

POLICY AREA TWO: HIGHER EDUCATION WILL JOIN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO IMPROVE TEACHING AND LEARNING AT ALL LEVELS

Part 1. Joliet Junior College Accomplishments, Plans, & Challenges

Part 1.1. Achievements During the Past Year

- This Fall, JJC began a program of waving college tuition for students enrolled in dual credit programs. In Fall 2006, JJC waived \$277,000 in tuition for 1,503 high school students to enroll in dual credit courses, \$122,000 of which was recouped through a state grant. In Spring 2007, 1,804 students were served through Dual Credit, generating 5,093 credit hours. JJC will offer the tuition waiver for students who enroll in general education dual credit courses.
- This past year, the JJC Tech Prep and Three Rivers Education for Employment System (TREES) programs implemented a Math-in-CTE program. The goals of the program are to develop and sustain a community of practice and maximize the use of math in CTE curricula. The model is based upon the premise that math is not peripheral or an add-on to CTE curriculum, but rather that it is an integrated and embedded part of CTE education.
- In November, 25 Illinois elementary and secondary educators came together for seminars, workshops, and professional development as part of the Annual Tri-County Agriculture Institute. The five-day institute gave area teachers a chance to learn about new teaching materials, discuss agricultural issues, and develop innovative methods for their classrooms.
- Joliet Junior College held its annual After High School Transition Conference in April. The purpose of the conference is to ease the shift from student to adult, particularly as it relates to a career or vocation. The conference was sponsored by the Will-Grundy Transition Planning Committee (TPC), comprised of local high schools, JJC, businesses, and service agencies.
- In January, Vista Learning, a district non-profit organization formed to advance education, donated refurbished and second-hand computers to K-12 students in Will, Grundy, and Kendall Counties. In addition to the computers, Joliet Junior College offered free computer skill classes to the students and parents.
- The Reed-Custer School District implemented a summer Technology Academy for incoming High School freshmen students to enhance reading, math, and technical skills to be better prepared for high school. The program was initiated with support and resources from JJC's Tech Prep program.

- The JJC Culinary Arts program is involved in the following activities with district K-12 schools:

The Chef for a Day program allows high school students the opportunity to suit up as a professional chef and participate in a culinary arts lab class. Over 250 high school students participated this past year.

With the National Restaurant Association, JJC hosted the Annual Ground Hog Job Shadow Day. High school students had the opportunity to shadow a culinary instructor for a day and experience a day in the life of a real chef.

The Culinary Arts program served as judges for the ProStart Culinary Competition for the Illinois Restaurant Association's Educational Foundation. Through the program, students from all over Illinois compete in both a knowledge bowl competition and culinary cooking competition for the title of best culinary high school team in Illinois.

Each week, the department hosts field trips for K-12 students to receive demonstrations and lectures about culinary arts. Similarly, department faculty regularly visit career fairs at elementary and secondary schools and participate with the Joliet School District in their Career Job Shadow program.

Many department faculty serve as mentors for district high schools. The department chair serves as a mentor for seven high schools and was awarded National Mentor of the Year by the National Restaurant Association.

- In August, JJC offered the Young Professionals Network program to assist youths aged 14-21 earn a high school diploma or GED, upgrade academic skills, complete leadership training, or prepare for employment. The program also includes paid internships and summer employment opportunities.
- Started in 2002, JJC continued its Work Training Partnership with Plainfield High School. The goal of the program is to provide students with disabilities the opportunity to receive work experience for high school credit under the supervision and mentoring of JJC staff who offer encouragement, support, and expertise. Disabilities include social, emotional, learning, developmental, and physical. The program currently provides services to over 25 students per semester at 23 work-stations.
- In February JJC hosted Shadow Day, an event where 17 Fairmont Junior High seventh and eighth-grade students could shadow JJC female professionals throughout the workday. The goal of the mentoring program was to provide positive role-models for area students, help them learn the skills needed to be successful in the workplace, and explore a variety of career opportunities.
- In January, the East Joliet Fire Protection District donated a \$99,100 Fire Engine Truck to the Wilco Area Career Center's new Fire Science Program. Students from Plainfield High School

attended the program, using up to two hours a day to attend Wilco and gaining dual credit, including up to 13 hours towards an Associate's Degree in Fire Science Technology at JJC.

- JJC held several financial aid and “how-to” workshops during the year, offered by the Financial Aid Office, Alumni Office, and/or the Multicultural Transfer Center. The goal of the workshops was to help students and parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and provide direction about other financial aid opportunities. Workshops were held on February 22, 2006, February 28, 2007 and March 7, 2007.
- The JJC Financial Aid Office also administers the America Reads/America Counts programs. The programs, extensions of work-study, offer students an opportunity to tutor children in the elementary schools. Students must have a 2.5 GPA to tutor math. This year, JJC students worked at elementary schools in Joliet and several district libraries. Progress is measured through evaluations delivered to parents.
- This Summer, JJC offered a Making Career Education Relevant workshop. The goal of the 2-5 day workshop was to have high school counselors learn about employment opportunities within Will County to better assist their students make informed career decisions. Students work with mentors at physical locations for half a day and then write or design a career lesson in the afternoon. The program will highlight three identified critical skills shortages, including health care, transportation and logistics, and manufacturing.
- JJC hosts an annual High School Counselors breakfast, where counselors from district high schools are invited to the campus to receive updates about changes in current programs and new programs.
- The Career Services staff are a resource to the K-12 schools in the district by providing presentations at career days and career programs to help students learn about career exploration and job search skills. In 2007, the following activities were conducted with local schools:

Career Participation: Argonne National Lab Career Day, Summit Hill Junior High Career Day, Martino Junior High School Career Day, and Grundy Youth Job Fair.

Joliet Township High School Reality Store, Volunteer Coordinator. This program is designed to introduce students to career and education options while focusing on how those decisions relate to future lifestyle choices.

Joliet Township High School Career Program. Office staff spoke to approximately 90 sophomores on resume development, focusing on how they need to be preparing academically to have the experiences necessary for future employment.

The Juvenile Diversion Program for at-risk middle and high school students is coordinated by the Boy Scouts and the State's Attorney office to keep students in school and out of the court system.

- The JJC Division of Adult and Family Services (DAFS) participated in the following partnerships with K-12 institutions:

Joliet Junior College Division of Adult and Family Services is one of the Illinois Community College Board Adult Education programs that provides the ICCB GED Online program for adult students 16 and over who need to complete requirements for the GED through the online program. JJC DAFS Online program is featured in the state GED-I (Online) program guide.

JJC DAFS partners with Joliet Township High School and other area high schools in providing GED and high school completion programs.

JJC DAFS has partnered with Joliet District 86 in providing the Digital Divide Program for English As A Second Language adult student enrolled in the DAFS ESL program. The program serve twenty students a semester, 60 a year in the integrated English and computer skills program.

The Joliet Community Evenstart Program is a partnership program with Joliet District 86, Education Service Network, Joliet Public Library and JJC DAFS.

- JJC started a new Integrated Systems Technology (IST) program last year. IST integrates several technology and manufacturing programs into one area so students will be able to maintain, calibrate, and repair high-tech equipment in a variety of today's industrial environments. The program works with the Wilco Career Training Center to offer JJC and high school students opportunities to gain hands-on experience and receive college credit. JJC collaborated with the Three Rivers Manufacturing Association (TRMA) to develop the program and will partner with several area businesses. The dual-credit program consists of two semesters with half-day sessions.
- The Technical Department hosted a Regional Drafting Competition. The goal was to engage high school students in a challenging and competitive design environment and prepare them for a state competition in Springfield. The competition is sponsored by the Illinois Drafting Educator's Association (IDEA).
- JJC held its 7th annual web design competition. The competition provides an opportunity for high school students in the JJC district to compete in the design and creation of web sites. High school students get to place their educational portfolio on-line and share it with prospective employers and colleges. Area internet-based web design businesses participate in the judging of the contest, allowing them the ability to support the competition financially and to communicate to JJC and area high schools occupational requirements and demand.
- Project Achieve, a TRIO program, has had a partnership with Joliet West and Central High Schools for the past ten years. This partnership includes the sponsorship of the choirs for each high school and their performance at JJC during the Celebration of Black History Month. Each year, Project Achieve and Students Happy About Reaching their Potential (SHARP) donate copes

of books to Joliet West and Joliet Central. This year Project Achieve plans to donate books to the Warren Sharpe Community Center and GED Programs in the Division of Adult and Family Services at Joliet Junior College.

- The JJC Technical Department hosted its annual Robotic Engineering Challenge for area high school students in January. The purpose of the challenge is to provide high school students with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and creative problem solving techniques and apply them to the rapidly growing field of robotics. Another goal is to interest students in engineering technologies, science, and math.
- JJC held its annual High School Art Exhibition in January. High school art teachers from the district chose works from their students to submit to the exhibition. The goal of the exhibition is to give district high school students a chance to network with other students interested in art and explore college and career opportunities in the field.
- The JJC Tech Prep program sponsored the purchase of Key Train and WIN software programs for high schools. The software programs are self-paced computer based tutorial programs designed to assist students improve math and English skills in preparation for the PSAE exam.
- Through the School-to-Apprenticeship (STA) Program, 20 students were selected from high schools interested in building trades. Between their junior and senior year, students are placed in the trades for a 4 to 8 week work experience and earn first year apprentice wages.
- The Tech Prep program sponsored a non-traditional Summer career camp at WILCO for 30 students. The program introduced participants to non-traditional careers involving technology and was specifically designed for young women interested in broadening their career opportunities in technology, engineering, and management.
- The JJC Tech Prep program also started a professional development workshop series for Tech Prep coordinators and representatives. The goal of the professional development workshops was to provide opportunities to learn about the CTE program approval process, computer applications and programs, certification, integration of PSAE into math and reading curriculum, and economic growth and development in the JJC district.
- The Joliet Alliance for Youth (JAY) organization recognized Joliet Junior College's Career Seekers Program with its *Agency Award* for 2006. This award honors the positive opportunities the JJC program has provided the youth of Joliet. Career Seekers offers assistance in achieving academic and employment success through skill-building activities, effective connections with employers, and ongoing mentoring and support. The program is conducted with funding by the Workforce Investment Board of Will County, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and the United States Department of Labor.
- Last year, over 111,000 students in Will, Grundy, and Kendall Counties participated in career development activities sponsored by the Education-to-Careers (ETC) Partnership for the JJC Region. ETC sponsored a variety of activities, including career days, interest inventories, field

trips, and job shadowing for students of all ages from Kindergarten through Senior year. Several of the highlights included:

About 100,000 students used a software program called Career Cruising.

More than 10,000 attended career days.

Three Rivers Construction Alliance career fair.

21st Century Kids Club, a grant-funded after-school program for low-income students in six Joliet schools. 42% of students who participate in the program improved their reading scores and another 42% maintained them. 35% of participants boosted their Math scores.

Part 1.2. Specific Actions JJC Plans to Undertake to Advance This Policy Area

- The Community and Economic Development (CED) division is working on the creation of a Wilco Public Safety Institute. The Institute would include a \$9 million training facility, including classrooms, lab space, training props, a five-story burn tower, drafting pit with boat ramp for water rescue, and a hazardous material railcar prop. The facility would be used by high school students, as well as students working towards Associate degrees at JJC and Bachelor's and Master's at Lewis University, and local fire, law enforcement, and public works departments.
- The Math-in-CTE Professional Development series will take 10 pairs of teachers (each pair consisting of a math instructor and a CTE instructor). The pairs will meet for 10 days to learn how to better infuse math into the CTE program.

Part 1.3. Foreseeable Challenges

- Ability to link national and state standards for K-12 curriculum with standards set forth by JJC faculty and departments. For instance, most state standards for English evaluate students on their ability to write narrative, while most of the writing students do in college stresses the development of an argument, conducting research, and then using evidence to support a position.¹
- Finding the resources to develop continuing and engaging partnerships with K-12 colleges and helping policymakers understand the relationship.

Part 2. Common Institutional Indicators

None are required for this section of the report.

¹ From L. Olson, 2007, What does 'ready' mean? *Education Week*, 26, p. 8.

Part 3. Mission-Specific Indicators

Part 3.1. Mission-specific indicators

Area	Description
AQIP	Helping students learn
AQIP	Understanding students' and other stakeholders' needs
AQIP	Building collaborative relationships

Part 3.2. Performance Goals for Mission-specific Indicators

Performance Goal 1. Each occupational academic department will have at least one collaborative activity or program with an elementary or secondary school on an annual basis.

Performance Goal 2. 20% of district high school graduates will enroll at JJC following graduation.

Part 3.3 Data for the Three Most Recent Years

Figure 2.2 Academic Department Collaborative Activities with Elementary and Secondary Schools

Department	Activity
Agriculture & Horticulture	For the third year in a row, Illinois elementary and secondary educators came together for seminars, workshops, and professional development as Tri-County Agriculture Institute.
Business	The JJC Accounting Contest provides area high school students interested in accounting as a career the opportunity to engage in dialog with JJC faculty and network with other students. On-line: http://www.jjc.edu/Dept/BusEd/AcctContest.htm
Computer Information & Office Systems	Annual JJC Web Design Competition, providing an opportunity for district high school students to compete in the creation and design of websites. On-line: http://www3.jjc.edu/wdc07/
Culinary Arts/Hospitality	The Chef for a Day program allows high school students the opportunity to suit up as a professional chef and participate in a culinary arts lab class. Over 250 high school students participated this past year.
Fine Arts	The JJC Fine Arts Department sponsors the annual district High School Art Exhibition.
Technical	JJC Robotics Challenge, where high school students are invited on-campus to work in teams to construct robots using the LEGO ROBOLAB™ kit provided for each student. The goal is to stimulate interest in high school students in engineering and technology. Teams are sponsored by area businesses. On-line: http://www.jjc.edu/dept/Tech/EET/Robotic_Challenge.html

JJC annually conducts a yield analysis of enrollment from district high schools. The yield is the percentage of high school graduates who enroll at JJC. As figure 2.2 shows, about 19% of all graduating seniors in the district enrolled at JJC. Research, however, shows that in 2006, 65.8% of graduating high school seniors enrolled in college the following Fall after graduation. This means that JJC is the college of choice for about 25% of District high school graduates.²

Figure 2.2 Yield of High School Graduates who Enroll at JJC by County, Fall 2004-06

COUNTY	2004		2005		2006	
	# of HS Grads	% Enrolled at JJC	# of HS Grads	% Enrolled at JJC	# of HS Grads	% Enrolled at JJC
Cook	295	5%	349	2%	306	6%
Kendall	42	12%	54	10%	57	23%
LaSalle	127	12%	102	17%	108	15%
Will	5,926	19%	6,692	17%	6,730	19%
Livingston	65	19%	72	18%	83	15%
Grundy	735	31%	786	27%	786	24%
ALL	7,190	19%	8,055	17%	8,070	19%

Brief Interpretation of Performance and Related Implications

Research indicates the two largest predictors of academic success in college are *motivation* and *academic preparation*.³ Nationally, 44% of students who start at community colleges never reached Algebra 2 in high school, compared to 11% of students who start at four-year colleges. Completion of higher-level math courses in high school and college is highly correlated with success in college. More sustained and systematic involvement with elementary and secondary schools, then, can have a major impact on the academic preparation and motivation of students who begin their academic careers at community colleges, in the process increasing retention, completion, and transfer rates. Effective partnerships with elementary and secondary schools increase access, help students make more reasonable and informed college major and occupational decisions, and communicate higher expectations. Students would benefit from having clear expectations and better academic preparation, while colleges would benefit by investing more resources in college appropriate courses instead of reviewing material that students should already have mastered.

² The 65.8% figure is from the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education, on-line: www.postsecondary.org.

³ C. Adelman, 2006, *Moving Into Town and Moving On: The Community College in the Lives of Traditional-Age Students*, U.S. Department of Education.