

Dr. Jon Powell

Class of 1989

Jon Powell started at Jackson Community College in 1987 and earned his Associate of Science degree in 1989. He enjoyed the challenge and comradery found in Myrna Berlet's biology courses, and soon started in the science prep lab and as a tutor of biology. He had the opportunity to collaborate with science department faculty and was proud to receive Excellence in Learning Awards in both biology and chemistry.

His growing interest in genetics and biotechnology lead to earning a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology at Michigan State University in 1991. He also completed his M.S. and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at MSU which led to the development of two patents.

After a few years at the University of Minnesota teaching, researching, and doing extension work on turfgrass diseases, he returned to Michigan when a teaching position opened at JCC. "I was honored to come back to teach with the fantastic instructors that I had previously known as a student. I can only hope to carry on their legacy."

Jon is proud of the changes to the biology curriculum that he helped develop, taking one biology course and developing two courses, one for non-major students and another for science major and preprofessional students.

His children continued the JJC/JCC/JC tradition following his father-in-law (who swam on the Jackson Junior College swim team), and he and his wife also met while at JCC.

Jon enjoys the family pets (dogs and saltwater fish) and training for triathlons. "I was pleased to complete a full Ironman triathlon when I turned 50."

He lives in Brooklyn, Mich., with his wife, Debbie, two pups, and many fish.

