

OPPORTUNITY

SAN JACINTO COLLEGESM

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NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

Give the gift of education Nov. 29

The season of generosity is upon us. Why not give the gift of education on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 29?

The San Jacinto College Foundation needs your help providing scholarships for students who could not complete a degree or certificate without financial help.

The Foundation's 2022 Giving Tuesday goal is 100 donors in 24 hours.

Foundation scholarships help students like Cyndie Vo, a Promise @ San Jac Scholarship recipient. This scholarship covers 100% of an associate degree or certificate for in-district high school seniors who attend San Jac after graduation.

"I had been thinking about working two jobs to make

it through college," Vo said. "Instead, Promise allowed me to work part time and focus more on school."

Mark your calendar now to give to the San Jacinto College Foundation on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 29. Help students achieve their educational dreams! Learn more at sanjac.edu/giving-tuesday.

San Jac celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

San Jacinto College campuses celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15) with face-to-face and virtual events and activities for students, faculty, and staff.

"At San Jac, our students are diverse, and it's important for them to see representation on campus," said Ginnette Ruelas, student engagement and

support specialist. "We were able to share some things about the Latinx culture that they may not know and that we can learn from them as well."

Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to achieve success.

The San Jac Hispanic Heritage Committee offered essay and art contests, Hispanic guest speakers, a digital bulletin, and a presentation of Hispanic student haikus and poems.

"Hispanic Heritage Month is important at any institution and at every level, but as a Hispanic-serving institution within a very Hispanic community, it is vital to the San Jac community," said Nicole Brown, Hispanic Heritage Committee chair. "We're celebrating our students and ourselves. This is our history and culture. It's important for San Jac not just to allow us the space to do that but to actively encourage it."

The month of activities culminated in a closing ceremony Oct. 14, where art and essay contest winners were announced. The contests were open to all current students, and winners received scholarships up to \$500.

Art contest winners were ...

- First place: Angelica Ontiveros, "El Alebrije"
- Second place: Alyssia Torres, "La Bruja"
- Third place: Nayeli Medina, "El Matachín"

Essay contest winners were ...

- First place: Alejandra Flores, "Aguade Arroz"



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

- Second place: Angelica Ontiveros, "The Unexpected yet Effective Remedy of the Basil Seed"
- Third place: Emely Lopez, "Curar De Empacho"

beautyberry, bald cypress, Dorsett golden apple, eastern redbud, loblolly pine, river birch, Shumard oak, and wax myrtle varieties, with volunteers loading the trees into their vehicles.

Sept. 17 was LyondellBasell's Global Care Day, and the tree giveaway honored the company's outgoing CEO and his commitment to a better environment.

"We are fortunate to have a partner like LyondellBasell because of initiatives like this one that support and give back to our communities," Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer said. "Like LyondellBasell, San Jac has a deep history of supporting the communities we serve."

Hellyer also thanked LyondellBasell for donating nearly 100 trees for the South and Central Campuses and working with San Jac's facilities team to plant more.



Photo courtesy of San Jacinto College

San Jac, LyondellBasell promote green thumbs, greener community

Greener community? Fresher air? San Jacinto College and LyondellBasell checked off both boxes Sept. 17, giving away more than 2,500 trees through a partnership with Trees for Houston.

The drive-through tree giveaway event took place at the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology at the Central Campus. Community members could choose from American

CANCER RESEARCH, WATER TREATMENT GIVE REU STUDENTS CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT THEMSELVES

By Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

A similar experience led Briana Ibarra and Jorge Medellin to two different outcomes.

The two San Jacinto College students participated in research experiences for undergraduates, or REUs, this summer.

While REUs allow students to dive into research projects with faculty and researchers at host institutions, Ibarra and Medellin had another opportunity: to learn more about themselves and choose different pathways.

Do hard things

Ibarra has been pursuing a natural science degree at San Jac to transfer to the University of Houston. This spring, a chemistry professor urged her to apply for the University of Iowa's Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences Program.

"I hesitated because I'd never gone away like that," Ibarra said. "Then I talked to my family and my professor about it. How could I pass up this opportunity?"

Things started rolling after that: She got accepted, boarded a plane to Iowa, and soon was attending lectures by cancer researchers and working under two Ph.D. students. Their project, titled "The Role of Endosomal Toll-like Receptors in Immune Cell Activation," investigated which cell receptors could best be stimulated with immunotherapy drugs to activate the immune system.

"This was all new to me," she said. "It was daunting because I didn't have prior research experience."

After eight weeks, Ibarra went from knowing nothing about cancer research to presenting her group's findings to more than 50 people.



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

"I've always had an identity crisis," she said. "I think I'm not good enough. This taught me I can do hard things and be good at it."

Expect to fail

Wanting to take a different course after a chemical plant job, Medellin enrolled in San Jac's engineering program. His REU, Rice University's Nanotechnology Enabled Water Treatment Program, is helping him reach higher for his family and community.

"We have to be able to turn things around," he said. "I liked this REU because water is necessary, and one-fourth of the world's population lacks good water."

After applying and interviewing, Medellin went from thinking, "There's no way," to snagging one of only 11 available NEWT spots.

Medellin, two other students, and a Rice researcher collaborated on the project "Electrothermal Membrane Distillation for Treating Hypersaline Feed Water." Their goal? Finding an efficient, cost-effective way to make water two to three times saltier than seawater clean and drinkable.

Medellin kept hearing, "Expect to fail." The reality sank in when he returned to the starting line almost daily. But with each failure, he inched toward progress.

By the end, his team removed almost 99% of the salt from the water and won two awards at the capstone poster symposium. Thanks to this experience, Medellin is laser-focusing even more on his studies.

"I came out more eager to get done what I need to get done," he said. "I have to work harder and be more focused to be at the level of Rice, my dream school."

Grow and go

How did REUs impact Ibarra and Medellin, and what's next for them?

While the REU grew her confidence, it cemented for Ibarra, a social butterfly, that she shouldn't pursue a Ph.D. program with isolated lab research. Instead, she plans to attend medical school to become a pediatrician.

"This opportunity helped me choose which direction to go in my future studies," she said. "It really did align everything I thought originally."

Medellin honed his communication skills. He hopes to transfer to Rice through the Take Flight STEM Pathway, then get hands-on experience in electrical engineering.

Unlike Ibarra, Medellin sees research in his future. While the two reached different outcomes, they can agree their REUs were eye-opening.



Photo courtesy of Megan Meyer

"REUs show you where you can be," Medellin said. "A lot of times, we lose our focus. We know what we want, but we can't see it. If you can see these doctors and engineers at work — and work alongside them — you can see yourself there."

To learn more about advanced learning opportunities at San Jac, visit sanjac.edu/honors.

Six other San Jac students participated in REUs at Rice this summer:

- Umahi Agwu, Evolutionary Behavioral Genetics
- Christopher Avalos, NEWT
- Beatriz Cespedes, BioNetworks
- Kevin Juarez, BioNetworks
- Briana Loreda, SCRIP
- Nhi Pham, BioNetworks

FROM GRIEVING TO GIVING, ONE FAMILY TURNS TRAGEDY INTO CATALYST TO HELP OTHERS

By Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Nellie Uribe uses three words to describe how her middle child, Amanda, entered this world: “fast and furious.”

“I didn’t ever think there would be any other pain that would come close to that,” she said.

She uses the same words to describe how Amanda left almost 23 years later — Nov. 12, 2019.

Nellie and her husband, Rene, choke back tears remembering that day. When Amanda walked out the door, they never guessed it would be the last time. On her drive to her San Jacinto College art class, a car accident claimed her life.

Grief touches everyone differently. For the Uribes, Amanda’s passing still evokes raw emotion, but this tragedy has become the catalyst to make an impact.

Helping students achieve their dreams

Established in late 2020, Amanda’s Legacy Foundation gives to three areas Amanda valued most: the arts, animal rights causes, and random acts of kindness.

At San Jac, Nellie and Rene have created a scholarship to help other South Campus art and design students achieve their dreams. This September, they met the 2022-2023 recipient, Monique Torres.

The three connected immediately. Torres comes from a large family, where celebration and loss go hand in hand. Before her 16th birthday, she lost five cousins in a home fire. Like Amanda, she has volunteered at animal shelters and found her outlet in art. Her mom also shares Amanda’s nickname, “Amanda Panda.”

During their meeting, Nellie and Rene spread some of Amanda’s sketches and pen-and-ink art across the table. Torres studied each.

“Eyes are difficult and intriguing to draw,” she said, admiring Amanda’s skill in capturing the windows to the soul.

Rene, a Marine veteran, shared how their family uprooted multiple times and weathered his deployments. Torres has a military background too — from participating in high school JROTC to enlisting in the Navy. But her military career ended after a boot camp injury and medical discharge.

For four years, she struggled to find her purpose. While some told her she couldn’t make a career of art, she was always happiest when creating.

Now, thanks to the scholarship, Torres is “excited and nervous” about her new journey toward a graphic design career.

Opening eyes to needs

The Uribes created Amanda’s Legacy Foundation to make dreams like Torres’ possible. While Amanda could be feisty — someone you didn’t want to cross — she had a huge heart for others.

“When she was younger, we would give her money when she went out with her friends,” Rene said. “She was always taking care of them. She would say, ‘I’ll pay. I got you.’”



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

Nellie (far left) and Rene (far right) Uribe present the Amanda’s Legacy Foundation Scholarship to Monique Torres.

Amanda accepted everyone, imperfections included. Amid personal challenges, she found her voice in art. That art is how the Uribes are preserving her memory.

Weeks after Amanda’s death, Nellie stumbled across intricate drawings in her sketchbook and journal. Awed, she pictured Amanda’s art on T-shirts, jewelry, and more. Meanwhile, Rene envisioned something else: a memorial scholarship for San Jac and Clear Brook High School students.

With the foundation, they merged the two ideas, selling products featuring Amanda’s art to fund causes she cared about.

Beyond scholarships, the Uribes focus on random acts of kindness. Losing Amanda has opened their eyes to pain and need around them. That homeless man, someone else’s child, sitting alone. That elderly woman, hands trembling, counting out nickels and dimes in the checkout line. That weary mom, child on her hip, selling bouquets at the intersection.

A kind word — a little generosity — can change a person’s life.

“It might be the last piece they needed, what they were waiting for,” Rene said.

Today, from San Jac students to strangers, the Uribes are spreading the love Amanda embodied each day.

“We’re here for such a short time,” Rene said. “What are we going to do with that time?”



Art courtesy of Amanda’s Legacy Foundation

DIGITAL CADAVER TABLES TAKING LEARNING TO NEW HEIGHTS

By Neesha Hosein
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Cadavers are not something commonly seen in community college science labs, but San Jacinto College has secured the next best thing for learning anatomy.

Five Anatomage digital cadaver dissection tables now call San Jac home with two at Central Campus and one each at the North, South, and Generation Park Campuses.

What is Anatomage?

The Anatomage tabletop is an interactive touch screen. It comes loaded with four life-sized 3D cadavers based on real male and female cadavers imaged in 1-millimeter slices from head

to toe. The table displays words and information that correspond with what the user is touching on the screen.

“The tables have high-resolution pictures of these cadavers,” said Dr. Teddy Farias, North Campus dean of health and natural sciences. “We can’t replace working with a real cadaver, but this is very close and a lot more cost-effective. It’s like a giant iPad.”

Compared to the vivid pictures in textbooks like Netter’s or Grey’s Anatomy, Farias said the Anatomage table is an upgrade over a digital textbook.

Farias led the districtwide purchase of the five Anatomage tables last July, which were purchased with Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds.



Photo courtesy of Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College

Bells and whistles

Besides four human bodies, the Anatomage table also displays animals for digital dissection and other images useful for science and health science students to study.

“The company synthesized other specimens that are not based on a real cadaver but were created based on our knowledge of anatomy,” Farias said. “One example shows what a baby looks like in utero. There are several other scenarios, like a gunshot wound to the head, an inflamed lung, heart disease, MRIs and CT scans, and thousands of other case studies.”

The table comes equipped with a multitude of learning applications and is compatible with online classes. It can accommodate virtual tests and quizzes. Digital capabilities also allow it to be used via Zoom or to project images onto a screen for a class to view. Each campus has a designated lab for the tables, but since they have wheels, they can be moved to other labs or classrooms. The table can also be positioned vertically, which makes it easier to display to a face-to-face class.

Training sessions were held during College Community Week, but

implementation is still in the early stages.

“Faculty are just getting introduced to the tables, so it’s too soon to fully incorporate it into their curriculum,” Farias said. “Some faculty might be able to use it in place of a YouTube video or pictures to discuss specific subjects.”

Who will use the tables?

The Anatomage table will be used to teach anatomy and physiology but will also be a valuable learning tool in many courses. Farias believes this is a great opportunity for interdisciplinary use and will be beneficial to more than one program.

“Many of our health science programs could use it — nursing, respiratory therapy, surgical technology, paramedic, medical assisting, occupational therapy assistant, and physical therapist assistant,” Farias said. “The material is relevant for many programs. The benefit of having it is that students can engage with it for hands-on learning, remediation, or tutoring sessions. It’s a useful visual tool.”

The Anatomage tables will be officially integrated into course curriculums starting in spring 2023.

REGISTER TODAY!

**SPRING 2023 CLASSES START
JANUARY 17**

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE
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PROMISE @ SAN JAC SCHOLARSHIP Q&A: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

The Promise @ San Jac Scholarship is a last-dollar scholarship that covers up to three years of tuition, books, and supplies at San Jacinto College for in-district high school graduates.

Roberto Mendez, Promise coordinator, offers insight into the scholarship and important things to remember when making the pledge.

Q: Who is eligible for the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship?

A: Promise is for students who live in San Jac's taxing district at



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

the time of high school graduation. To find detailed information on requirements and maintaining eligibility, visit sanjac.edu/promise-san-jac-requirements.

Q: What is a last-dollar scholarship?

A: It covers the gap that financial aid, other scholarships, and grants do not. If a student receives financial aid, other scholarships, or grants but they are not enough, Promise will cover the remaining balance. If the student doesn't qualify for any other assistance, Promise will cover the full in-district tuition.

Q: How long will the scholarship provide financial support?

A: Promise will cover students for up to three years or until they earn their first associate degree or reach 72 college credit hours, whichever comes first.

Q: Is there a limit to books and supplies covered by the

scholarship?

A: Yes. Promise covers up to \$600 in books and supplies per semester.

Q: How do students use their Promise money to buy books?

A: Promise will cover books from the San Jac bookstore only. Students must bring a photo ID, show their class schedule, and let the staff know they are using the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship to purchase books.

Q: Is there a minimum or maximum number of credit hours a student can take in a semester?

A: Promise does make an exception to the full-time (12 hours) requirement but only if you are in your last semester and require less than a full-time load to graduate. The maximum number of credit hours placed by the institution is 18 for fall and spring and 14 for summer.

Promise Scholars are held to this same restriction.

Q: What if a student fails or drops a class?

A: To keep eligibility, Promise Scholars must maintain a 75% pass rate. Before deciding to drop a class or if they are having difficulty in a class, they should speak to an educational planner.

Q: Can Promise Scholars take classes online or attend multiple campuses?

A: Yes, they can! San Jac has five locations, but we are one college. Promise covers all instructional methods, including face-to-face, online on a schedule, and online anytime.

Q: Does the scholarship cover winter and summer minis or part-of-term courses, like eight-week terms?

A: Yes, we do. We look at the credit hours enrolled per semester, not by part of term. Summer terms are optional, but if students are taking them, they must be enrolled in at least six credit hours.

Q: Why should eligible students make the Promise pledge?

A: Completing the steps to become a Promise Scholar helps students relieve the financial burden on their families and creates a pathway for students where college is attainable for everyone. A debt-free education allows the scholars to focus on their studies without stressing about the bottom line.

To learn even more about the Promise Scholarship, visit sanjac.edu/promise.

Become a Promise Scholar

Step 1: By Feb. 16, 2023, complete the online Promise pledge and apply to San Jac through ApplyTexas.org.

Step 2: By April 20, 2023, submit a FAFSA or TASFA to be eligible for financial aid.

Step 3: By July 13, 2023, enroll and register for full-time classes at San Jac. (Note: You must complete all enrollment steps, including financial aid verification. Fall 2023 registration opens for all students on April 17.)

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
Through Nov. 17	Artist Tiffany Nesbit: New Sculpture Exhibit	8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Mon-Thurs, or Friday by appointment	Free/North Campus Gallery, N1.106 (contact joe.clark@sjcd.edu)
Through Dec. 8	Redux: The San Jac Fine Arts Alumni Show	9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Mon-Thurs, or by appointment	Free/South Campus Gallery, S15.143 (contact bradly.brown@sjcd.edu)
Nov. 9	Colloquium Recital	3 p.m.	Central Campus, Corbin Hall (C5.151)
Nov. 11	Senior Wellness Expo	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free/Central Campus, C1.102 (contact community.engagement@sjcd.edu or 281-476-1893)
	Brass Recital	3 p.m.	Central Campus, Corbin Hall (C5.151)
Nov. 12	Turkey Trot	10 a.m. – noon	Free/Generation Park Campus (register at sanjac.edu/turkey-trot)
Nov. 15	Orpheus Concert	7 p.m.	Central Campus, Corbin Hall (C5.151)
Nov. 16	Woodwind Recital	3 p.m.	Central Campus, Corbin Hall (C5.151)
Nov. 17	Jazz Ensemble Concert	7 p.m.	Central Campus, Corbin Hall (C5.151)
Nov. 18	Vocal Area Recital	3 p.m.	Central Campus, Corbin Hall (C5.151)
Nov. 21	Guitar Ensemble Concert	7 p.m.	Central Campus, Corbin Hall (C5.151)
Nov. 23-27	Thanksgiving Holidays	Closed	All campuses, online
Nov. 29	Choir Concert	7 p.m.	Central Campus, Corbin Hall (C5.151)
Dec. 1	Wind Ensemble Concert	7 p.m.	Central Campus, Corbin Hall (C5.151)
Dec. 1-2	Winter Art Sale	TBA	North Campus Gallery, N1.106 (contact joe.clark@sjcd.edu)

All times and event schedules listed are subject to change. For more information, visit sanjac.edu.





THIS MONTH IN SOCIAL MEDIA



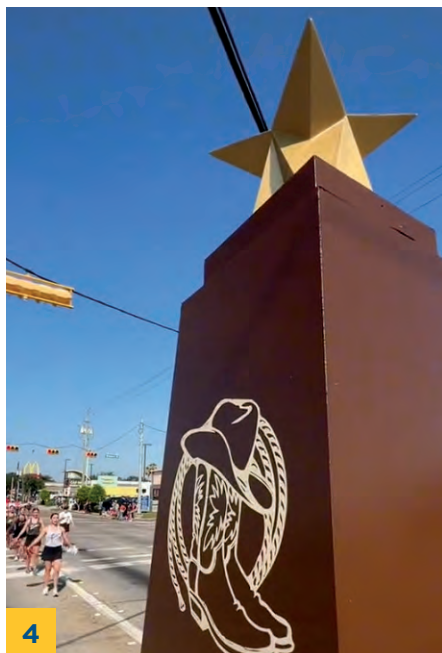
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1 San Jacinto College celebrated its 61st birthday!

2 The South Campus cosmetology program gave us an inside look at its state-of-the-art facilities.

3 Voting officially began for the College's new mascot, so we polled students to find out their top choice!

4 San Jac participated in the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo parade.

5 South Campus student Courtnie Rawlins shared moments from her typical day as a student ambassador.

6 The team from KBXX 97.9 The Box stopped by Central Campus with a live DJ, games, and giveaways.

7 Students joined the festivities as we kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month.

YOUR GOALS. YOUR COLLEGE.



SAN JACINTOSM COLLEGE

NORTH CAMPUS

5800 Uvalde Rd., Houston, TX 77049

CENTRAL CAMPUS

8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505

SOUTH CAMPUS

13735 Beamer Rd., Houston, TX 77089

MARITIME CAMPUS

3700 Old Hwy. 146, La Porte, TX 77571

GENERATION PARK CAMPUS

13455 Lockwood Rd., Houston, TX 77044

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VISION & MISSION



Vision — San Jacinto College will advance the social and economic mobility of all members of our community. We will be known for our excellence in teaching and learning, our intentional student-centered support, and our commitment to every student. We will be the preferred workforce and economic development partner in the region and a champion for lifelong learning. San Jacinto College will inspire students to explore opportunities, define their educational and career paths, and achieve their goals and dreams.

Mission — San Jacinto College is focused on student success, academic progress, university transfer, and employment. We are committed to opportunities that enrich the quality of life in the communities we serve.

SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



A gift to the San Jacinto College Foundation transforms lives, enriches our community, and provides tomorrow's community leaders. For more than 20 years, the Foundation has helped thousands of students reach their goals. Our former students and graduates have filled vital roles in hospitals, classrooms, executive offices, manufacturing plants, and laboratories across our region and beyond. They have also won the World Series and NBA championships, starred in major motion pictures, and created major theatrical productions. Help our students today with the gift of education. Contact the San Jacinto College Foundation at 281-998-6104 or visit sanjac.edu/foundation.

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. San Jacinto College is among the top five community colleges in the nation, as designated by the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence in 2021, and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College is a Hispanic-Serving Institution that spans five campuses, serving approximately 41,000 credit and non-credit students annually. It offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. San Jacinto College's impact on the region totals \$1.3 billion in added income, which supports 13,044 jobs. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's.