

# Angie Kaysen Luzbetak

## Q&A with Dr. Angie Kaysen Luzbetak, Coordinator of Transfer Articulation

# Q A

### Can you describe your role as a JJC coordinator of transfer articulation?

My position is housed in Student Development. I am a member of the Counseling Department staff, but my position is unique. I work with the academic side of the house, with partnering colleges and universities. JJC offers a variety of fantastic academic programs and my position helps maintain articulation agreements. Articulation agreements are academic agreements with specific academic majors at the four-year colleges. One of things I most enjoy about my position is the collaborative spirit generated by such agreements. I work closely with JJC faculty as well as faculty and staff at the colleges in maintaining and creating agreements. This allows me to form close and personal relationships with JJC's college partners. As a member of the Counseling Department I keep counseling and advisors abreast of new agreements, changes in existing agreements, but also inform them of new major opportunities, curriculum requirements and changes at the four-year institutions.

### You are a JJC alumna. What role, if any, did your experiences here play in determining your own career path?

My academic background and career path is interesting. Student Development was not my intended career. I was a pre-law major as an undergrad. Having a passion for serving people and



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advocating for them is in my blood. However, I learned that there are many ways to fulfill this passion. In fact, it was a JJC counselor that inspired me to change my career path. We were not talking about majors or even college--

we were discussing life and the various paths people take to fulfill dreams.

I went on to earn a master's degree in counseling and did some work in a private practice. Eventually, I was called to continue serving community college

students and returned to JJC. In 2010, I earned a doctorate in education for community college leadership. I feel strongly about the mission and vision of community colleges. I believe in helping students achieve their goals-- as diverse as they may be. Not every student needs or wants a degree, but I want to be part of an institution that believes in inspiring and elevating people. That is JJC.

**How does JJC demonstrate a commitment to student success?**

Having worked in other places and in other fields I have a great appreciation and admiration for everyone that inspires students at JJC. Every person employed at the college has a vested interest in the life and career path of our students. Don't discount anyone-- from the director of student activities, the cashier in the cafeteria, the custodian or the president--each and every person is there to help students on their journey. What you have at JJC is the most dedicated faculty and staff, who will take the time to talk with you.

“Dream big, think big and regardless of where your starting point is, don't underestimate where JJC can help you go.”

**How have the recent campus improvements made it easier for students to navigate their collegiate path?**

I cannot express my excitement regarding the new facilities at JJC. The Campus Center is extraordinary. I am thrilled that students will have all of the necessary support services at their fingertips. There is access to every service they might need. The Campus Center also has a must-see library! JJC students deserve fantastic facilities because we have fantastic faculty and staff! We are the complete package!

**What advice would you give to students looking to transfer?**

The advice I would give transfer students is the same advice I would give any student. You might not know your path, or have a major or firm direction as of yet. You need to talk and think about your passion. Dream big, think big and regardless of where your starting point is, don't underestimate where JJC can help you go. Spend some time just talking to people you respect. Transferring isn't the finish line-- it is the beginning. I encourage students, their families and/ or care givers to start talking about college early. Take the time to dream!



# Prepare for a seamless transfer

Students planning to transfer to a four-year college or university can plan on a smooth transition when they start at JJC. Plus, students can save up to \$40,000 over a four-year private school when they complete the first two years of college at JJC.

***These are just some of the colleges and universities that JJC students transfer to:***

- Aurora University
- Bradley University
- Columbia College
- Eastern Illinois University
- Ferris State University
- Franklin University
- Governors State University
- Illinois Institute of Art – Schaumburg
- Illinois State University
- Kaplan University
- Lewis University
- McKendree University
- North Central
- Northern Illinois University
- Purdue University – Calumet
- Saint Xavier University
- Southern Illinois University – Carbondale
- University of Illinois - Chicago
- University of St. Francis
- Western Illinois University