

NEWS FROM jackson community college

President's initiative important to community colleges

I recently had the pleasure of attending President Barack Obama's visit to Michigan at Macomb Community College in Warren, and as a college president I was greatly encouraged to hear his proposal for the American Graduation Initiative, a plan to build on the strengths of community colleges to help our American public and economy.

The American Graduation Initiative is a historic effort to strengthen the nation's community colleges, calling for an additional five million college graduates by the year 2020. As President Obama remarked:

... [W]e also know that in the coming years, jobs requiring at least an associate degree are projected to grow twice as fast as jobs requiring no college experience. We will not fill those jobs — or keep those jobs on our shores — without the training offered by community colleges."

Obama's remarks on July 14, 2009, at Macomb Community College, Warren, Mich.

Our nation's president is following up on his earlier call for the United States to once again lead the world in college degrees by the year 2020. His goal for an additional five million community college graduates would include those earning associate degrees and certificates, or who continue on to graduate from four-year colleges and universities. This initiative would cost \$12 billion nationally, and would create a Community College Challenge Fund, competitive grants for community colleges to innovate and expand.

Getting a vote of confidence from our nation's president is heartening, and it reaffirms what we have tried to convey at Jackson Community College. Many of the jobs of today and tomorrow require some postsecondary education, and community colleges are poised to respond quickly to the changing needs of the workplace to provide education and training tomorrow's workers need.

Community colleges offer open-door admissions and convenient access and support for students new to higher education or for workers returning to learn a new career.

We are here to help our community's citizenry get ahead and find their place in the new economy.

President Obama's remarks also addressed the successful completion rates of graduates. With our focus on ensuring student success in our foundation studies courses, and launching our new summer summits to bring together high school teachers and college faculty to discuss preparing students for college, JCC is working to help even more students reach their goals.

We are totally committed to student success. If you have thought about college or returning to college, this is the time. Fall registration is currently underway, and our advisors would be happy to help you take that first step and enroll.



Daniel J. Phelan
President,
Jackson Community College



About Community Colleges

Community colleges serve close to half of the undergraduate students in the U.S., which includes about 6.6 million credit students. JCC serves more than 10,000 students each year. They are a great starting point for many considering higher education. Students may:

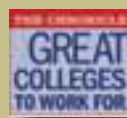
- Complete first two years toward a bachelor's degree and then transfer on to the university of their choice.
- Complete a great career program, such as a nursing or automotive technology, and join the workforce after graduation.
- Take courses to improve one's current job situation, or for personal interest.
- Want to transfer? Decide early where you want to transfer to, and speak with an advisor at JCC and the college you want to attend to be sure that your courses that will transfer.
- Looking for a career? Speak with an advisor about the career program that's right for you. Some fields, such as nursing and sonography, require admission to the program after you have started classes at JCC.

To get started, contact JCC's Student Services at 517.796.8425, or send an e-mail to JCCStudentServices@jccmi.edu.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Lee Hampton**A helping hand: 'Call Lee' effort helps more students connect with college**

Jackson Community College's Lee Hampton, director of the Office of Multicultural Relations, wants to make sure everyone who is interested in going to college get his or her questions answered!

To help meet the needs of diverse populations who may be hesitant to seek out more information about going to college, Hampton and JCC are launching a new effort to "Call Lee," providing another friendly, helpful face to answer questions for prospective and current students.



"I want to help everyone who is interested in going to college make that dream a reality," Hampton said. "Higher education is so important to today's work force. Individuals who are seeking

employment in today's 21st economy need some formal education beyond a high school diploma."

Hampton is located on the second floor of the Potter Center, office 213B, can be reached by phone at 517.796.8470, or e-mail HamptonLeeM@jccmi.edu.

"During the last couple of years I have met dozens of local individuals who were interested in continuing their education beyond high school but were intimidated by the whole process so they never call or even come to campus to inquire," Hampton said. "I want to reach out to these potential students. I have also met others who are at a dead end and they just need a little motivation and direction.

"I am hoping that this effort serves as a motivator and serves to direct individuals to resources that are available to assist them in obtaining a college degree. Hampton is a Jackson native who joined the administration at JCC as director of multicultural relations in 2005. The Office of Multicultural Relations at JCC oversees programming and issues relating to diversity and equity on campus, facilitates the College Incentive Program, student groups, and organizes the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Dinner and more. Hampton participated in the U.S Senate Leadership Summit for Young Professionals in 2006.

JCC named 'Great College to Work For'

Jackson Community College has been recognized as one of 2009's "Great Colleges to Work For" in a survey by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, honored for its tuition reimbursement program for employees.

More than 300 four- and two-year colleges participated in this year's program, with 247 completing the entire survey process. The results are based on responses from nearly 41,000 administrators, faculty and staff members at those institutions. *The Chronicle's* Great Colleges to Work For program recognizes colleges (grouped by enrollment size) for specific best practices and policies. There are 15 recognition categories for community colleges. Among two-year colleges throughout the nation, 28 were recognized in at least one category.

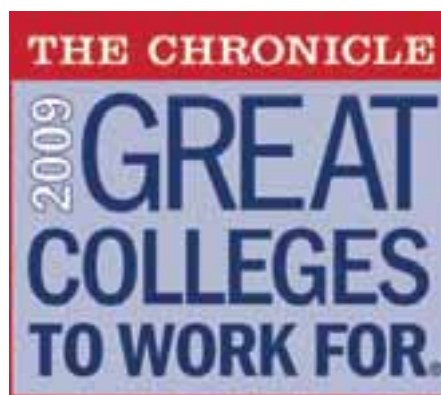
JCC was recognized for its tuition reimbursement program. The College offers full-time employees free tuition to take JCC classes, as well as their spouse or their dependents. Part-time faculty, staff and temporary employees accrue tuition credits. JCC also provides funding for staff to continue work toward a bachelor's degree at another institution if the degree pertains to a career at JCC. A total of \$10,000 is available, and staff members go through a committee process to qualify for funds.

"The College believes in the value of higher education, it is increasingly important in today's workforce. We demonstrate that by providing educational benefits for our own employees," said

Cindy Allen, executive director of community relations and the performing arts. "Lifelong learning is vital for today's employees in many areas to stay current. JCC wants to help our own employees keep learning for life."

JCC instructor Angel Fonseca took advantage of the tuition benefits to earn a second associate degree when she began working at the College as an administrative assistant. The degree was necessary to be admitted to Siena Heights University's "3+1" bachelor's degree program (three years at JCC, one year at SHU) which also offers a discount for being a JCC employee. Fonseca completed her bachelor's degree and now a master's degree from Ferris State University, and last year joined the faculty as an instructor. Over her first year she has developed a new degree program in electronic commerce (eCommerce), which will start this fall.

"While JCC's tuition was affordable when I earned my first associate degree, it was still difficult for a first-generation college student like me," Fonseca said. "Earning the second one with the tuition benefit allowed me an opportunity to advance my education beyond my dreams — it was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. Truly, it helped lead my career into the faculty position I currently hold — and the tuition benefit is now helping provide a college education for my son, Sammy. I believe the tuition benefit provided to employees at JCC will impact my family for many generations to come."

**JCC ... all about student success**

Jackson Community College is committed to helping our students reach their goals. One of the hallmarks of the community college is its acceptance of the full spectrum of students...from those with the highest levels of academic ability to those who may need some help. JCC students who transfer to universities have historically performed better than both native university students and the average for all transfer students. According to figures gathered by JCC's Office of Institutional Research, in 2008 JCC transfer students' grade point average at their transfer institution was 3.14 (out of 4.0), compared to 3.11 for native university students and 3.09 for all transfer students.

You may ask, how do we know that our students aren't part of the recent discussion of "grade inflation"? One way is to know that many of our students are tested on national exams, by external examiners. JCC career students also do exceptionally well when they complete certification and licensure examinations. Nursing students taking the National Council Licensure Examination for both registered nurses and licensed practical nurses perform well; in 2008, 45 out of 45 LPN students passed the exam on their first attempt, and in the first quarter of 2009, 38 out of 39 RN students passed on their first attempt, for a 97.44 percent pass rate.

JCC also participates with a national grant-funded initiative called Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, designed to help more community college students succeed. This is another outside source helping to track JCC's student data and improve success rates. If you consider how well JCC students rate on national exams and have the pleasure of working with many of our graduates, you know that the quality of their education at JCC helps to set them apart from the rest.

College opens second student housing unit

Jackson Community College marked the official opening of Campus View II, the College's second student residence, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 13.

Students will begin moving in to Campus View II in August, in time for Fall semester. "Today is another great day for students at Jackson Community College and indeed for this community, and for all the citizens that we serve," President Dan Phelan told the group of about 50 attending the ribbon-cutting event. This second facility has a similar design to the first building, with the addition of a half basement which includes space for student recreation and two learning studios or classrooms. It will house an additional 96 residents, doubling JCC's on-campus resident population.

Phelan thanked general contractor RW Mercer, construction managers for this project, who saw that the project was completed on time and under budget. Construction cost is just under



\$8 million. All the work on the building was completed by sub-contractors from Michigan, many from the Jackson County area. According to economic multiplier estimates, this \$8 million project has an economic impact of \$56 million on the economy in the region.

"JCC is one of only a handful of community colleges offering on-campus living to students. It's ignited a new energy and meets the needs of students ready for this kind of living experience," Edward Mathein, chair of the Board of Trustees, said.

"With Campus View II, a new group of students will be able to call JCC home." JCC student Tyesha Evans, a resident assistant for Campus View, thanked the board and administration for their vision and the opportunity to live on campus.

"JCC's focus on student success is not only part of the College's strategic plan, but it is truly part of how the College operates," Evans said. "My first year at JCC has been a great experience."

Education students learn through pen pal program



Working with area schools at all grade levels is an important part of the teacher education program at JCC.

One of the area classrooms to benefit such collaboration is at Jackson Public Schools' McCulloch Elementary. Fifth grade teacher Julie Baker has graciously mentored, over the past 10 years, many JCC education students, allowing students to teach innovative math and science lessons, offering her classes to work with the science education faculty and students, and recently participating with the education pilot joining JCC and the University of Michigan with her classroom students. This year she agreed to support the pilot pen pal program.

JCC teacher education students and McCulloch fifth graders volunteered to communicate through weekly writing in special pen pal notebooks. Many new ideas were exchanged in the guided and supervised pen pal process. Topics ranged from travel, sports, college life, friends,

pets, life goals, and some of the fifth graders even wrote extensive and creative stories for their college pen pal to read. Both the college students and fifth graders anxiously looked forward to reading their weekly pen pal response entries. A celebration event concluded the experience with a chance for pen pals to meet each other for the first time and celebrate with an ice cream sundae party at McCulloch School in the spring.

Another highlight of the pilot program was the inclusion of refugee students in Lansing. Collaborating with Shirin Timms, a JCC political science professor, a partnership was created to help refugee students experience a college pen pal and improve their English proficiency skills. The JCC students learned a great deal about refugee living, other countries, and communicating through writing with a limited English language learner. The pen pal program is very well received by college students as well as McCulloch and Lansing refugee students; it will expand this



school year to include other faculty participants at JCC as well as students in the area.

"I find an authentic experience such as pen pals offer all students much more than just textbook learning and observation," said Mary Belknap, teacher education program coordinator and professor, based on student feedback.

"Students are culturally engaged in a very active format to prepare, present and reflect on many aspects of the written word in diverse ways. This pilot project will continue to grow. All students at every level of learning had nothing but positive comments about the experience.

"Staff, faculty, and even volunteer students became pen pals this school year. Actually, I was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm generated by this pilot service learning project." She agrees it will be a part of the JCC teacher education program for years to come.

JCC FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

Home games are **bold face**. Schedules are subject to change. Please check the JCC web site for the most current information www.jccmi.edu.

Men's and Women's Cross Country:

Date	Team	Time	Location
9/2	High School Invitational	TBA	JCC campus
9/11	Jets Invitational	4 p.m.	JCC Campus
9/18	Spartan Invitational	1 p.m.	Forest Akers East Lansing
9/26	Roy Griak Invitational	9 a.m.	Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul,

Volleyball:

8/29-8/30	Grand Rapids Tournament	TBA
9/4-9/6	Owens Invitational	TBA
9/10	Kellogg CC	6:30 p.m.
9/15	Grand Rapids CC	6:30 p.m.
9/17	Lansing CC	6:30 p.m.
9/19	SHU - Breast Cancer Survivor Match	6:30 p.m.
9/22	Lake Michigan College	6:30 p.m.
9/24	Muskegon CC	5 p.m.
9/26	Rend Lake (Tri-Match)	10 a.m.
9/26	Macomb CC (Tri-Match)	TBA
9/29	Kalamazoo Valley CC	6:30 p.m.
10/1	Ancilla College	6:30 p.m.

Men's Soccer:

Date	Team	Time
09/02	Kellogg CC	4 p.m.
09/08	Owens CC	4:30 p.m.
09/09	Cuyahoga CC	4:30 p.m.
09/12	Albion College	11 a.m.
09/13	Schoolcraft College	1 p.m.
09/16	Goshen College	7 p.m.
09/18	Taylor University	4 p.m.
09/19	St. Francis University	1 p.m.
09/23	Ancilla College	4 p.m.
09/26	Delta College	1 p.m.
09/30	Kellogg CC	4 p.m.

Women's Soccer:

8/15	Mid-Michigan CC	12 noon
8/15	Indiana Tech	3 p.m.
8/18	SHU Scrimmage	5 p.m.
8/23	Albion College	11 a.m.
8/29	Cincinnati State Community/Technical College	TBA
9/5	Schoolcraft College	11 a.m.
9/10	Adrian College	7 p.m.
9/13	Cincinnati State Community/Technical College	3 p.m.
9/15	Alma College JV	5:00 pm,
9/18	Rochester College	3:30 p.m.
9/19	JCC Invite Continued	TBA
9/24	Indiana Tech	4 p.m.
9/27	Elgin CC	2 p.m.
9/30	SHU JV	5 p.m.

Fall classes begin Aug. 24; register now

Thinking about college? Need a new career path? Registration for Fall semester classes is currently underway at JCC.

Fall semester classes begin Aug. 24 with additional course offerings beginning after Labor Day. JCC offers a variety of career programs, options for transfer to university, and classes to help people get ahead in their current position. New this Fall, JCC will launch a program in electronic commerce or eCommerce for business or individuals looking to expand their business opportunities via the World Wide Web, a new

entrepreneurship curriculum to help budding business owners realize their dreams, new programs in health care management and medical insurance coder biller to help meet the needs of today's high-demand health care field, and a revised curriculum in early childhood education for child care workers.

Current and prospective students may meet with an advisor to discuss their schedule by contacting Student Services at 517.796.8425, or any JCC location. Students may register on the Jackson campus, the Clyde LeTarte Center in Hillsdale or JCC @ LISD TECH in Adrian. In-person registration hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday on the Jackson campus and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday at the LeTarte Center and JCC @ LISD TECH. For information about registering, visit the JCC web site at www.jccmi.edu. Students may register in person, by mail or fax, and returning students may register online.

A complete course schedule is available at the JCC web site, www.jccmi.edu (under Class Schedule & Registration). Students should also check their JCC e-mail and e-Services for up-to-date information about financial aid applications and awards. For additional information in Jackson call 517.796.8425, in Lenawee County, call 517.265.5515, and in Hillsdale County, call 517.437.3343.



NEWS FROM

jackson community college

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