

## 2020 Year in Review: Resilience in the Face of Extraordinary Challenges

In early 2020 the entire world underwent a transformation, becoming consumed by a global pandemic that altered life as we knew it. Most of our normal routines changed immediately, with nobody really knowing how long the COVID-19 pandemic would last, although we suspected it could be quite some time.

The year of the coronavirus, however, was also about so much more, including a national outcry for racial equality in the wake of several deaths and an extremely divisive U.S. presidential election. In the midst of so many challenges, however, Jefferson College demonstrated its resilience in a myriad of ways—focused on its mission of providing quality learning opportunities in order to empower individuals to achieve their goals.

In this special edition, The Windjammer looks back on some of the institutional accomplishments and events that helped define 2020 as one of the most challenging years in Jefferson College's history.

### Presidential Transition Prepares College for a Strong and Vibrant Future

After more than a decade of service to Jefferson College, Dr. Ray Cummiskey retired at the end of June as the second longest serving president in the College's history. During his 11-year tenure, the College made several significant accomplishments, which include:

- Receiving full 10 year institutional re-accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission;
- Completing a \$5 million renovation to the Hillsboro campus Library
- Implementing a long-range strategic planning process;
- Expanding educational facilities in Imperial and Arnold and developing a fully online virtual campus;
- Creating new methods to support students, including the Student Services One Stop Shop and Academic Success Center;
- Establishing a variety of new healthcare-related training programs;
- Expanding early college opportunities for high school students;
- Developing civic engagement and service learning activities for students and employees;
- Enacting numerous safety and wellness initiatives including the establishment of the Jefferson College Police Department and the Mercy Clinic;
- Updating campus technology and infrastructure with wireless/cellular;



- Leading Jefferson County’s broadband connectivity initiative; and
- Establishing institutional process and efficiency improvements such as online admissions/graduation/transcript applications and People Admin online position tracking software.

In July, President-Elect Dr. Dena McCaffrey made history in becoming the first female president of the College. “Student success has always been and will continue to be my top priority,” she said. “In a world that is increasingly unpredictable, the College is committed to providing the highest quality education to our students and community. We’re ready to meet the challenges of today and the unforeseen demands of the future.”

McCaffrey served as Dean of Career and Technical Education from 2013-19, where she was responsible for senior administrative functions, supervision, administration of College policies and procedures, and grant management for all CTE programs. She also held the positions of Interim Dean and Director of Outreach and Educational Sites.

## Graduates and Accolades Accentuate College’s Impact

After transitioning to a mostly virtual learning environment in the wake of the pandemic, 833 students received associate degrees or certificates during a unique 55th commencement ceremony that was held virtually due to public health concerns. In addition to the name of every grad being displayed on screen, each 2020 honoree was invited to submit a photo of themselves with their diploma and gown as part of the celebration. In connection with a statewide initiative to honor all community college graduates, the Hillsboro campus was decorated with blue and red ribbons along the entrance.



English Associate Professor Chris Otto received the 2020 Governor’s Award for Teaching Excellence and Music Professor Dr. Joel Vanderheyden was a recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Awards, sponsored by Emerson.



State Representative Elaine Gannon was honored by Jefferson College and the Missouri Community College Association as a Distinguished Legislator for her role in supporting higher education locally and across the state.



Accounting Professor Lindsay Steighorst was selected as the 2020 Phi Theta Kappa Teacher of the Year. “I am so grateful to the students!” she said. “Thank you for your dedication to conquering math, for your patience with me on a regular basis, and for sharing your personalities and stories. I grow and learn from each of you, and I truly value my job because of you.”

Art Professor Blake Carroll received the Senior Service Award during the virtual Missouri Community College Association conference in November.



Head Women’s Basketball Coach Ashley McGee was selected to participate in the inaugural TopConnect NJCAA symposium class. The symposium identifies the top basketball assistant coaches in the country and connects them with mid-major athletic directors, providing tremendous networking opportunities. “Connect. Prepare. Lead.”



Jefferson College Foundation President Jennifer Collins Hansen presented the annual Outstanding Achievement Awards to Melanie Gowdy (Adjunct Faculty - Sociology Instructor), Chris Otto (Faculty - Associate English Professor), Shannon Schoenky (Classified Professional Staff - Senior Administrative Assistant, Vice President of Student Services Office), Joel Vanderheyden (Faculty - Music Professor), and Stacey Wilson (Certified Professional Staff - Registrar).



The Project SUCCESS Student Support Services/TRIO program was again funded by the U.S. Department of Education for five years (2020-2025) in the full amount of over \$1.5 million. The grant focuses on retention, and persistence to graduation as the Project SUCCESS team works with 160 students each year, providing intense academic, personal, and transfer support. The goal of every SSS program is successful completion of a Bachelor's degree; as such, program personnel work with students to help them to be successful at Jefferson College and then transfer to the four-year institution of their choice.



Over 120 of the College's academically talented students were recognized for their scholastic achievement by being inducted into the College's Xi Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society during the spring and fall. To be considered for admission, students must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Xi Zeta was once again named a REACH Chapter for the efforts to bring the benefits and opportunities of PTK membership to more students by increasing their membership.



Miriam Helms, Senior Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Instruction, was awarded the Dr. B. Ray Henry Service/Innovation Award, which is given in recognition of superior, innovative participation by an employee in the shared governance of the College, primarily through work on or with an institutional committee or subcommittee. Among her many campus contributions, during the pandemic, she helped create several processes that were key to successfully working remotely which became a model to help other institutions across the state.



The Jefferson College Law Enforcement Academy was awarded its second consecutive CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) Training Academy Accreditation. The reaccreditation remains in effect for four years and was achieved through a rigorous self-evaluation and subsequent review from CALEA commissioners.

Director of Library Services and Coordinator of Government Documents, Lisa Pritchard, was appointed to the Depository Library Council (DLC) for the U.S. Government Publishing Office's Federal Depository Library Program. She is the only member of the Depository Council from a community college, where she serves with university and state system librarians from across the country.



Area Technical School Early Childhood Assistant Professor Dr. Leigh Ann Cornman and Marketing/Public Relations Director Roger Barrentine received the Linda K. Johnston Excellence in Assessment Award for their efforts to use assessment in their respective roles.



The Law Enforcement Academy graduating classes continued the consecutive streak of achieving a 100 percent pass rate on the POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) license exam.



Jefferson College students Kurt Smith (Nursing) and Gabrielle Williams (ATS Residential Carpentry) were awarded the state Breaking Traditions Awards along with Shelby Mobley (Automotive Technology) who was recognized as a Regional winner. The awards are sponsored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to honor outstanding non-traditional career and technical students.

HVAC Adjunct Instructor Kati Donahue was named one of the best and the brightest Top 40 under 40 in the HVAC industry. “I want to help increase the number of women who enter the HVAC workforce by being a positive role model and mentor for them,” she said.



Human Resources Specialist, Kristen Sides, was one of 12 College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR) members from across the nation selected to participate in a leadership development experience designed for early-career higher education human resources professionals.



The 2020 women’s basketball program made substantial progress, finishing with a 14-16 overall record and advancing to the NJCAA Region 16 semi-finals. Sophomore guard Tyra Brown left her mark as one of the most successful players in program history, scoring over 1,000 points during her two seasons as a Viking.



The Child Development Center was granted state accreditation for the seventh consecutive time by the Missouri Accreditation of Programs for Children and Youth, distinguishing the College as an exemplary program offering high quality learning experiences. Center staff also secured a \$20,000 Child Care and Development Fund grant that was used to replace damaged furniture; update iPods, iPads, and docks; fund professional development conferences/training; replenish materials and supplies; and provide resources for professional memberships.



Although the spring and fall 2020 sports seasons were upended as a result of the pandemic, student athletes had another successful academic year with a cumulative student athlete yearly grade point average of 3.11. In total, 30 student athletes received NJCAA All-Academic Team honors with a 3.6 GPA or higher, four teams qualified as NJCAA Academic All American Teams (Women’s Volleyball (3.45 GPA); Men’s Soccer (3.22 GPA); Women’s Basketball (3.16 GPA); and Women’s Softball (3.09 GPA). About 5 percent of all credit hours at the College are generated by Viking student athletes.

For the eighth consecutive year, the Jefferson College Marketing and Public Relations Department was recognized for professional excellence by winning several “Medallion of Excellence” Awards by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations.



# Educational Partnerships and Programs Exemplify Public Mission

Responding to the need for short-term training programs and employment assistance during the prolonged pandemic, the Office of Workforce Development and Employment Services provided a variety of career programs to many who became unemployed. Additionally, the division also provided professional development and customized training solutions for individuals and businesses, with a focus on building a stronger workforce, increasing business productivity, and advancing economic

growth and development in our community.



An agreement between Jefferson College and Saint Louis University was established to allow students who complete an associate's degree the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree at SLU in two years. Jefferson College will have the chance to transfer and choose from among 10 Bachelor of Science degree programs. Students can opt-in to the program at any point and are guaranteed that the SLU requirements completed at Jefferson College will not change for the entirety of the students' academic career at SLU.



To assist with community prevention efforts in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, Jefferson College donated medical supplies and personal protective equipment to Mercy Hospital Jefferson from the College's Health Occupations Programs and Buildings and Grounds Department. Amy McDaniel Director of the Nursing

Program, and Jamie Schneider, Assistant Director, delivered boxes of masks and other items on behalf of the College.



In response to the anticipated regional and national shortage of toilet paper related to the pandemic, the College donated 300 rolls to the Arnold Food Pantry as part of a student-employee "TP the Jefferson College Arnold Lobby" paper drive. College President Dr. Dena McCaffrey and Director of Jefferson College Arnold Holly Lincoln, presented the donation on behalf of the College.

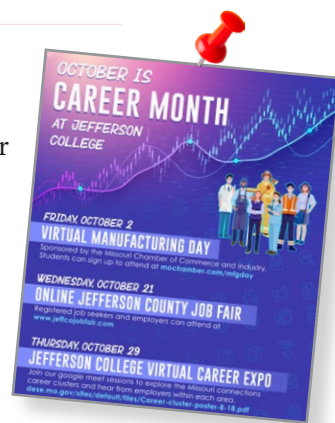


The Diversity and Inclusion Committee began hosting several Conversations on



Diversity, a series of virtual experiences designed to engage people in productive, honest, respectful dialogue. The series features local and national speakers as virtual forums facilitated by the campus community. The purpose of the programs is to provide the opportunity for people to engage in conversations that help our community and region react with compassion, empathy, and grace.

In addition to providing job-related resources like a virtual Manufacturing Day and a Career Expo during Career Month, the Workforce Development and Employment Services Office collaborated with the city of Arnold, Leader Publications, the Fox School District, and the Arnold Chamber of Commerce, to organize a fully online Jefferson County Job Fair as a way to connect job seekers with employers.



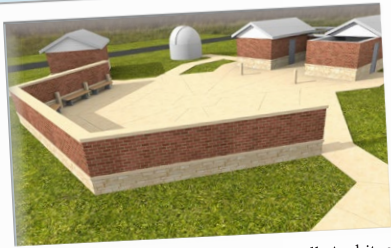
Although the 2020 season was abbreviated due to the pandemic, the Performing Arts and Cultural Enrichment Series (PACE) Series included a variety of virtual performances by students from the College's Music and Theatre departments. Among them was a special virtual performance of "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon: At-Home Edition" directed by Communication and Theatre Professor Dr. Rebecca Ellison.



In preparation for the construction of an observatory on the Hillsboro campus as a partnership between the College and the St. Louis Astronomical Society to create the first public viewing facility in Jefferson County, a series of virtual "Aim for the Stars" events were held for those interested in astronomy. As the first phase of site development begins, the observatory site is being used as a teaching and learning opportunity for students enrolled in undergraduate science and astronomy

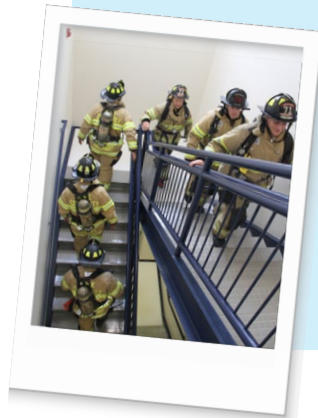


classes. The location of the observatory site at Jefferson College is expected to draw visitors from Jefferson County and the surrounding St. Louis metropolitan region during ongoing stargazing and solar viewing events.



Rendering provided by Frederick W Hill, Architect

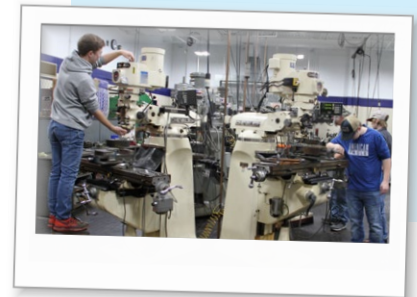
In memory of the 343 FDNY firefighters who lost their lives during 9/11, Jefferson College Arnold and the Rock Community Fire Protection District held a memorial stair climb, as firefighters climbed the equivalent of the 110 stories of the World Trade Center. Proceeds from the event assisted the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to create and maintain programs that support fire service survivors.



In connection with ongoing legislative advocacy efforts in Jefferson City in conjunction with the Missouri Community College Association, several students, staff, and administrators went to the state capitol to talk with legislators about higher education priorities. At the national level, President Cumiskey and Elect McCaffrey attended the Association of Community College Trustees' Annual Legislative Summit to talk with legislators about federal policy issues related to community colleges, such as workforce training, Pell Grants, Perkins funding, and the Higher Education Act.



The Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) program received a \$15,000 grant from the Gene Haas Foundation for CIM student scholarships, instructional materials, and other events that promote advanced manufacturing education at the College. It marked the fourth consecutive year that the CIM program has received the grant funds from the Gene Haas Foundation, whose primary goal is to build skills in the machining industry by providing scholarships for CNC technology students and credentialing by the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS).



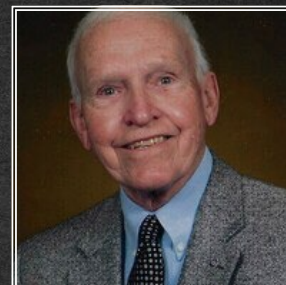
# In Memoriam – Dr. Wayne Watts and Paul Moore

College administrators, Dr. Wayne Watts, who served as President of Jefferson College from 2006-2009, and Paul Moore, retired Dean of Arts and Sciences, passed away in 2020.



Watts was a senior college administrator for 27 years, including 17 years at Jefferson College where he initially served as Vice President of Finance and Administration. He retired in 2009 as sixth president of the College, initiating a variety of projects to streamline operation and efficiency. Among the most significant institutional accomplishments under his leadership were the purchase of land on Highway 30 for future development, the creation of an Advising and Retention Center to improve student success and support, the construction of an \$8 million state-of-the-art education center in Arnold, the participation of College employees in civic and community organizations throughout Jefferson County, the expansion of academic programs and business partnerships, the renovation of campus facilities and classrooms, and the growth of enrollment to record levels.

Moore began his service during the early years of the College as a Speech/Theatre instructor before becoming Dean of Arts and Sciences, where he served from 1968 until his retirement in 1989. He was instrumental in the growth of arts programming at the College and the construction of the indoor-outdoor theater. Moore was also a visible presence in several community organizations as a representative of the College.



## Jefferson College Foundation Plays Pivotal in Student and Program Success

In light of the tremendous impact of the pandemic on many students, the Foundation helped secure emergency funds from 56 donors for a total of over \$10,350. In all, 22 emergency student grants totaling \$10,975 were issued April 1-May 15.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the Jefferson College Foundation provided \$3,215 to 10 students for bookstore assistance, \$14,880 to 30 students in emergency grants or loans, and \$83,109 to 94 students in student scholarships.

Blake Tilley was named the new Executive Director of Development and Strategic Communications for the Foundation, replacing Karen Wicks who retired in June. “I think Blake brings a special combination of fundraising knowledge and skill to the College,” said College President Dr. Dena McCaffrey.



“We’re really excited to have someone of his caliber join our staff and move the College forward in these challenging times.”



Due to the pandemic, the Jazz and Jeans “Roaring Twenties in 2020” dinner and auction transitioned to a virtual format that netted over \$30,000 for student scholarships, emergency loans, textbooks, and other projects to benefit students.

In support of higher education in the region, the Jefferson Memorial Community Foundation granted \$54,000 to provide a series of scholarships to first-year or pre-program students entering the College’s Health Occupation Programs and \$10,000 for the Vikings’ Vault student food pantry.



The Foundation received a \$50,000 pledge from Ameren Missouri as part of the Library Reimagined campaign, \$20,000 from the Mysun Charitable Foundation for scholarships, a donation of Pfizer stock from Roger Zacher valued at \$15,091, and \$7,000 from Jennifer and Justin Hansen toward the Hansen Endowed Scholarship.

The 33rd annual Viking Classic Scholarship Golf Tournament at Oak Valley Resort raised over \$19,000 to support Jefferson College Athletics and students.



## 2021 Virtual Auction: Donation Items Request

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The year 2020 definitely had its challenges, yet our students remain committed to their programs, to degree completion, and to bettering their lives through career opportunities a good education provides.

We are seeking in-kind donations of items or services to use in the 2021 Jefferson College Virtual Auction, such as gift cards, collectibles, home décor, electronics, or gift baskets. Would you please consider donating an item (or items) for the 2021 Virtual Auction? Cash donations are also appreciated. Every donation helps!

The auction bidding will open on April 10 and will close on April 17.

Your support of the virtual auction directly supports our students through scholarships, hardship grants, degree completion programs, and much more.

We know that the past year has not been easy for anyone, and we are fully aware of how our economy has been affected as well. We are pleased to offer recognition on social media and to the Jefferson College community in appreciation of your generosity.

You can be assured that the money raised through your donation of auction items will be put to the best possible use and have a profound impact on Jefferson College students.

Thank you for considering this donation request. You may drop off your donation at the Jefferson College Hillsboro campus, or we are happy to coordinate a pick up from your location. Please call Development Assistant Laura Villmer at 636-481-3105, or send an email to her at [foundation@jeffco.edu](mailto:foundation@jeffco.edu) if you have any questions.

*Jefferson College Foundation*

# VIRTUAL AUCTION

SAVE *the* DATE

**APRIL 17, 2021**





# January 2021



| SUNDAY | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|--------|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| 27     | 28   | 29  | 30   | 31   | 1   | 2   |
| 3      | <br><b>JEFFERSON COLLEGE</b><br><i>Vikings</i>             |   | 6  | 7  | 8   | 9   |
| 10     | <b>Spring Welcome Week</b><br>Viking Bingo<br>Social Media | <b>Spring Welcome Week</b><br>Walkthrough<br>Retreat<br>Library | <b>Spring Welcome Week</b><br>Coffee Truck<br>Flagpole | <b>14 Spring Welcome Week</b><br>Find Victor<br><b>Board of Trustees Meeting</b><br>5 PM<br>Admin - Board Rm & Google Meet | <b>15 Spring Welcome Week</b><br>Viking Wear                          | 16  |
| 17     | <b>Martin Luther King, Jr Day</b><br>Campus Closed         | 18  | 19   | <b>21 Conversations on Diversity</b><br>7 PM<br><a href="#">Google Meet</a>  | <br><b>Basketball vs Lincoln Land</b><br>5:30 PM<br>Field House - Gym | 23  |
| 24     | 25   | 26  | 27   | <br><b>Basketball vs Vincennes</b><br>5:30 PM<br>Field House - Gym   | 29  | <br><b>Volleyball vs Vincennes</b><br>7 PM<br>Field House - Gym |
| 31     |  |   |  |  |   |   |



Dr. Dena McCaffrey: President  
 Roger Barrentine: Director of Marketing & Public Relations  
 Lauren Murphy: Senior Graphic Designer  
 Sarah Lafser: Graphic Designer



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