



During the season of the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, we want to express our thankfulness for everyone at Jefferson College who brings joy, peace and happiness to our world all year long. This final President's Update for 2023 is filled with accomplishments, accolades and a glimpse into the future.

Leadership Development of Employees

Following a full-year of dedicated work and collaboration, ten employees successfully completed the Jefferson College / Mineral Area College Leadership Academy. Since 2012, we have had 50 employees complete the program. This year's participants include Early College Coordinator Jaelyn Birks; Director of Student Compliance Kristine Bogue; Early Childhood Center Director Stephanie Cage; Public Safety Programs Director Joe Haack; PTA Assistant Professor Nancy Miller; Payroll Manager Shelly Mueller; Academic Services Director Connie Nash; Software Development Manager Mark Smreker; Procurement Specialist Emily West, and Jefferson College Arnold Interim Director Brenna Young.



Employee Connect

With the frenzied pace of the semester's end, I hope you will take some time for casual conversation as the final Employee Connect gathering from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 14, in the Tech Center. Stop by for a few minutes for coffee and conversation.

Board of Trustees Action

At the December 7 meeting of the College Board of Trustees, approval was given for three significant construction projects on campus:

- A \$3 million contract for the new Veterinarian Technology Clinic. Brockmiller Construction submitted the lowest bid of nine contractors at \$3,022,900. The project's proposed final budget is \$4 million with funding from bonds, grants and the Foundation's capital campaign.
- A new pedestrian bridge will replace the 50-year-old span connecting the Red Parking Lot with the main campus at the Student Center and Administration buildings. Brockmiller also submitted the lowest bid for the high-profile project. The old walkway will be removed and replaced with a modern structure for improved accessibility. The winning bid was \$558,390. The project is included in the FY2024 Capital Improvement Fund.
- Integra Construction of St. Charles submitted the lowest bid for remodeling the Nursing Office Suite in the Career and Technical Education building. The redesigned office suite will bring nursing faculty together in a central location to facilitate cooperation and student accessibility. The approved \$168,973 bid will be paid for using grant funding from the Missouri State Board of Nursing.

MCCA Convention Highlights

Several employees and two associated award winners represented Jefferson College at the annual Missouri Community College Association Convention November 7 through 10 in Kansas City. Herculeum High School counselor Laura Asinger (pictured to the left) received the first-ever Missouri Pathfinder of the Year award, presented to an "unsung hero" teacher or guidance counselor for their efforts in assisting students with their college plans. Dan Govero (pictured to the right), owner of Govero Land Services, received the MCCA Award of Distinction for his work on behalf of the College and Foundation; the award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated sustained service and commitment to their local community college.



Another highlight arrived in the days after the convention when we received an email recognizing Brenna Young, Retention Coordinator and Interim JCA Director, and Alexis Lowery, Student Advocate, for their presentation titled "Tips, Tricks, and Tools that Support Student Retention." The email stated: "A big MCCA23 shout out to Alexis and Brenna. We received a report this morning on our app's engagement and (their) session had the most clicks of any breakout at the convention. It's not hard to see why the session had so many interested app users. Their attendance was among the biggest at the convention. Thank you for contributing to the convention in such an impactful way!"

Pat on the Back

The College's online Pat on the Back nomination system received a congratulatory note from Adjunct instructor Danny Hayden:

"As a Vietnam veteran, I want to thank everyone involved in the Veterans Day, free oil change at the Jefferson College Hillsboro campus. I want to thank the administration, and the students and instructors in the automotive department involved in this endeavor. The young men and young ladies gave up their Saturday to help veterans and provide a very appreciated service. Thank you all and God Bless."

In Memory: Sheree Bell

November also brought sad news to campus. Jefferson College employee Sheree Bell, Director of Purchasing and Auxiliary Services, passed away on Monday, November 13. Sheree worked for the College since 2012. She was a dedicated employee who enjoyed her work. She always had a smile on her face, was very collaborative, and a great communicator. Sheree is definitely missed by many at the College.

Anonymous Question Form

Is it possible to get a better solution for the automatic entry doors at the Administration Building? The scanners do not work most of the time.

The Building and Grounds staff have been creating an inventory of the types and varieties of ADA door mechanisms across campus this fall. John Willett, assistant director, is determining costs associated with upgrading from battery-operated openers like the one described at the Administration Building to a wired mechanism. While we continue to determine upgrade costs per door, staff are working to ensure that all twelve battery-operated mechanisms campus wide remain fully operational.

Why are there no computer labs for student use at the Arnold Campus? Do they even have access to a printer?

There are currently two locations for students to utilize at JCA for computer use. The Academic Success Center in room 112 has seven computers for open use that are connected to a printer in the room. Additionally there are two kiosk PCs in the JCA lobby with access to a printer as well. Students are welcome to utilize these spaces at any time.

Could committee meetings go back to in-person? It might do people good to get out of their offices, away from their departments, and take a walk across campus once in a while. The convenience of online is nice, but it seems in-person would be better for campus relationships and productivity of these meetings.

I agree that in-person meetings are preferred for many of the reasons stated in the question. Some committees already are meeting in-person, some continue virtually, and some offer hybrid meetings (JCI and JCA). This concern is being shared with the Council of Institutional Committee Chairs to further discuss options. Additionally, I would prefer to hold Extended Cabinet in-person; however, we average over 50 employees participating in these online meetings, allowing for many more employees to participate than would be possible if they were in-person. This is one of the reasons why Cabinet started having Employee Connect coffee events, so we can connect informally with each other...the next one of these is December 14.

If you have a question to ask, please use the Anonymous Question Form (<https://bit.ly/JC-Submission>) at your convenience. Responses will be published in future President's Update newsletters and shared during Extended Cabinet meetings.

Happy Holidays

I hope you and your family have a very restful and happy winter break. As a reminder, the College will close for the holidays at noon on Thursday, December 21, and reopen on Thursday, January 4.

Please note: Grades are due at noon on Tuesday, December 19. Spring classes begin on January 16.





**As always, I am a phone call or email away.
I look forward to our collective success.
- Dena**

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