

NEWS FROM jackson community college

Lenawee/Hillsdale counties

Graduation marks time to celebrate, look ahead

May marks the end of another traditional academic year. This month, we celebrate commencement activities at Jackson Community College, with more than 600 students eligible to graduate. It is a very rewarding time for a college president, because you see lives changed thanks to the higher education students have received here.



faculty who take time to get to know students and offer help when needed.

With JCC student life opportunities outside the classroom, you can make new friends, explore your personal interests, develop leadership, or serve your community. Gain valuable life skills that will help you whatever career path you choose, such as working well with others, settling conflicts and more.



Where do I want to be in five, 10 or 20 years? How can I get there? A college education can help expand your hiring opportunities and boost your earning potential, whatever your goals in life may be.

Which college makes the most sense for me now? JCC offers a quality education that is affordable and convenient. Check us out and compare.

Accessibility is an important feature of the community college. We want to provide an open door to all seeking higher education. You will find support to help you succeed, with services like tutoring, and outstanding



as transfer opportunities to provide you an affordable start to a bachelor's degree. The economy is challenging, but that makes it all the more important to have the right education and skills to find a job. JCC can help you start, and in just a few years from this time, you too will have reason to celebrate!

Congratulations to the class of 2009! Well done.

Dr. Daniel J. Phelan
President



Whether you are right out of high school or what we call in academia a "non-traditional aged" adult, JCC offers in-demand career programs to help you find a job, as well

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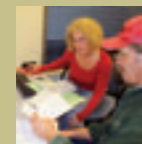
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DIRECTOR'S LETTER**Michael Masters**

Welcome Lenawee to our spring edition of News from Jackson Community College.

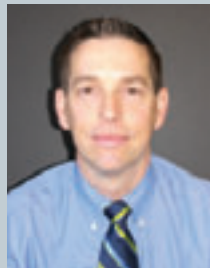
After a year and more of economic hardship for many of our relatives, friends and neighbors, we are evidencing now more than ever the necessity and desire for a college education and lifelong learning. For some this translates into pursuit of an associate degree, bachelor's degree, and further advanced coursework, while numerous others pursue higher education for personal interest, concentrations, certificates, or to gain new skills for job and career enhancement. At JCC @ LISD TECH, students seek education for a variety of reasons, and we aim to assist all in development of an individual educational plan.

Most apparent within recent years is the lifelong-learning aspect to education. In this global economy, our attention is drawn to the speed at which the world about us changes and that responsiveness and adaptability are primary keys for success. I am personally reminded of the decade old allegory by Spencer Johnson "Who Moved My Cheese." A quick read and simplistic take on adaptability, yet the book is a useful reminder of the need for adaptability and regenerative, lifelong education and training. The corridors of JCC are full of individuals of all ages, from teen-aged dual enrolled students to septuagenarians enrolled for personal interest; some following intended paths of education — others forging a path never expected or dreamed possible. Regardless of educational goal, age of student, or life circumstance that leads students into the halls of academe, it is always a pleasure to work with and serve the educational needs of Lenawee County residents.

Perhaps you are personally weighing a return or start to higher education? JCC @ LISD TECH's Spring semester academic schedule offers a perfect blend of courses and convenient meeting times. A recent high school graduate? Spring provides great opportunity to jump-start your educational career. Attending college away at a four-year institution? Then 'guest student' courses are a popular option for transfer back to the home institution. Or if you are looking to test the waters of higher education — contact us and we will assist in development of a plan suited to your needs. From transfer programs to occupational programs, personal interest coursework to the JCC @ LISD TECH/Siena Heights University accelerated business program, or our new culinary course offerings . . . JCC delivers Serious Possibilities!

Congratulations Graduates!

Michael P. Masters
Assistant Dean and Director
JCC @ LISD TECH



JCC @ LISD TECH will host informational open houses for those interested in the accelerated business degree program with Siena Heights University in the coming months; 6:30 p.m. May 28, June 25 or July 16. For more information, call 517.265.5515.

From kitchen to car, new classes offer opportunities for Lenawee County

With JCC @ LISD TECH's new culinary classes, students are finding the perfect recipe for a versatile career!

The Lenawee campus began offering two culinary courses in January, presented in cooperation with the LISD TECH Adult Learning Services. Sanitation and Hygiene covers issues of sanitation and the importance of good personal hygiene,



Culinary students prepare an Italian buffet.

and Culinary Skills introduces students to quantity food production, fabricating techniques, recipe conversions, costing, product identification and classical culinary skills. JCC's goal is to build toward a culinary arts certificate and then an associate degree.

said student Mark Roberts, a self-employed custom cabinetmaker and woodworker, who has always been interested in culinary arts and food service. "I was looking for a change, something completely out of the realm of what I have been doing."

Students have quickly jumped in, learning basic kitchen skills like using knives and chopping food, and putting on monthly dinners with different themes to highlight their new skills.

"When I found out about the culinary program I jumped right in. I've always worked in restaurants, and I prefer to make my own meals. I've learned a lot, and we're always learning something new every day," said student Adam Weidner of Tecumseh, who would like to become a high-end chef.

Ron Cubberly of Brooklyn enrolled in the classes as an adult education student. A retiree from General Motors, he's competed for 23 years in chili competitions, and for 10 years has done catering on the side. "It's going well. As a retiree, I took these classes to get me through the winter and maybe get back into the catering that I used to do. It's been more hands-on than I thought, I didn't realize we would be cooking buffets for 50 people at a time. I really love the classes," he said.

JCC @ LISD TECH began offering its first automotive class a few years ago, and added more options in Fall 2008. JCC and Adult Learning Services are offering automotive courses in General Service, Electrical Systems and Collision & Repair.

"My classes are even more than what I had expected them to be," said Gregory Garrison, a student who started in the automotive program at Washtenaw Community College then transferred to JCC. "At this campus there is a lot of space, a lot of hands-on work, the teachers are great and you really learn a lot."



Automotive students discuss the latest repair methods.

Student Steve Fetters is returning to college after working in the construction field. Looking for a new career, he chose automotive technology at JCC. "They are wonderful classes, I'm learning a lot, actually more than what I had expected," Fetters said. "If anyone is interested in automotive or in going back to college, I'd say do it. You need it nowadays, and I'd recommend the auto courses at JCC, the instructors are awesome."

JCC @ LISD TECH • 1376 N. Main Street, Adrian
517.265.5515 • www.jccmi.edu/lenawee/index

STUDENT PROFILE **The Schroeder family****One family, three distinct paths, one choice for college**

For the Schroeder family of Hillsdale, going to college is all in the family. Father J.R. Schroeder, Nic, the eldest son, and Heathre, the eldest daughter, are all enrolled at JCC.

J.R. Schroeder first enrolled at JCC. He has a bachelor's degree and worked for years a technical writer for General Motors, until one day he found it was time for something new and decided to quit his company job.



"I quit my job, closed my eyes, trusted in God and jumped," he said. "I'm going into nursing now. Once the decision was made, I've never looked back."

J.R. started at JCC in 2006, and he will graduate this May with his associate degree in nursing to be a registered nurse. He's been working at the Hillsdale Community Health Center during his clinical work, and plans to work there when he graduates.

"I'm amazed at all I've learned and how much I've grown in the last couple of years," J.R. said. Going back to college has been challenging, he said, because of his large family — he and wife, Wendi, have nine children, ranging in age from 21 years to 9 weeks. "I couldn't have done this without the total support of my wife and kids," he said.

Both Nic and Heathre have been home schooled by their mother from elementary age throughout their high school years, so their previous classroom experience was "the kitchen table." Heathre has been attending three semesters and is completing general studies courses. She plans to

transfer to the Art Institute of Indianapolis to study in its culinary program to someday become a chef. Nic has been attending JCC since the Fall semester and is working toward becoming a medical assistant. Heathre added that a community college provided an easier transition to college life. Nic had been working but decided minimum-wage jobs weren't what he wanted, so he enrolled at JCC, with both his father and sister attending. J.R. attends classes on the Jackson campus, while Heathre takes classes in Hillsdale at the LeTarte Center.

"I've met a lot of cool people and made new friends," Nic said. "I'm going into medical assisting because there are a lot of jobs in the health field, and it's a good field to go into as a man because there aren't many of us." Because men are under-represented in the field, Nic is receiving a Gender Equity grant to help with expenses.



He hopes to eventually go into architecture, but feels medical assisting will be a good stepping stone to a career right away.

The Schroeders' big family provided part of the incentive for Heathre's desire to study culinary and become a chef. "We have a lot of ethnic backgrounds in our family, and we cook a lot!" she said.

With all three family members working toward different goals, the closeness and convenience of JCC has helped each one on their individual paths.

Get ahead this summer with classes at JCC!

Registration is currently underway for Spring/Summer semester at Jackson Community College. Spring/Summer semester begins May 18.

New high school graduates or university students who are home for summer may get a jump start on college by taking a class or two. JCC offers a variety of courses at its different campuses to help you earn a college degree, prepare for a high-demand career or improve in your current position, as well as distance learning options available via the World Wide Web.

A complete course schedule is available at the JCC web site, www.jccmi.edu (under Class Schedule & Registration). For additional information in Lenawee County, call 517.265.5515, and in Hillsdale County, call 517.437.3343.

LeTarte Center, Hillsdale • 3120 W. Carleton Road, Hillsdale 49242
517.437.3343 • www.jccmi.edu/hillsdale/index

DIRECTOR'S LETTER**Pene Vandenburg**

Hello! Welcome to this Spring edition of News from JCC.

In this tough economy, we are seeing plenty of folks stopping in for information on programs and classes that Jackson Community College's Hillsdale campus offers. Many people are pursuing No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) funding through Michigan Works. Others have recently lost their job and now qualify for Trade Readjustment Act (TRA or NAFTA) funding. No matter what your circumstances are, no matter why you are coming through our door, we want you to know we will do everything possible to assist you quickly with the steps you need to complete at JCC.

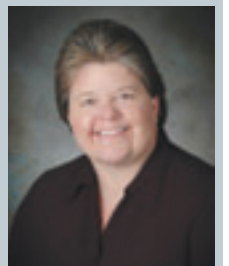
What are the steps to getting started?

- **Apply**—Complete a JCC application for admission. It is FREE to apply!
- **Assessment**—JCC requires all new students to take course placement (it's FREE), which is a reading, writing and math assessment. EXCEPTIONS: ACT—If you have taken the ACT within the past three years you may be exempt. Please provide us with a copy of your scores to determine your status. **Credit from another college**—Please provide us with an unofficial copy of your transcript and we will determine if you need to take this assessment.
- **Financial Aid**—Apply for federal financial aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov or come to one of our financial aid workshops (dates listed in this newsletter). It is FREE to apply!
- **Orientation**—Attend an orientation session to become more familiar with terminology, important dates, things to remember, etc.
- **Advising**—See an advisor to ask any other questions and to get help selecting the appropriate courses.

Like anything new, going to college can be scary. We want you to know you're not alone. Here are some comments we typically hear:

- I don't know anything about this (going to college).
- It's been so long since I've had to do math.
- What if I don't do well?
- What if I fail?
- Is there going to be anybody else my age in the class?
- I really need some computer skills. Do you have something really basic for me?

Any of that sound familiar? Just know this—we're here to help. Please look for other workshops listed in this newsletter that will help make the transition into college easier for you. As always, thank you for reading this newsletter and for choosing JCC!



Pene Vandenburg, Director
JCC LeTarte Center, Hillsdale

Accounting students participate with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Several Jackson Community College accounting students are offering guidance and assistance in filling out income tax forms through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

VITA offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income (generally, \$42,000 and below), elderly or disabled individuals who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Certified volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country.

There are 26 JCC students participating in the VITA program this year, at sites in both Jackson and Lenawee counties. Each year, VITA serves thousands of clients in the South Central Michigan area. The number of clients served is up this year, up 58 percent in Lenawee County thanks in large part to JCC student volunteers, with 770 clients served as of April 1.

"I was nervous at first; doing someone else's taxes, you don't want to mess up," said student Robin Curtis of Adrian, who is studying accounting at JCC @ LISD TECH. "It did get a lot easier.

It was interesting, and I got to help people out at the same time."

Karen Brier of Britton is studying accounting at JCC @ LISD TECH. "It's a great program. It was a bit intense at first, but I learned quickly. It does feel good to help the public," she said. Brian Johnson of Adrian is also studying accounting at JCC @ LISD TECH and enjoyed helped with the VITA program so much, he plans to continue next year as a volunteer. "There are a lot more people than I thought there would be. I thought I could help others, and it was a good experience," he said. "I'd recommend this class for anyone; you don't have to have a lot of tax knowledge because you are trained. It helps you learn about taxes for yourself, also."



Mark your calendar for these important Hillsdale events

Course Placement dates:

May 27, 1-3 p.m.
June 9, 6-8 p.m.
June 17, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
June 27, 12:30-2:30 p.m.*
June 30, 6-8 p.m.
July 7, 6-8 p.m.
July 11, noon-2 p.m.
July 15, 9-11 a.m.
July 28, 6-8 p.m.
Aug. 3, 9-11 a.m.
Aug. 11, 6-8 p.m.
Aug. 17, 1-3 p.m.

Financial Aid Workshop dates:

May 14, 6-8 p.m.
June 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
June 27, 9:30-11:30 a.m.*
July 11, 9-11 a.m.
July 29, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Career Assessment Workshop date:

Any new student planning to start in Fall 2009 who is unsure of the certificate or degree they may want to pursue should sign up for this workshop!
June 12, 6:30-8 p.m.

Getting Started date:

June 12, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

New Student Orientation dates:

July 2, 9-10 a.m. Room 11
July 9, 5-6 p.m. Room 13
July 23, 5-6 p.m. Room 13
Aug. 12, 9-10 a.m. Room 12
Aug. 12, 1-2 p.m. Room 12
Aug. 12, 5-6 p.m. Room 12

*events at Camden-Frontier High School

Please call us to reserve your seat at any of these events. 517.437.3343.



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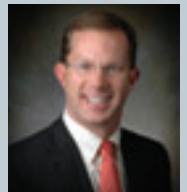
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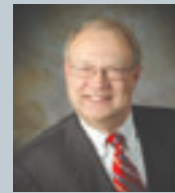
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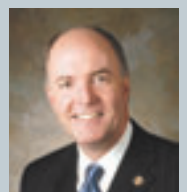
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The JCC Board of Trustees meet on the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Atkinson Board Room in Potter Center on the Jackson Campus.

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