

WE ARE **Jackson**  
COLLEGE

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# Scholarships

Helping put students' futures in focus



# Scholarships offer a helping hand

Scholarship assistance can offer a helping hand, putting students a step ahead when it comes to paying for college!

Each year the Jackson College Foundation awards hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship assistance to deserving JC students. The foundation awarded \$337,000 in scholarship aid for this 2013-14 academic year, providing valuable assistance to 300 students who may otherwise be unable to attend college.

For many college students, scholarship money eases the burden to allow students to focus on their studies. Students are thankful for the help.



For student **Joy Gebhardt** of Concord, assistance has made the difference between staying in school and dropping out. Gebhardt has been attending JC for two years, and is in her first

year of the registered nursing program. Her son was diagnosed with brain cancer and battled the disease for a year before passing away recently. In addition to the personal and emotional toll of losing a son, the expenses were enormous.

"He was in aggressive treatment, and there was a lot we were trying to do to help him. **With all that, I would not have been able to fully pursue this right now without the scholarship,**" Gebhardt said. "It's also opened the door for me to complete a bachelor's

degree. I'm taking some extra courses now toward my bachelor's degree, and will be able to complete my bachelor's degree from Concordia University within a year and a half of graduating from JC. So the scholarship has accelerated my college experience."



Student **Corey Huff** of Adrian returned to college after he lost his job at Merillat, where he'd worked for 12 years building cabinets. "When they closed, it was the perfect opportunity to go back to school, to do what

I've always wanted to do," Huff said. He operates his own catering business, but is enrolled in JC's nursing program to also become a registered nurse.

**"The scholarship assistance has helped in every way you can think of.**

I cut back to working only weekends, so obviously I've seen a decrease in my income."



Student **Taylor Tesch** of Hillsdale is studying chemistry and working toward an Associate in Science at JC, with hopes to someday have a career in forensic science. Now in her second year, scholarship assistance has

helped her attend college without any loans. **"The scholarship money really helps. With loans, you have to pay the money back. With these, you don't have to,"** Tesch said.



Student **Ras Bryan** of Jackson, who is studying criminal justice at JC and plans to complete his bachelor's degree from Siena Heights University, is thankful for scholarship help since both he and his

sister are students. "It has helped me to balance out costs, even with my sister in college," Bryan said.

One of eight children in his family, he will be the first to complete a bachelor's degree. **"It's really helpful that we have people in the Jackson community who are willing to give money to help others to pursue their goals."**

Scholarship funds are provided by the generosity of numerous area residents, businesses and organizations that support the College. These endowed scholarships are available to students based on criteria set by individual donors, with awards for various majors and student groups, such as first-generation college students.

## How to apply for scholarships

Apply for Jackson College scholarships at [www.jccmi.edu/Foundation/scholarships.htm](http://www.jccmi.edu/Foundation/scholarships.htm)  
Applications due April 1, 2014.

Check out local scholarships on the financial aid web page... [www.jccmi.edu/businessoffice/financialaid/FinancialAidTypes.htm](http://www.jccmi.edu/businessoffice/financialaid/FinancialAidTypes.htm)

## Excellent quality, low cost, transferable college education: Why start anywhere else?

At Jackson College, we are fully committed to student success, degree completion, employment or transfer. We provide this service to thousands of students each year, enabling employment opportunities or options for transfer to a university. We have done so saving people thousands of dollars, and providing a personal level of support to each of our students. Sadly, questions and myths persist about the level of academic rigor available at a community college, with some even thinking community college is just an extension of high school. Providing open access to higher education is one of the hallmarks of the community college. However, offering open enrollment does not mean substandard quality.

Courses and degree programs at Jackson College are just like the courses and programs at other colleges and universities around the state. Students are challenged at JC as they would be at any other college or university. Further, the College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, the same accreditor as for all other public colleges and universities, and most private colleges in the Midwest. As part of the process, Jackson College courses, instruction, student outcomes, even the College as a whole, is consistently reviewed by peers in the education field to ensure their quality and standards. We are so confident that we even put our performance data on our web page for anyone to review.

Students at Jackson College not only achieve, but they excel. After JC, students regularly transfer to all the major universities – the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, Central Michigan, Grand Valley State, Ferris State universities. They tell us, and the GPA data show, that most find more success there than other students who began at the four-year university. Our career students find jobs here in Jackson County, around the state and nation. JC students routinely shine on many licensure and certification examinations. For example, all JC students through the third quarter of this year (i.e., 100 percent) studying to become licensed practical nurses passed their NCLEX-PN exams, while the Michigan average

is 92.66 percent, and the national average is 84.68 percent. Registered nursing students for the most recent quarter passed their NCLEX-RN exams at a rate of 96.04 percent, compared to a Michigan average of 87.65 percent and 84.29 percent nationally for the last four quarters.

Students who excel at JC are invited to participate in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, which encourages scholarship among two-year college students. Students can work on leadership activities, academic and personal development, participate in honors study topics and more. Students can work on building their portfolio of accomplishments, enhance their leadership skills, and benefit from available scholarships if they transfer on to another four-year institution. The College also provides great student amenities as well including athletic programs, housing, high technology, workout facilities, collaborative study areas, Internet-based courses, and excellent faculty, all in a very safe environment.

Combine these success data points with the fact that our annual, full-time tuition and fees are only \$3,504, compared to thousands of dollars more for other colleges and universities. With national student loan debt at over \$1 trillion, Jackson College makes it possible to avoid loans, and higher out-of-pocket tuition costs; why would you consider going anywhere else?

Think Jackson College isn't as rigorous as a four-year university, or a great environment to learn? I invite to come and check us out; speak with our students, speak with our faculty. Look at our results and decide for yourself.

Dr. Daniel J. Phelan  
President, Jackson College



JC scholarship recipients join Victor and Gretchen Marshall at the Nov. 12, 2013 scholarship celebration

# New options available for law enforcement, corrections graduates

## New corrections training academy to begin at JC



Train for a career in corrections close to home with the new Michigan Corrections Officer Training Academy coming to Jackson College!

JC will begin offering Michigan Corrections Officer Training Academy programs three or four times per year in 2014.

Recent legislation allows colleges to offer an eight-week training academy for corrections officers.

To become a corrections officer, applicants need to complete a minimum of 15 college credits in a prescribed selection of courses before applying. Previously, workers were trained by MDOC after they were hired; now, prospective workers will complete an application with the Department of Corrections, complete the civil service exam, and could then be interviewed and go through physical testing for a corrections job. If that is successful, they may then enroll in the training academy, and would have a good chance of being hired as a corrections officer. The training is closer to home for many, as training was previously offered only in Lansing.

"Corrections are always hiring. They have such a large number of employees that there is always some turnover from attrition, people retiring or leaving the field," said Mary Jo Kennedy, criminal justice coordinator at JC. "They would like to develop a pool of employees to draw from."

Careers in corrections vary depending on the site; most officers with the MDOC will be working with convicted felons, overseeing them and maintaining order in the facilities. Corrections can also be a good starting point to other careers, such as parole or probation. JC offers associate degree and certificate programs in corrections.

## New Ferris State partnership offers convenience of college & academy!

Is a career in police and law enforcement in your future? Jackson College and Ferris State University now offer a new option for future police officers that will save time and money!

Starting in January, students who are working toward their associate degree in law enforcement may continue to earn a bachelor's degree from Ferris State University through a new partnership program. Students may complete their two-year program, and

then continue their third year at JC but taking courses from Ferris, taught by their instructors.

During the last year, students will transfer to Ferris State in Big Rapids for a full police academy. After successful completion of that fourth year and their bachelor's degree, the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) will certify students.

"The benefit to students is that they complete the police academy and are MCOLES certified as part of a college program," said Mary Jo Kennedy, criminal justice coordinator at JC and a retired police officer. Usually college graduates in law enforcement must still attend a police academy, offered at different locations around the state and are an additional cost to the student, from \$7,000 to \$10,000. "The advantage of the Ferris program is that you still qualify for all of your regular student aid because it's still part of your academic program. That would be a big benefit to students, and it's exciting because it's something we've never had."

Careers in police and law enforcement are increasing in demand as the economy continues to improve. The Jackson Police Department anticipates several vacancies in the next five to seven years as nearly one-third of its personnel will be eligible for retirement. Across the nation, demand for police officers is expected to increase about 7 percent. JC offers both certificate and associate degree programs in law enforcement.



## New energy systems associate degree to begin, bachelor's degree in works

Jackson College has now approved a new Energy Systems Technology associate degree program and is continuing development of what will be its first-ever four-year bachelor's degree program in energy systems management.

The new two-year associate degree program has been designed with input from a consortium of utilities including Consumers Energy and DTE Energy. It is designed to help students enter the energy industry as technicians in energy production, transmission, and distribution environments. The program provides a broad-based technology degree that covers control systems, electrical systems, alternative energy, fabrication, safety regulations, and hands-on experience through internships.

Instructor Doug Baker said the associate degree offers students the opportunity to find a good job with good pay. Also, with Consumers Energy located nearby, many jobs should be available close to home. Michigan utility companies – like many career fields today – expect to see a high turnover from retirements in the next few years, prompting many of these job openings.



Doug Baker

Students may want to start as technicians, and then continue their studies toward a bachelor's degree. JC is continuing work on a Bachelor of

Science in Energy Systems Management program that, if approved, will give technicians the necessary skills in project management, communications, business, and decision making to be promotable into supervisory and management positions.

"We're trying to meet the need out there in the energy industry for individuals who have technical capabilities, but who are also capable of making management decisions," Baker said.

The associate degree program will be launched in the fall 2014 semester. Students interested in this field should be technically minded, interested in working with their hands, and able to work in a variety of environments.

## what's new HILLSDALE LETARTE CENTER

Greetings from the Hillsdale LeTarte Center! Jackson College is pleased to participate in the new community effort, the Hillsdale County Career Access Planning (CAP) Board with the Hillsdale County Community Foundation.

Made possible by a grant from the Michigan College Access Network, this effort is designed to help those seeking an educational or career program beyond high school, which could be a traditional two- or four-year college or university, or a trade, vocational or certification program. The LeTarte Center has welcomed Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) for the last two years who have been working on increasing college-readiness in Hillsdale County.

A new student group has formed, the LeTarte Center Leaders. These are current college students who volunteer to mentor middle and high school students in the public schools. They will stress the importance of completing high school and planning on college or some postsecondary education, increasingly necessary in today's workplace. The student group will also organize events at the LeTarte Center facility.

If you are interesting in taking classes or learning more about preparing for college, make an appointment or stop in to the LeTarte Center, located at 3120 W. Carleton Road, Hillsdale; 517.437.3343.

### Orientation

Jan. 6, 9-11 a.m., Room 15  
Feb. 18, 5-7 p.m., Room 15  
March 3, 9-11 a.m., Room 16  
March 24, 5-7 p.m., Room 16  
April 7, 12 noon-2 p.m., Room 16  
April 21, 5-7 p.m., Room 16

### Course Placement

Jan. 6, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Room 15  
Feb. 18, 7-10 p.m., Room 15  
March 3, 12 noon-3 p.m., Room 16  
March 24, 7-10 p.m., Room 16  
April 7, 2-5 p.m., Room 16  
April 21, 7-10 p.m., Room 16

### Financial Aid Workshops

Feb. 10, 6-8 p.m., Room 16  
Feb. 25, 6-8 p.m., Room 15  
March 10, 6-8 p.m., Room 16



LeTarte Center, Hillsdale • 517.437.3343



## what's new JC @ LISD TECH

Jackson College, in partnership with the Lenawee Intermediate School District and the 11 Lenawee County public school districts, offers the JC/LISD Academy program. The program allows students the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school, with the opportunity of completing a high school diploma and associate degree in five years. Students must be at least 13 years old and have successfully completed the eighth grade. Here is a short article from first-year student Samantha Payne...



Samantha Payne

*The JC/LISD Academy is a Regional Middle College that gives students from Lenawee County the opportunity to transition from high school courses to college as soon as they are ready. Not to mention, everything is free! Students learn in a college environment that provides constant support and guidance from staff who check up on their progress. In Transitions, a course designed for students to learn the soft skills needed to be successful in college, we fill out a credentialing sheet, a goal sheet, a grade sheet, and have bi-weekly meetings with our academic advisor to review our progress. The credentialing process has several categories (Academic Preparation, Personal Responsibility, Communication, Follow Through, and Attendance) in which we self-evaluate on each of these categories. Then during credentialing meetings, teachers, administration, and support staff review each student's progress and discuss whether or not the student is ready to start taking college classes. There are three groups of students in the credentialing process: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Bronze is all high school classes, Silver is high school and college, and Gold is completely college. It is not a race to*

*get to Gold, and it is not bad if you are in Bronze. This is just a way for teachers to identify where the students are in their transition at the Academy. There is also Teen Leadership, a course which teaches skills to succeed in the college environment and in life. This great course is not only educational, but is also enjoyable. Students are taught how to develop a healthy self-concept, build healthy relationships, personal responsibility, skills in public speaking, developing and understanding principle-based decision-making, recognizing and resisting peer pressure, and goal-setting, personally and professionally.*

*When I first heard about the JC/LISD Academy, I wasn't extremely interested. What about my friends? Sports? Clubs? Then, I attended an informational meeting about the Academy, and immediately I realized that not everyone has the opportunity to take high school and college classes when they are 13, so I went for it. After being in the Academy for a semester, I could not be more pleased with my success. The college environment is extraordinary and I receive so much support from staff that I wouldn't have at a regular school. I am now looking forward to taking my first college class next semester. I believe that coming to the JC/LISD Academy was the best decision I have ever made.*

For more information about JC/LISD Academy visit [www.jccmi.edu/theacademy](http://www.jccmi.edu/theacademy).



JC @ LISD TECH • 517.265.5515

# Living history

## Lenawee students help with Red Cross exhibit

Jackson College students involved in Diana Agy's spring English classes put their writing and research skills to work this summer to help with the American Red Cross History exhibit in Adrian.

The Lenawee County Historical Museum's Red Cross exhibit explores the history of the Red Cross in Lenawee County from its beginning in 1917. Objects and photographs in the exhibit tell the story of the many volunteers who shipped supplies to those affected by this nation's wars; those who have led safety campaigns and taught classes in swimming, hygiene, nutrition and babysitting; and those who have been involved in the blood donor program.

Agy and Lynne Loftis, former director of the Ella Sharp Museum, connected with the Lenawee

County Historical Museum volunteers in 2012 as they collected artifacts for the Red Cross exhibit that was on display in Jackson, Michigan. Student volunteers spent many hours researching the history of the Red Cross and collecting oral histories associated with the Adrian chapter. Student Matthew Moyer of Adrian had the opportunity to interview his grandmother, Rose Fisher, and two other volunteers. "I thought it was very cool and very fun for a learning experience," Moyer said. "We learned about things you don't see every day. If you don't get these stories now, they may be lost forever."

JC students worked with personnel in the archives at both the Lenawee County Historical Museum and the Ella Sharp Museum, 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 of the interviews and photos are on display at the Lenawee County Historical Museum until the end of the Red Cross exhibit in spring 2014. Students have also designed the front showcase at the JC @ LISD TECH center with primary sources that tell the Lenawee County Red Cross experience.

"The Red Cross Museum opened its doors and opened their arms to us, working side by side,"

Agy said. "There were many people who wanted to participate when they heard about it. The students who volunteered had the opportunity to learn from some of the greatest volunteers on Earth, the Red Cross."

Student Miguel Burciaga Jr. of Adrian interviewed his grandfather, Tomas Hernandez, a World War II veteran. "My grandfather didn't talk a lot about the war. A lot of veterans don't like to talk about their service. But when I asked him about the Red Cross, he opened up and shared about getting care packages from them. It was an ice breaker so we could talk about something we could relate to," Burciaga said, himself a veteran.

Student April Darr of Hudson enjoyed the opportunity to hear the stories of past volunteers and help to put together the display. Before this project, Darr said she didn't know much about the Lenawee Historical Museum. "Mrs. Agy was wonderful. I appreciate everything she did. She hates to be recognized, but she put a lot of time and effort into this project."

David Alcenius of Tecumseh thought it would be a good project to get involved with for the community. "It was fun to do; it was exciting to see all the things the Red Cross had done for the community," he said.



## Community members tackle complex issues at African American Male Summit

Jackson College welcomed more than 200 guests for the African American Male Summit II in October, representing a broad spectrum of community members offering insights and ideas about how to help more African American males succeed in college.

This Summit focused on strategies to increase success and consider barriers men of color face with a focus in two areas, education and the penal system. Ultimately, the goal is to help more African American males succeed in college and beyond. Professionals from many areas – health care, education, law enforcement and corrections, business and students – heard from speakers, and then broke into groups to discuss and brainstorm ideas. Those findings and recommendations are now being combined into an executive report, which will be available in book format Feb. 1.

“We worked to further identify barriers, and developed and formulated corrective measures that we will compile,” said Lee Hampton, director of multicultural affairs. With many issues involving complex issues that cross different segments of the community and workforce, many participants recommended meetings that are more frequent.

“Complex challenges such as the challenges that African American males face require collaborative solutions,” Hampton said. “When we have the best minds from different sections of the community come together, we get more thinking outside the box, which is what we need.”



“Mr. Grayson greatly deserves this honor. He exemplifies the principles that Dr. Martin Luther King was endeavoring to advance,” said Lee Hampton, JC’s director of multicultural relations. “He is committed to equality throughout the community, committed to helping the underprivileged and youth. It is an honor that he is receiving this award.”

Henry Grayson

## Jackson College announces 2014 King Medal of Service honoree

Alumnus Henry N. Grayson enjoys serving his community. His commitment will be recognized when he receives the 2014 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Medal of Service Award from Jackson College.

Grayson is a retired warden for the Michigan Department of Corrections and current first vice president with the Jackson County NAACP. He grew up in Ypsilanti and relocated to Jackson in the 1960s to attend what was then Jackson Junior College. He holds a degree in general business from Jackson Community College and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Spring Arbor College. He served two years in the U.S. Army and received an honorable discharge. He met his wife, Merlene, also a JC alumnus, in 1963, and the couple has been married nearly 49 years.

Grayson has had a distinguished professional career and demonstrated long-standing service to the Jackson community. His service with the State Prison of Southern Michigan began in 1966 as a correctional officer and culminated in numerous positions of increasing responsibility within the Department of Corrections. For the last 15 years of his career, Grayson served as warden in multiple facilities in the Southern Michigan area before retiring after 39 years of service.

Grayson is the first vice president of the Jackson County NAACP, member of the Noon Rotary Club, member of The United Way Board of Directors and The United Way Financial Committee, past member of Ella Sharp Museum Board of Directors, past board member for Family Services and Children’s Aid, and was president of the former Jackson Arts and Technology Academy board. He has been recognized with numerous awards for contributions to his community including the Spring Arbor College Trail Blazer Award.

“I am very surprised and humbled with this award,” Grayson said. “I certainly enjoy doing what I do, helping and serving the community.”

### Jackson native to share story of success at King event



Jackson College will welcome attorney David Holmes as keynote speaker at the 2014 Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration dinner, at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18 in the Robert Snyder Dining Commons, Potter Center.

Holmes, born and raised in Jackson, will share his story of hope, courage and perseverance in a message entitled “Achieve Your Dream.” Through a dedicated mother, determination and discipline, Holmes overcame the challenges and temptations of inner city life to achieve high academic success and become an all-state basketball star. He went on to college and law school, graduating from Thurgood Marshall Law School in 2004. Success followed him into the law profession as he quickly became partner in the Houston, Texas law firm, Smith, Renfro, Goins, and Holmes P.C. He will share how he overcame obstacles and challenges to accomplish success and achieve his life’s dream.

Tickets for the 2014 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration are \$20 per adult, \$18 for students and may be purchased at the Potter Center Box Office, 517.796.8600.

## Jackson College welcomes Fulbright scholar from Brazil

Jackson College welcomes a Brazilian teacher to campus this year, Daniel Reschke Pires.

Pires is part of the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program, in which teachers from different countries may come to the United States to teach their own language for a year, strengthening the instruction of foreign languages at colleges and universities. Pires is teaching a Portuguese language class and tutoring for Spanish at JC. He earned his college degree in teaching and literature in Brazil, where he has taught Portuguese language and literature, as well as English as a Second Language.

“When I graduated, I was looking forward to doing an exchange program. I had a couple in mind, and of them, the Fulbright scholarship was by far the best,” Pires said. “This scholarship was exclusively to the U.S., and I wanted to come, having taught English, to a country where English is the first language.”

Arriving in the U.S. this past summer, his first stop was a summer workshop at Columbia University in New York City with other Fulbright



scholars. From there he visited Philadelphia, and then came to Jackson. He’s enjoyed his visit, though he’s been surprised by the size of some

things here, like cars and food portions! Working with students has been his biggest enjoyment. In addition to teaching at JC, he is taking a class in diplomatic history of the U.S. from Spring Arbor University. In the future, he plans to give individual lessons in elementary and intermediate Portuguese.

“I’ve been able to show a little bit of Brazilian culture to the students here, and experienced some American culture,” Pires said. “I hope to promote more cultural activities and to engage as many students as I can, so the students here have a chance to meet someone with a little bit of a different culture, without leaving the U.S. So keep an eye open for international/cultural events!”



Jackson College is pleased to share our 2013 Annual Report with the community.

Available online at [www.jccmi.edu/annualreport](http://www.jccmi.edu/annualreport)



## what’s new W.J. MAHER CAMPUS

A new name and new classes are in store at the W.J. Maher Campus! Following a ceremony in October, this facility is now named in honor of the late alumnus William J. Maher, a lifelong pilot and successful businessman, who was always thankful for the opportunities he received at Jackson College. The need to give back to the College was something Maher felt strongly about, and we are pleased that his name and memory will live on at his alma mater.

Starting in the winter semester, the Maher Campus will offer a variety of Saturday classes. Classes for winter will include:

- BUA 121 Leadership
- BUA 130 Customer Service
- CIS 101 Introduction to Computer Systems
- ENG 232 Technical & Business Writing
- PSY 140 Introduction to Psychology
- SOC 231 Principles of Sociology
- EDU 290 Instructional Skills Workshop (this course is designed for education students and current teachers to help enhance instructional skills)

For detailed information on these classes please go to [www.jccmi.edu/saturday](http://www.jccmi.edu/saturday).

This campus location offers ease of access, located nearby to Interstate 94, and is closer to those in the northern sections of Jackson County. Check JC’s course schedule online for complete information on each class and meeting time. Remember, winter semester classes begin Jan. 13. JC gets back from holiday on Jan. 2, so stop by and see us about available options.

Businesses, community groups and organizations looking for a meeting place are invited to check out the Maher Campus facilities. The College has renovated several rooms that would be suitable for large or small groups, and our facility is nestled on 25-plus acres off Blake Road, with convenient parking, accessibility, technology and more. Call 517.768.7097 or stop in and speak with one of our JC personnel about options and availability!



North Campus • 517.768.7097

# What's Happening at Jackson College

## JC student pens novel

Jackson College student Christopher Reardon helps tutor fellow students as part of the Writing Fellows program, and now he has even written a book himself.

Reardon, a Lumen Christi High graduate, recently had his first novel, an urban fantasy/paranormal work entitled "Obstacles," published. The storyline follows a cowardly doctor who is afraid of almost everything, and throughout the book he faces his fears in challenges called "Obstacles" that he must complete in a race to try to save a sick child's life. Reardon said he wanted to convey the theme that things are never set in stone, a person's perspectives and experience can change everything in a second.

"I started the book two years ago while I was still in high school," Reardon said. "I always liked imagining stories and thinking about different adventures I could create. But, I never thought I

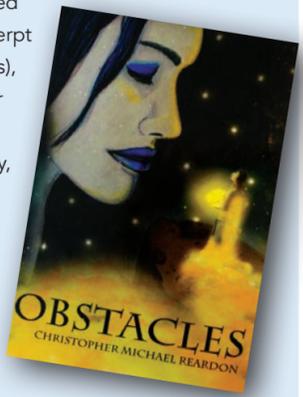
could actually do anything with it. One day, I just decided to write a chapter and see what it would be like. I was surprised to find out that I loved writing it!"

While writing the novel was fun, the publication process wasn't, he said. "You have to send a query letter with a summary/blurb, along with a synopsis (more detailed summary) and an excerpt (three or four chapters), then you wait three or four months until you get a response. Finally, I got accepted!"

He worked with an editor through the revision and editing process, and the book was released Sept. 1. It is available on Amazon.com.

Reardon is in his second year at JC and is studying business, with plans to transfer to Michigan State University. He's enjoyed his classes and the opportunity to tutor other students with Writing Fellows, something he hadn't done before. In what little spare time he has, he enjoys reading books like "The Hunger Games," "The Maze Runner," the "Eragon" series, and he is starting to enjoy mysteries.

Is another book in his future? Reardon said he isn't sure, but he does encourage other aspiring authors to follow their hopes. "Decide from the beginning if this is something you want to do, because it is a lot of work. If it is something you want, definitely keep going."



## Commit to Complete initiative sees hundreds make pledge

A project to get more community college students to complete a college credential has taken off at Jackson College with the help of Phi Theta Kappa members!

The Community College Commit to Complete (C4) effort encourages students to complete a college credential, sponsored by the Community College Completion Corps. JC's Phi Theta Kappa members asked students at Project Success Day to sign a banner to "Commit to Complete," and those who did receive a certificate. The banner has traveled to Lenawee and Hillsdale counties and to the Maher Campus. PTK members have visited 64 sections of First Year Seminar classes to describe the effort to newer incoming students and encourage participation. Advisor Martha Petry said so far this year, 780 students have made the commitment!

Completing a college credential can offer many benefits – typically those with an associate degree or certificate experience more earning potential, increased job opportunities, lower unemployment, and much more. Many students start college with a particular goal in mind – earning an associate degree or certificate, transferring on to a university – but unfortunately they may drop out for a variety of reasons – feeling overwhelmed or overburdened, or financial needs. Encouraging a culture of completion is necessary, both local and national leaders say, so students have the education and credential they need for careers in today's workforce.



## JC student's poem published in Phi Theta Kappa journal

Congratulations to Jackson College graduate Jill McEldowney, who is one of 23 Phi Theta Kappa members nationally chosen for publication in the 2013 edition of Nota Bene, the Society's honors anthology.

McEldowney's poem "Feral Cat" was selected for publication from more than 800 entries. "I am definitely excited about it," McEldowney said about



having her poem included in the journal. "It's my first poem that I've ever had published. It's exciting to share it."

She credits a creative writing class with Professor Martha Petry for helping to bring out her creative side and inspiring her to write more poetry. She also won a poetry contest hosted by the

William Atkinson Library in April, Poetry Month, with a work entitled "Pandora." McEldowney has now transferred to Columbia College in Chicago where she is majoring in poetry.

Nota Bene was founded in 1994 to showcase exceptional writing among community college students. Copies of Nota Bene are distributed to all community college libraries and to Phi Theta Kappa leaders. Phi Theta Kappa is the honor society for two-year colleges.

## Career Jump Start Program to guide students toward high-demand careers

Jackson College has joined with a network of community colleges from across Michigan to form a new partnership with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the Career Jump Start Program, dedicated to promoting training opportunities for in-demand careers to Michigan high school students.

Created in response to feedback received at the Governor's Economic and Education Summits, the Career Jump Start Program is intended to address the critical talent gap facing Michigan employers by promoting high-demand career paths to students. "Today, too few workers have the skills needed to meet the demands of employers in the new economy. One of the most common issues is around the lack of knowledge that high school students have about in-demand careers and training programs," said Gov. Rick Snyder. "Through the Career Jump Start program, we will encourage students to consider training opportunities that will provide them with critical work skills for those high-demand careers."

Jackson College and community colleges in 10 regions around the state will house "career liaison specialists" who will provide resources to high school counselors, administrators, parents and teachers

about post-high school training programs that will prepare students for in-demand occupations. Jackson College was awarded a \$700,000 grant to help establish, develop and lead the program. At JC, Dr. Michelle Shields, career coach, is serving as the statewide program manager, and Mike Glynn, director of training and development, will serve as career liaison specialist.



"Quite simply, the job of the Career Liaison is outreach; engaging business leaders in discussions about their hiring needs and the skills they need from today's employees, then

reaching out to high school counselors, administrators, parents and teachers about post-high school training programs that will prepare students for in-demand occupations in order to bridge the gap," Glynn said. "What excites me most about this program is the opportunity to work with employers and find out what those skill sets are they so desperately need, and also more importantly, what excites them about their jobs and industries. Then, taking that enthusiasm and generating excitement among K-12 students about careers that they may not have otherwise considered."

To learn more about the Career Jump Start program, visit [www.mitalent.org/career-jump-start](http://www.mitalent.org/career-jump-start).

## Feast for Knowledge puts fun in fundraising with Starry Night in Havana

On Oct. 18, 2013, Jackson College welcomed more than 150 guests to a gala evening featuring foods with a Cuban flair, socializing and entertainment. This is the JC Foundation's 5th annual Feast for Knowledge event, and this year it raised \$40,000 for student scholarships. Guests enjoyed music and dancing, and JC culinary students helped prepare the desserts. At the event, guests had the opportunity to bid on one or more private dinners held throughout the year, hosted by College friends and supporters, and bid on several live auction items.



Questions about JC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to Student Services at 517.796.8425. Comments or questions about the publication can be directed to the Marketing Department at 517.796.8416.

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## Seeking workforce training, professional development or continuing education?

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Corporate and Continuing Education (CCE) at Jackson College is pleased to provide another semester of high-quality training programs. Our Workforce Training Coordinator works one-on-one with employers across multiple industries to develop trainings to meet current workforce demands. In addition, CCE offers continuing education for individuals seeking workforce training, professional development, or personal enrichment.

## Courses include:

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### Advance Truck Driver Training

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Writing Effective Grant Proposals  
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*Differentiated Instruction in the Classroom*  
*Solving Classroom Discipline Problems*  
*Solving Classroom Discipline Problems II*  
*Creating a Classroom Website*  
*Teach smarter with SMART Boards*  
*Integrating Technology in the Classroom*  
*Enhancing Language Development in Childhood*  
*Teaching Students with ADHD*  
*Singapore Math Strategies: Model Drawing for Grades 1-6*

#### Real Estate Online

*Michigan Real Estate PreLicense*  
*Michigan Real Estate Broker PreLicense*  
*Michigan Real Estate Appraisal*  
*Michigan Real Estate Inspection*  
*Michigan Real Estate Continuing Education*

#### Human Resources Training

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*SHRM Learning System*  
*PHR and SPHR*  
*Certification Preparation*



#### American Heart Assoc. Training

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*EMT Basic Technology*  
*Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers*  
*Advanced Cardio Life Support*  
*Pediatric Advanced Life Support*  
*EMS Continuing Education*



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[www.jccmi.edu/cce](http://www.jccmi.edu/cce)