

Chapter 1

The College

PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION

PHILOSOPHY

Joliet Junior College believes that education provides for a better quality of life.

- * The college will offer its students learning opportunities to improve their quality of life and that of the District 525 community.
- * Each student is unique with the potential to acquire knowledge and skills. The college will provide students with a variety of learning opportunities, including academic and student support services needed to achieve success.
- * The college will continuously assess and evaluate its educational programs and services for continuous improvement.
- * Highly defined technical skills are necessary to prepare students for the jobs of today and tomorrow. The college will be a leader in technology-based learning, actively supportive of the development of information technology skills throughout its teaching and service endeavors.
- * The college will strive to establish partnerships with its community to provide high quality training and workforce development in the context of the world economy.
- * The college will foster cultural and social development as a part of its educational experience.
- * The college will be accountable to the citizens of Illinois Community College District 525 in the provision of educational programs and services. The college will seek to identify and respond to the needs of this district. Available resources will be utilized in an effective and responsible manner.

Accordingly, Joliet Junior College will provide effective learning opportunities:

- * to pursue an associate or baccalaureate degree,
- * to develop and improve knowledge and skills for the workplace,
- * to develop and expand learning and skills development opportunities for personal growth and lifelong learning, and
- * to broaden life experience through the use of college cultural, physical and other resources to meet the varied needs of students as individuals or as members of recognized organizations.

MISSION

Joliet Junior College is committed to providing a quality education that is affordable and accessible to the diverse student population it serves. Through a rich variety of educational programs and support services, JJC prepares its students for success in higher education and employment. As part of this college's commitment to lifelong learning and services to its community, it also provides a broad spectrum of transitional, extension, adult, continuing, and workforce education.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE CORE VALUES "RICH IN QUALITY"

The Joliet Junior College community fosters a caring and friendly environment that embraces diversity and encourages personal growth by promoting the following core values.

Respect

The Joliet Junior College community advocates respect for every individual by the demonstration of courtesy and civility in every endeavor. Joliet Junior College celebrates the diversity of our communities and pledges to promote and recognize the strengths as reflected in the employees and students. The belief that no one is more important than another is a routine work practice.

Integrity

Integrity is an integral component of the common bond among Joliet Junior College community members. Joliet Junior College believes that all staff should demonstrate a professional persona that is responsible, accountable, and ethical. These attributes will manifest themselves in each professional behavior and job duty. From these behaviors, the college community models open, honest, and appropriate communication.

Collaboration

Joliet Junior College is dedicated to the formation and enrichment of collaborative relationships as part of the scholarly process. Joliet Junior College encourages the formation of collaborative partnerships within and with other learning communities. As a community of learners, Joliet Junior College supports the personal and professional growth of all who are jointly committed to the advancement of scholarly endeavors. In turn, the academic process at the college can only strengthen.

Humor & Well-Being

The staff at Joliet Junior College recognizes humor as a means for collegial well-being and self rejuvenation. Joliet Junior College endorses a healthy environment where creativity, humor, and enjoyment of work are encouraged. The Joliet Junior College community creates a positively balanced organizational culture by taking work seriously and celebrating successes.

Innovation

Encouraging the pursuit of excellence and innovation drives Joliet Junior College through the 21st century. Joliet Junior College values, respects, and rewards both creative risk-taking and the enthusiastic pursuit of new ideas with foresight. In turn, the Joliet Junior College community must constantly strive to better understand and anticipate the future that it may participate creatively in its design.

Quality

Joliet Junior College is dedicated to the quality of its educational programs and services. The college continually appraises and subsequently improves its program and services. Joliet Junior College distinguishes and promotes educational excellence among the college practitioners. The college also is committed to providing quality programs that are both accessible and affordable to Illinois Community College District 525.

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

INTRODUCTION

Joliet Junior College (JJC) is a comprehensive community college that offers quality education and services for the diverse community it serves. Among the benefits of this historical and innovative community college are pre-baccalaureate programs for students planning to transfer to a four-year university, occupational education leading directly to employment, adult education and literacy programs, workforce and workplace development services, and support services to help students succeed. Currently, JJC serves over 13,000 students in credit classes and 17,000 students in noncredit courses.

HISTORY

As America's oldest public community college, JJC began in 1901 as an experimental postgraduate high school program. Rich in history, the college was the "brain child" of J. Stanley Brown, superintendent of Joliet Township High School, and William Rainey Harper, president of the University of Chicago. Brown and Harper's innovation created what they defined as a junior college that academically paralleled the first two years of a four-year college or university. It was designed to accommodate students who desired to remain within the community and still pursue a college education. Initially, six students enrolled and were the pioneers of this new educational concept. By December 1902, the Board of Trustees officially sanctioned the program and made postgraduate high school courses available tuition-free. Soon students from outside the high school district began attending.

Within a few years, the idea of junior/community college education grew throughout the United States and at JJC. In 1916, the Board of Trustees officially named the post-high school program Joliet Junior College, and the following year, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accredited the college. With 82 students enrolled at that time, the State Examining Board also approved selected courses for teacher certification.

In the years that followed, JJC responded positively and creatively to the pressures of external events, including war, the depression era and rapid social change, and it continued to increase its enrollment and offerings to the community. The college also met the challenge of a growing technological society in the 1920s and 1930s and again expanded the curriculum, this time to include programs in business and industrial training.

The return of war veterans in the 1940s and 1950s prompted further curriculum development in the area of two-year occupational programs. Both the transfer and occupational divisions at JJC grew at a steady pace and reflected the growth of community colleges throughout the state and nation. In 1965, the Illinois Legislature enacted the Illinois Junior College Act, which created specific districts served by various community colleges. In particular, JJC was enlisted to serve individuals in parts of seven counties in northern Illinois.

By 1967, college enrollment approached 4,000 students, and in February of that year, the citizens of 12 high school districts in portions of Will, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, and Kankakee Counties voted to establish Illinois Community College District 525—an area to be served by JJC. At this time, the college rented facilities at Joliet Township High School, but due to the ongoing growth and needs of the district, the JJC Board of Trustees knew that they had to find a new location.

In February 1968, the JJC Board of Trustees selected 368 acres on the west side of Joliet off of Houbolt Road for a new campus, which is now known as the college's Main Campus. The following April, the Board

voted to build interim facilities consisting of 17 temporary buildings on the new site. The college began offering classes at its new location in September 1969, initially serving 4,130 students. In 1970, the construction of a \$50 million permanent facility on Main Campus began and was fully operational by the fall of 1974. During this period, the district also expanded to include parts of Livingston and Cook Counties, encompassing a 1,442-square-mile district which it continues to serve today.

INSTRUCTIONAL SITES

To better serve people throughout the district and to help accommodate the rapid population growth in the district, JJC offers classes at three campuses, an educational center and more than 20 off-campus sites that include high schools, as well as civic centers, churches, libraries, and businesses.

Besides the Main Campus, the college also offers programs at its City Center Campus and the Louis Joliet Renaissance Center at 214 N. Ottawa Street in Joliet. Opening in 1980, the educational facility, conference and event center hosts a variety of credit and non-credit classes. It houses the Division of Adult and Family Services (DAFS), which provides educational opportunities for literacy and English as a second language programs, life training skills and opportunities, career preparation and GED preparation. The City Center Campus also serves as headquarters for workforce development, employee training, business development, and technology deployment. The historical Renaissance Center located on the premises provides "hands-on" experience for culinary arts and hotel, restaurant and food service management students who help with restaurant and banquet operations.

The college's 35,000-square-foot North Campus at 1125 W. Romeo Road in Romeoville opened in January 1993. Marking the beginning of a new chapter in the history of America's oldest public community college, the campus offers a full range of credit and non-credit classes with 18 general classrooms; biology, chemistry, photo and CISCO computer labs; a 911 Training Room; library/learning resource center; and offices for student services, faculty and administrative support.

The Main Campus expanded in 1996 with the opening of the Arthur G. and Vera C. Smith Business and Technology Center. The 90,000-square-foot facility houses several state-of-the-art microcomputer labs; the Business and Computer Information and Office Systems departments; and the Electronics Engineering Technology, Electrical/Electronic Automated Systems Technology, Construction Technology, and Computer-Aided Drafting programs. The facility also is home to many of JJC's workforce services that assist business and industry in adapting modern technologies directly into the workplace.

With significant growth in the student population from Grundy County, JJC opened the Grundy County Center at 1715 N. Division St. in Morris, which recently expanded offering more space and classrooms to the increasing population served at the facility.

The Main Campus has continued to grow, including the opening of the Veterinary Technology and Industrial Training Building in 2000 and Centennial Commons campus student housing, which is managed by an outside management group.

In 2007, the John H. Weitendorf Sr. Agricultural Education Center will open to serve the needs of JJC agriculture and veterinary tech students. The property located on Laraway Rd. in Joliet was donated by JJC alumnus John H. Weitendorf and promotes the college's philosophy that education provides for a better quality of life.

GOVERNANCE

Illinois Community College District 525 is one of 39 community college districts governed by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) under the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The ICCB was created by the General Assembly under the provisions of the Illinois Public Junior College Act of 1965. Its primary responsibilities are to coordinate the educational programs offered through the community college system, to allocate state funding for capital expansion, and to act on curriculum changes proposed by individual community colleges.

JJC is directly governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees, all of whom are elected from within the district for six-year terms. A student representative, elected annually by the student body, is a non-voting member of the Board. The officers of the Board are chair, vice chair and secretary, all of whom are elected by their peers, typically for a one-year term.

ACCREDITATION

Joliet Junior College is accredited by the following:

- The Higher Learning Commission (of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools); The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is an independent corporation and one of the two Commission members of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), which was founded in 1895 as one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. The Higher Learning Commission accredits, and thereby grants membership in the Commission and in the North Central Association, to degree-granting educational institutions in the North Central regions; JJC is an Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) institution
- Illinois Community College Board
- Illinois Board of Higher Education
- Illinois State Board of Education
- American Culinary Federation
- Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs
- National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation
- National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission
- State Approving Agency for Veterans Education
- National Association of Schools of Music
- American Veterinary Medical Assn. (AVMA) (approved as a program for educating veterinary technicians)

The college also is an approved Nursing Home Administrator Continuing Education Sponsor and Real Estate Appraiser Education Provider. It holds membership in the American Council on Education, the American Association of Community Colleges, North Central Community College (Athletic) Conference, and the National Junior College Athletic Association.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION

Joliet Junior College is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, unfavorable military discharge, or any other unlawful basis in its admission, employment, and educational programs and activities. Inquiries should be addressed to the Director of Human Resources, Joliet Junior College, 1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet, IL 60431-8938.

Joliet Junior College follows the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of an individual's disability.

Individuals with disabilities or health concerns are offered the opportunity to participate fully in all educational programs and activities. Those requiring special services should contact Student Accommodations and Resources (StAR) before the start of classes to determine eligibility for appropriate academic support services. Availability of some services may be limited for students who do not do early preparation.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Illinois Human Rights Act defines sexual harassment in higher education as any unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors made by an executive, administrative staff or faculty member to a student, or any conduct of a sexual nature exhibited by such person(s) toward a student, when such conduct substantially interferes with the student's educational performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. Whether the conduct is explicit or suggested, it is prohibited if submission to or rejection of such conduct is a basis for determining admission, required or expected educational performance, attendance requirements, coursework, placement, quality of instruction, tuition or fees, scholarship opportunities, extracurricular participation, grades, successful completion of coursework, or degree received.

Joliet Junior College seeks to foster a community environment in which all members respect and trust each other. In a community in which persons respect and trust each other, there is no place for sexual harassment.

JJC has a strong policy prohibiting the sexual harassment of one member of the college community by another.

Sexual harassment includes any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) the student's scholastic program, extracurricular activities or participation in other JJC programs are, or will be, affected by the student's decision to accept or reject the sexual conduct; or (2) the sexual conduct creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment.

Students of JJC need not submit to sexual harassment. If you are a victim, do the following:

- * Try to stop the behavior by telling the offender clearly and directly that it is unwelcome and offensive to you and that you want it to stop at once.

- * Get help from others if you find it difficult to confront the offender directly. Staff members in the Counseling Center or Office of Student Activities can help you to analyze the situation and determine the best way to say no.

- * Write down what happened, including time, place and the names of possible witnesses.

- * Talk with others who may have been treated in a similar way. Find out if they would be willing to support you in any action you might take to get the behavior stopped.

- * Report the problem to the vice president for student development. You may report the problem at any time after you believe that you are the victim of an act of sexual harassment. Although doing so may be helpful, you need not confront the alleged harasser, seek counseling or other assistance, prepare a written statement, or identify witnesses before reporting the problem to the vice president.

- * If you believe that the vice president for student development committed an act of sexual harassment, you should report it to the President's Office, not to the vice president for student development. Although JJC encourages students to take formal action against sexual harassers, talking to college staff, including the vice president for student development, about harassment does not obligate you to file written charges of sexual harassment or initiate a college investigation of the charge.

Board policy forbids any retaliation against you for reporting sexual harassment.