Year in Review: Celebrating Jefferson College’s Best Moments of 2019

With the excitement and anticipation of a new year and a new decade that has begun, you’re invited to look back and reflect on some of the many accomplishments that Jefferson College and its students, faculty, staff, and alumni made in 2019.

The Windjammer invites you to celebrate a representative selection of achievements and reflections from among the many institution-wide accomplishments in academics, service, student life, cultural arts, athletics, and philanthropy. All aboard…

Institutional Excellence Demonstrated in Many Ways

Following the review of an in-depth self-study report and a thorough on-site visit, the Higher Learning Commission reaffirmed the College’s accreditation for another 10-year period. It was the sixth consecutive time in the 56-year history of Jefferson College that the institution received the highest possible length of accreditation, the best possible outcome that can be achieved.

Nearly 800 students were eligible to receive associate degrees or certificates during the 54th commencement ceremonies, where Missouri Commissioner of Higher Education, Zora Mulligan, was the keynote speaker. Aside from the larger commencement events, a variety of technical education programs also held ceremonies to honor students via pinning and/or professional recognition: Area Technical School CNA, EMT, Law Enforcement Academy, Nursing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, and Radiologic Technology. Additionally, the College hosted a graduation ceremony for those who received their Hi-Set diploma.

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Dr. Dena McCaffrey, Dean of Career and Technical Education, was selected by the Board of Trustees to become the institution’s eighth president. She will succeed Dr. Raymond Cummiskey who will retire on June 30, 2020, and become the first female to lead the institution in its nearly 60-year history.

Focusing on ways to facilitate student success and degree completion, the College adopted a new academic structure based on four schools that align academic programs into career pathways of related subject areas. Additionally, Dr. Chris DeGeare was selected as the new Dean of Instruction.

To ensure that the College’s compensation structure is both internally equitable and externally competitive, a campus-wide Classification and Compensation Study was completed under a thorough process that allowed for the review of all faculty and staff positions to reflect accurate job descriptions and establish a fair and competitive system to attract and retain qualified employees.

As part of an educational exchange program in connection with the Jefferson College Global Studies Subcommittee, a group of students, faculty and staff traveled to Germany as part of a two-week experiential trip including Berlin, Frankfurt, Darmstadt, and Heidelberg. As part of the first Introduction to German Literature course taught by Chris Otto, students were able to visit locations important to classroom assignments and participate in on-site discussions regarding German culture and history. The College also hosted its second group of exchange students from Germany in September as part of the unique learning experience.

Jefferson College faculty, staff, and students took part in the second community-wide Day of Service as they dispersed across Jefferson County to provide needed assistance to 13 agencies and organizations. In all, there were 137 volunteers, nearly doubling the number of participants from the first year. The special day was held in connection with the College’s Civic Engagement Plan as a way to strengthen outreach and service-learning opportunities.

Significant renovations were completed at the Child Development Center on the Hillsboro campus, including a new entryway, along with classrooms, reconfigured offices, a new kitchen, and redesigned teacher workstations. The accredited and state licensed center provides a comprehensive, high quality child development program for preschool and school age children, ages 2-12 of students, community, and faculty/staff. The facility also serves as a laboratory setting for Area Technical School and College students enrolled in early childhood education coursework, or other curricula related to the care and education of young children.

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Jefferson College and the St. Louis Astronomical Society (SLAS) began working together to develop an astronomical observatory in phases near the Softball Field on the Hillsboro campus. In addition to being a teaching tool for Jefferson College students, the observatory will engage the community to learn more about the science of astronomy and physics. It will become the first public observatory in Jefferson County. Monthly stargazing and solar viewing events are already being held at the site.

**Community Collaborations Make Region More Connected**

As part of the 2019 commencement celebration, U.S. Air Force First Class Airman Mark Hendrix surprised his brother, Logan Hendrix, by presenting the diploma during the Arts & Science Education ceremony. Mark had been stationed in England for two-and-a-half years and the brothers had not seen each other since Logan began his education at Jefferson College. Mark flew overnight to attend the ceremony and was in uniform when he presented Logan's diploma.

In connection with the Performing Arts and Cultural Enrichment (PACE) series, the College and the Jefferson County Library hosted a series of three appearances by Caroline Fraser, Pulitzer Prize winning author of “Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder,” during a two-day visit to Jefferson County last October.

As part of a four-year process in cooperation with the Jefferson County Circuit Court and the Jefferson College Library, the Missouri Secretary of State’s Local Records Program completed an intensive effort to archive numerous 19th century Jefferson County Circuit Court case files.

To provide job-related resources and highlight the importance of manufacturing careers as an economic development and educational pathway in our region, Jefferson College hosted the fourth annual Manufacturing Day to draw attention to the outstanding opportunities that a career in manufacturing can provide.

Besides hosting several on-campus programs for students and community members, the Employment Services Office collaborated with the city of Arnold, Leader Publications, the Fox School District, and the Arnold Chamber of Commerce, to organize the Jefferson County Job Fair as a way to connect job seekers with numerous employers. Over 500 prospective employees attended the first-ever event.

In connection with state and national legislative advocacy efforts, Jefferson College representatives travelled to Jefferson City and Washington D.C. to speak with legislators about important issues impacting higher education such as workforce development, PELL grants, the A+ scholarship, and affordability/funding.
The Jefferson College Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) program received a $12,000 grant from the Gene Haas Foundation for a scholarship available to all students in the CIM program to cover the cost of certification exams provided by the National Institute of Metalworking Skills.

Jefferson College and COMTREA Health Center co-hosted “Take Back the Night” in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). It was the eighth year for the community awareness event that strives to create safe communities and respectful relationships through awareness. The event recognizes survivors of violence and abuse, along with their advocates, and anyone who wishes to shatter the silence and stop the violence.

The Cultural Events and Outreach Committee organized an array of entertaining and informative programs including the annual Performing Arts and Cultural Enrichment (PACE) event series featuring world-class artists and students/community members in art, theatre, and vocal/instrumental ensembles.

As a leader in providing educational programs and opportunities for people of all ages, Jefferson College hosted the 40th Anniversary Mastodon Fair. It is the largest combined art and science fair in the United States and its purpose is to emphasize the close connection between art and science. Students in Kindergarten through 12th grade from seven counties are invited to participate.

Elementary, middle school, junior high and high school students took part in a variety of educational activities at the College including Math Contest, MSHSAA District Music Festival, STEAM Camp, Children’s Theatre, and Viking Band Camp.

Jefferson College once again had a friendly presence of faculty, staff and students during the Jefferson County Fair and at local Christmas parades across the region. Go Vikings!
Karen Wicks was chosen as the new Executive Director of Development as the Foundation provided 168 students with scholarships, emergency book assistance, and grants/loans in the amount of $140,518 last fiscal year.

Over 300 guests, volunteers and participants supported the annual Jazz and Jeans dinner and auction that netted over $39,000 for scholarships, emergency loans, textbooks, and other projects to benefit students. The 2019 theme was “The Jewel of Jefferson County.”

Dobbs Tire & Auto Centers committed to donating a total gift of $75,000 over five years to the Automotive Technology program. Dobbs also donated a fully functional racecar valued at $10,000 for engine/mechanical systems instruction and for promotional use at area parades and public events.

In support of higher education in the region, the Jefferson Memorial Community Foundation granted $54,000 to provide a series of scholarships to first-year or pre-program students entering the College’s Health Occupation Programs and $10,000 for the Vikings’ Vault student food pantry.

The annual Viking Classic Scholarship Golf Tournament at Fox Run Golf Club had a net profit of $25,500. Proceeds helped support student-athletes and other students at Jefferson College.

In honor of those who made significant contributions to the Foundation in 2019, the annual Monticello Society recognition ceremony celebrated several individuals, businesses and organizations for their generosity in support of the College.

The seventh annual Leader Holiday Dinner was another success, raising over $3,000 while showcasing winners of the newspaper’s annual recipe contest served by students in the Culinary Arts program.
Ron Scaggs and Krystal Hargis were re-elected to six-year terms on the Board of Trustees as the longest serving members currently on the governing board. Retta “Susan” Tuggle was also elected for two years to complete the term of Barbara Stocker who moved out of the district. The Dr. B. Ray Henry Service/Innovation Award was presented to Dr. Amy Kausler, Kenny Wilson, and Sarah Bright. The award is given to recognize superior, innovative participation in the shared governance of the College, primarily through the work on or with an institutional committee or subcommittee.

Winners of the 2019 Outstanding Achievement Award included Vivian Aubuchon (Faculty), Katherine Donahue (Adjunct Faculty), Dan Modglin (Classified Professional Staff), Charlie Roberts (Faculty), and Tasha Welsh (Certified Professional Staff).

Attorney Jennifer Collins Hansen ('96) was selected as the 2019 Alumna of the Year by the Faculty Senate.

Many of the College’s academically talented students were recognized for their scholastic achievement by being inducted into the College’s Phi Theta Kappa and Area Technical School National Technical Honor Society.

The Linda Johnston Excellence in Assessment Award recipients were Bruce Korbesmeyer and Anastasia Luettecke.

Accounting Professor Dr. Mary Baricevic was selected as the Phi Theta Kappa Teacher of the Year.

Area Technical School Professor Sheba Nitsch received the Senior Service Award during the annual Missouri Community College Association conference.
Nick Nihira, Associate Professor of Art, received the “Best of 2-D” award at Artfest in Springfield, Missouri. Artfest is “the largest fine arts festival in Southwest Missouri — featuring over 120 national artists.”

The Law Enforcement Academy graduating classes continued the consecutive streak of achieving a 100 percent pass rate on the POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) license exam.

The premiere of the children’s play “Candy Cane Dreams,” written by Associate Professor of English Chris Otto, was presented as part of the PACE series. Joseph Pastor, percussion faculty, also premiered his new Concerto for Drum Set during the Wind Ensemble concert.

Jefferson College graduates Sydney Bauer and Sue Crossland were named to the 2019 Phi Theta Kappa All-Missouri Community College Academic Second Team, based on their outstanding academic achievements, participation in campus activities, and service to the College and the community. Crossland also received the Missouri Community College Association Student Leadership Award.

Online Writing Lab (OWL) tutor Molly Harris was voted 2019 Over the Edge New Fiction Writer of the Year for her story “The Last Long River Sigh.”

For the seventh consecutive year, the Marketing and Public Relations Department was recognized for professional excellence by winning several “Medallion of Excellence” Awards by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations.

Student Kayla Christian of the Automotive Technology was a recipient of the 2019 Breaking Traditions Award in the Postsecondary/Adult Female category. She was nominated by her instructor, Gerard Uhls, who wrote, “Kayla is easily the most motivated student I have ever taught as a non-traditional student. She is a completely rounded technician with her drive to succeed, shop skills, soft skills, and demeanor.”

Four students from the Jefferson College Music Department were selected to perform with the Missouri All-Collegiate Choir during the 2019 MMEA (Missouri Music Educators Association) Conference: Emily Owings, Emily Fromm, Devon Endsley, and Noah Walls. Owings was also selected to perform with the National Honor Choir during the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) meeting in Kansas City.
Students Haleigh Goodman and Rachel Schamens were selected as Jefferson College’s nominees for the All-USA Academic Team and the Coca-Cola Academic Team Programs. The scholarships look to award students with outstanding academic rigor and grade point averages; participation in honors programs; awards, honors, and recognition for academic achievement; and service to the College and the community.

The American Welding Society St. Louis Section honored three students from the Welding Technology program at Jefferson College and the Area Technical School during the organization’s annual awards presentation. Honors went to Jason Loveless - Most Outstanding High School Welding Student award/ $1,500 Hil Bax Scholarship, Lucas Carter - Most Outstanding College Welding Student award, Zach Thurman - $1,500 Garner Kimball Scholarship, and Mario Coffee - $595 scholarship. The honors are given each year to acknowledge the region’s top welding students with the selection of outstanding students from each program.

Lisa Pritchard, Director of Library Services, who was a contributor to “Government Information Essentials,” a book that won the Margaret T. Lane/Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award.

Katie Glassey, a graduate of the Teacher Education program, was chosen as the recipient of the Ruth Brinkmann Award, given to one community college student every two years in recognition of outstanding achievement. Another Jefferson College Teacher Ed grad, Kira Baker, who now teaches Art at Crystal City Elementary School, is one of the recipients of the Outstanding Beginning Teacher Awards (nominated by her four-year program at UMSL).

As part of a unique learning project that involved high school and college students in the Welding Technology program, the class fabricated 20 custom, adjustable stools for use in the Welding shop after a series of conversations with via You Tube by a master fabricator from Scotland. The experience was featured in a video on the YouTube channel Man Cave Makings.

Robert Deutschman was appointed as the new Director of Athletics, replacing Greg McVey. He previously served as Director of Athletics and Head Baseball Coach at Broward College in Florida.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Brocklon Chatman, the Men’s Soccer program had an incredibly successful regular season, finishing with an overall record of 13-3-1, earning a #12 national ranking in the final regular season poll.
After a 29-game winning streak, the baseball season ended in the Region 16 tournament. The Vikings finished the season with a 47-10 record and won the MCCAC conference with a record of 19-1 as Kevin Moulder was named Coach of the Year. Additionally, 21 members of the team moved on to four-year institutions or were drafted professionally.

Women's Basketball player Tyra Brown was named to the Region 16 All-Region Team and Brown and Briar Johnson were named to the MCCAC All-Conference Team.

The softball team finished their season with a loss in the Region 16 championship game and a 40-14 record. Several players received all-conference and all-region awards.

In the classroom, several student-athletes received national recognition for their academic achievement:

**NJCAA All-American First Team (4.00 GPA)**
- Baseball: Adam Link
- Men's Soccer: Joao Leonel
- Softball: Hannah Chambliss
  - Abbey McAteer
  - Alyson Tucker
- Volleyball: Lindsey Barton

**NJCAA All-American Second Team (3.80-3.99 GPA)**
- Baseball: Austin Hicks
- Basketball: Marta Canora
- Men's Soccer: Pablo da Silva
  - Erik Pujol
  - Thiago Viana
- Softball: Allison Murphy
  - Abby Rollet
- Volleyball: Urte Neimantaite

**NJCAA All-American Third Team (3.60-3.79 GPA)**
- Baseball: Austin Cheeley
  - Dalton Doyle
  - Reid Hendrickson
  - Devyn Terbrak
- Basketball: Kwanisha Carroll-Quarles
- Volleyball: Kwanisha Carroll-Quarles
  - Kymbra Kirby
FEBRUARY 4  Chamber Project St. Louis, chamber music ensemble (7:30 pm)

FEBRUARY 9  Music Faculty Recital (3 pm) FREE!

FEB. 27-MAR. 1  Spring Play “Crazytown” by Jonathan Rand (THURS 10 am / FRI & SAT 8 pm / SUN 2 pm)

MARCH 8  Choir Concert - “Music’s Empire” (3 pm) FREE!

MARCH 10  Wind Ensemble “Where it All Began” featuring Tyler Vehldick, trombone & The Grandview High School Wind Ensemble - Sarah Falch, director (7:30 pm) FREE!

MARCH 12  Spring Jazz Showcase featuring Roxy Coss, saxophonist (7:30 pm) with the Jefferson College Jazz Ensembles

MARCH 13-15  48 Hour Film Festival - Filming Dates FREE!

MAR. 30-APR. 3  High School Art Exhibit FREE!

APRIL 17  48 Hour Film Festival - Screening FREE!

APR. 27 - MAY 8  Jefferson College Student Art Exhibit FREE!

APRIL 29-30  Spring Pottery Sale (WED 10 am-6 pm / THURS 10 am-4 pm) FREE!

MAY 3  Arcadia Dance Orchestra, St. Louis songs of the 1920s/30s (3 pm)

MAY 5  Wind Ensemble “The ‘Rites’ of Spring” ft. Kelly Austermann, clarinet (7:30 pm) FREE!

MAY 7  Choir Concert “In Endless Song” (7:30 pm) FREE!

JUNE 19-21, 26-28  Summer Musical “Mamma Mia!” (FRI & SAT 7 pm / SUN 2 pm)

Register for the PACE monthly email list to receive show announcements, special events, and more! www.jeffco.edu/PACE-Email
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USA Jr. Volleyball Tournaments
7 AM
Field House - Gym

Martin Luther King Day
Campus Closed

Basketball vs Moberly
5:30 PM
Field House - Gym

Auditions for Mamma Mia!
6 PM
FA - Theatre

Auditions for Mamma Mia!
1 PM, FA - Theatre

Tabletop Game Night
hosted by Legion of Gamers
5 PM
SC - Viking Room

Jefferson College Chamber Festival
7 AM, FA - Theatre
USA Jr. Volleyball Tournaments
7 AM, Field House - Gym