

NEWS FROM jackson community college

Community college designed to serve all generations of learners

When you think about college, what comes to mind? Lively young people trying to find themselves and their future? Well, yes, that is part of it, but only part. More and more, higher education is important to adults throughout their lifetime – not only is college vital in finding a career, it's important to be a "lifelong learner" throughout one's career.

All too often, though, we hear "I'm too old" or "I'll be the oldest one in class" from those students who are a few years away from the "traditional" 18-24 year age bracket. That's simply not the case anymore. Nationally, 40 percent of American college students, almost 6 million people, are age 25 years or older, and at JCC, about 35 percent of our students are age 25 and over, and the average student age is 28.

We need to change our way of thinking... You are never too old to learn! Gov. Jennifer Granholm reiterated the need for more adults returning to college when she launched the No Worker Left Behind program in 2007, a free tuition program to help Michigan workers create a prosperous future. As more and more manual labor is mechanized or computerized, many workers will need to learn new skills to survive



family. While adults returning to college do face challenges, they also bring many assets that younger students may have yet to learn, including improved self-discipline, time management and prioritizing skills. With some planning and effort, millions of



adults are returning to college and reaching their goals – and you can, too. Adults may also learn through the growth of workforce training and education programs developed through partnering with local businesses. JCC's Corporate and Continuing Education program offers specialized training developed according to local business and industry needs, allowing workers to enhance skills or earn credentials. The College has had a relationship for several years now with Allegiance Health, formerly Foote, to provide comprehensive training and continuing education to staff.



President Barack Obama's American Graduation Initiative sets a goal of an additional 5 million community college graduates by the year 2020, and for America to once again lead the world in the number of college degrees. This call is to all Americans, all ages. Think you are too old for college? You may want to ask yourself one question: Where do you want to be in two, three, or four years? Don't count college out because you think you're too old!

Daniel J. Phelan
JCC President



in the new knowledge-based economy. Good news – community colleges are a great first step for these "non-traditional" students to go back to school. Community colleges offer convenience and access for adults who want to return to college. They are located close to home, have open admissions policies, affordable tuition, and classes are scheduled at convenient times and in formats to fit the busy schedules of adults juggling work or

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JCC WELCOMES: Bethany Shephard**JCC welcomes new VISTA to help connect with high schools**

Bethany Shephard, of Greenwood near Port Huron, began a year of service as a Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) AmeriCorps*VISTA member on Aug. 1, within the Jackson community where she will work to fight poverty.

As a MCC AmeriCorps*VISTA member, Shephard will work with access issues while building mutually beneficial partnerships between community-based organizations and Jackson Community College. She will create service opportunities and engage students in the community, in order to gain a richer and more valuable experience outside the classroom. Her work will help sustain partnerships between the campus and the community that address the needs of those in



poverty, with a special emphasis on those impacting children and youth. She will be working specifically with the Jackson, Michigan Center and Napoleon school districts to help students learn how best to prepare for college and help to bridge the gap from high school to college.

"I thought this would be a great way to work in higher education and get a taste of it before moving into my professional field," Shephard said. She earned her bachelor's degree in English with a minor in psychology from Central Michigan University. "I would like to help students see that they can go from high school to community college, to show them it's important to have some goals in their life and that they do have options."

AmeriCorps*VISTA is the national service program founded as Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) in 1965. It was incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs within the Corporation for National and Community Service in 1993, VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 40 years.

Campus View housing still available!

It's not too late! There are still a few spaces available in JCC's students housing, Campus View.

JCC now offers two housing units, each with space for 96 residents. Students can experience college life to its fullest with roommates, activities and more, while being just steps away from classes, library, dining, fitness center, sports and entertainment activities and more. Campus View's suites offer numerous amenities for students.

To find out more or schedule a tour, call Jason Smith at JCC's Office of Residence Life, 517.796.8626.

**History of African Americans in Jackson exhibit gets set to open**

Ella Sharp Museum of Art & History will open its much-anticipated exhibit, A History of African Americans in Jackson, Sept. 19, 2009 through January 2, 2010.



Tracing a timeline through history, this exhibit explores the story and culture of Jackson's African American community, from its first black resident to the present. Learn about the accomplishments, the struggles, the triumphs, and the community of African Americans in Jackson. African Americans have played an important and integral part of our community. (See the special pullout section for more on this exhibit.)

History of African Americans in Jackson

Runs Sept. 19, 2009 to Jan. 2, 2010 • Ella Sharp Museum of Art and History
Museum hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Sundays noon to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays and major holidays.

Admission: Galleries, adults \$5, children 5-12 \$3, under 5 free

Opening Celebration on Sept. 17:

\$20 for members, \$25 for non-members

Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar and entertainment by Benny Poole.

For reservations call: 517.787.2320

College receives grant to help make eco-friendly home

Jackson Community College recently received a grant of \$132,310 to renovate a college-owned house on East Kimmel Road into an environmentally efficient home. The building, named the "Eco-House," will be used to train students on using home energy auditing. The remaining grant funds will be used to purchase wind and solar equipment to launch an alternative energy education program at the college.

Home energy auditing is the process of evaluating a home's overall energy use by using specialized equipment to discover areas of the house that lose heat during the winter and cold air during the summer. "Energy audits are an excellent first-step method for home owners to reduce their energy costs. As home energy prices continue to increase, energy auditing and weatherization services are expected to grow," said Mark Rabinsky, director of sustainability at JCC. The Congressionally directed grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) supported 11 Michigan community colleges and is being administered through the Michigan Community College Association.

"Details for the grant's use are still being finalized," said Rabinsky, "but we anticipate having much of the renovations and equipment installed by the end of the year and implement curricula in energy efficiency and alternative energy by 2010."



No Worker Left Behind

Those who may benefit from this program include:

- Any person who is currently unemployed; or
- Any person who has received a notice of termination or layoff from employment; or
- Any employed person whose family income is \$40,000 or less.
- Participants must be at least 18 years old, must not have graduated from high school in the last two years, and must not be full-time college students (applies to 18-23 year olds only).

The program features:

- Up to two years worth of free tuition at any Michigan community college, university or other approved training program;
- A skills assessment administered by Michigan Works!;
- Must pursue a degree or occupational certificate in a high-demand occupation or emerging industry, or in an entrepreneurship program;
- Free tuition program is a one-time offer; and
- Three years to sign up for the program beginning Aug. 1, 2007.

For more information, contact your local Michigan Works! Office.
In Jackson, call 517.841.JOBS (5627).

JCC gets summer help from youth program

Stimulus funds helped give several area youth the chance for not only a summer job, but also a first step toward a college education. Jackson Community College has been helped this summer by 23 young workers ages 16-24 hired through a federal, state and local initiative funded through the American Recovery and Re-investment Act. The young people were hired by South Central Michigan Works! and placed in jobs that coincided with their interests and career paths. The College benefitted from the added help, and the young people benefitted from the added income, work experience, and for some, a first step toward a college education.



Reshonda Parker assisted in Student Services greeting students, making popcorn and answering phones.

"This has been an incredibly great experience," said Susan Nielsen, executive director of Corporate and Continuing Education. "I believe there will be some long-term impact on the lives of the youth that participated." Several youth who were college age took a JCC class entitled Freshman Year Seminar: Life Maps, which helps prepare students for college and for transitions in education and in life.

"I like it a lot," said Robert Salatka, graduate of T.A. Wilson Academy who worked in JCC's Student Services and has been hired regularly for the Fall semester. "A lot of my previous jobs were just in fast food restaurants, and I really like the professionalism of this job."



Students Robert Salatka and Matt Hiland along with JCC alum James Emerson all worked on JCC's Jackson campus this summer.

"The summer youth that are currently in Student Services have been a great help to us over the summer," said Julie Hand, assistant dean, enrollment management. "Our customer service has been enhanced by their presence, whether they are answering the phone, greeting students or making popcorn. It has been a terrific addition to Student Services."

Matthew Hiland is a student at Michigan Center High School who helped out in the Center for Student Success. "It gave me some new experience, I got to experience how an office works," Hiland said. JCC alumnus Jim Emerson served as the summer youth supervisor at JCC. "I know that some of these young adults are going to take classes at JCC," Emerson said. "Though you can't change all lives, it is rewarding to know that even one will change because of this program. Now that it is coming to an end, I hope to find an opportunity to serve the community in a similar fashion."

STUDENT PROFILE: Kay Garland-Gray

Kay Garland-Gray knew when she returned to college after working for a number of years that school work may pose a challenge, but she was determined to persevere. She didn't expect all the challenges that arose.

Garland-Gray returned to JCC after working for a mortgage company in Ann Arbor, and before that as a corrections officer. She had received an associate in general studies from JCC and a master's degree in



business, but part of her still longed for a dream she held long ago to become a nurse.

"I wanted to go back to my original plan of being a nurse," she said.

She enrolled in the licensed practical nursing (LPN) program at JCC with the help of the state's No Worker Left Behind program. No Worker Left Behind provides two years of free tuition at any community college, university or other training provider to gain skills and credentials in high-demand occupations. While she thought she had it all together, shortly after starting the LPN program, several family crises arose one after another.

"Be prepared. I thought I had it all together, but there was no way I could anticipate everything that happened, it was chaos," Garland-Gray said. "I made it through with good family support. I had to set priorities, and realize there was no going back."

She pushed on despite the personal challenges, and graduated in May with her LPN certification. While at first she thought she would feel older than everyone else in class, she found there were several other students close to her own age along with some younger students, which provided a nice mix. She is especially thankful for instructor Sharon Nowak, associate professor of nursing, who she said was both friendly and understanding, while at the same time firm and clear about what she expects.

She has recently started a new job as an LPN, and is considering going back to college again to complete her RN. "It was a little hard to get back into the studying and having to be to class at a certain time, but not too hard," Garland-Gray said. "You just have to get organized."

Constitution Day, Sept. 17

The U.S. Constitution was signed on Sept. 17, 1787, and each year Constitution Day marks a time to develop the habit of citizenship for a new generation of Americans.

Check the JCC web site at www.jccmi.edu for details on events.





Fall Sports @ Jackson Community College Jets

Men's Soccer

- 9/13 Schoolcraft College, 1 p.m.
 9/16 Goshen College, 7 p.m.
 9/18 Taylor University, 4 p.m.
 9/19 St. Francis University, 1 p.m.
 9/23 Ancilla College, 4 p.m.
 9/26 Delta College, 1 p.m.
 9/30 Kellogg Community College, 4 p.m.
 10/04 Owens Community College, 1 p.m.
 10/10 Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, 2 p.m.
 10/11 Lakeland Community College, 9 a.m.
 10/14 Ancilla College, 4 p.m.
 10/17 Albion College, 2 p.m.
 10/21 Schoolcraft College, 1 p.m.
 10/25 Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, 2 p.m.

Women's Soccer

- 9/13 Cincinnati State Community and Technical College, 3 p.m.
 9/15 Alma College JV, 5 p.m.
 9/18 Rochester College, 3:30 p.m.
 9/19 JCC Invite Continued TBA
 9/24 Indiana Tech, 4 p.m.
 9/27 Elgin Community College, 2 p.m.
 9/30 Siena Heights University JV, 5 p.m.
 10/1 Alma College JV, 4 p.m.
 10/4 Community College of Rhode Island @ Schoolcraft TBA
 10/6 Olivet College JV, 4 p.m.
 10/8 Indiana Tech, 7 p.m.
 10/11 College of DuPage, 11 a.m.
 10/18 Schoolcraft College, 12 noon
 10/20 U of M Dearborn, 6 p.m.
 10/24 Olivet College JV, 10 a.m.

Cross Country, Men & Women

- 9/18 Spartan Invitational, 1 p.m. Forest Akers East Golf Course, East Lansing
 9/26 Roy Griak Invitational, 9 a.m. University of Minnesota, Les Bolstad Golf Course St. Paul, Minn.
 10/3 Lansing Invitational 12 noon, Grand Woods Park, Lansing
 10/9 Michigan Intercollegiate Championships, 3 p.m. Calvin College
 10/17 Falcon Invitational, 3 p.m. BGSU Golf Course, Bowling Green, Ohio
 10/31 MCCA/ Region XII Championships 12 noon (W), 12:45 pm (M) Grand Woods Park, Lansing

Women's Volleyball

- 9/15 Grand Rapids Community College, 6:30 p.m.
 9/17 Lansing Community College, 6:30 p.m.
 9/19 Siena Heights University, Breast Cancer Survivor Match, 6:30 p.m.
 9/22 Lake Michigan College, 6:30 p.m.
 9/24 Muskegon Community College, 5 p.m.
 9/26 Rend Lake College (Tri-Match) 10 a.m.
 9/26 Macomb Community College (Tri-Match) TBA
 9/29 Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 6:30 p.m.
 10/1 Ancilla College, 6:30 p.m.
 10/6 Kellogg Community College, 6:30 p.m.
 10/8 Grand Rapids Community College, 6:30 p.m.
 10/9-10/10 Kankakee Tournament TBA
 10/13 Lansing Community College, 6:30 p.m.
 10/15 Lake Michigan College, 6:30 p.m.
 10/20 Muskegon Community College, 6:30 p.m.
 10/22 Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 6:30 p.m.
 10/27 Ancilla College, 6:30 p.m.
 10/30 MCCA Volleyball Quarter-Finals TBA
 10/31 MCCA Volleyball Semi-Finals 11:00 am
 10/31 MCCA Volleyball Championship 2:00 pm

HOME GAMES ARE BOLD

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Jackson Community College has been named a 'Great College to Work For' by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

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