



# 2021

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

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**Isaac Doughart-Wood**  
AAS in Fire Science '21

**Our Mission:**

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



**Blazing Your Path!** As your district’s community college leader, I am entirely focused on this post-pandemic landscape to maintain a healthy and vibrant College to serve each of your individual educational needs.

Education is the single best self-help program that exists for all of us. Lifelong learning is one of JWCC’s core values. I am a lifelong learner and you should be too. I am confident no matter your age, socioeconomic background, geographic location, or any other factor. YOU can find learning opportunities at John Wood Community College!

As we look forward to an exciting future, JWCC continues to make investments in the long-term sustainability and prosperity of education and workforce development in our communities. I want to share with you two major projects moving forward in 2021 (see details on Page 6):

- JWCC was awarded a \$3 million federal grant for the expansion of the Workforce Development Center in Quincy. Once completed, the project will provide relevant skill training for the most in-demand fields to the area’s workforce and strengthen resiliency throughout the region.
- In partnership with JWCC, the University of Illinois and the Orr Corporation, construction is planned for a 24,000-square-foot facility at the JWCC Agricultural Education Center. The facility will include offices and classrooms, an exposition/arena space, and an animal care unit designed for short-term or temporary housing for the welfare of animals. The building will address multiple agricultural, education and development opportunities in the Tri-State area.

The last piece of good news for you is JWCC’s 50th Anniversary is just around the corner. The 2023-24 academic year will be our celebratory year. More information to follow, but I want to invite you now to be a part of this historic year in the life of the College.

JWCC is YOUR path to the future. We hope you enjoy our community update. Each story in this publication is impactful and inspiring. Every person’s journey is unique, and John Wood is here to help you achieve your dreams.

**On behalf of the Board of Trustees and myself, join us to be a part of our exciting future together.**

With gratitude,

Michael Elbe  
President, John Wood Community College

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## 101 Times

*An inspiring personal blog from Melissa Hess, JWCC Adult Admissions Advisor*

My job is to counsel adults who want to return to college or start for the first time. However, I have yet to graduate myself. I feel better now than I have in the past about my lack of a formal degree. It used to cause me embarrassment and I would cringe when conversations swirled around alma maters. Then, when my peers would find out I didn't have a college degree, I could see the surprise in their expressions. It hurt my confidence, a lot.

I went to college directly out of high school with top grades, joined a sorority, lived in a dorm, the whole thing. But after one semester, I decided to transfer back to a college in my hometown (even though the other college was only 25 minutes away). A combination of life circumstances, a relationship and my anxiety caused this abrupt shift. I stayed a semester in my hometown college but quickly lost interest and pulled out of that as well. In the end, the relationship I sacrificed for ended. The anxiety I experienced at that time lessened. The life circumstances surrounding it all improved.

Fast forward several years, a successful business was built with my partner at the time. We sold it for a generous profit to another company, but the partnership deteriorated and ultimately the relationship ended. I went to work at a non-profit then shifted to the community college I am at now. I had started taking classes while I was at the non-profit out of curiosity to see if I still "had it." Turns out, I kind of do. I am completing my associate degree in education with plans to move on to Eastern Illinois University

### Behind the Happy – A look beyond what the world sees

and earn my bachelor's in general study. The experience could not be more different than when I was younger, and the process moves at a much slower pace. The "barriers" to completion are plentiful. A full-time job, two amazing sons, one with special needs, time, money and more. They all gang up on me at times, so it's important for me to accept this isn't an easy, traditional, clean, and pretty journey. There will be struggle and it will be difficult.

I recently told my co-workers that when I finally graduate, I will wear my cap and gown all day. That's how much it means to me. I know the mountains I climbed, fell off, and remounted to earn this. I've felt the loneliness of parenting, working and being a student with no partner to share. I've lost my patience, more than once, and misaligned my priorities. I've given up 100 times and started again 101 times. I AM the students I counsel, and I will share my story because I'm not embarrassed of it anymore. The stigma my mind has imagined, doesn't exist. Adults going back to college is normal and moreover, commendable. To my students I am a classmate, a cheerleader, a sounding board, even a shoulder to cry on when the going gets tough; and it will get tough. How beautiful is that?

# The Paths of 2021 Graduates



**“The instructors worked with my schedule and helped make going to school and working full time so much easier.”**

## Following Her Spark

College signings are traditionally related to sports or a student announcing their college of choice, but John Wood recently held its second career signing event, which has just as much if not more meaning. Partnering with the Quincy Area Vocational and Technical Center and Great River Economic Development Foundation, the event was created to help bridge the gap between college and the workforce.

After completing her certification, SchaNique Ellis was happy to be one of the John Wood students to be a part of the career signing and has taken a welding position at Knapheide Manufacturing.

Reflecting on her experience at John Wood, SchaNique says, “Doing anything beyond high school was kind of nerve-racking at first, but the instructors were very understanding. They worked with my schedule and helped make going to school and working full time so much easier.” When asked what she would tell someone considering going back to school at John Wood, SchaNique advises, “Don’t be intimidated by the idea it’s college. Just go for it! Everyone deserves the opportunity to grow and further their education.”

*(Photos courtesy of Knapheide Manufacturing Company)*



## Making a Smart Start

After graduating from Quincy High School, Alpha Cepeda debated on going away for college but wasn’t sure what she wanted to study. She says, “Both my siblings went to John Wood, and coming here first was the smartest decision. It helped me realize what I wanted to do in life.” Feeling like you don’t know anyone at a new school can be intimidating, but Alpha says, “I made a lot of friends through student life. I really enjoyed my two years here.”

She appreciated how the advising staff was so helpful with her transfer. With her associate degree completed, Alpha is looking forward to studying advertising and business at the University of Illinois this fall.

# Rising to the Challenge

Josh and Krista Forbis became very familiar with the NICU in the hospital because all four of their children were born prematurely. Knowing what it's like to be a NICU parent, Krista could envision herself working as a nurse on that floor.

Josh and Krista didn't go to the same schools but met through sports in seventh grade. They live in Barry, IL and have been married since 2008. After high school, the couple both got their associate degrees at John Wood – Josh in law enforcement and Krista in the liberal arts. They later became interested in the college's nursing program. Deciding to go back to school with four children, this time would be different for sure, but Josh said to his wife, "I'll go... if you go!"

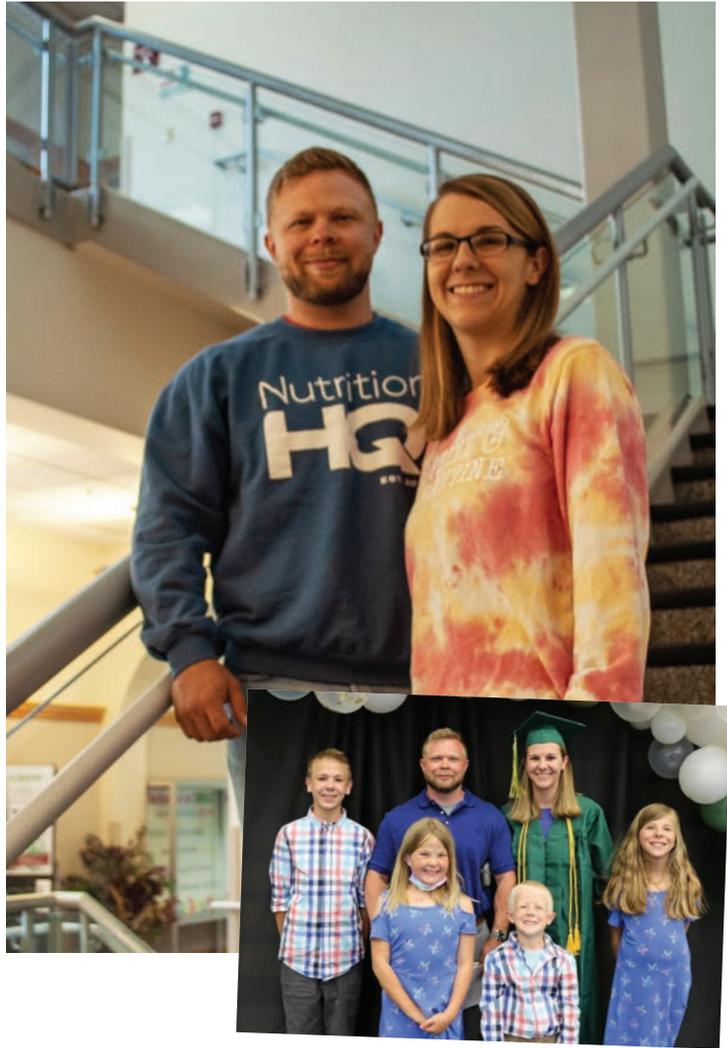
They both started the nursing program full-time, while Josh worked as an EMT in Pike County. Seeing a need for a non-emergency ambulance service, Josh and his business partner started Impact Medical Transport in 2020.

Going to school in 2020, a year of nothing but challenges, the couple was impressed with the creative ways the college utilized virtual clinicals. In a time of mostly virtual or online learning, Krista appreciated that, "All the classes I took online were fantastic."

They also encourage others to talk to Alisa Cameron from TRiO Student Support Services. Krista says, "Alisa is top-notch. One of the best people I've ever met! She has been a huge support system and has done so much for us."

Krista recently graduated, and Josh will do the same in two semesters. Reflecting on her experience, Krista says, "We saved a lot of money coming here. I feel like John Wood caters to non-traditional students a little more than a university does." Josh adds, "I like the smaller class sizes. They have great faculty that are willing to help. Overall, it's been a great experience."

Krista recently started working in Pittsfield as an RN in the emergency room at Illini Hospital. If she decides to pursue a position in the maternity unit in the future, she is grateful to know that she now has the foundation to continue to blaze her trail.



**"I feel like John Wood caters to non-traditional students a little more than a university does. We saved a lot of money coming here."**



# Five-Star Fire Science

Isaac Doughart-Wood of Wentzville, MO always wanted to be a part of something bigger.

Seeing the wildfires in Australia on the news, Isaac felt compelled to help. He recently received his certification as a Wildfire Firefighter in Salida, Colorado. As a recent graduate in Fire Science, Isaac says, "It's a great program and it's affordable. JWCC gave me all the tools I needed, but it also gave me the college experience. I played baseball here, which was also a huge plus. It feels like you are at a four-year university."

Isaac dreams of being a structure firefighter in St. Louis someday and adds, "Everything that John Wood gave me I am able to put into the world. It was one hundred percent worth it!"

# Highlights

## GRANT BOOSTS WORKFORCE TRAINING



After a year-long Campus Master Planning process, John Wood Community College's number one capital project identified was the expansion of the Workforce Development Center. A \$3 million Economic Development Administration Grant awarded to JWCC in June will help fund expansion of programs and facilities for this region to support the workforce needs of the Tri-State area.

"We continue to make investments for workforce training in the areas of manufacturing, transportation/logistics and many other career technical programs. The College is expanding our career education programs, and these training programs all require physical space to conduct hands-on training," said JWCC President Michael Elbe.

The project, which will begin in late 2021, will establish space for the new Automation and Robotics and Automotive Diesel Technology training programs; create an additional Truck Driver Training area; and expand other existing training programs.

## EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY

More than 40 years ago, the Orr Research Center Corporation helped create the successful partnership between the University of Illinois and John Wood Community College at the Orr Center. This unique site has produced valuable on-site research and created educational opportunities for more than 1,000 JWCC students pursuing careers in agriculture.

The Orr Center's research, demonstration, and education efforts continue to impact farming and related agribusiness decisions today. The Orr Corporation is now leading a privately funded project to create a new 24,000-square-foot Multipurpose Agricultural Facility at JWCC's Agricultural Education Center near Baylis. This project will provide additional educational programs and services to address current and emerging agricultural industry opportunities and will improve human development and our rural economies. The \$2 million project is expected to begin this fall.

*(Pictured: 2020-21 Ag Ambassadors)*



## BLAZER STRONG

JWCC's 140 student-athletes overcame more than their opponents this year as they battled the pandemic.

Despite the obstacles COVID-19 threw into the mix, all eight teams competed this year, including a stretch where the Trail Blazers played in 176 games or matches in 113 days.

Along the way, the Men's Basketball and Esports programs garnered national recognition and multiple student-athletes snagged All-American, All-Academic, All-Region, All-Conference, and Dean's List honors.

# JWCC Foundation

Since 1984, the John Wood Community College Foundation has raised funds to support students through education and training. Together with the College, the JWCC Foundation works to advance the College's mission and the strategically planned goals that bring mission to life.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit tax exempt organization, the JWCC Foundation's purpose is simple and impactful. That is, to support JWCC and the students who attend. The JWCC Foundation provides opportunities to make an investment in students as they prepare to be tomorrow's leaders. These funds provide resources that are not typically supported by taxes, tuition, or other funding sources.

All students at JWCC are eligible to apply for scholarships. The JWCC Foundation administers more than 100 scholarships. Last year more than \$136,000 was awarded to students attending JWCC.

For more information about the JWCC Foundation, contact Barbara Dietrich Holthaus, JWCC Foundation Executive Director, at 217.641.4104.

## Types of Gifts

- Cash, check, or credit card
- Appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds, and mutual fund distributions
- Personal property such as art, automobiles, and equipment
- A planned gift, such as bequest, real estate, and retirement plan

## Gift Designations

- Unrestricted contributions to the area of greatest need for student support
- Restricted contributions to a specific area in the college such as a departmental, named, or endowed scholarship fund
- An endowed scholarship can be established with a \$10,000 gift
- Named gifts to establish a new scholarship
- An annual scholarship can be established



## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

At the age of 36 and with many years of working for the railroad, Troy Gard is ready for a new opportunity. "As you get older you realize it starts to take a toll on you, so I thought maybe I should start using my mind over my body," Gard shared.

Thanks to winning the 2021 JWCC Foundation and WGEM Career Makeover, Gard of Palmyra, MO, will begin courses at JWCC this fall with a focus in electrical engineering. He wants to take his longtime love of technology and pursue an electrical technology degree, which will open doors to a wide range of career paths.

Adult students reinvent their careers by taking courses and earning degrees at John Wood. Gard encourages others to consider their own Career Makeover. "It's never too late to move forward," he said.

Runners-up Susan Cooley of Pittsfield, IL, and Ashley Wigle of Hannibal, MO, each received a \$1,500 scholarship from the JWCC Foundation.

## VOLUNTEERING ADDS VALUE TO COMMUNITY



Like every part of life, the pandemic impacted the need and ways people volunteered this past year. For four months, the Adams, Brown and Pike Counties Retired and Senior Volunteer Program responded to meet community needs. RSVP volunteers assisted with the Adams County Covid-19 Rapid Testing.

JWCC's RSVP volunteers, who are 55 years and older, enrich the lives of those they serve while also sharing their life-long experience in meaningful ways. In 2020, more than 550 active RSVP volunteers in Adams, Brown and Pike counties contributed 57,998 hours of volunteer service amounting in \$1,556,086 in economic impact in the three counties. RSVP volunteers worked with more than 80 non-profits, schools, government agencies and faith-based organizations.

To learn more about RSVP or how to volunteer, contact Barbara Casady, Manager of Volunteer Services, at 217.641.4960.

*(Pictured: Barbara Casady and John Simons, Director of Adams County Emergency Agency)*

# JWCC FOUNDATION | 2020-2021

## 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, 2020 and May 15, 2021.

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 Fix It Quincy  
 Fortress Bank  
 Gem City Kiwanis Club of Quincy Foundation  
 Gem City Scale Company  
 Gene Haas Foundation  
 Ghrist Veterinary Clinic  
 Great River Economic Development Foundation  
 Great Rivers Bank  
 Griggsville Veterinary Clinic  
 Growmark Foundation  
 Gully Transportation  
 Heimer and Associates  
 HOME BANK  
 Illini Community Hospital  
 Illinois Community College System Foundation  
 Illinois Electric Cooperative  
 Institutional Advisor Services  
 JC Parker Insurance  
 JL Scrap Metals Inc.  
 JW Medical  
 Janssen Seed & Services  
 Jayden Court Condo Association  
 Jeff Hughes Homes Inc  
 Jeff Whiston Agency LLC  
 Joyce L. Potts Trust  
 Sib & Ginny Kamphaus Trust  
 Keck Heating & Air Conditioning  
 Kiwanis Club of Quincy—Gem City  
 Kiwanis Club of Quincy—Golden K  
 Kiwanis International Quincy—Noon  
 Klingner and Associates PC  
 LAD Corp  
 LPL Financial  
 Lambert Family Trust  
 Leffers Landscape & Nursery Inc.  
 Lewis Seed Farms, Inc.  
 Logan Agri-Service, Inc.  
 Longhorn Cattle & Swine Confinements  
 Lummis Funeral Home, Inc.

ME Mechanical Inc.  
 Maas Construction  
 Marion Gardner Jackson Charitable Trust  
 Mark Twain Casino  
 Martin John Deere  
 Mary L. Tieken Trust  
 Meier Autobody  
 Michelmann Foundation  
 Mississippi Valley Black & White Club  
 Mt. Sterling Implement Company  
 Mt. Sterling Veterinary Clinic PC  
 Niemann Foods Inc  
 Nutrien Ag Solutions—Ferris, IL  
 Nutrien Ag Solutions—Mt. Sterling, IL  
 Nutrien Ag Solutions—Palmyra, MO  
 O'Connor Wealth Management  
 O'Donnell's Termite & Pest Control Inc  
 Oakley Lindsay Foundation  
 Oakley Lindsay Center  
 Partner's Inn HI, LLC  
 Peters Body Shop & Towing  
 Pike County Economic Development Corporation  
 Pike Feeds Inc.  
 Pikeland Community Unit School District 10  
 Poage Auto Plaza  
 Port Industries, Inc.  
 Prairieland FS Inc.  
 Qubit Networks LLC  
 Quincy Broadcasting Company  
 Quincy Cullinan LLC  
 Quincy Exchange Club Foundation  
 Quincy Farm & Home Distributing  
 Quincy Farm Products  
 Quincy Medical Group  
 Quincy Metal Fabricators, Inc.  
 Quincy Physicians and Surgeons Clinic SC  
 Quincy Recycle  
 Quincy Service League  
 Quincy Subway Restaurants  
 R and S Mulch Farms, Inc.  
 Rees Construction Company  
 Refreshment Services Pepsi  
 Richard J. & Frieda L. Mulch Trust  
 Richards Electric Motor Company  
 Rinella Company  
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 S & S Kaiser Farms, Inc.  
 SIU Foundation  
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 Sloan Implement Company

Smoky Jennings Chevrolet  
 Southeastern Community Unit School District 337  
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 Sullivan Auctioneers  
 Ti-Trust  
 Temaura, Inc.  
 Terstrip Tree Service  
 The Arc of Illinois  
 The Benevity Community Impact Fund  
 The Chicago Community Foundation  
 The Graphic Edge  
 The Maschhoffs, LLC.  
 Thiele Garage  
 Town and Country Bank dba Peoples Prosperity Bank  
 Tracy Family Foundation  
 Tri State Car Wash Solutions LLC  
 Two Rivers Farm Bureau Foundation  
 Tylex, Inc.  
 Unit 4 Foundation  
 United Community Bank  
 United Way of Adams County Inc  
 United Way of Brown County  
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 Victor A. Welper Insurance Agency Inc  
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**Quincy Fire Department**  
Barry & Jeanne Cheyne

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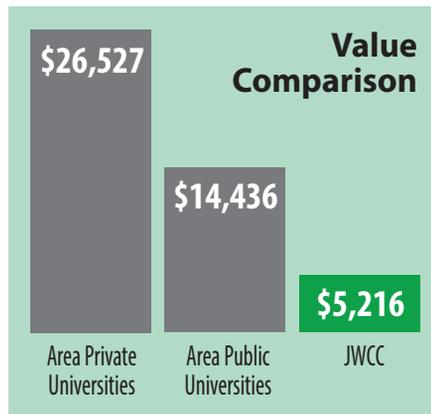
No gift to the JWCC Foundation is too small, and all support is appreciated. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent provided by the law. For more information, contact Barbara Dietrich Holthaus at 217.641.4104 or bholthaus@jwcc.edu. Or visit [jwccfoundation.org](http://jwccfoundation.org)

Postal Resident

## Did you know?

### School Districts Served

- Bluffs
- Pikeland (Pittsfield)
- Brown County
- Pleasant Hill
- Central
- Quincy
- Griggsville-Perry
- Southeastern
- Liberty
- Unity
- Meredosia-Chambersburg
- Western
- Payson



### ECONOMIC IMPACT:

\$22 million

### DISTRICT SIZE:

2,363 square miles

### DISTRICT POPULATION:

93,100

Learn more at [jwcc.edu](http://jwcc.edu)!

# SAVE THE DATE!

**Thursday, September 23, 2021**

5:30 to 8:00 pm

Quincy Country Club | 2410 State Street



Wine  
Pull