Colleges Collaborate On Nursing Degree Program

Jefferson College, Central Methodist University partnership expands educational access

Building on the strengths of Jefferson College’s bi-level nursing program and a continued emphasis on providing training for employment in high-demand healthcare fields, the first round of classes involving a new nursing partnership between Jefferson College and Central Methodist University is underway.

The agreement allows area Registered Nurses to obtain their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from CMU. Classes began Sept. 24 on the Jefferson College campus in Arnold; a second round of classes is gearing up to start on Jefferson’s Hillsboro campus in January.

“Since the early 1970s, Jefferson College’s nursing program has enabled thousands of area residents to pursue highly successful careers at many of the top healthcare facilities in Jefferson County and the surrounding St. Louis region,” said Jefferson College President Dr. Raymond Cummiskey.

“The ability to offer the BSN degree through this cooperative agreement, which takes advantage of the excellent curriculum and faculty available through CMU, greatly magnifies the potential for the program’s success,” Cummiskey said. “It is entirely appropriate that two high quality institutions should combine efforts to expand education access in the dynamic field of nursing.”

“At Central Methodist University, we are thrilled with this exciting partnership with Jefferson College,” CMU President Roger Drake said. “Providing students with the opportunity to gain academic credentials, improve their lives, and strengthen their ability to serve others is consistent with our mission.”

The new program is offered in the “cohort” format, designed so a group of students can begin and complete the program together. Registered nurses can complete all coursework in 18 to 24 months, according to Heather Weber, CMU assistant dean. No more than 25 students are allowed in each cohort to ensure quality and personal attention.

Unlike many other programs that are available online, the Jefferson-Central program features coursework on either the Hillsboro or Arnold campuses of Jefferson College. Courses typically meet one night each week from 6-10 p.m., for five to seven weeks.

Depending on demand, the partner institutions aim to begin new cohorts twice per year at both the Hillsboro and Arnold locations.

“Through this partnership, we will enhance the educational levels of practicing nurses in the region,” Weber noted. “The additional skills and knowledge graduates will obtain will benefit them, their employers, and most importantly the patients in their care.”

The goal is threefold: convenience, flexibility, and affordability. Weber noted that CMU’s tuition rate for the program, currently $325 per credit hour, is among the lowest in the region for bachelor’s degrees in nursing.

For more information about the program, contact CMU’s Laura Moehlman at lmoehlma@centralmethodist.edu or by calling her at (636) 481-3598.
All 21 of Jefferson College’s recent Veterinary Technology grads who took the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) passed. The VTNE is used to evaluate entry-level veterinary technicians’ competency to practice and to be credentialed. Completion of the exam is the first step toward obtaining a license to practice veterinary technology.

The college’s Veterinary Technology program combines the study of college-level general education courses and extensive course work in science and animal health theory and practice designed to prepare graduates for careers as registered veterinary technicians. Admission into the program is competitive.

Full-time Veterinary Technology Program personnel include Dana Nevois, Dr. Robin Duntze, and Charlie Roberts, in addition to adjunct instructor James Fallert.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society recently inducted several new members into the Xi Zeta chapter. The international society is based on the hallmarks of scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship.

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in higher education, offering exclusive programs and benefits for members that contribute to a dynamic, multi-dimensional college experience. Scholarly and leadership development focus on career preparation and networking, community service, and developing tomorrow’s global leaders.

Xi Zeta chapter advisors are Assistant Professor of Chemistry Wesley Whitfield and Instructional Support Specialist Karen Hester.

In order to provide wholesome and safe activities for area kids, Jefferson College will host its annual Shocktober Halloween Party on Friday, October 25, from 6-9 p.m. inside the Student Center Cafeteria on the Hillsboro campus.

The event is sponsored by the college’s student clubs and organizations, providing a safe environment that kids of all ages can enjoy. The family-friendly event is open to everyone. It has become an autumn tradition in Jefferson County, attracting hundreds of children and parents each year.

Shocktober will feature a variety of games and activities, a hayride, a DJ dance party, and candy. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. As in previous years, game/activity tickets will be sold for a nominal fee. Parking and admission are free.

The event is one of many activities the college hosts each year in connection with its mission of community outreach, providing numerous age-appropriate experiences.

For more information about Shocktober, contact Jefferson College Student Development Coordinator Sara Denny at (636) 481-3231.
Congratulations to the more than 100 recent graduates of the Jefferson College LPN and RN Nursing program. In Jefferson's bi-level program, those who complete one year of training receive a career education certificate and may become a licensed practical nurse after successfully completing the state board examination. Students who complete the second year of the program earn an Associate of Applied Science degree and are eligible to take the state licensing exam for registered nurses.

Thousands of area residents have completed the Jefferson College Nursing program, as graduates have secured successful careers in nearly all area hospitals and care facilities in the region.

As part of the new Performing Arts and Cultural Enrichment (PACE) series, the Jefferson College Concert Band will perform a free concert on Tuesday, October 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre on the Hillsboro campus.

Based on the theme, “Americana,” the band will pay tribute to the history, geography, folklore and cultural heritage of the United States. Selections will include “Americans We,” “Appalachian Dances,” “Marches of the Armed Forces,” “Chester,” “Tribute to ‘Ol Blue Eyes,” and “Strategic Air Command.”

The band will be led by Jefferson College Director of Bands Ron Sikes, who is a full-time music instructor in the Jefferson R-VII School District.

Admission to the “Americana” concert is free. The program is suitable for all ages and is one of many activities Jefferson College hosts each year in connection with its mission of community outreach and diverse educational experiences for residents of all ages and backgrounds.
Missouri Community College Awareness (MCCA) Day was celebrated at Jefferson on September 26. MCCA—the state’s largest higher education advocacy organization—joined its 12 member colleges in sponsoring the day to acknowledge community college faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees who train Missourians for 21st century careers.

MCCA provides advocacy, education, information, and networking opportunities in service of the state’s 5,700 community college faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees. This year, Jefferson College President Dr. Raymond Cummiskey is serving as the chair of the MCCA Presidents/Chancellors Council to represent community colleges in meetings with legislators, members of the executive branch, and other key groups.

During the 2013 legislative session, MCCA fought hard for a funding formula that would provide community colleges with a fair share of higher education funding. The association also worked against bills that would have crippled the Public School Retirement System and that would have ended the academic careers of A+ recipients who get derailed by difficult personal circumstances for a semester.

Jefferson College Celebrates MCCA Day – Advocacy, Education, Networking

Following auditions in August, the cast has been selected for the Jefferson College Drama Department’s fall play production of “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” by Tennessee Williams directed by Speech and Drama Professor Dr. Rebecca Ellison. The performance is part of the college’s new Performing Arts and Cultural Enrichment (PACE) series.

Cast members include Michael Booker of Barnhart as Big Daddy, Tim Booker of Barnhart as Sonny, Demarcus Brewster of East St. Louis as Lacey, Keara Brown of De Soto as Dixie, Logan Brown of Hillsboro as Gooper, Taylor Flamm of Imperial as Brick, Dalton Mathis of Cedar Hill as Dr. Baugh, Taylor Rundel of Festus as Maggie, Vanessa Simpson of Hillsboro as Big Mama, Ellie Warren of De Soto as Sookey, Christopher Waugh of Festus as Rev. Tooker, and Whitney Wolcott of Barnhart as Mae.

Performances are scheduled for Thursday, October 10, at 10 a.m. and Friday-Saturday, October 11-12, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, October 13, at 2 p.m., in the Fine Arts Theatre on the Hillsboro campus. The play contains adult language and situations.

Individual event tickets to the Thursday and Sunday matinees are $2 for everyone. On Friday and Saturday, ticket prices are $5 for adults and $2 for students and senior citizens. Advance tickets may be purchased by calling Dr. Rebecca Ellison at (636) 481-3367 or by emailing rellison@jeffco.edu with date of performance, type and amount of ticket(s) to reserve. Reserved tickets need to be picked up at least 15 minutes prior to show time or they will be sold to other patrons.

Tickets will also be sold at the door depending on availability.

A PACE season pass, which includes admission to the entire season of events, is available for $25 per person general admission and $15 for students and senior citizens. Season passes can be purchased via cash, check or credit card at the cashier’s office in the Student Center on the Hillsboro campus. There are no refunds for unused cards/performances. Those who purchase a season pass will save $12-35 compared to single event admission for the entire series.

To view a full-color e-brochure detailing PACE performances and season pass information, visit the Jefferson College website at www.jeffco.edu/pace. Additional information about purchasing PACE season passes is also available by calling (636) 481-3123.
Students who are new to Jefferson College may apply for a free program this October to improve reading, writing and math Compass placement test scores through a unique program called JASSI (Jeffco Aspiring Student Scholar Institute). By improving placement scores, participants can decrease developmental education courses that will save time and money toward their college career path.

JASSI has the potential to positively impact students by strengthening their key academic skills and preparing them for future success in college. The program will utilize a variety of materials to increase each participant’s self-knowledge in order to enhance achievement of their life and college goals.

JASSI will be held Mondays-Thursdays, October 21-December 4, from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Room 203 of the Library on the Hillsboro campus. There is no cost to participate; however, students must have applied to Jefferson College, paid the $25 college application fee, and pre-tested for reading, writing and math. Participants must be able to attend the entire six-week program. The JASSI application deadline is Friday, October 11.

JASSI participants will be allowed to retake the Compass placement test without any additional fees. Participants selected for the six-week JASSI program will also complete the college’s computer proficiency exam and receive assistance with course registration for the spring.

For questions or additional information about JASSI registration, contact Laura Klaus at (636) 481-3524 or email lklau1@jeffco.edu.

Friday Speaker Series Nov. 8 Highlights “Nature and the Great Outdoors”

The Jefferson College Friday Speaker Series will continue on November 8 at 11:30 a.m. in the Viking Room of the Student Center on the Hillsboro campus with John Winkelman, communications coordinator at Mercy Hospital Jefferson and member of the Jefferson College Board of Trustees, who will give a presentation on nature and the great outdoors based on his experience as a Leader newspaper columnist and Outdoor Guide Magazine editor.

The program will be held in the Viking Room of the Student Center on the Hillsboro campus. Admission is $7 per person, which includes a buffet lunch with beverages and dessert. Advance reservations are recommended.

Friday Speaker Series presenters represent a broad spectrum of fields and subjects including regional, national and international agencies and organizations; regional landmarks; education; historical events; professional sports; and film and television.

To make reservations or to be placed on Jefferson College’s Friday Speaker Series mailing list, contact Dorothy Maupin at (636) 481-3101 or email dmaupin1@jeffco.edu.

JASSI Program Helps Students Improve Placement Scores, Save Time and Money

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2013-14 Tax Levy Set

Following a public hearing, the Board established the college’s tax rate for 2013-14 at 34.02 cents per each $100 of assessed property valuation in each of the three counties within the college’s service district.

Dual Credit Partnership Agreement Approved with Herculaneum High School

In light of the growing popularity of dual credit partnerships with area school districts, the Board of Trustees approved a revised agreement between the college and Herculaneum High School for a 24-credit hour program to be offered to qualifying HHS students during their junior and senior years. The unique dual credit partnership will combine face-to-face instruction with online coursework.

Jefferson College maintains several dual credit partnerships with Jefferson County schools including Crystal City, Festus, De Soto, Fox, Grandview, Hillsboro, Jefferson R-7, Northwest, and Windsor.

Final Fall Classes and Teaching Assignments Approved

With final enrollment for most fall classes now determined, the Board approved a final list of credit course offerings and teaching assignments for the semester.

Getting Smarter - Honors Program Furniture Replacement

In an effort to sustain student learning and achievement while advancing the institutional strategic aims of the Honors Program (which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary) the Board approved the purchase of several pieces of new instructional computer furniture for the Honors classroom including 11 computer work stations, 26 student task chairs, one collaboration table, and one instructor chair. The Strategic Planning Committee approved the project as a capital expense for fiscal year 2014.

Academic Calendar Set for 2014-15

After a review by faculty and staff constituent groups, the Board gave final approval to the college’s academic calendar for 2014-15.

Athletics Assistant Coaches Appointed

Coinciding with the start of a new athletic season, the Board appointed two part-time assistant coaches in the Athletics Department through June 30, 2014: Travis Cearly, basketball; and Trisha Thompson, softball.

Upcoming Meetings

The Board of Trustees meets in public session on the second Thursday after the first Monday of each month. Remaining meeting dates/times for 2013 are:
October 17 – 6:30 p.m.,
November 14 – 5:30 p.m., and
December 12 – 5:30 p.m.
A Classic . . . 26th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament Held at Fox Run

The 26th annual Viking Classic Scholarship Golf Tournament hosted by the Foundation recently at Fox Run Golf Club was a momentous success thanks to the 146 players, numerous business sponsors, and team of volunteers that helped raise money for student-athlete scholarships. Sincere appreciation goes to Dobbs Tire and Auto Centers, Home Service Oil Company and Krieg Lohbeck & Company CPAs LLC. as the tournament’s platinum sponsors; Eagle Bank & Trust Company, Sheet Metal Contractors Inc. (SMCI), Vest Benefit Solutions, and Tom and Vicki Burke as the major sponsors. Dave and Lisa Mungenast were the awards dinner sponsors.

Contest hole sponsors were Color Art Integrated Interiors, LLC.; H.W. Herrell Distributing Co. and Govero Land Services, Inc. Specialized Catering/Food Service Consultants, Inc.; Fortune Bank; and H-J Enterprises were the executive hole sponsors. Underwriters were the Stotler Family.

In-kind donors to the event included Bluff City Beer, Commerce Bank, Eagle Bank and Trust Company, H.W. Herrell Distributing Co., Kohlfeld Distributing, Jackie Moran and Rich Filer, Sapaugh GM Country, 7-11, and numerous others. Thank you for supporting YOUR community college!

Hole Sponsors included: All Weather Sewer Service, Inc.; Bank of Bloomsdale; Bank of Hillsboro; Bloomsdale Excavating, Inc.; Comfort Inn; D & S Fencing; DRS Technologies, Inc.; Enterprise Consulting Group; Fireworks City; Fortune Investment Services; Hopson Lumber Company; Jefferson College Business Office; Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office; Dr. and Mrs. Bill Kennen; Kromm, Rikimaru & Johansen, Inc.; Lucas-Smith Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep; Mercy Jefferson Hospital; Ozarks Federal Savings & Loan Association; Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 562; Production Castings, Inc.; Sheet Metal Workers International Local 36; Southern Commercial Bank; The Hansen Firm-Attorneys at Law; Twin City Toyota; Tisha Vandemore, Alumna; and Wegmann Law Firm.

Be sure to view all the pictures from the event by visiting Jefferson College News and Events on Facebook.
In appreciation and recognition for a gift by Commerce Bank and the William T. Kemper Foundation to create an art gallery on the Hillsboro campus, the Jefferson College Foundation recently hosted a public reception to commemorate the opening of the artistic space.

The $25,000 contribution has enabled Jefferson College to provide a venue for displaying the talents of its art students, faculty and community members; create an additional source of art and cultural enrichment within Jefferson County; and transform the location into a pleasing reception area where both the college and Foundation can entertain or recognize special guests.

Jefferson College and the Foundation are extremely grateful for the generosity and vision of Commerce Bank and the William T. Kemper Foundation in supporting arts on campus and in our region.

Leader Publications’ annual recipe contest will culminate in its first-ever holiday dinner on Friday, November 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Jefferson College Student Center on the Hillsboro campus. Proceeds from the event benefit the Jefferson College Culinary Program.

Recipes selected by a panel of judges in the appetizer, soup, salad, side dish and dessert categories will be professionally prepared and served to guests who will vote for their favorites, and a grand prize winner will be selected. The winning recipe will be awarded a $300 grand prize, and runners up will each receive $50.

Tickets cost $20 each and include dinner, beverage and dessert, entertainment, a copy of each winning recipe and a chance to win door prizes, and can be purchased at the Leader Publications office in Festus beginning on October 1, or online from the Jefferson College homepage at [www.jeffco.edu](http://www.jeffco.edu) and clicking on the Leader Holiday Dinner logo.

For more information or to reserve tickets, call (636) 931-7560 or send email to nvrweakly@aol.com. For information about the Leader Publications Recipe Contest, visit [www.myleaderpaper.com](http://www.myleaderpaper.com).
It is the policy of Jefferson College that no person, on the basis of age, ancestry, color, creed, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, or veteran status, be subject to discrimination in employment or in admission to any educational program or activity of the College. If accommodations for a disability are needed, please contact Christine Platter at (636) 481-3169 or 797-3000, ext. 3169; TDD (636)789-5772.