WE ARE
Jackson COLLEGE

Steps to Success
Jackson College offers support, mentorship
US-Brasil Connect trip leads to life-changing experience for students

What started as an educational exchange to mentor high school students in Brazil became so much more for 13 Jackson College students.

U.S.-Brasil Connect welcomes American students to fly to Brazil for a four-week sponsored internship in the summer. Students teach and mentor Brazilian students in conversational English. Now in its second year, JC students traveled to three cities, Recife, Macae and Macio.

Student De’Andrea Taylor has conquered many firsts – she is the first one in her family to go to college, and this past summer, she was the first in her family to travel outside the U.S. for school, as part of U.S.-Brasil Connect. “It was really life changing,” Taylor recalls about the trip. “It was, for me, breaking down barriers, seeing new things and new people, and merging myself into their environment. It was wonderful – everyone I think about my students. I went to Brazil expecting to do my job of teaching, but I left with a family.”

Students apply to serve as fellows with the U.S.-Brasil Connect and participate in classroom study of Brazil before embarking on their trip. In Brazil, students work with small groups of Brazilian students to improve English skills. This is a paid fellowship, and fellows receive lodging, meals and a stipend. Fellows also have time to do some sightseeing while in Brazil and get to know more about the country.

Student Jonathan Griffis said he was in awe the first time he saw the country. “It was more than anything I could have ever dreamed of. You are in this beautiful place and think things can’t get better, and then you walk into your first day of class where the students are so excited, and at the same time nervous,” she said. In just four weeks time, those same students who are too nervous to speak English at first were going home and speaking English, not realizing they are speaking a second language.

“I thought to myself, I’m really making a difference. I’m 21 years old and that’s something I never thought I would do at this age,” Root said. “When I came back home, I sat here and I had this crazy feeling, that I’ve lived my dream. Something that people dream about and I’ve dreamed about for so long. I have finally done it. I’ve never felt more motivated or excited for my future because of this program. I hope to go back next year.”

The program is dramatically expanding this year and Mort Cohn, U.S.-Brasil Connect’s faculty lead at Jackson College, is actively recruiting candidates for next year’s trip. The course fee may be covered by financial aid, and if a student is eligible for a Pell Grant, the entire trip may be free through a grant from the Gilman Scholarship. If you or someone you know would benefit from this sort of experience, Mort can be contacted through his e-mail, colmorton@jccmi.edu.

Increasing access to international education opportunities has been a focus of Jackson College for about three years. We realize that building student success at JC should include global and cultural competency, in addition to our other educational outcomes. Students should understand that, whether they go directly into business or continue in their education, they are going to interact with persons from other countries and cultures. Having the ability and appreciation for those from different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs will be vital for their success.

To that end, many efforts are underway at the College. Specifically, JC opened a new International Student Institute on its Central Campus to both support current international students, as well as to increase study abroad opportunities for Jackson students. The College has several study abroad efforts currently underway with Brazil. For example, JC has sent college students to three different Brazilian states to work with high school students on English language and leadership skills, and this fall, we welcomed five Brazilian students to campus. These students will focus on accelerated English language proficiency and academic coursework. In the future, plans are to bring additional Brazilian technical students to campus to complete technical degrees. A Science Without Borders program will include Brazilian students coming to the U.S. to earn an associate degree in what are known as STEM fields – science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Then, later this year, JC will be hosting two different Brazilian student and regional leadership delegations to campus in an effort to build stronger international relations and encourage student enrollment.

Discussions focus on two areas, one welcoming Chinese students here to expand their English training, complete an academic degree and then transfer, and second for JC to offer courses in China. We are working with the Michigan Community College Association’s Center for Global Initiatives and the Prima Civitas Foundation at Michigan State University to try to attract Chinese students to campus. The College is also working through Community College Baccalaureate Association and the IIE organization to advance student enrollments.

The nation of India is also interested in having community college education provided there, and in sending Indian students to study in the U.S. In cooperation with the American Association of Community Colleges and its Commission on Global Education, we are exploring opportunities there.

On the home front, I have proposed the creation of an international business council for local businesses who send employees to Brazil, China, India, Russia and elsewhere. This group could work collaboratively to bring businesses together to learn about international trade and commerce, processes involved in sending employees to other countries, as well as considering ways to leverage recruitment of international business to Jackson.

These are a few of the many efforts underway to expand international studies at Jackson College, ultimately to provide students with essential life and workplace skills, and support the advancement of our community.

Dr. Daniel J. Phelan
President, Jackson College

JC helping students look beyond our borders to broaden their education
Shortly after Jackson College’s first African American Male Summit, a group of black male students came together to form a new group, the Men of Merit. The group serves as a support system for its members and reaches into the community to promote the value of higher education to area youth. Since its founding, a similar group for African American women, the Sisters of Strength, has also formed.

Here are profiles of some young men who have gone on to achieve with the support of JC and Men of Merit.

Anton Allen learned early in life about the stereotypes many young African-American men live by today – be tough, be a man, and it's not cool to worry too much about school. Now he is working to change those stereotypes to show other young black men that it’s necessary to survive and be successful in today’s society.

Growing up in Gary, Ind. in the middle of six siblings raised primarily by his mother with support from his father, Allen took the wrong path. But, a praying mother who taught him the value of education helped him. He served two years in the U.S. Marine Corps, attended school academically and personally helped to make a big difference, helping him to complete his program and transfer on to a university. Most important to him is his commitment to his faith and belief in God.

“I wasn’t using my optimal potential. I remembered that I had done well early in school, had won a fourth-grade spelling bee, but being smart just wasn’t that important where I came from,” Allen said. “JC helped me find the resources I needed. With the Center for Student Success, a helpful and humble math tutor who helped me to refresh my skills, I was able to achieve and eventually I became a math tutor.”

Allen was the founding member of JC’s student group, the Men of Merit, and helped recruit other students. Men of Merit offered mentors he needed to succeed, and supportive friendships. “If you take advantage of the resources here it will be very helpful,” he said. His efforts not only proved that he could excel in higher education; they also helped him receive the 2009 George E. Potter Outstanding Student Award.

Allen has completed requirements for a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and in September started a new position with the State of Michigan as a corrections officer. “I really love serving, so being able to serve our country and impact students in a positive way was a big reason I was interested in the VISTA program,” Fuller said. “I’m very excited for it.”

Fuller will be working with both current college students and local high school students, helping to increase student engagement for current students and boost college readiness among high school students. She started in August and is busy getting to know students and the community.

Keep in mind these upcoming dates for the Hillsdale LeTarte Center:

Orientations Dates and times:
- Thurs., 10/17, 7-10 p.m.
- Thurs., 11/7, 10 a.m.–12 noon
- Thurs., 11/21, 5-7 p.m.
- Thurs., 12/5, 7-10 p.m.
- Wed., 12/18, 5-7 p.m.
- Mon., 1/6, 9-11 a.m.
- Mon., 1/13, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
- Mon., 1/20, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Registration for winter semester will begin Nov. 13, 14 and 15; see related article in newsletter.

La Tarte Center staff and faculty are eager to help students find success. Call 517.437.3343 today, or stop by at 3120 W. Carleton Road, Hillsdale.

Men of Merit members succeed

Support, mentorship key in helping

Anton Allen

“Jackson College has tremendously helped me to achieve the goals I’ve wanted out of life and given me the tools I need to succeed.”

Antoine Breedlove

“Jackson College was the first place I attended that took an interest in my future and me, personally.”

John Brandon

“Jackson College has tremendously helped me to achieve the goals I’ve wanted out of life and given me the tools I need to succeed.”

Breedlove chose Jackson College, and the support academically and personally helped to make a big difference, helping him to complete his program and transfer on to a university. Most important to him is his commitment to his faith and belief in God.
“I had a number of jobs, but I didn’t have the education I needed to get ahead...College provided an opportunity to better myself.”

Victor Washington

Brandon attended three colleges before coming to Jackson College, in addition to serving eight years in the military. However, he never found the support or direction before he found that at Jackson.

Early in his classes at Jackson, Brandon met Dr. Mary Belloco, professor and coordinator of teacher education. She recognized his potential as a teacher, and recommended that he get involved in a student group, the Men of Merit. He met instructor Amy Leighton-Gamal, who helped find the group, and Lee Hampton, director of multicultural relations, who helped him become engaged and connected. For the first time, he felt like he was on the path to fulfilling his purpose in life.

Lee Hampton, director of multicultural relations, who helped found the group, and Leighton-Gamel, who helped him find the group. He looks forward to investing in his students as others invested in him.

Victor Washington pursued several jobs before finding his calling. He had his own business with Federal Express, worked as a certified nurse in science, a number of staff members, all showed so much support. I had so much stability, and did not need to have that until I got here. And I never had to try to “squeeze” it out of anyone, before coming here, it was difficult to try to get anything extra.

This upcoming summit will focus on education and the penal system, and will examine barriers faced and brainstorm solutions. Leaders will review successes from the Summit five years ago, focusing barriers to access and progress with education. Jackson College hopes to change those trends so African-American males, and all students, can reach their goals. In the long run, this helps not only the individual but also the individual’s family, and the larger community. More highly educated citizens typically have more income, which ripples through the community through spending, and their need for social programs or experiences with unemployment is typically smaller.

African-American Male Summit

Friday, Oct. 25 • 8 a.m. – noon Potter Center, Central Campus

This summer, Agy’s ENG 090 composition students spent many hours researching Red Cross history and collecting oral histories associated with the Adrian chapter. Students worked with personnel in the archives at both the Lenawee County Historical Museum and the Lenawee County Red Cross, and they reviewed more than 80 years of newspaper articles on microfilm. The finished product will include bound booklets with the oral histories, given to both the Adrian County Library and the Lenawee Museum, and portions will be on display at the Lenawee County Historical Museum during the Red Cross exhibit.

These same English 090 students will design the front showcase at the JC @ LSD TECH center with primary sources that tell the Lenawee County Red Cross story. Their work will also be part of the Lenawee County Culinary Celebration.

JC @ LSD TECH offers all students a chance for an exciting new future. The Lenawee campus offers a range of student services to assist students, from admissions and registration to financial aid and advising. Call 517.265.5515, or stop into the JC @ LSD TECH offices, 1376 N. Main St., to learn more.

African American Male Summit

September 2013
Hiring for new jobs?

Get free money to train by partnering with Jackson College!

Encouraging new jobs and economic growth are the driving forces behind the Michigan New Jobs Training Program. MNJTP is an economic development incentive designed to help companies train the skilled workers they need to compete in today's global market.

MNJTP works by allowing employers to partner with the college to obtain cost-free training for new employees hired for new jobs. Funding is provided by diverting state employment taxes on new employees into special training accounts. These accounts provide “flexible funding” to employers to meet a variety of needs, ranging from basic skills development to highly specialized and customized training.

“The Michigan New Jobs Training Program creates an important avenue for community colleges to work together with business and industry to encourage new job growth in the state,” said JC President Daniel J. Phalen, who introduced the plan to the Michigan Community College Association, who assisted in its development and went to it leadership of the Michigan House of Representatives and Senate. It became law in 2009.

Examples of training that the MNJTP funding covers include:

- Specialized or customized training through Jackson College or your preferred provider;
- Courses at public or private training organizations;
- Online courses;
- Skill assessment, testing and certification services;
- Training facilities, equipment, materials, and supplies;
- Development of internal curriculum, courses and other job training materials;
- Reimbursement of travel expenses for trainers or trainees;
- Administrative expenses for the new jobs training program.

Any employer conducting business in Michigan that is hiring employees for newly created positions may qualify. “New” jobs should be:

- Full-time, in a new, existing or expanding business of the employer;
- Not those of recalled workers, workers hired through tempo agencies, replacement jobs, or any other jobs that existed in the employer’s business within the one-year period preceding the date of an agreement;
- New jobs that pay at least 175 percent of the minimum wage, or $12.95 per hour;
- New jobs that result in a net increase in employment in this state for the employer.

At Jackson College, the office of Corporate and Continuing Education is overseeing the program. For more information about training opportunities, contact Mike Glynn, workforce development and training director, at 517.796.8615, or GlynnMichaelD@jccmi.edu.

Decrease waste, increase profitability with Lean training

Adding value and eliminating waste in business and manufacturing lies at the heart of lean process methods. Now, Jackson College offers local businesses and manufacturers the opportunity to learn about lean with a Lean Environment Simulator, one of only four available to the public in the United States.

The Lean Environment Simulator offers participants the opportunity to experience lean manufacturing principles and tools firsthand. Participants see what lean would look like in their organization. Lean concepts deliver an understanding of how to eliminate waste, improve and simplify current processes, and provide efficient and quality customer service.

The Lean Environment Simulator is a hands-on activity where class members mimic a production plant. They are given tasks to do on an assembly line, work with a lead, and afterward their performance is analyzed for how well they completed their assigned projects. Problems identified as wasteful are minimized. Reducing the number of and time spent in wasteful activities can greatly help manufacturers, businesses and service organizations improve their performance.

To learn more about the Lean Environment Simulator and JC class offerings, contact the Corporate and Continuing Education office at 517.796.8615, or visit www.jccmi.edu/ice.
A college education is an investment in you. Statistical show that more learning equals more earning potential! Start the new year working toward a new future with classes at Jackson College.

Registration for winter semester begins in November.

Nov. 13, returning students with 24 or more JC credits may register online.

Nov. 14, returning students with 12 or more JC credits may register online.

Nov. 15, new students who have met with an advisor and returning students may register online.

Fall semester classes begin Jan. 13.

For more information, call any JC location: Central Campus, 517.796.425; JC @ LSSD TECH, 517.265.5515; Hekeda LeTarte Center, 517.437.343; North Campus, 517.768.7097.

What’s Happening at Jackson College

Feast for Knowledge event to feature taste of Havana

Jackson College invites community members to join in a gala evening with great food, good friends and entertainment, “Starry, Starry Night in Havana,” on Oct. 18 at the Potter Center. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. in the Robert Snyder Dining Room. Potter Center, followed by a sit-down dinner and entertainment. Proceeds will support the student scholarships.

Guests will have the opportunity to sign up to attend one or more private dinners held throughout the year, hosted by College friends and supporters, and bid on a variety of auction items. Cost for the event is $70 per person. For reservations or more information, please call the JC Foundation at 517.787.0244. Reservations requested by Oct. 14.

JC welcomes Brazilian students

This fall, JC welcomes five Brazilian students to campus to focus on accelerated English language proficiency and academic coursework for the semester. Bem-vindo! (Welcome.)

Healthwise Event set for Oct. 30

Jackson College and Aliveness Health will present the Fifth Annual Health Wise Screening Event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 30 in the Health Laboratory Center on the Jackson Central Campus.

Health Wise provides an opportunity for community members to choose from a variety of health screening services available free of charge. The event’s year’s focus will center on: women’s health issues, featuring a mobile screening unit from Aliveness Health and presentations from the Women’s Health Center on stress management, breast health and heart health.

Project Success Day keynote helps students explore purpose

Jackson College welcomed speaker William H. Johnson, Jr., faculty member and student success coordinator at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, as the keynote speaker for this year’s Project Success Day, Sept. 24.

Johnson brings more than two decades of experience in higher education and has presented at numerous workshops focusing on strategies to empower students to achieve academic and life success. He guides students in a season on finding purpose in life, one’s life and personal development. Johnson is a certified Dream Coach and Dream Coach Group Leader, and has training in life coaching, purpose coaching and wellness coaching. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Delaware.

Project Success Day at JC is designed to help promote success in academics and daily life for students, with a variety of daily workshops, speakers and activities planned.

Potter Center 2013-14 season, coming events

SPANK: Fifty Shades Parody, Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m.

Broadway Rev, Oct. 6, 7 p.m.

Patricio Buonera, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Michael W. Smith, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.

In The Mood, Nov. 2, 7 p.m.

Linda Ellis, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Gatin Brothers Christmas, Dec. 7, 7 p.m.

STOMP!, Jan. 21 & 22, 7:30 p.m.

For ticket information, visit www.jccmi.edu/events.

Services to be offered include:

• Bone Density Screenings
• Vascular Screenings (by appointment only, call 888.335.7241)
• Blood Pressure Screening
• Pulmonary Function Testing (PFT)
• Hearing Clinic
• Pulse Oximetry
• Cholesterol Testing
• EKG Screening
• Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Screening
• Diabetic Screenings
• Flu Shots
• Free Chair Massages (Sacred Touch Massage)

Services will be performed by allied health and nursing students, supervised by registered technologists and JC faculty. In addition, there will be raffles, healthy snacks and beverages.

Answering the question, “What is Your WHY?”

Because you want to be a role model

Pursuing a college education can set a great example for children and family!

Because your time is valuable

Jackson College offers convenient locations and class times to help fit your busy lifestyle!

Because you matter

Maybe you’ve spent time caring for someone else, or you just never thought college was for you. Well, you do matter, and a college education is possible.

Because you set your standards high

Perhaps you think a local community college doesn’t measure up to larger institutions. Rest assured, at Jackson College you will receive high quality academic studies similar to what you would at any university. Students receive high scores on professional licensing exams, and often students who transfer on to a university have better grades than those who are native university students!

Because you work hard for your money

While college is always a significant expense, you will save money so investing in your education is worth the cost. Indeed an investment in you and your future earning power.

Because you want a career

A college education is an entry point to a successful career that not only offers financial benefits but also personal rewards and satisfaction. Tired of going from job to job? Perhaps it is time to consider if it’s time to find a career.

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JC welcomes new athletic director

The Jets have a new athletic director! Heather Bateman joined the staff at the College in June as assistant dean of student life, housing and athletics.

Bateman comes to Jackson from Olivet College, where she was athletic director for 11½ years. Before that, she coached women’s baseball at Wayne State University, University of Detroit-Mercy and Northwood University. She is a past basketball player herself. She hales from Burton, near Flint, earned her bachelor’s degree in human resources from Oakland University, and a master’s degree in sports administration from Wayne State.

“I think JC offers a new challenge. I like the fact that the position oversees both athletics and student life. I am looking forward to all the opportunities that Jackson College has to offer,” Bateman said.

During her first weeks at the College, Bateman looks forward to meeting and getting to know all the coaches and working with all of the student athletes. JC had 162 student athletes in 2012-13. “Getting to know them on a personal level is important to me,” she said.