

Jefferson College to Introduce Esports Team in Fall 2024 Semester

Jefferson College Vikings play volleyball, soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball. They cheer and race cross country, and a new team will join that roster with the introduction of esports on campus beginning in Fall 2024. Digital Media Technology professor Greg Simos serves as the head coach and will lead the team as they play video games in an organized and competitive multiplayer environment. The team will have no trouble finding gaming opponents.

“Esports is one of the fastest growing competitions on the planet,” Simos said. “Colleges are starting to embrace this trend and many offer school-sponsored teams. It is also growing quickly in our local high schools.”

Esports teams on the community college level are sanctioned by the National Junior College Athletics Association Esports (NJCAAe) with more than 3,000 students participating from more than 250 member schools. The teams have regular season competitions followed by regional and national playoffs. Simos has begun the process of establishing the program at Jefferson College. He is recruiting potential team members from area high schools and students already on the Jefferson College campus.

“Students will be selected using a tryout-based system. We would like to carry at least 20 players,” he said. “I think the level of interest will far exceed what we hope. It’s a very popular activity that needs a competitive format, and we are here to provide that.”

The coach said he is hopeful that the college will be able to provide a tuition stipend for students who make the team, and discussions have started to establish scholarship opportunities in the future. Players will know the competition platforms, but many of the games they play have names that even non-gamers will recognize like Call of Duty, Halo, Mario Kart, Madden and NBA 2K.

“Games that are played include Fortnite, Super Smash Brothers, Rocket League, Overwatch, and many more,” Simos said. “Just like other sports and competitive activities, practice is key. Screen time is very important to improve your skill set.”

Jefferson College will provide the personal computers and gaming consoles necessary for the students to hone their abilities while working competitively and as a team.

“The most important things to have are powerful computers with fast graphics processing and a reliable high-speed internet connection,” Simos said.

As is the case with all other sports at the college level, the students gain more than just the benefits of improved skill at their particular games.

“Camaraderie and teamwork play a very important role in esports and that translates to most other careers,” Simos said. “There are also higher levels of esports, all the way up to professional teams.”

For more information about esports at Jefferson College and all Vikings teams, visit jeffco.edu/athletics.

Celebrating #CCMonth: Challenging Misconceptions and Promoting Equity in Higher Education



In addition to celebrating its 61st anniversary since inception by voters on April 2, 1963, Jefferson College is actively engaging once again in the national grassroots education campaign, Community College Month #CCMonth. The aim is to enhance awareness regarding the economic, academic, and equity benefits associated with attending community colleges while dispelling longstanding misconceptions surrounding public two-year institutions.

Since its establishment, Jefferson College has significantly expanded its offerings, providing multiple associate degree pathways, over 50 diverse academic programs, extensive workforce development opportunities, adult education literacy/high school equivalency instruction, and robust community outreach initiatives.

With a proud history of delivering quality, affordable education, Jefferson College has empowered over 28,500 graduates, many of whom contribute to the workforce in Jefferson County and the surrounding metropolitan area.

Public community colleges embody a quintessentially American educational model, ensuring accessible and high-quality higher education for all. They play a crucial role in training essential healthcare professionals and serve as a gateway to advanced degrees for diverse student populations, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Community colleges uphold principles of fairness in admissions and provide vital support for adult learners balancing education with familial responsibilities. Without them, many Americans would lack access to higher education altogether.

Despite their vital contributions, misguided stigmas persist, with many erroneously viewing community colleges as inferior institutions. Disparities in state funding further compound these misconceptions, perpetuating socioeconomic and demographic inequities nationwide. #CCMonth aims to educate the public on the importance of community colleges and eliminate this stigma.

Follow Go Jeffco on [social media](#) to stay informed about the various activities happening throughout #CCMonth.

Jefferson College Student Samantha Strite Represents at Missouri Governor's Student Leadership Forum

Samantha Strite was one of 80 collegiate students nominated to represent Jefferson College during the annual Missouri Governor's Student Leadership Forum on Faith and Values in Jefferson City, Missouri.

The Forum challenges students' character development by encouraging them to reflect on their own decision-making skills, values, and belief systems. Students learn about how to reconcile relationships, stand for truth, and love others as they love themselves. The Forum's guiding principle is teaching students to embrace altruism rather than egotism.

Governor Mike Parson welcomed students of the Forum with a meet and greet in his office, followed by an inspirational message from Rebecca Welsh, Founder of Halo, a mission that provides housing, healing, and education to at-risk and homeless children. Students ended their time at the Capitol hearing from Missouri State Senator Travis Fitzwater.



The event started in 1988 under the leadership of former Missouri Governor and 79th U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft. For more information visit www.mogslf.com.



Celebrating Success: Law Enforcement Academy Graduates Achieve 100% Pass Rate

The esteemed cohort of talented recruits from the Jefferson College Law Enforcement Academy - 042 Day class has upheld the academy's longstanding tradition of achieving a remarkable 100% pass rate for the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) exam.

Among the many accomplishments of these dedicated individuals, an astounding 94% have already secured positions within law enforcement agencies, a testament to their commitment and the quality of training provided by the academy.

The success of the Jefferson College Law Enforcement Academy is a testament to its unwavering dedication to excellence in training and preparing the next generation of law enforcement professionals. Through rigorous curriculum and hands-on experience, the academy equips its students with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their roles and uphold the highest standards of integrity and public safety.

For those interested in learning more about the Law Enforcement Academy program, including enrollment opportunities and curriculum details, please visit www.jeffco.edu/jclea or contact the academy directly at (636) 481-3425.

Nursing Program Celebrates Perfect NCLEX-PN Pass Rates for December 2023 Graduates

In an exceptional achievement, the December 2023 graduates of the Jefferson College Nursing Program have reason to celebrate. With unwavering dedication and commitment, these aspiring nurses have achieved a remarkable milestone - a 100% pass rate on their licensure exam, the NCLEX-PN.

This outstanding accomplishment is proof of the hard work, perseverance, and dedication of our nursing graduates, as well as the exceptional quality of education provided by the Jefferson College Nursing Program.

Their achievement not only reflects their individual dedication, but also speaks volumes about the supportive environment and expert guidance provided by the faculty and staff of the program.



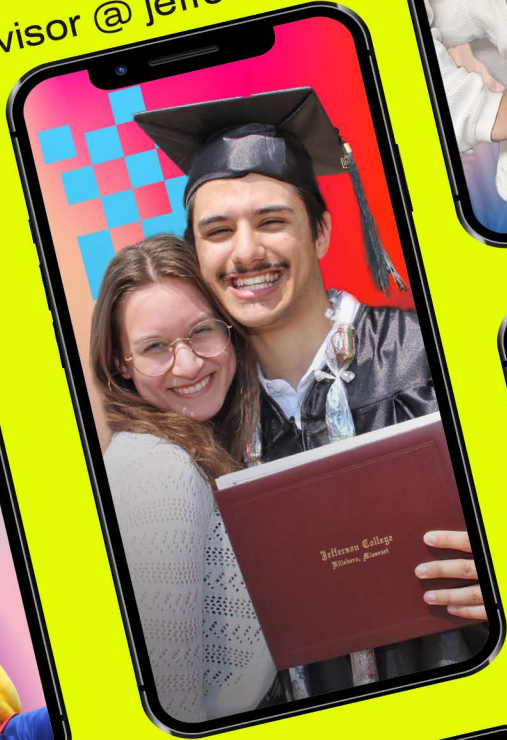


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Annual Math Contest Hosts Area Schools

The Jefferson College Math Department held their annual spring Math Contest on Tuesday, March 19. Contestants consisted of area middle schoolers and high schoolers with scholarship opportunities available for seniors. An awards ceremony was held later that day in the Fine Arts Theatre to congratulate the winners. Special thanks to the following schools and their sponsors for participating.

Middle Schools/Junior Highs:

Crystal City Junior High School - Sponsor Tim Venable
DeSoto Jr High School - Sponsor Diana Casey
Festus Middle School - Sponsor Rebecah McFadden
Jefferson R-7 Middle School - Sponsor Brian Crump
Windsor Middle School - Sponsor Heather Phipps

High Schools:

Crystal City - Sponsor Melissa Boyer
DeSoto - Sponsor Michael Pope
Festus - Sponsor Curtis Harned
Jefferson R-7 - Sponsor Amy Schachner
St Pius X - Sponsor Kristen Chibitty
Windsor - Sponsor Mark Franke
Home School - Lupe Chibitty - Sponsor Kristen Chibitty



Junior High Team - 1st Place, Festus



High School Team - 1st Place, Festus

Missouri State Treasurer Vivek Malek Visits College to Present MOST 529 Savings Plan

On March 19, the College had the honor of hosting Missouri State Treasurer Vivek Malek for an informative discussion on the MOST 529 savings plan. This investment account is specifically tailored to assist Missourians in planning and saving for education, offering a valuable resource for students, parents, and community members alike.

Attendees had the opportunity to gain insights directly from Treasurer Malek about the benefits and features of the MOST 529 plan. Whether it's preparing for college expenses or saving for educational opportunities, this event provided valuable information to help individuals make informed decisions about their financial future.

For those who missed the event or want to revisit the discussion, a recording is available for viewing at youtu.be/I7iWfwY876I. Additionally, anyone interested in learning more about the MOST 529 savings plan is encouraged to visit the official website at www.missourimost.org/home.html.

The College extends its gratitude to Treasurer Malek for sharing his expertise and insights on the importance of financial planning for education. Events like these play a vital role in empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their financial future and educational aspirations.

We encourage members of the College community to take advantage of the resources available through the MOST 529 savings plan and to continue seeking opportunities for financial education and planning.





Pathways ^{to} Prevention

Empowering Action: Pathways to Prevention Event Scheduled for April 2 and 3

"Pathways to Prevention," a Vikings Care initiative, is an event designed for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. It aims to raise awareness about interpersonal violence prevention, bystander intervention, and connecting individuals with relevant resources.

The event will take place on Tuesday, April 2, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the central lawn at Hillsboro. The first 200 students will receive a free treat from Cool Times Ice Cream or Tom's Coffee Truck. Fun events are planned such as karaoke, outdoor games, and a raffle.

Organizations like Safe Connections, ALIVE, The Mary Daniels Foundation, the YWCA, Crime Victim Center, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, and Crisis Aid will be attending to promote their services and resources.

This year, a "Walk a Mile in their Shoes" simulation will be held from Wednesday, March 27, through the following Wednesday, April 3. Students will pick up a character card with a synopsis of a situation that falls into the category of dating/domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Locations on campus have been designated as spots in the community to mimic what a survivor would face in accessing services. Students will then be given available resources and decide who they need to seek out to meet their specific needs. Once students visit three resources, they are entered into a raffle for a pair of shoes, after they have "walked their mile". The goal is two-fold, addressing the reality survivors face and making students aware of resources on campus and in the community.

An additional event is planned for the Jefferson College Arnold location on Wednesday, April 3, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the lobby. Resources, support, and a raffle for a pair of shoes will be available to those who participate.

For more information about Vikings Care and their initiatives, please visit jeffco.edu/vikings-care.

SOCIAL WORK

Careers & Education Event

◆ **Join** our social work students and faculty, as well as other Jefferson College students and community members, for an afternoon learning about:

- **Jefferson College's Pre-Social Work Program**
- **Careers in Social Work**
- **Transferring to Four Year Bachelor's in Social Work Programs**

◆ **Talk** with Social Workers from area agencies representing:

- **School Social Work**
- **Medical Social Work**
- **Adoption**
- **Foster Care**
- **Gerontology**
- **Private Practice**

◆ **Hear** about our 2 + 2 partnerships with:

- **Missouri State University**
- **William Woods University**

◆ **Learn** about transferring from Jefferson College to accredited Bachelor's in Social Work programs, including:

- **Lindenwood University**
- **University of Missouri-St. Louis**
- **Southeast Missouri State**
- **Missouri State University**
- **William Woods University**
- **Southwest Baptist University**

◆ **All** interested students and community members are welcome!



TUESDAY, APRIL 2 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

JEFFERSON COLLEGE: LIBRARY ROOM 209

Questions? Ask Pre-Social Work Coordinator Suzie Welch: (636) 481-3435 • swelch1@jeffco.edu
1000 Viking Drive • Hillsboro, MO 63050 • jeffco.edu



Jefferson College

It is the policy of Jefferson College that no person shall, on the basis of age, ancestry, color, creed, disability, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or veteran status, be subject to discrimination in employment or in admission to any educational program or activity of the College. Note: If accessibility services are needed, contact the Accessibility Resource Office, ASII 303, (636) 481-3158 or aro@jeffco.edu (7 days advance notice required for sign language interpretation services).

Celebrating Success: Basketball Program Shines at NJCAA Region 16 Awards

The College is thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our basketball program at the recent NJCAA Region 16 awards. Their dedication, skill, and hard work have shone through, earning well-deserved recognition in the region.

Coach of the Year, Women's Basketball, Division II - CB Walker

Congratulations to Coach CB Walker for being named Coach of the Year for Women's Basketball in Division II. Coach Walker's leadership, guidance, and commitment have been instrumental in the success of women's team, who were this season's Region 16 Division II champions.

Player of the Year - Jakayla Kirk

1st Team All Region - Chaniya Felton, Sydney Burris, and Jaylen Boyd

These achievements reflect the dedication, talent, and teamwork within our athletics department. We look forward to seeing their continued success both on and off the court.



Softball and Baseball Seasons Herald the Start of Spring – Go Vikings!

Warmer days are just around the corner and that means men's baseball and women's softball are gearing up for spring. Everyone is invited to come out and support the Vikings as they compete to win a national championship. For schedules, player profiles, and ticket information, visit jeffco.edu/athletics/teams



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.

Agenda items approved and/or discussed in March

- Second Reading & Approval ~ Addition of Board of Trustees Policy V-008, Grievances
- Second Reading & Approval ~ Addition of Board of Trustees Procedure V-008, Grievances
- Second Reading & Approval ~ Revision to Board of Trustees Policies Section II, All Personnel - General Policies and Compliance
- Second Reading & Approval ~ Revision to Board of Trustees Procedures Section II, All Personnel - General Procedures and Compliance
- Approval of Contract ~ Field House Exterior Masonry Maintenance
- Approval of Contract ~ Grounds Care for Three Jefferson College Locations
- Approval of Contract ~ National Science Foundation (NSF) Federal Grant Evaluator
- Approval of Contract ~ Learning Management System (LMS) Renewal
- Approval of Contract ~ Clery Consultant
- Approval of Resolution ~ Easement to Spire Gas for Veterinary Clinic Construction
- Approval of Appointment ~ Board of Trustees Treasurer
- Approval ~ Re-Employment of Faculty, 2024-2025
- Approval ~ Re-Employment of Certified Professional Staff, 2024-2025
- Approval ~ Granting of Tenure, 2024
- Approval of Appointment ~ Mathematics Faculty
- Approval of Appointment ~ Applied Communications Faculty (ATS)
- Approval of Appointment ~ Assistant Goalkeeper Coach

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Breaking Ground: Jefferson College Celebrates New Veterinary Technology Building

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Thursday, February 8, to mark the construction of a new Veterinary Technology building at Jefferson College. Students, staff, faculty, and community members attending this momentous occasion. Jefferson College President Dr. Dena McCaffrey began the ceremony by thanking all those who have been involved in the process of establishing this building, along with the fundraising campaign lead by the Jefferson College Foundation. Veterinary Technology professors, their students, and Vet Tech's current dogs attended the ceremony in excitement as well, looking forward to the program's new home.



For more information or to donate to the Veterinary Technology Expansion campaign, please visit jeffco.edu/vet-tech-expansion.



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April 2024



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
31	1  Baseball vs Webster JV 2 PM <i>Baseball Field</i>	2 Social Work Careers & Education Event 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM <i>LIB 209</i>  Baseball vs East Central 1 PM <i>Baseball Field</i>	3	4  Softball vs Moberly 2 PM <i>Softball Field</i>	5	6 
7	8	9 Careers in Education Info Fair 6 PM - 8 PM <i>SC Viking Rm</i>	10	11  Baseball vs Three Rivers 1 PM <i>Baseball Field</i> Board of Trustees Meeting 5 PM <i>Admin Board Rm</i>	12	13  Softball vs St. Charles 12 PM <i>Softball Field</i>  Men's Soccer vs Harris Stowe 1 PM <i>Soccer Field</i>
14	15	16	17  Softball vs Metropolitan 2 PM <i>Softball Field</i>	18	19	20  Men's Soccer vs Hannibal 11 AM <i>Soccer Field</i>  Baseball vs MAC 1 PM <i>Baseball Field</i>  Aim for the Stars 9 PM <i>Observatory</i>
21	22	23	24	25	26 Cheerleading Tryouts 5 PM - 8 PM <i>FH Gym</i>	27 Cheerleading Tryouts 1 PM - 4 PM <i>FH Gym</i>
28 Cheerleading Tryouts 1 PM - 8 PM <i>FH Gym</i>	29	30	1	2 E-Cycling & Recycling Collection 11 AM - 1 PM <i>Yellow Lot</i>	3	4 Foundation Spring Auction