

PRESIDENT'S —Update—

Jefferson
College

March 2023



Employee Appreciation Day

Thank you again to everyone who participated in the **Employee Appreciation Day** event held earlier this month. The turnout and response was outstanding, and I hope everyone enjoyed the celebration. I just want to reiterate how thankful I am that you are part of the College team. Our employees are the heart of everything we do to fulfill the College's mission!

Several have asked about access to the [Employee Appreciation Day Slideshow](#). It will be available through the end of June to view at your convenience. Special thanks to Roger Barrentine and the Marketing and PR team for putting this together. (Because the file is large, you may need to download in order to watch.)

As a reminder, **Spring Break** is next week and classes will not meet. Additionally, the College will be closed starting the end of the day on Wednesday, March 22, and reopen on Monday morning, March 27.

Looking ahead, I hope you'll attend the next **Employee Connect** gathering scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. We will also have the **Town Hall and Retirees/Employee Years of Service Recognition** virtual meeting on Monday, May 1. Additional details will follow for each of these events.



Capital Project and Expansion/Renovation Update

Vice President of Finance and Administration Daryl Gehbauer and Technology Services Manager John Linhorst shared a presentation at this month's Board of Trustees meeting regarding the approved FY24 Strategic Planning Capital Project list and planned facility renovations and expansion projects that are being financed primarily through a combination of construction bonds, county/state funding, and matching grants.

A partial list of construction-related projects includes the expansion and renovation of Jefferson College Arnold to house all programs currently at Imperial, expansion of Viking Woods, relocation of the Vet Tech program, renovation of the Fine Arts Building north section, renovation of the lower level of the Student Center, and replacement of windows and entrance glass in the Arts and Sciences I building.

The complete list of [FY24 Capital Projects and Planned Renovation/Expansion](#) is available for review.

College to Host Manufacturing Summit and Visit by GSL CEO Mike Hall

In my role as co-chair of the Greater St. Louis, Inc. (GSL) Investor's Council, I'm excited that the College will be the site for a Manufacturing Summit on March 29 as GSL CEO Jason Hall will be on campus to continue his efforts to provide one voice for the metropolitan region. The summit will give Jefferson County leaders the opportunity to directly share their thoughts and ideas as a voice for our entire community. In addition to the summit, Jason and members of GSL will be touring our Metal Fabrication, Precision Machining, and Welding labs facilities.

Greater St. Louis, Inc. was founded on Jan. 1, 2021, combining the strengths of five legacy organizations — AllianceSTL, Arch to Park, Civic Progress, Downtown STL, Inc., and the St. Louis Regional Chamber — to unify around a common vision and strategy for fostering represents a 15-county region (six in Missouri and eight in Illinois), including Jefferson County. As an executive board member of the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation, I am proud to have worked closely with GSL on opportunities like "Project Redbird," the recently announced development for a 1 million square foot James Hardie Building Products production facility in Crystal City.



Bookstore Operations Shifting to Barnes & Noble

Following a recommendation by a task force comprised of faculty, staff, and administrators, the Board of Trustees has approved a contract that will shift operation of the bookstore to Barnes & Noble. As a result, we will move to an equitable access textbook rental fee per-credit-hour platform that allows students to receive all of their textbooks for the semester at \$24 per credit hour. This will save the average student almost \$200 per academic year.

The operations contract is for three years with the ability to renew for an additional three years in one-year increments. The exact date of the transition is yet to be determined, but will occur prior to the start of the Fall 2023 semester. Additional transition information will be released soon to all students and faculty/staff explaining the new program and its effective date.



Great People Help Make a Great College

Thank you to co-chairs Admissions Director Carrie Greer and Sociology Associate Professor Suzie Welch, and the more than 120 volunteers who organized and/or participated in this year's **Preview Day** open house. About 90 prospective students and their families visited campus to learn more about academic programs, financial aid, admissions, and more. Thank you for going above and beyond to welcome visitors to our campus.



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

Congratulations to co-advisors Bruce Korbesmeyer and Keri Hayes and the entire **Xi Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society** for once again earning 5-Star status in addition to being named a REACH Chapter for excelling in membership development for the seventh consecutive year. This is extraordinary!

Kudos to Workforce and Employment Services Director Lora Warner and her staff for coordinating this year's **Career Expo** where more than 35 tables of experts and 750+ students representing middle and high school youth attended.



Tremendous heartfelt thanks goes to the family of Music Department student Claire Maue for helping organize the donation of about 1,000 packaged items and \$2,500 for the Vikings' Vault all in memory of Claire's twin sister Hana, who passed away in a tragic car accident last year. In light of her obituary, where the family recommended donations in her



honor be sent to the Foster Closet and Food Pantry, they remembered her mentioning the Jefferson College Vikings' Vault and how it helped students in need. Claire's mom, Faye, said that the donations came from a collection drive led by the student council at Hillsboro Intermediate School combined with donations dropped off by family, friends, and the community.

The Maue family is well connected to the College, as Claire's parents actually met here and Faye has been visiting ever since she was six years old, participating in swimming lessons, dance lessons, and other activities. In her own right, Claire has become a tour de force, having been chosen as the top saxophonist for the Missouri All-Collegiate Jazz Ensemble and releasing a CD titled "Gemini" in honor of



Hana during a recent performance at Jazz St. Louis. Her mentor and teacher, Joel Vanderheyden, says that it was the first time a current Jefferson College student had ever headlined at Jazz St. Louis with their own band .



Cheers to the winners of the recent **Employee Chili Cook-Off** at JCA as 40 testers “tastefully” decided this year’s winners:

1st Place - Shannon Wells

2nd Place - Anthony Foster

3rd Place - Tom King

Pictured left to right:
Anthony, Shannon and Tom

Celebrating 60 Years of Excellence and Service

Did you know that the College will turn 60 on April 2? To commemorate the important milestone, a 9-month (through December 2023) celebration filled with events and activities will soon be announced, along with a special 60th anniversary logo that will be used extensively. I hope you’ll take part in some of the many activities that are being planned as we collectively say Happy Birthday Jefferson College!



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 about some aspect or issue. The form below is available to all employees for anonymous submission. The following questions have been asked since the last newsletter:

Q: Will graduation return to the two ceremony format in 2023, where the ceremonies are separated by arts and sciences and CTE, one in the morning and one in the afternoon?

A: *There will be two ceremonies, both scheduled for Saturday, May 20. Because we have transitioned to the four School model, there are no longer ceremonies designated as CTE and Arts & Sciences. The Registrar’s Office has shared information about the ceremonies and additional information can be found on the website.*

Q: This isn’t really a question but a suggestion. So that we can get Monday 7/5/2023 off, could that Friday "off" 7/7 be transferred to Monday, 7/5, with the employees working

Wed.-Fri. the longer hour days, as Tuesday 7/4 would be a holiday with pay? Thank you for your time and consideration in looking at my suggestion.

A: The College will not be adjusting the operating schedule the week of the July 4 holiday. The Academic Calendar is already set for summer and we have a very generous leave policy if someone would want to take that day off.

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.



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

- Dena

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