

JOHN WOOD



COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPDATE

2025



Faces

OF THE FUTURE



THE FIRST ACROSS THE STAGE

Learn more about JWCC's first graduating class on page 4.





Martha and Jim Rapp

Pride in the Pathfinders

The story of John Wood Community College began with bold visionaries including the College's founding legal counsel, Jim Rapp.

That is why the JWCC Foundation presented the first Pathfinder Award to Rapp for five decades of service and leadership. The award ceremony also supported the Pathways to Promise Scholarship fund, helping future students forge their own paths. Going forward, the award will recognize those who embody JWCC's mission and the pioneering spirit of its founders.

Driving Success for 30 Years

John Wood Community College's Truck Driver Training Program marked 30 years of shaping the regional workforce by offering high-quality training for the transportation industry.

Founded by Don Hess with industry support, the program has grown under the leadership of Phil Steinkamp and Chris Koettters, continuing to prepare skilled, safety-conscious drivers for the workforce.



Scan to learn more about JWCC's Truck Driver Training Program.



Past and present instructors and students reconnected for the truck driver training program's 30th anniversary.

Rural Roots, National Impact

A national initiative is turning its focus to rural colleges—and John Wood Community College is at the forefront.

JWCC was selected to join the Rural Guided Pathways Project, a national effort to improve student success in rural communities through structured, evidence-based reforms. College leadership recently attended the first institute to work alongside top community colleges and researchers to redesign the student experience, increase credential completion, and strengthen connections to high-wage careers and transfer opportunities.

At 50 YEARS OF Promise



Mission Forward

The 2024-25 academic year was a milestone for John Wood Community College, celebrating 50 years of student success while launching new traditions to carry its mission forward.



In June, JWCC Board of Trustees named Josh Welker, JWCC Dean of Business Services and Institutional

Effectiveness, as interim president. Welker will serve in the temporary position following JWCC President, Dr. Bryan Renfro. Welker began July 1 and may serve through December 2025. This period will allow the Board to accelerate the process to select JWCC's eighth President with a goal of placement by late fall.



Community Support Fuels Student Success

JWCC's Blazer Fuel Station and new Pit Stops—free, grab-and-go food sites across campus—help students stay healthy and focused. Last year, 200 students received more than 13,900 pounds of food and essentials, thanks to Horizons, Swipe Out Hunger, the

JWCC family, and local partners like Hy-Vee, Kohl Wholesale and Premium Waters.

With 35% of JWCC students facing food insecurity, these efforts through the Office of Campus Care reduce barriers and stigma. JWCC also won the Illinois Community College Board's Feed the Need Food Drive, showing the community's commitment to student success.



Scan to learn more



Childcare for Today and Tomorrow

JWCC and Parent and Child Together (PACT) of West Central Illinois Head Start have teamed up to provide

much-needed childcare on the JWCC Quincy campus. PACT will serve 16 children ages 0 to 3, including those of qualifying JWCC students. This initiative is part of a broader community effort to address childcare shortages.

The center will also offer hands-on training for JWCC's early childhood and education students.

Connecting and Caring

JWCC faculty and staff have been working together to foster a more connected, supportive campus environment through the Caring Campus initiative. Supported by the Institute for Evidence-Based Change, the effort emphasizes research-based behaviors—both in and outside the classroom—that have been shown to improve retention and increase credential completion.

A faculty component designed to increase classroom engagement and student success will launch this fall.

Leading the effort are (L/R): HK Giltner, Austin Roberts, Jennifer Grindstaff, Dr. Chris Kaelke, and April Darringer.





Faces OF THE FUTURE

Fifty years of Trail Blazers filled John Wood Community College's Student Activity Center in May for the College's commencement. From JWCC's first graduating class to the fresh faces ready to take the next step into a four-year university or career path, all in attendance were filled with pride and possibility.



The First Across the Stage

As part of JWCC's 50th anniversary celebration, the College recognized its first graduating class from 1976. Members in attendance were (L/R) Charles Mason, Dennis Crabbe, Wanda (Mook) Borrowman, William Anderson and Kent Flesner. Crabbe, Mason, and Anderson were recognized for their service in law enforcement roles throughout the city and state. Roselyn Crabbe, Class of 1978, and her husband Dennis proudly attended wearing their original JWCC graduation medallions.

“After the Marine Corps, I joined the State Police and started taking classes through WIU. When JWCC first started, they reached out and showed us we were just a few classes away from a degree. I was working full-time, married with two kids, and probably wouldn't have seen myself as a college student—but JWCC made it possible. That degree opened doors, helped me earn multiple promotions and eventually my bachelor's degree, and led me to become Regional Commander. JWCC made a lasting impact on my life, and I know it's still doing that for students today.”

Bill Anderson, Retired Illinois State Police Commander

Member of JWCC's First Graduating Class, 1976



Pinning and Beginning

In addition to the full commencement ceremony, JWCC recognized 56 nursing graduates, 41 students who completed their GED high school equivalency credential, and two students earning College for Life non-credit certificates in special ceremonies.



“I learned that change is neither fast nor linear. We grow, we learn, we take two steps back and sometimes land right back where we started. But even if you don't see it, you are changing. The person sitting in that cold uncomfortable chair is certainly different than the person who walked into John Wood for the first time.”

– Excerpt from remarks given by **Maryn Kasza** of Payson, 2025 JWCC graduate. Kasza was a JWCC Trail Blazer and Fine Arts Scholar, president of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and member of the Cheer Squad, Theatre Guild and Art Club. She will transfer to Millikin University in the fall.



472 DEGREES & CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Ready for What's Next

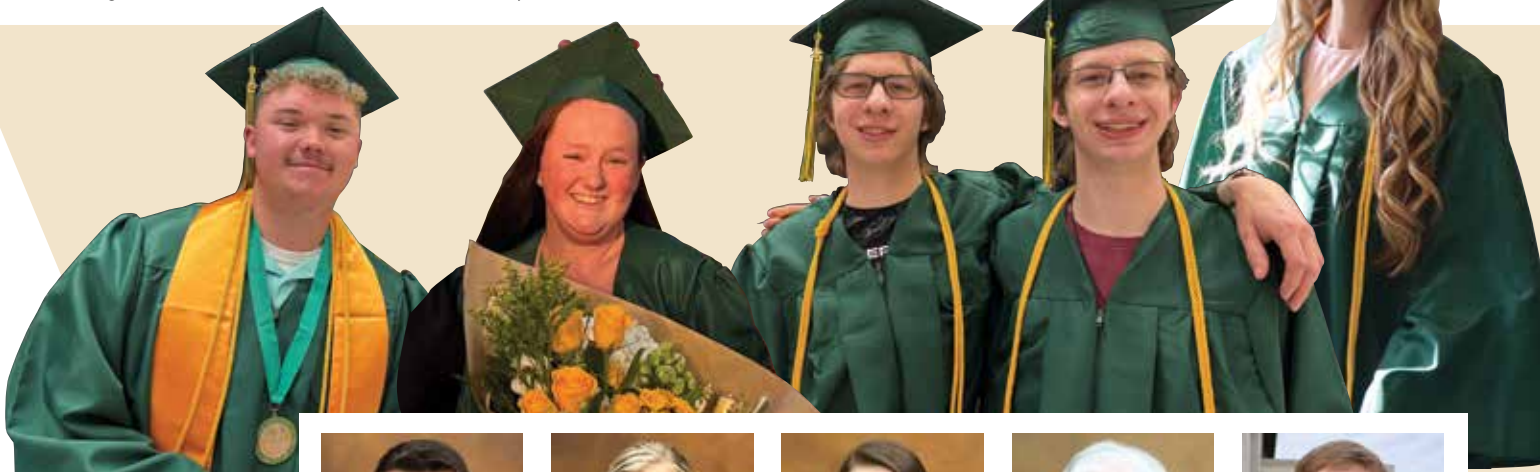
The following members of JWCC's Class of 2025 represent local talent in the critical career sectors of healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, and education.

Travis Duke
Agriculture

Allison Barthel
Early Childhood Education

Cameron and Christian Pasziet
Welding

Makenna Post
Nursing



2024-25 Faculty and Staff of the Year

The 2024-25 Faculty and Staff of the Year recognized at graduation were:



Faculty Member of the Year
John Reinhardt,
Instructor, Accounting



Associate Faculty Member of the Year
Tiffaney Rains-Eaton,
Instructor, Social/
Behavioral Sciences



Staff Member of the Year
Allison Dietrich,
Coordinator,
Employment Services



Part-Time Staff Member of the Year
Susan Abbott,
Specialist, Volunteer
Services



Student Worker of the Year
Carter Kasparie,
Office of Campus Care



Regional Center News

MAKING THE REGION'S WORKFORCE "FAME"OUS

The Great River Federation of Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) chapter stepped into the spotlight as the first of its kind in Illinois last year, and the program has gained momentum with students seeking a new approach to a college education.

FAME combines classroom instruction and on-the-job training with six area manufacturers.

Training takes place two days a week at JWCC's Workforce Development Center

and FAME students work three days a week with their respective employers, which include Dot Foods, Gardner Denver, General Mills, Knapheide, Titan Wheel, and ADM. Twelve students in the first cohort began the path to FAME's nationally recognized manufacturing credential in 2024 and another group of 13 will begin this fall.



Scan to learn more.



SOUTHEAST EDUCATION CENTER: OPENING DOORS FOR ADULT LEARNERS

The Southeast Education Center (SEC) was a welcoming hub for adult learners this year, offering educational programs, testing services, and community events to support personal and professional growth.

A highlight of the year involved the Pearson-Vue certified Testing Center, where more than 234 exams—including nearly 50 GED tests—were proctored in a secure, student-focused setting.

The center offered GED prep and Adult Education classes in core subjects, as well as English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction at multiple levels to support non-native English speakers.

The SEC also hosted 43 community events and trainings for local businesses, schools, and agencies.

JWCC at Bella Ease: Expanding Opportunity

In August 2024, John Wood Community College celebrated the grand opening of its new location at Bella Ease in downtown Quincy. The facility offers GED preparation, adult literacy, CNA training, and truck driver courses.

A key feature of this location is free childcare for student parents, helping them balance education and family responsibilities. In the past year 90 students have benefited from GED services at Bella Ease.





Growing Leaders

at JWCC's Ag Center

It was a standout year for JWCC Agriculture, marked by community recognition, national student success, and career-focused events.

STUDENTS SHINE AT NATIONALS

» Ag Hall of Fame

JWCC's Ag Alumni Association inducted three new members of the organization's Hall of Fame including Matt Bradshaw, Andy Bastert, and Fred and Carole Bradshaw. Each has made a lasting contribution to JWCC and the region's ag industry. *L/R: Members of the Bradshaw Family: Eric Bradshaw, Jeff Bradshaw, who accepted on behalf of his late father Fred Bradshaw, Carole Bradshaw, Matt Bradshaw, and Hall of Fame inductee Andy Bastert.*



Fifteen students traveled to Texas for the North American College and Teachers of Agriculture Judging Contest, bringing home top honors:

3rd Place Team Ag Business

Sophia Ludwig, Abe Welbourn, Luke Jacquot, Brydon Allison

2nd Place Team Livestock Management

Wyatt McClintock, Jacob Davis, Brydon Allison, Maxwell Perry, Hunter McEuan

2nd Place Team Parliamentary Procedure

Wyatt McClintock, Jacob Davis, Garrett Morris, Maxwell Perry, Hunter McEuan

4th Place Team Vet Science

Katelyn Humphres, Kaitlyn Walbring, Karlee McAllister, Addison Arnold

3rd Place Individual Livestock Management

Wyatt McClintock



CAREER CONNECTIONS

JWCC hosted a Career Fair in Baylis helping current students explore ag careers and meet with colleges and industry reps. Prospective students explored ways to connect JWCC ag programs with future careers at "Find Your Path" day.



Scan to learn more about JWCC ag.

Supporting Brown County and Beyond

JWCC and the Tracy Family Foundation are partnering to help more Brown County High School graduates earn a college credential within five years of graduation, aiming for 75% to reach that milestone.

Marcy Wort, College and Career Coach supported by the Tracy Family Foundation and JWCC, plays a vital role—advising all Brown County graduates wherever they choose to continue their education, with plans to expand support to West Central Illinois students through the new RootEd program.

In 2023, 100% of Brown County graduates who enrolled at JWCC completed on time; in 2024, 83.3% finished, and JWCC projects 89% will do so in 2025.

Brown County students can take classes at JWCC's Mt. Sterling Education Center or any JWCC location, opening doors to careers, further education, and success. This partnership ensures students have the guidance and resources they need to keep moving forward.

Macy Quinn is enrolled in JWCC's Early Childhood Education program while working at the Early Learning Center in Mt. Sterling.



Blazing Pathways **LEARNING AND**



Leaders, Planners, Blazers

Members of JWCC's Student Government Association (SGA) advocate for the needs of students and plan and implement activities that create a vibrant student life to complement classroom learning. The photos above from this year show students, faculty, and staff at the Polar Plunge, Illinois Community College Lobby Day in Springfield, College Wide Thanksgiving Meal, Welcome Week Volleyball, Fall Fest, Community College Month Bowling, Pep Day, Slip & Kickball, Courtyard Coachella, and the End of Year Block Party.



At the end of the academic year, the JWCC student body elected the 2025-26 Student Government Officers.

Back row (L/R): Treasurer- Colton Coats; Secretary- Karlie Barry; Vice President- Lizzy Blickhan. Front row (L/R): President- Brady Althoff; Student Trustee- Jacob Davis.

Future Ready Science Labs

John Wood Community College is renovating four science labs to create more modern, flexible



Rendering by Architechnics

spaces shaped by faculty input. The updates will better support students in courses like Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry, Microbiology, and Physics — essential foundations for careers in healthcare, engineering, and other high-demand fields. Students will enjoy the new spaces this fall.

Crowned for a Cause



HK Giltner, instructor of communication, was crowned as the first Professor John Wood in early 2025. She emerged victorious in a lighthearted contest featuring JWCC faculty members participating in athletic wear, stand-up comedy, and formal wear components. Giltner

and fellow faculty brought creativity, humor, and heart to the stage showcasing their commitment to connecting with students outside the classroom. All proceeds from the event benefited Quanada, supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

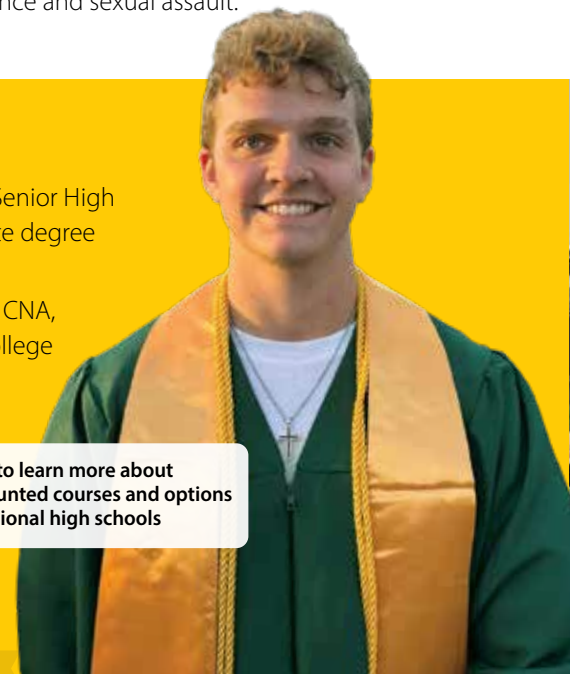
Smart Start, Strong Finish

Aive Smith was already halfway to a bachelor's degree when he graduated from Quincy Senior High School in May. As part of JWCC's Smart Start Transfer Academy, he completed his associate degree by taking a mix of JWCC courses at QHS, online, and on campus.

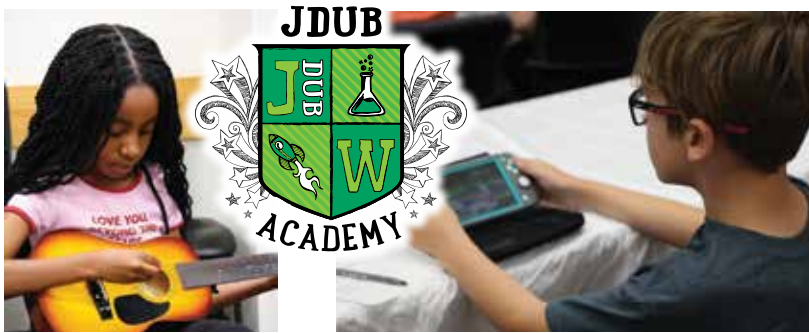
Programs like Smart Start Career Academies in pre-nursing, welding, truck driver training, CNA, and transfer general education studies give students a head start—helping them earn college credentials and gain a competitive edge whether they're heading straight into the workforce or transferring to a four-year university.



Scan to learn more about discounted courses and options at regional high schools



GROWING THROUGH COMMUNITY



JDub Academy Sparks Career Curiosity

This summer, JDub Academy at JWCC brought career exploration to life for 479 K–12 students through interactive, hands-on classes. From coding and music to agriculture and virtual reality, young learners connected their talents and interests to potential career paths - sparking curiosity and creativity along the way.

Building Skills, Growing Confidence

This year, JWCC's College for Life (CFL) students gained hands-on experience through projects that combined learning with college and community engagement.

The program launched the Blazer Café and Blazer Garden Market, both student-led, donation-based enterprises designed to develop entrepreneurial and social skills while supporting CFL scholarships. Students operated the Blazer Café offering a variety of coffee drinks and sweets. In the Spring, CFL students utilized the JWCC Greenhouse to grow and prepare garden starts, hanging baskets, fairy gardens, and succulents.

CFL provides students with intellectual or developmental disabilities opportunities to support learning and personal growth.



Each semester, students, their families and CFL supporters gather to celebrate the knowledge and experiences gained from being a part of CFL.



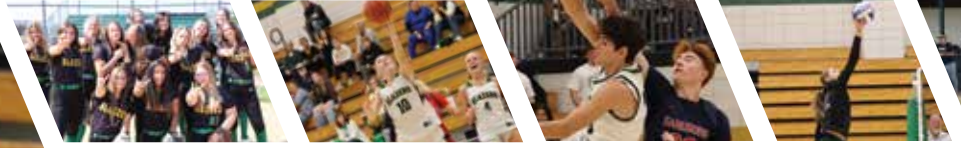
Flavors and Skills that Hit the Spot

JWCC's Dining Services is more than just a place to grab a bite – it is a learning lab for up-and-coming Quincy Chefs and aspiring Hospitality Managers led by Chef Vanessa Hall and Hal Axelrod. Under Hall and Axelrod's guidance, students in the College's Hospitality and Culinary arts program prepare and cater healthy, whole foods locally sourced with an international flair. Students also operate JWCC's new Hot Spot, a hidden gem that offers wholesome, fresh food priced for student and staff budgets.



Scan to
Learn More

ATHLETES *Move* ON



POST SEASON *Honors*

Men's Soccer

Dylan Print & Leo Siqueira

All Region Team

Softball

Laken Aidich & Jaylen Lubbert

Honorable Mention All MWAC

Elizabeth Tanner

2nd Team All MWAC

Men's Basketball

Jakeb Wallingford

All Region Team/1st Team All MWAC

Women's Basketball

Blair Eftink

All Region Team/2nd Team All MWAC

Women's Soccer

Breighlyn Thomas

All Region Team/All MWAC Team

Volleyball

Abby McMillen

Honorable Mention All MWAC

Baseball

Gavin Duran

All Region Gold Glove/All MWAC 2nd Team

Kevin Martinez

All Region Team/All MWAC 1st Team Infield/
All MWAC 2nd Team Pitcher

Haidyn McGill

All MWAC Honorable Mention

Evan Sohn

All Region Gold Glove/All MWAC 2nd Team

A *Gem* OF A YEAR FINE ARTS STUDENTS DAZZLE WITH TALENT



Scan to
view Emerald

From captivating concerts to original artwork and writing, JWCC's Fine Arts students showcased their talent throughout the year. Students' creative writing and visual art were featured in *The Emerald* publication, while three concerts and a Pep Day highlighted the depth of musical talent across campus.



"Morning Star"

STUDENT ART EXHIBITION WINNERS

Best in Show

Dawsyn Perry-Broekmeier,
"Morning Star"

Second Place

Alexis Jones,
Ebony on Paper,
"Still Life"

Third Place

Gabriella Gould,
Ebony on Paper,
"Dahlia"

STUDENT CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

Fiction

First Place

Olivia Dedert,
"A Little Risk"

Second Place

Nicole O'Rourke,
"Ilasco"

Third Place

Raymond Soudavanh,
"The Thing about Greatness"

Non-Fiction

First Place

Adrienne Ransdell,
"Bait"

Second Place

Brodie Wyatt,
"Walking Through Infinity"

Third Place

Katie Ozment,
"The Light of My Life"

Poetry

First Place

Braden Cashman,
"For V-"

Second Place

Nicole O'Rourke,
"Ascending"

Third Place

Tae'ana Roan,
"Heard and Seen"

TO FUTURE SUCCESS



Blazers Moving On to Four-Year Institutions

NCAA Division II Baseball

- Jorey Anderson**
Minot State University
- Tyler Dance**
Lewis University
- Noah Deas**
Morehouse College
- Gavin Duran**
University of Indianapolis
- Landon Gilliland**
William Jewell
- Alex Logan**
Drury College
- Kevin Martinez**
University of Indianapolis
- Haidyn McGill**
Emmanuel College
- Ethan McMasters**
Quincy University
- Jake Millar**
Minot State University

Women's Basketball

- Blair Eftink**
Quincy University
- Olivia Lawson**
Quincy University
- Bryleigh Fox**
Quincy University
- Men's Soccer**
- Brock Evans**
Quincy University
- Vinicius Maia**
Wingate University
- Volleyball**
- Naveah Baker**
Allen University
- Anna Hinton**
Quincy University

Men's Basketball

- Jakeb Wallingford**
Quincy University
- Cachao Gianquinto**
Quincy University
- NCAA Division III Baseball**
- C.J. Curd**
Westminster College
- Softball**
- Jocelyn Bartels**
Illinois College
- Volleyball**
- Kylee Barry**
Millikin University

Men's Basketball

- Connor Watson**
Monmouth College
- NAIA Baseball**
- Alejandro Couverthie**
Freed Hardeman University
- Drew Hahs**
Concordia University
- Jacob Lopez**
Midland University
- Philip Matos**
University of Oklahoma
- Michael Stupavsky**
St. Ambrose University
- Victor Tejeira**
Texas College

Women's Basketball

- Madisyn Doran**
Missouri Baptist University
- Men's Soccer**
- Victor Santos**
Georgetown College
- Jean Luis Betemit**
Sterling College
- Laken Aidich**
Columbia College
- Jaylen Lubbert**
Culver-Stockton College
- Men's Basketball**
- Nolan Dietrich**
St. Ambrose University



Thank You 2024-2025 DONORS

The John Wood Community College Foundation recognizes the alumni, businesses, foundations, organizations, and friends who support John Wood Community College through generous donations. The Honor Roll of Donors includes gifts to the JWCC Foundation received between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. Thank you to our 2024-2025 donors:

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Trust
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Company

The Signatory Charitable
Trust
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Two Rivers RC and D
UK Online Giving
Foundation
Udry Jewelers
Unit 4 Foundation
United Community Bank

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County Inc.
United Way of Brown
County Inc.
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Scholarships That Change Lives— And Our Community

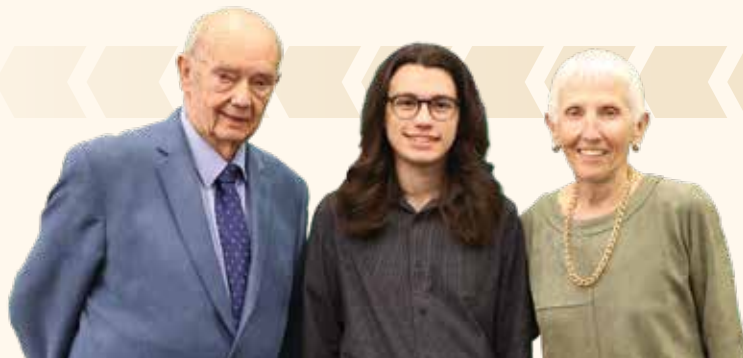
Each year, scholarships awarded by the John Wood Community College Foundation do more than ease the cost of college—they open doors, fuel dreams, and change lives.

Whether it's a recent high school grad starting a nursing degree, a working parent retraining for a better job, or a first-generation student taking a bold step forward, scholarships make it possible.

In 2024–2025, more than 500 JWCC students received \$267,928 in scholarship support. These life-changing awards are made possible by donors who believe in the power of education to transform lives and strengthen our community.

New this year is the Pathways to Promise Scholarship, designed to focus aid on students with unmet financial needs and those preparing for in-demand skilled careers. By removing financial barriers, Pathways will help grow the local workforce and ensure students are prepared to succeed in high-need fields.

For many, a scholarship is the difference between enrolling in college or sitting out another year. Students often say that receiving a scholarship is more than just a financial gift—it's a sign that someone believes in them.



Oliver Wood, a 2024 Quincy High School graduate, has been awarded the Mary Larner and Dan Larner Memorial Scholarship. He is pursuing a fine arts transfer degree at JWCC and aspires to become a creative director.

500+ students received \$268,000
in private scholarships during 2024-25!

We thank our many supporters who help JWCC students access high-quality affordable education every day. We invite more community members to join this effort. A single scholarship gift can launch a career, strengthen a family, and uplift our entire region. The impact is real. The need is ongoing. And together, we can continue changing lives—one student at a time.



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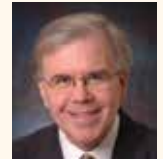
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