player. If I can't play it, I will do all I can to stay close to it. I've learned to always be yourself and don't be afraid to show the world who you really are."



Cassandra Moya

Quincy, IL

Associate in Arts
and Certificate –
Nursing Assistant
Highest Honors

"When my husband and I moved to Quincy in 2016 to be closer to my retiree parents, I decided to switch gears from finance and pursue nursing. The experience at JWCC has been wonderful and I look forward to what the future holds!"

The year 2020 marked the first graduating class from **JWCC's College for Life** certificate program. CFL prepares students with IDD or similar learning challenges for competitive employment, maximum independence, and community participation.



Nick Burgess



Mercedes Farmer



Cheyenne Gayton



Tom Geise



Jessica Jansen



Gena Mann

Agriculture, healthcare and manufacturing/transportation/logistics industries are key to the JWCC district's economy. As the area's workforce education leader, JWCC collaborates with company leaders and advisory councils to train graduates to meet industry needs. The 2019-20 academic year had many highlights including **226 graduates** entering these career fields for our region.

AGRICULTURE



Solar Array Panels at Quincy's Workforce Development Center.

JWCC Secures IGEN Grants

SOLAR ARRAY PANELS

In early 2020, JWCC secured grant funding from IGEN for the installation of solar array panels at the Workforce Development Center in Quincy and for the Agricultural Education Center in Baylis, IL. These projects are important because the grant funds will be used for energy efficiency savings for the College's energy costs for decades to come, plus they are an investment in the curriculum for training opportunities at both locations.



The Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN), a consortium of Illinois community colleges, serves all interested schools across the state sharing resources, common experiences, best practices and curricula.

AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION AND RURAL RECOVERY

JWCC secured a grant from IGEN and commissioned THG Advisors to develop the report to examine opportunities for creating positive regional impact for rural West-Central Illinois. JWCC President Michael Elbe said, "community colleges provide the capacity to develop and build viable partnerships as we create together new generations of farm operators, owners and other rural careers in our service area." The report and accompanying webinar may be accessed at jwcc.edu/IGEN.

HEALTHCARE



Thirteen of the 43 Certified Nursing Assistants celebrated with their instructors in early March during clinical training at Good Samaritan Home in Quincy.

Healthcare professionals have always been heroes, but this year JWCC is especially proud of the **136 new graduates** who are ready to serve on the front lines as certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, medical assistants, surgical technologists, medical office professionals, healthcare assistants, radiologic technologists and medical laboratory technicians.

MANUFACTURING TRANSPORTATION • LOGISTICS



New for the 2020 fall semester at JWCC is the Automation and Robotics Technician certification program which can be completed in one year. JWCC partnered with Knapheide Manufacturing to develop the curriculum and build this workforce certification program. Visit jwcc.edu/robotics.

JWCC collaborates with the Quincy Area Vocational Technical Center to provide a diesel certificate program to serve the needs of related industries. Pictured L/R: Brian Armstrong, Instructor, Diesel Technology (Brian is also the Diesel Tech instructor for the QAVTC) and Phil Steinkamp, Assistant Professor of Truck Driver Training.



Foundation helps JWCC Stay Trail Blazer Strong

Career Makeover

Article excerpt from Herald-Whig by staff writer Deborah Gertz Husar

H-W Photo/Jake Shane



Kathy Flesner won the John Wood Community College Foundation/WGEM Career Makeover competition in 2018.

Kathy Flesner says she's taking the next step in living out a principle taught in her economics class. "It's called human capital," she said. "It's where you invest in yourself with education to help you get the better-paying jobs."

Flesner, part of the Class of 2020, plans to continue her education this fall to earn a bachelor's degree. She's looking into an online program through Hannibal-LaGrange University. But for now, she's savoring the sense of accomplishment from earning an

associate degree in business from JWCC.

In 2018, Flesner topped a field of 75 applicants to win the JWCC Foundation/WGEM Career Makeover competition which provided a two-year, full-tuition scholarship to JWCC.

2020 JWCC Distinguished Alum



Andy Bastert was honored with the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award during Homecoming Week in February. Andy received his associate degree in ag science at JWCC in 1980. He is Western Illinois Region President of Fortress Bank in Carthage, Ill., where he oversees Fortress' seven western Illinois facilities and heads the Ag Lending Division.

Andy's roots of being raised on a dairy and livestock farm near Camp Point fed his passion for agriculture and his desire to help farmers have a successful business. Andy served as Student Trustee for the JWCC Board of Trustees in 1979, vice president of the JWCC Agriculture Club and serves on the JWCC Ag Alumni Association Board.



Ray Scheiter and Renee (Scheiter) Higgins.

Remembering Rose

Ray Scheiter and his children Rob, Angie and Renee established the Rose Scheiter Memorial CNA Scholarship with a gift to the JWCC Foundation. The annual award honors the memory of Rose Scheiter and her spirit of helping others. Rose retired from JWCC in 1998 after serving as a procurement specialist for 16 years; she passed away in August 2018.

"Rose gave of herself to everyone she met. She truly would be happy that this scholarship will help others," Ray said.

The Rose Scheiter Memorial Scholarship provides two awards each year to students enrolled in the Certified Nursing Assistant Program. One award is presented to a student attending classes at the JWCC Southeast Education Center in Pittsfield, where Rose grew up; a second award is made to a student attending at the main Quincy campus. The first awards were made last fall.

For more information about the Rose Scheiter Scholarship or how to establish a scholarship through the JWCC Foundation, contact Barbara Holthaus at 217.641.4104.

Pulling for JWCC Students

The JWCC Foundation launched a new annual event in September to support JWCC student needs. The first Wine Pull was a great success thanks to generous sponsors and participation. The evening featured exquisite wines, extraordinary food, music, friendship, and the fun element of a Wine Pull to draw for bottles of surprise wrapped wine. The 2020 Wine Pull is scheduled for September 24 at the Quincy Country Club. For tickets or sponsorship information, contact Barbara Holthaus, at 217.641.4104.



JWCC FOUNDATION | 2019-2020

Honor Roll of Donors

The John Wood Community College Foundation recognizes the alumni, businesses, foundations, organizations, and friends who, through generous donations of time and money, support John Wood Community College.

The Honor Roll of Donors includes gifts to the JWCC Foundation received between June 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020.

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 Dearwester Grain Services Inc.
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 Rehabilitation, LLC
 Kiwanis Club of Quincy –
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 Nursery Inc.
 Liberty Bank
 Lincolnland Equipment &
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The JWCC Foundation exists to bridge a gap between the needs and resources of John Wood Community College.

No gift to the JWCC Foundation is too small, and all support is appreciated. Gifts to the JWCC Foundation are tax deductible to the extent provided by the law. For more information, or if we can be of service to you in considering a gift to John Wood, contact Barbara Dietrich Holthaus at 217.641.4104 or bholthaus@jwcc.edu.



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Volleyball

1st Team All Conference Selection
Sierra Erke



Two conference Freshman of the Year award winners

Winter Casseus, Men's soccer
Aaron Shoot, Men's basketball



Women's Basketball

NJCAA Academic All-American
Breanna Bordewick
3.36 team GPA

Women's Soccer

Two First-Team Academic All-Americans
Yasmin Cruz,
Abigail Reis



For the fourth time in seven years, the men's basketball team won an outright Mid West Athletic Conference championship, celebrating their win with the Woodpile fan club. Chandler Bevans, men's basketball, was named Region 24 Player of the Year and an NJCAA DII All American.



Blazer Baseball

Three First Team NJCAA Academic All-Americans

Joe Faron,
Dakota Kilgore,
Donovan Prost



Woody the Trail Blazer congratulated members of the JWCC Dance Team after their final performance of the 2020 year.

Blazer Softball

Four First Team NJCAA Academic All-Americans

Rebecca Scott,
Lauren Van Tress,
Addison Miller,
Taylor Bringer.

3.53 team GPA



JOHN WOOD BLAZERS ESPORTS
JWCC Blazer Athletics will offer Esports this fall. The College is creating a new high-tech gaming room and students will compete in Madden NFL, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Rocket League and other games.



Student Life Coordinator Eric Foster delivered food to JWCC students in multiple counties who needed a little extra support due to COVID-19 related job loss or furloughs. The JWCC family donated more than 500 items and \$1,000 to purchase food and necessities for JWCC family members in need.