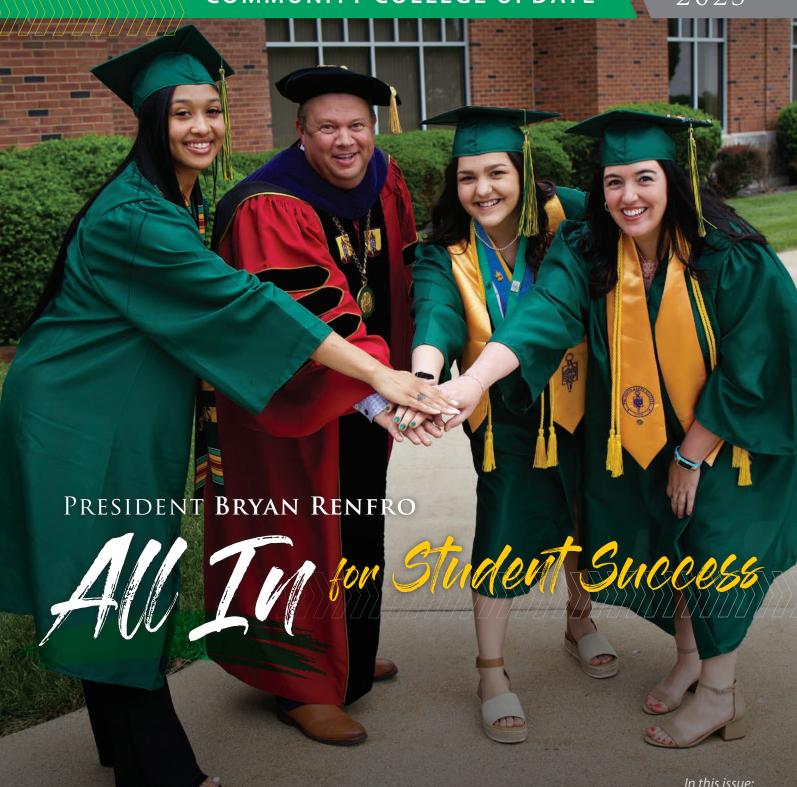
OH WOLLD WOLLD WITH WOLLD WITH WARREN WARREN

COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPDATE

2023



In this issue:

Graduation Celebrations Campus Updates 50th Anniversary Kick Off





EDUCATION

Bachelor's in Anthropology University of Tennessee

Offiversity of Terrifessee

Master's in Anthropology University of Arkansas

Doctorate in Higher Education Administration

Emphasis in Community College Leadership, lowa State

COMMUNITY COLLEGE POSITIONS HELD

Vice President of Academic InstructionParis Junior College (Texas)

Associate Vice Provost of Academic and Workforce Affairs

Tyler Junior College (Texas)

Dean of Business and Public Services Hawkeye Community College (Iowa)

COLLEGE COURSES TAUGHT

Anthropology Criminal Justice Education

PATHWAYS TO PROMISE: Fulfilling



Introducing Dr. Bryan Renfro, JWCC's Seventh President

On January 4, 2023, Dr. Bryan Renfro and his family returned to a community they call home. Since his first day as president of John Wood Community College, Renfro's open and collaborative style and passion for education have made an immediate connection.

That connection has quickly generated new possibilities and enhanced partnerships with faculty, staff, business leaders, parents, students, and alums from all corners of the College's nine-county district and beyond.

Renfro's passion and personality are rooted in his belief that the role of the community college is integral to the betterment of society.

retention and completion efforts, and good old-fashioned hard work.

"The work of community



colleges is vital to help those searching for a better way of life to achieve their hopes and dreams," he said. "I believe we can make the world a better place through John Wood Community College. I am genuinely honored and grateful to be this institution's seventh president."

To learn more about Dr. Bryan Renfro's community college philosophy, visit: youtube.com/@JWCCedu.

"The work of community colleges is vital to help those searching for a better way of life to achieve their hopes and dreams..."

"Our students are the core of our communities – the new high school graduate from Pleasant Hill starting his engineering degree, the mom from Quincy getting her GED to be an example for her kids, the LPN from Mt. Sterling returning for classes to become a Registered Nurse – each of these students has a dream that when fulfilled has a ripple effect that results in a better quality of life for them, their families, and greater society," he said. "And it all starts with accessing relevant, affordable education and training right here at home."

Renfro aims to expand access to even more students through public/private partnerships, outreach to underserved populations, early adoption of students' career pathways, investments in student Dr. Bryan Renfro and his wife,
Jennifer, met while working at separate community colleges.
The couple most recently lived in
Paris, Texas, with their two children,
Jack and Blake.
Jennifer will join



the staff of Denman Elementary in Quincy as an administrator this fall. Jennifer is originally from Pittsfield and her parents live in Quincy.

Photos include Bryan and Jennifer at the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration in Quincy and a family snapshot at a recent Garth Brooks concert at AT&T Cowboys Stadium in Dallas, Texas.

Hopes & Dreams for a Better Community



Dear JWCC Community,

During my first six months as President, I have met people who tell me about their connection to John Wood everywhere I go. Whether I'm talking with groups or meeting with folks one-on-one, they always make a point to say, "Yeah, I went to John Wood, or I graduated from there, and so did my kids or even grandkids!"

There's pride in their voices when they share that connection; a story almost always follows. Each one reveals why they are proud to share how John Wood had an impact – it's because John Wood helped them find themselves and advance their careers. It's because John Wood helped them pursue and achieve their hopes and dreams!

The distinguished board members, world-renowned faculty, exceptional staff, daring leaders, and outstanding alums of this College have worked hard in the last 50 years to be part of the success story of this community.



In the years ahead, we will work even harder because John Wood, like every community college, is an economic driver for the region and offers a path to a better life, often helping individuals transcend poverty.

Community college graduates earn, on average, at least \$10,000 more yearly than those with a high school degree. That's over \$800 more monthly, often moving a family into a sustainable household wage. For our region's economy, the 524 JWCC graduates from 2023 earning \$10,000 more yearly means more than \$5 million pours back into our communities through purchases and investments. We have 50 years of contributions, with many more to come!

So, please keep telling us those stories and help us create more of them by supporting today's students. Our community will be better for it. On the back page of this publication, you'll see ways to connect with us by sharing your stories, giving to the Pathways to Promise Scholarship Drive, and joining us as we celebrate our community college's Golden Anniversary.

I want to thank everyone for your support as I have completed my first semester as the seventh president of John Wood. My family and I are grateful for this opportunity, and we share the Blazer Pride! Thank you for supporting the hopes and dreams of our students. They, indeed, are the promise of our future.

Sincerely,

Bryan

President, John Wood Community College

10-year Higher Learning Commission Accreditation

As part of its ongoing commitment to continuous quality improvement, JWCC's Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that the College earned a full 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation from The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in January. Accreditation is the formal recognition of the quality of an educational institution, granted by HLC, based on a rigorous on-site evaluation.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is the official governing board of the College.

Membership is composed of seven trustees elected at-large from the District and one student selected by the student body.



Bob Rhea Chair



Andy Sprague Vice Chair



Paula Hawley Secretary



Don Hess



Dr. Randy Greenwell



Larry Fischer



Angie Greger



Kaydence GregoryStudent Trustee



raduates in green
gowns streamed into
JWCC's 48th Annual
Commencement Ceremony
on May 17, ready to fulfill
a promise they made to
themselves two, or in some
cases, 15 years earlier.



A standing-room-only crowd of family, friends, faculty, and staff witnessed the hopes and dreams of the Class of 2023 become reality. Each turn of the tassel opened the door of opportunity for graduates to continue their college careers at a four-year university or join the community's workforce as nurses, electricians, truck drivers, graphic designers, firefighters, and more.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

JWCC Student Government
President and Pittsfield native
Catharine Miller earned
multiple honors during her
academic career at JWCC,
including being named a
Phi Theta Kappa Guistwhite
Scholar. She was one of eight
community college scholars



chosen from a field of 2,700 applicants nationwide. Miller graduated from JWCC debt free, along with \$5,000 from the Guistwhite Scholarship to help with tuition at Culver-Stockton College next year, where she will continue her path to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a teacher.



"For 15 years, I wanted to go back..."

Our 2023 nursing graduate **ALAINA PYLICAN** overcame many obstacles as a young mother working full time and attending JWCC. After an accident left her brother hospitalized, she became interested in nursing.

Scan the OR code for this **BLAZER STORY** video!



"Tonight is a big night. It's the grand finale. Years of our triumphs and our trials, our headaches and our heartburn, our winning days and our wasted days, and everything in between has landed us in these chairs, in this room, and facing this stage. I am so proud of all of us for getting here."

- Excerpt from Invocation given by **Melissa Hess**, Associate in Arts - Sociology





250 Associate in Applied Science & Certificates

Primarily focused on **skills training for immediate employment in key workforce sectors.**

Most popular degrees and certificates include:



Agriculture



Heath Sciences



Welding



Electrical Technology

274 Associate in Art or Science

First two years of a bachelor's degree, students can transfer to a four-year university.

Most popular degrees include:











Business

Psychology

Sociology

Education

JWCC also awarded a total of 35 high school and College For Life credentials during 2023-24.



RESPONDING TO THE REGION: Educational Facilities



GROWING AGRICULTURE Through Education

AG SCIENCES COMPLEX:

The Agricultural Sciences
Program at John Wood
Community College
experienced a remarkable
transformation within the last
year with a 24,000-squarefoot expansion of its Ag
Sciences Complex near Baylis,
made possible by a generous
\$2.5 million investment
from the Orr Corporation.
The complex, named
after a longtime agriculture

champion, the late Fred L. Bradshaw, includes:

- Additional classrooms
- Office space
- Community room
- Exposition/livestock arena
- Animal care unit
- Veterinarian's office

These enhanced facilities enable JWCC to offer a broader range of courses and curricula, showcasing cutting-edge agricultural technologies in animal and plant sciences and natural resource management.

Collaborative efforts with the University of Illinois have been strengthened, fostering joint programs and shared resources.

The newly constructed complex has already hosted a variety of activities and seminars catering to different interests, such as livestock evaluation, youth fishing clinics, and agronomy field days.

The new facility reflects

JWCC's commitment to

engaging the community and nurturing the next generation of agricultural enthusiasts.

Visitors are encouraged to explore the expanded facility and witness the seeds that research and education will grow for the future of agriculture in West Central Illinois and throughout the Midwest. For more information or to take a tour, visit jwcc.edu/ag or scan the QR code.



Charging Station Installed at Southeast Education Center

The Illinois Electric Cooperative unveiled its first public electric vehicle charging station at JWCC Southeast Education Center (SEC) near Pittsfield this spring. It is located just off Interstate 72 along Highway 54 and allows two electric vehicles to charge simultaneously.

The station at the SEC will be on the ChargEV[™] map, encouraging more electric vehicle drivers to stop in nearby communities while traveling through the area. The stand-alone unit accepts various forms of electronic payment through a smartphone app.



Photo: (L-R) Shawn Rennecker, IEC Economic Development Director; Jenna Morrow, IEC Board Director; Diane Vose, JWCC Southeast Education Center Manager; Dr. Bryan Renfro, JWCC President; Randy Long, IEC General Manager; Kevin Brannan, IEC Board Director; Rebecca Allan, IEC Project Manager; Kristine Bingham, IEC Board Director.

Tailored to Meet Workforce Needs

WDC EXPANSION:

A 14,170-square-foot expansion of the College's Workforce Development Center is expected to open later this fall.

The College is leveraging the project's \$3 million federal Economic Adjustment Assistance Program grant and has raised \$250,000 in private funding from regional industries and foundations to support equipment and classroom spaces:

- · Virtual Reality Lab
- Truck Driver Training addition
- HVAC Training addition
- Flexible use space for Business and Industry Training
- New 42nd Street entrance
- Robotics and Automation Labs
- Welding, Industrial Maintenance, and Manufacturing additions
- New Physical Building entrance and student collaborative space

The expansion will provide state-of-the-art training



opportunities for students to gain relevant skills in the most in-demand fields to meet the area's workforce needs.

Naming opportunities to support skills training within specific classrooms and labs remain available.

"We encourage regional industries to tour the site to consider an investment in

this workforce hub," JWCC Foundation Executive Director Barb Holthaus shared.

The JWCC Foundation launched the Investing in Tomorrow's Workforce Campaign to support the project. The Campaign includes multiple giving levels and unique naming opportunities and will recognize donors within the Center.

Thanks to a generous gift from Gardner Denver, the computer-aided design classroom will be named the Gardner Denver CAD Classroom. For information about naming opportunities or to tour the facility, contact Holthaus at 217.641.4104 or email foundation@jwcc.edu.



Boosting Brown County College Completion

Brown County students attending JWCC now have access to a dedicated college and career coach, Marcy Wort, who will support them in completing their certificate or degree. This initiative is made possible through a collaboration between the JWCC and Tracy Family Foundations (TFF). Wort, a Brown County native, will work in the JWCC Mt. Sterling Center. She will assist students in exploring career paths, planning coursework, accessing financial aid and scholarships, and overcoming any obstacles that may hinder their college completion. Her role encompasses academic advising, facilitating four-year university transfers, connecting students with community and TFF resources, and addressing individual needs. This partnership aims to enhance college completion rates and empower Brown County students on their educational journey.



Marcy Wort Career Coach

Trail Markens: NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS



Student Life Soars

JWCC's Student Government Association hosts more than 130 events annually, and faculty members create countless hands-on opportunities to bring learning to life. The photos above show students, staff, and faculty at the Dogwood Parade, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society induction, Back-to-School Barbecue, Mini-Blazers Cheer Camp, an interactive English class with Mike Terry, volunteer work at Horizons Food Pantry, Blazers Dance Team signing, a hot dog eating contest for Community College Month, and Manufacturing Day.



JDub Academy Enrollment Jumps by 48%

Enrollment in JWCC's popular children's summer enrichment program jumped 48 percent in the summer of 2023. A total of 481 students continued their educational journey this year.

Classes held in June gave K-12 students hands-on skills in future career fields ranging from video game design and computer coding to criminal justice and agriculture.



New Academies Jumpstart Students' Career Pathways

JWCC has created Career Academies to help high school students earn college credentials in welding and certified nurse assisting, and the opportunity to complete nursing pre-requisites.

The Career Academy model allows students to enroll in specific courses that often lead to a hands-on, in-demand career fields. Additional Career Academy offerings are in development. For more information, see jwcc.edu/smartstart.





Governor Pritzker Visits JWCC to Tout Investments in Higher Education

John Wood Community College welcomed Governor JB Pritzker and local elected officials to celebrate the state's increased support of community colleges and Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant funding in its 2024 budget. MAP funding helped nearly 600 of 1,700 JWCC students last year.

JWCC Student Government Vice President Nicole Cooley, JWCC President Bryan Renfro, Governor JB Pritzker.



Finding Confidence at JWCC

KORY HOLLENSTEINER Campus Pastor at The Crossing Church Shares his personal story of how John Wood Community College played an integral role in shaping his life and preparing him for his future.

Scan the OR code for this **BLAZER STORY** video!



FROM THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR



Career Launch Signing

The fourth annual Career
Launch signing event celebrated
graduates from John Wood
Community College (JWCC)
and Quincy Area Vocational
and Technical Center (QAVTC)
who committed to utilizing
their new skills to support
regional employers. Nine
employers, including Blessing



Health System, Dot Foods, Quincy Medical Group, and others, signed graduates in various fields such as surgical technology, truck driving, nursing, HVAC, and manufacturing. JWCC and the Great River Economic Development Foundation sponsor the event to promote the region's workforce growth by highlighting students who enter in-demand fields that offer family-sustainable incomes.

Regional Relationships Ensure Seamless Transfer



JWCC held two articulation signings and one summit with regional colleges and universities during the 2023-24 academic year. Articulation agreements are renewed regularly and outline a pathway for students to seamlessly transfer credits earned at the community college to a four-year institution to ensure the most efficient completion of a bachelor's degree.

JWCC and Western Illinois University signed an Agricultural Business transfer agreement. Quincy University and JWCC signed transfer agreements in Agribusiness, Criminal Justice, Elementary and Special Education, Middle Grades Education, and Supply

Chain Management. JWCC and Culver-Stockton College (C-SC) administration and faculty met to discuss curriculum alignment and opportunities to serve students best. The college is planning additional summits and agreements with regional four-year partners in the future.

Faculty & Staff OF THE YEAR



FACULTY

Matt Carey

Assistant Professor
of Philosophy



ASSOCIATE FACULTY **Casey Otten**Instructor of Fire Science



STAFF MEMBER **Doug McQuern**Officer, Campus Police



PART-TIME STAFF MEMBER

Roberta Dougherty

Custodian, Agricultural

Education Center



ATHLETES Blaze THROUGH RECORD BOOKS





2022-23 BY THE NUMBERS

Home Runs
Payton Mansfield
single-season record

JWCC Career Wins

Men's Baseball Coach Adam

Hightower in five seasons



42 Student-Athletes Transfer Success at JWCC to Four-Year Universities

Trail Blazers are taking their talents to the next level and will compete at various levels at the following institutions:

NCAA Division I

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Lindenwood University Alabama State University

NCAA Division II

Missouri S & T University of Illinois-Springfield Barry University (FL)

NCAA Division III

Blackburn College University of Wisconsin-Platteville

NAIA

William Woods University Culver-Stockton College Trinity University 249 JWCC Career Wins
Men's Basketball Coach Brad
Hoyt in 13 seasons



Women's basketball player Madison McFerrin will transfer to NCAA Division II Barry University in Florida this fall. She is pictured here with her family on Sophomore Day. Madison was also a featured speakers during commencement.

FINE ARTS PROGRAMS PIND DE SCHOOL SPIRIT



During the 2022-23 academic year, JWCC's Fine Arts programs pumped up school spirit for current and prospective students with their passion for performance. JWCC debuted its fight song, held six exhibits, five community performances, and hosted its first annual Pep Band Day. JWCC's Fine Arts programs are led by Dr. Steven Soebbing, Jessica Snider, and Austin Fine.

Scholarships in fine arts and musical performance are available to majors and non-majors. More information is available at jwcc.edu/programs/fine-arts.

JOHN WOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE Foundation

PAYING IT FORWARD



Coach Greg Wathen loved baseball, and he loved coaching. Even as a young boy, he dreamed of becoming

a baseball coach. There is no question that Greg left a lasting impression on thousands of student-athletes throughout his coaching career. He dedicated his 25 seasons as coach of the JWCC Blazer Baseball Team to developing a baseball program that would become renowned for its commitment to integrity and excellence.

Five years after Greg's death, his wife Janelle and children Joshua and Olivia have created a scholarship in his memory at JWCC. The goal is to create a permanent and perpetual fund, which will be endowed when it reaches \$10,000. The fund will invest the principal to produce income for an annual award.

The Coach Wathen Baseball Scholarship will epitomize his impact on developing his players to be productive men and serve as an everlasting way to honor Greg's legacy by helping JWCC students who play the game he loved so much

The JWCC Foundation administers more than 120 scholarships that help local



students as they take the next step toward a better job, a promotion, or a better life. To support the Coach Wathen Baseball Scholarship, learn more about the JWCC Scholarship Program, or how to start a scholarship fund, contact the JWCC Foundation at 217.641.4105 or foundation@jwcc.edu.

Mank You 2022-2023 DONORS

The John Wood Community College Foundation recognizes the alumni, businesses, foundations, organizations, and friends who support John Wood Community College through generous donations of money and time. The Honor Roll of Donors includes gifts to the JWCC Foundation received between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. Thank you to our 2022-2023 donors:

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Career Makeover & Over

While this year's JWCC Foundation/WGEM Career Makeover Winner, April Spears, is just starting, three past winners celebrated milestone accomplishments this spring.

Diane Beroiza (2016) received her associate degree from JWCC in 2018. She went on to receive her bachelor's degree from Hannibal-LaGrange University, and this spring, she was awarded a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in leadership from Quincy University.

The University of Illinois-Springfield awarded Kathy Flesner (2018) her Bachelor of Science degree in business management with a minor in marketing. She says that JWCC got her started and gave her the confidence to continue. "I never gave up," Kathy said. "It just took me a little longer."

Troy Gard (2021) graduated from JWCC with a 4.0 grade point average. "I knew that this opportunity was not going to be wasted, and I was going to do my best." Troy has accepted a position with Ameren in a field that he truly enjoys and will allow him to pursue further education." None of this would have been possible without the support of the JWCC Foundation and the



extraordinary alumni and friends dedicated to making a positive impact and transforming lives for the better, "Troy said. "I am forever grateful for the opportunity to be a Trail Blazer."

April is pleased to be this year's recipient. "I have six grown kids now that can help me on this journey, friends, church family, my work family, and I believe I can do it this time because I have that support," she said.

The Career Makeover provides a full-tuition scholarship, and April says this is her chance to finish what she'd started 20 years ago.

Mank You 2022-2023 DONORS

INDIVIDUALS

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Madelyn Haley

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Derek Harris Shari Harris Debra Harrison Geraldine Harrison Philip Harrison Gregory Harutunian Larry Haschemeyer Robert & Anita Haschemeyer Jean Hatch Joe & Jana Hattey Kelly Hawkins Paula Hawley Judy Haydon David & Amber Hays Judy Hays Elizabeth Heckenkamp S. Milini Heckenkamp Christopher & Kathleen Helsabeck Bonnie Henke James & Patricia Henry **Donald Hess** Melissa Hess Dave & Clairice Hetzler Mary Hilbing Mike & Kim Hilgenbrinck Robert Hilgenbrink Mark & Mary Hill Ric & Monica Hinkamper Rob & Stephanie Hodgson Barbara Holthaus Adam Holtschlag

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Amy Kientzle

Shawn Kindhart

Linda King Kristina Kirlin Donald & Annelle Kirk Richard Klimstra Phillip & Heidi Klingele Laurel Klinkenberg Melissa Knapp Nick Knuffman-Brewer Glen & Amy Koch Stephanie Kocielski Christian Koetters Mike & Jennifer Koening Russell E Koeller Ronald Kraft Nicholas Krizmanic Richard & Charlette Krueger Philip & Erin Krupps Andrew Kutner William & Cindy LaTour Sarah Laaker John & Bev Landis Heidi Lanier Munkhtuya Lantz Ronald & Joan Larner Eric & Kelly Larson Eric Lawler Carol Leach Kenneth & Nancy Leapley Gregory Lee Jack Lemon John Letts

Kelly Lewis

Lincoln & Barbara Lieber Greg & Elizabeth Likes Lee Lindsay Judy Litchfield Aaron & April Littig Larry & Barbara Long Michele Long Courtney Loos Jerry & Rebecca Lunt Michael Maas Doris Malacarne Brenda Manis Gene & Beverly Mann Rebecca Mann Michael Marks Andrew & Jamie Marner Marion & Jane Martin Joan Mast **Brittany Masters** Linda Mayfield Anne Mays Ruth Mavs Carol McCartney Michael & Crystal McCartney Mike & Patty McCaughey Eugene & Beverly McClellan Donna McCormick Judy McCourt Christopher McDonald Gretchen McDonald Rick McElfresh Family Kaylee McFarland

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THE TOWN OF GIVING BACK

Ruth Shireman has always believed that we are here to serve and give back to our community. She was honored with the Governor's Volunteer Service Award this year for putting her beliefs into action.

The mother of eight children, Ruth taught sixth grade for 27 years before retiring in 1999. Since 2000, she has volunteered more than 14,000 hours as a volunteer through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Ruth volunteers in the Records Department at the Quincy Police Department and says she will continue to do so until she is incapable.

"I love what I do and the people I work with. Every day is a joy to go to work," she said.

RSVP is a sponsored program at JWCC. Residents of Adams, Brown, or Pike counties who are 55 or older can join the RSVP network, which serves more than 70 local organizations. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact RSVP at 217.641.4961.



4TH ANNUAL JWCC FOUNDATION WINE PULL FUNDRAISER

SEPTEMBER 21, 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Quincy Country Club • Supporting student scholarships Get tickets now at: **jwccfoundation.org**

JOHN WOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE Foundation

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OUR MISSION:

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





Founded in 1974, John Wood Community College will soon enter its 50th year with a full slate of activities to recognize the Trail Blazers who forged the first half-century and create opportunities to help more students find their path to success.

To mark the Golden Anniversary, JWCC will launch a Pathways to Promise Scholarship Fund Drive, establish the Trail Blazer Alumni Network, and publish a commemorative book chronicling the College's first 50 years.

HELP US CONTINUE THE PATH OF SUCCESS

Follow the festivities, donate, connect with the College, or join the celebration.

jwccfoundation.org/50years

GIVE

Community members or JWCC alums can show their support by making a contribution. Gifts of \$25 or more will receive an exclusively designed T-shirt for the College's 50th year.

Scan to donate now!





CONNECT

- Share how JWCC impacted your life, business, or organization, as part of our 50 Points of Pride.
- Nominate a Trail Blazer to be recognized at the anniversary celebration in 2024. This could be a former student, graduate, instructor, staff member, or administrator.
- Follow the anniversary fun on JWCC social channels below!

JOIN

Join the Trail Blazer Alumni Network! The College will keep in touch with upcoming events, provide networking opportunities, and connect your business or organization with current students.

Upcoming 50th community events: **Business Before Hours** AUG 24,

7 - 8:30 a.m. JWCC Clocktower Courtyard

JWCC Foundation Wine Pull SEPT 21, 5:30 - 8 p.m. Quincy Country Club

50th Celebration Event APRIL 2024!









