

PRESIDENT'S —Update—

Jefferson
College
February 2023



Spring Enrollment Reflects Growth in Students and Credit Hours

Census enrollment data for the spring semester reflects an increase of .96 percent in students and .08 percent in credit hours taken. We are up 29 students and 23.5 credit hours vs Spring of 2022. The [2023 Spring Census Enrollment Report](#) shows growth in the number of new first time, dual credit, and Area Technical School students along with respective increases in credit hours for each student type.

The FY23 budget is built upon a four percent projected overall decline in credit hours for the academic year. Taking into account both Spring 2023 and Fall 2022 enrollment, we are running ahead of projections.

Thank you to everyone who played a key role in helping to move us ahead in enrollment. I am excited to see this positive trend continue in light of the national economy, regional jobs data, and the aftermath of the COVID pandemic.

News Worth Sharing!



By now, the campus knows that **Vice President of Instruction Dr. Chris DeGeare** recently had a dangerous fall at home resulting in surgery and an extended hospital stay. Several weeks later, the recovery for this “Super Viking” is going very well, to the point that Chris has begun to work remotely this week. Don't be surprised if he pops up on your screen at meetings just to check in—nothing will keep him down for long! To cheer him on during recovery and physical therapy, he received several colorful “Viking Strong” stickers to decorate his brain protector. Get well soon Chris!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the **JCA SOUPER bowl food drive** throughout January and February, where a total of 195 cans of soup were donated by students and employees to benefit the Vikings' Vault food pantry. That's a touchdown by any measure! Pictured, left to right, is Anthony Foster, Holly Lincoln, Shannon VonderHaar, and Sanela Coveic.



Congratulations to **ATS Applied Communication Assistant Professor Holly Ross**, whose photo print of horses is being sold at Hobby Lobby stores this spring and is her first print to be licensed on a national level. Back in the fall of 2019, she received an email from a company called Williamson Home after a member of their organization had noticed her photography at Art in the Park. After some research, she found out that the company has an office in St. Louis and is a licensing agency that sells to stores like Hobby Lobby, At Home, and Lowes. Although she has a passion for photographing Missouri wild horses, the picture selected was taken in Maine at a stable she often drives past when visiting her in-laws. “I am a primarily self-taught photographer but have to give credit to Jefferson College adjunct John Rogers for introducing me to Photoshop when I took his class in 2015

for Digital Photography. Without that experience, I would not have the skills needed to ensure that my photos are at a higher print quality than those straight out of the camera.” Holly currently has six other photos in Williamson Home’s sales catalog that could be pitched to major retailers across the country.

The **collective student-athlete fall semester GPA** was an impressive 3.26. All five of our programs posted team GPAs of 3.0 or higher, and 32 players earned a GPA of 3.6 or higher, which will earn NJCAA All-Academic honors should their academic success continue this spring semester. Kudos to Student-Athlete Success Coordinator Meredith Buschmann, who has done a fantastic job helping our student-athletes be at peak form inside the classroom.



Kudos to **Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning (HRA)** instructors Bill Kaune and Kati Donahue for guiding the program to once again receive five-year re-accreditation from Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Excellence.

Outstanding Alumnus Nomination Deadline is Feb. 24

Do you know an esteemed Jefferson College graduate who is worthy of recognition? Nominations for the Faculty Senate **2023 Alumnus of the Year Award** are being accepted through February 24. In addition to having graduated with a certificate or associate degree, nominees must have achieved distinction in a field of employment, been involved in community service, and not presently serve as a trustee or employee of the College. An [online nomination form is available](#).

Anonymous Q&A

Is there a question you've been yearning to ask about some aspect of the College? You don't have to wait until the next State of the College or Town Hall to ask. The form below is available to all employees for anonymous submission. The following questions have been asked since the last newsletter:

Q: I am curious as to why there is no Maternity/Paternity Leave Policy for our employees. It just does not seem to make a whole lot of sense for us as an institution to consistently describe ourselves as a family, but in the same breath not provide time-appropriate policies such as this to be able to care for our actual families. I understand that the push is for employees to utilize their vacation and sick time, but not everyone is able to stockpile days to be able to get adequate time with their newborn, and furthermore this puts a hindrance on any new-hires that are at that point in their respective lives. FMLA is a great placeholder, but realistically, given the state of the economy, inflation, and overall state of the world, having to bring in a new family member under just one income, and sometimes no income, feels pretty awful to think about. Is this something that can be provided with employee benefits or at least discussed as a possibility to provide with employee benefits? Could the history of why this has not been put into place be shared? Thanks!

A: *The College provides a generous leave policy including paid sick time, personal leave and vacation. Several years ago, we began offering voluntary short-term disability insurance as an option for employees who would like extra coverage. Employees may enroll within 30 days of hire and during open enrollment each year. As a result of this inquiry, we reached out to the other Missouri community colleges to compare our policy to theirs. Of those that responded, only one provides paid parental leave up to 4 weeks. Our insurance broker, the Benefits Subcommittee and HR will continue to monitor the market and strive to be competitive.*

Q: I completely understand the need for two-factor authentication; however, is there any way we can set it up so that, if we are working on the same machine, we only have to do it once in a 24 hour period or something like that? I often have to log using two-factor authentication two to three times daily. Today, I had to do it twice within a 30 minute time period on the same machine! This seems a bit extreme to me.

A: *There are many factors which can affect how a particular computer responds to two-factor authentication and there is more specific information needed to resolve your particular issue. We recommend you contact the help desk at Extension 3234, and one of our IT staff members will be happy to review your configuration and make any necessary adjustments. You may also log in to the IT Helpdesk tab on the Employee tab of MyJeffco and create a work ticket in the Spiceworks portal.*

If you have a question to ask, please use the [Anonymous Question Form](#) at your convenience. Responses will be published in future President's Update newsletters and shared during Extended Cabinet meetings.

Keeping Jeans and Jeffco Wear Fridays Not Too Casual

By now, everyone knows Jeans and Jeffco Wear Fridays were begun more than a year ago (Jefferson College's version of Casual Fridays) to encourage employees campus-wide to wear jeans and Jeffco spirit wear. With the several upcoming announcements about "jeans days" to raise funds for the Vikings' Vault, please remember that employee attire should remain professional and does not include clothing such as sweat pants, leggings, or clothing that is substantially ripped or riddled with holes.

Congratulations to First and Second Quarter Pat-On-the-Back Recipients

The Pat-on-the-Back (POB) program is an employee-recognition initiative sponsored by the Employee Support Committee. When an employee goes above-and-beyond, a co-worker, supervisor, student, or community member can fill out a card to give them a "pat-on-the-back" in recognition. [POB nomination forms](#) are available online.



[View all of the nominees](#) who were recognized during July-September and October-December!

POB recipients are entered into a quarterly prize drawing provided by the Jefferson College Foundation. The first and second quarter winners were Shannon Schoenky (left) and Shauna Gore (right).



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

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