

COVID Operations Update: Masks - Campus Protocols – Contact Tracing



Based on recently revised public guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), coupled with the continued decline in positive COVID cases on campus and in our region, Jefferson College is no longer requiring the wearing of masks in campus buildings by employees, students, or visitors.

The CDC still highly recommends that those who are not fully vaccinated continue wearing masks in all public spaces. Regardless of age, the CDC also recommends that individuals keep following all safety precautions until they are fully vaccinated.

The College will continue to follow contact tracing guidelines per the Jefferson County Health Department and in accordance with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). However, as an extension of the new campus protocols, the College will end weekly updates to its COVID dashboard.

Quarantine protocols will continue to be followed in accordance with Health Department regulations, and the College will follow CDC guidance for vaccinated individuals. The College will also continue utilizing a variety of mitigation strategies and best practices, including social distancing and vigorous sanitization of classrooms and heavily used spaces/surfaces.

You may be aware that the CDC is recommending everyone 12 and older in the U.S. receive a COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccines are widely accessible at many doctors’ offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals, and clinics. The federal government continues to work toward making vaccines widely available for everyone at no cost. As more individuals are vaccinated and the College experiences a dwindling number of infections on campus, there is great hope that the end of the COVID-19 pandemic is near.

Sanitization stations at building entrances and classroom/office plexiglass dividers will remain in place as a long-term health resource, at least through the fall semester. Classroom distancing will also be reduced to 3 feet throughout the summer in preparation for the fall semester.

Throughout the pandemic, the College has been extremely proactive in its response to do everything possible to minimize the impact on campus. As has been the practice from the inception of the pandemic, the College will continue to revise its health and safety plans and update/communicate them as necessary.

Thank you to everyone for adapting and overcoming the numerous challenges we faced together during the pandemic. Your patience and cooperation over the past year have been remarkable and your determination, support, and resolve have made the difference as the College “finishes strong” for the safety of our entire campus, community, and region!

Dr. Dena McCaffrey
President



Faculty Receive Awards for Achievement and Excellence in Teaching

Four faculty members at Jefferson College have been honored for their teaching excellence and effectiveness as award recipients for the 2021 academic year. They include Adjunct Instructor-Sociology Melanie Gowdy, Professor-English Chris Otto, Associate Professor-Communication Lisa Pavia-Higel, and Associate Professor-Music Dr. Joel Vanderheyden.



Melanie Gowdy

Gowdy is the recipient of the Jefferson College Foundation Outstanding Achievement Award for Adjunct Faculty. She has served as a faculty member in the Sociology department at Jefferson College for the past three years. Additionally, Gowdy has been a social worker with Legal Services of Eastern Missouri for the past seven years. She also leads a statewide initiative to capture Missourians experiences with Medicaid in order to inform advocacy and educate law and decision makers.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Truman State University in 2002 and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Missouri St. Louis in 2013.

Gowdy's campus and community involvement includes the Jefferson College Social Work Advisory Committee, the Jefferson College Diversity Committee, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Missouri Jobs with Justice, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Leadership for Social Change, and the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life.

"Our students have so much potential and are so excited to learn, grow, collaborate, and apply what they have learned."

When asked to reflect on her experiences at Jefferson College, she said, "Our students have so much potential and are so excited to learn, grow, collaborate, and apply what they have learned. It makes you want to be the best instructor you can be to match their desire to learn and in the end we all learn from each other."

Otto is the recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. He has been a Professor of English at Jefferson College since 2013. Previously, he was an English Instructor at Moberly Area Community College and Mineral Area College.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Truman State University in 1993, a Master of Arts degree from Southeast Missouri State University in 1995 and a Master of Arts degree from University of Missouri in 2004.

Otto is involved with the Folklore Society; Missouri Humanities Council; National Council of Teachers of English; Two Year College English Association; Jefferson College TEDx: Lessons from Cahokia; and served as a Past President of Jefferson College Faculty Senate. He taught Introduction to German Literature as part of Study Abroad program in 2019 and participated in a three-year project studying Native Americans in the Midwest through the National Endowment for Humanities and Ohio Historical Society.

When asked to reflect on his experiences at Jefferson College, he stated, "I am humbled by our students' stories, resilience, and effort, and I am happy to be part of such a warm community."

His experiences raising a family contributed to writing two children's Christmas plays, "Not Even a Mouse" and "Candy Cane Dreams" presented by the Jefferson College Theater Department.



Chris Otto

"I am humbled by our students' stories, resilience, and effort, and I am happy to be part of such a warm community."



Lisa Pavia-Higel

Pavia-Higel is the 2021 Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Teacher of the Year. As a self-proclaimed life-long learner and community educator who has taught in technical education and community college environments since 2001, she worked in public relations and marketing for area non-profits before becoming an Associate Professor of Communication and Theater at Jefferson College in 2013. She has held several positions at other educational institutions including East Central Community College, Ranken Technical College, St. Louis Community College, and Missouri College. Additionally, she served in marketing and public relations for St. Charles County YMCA and the YMCA of Greater St. Louis.

“ Every semester, I learn from my students. It continues to be my honor to help our students thrive and speak their truth. ”

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Media Communication in 2001, a Master of Arts degree in Strategic Communication in 2002, and a Master of Arts degree in New Media Production in 2021, all from Webster University.

When asked to reflect on her experiences at Jefferson College, she stated, “One of the things I love about Jefferson College is that here, I’ve been able to help students find their voices, tell their stories and learn to listen to each other. I also love the range of ages and experience levels I get to teach. The resiliency and strength of our students, especially during the last year, continues to fill me with awe. I also get the distinct pleasure of learning about the passions and expertise instilled in our students by my colleagues as students deliver speeches that relate to what they are learning in other programs. From exact mechanics of how automotive oil works, to how knitting can be used to teach higher order thinking and coding skills, I get to see just how deeply our programs change lives. Every semester, I learn from my students. It continues to be my honor to help our students thrive and speak their truth.”

Pavia-Higel is also a self-avowed geek who often relates to her students through a shared love of video games, comic books and science fiction.

Vanderheyden is the recipient of the Emerson Electric Award for Teaching Excellence. He started his music education career as an Associate Professor of Music at the University of Minnesota-Morris, and the Director of Jazz at Oakton Community College near Chicago before coming to Jefferson College to serve as Professor of Music and Director of Jazz.

His education includes a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Saxophone Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Iowa, a Master of Music degree in Jazz Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Maryland, and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance with Education Certification from University of Minnesota-Morris.



Dr. Joel Vanderheyden

Vanderheyden is the Past President for the Missouri Association for Jazz Education and was a 2018 quarterfinalist for the GRAMMY Music Educator Award. In addition to regularly performing with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Jazz St. Louis Big Band, and Vehachi, He is also a performing artist and clinician for D’Addario Woodwinds and Selmer Saxophones.

Jefferson College Alums Do Great Things: 2012 Grad Named New Director of Jefferson County Library

With the ever-growing number of Jefferson College graduates each year, it's pretty easy to look around our region and find many alumni having success in a variety of occupations and fields. Congrats to 2012 grad **Tony Benningfield** who recently assumed a new position as Director of the Jefferson County Library.

Tony is always quick to note his positive experience at Jefferson College. When he was thinking about becoming a history teacher, Professor Scott Holzer suggested that he use his history degree in another way--library work.

Benningfield began his library career in 2011, working in the Jefferson College Library while attending classes. After completing his associate degree, he then transferred to the University of Missouri-St. Louis in pursuit of a bachelor's degree, while also continuing his employment at Jefferson College as Library Computer Assistant. He graduated from UMSL in 2014 and later became Director of the DeSoto Public Library where he served until accepting the new position with the County Library.



The College's Director of Library Services, Lisa Pritchard, is quick to note that there are lots of librarians in the St. Louis region who worked at Jefferson College, but Tony's is an especially nice story of a former student who stayed in the county.

April Showers Personal Hygiene Drive at JCA

Great job! Students and employees at Jefferson College Arnold recently collected a total of 313 items during the April Showers Personal Hygiene Drive to support those in need.

All items collected from the drive were divided between the Vikings' Vault at Hillsboro and the mini Vault at JCA and A Safe Place/Mary's House of Hope. Pictured with the collection of donated items (from left) is JCA Enrollment Services Assistant, Tricia Fromm, and Director of Jefferson College Arnold, Holly Lincoln.

Thank you to everyone who brought in donations for this important student and community-focused effort!



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

All monthly agenda items and supporting materials are posted online via the Board Docs site accessible through the Jefferson College website homepage at jeffco.edu clicking on “About” > “Leadership” > “Board of Trustees” links.

May agenda items approved and/or discussed:

- Presentation: [Northwest High School's College Reading Program](#) (Allan Wamsley)
- Presentation: [Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference Review](#) (Kim Harvey-Manus, Richard Stephenson, Carrie Greer, and Amanda Macke)
- Approval of Consent Agenda Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Investments Report, Curriculum Matters, and Academic Calendars)
- Contract - Roof Recover on Career & Technical Education Building
- Contract - Phase 2 Renovation of Arts & Sciences I Building
- Contract - Phase 2 HVAC for the Arts & Sciences I Building
- AEL Classroom and Office Furniture
- Furniture for Student Center Building
- Laptops for Fall 2021 Student Promotion
- Agreement - Ellucian Annual Software/Support Maintenance
- Contract - Intercollegiate and Catastrophic Athletic Insurance
- Gas Heat Trainer for Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Program
- Furniture for Human Resources Offices
- X-ray System for Radiologic Technology
- Appointment of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Faculty (Katherine Donahue)
- Appointment of Nursing Faculty (Sarah Akridge and Sarah Peppers)
- Appointment of Clinical Coordinator/Radiologic Technology Faculty (Stacy Wilfong)
- Appointment of Area Technical School Advanced Residential Carpentry Faculty (Mark Fuchs)
- Budget Assumptions - FY22 (first reading)

2021 Board Meeting Schedule

June 10 – Noon

July 22 – Noon

September 9 – 5 p.m.

October 14 – 5:30 p.m.

December 2 – 5 p.m.

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MAKE THE MOST OF FALL

BIG DREAMS DON'T ALWAYS BEGIN AT A BIG UNIVERSITY!

You shouldn't have to put off college because of the pandemic - especially when you have one of the region's best providers of public higher education right in your backyard! Jefferson College offers high-quality, affordable online and on-site programs along with the extra support, guidance, and personal attention you need to succeed.

Use your FREE laptop to access online resources, class assignments, and academic support.

**PLUG IN TO SUCCESS...VIEW OVER 50 AMAZING DEPARTMENTS & PROGRAMS:
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* Must register for 6 or more credit hours and be degree-seeking for Fall 2021 at Jefferson College.
For details visit jeffco.edu/fall2021laptop. This program is funded through federal CARES Act resources.
Laptops can be picked up in the Admissions Office Monday, August 23 - Friday, September 10.

Returning students eligible. Must not have been enrolled at least 1 year prior to Fall 2021.

VIRTUAL PASS

JOIN US ON **GOOGLE MEET**

Learn more about **DEGREE & CERTIFICATE** options available

Find out how to **GET STARTED** this fall at Jefferson College

Learn how to apply for **FINANCIAL AID** (loans, grants, scholarships)

Take a **VIRTUAL TOUR** of campus

PRE-ADMISSION STUDENT SESSION

THUR	JUNE 10	1 - 2 PM
TUES	JUNE 22	4 - 5 PM
TUES	JULY 6	4 - 5 PM
TUES	JUL 20	10 - 11 AM
WED	JUL 21	5 - 6 PM

TO REGISTER ONLINE

visit www.jeffco.edu/PASS



Jaclyn Birks

Admissions Specialist

After attending a PASS, you will be entered to win a **\$25 AMAZON GIFT CARD!**

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Kaysie Dudley

Admissions Specialist

Jefferson College 

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Jefferson College Observatory Project Moving Ahead



Early this spring, construction began on the Jefferson College Observatory on the Hillsboro campus, just north of the softball fields. The Observatory project is a partnership between Jefferson College, the Jefferson College Foundation, and the St. Louis Astronomical Society (SLAS), and this will be the first public observatory in Jefferson County affiliated with SLAS. This partnership started from a generous donation of a research-quality large telescope and an observational dome to the College.

Construction for the Observatory is divided into phases as funding and other resources are made available. The first phase focused on getting the donated telescope and dome fully functional. After excavating the site, the College expanded its electric power access down to the work site. The Foundation partnered with Holcim Cement to provide the dome's concrete slab, along with an independent concrete pier embedded in the slab to mount the telescope (to reduce/eliminate vibrations).

The next step in the first phase is to disassemble the dome and telescope, transport it to the observatory site, and reassemble it. This project, expected to take at least a month, will be the responsibility of a local Eagle Scout using this initiative as his final service project. The current schedule has this completed by the end of June.

The Foundation is grateful for the generosity of Holcim Cement to provide material support in this vision to establish a College Observatory. As the project moves past phase one, we are seeking additional partnerships to share in this vision, which may include corporate naming rights, legacy plaques, or other high-visibility prominence that promotes our partnership.

Find more information on the Jefferson College Observatory at jeffco.edu/observatory. If you'd like to get involved with the project, please contact Blake Tilley, Executive Director of the Jefferson College Foundation, at 636-481-3104, or email btalley@jeffco.edu.

As construction moves forward at the observatory site, the College is hosting several informational "Aim for the Stars" observation nights for those who want to learn more about astronomy.

There is no cost to participate in any of the monthly educational programs, led by College faculty and SLAS members. Designed to appeal to community members of all ages, the "Aim for the Stars" events will provide an overview of plans for the observatory, help viewers learn how to navigate the night sky, include discussions about items that can be seen at that time, and preview upcoming astronomy events of interest.



All "Aim for the Stars" events will be held on Sunday evenings as follows:

- ★ June 6, 8:30-11:30 p.m. (in-person)
- ★ July 4, 8:30-11:30 p.m. (in-person)
- ★ August 8, 8:30-11:30 p.m. (in-person)
- ★ September 5, 8-11 p.m. (in-person)
- ★ October 3, 7-10 p.m. (in-person)
- ★ November 7, 7-8 p.m. - virtual
- ★ December 5, 7-8p.m. - virtual

For in-person programs to occur, skies must be clear or only partly cloudy. Strict social distancing will be observed. Those who attend the in-person programs may bring their own astronomy equipment or use a limited number of telescopes provided. In case of inclement weather or pandemic restrictions, an alternate program will be presented.

For questions or additional information about the "Aim for the Stars" programs, contact Maryanne Angliongo, Jefferson College Associate Dean – School of Math, Physics and Technology, at 636-481-3318 or email manglion@jeffco.edu.



Frederick W Hill, Architect



Save the Date! **FRIDAY**
AUGUST 27, 2021

OAK VALLEY GOLF COURSE
- PEVELY, MO -

We look forward to having you join us!

MORE DETAILS
TO FOLLOW

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June 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31  Memorial Day <i>Campus Closed</i>	1	2	3	4	5
6  Jefferson College Observatory - Aim for the Stars 8:30 PM <i>Softball Parking Lot</i>	7	8	9	10 Board of Trustees Meeting 12 PM <i>Admin - Board Room & Google Meet</i> AEL Recognition Ceremony 4 PM FA - Theatre	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 First Day of Summer	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3