Paying it Forward
Teaching right prescription for home-grown faculty
Jackson College turns a new page this fall when it offers its first bachelor’s degree in energy systems management.

The Bachelor of Science in Energy Systems Management degree curriculum was recently approved by the Higher Learning Commission, and it marks the first for Jackson College. In December 2012, Governor Rick Snyder signed a bill allowing community colleges to offer bachelor’s degrees in applied and technical programs. House Bill 4496 was introduced by Representative Mike Shirkey, authorizing our offering of a new Bachelor of Science in Energy Systems Management. The launch is scheduled for fall 2014.

This marks a significant milestone in the College’s history. Community colleges were founded in the early 20th century to provide more high school graduates with the further education and training they would need for the changing marketplace. As decades have passed, and our economy has continued to grow, the need is greater than ever for higher education. While community colleges have offered traditional two-year associate degrees for years, the time has come to offer a number of four-year bachelor’s degrees at the community college. Thanks to our State Legislature and Governor Rick Snyder, Michigan community colleges can now offer a limited number of bachelor’s degrees in certain technical fields, including energy technology. Additional baccalaureate degree offerings are being requested from the Michigan Legislature for nursing, allied health, and other areas, thanks to a bill introduced by Representative Mike Shirkey.

The opportunity to earn a bachelor’s degree from Jackson College will allow greater accessibility for area residents who may be limited by geographical or financial boundaries from enrolling in a university. As a great benefit to students, they may continue their education with a campus and faculty that are familiar to them, and at an affordable cost. With careers in the utility industry such an important segment in our local economy, this first bachelor’s degree will be a good fit for students, the community and the marketplace and at a time when this industry is witnessing many retirements. We are grateful to Consumers Energy for their help and support with the advancement of this new degree program.

Learn more about the new bachelor’s degree in this edition, as well as many other developments at Jackson College! We continue to enhance our programs to educate students for today’s career fields. Why go anywhere else?

Dr. Daniel J. Phelan
President, Jackson College
surprisingly, a majority of JC’s nursing faculty and students serve in the health care community. Not only was the College always known for their outstanding record in graduating quality nurses to the field, but they have taught and hopefully encouraged and motivated students, their goals and eventual success… it is so rewarding.

Assistant Professor Deb McElvany attended JCC in the early 1990s, and then continued her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Eastern Michigan University and Michigan State University.

“Jackson Community College changed my life! The nursing program not only provided me with the education to help provide for my family, but the instructors and the College made a large impact on my life,” she said. “I was so proud to come back and teach at the College that made such a big difference in my life. I felt like I was so lucky to be at the College.”

Assistant Professor Christine Davis wanted at first to go to medical school, but being a people-person, she was drawn to the caring and interaction involved in nursing. Now as a teacher, she has the best of both worlds. “Whether it’s in the clinical or the classroom, it’s nice to be able to work with students and teach them, to see the light bulb go on when they learn something new. Our program is well-valued, students get a good education, and we produce quality, professional nurses.”

Professor Maria Martinez-Kratz earned her associate degree in nursing from JCC, her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and Master of Science in psychiatric-mental health nursing also from U-M. She has taught at the College since 1998. “I prepared for my eventual teaching career while in grad school at Michigan. I love my job and working with students. It is a great honor and responsibility to teach.”

College’s home-grown faculty passes on love of nursing to future generations

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“My ultimate goal was to teach in the nursing program,” said Assistant Professor Lisa Gebhardt. “I was a first generation college student, and she thanks teachers at Addison High School and then the UD Tech Center in Adrian with urging her to go to college to become a nurse. She first became a licensed practical nurse through a local hospital, and then attended the College to become a registered nurse. She continued her studies, earning a bachelor’s degree from Ferris State University and a master’s degree from Michigan State University, and has worked for 30 years in the tri-county area. “Now I have been able to see my career come full circle. I have taught and hopefully encouraged and motivated high school students to pursue a nursing career at the same tech center that I got my start at, and now I am able to do the same with nursing students here at JC.”

Professor Colleen Chadwick started at the W.A. Foote School of Nursing in the early 1970s, which was affiliated with Jackson Community College before the College had a full registered nursing program. “I always felt a very welcoming spirit from this College.

Professor Paula Hopper was inspired to become a nurse as a little girl reading the book “Nurse Nancy.” She attended Jackson Community College, then continued her education at Spring Arbor College, and completed her Master of Science in Nursing at Wayne State University. She has taught for 27 years, 22 at JC, has co-authored a nursing textbook, and has served on the State Board of Nursing since 2011.

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Jackson College salutes outstanding employees

Each year the Jackson College Foundation awards hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship assistance to deserving JC students. “It truly love what I do and feel blessed to be able to lead the foundation and Mahler Campus,” Valente said. “What motivates me most about my job is that we get to come to work and change people’s lives. What we do is like throwing a pebble into a pond, we start a chain reaction of ripples that are far-reaching. Often scholars are the deciding factor for someone to be able to attend college and finish a degree. It changes the trajectory of their lives and their family’s lives.”

Taylor honored with outstanding support staff award

Taylor enjoys helping students and co-workers with technology needs at Jackson College. For her efforts working in the College’s Information Technology department, Taylor is the 2014 Outstanding Support Staff Award winner.

Taylor has worked at Jackson College for 19 years and is currently the core technology team leader. This role involves managing key labor resources for the help desk, training, and communicates to customers about college wide technology projects and initiatives.

Valente recognized for leadership of JC Foundation

Valente came to JC in 2008 from Schoolcraft College, where he was director of development. Valente is active in the community and in the church. His wife, Elizabeth, is a teacher at Trinity Lutheran School. They have one daughter, Abby.

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President Phelan recognized by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

For his efforts to promote the ideals of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Jackson College President Dr. Daniel Phelan received 2014 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction at Phi Theta Kappa’s 96th Annual Convention in April.

Pheta Kappa Honor Society recognizes and encourages scholarship among two-year college students, providing opportunities for leadership and service and fellowship among student scholars.

“I am honored by Phi Theta Kappa and grateful to Professor Patricia Paye for her nomination for this award. I receive it not for myself, but as a tribute to Martha’s commitment to this program, her advancement of our chapter, and for the many students who participate in this organization,” Phelan said. “I am also honored to have the Jackson College Foundation present a solid pathway for students who are committed to academic excellence at Jackson College, and a rich opportunity to collaborate with other students and employers.”

Jackson College Provost Rebekah Woods recognized for leadership

For outstanding leadership overseeing the academic programs at Jackson College, Provost Rebekah Woods was recently honored with the 2013 John & Suanne Rouche Award for Excellence from the League for Innovation in the Community College.

The award celebrates outstanding contributions and leadership by community college faculty and staff in higher education. “It is humbling,” said Woods, “to be recognized for work you love doing. Every day I am inspired and motivated by the work we do, the colleagues I have the pleasure of working with, and the students we are working for – knowing that we’re making a difference in the lives of our students and our community.”

Woods has more than 15 years of experience in higher education administration, preceded by a successful law career in the public service arena.
Jackson College students selected for All-Michigan Academic Team

Jackson College congratulates students Carrie Timmerman and Steven Wood on their selection for the 2014 All-Michigan Academic Team.

Students are selected for the All-Michigan Academic Team based on academic achievement, community service involvement and leadership accomplishment.

Carrie Timmerman, of Clayton, worked 14 years as an insurance agent when she felt it was time for a career change. She enrolled at Jackson College and is completing her associate degree in accounting. Timmerman helps those around her, tutoring students for many of the classes she has taken, and working as a supplemental instructor (SI) leader in mathematics. She has participated in the College’s SI & Tutor Conference, which welcomes SI leaders, tutors and faculty from across the state to campus. She is also active in her church, where she volunteers as a youth group coordinator and helps in the treasurer’s office. Timmerman’s future plans include earning both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in math education, and she hopes to teach math at the college level. She is married and has two children. “I am very, very honored. It is good to be acknowledged,” she said.

Steven Wood of Jackson returned to college through Michigan’s No Worker Left Behind program after working in the book manufacturing industry. He is completing his associate degree in business administration and plans to transfer to Siena Heights University to earn a bachelor’s degree in professional communications. He currently operates a home woodworking business, and his goal is to be self-employed.

Wood was president of JC’s Alpha Rho Lambda chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, and for two previous years was the vice president of leadership. He’s promoted membership, updated Michigan college and university PTK scholarship information, and served as lead writer for two years in the Honors in College Project Hallmarks. He has served on college and community committees, has visited Five Year Seminar courses as part of the Commit to Complete project to encourage college completion, and made JC’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter the focus of his capstone project in business administration, detailing how PTK can be better supported by the college and community it serves. “I was surprised and honored (with this recognition),” he said.

The State Academic Teams are a division of the Academic All-American Team for Community, Technical and Junior College Students, an international program sponsored annually by Phi Theta Kappa, USA TODAY and the American Association for Community Colleges.

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ABIG students see another side of Florida over spring break

Students involved in Jackson College’s Alternative Breaks (Interest Group, or ABIG), traveled to Florida over spring break, but not to the usual vacation spots.

Eleven students traveled to southern Florida to work in the Biscayne National Park and the Everglades National Park. The Alternative Breaks program provides students with an immersive community service experience that ultimately encourages them to think about social issues and the world around them.

ABIG students stayed in a hotel and divided the week serving at each location.

For many students, the service trip is a whole new experience.

Student Brittany Love, from Lansing, enjoys helping others. “Volunteering is something I have always enjoyed due to the feeling that you know you made a difference in someone’s life,” Love said. “I was interested in joining ABIG for the chance to meet new people and volunteer alongside them in a new community to make a difference. Not only do I get to make a difference in Jackson, but in another state as well.”

Learn to detect computer breaches with new cyber security degree

Today’s large computer networks offer speed and convenience, but too often they fall victim to security breaches that put important information at risk. A new academic program at Jackson College is devoted to educating students to prevent such attacks.

This fall, Jackson College will launch a new associate degree in cyber security. Cyber security analysts work to ensure that an organization’s interrelated networks, computer systems and digital information stay safe from cyber-attacks. Security analysts may plan, monitor and test computer systems for security and implement appropriate security controls. They may install and use software, such as firewalls and data encryption programs, to protect sensitive information. They may also perform penetration testing, using simulation of attacks to look for vulnerabilities in an organization’s computer systems before they may be exploited by hackers. A growing field, jobs are available for graduates.

“This is closely related to the computer networking degree, but adding important studies in cyber security,” said Assistant Professor Larry Choate, Computer Information Services. Students may specialize in Microsoft or CISCO networks.

Jackson College students have also participated for several years with the Michigan Collegiate Cyber Defense Organization, Siena simulates an information technology (IT) service company testing the security of an existing IT infrastructure, giving students more experience in a competitive atmosphere with other colleges and universities.
Stanton Foundation scholarship to help young adults from foster care system

Growing up in the foster care system may not be easy, but Jackson’s Stanton Foundation wants to help young adults get a great start in higher education by creating the Stanton Foundation Educational Scholarship at Jackson College.

The Stanton Foundation Educational Scholarship will provide full tuition, room and board for one student who was a non-adopted foster child and is now pursuing their education at Jackson College. The $20,000 scholarship will cover all expenses for the student.

“[I] want to leave the world a better place than I found it, and I believe there is no better way to do this than to stimulate young minds,” said David Stanton of Stanton & Associates Inc., president of the Stanton Foundation. Companywide, Wendy’s community affairs); I can talk to them about any experience and to Lee Hampton and Kelly Williams Jackson College for giving me the opportunity to choose me; it is an honor and a privilege,” said Bryan, “Out of all the student employees on campus, they go above and beyond, always willing to help students, with computers for gathering place for students, with computers for

Outstanding Student Employee honorree goes above and beyond to champion Jackson College in community

Jackson College is pleased to recognize student Rachanstonit (Rae) Bryan with the 2014 Outstanding Student Employee Award.

Bryan has been a student worker in the Woodrow Wilson Multicultural Center in Burt Walker Hall, a gathering place for students, for computer school use, a meeting area, and recreation area. He has helped to monitor and assist students who come and go, done office work and filed, helped with different events around campus and visited local schools to talk about Jackson College.

“They have been a great employee, always willing to go above and beyond,” said Lee Hampton.

Hillsdale LeTarte Center

Jackson College has launched a new phlebotomy technician skill set to train workers in the practice of drawing blood from patients. The LeTarte Center is pleased to offer Hillsdale students the new skill set beginning in the winter 2015 semester.

The phlebotomy technician skill set prepares students for professional certification and employment in a variety of settings, such as medical offices, hospitals, or medical and diagnostic laboratories. Students may also choose to use this as a building block to enhance the skills that will be learned in another allied health or nursing degree or to add to an already completed degree.

The phlebotomy skill set requires only 11 credits and can be completed in just one semester!

J C • L S D T E C H

JC @ LSD TECH will host a financial aid workshop on Wednesday, July 16 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. This workshop is available for anyone needing some general information about the financial aid process. The staff will also be available to assist you in completing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online.

With the culinary art and hospitality program available completely at JC @ LSD TECH, in two semesters, students may complete both a culinary skill set and concentration. Students are encouraged to complete the associate degree; however, they will be building their resume during the entire program.

Do you have a great idea for a new invention? Join the Jackson Inventors Network, meeting at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Mahler Campus. Listen to great speakers free of charge. For more information, contact Jackson College Professor Ron Bagat, rbagat@jccmi.edu

Upcoming events and activities for the summer include:

- New student orientation and course placement is underway for fall semester for students interested in attending the Mahler Campus or all other JC locations.
- Join representatives of Spring Arbor University and Siena Heights University as they meet with students to learn about options to complete bachelor’s degrees. Call the Mahler Campus, 517.768.3707 for dates and times of upcoming activities and visits.

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“One of all the student employees on campus, they chose me; it is an honor and a privilege,” said Bryan, who is studying criminal justice major in the Multicultural Center, and it bettered me as a person.”

While working in the Multicultural Center, Bryan was able to meet many staff and faculty members, President Dan Phelan and many other college leaders, as well as helping fellow students utilizing the center. In addition to his work and studies, Bryan is involved with the Men of Merit student organization and the International Student Organization.

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Congratulations to the following Jets athletes for their fine performance this past year!

**Cross Country**
- **Ahron Gunn**, Brownstown, All Region XII 2nd Team, All-MCCAA
- **Sierra Melling**, Hanover, All Region XII 2nd Team, All-MCCAA

**Women’s Soccer**
- **K’sha Conquest**, Utica, All-Region XII Team 1st Team, MCCAA All-Freshman Team
- **Daniel Lora**, of the Dominican Republic, All-Region XII 2nd Team, All-MCCAA 1st Team, MCCAA All-Freshman Team
- **Natalie Tappen**, Romeo, All-Region XII 2nd Team, All-MCCAA
- **Marie Rodgers**, Stockbridge, All-MCCAA Honorable Mention

**Volleyball**
- **Maycee Brigham**, Concord, All-Western Conference 2nd Team
- **Syndey Martines**, Concord, All-Western Conference 2nd Team
- **Paige Ward**, Homer, All-Western Conference 2nd Team

**Men’s Basketball**
- **Kyle Godfrey**, Jonesville, All-Western Conference Honorable Mention
- **Jairen Hunt**, Grand Rapids, All-Western Conference 3rd Team
- **Alex Potter**, Jackson, All-Western Conference Honorable Mention

**Women’s Basketball**
- **Jessica Ritchey**, Pottermore, All-Western Conference 3rd Team
- **Teqwa’zha Terry**, Pontiac, All-Western Conference Honorable Mention

**Men’s Golf**
- **Charlie Holst**, Jackson, All-Region XII Team 1st Team, Region XII All-Tournament Team, Western Conference All-Freshman Team, NJCAA National Tournament Individual Qualifier
- **Ryan Hunt**, Mason, Western Conference All-Freshman Team
- **Jacob Malcagni**, Eaton Rapids, All-Western Conference 1st Team, Western Conference All-Freshman Team

**Men’s Baseball**
- **Connor Alexander**, Jackson, All-MCCAA Honorable Mention

**Brad Allen**, Manchester, All-MCCAA Honorable Mention
- **Caleb Baragar**, Jenison, 1st Team All-NJCAA Region XII and 1st Team All-MCCAA
- **Cole Knaup**, Brooklyn, All-MCCAA Honorable Mention
- **Todd Phelps**, Detroit, NJCAA Region XII All-Tournament Team, 2nd Team All-MCCAA
- **Austin Plasterer**, Fort Wayne, Ind., 3rd Team All-MCCAA
- **Tyler Reed**, Brooklyn, 1st Team All-NJCAA Region XII and 1st Team All-MCCAA, MCCAA All-Freshman Team
- **Austin Shepherd**, Vicksburg, All-MCCAA Honorable Mention

**Women’s Softball**
- **Andi Dragonetti**, Jackson, All-Region XII 1st Team, All-MCCAA Team, and 1st Team All-Western Conference
- **Kellyn Herendeen**, Grass Lake, Honorable Mention All-Western Conference
- **Kyndle Wolfinger**, Grass Lake, softball, 2nd Team All-Western Conference, All-Freshman Team