



May 2025

I can hardly believe it's already May and that Commencement is just around the corner. What a year it has been! As I reflect on this academic year, one word continues to come to mind: resilience.

It's been a year of major changes across our campus, in terms of physical improvements. A few of these projects include the new Viking Woods apartments, the new Vet Tech building, ongoing construction in Fine Arts, and the expansion of JCA. These projects have brought exciting upgrades - but also a fair share of disruptions around campus. From construction noise and office relocations to sharing spaces and taking student performances on the road, we've all been adapting.

Add to that an unusually intense winter, unexpected HVAC challenges, and shifting state and federal Executive Orders - and yet, through it all, our faculty and staff have been amazing. You have stayed focused on our mission and kept students at the heart of everything. Saying "thank you" hardly seems adequate, but I am deeply grateful for your tireless efforts and unwavering dedication to our students.

If you participated in the Homecoming Week pep rally in February, you might remember that Coach CB Walker and the Viking basketball teams operate with what he calls "Viking's Mentality" (VM) - and I believe it's something that applies across our entire College. Here's how Coach Walker defines VM:

"Vikings have a fearless mentality. We constantly push our limits. Be remembered for our relentless work ethic. Make the most of every opportunity. If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you."

Thank you, CB, for the inspiring reminder that what we do matters.

President's Special Task Force Update

Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding as the President's Special Task Force worked through recent federal and state Executive Orders related to DEI. Jefferson College has always been and will continue to be a place of learning for all - a community where everyone belongs.

Over several meetings this spring, the Task Force reviewed the Diversity Committee's [Action Items 2023-28](#) and categorized them as: (1) completed; (2) already being done; (3) reassigned/review; or (4) remove. Additionally, this spring, the Diversity Committee voted to formally retire at the end of this academic year. I'm thankful to all past and current committee members for the important work they've done.

The Task Force also examined the [Cabinet DEIA Executive Orders Considerations](#), an extensive list of current policies and procedures, practices, publications, articles, etc., to assist in determining appropriate actions. We acknowledge this list isn't comprehensive and will evolve over time. Updates and progress are noted within the document.

The Task Force met four times and concluded its work during the April 23 meeting. Should new Executive Orders arise, we will reconvene as needed. I want to personally thank the members of this Task Force for their thoughtful work: Lisa Dollar, Alicia Smith, Melissa Stephens, Rebecca Ellison, Holli Gillam, Josephine Kershaw, Janet Akers Montgomery, John Linhorst, Chris DeGeare, Kim Harvey Manus, Tasha Welsh, and student Bridget Bailey. THANK YOU!

President's Webpage

We've made some changes to the President's Webpage. A few items have moved behind the MyJeffco login. If you are looking for something you used to find on the President's Page, head to MyJeffco, select the Employee option on the left side menu, then go to the President's Office tab. Here are some links for easy access:

[Town Hall](#)
[Cabinet](#)
[Extended Cabinet](#)
[President's webpage](#)
[Ask an Anonymous Question](#)

If you're still having trouble locating something, please reach out to Heidi Hogan and we'll help you find what you need.

Spring Town Hall Recording

If you missed the Spring Town Hall, the [recording is available here](#). Topics included: Project Updates; Budget Updates (FY25 & FY26); Raises and Policy Updates; HLC Quality Initiative; Q&A; and recognition of employees' years of service milestones and retirements.

A special shout goes to this year's retirees, who together represent 128 years of service to Jefferson College. You will be missed and we thank you for your contributions.

Debra Branson
Doug Hale
Sue Lerch
Fran Moore
Sarah Bright
Tina Jokerst
Gerard Uhls
Shirley Leonard

Anonymous Questions

I'm a bit behind with my updates, so the Anonymous Questions and responses date back to the March Extended Cabinet meeting. These were addressed during Extended Cabinet or discussed at the Spring Town Hall. [Click here for the full list of questions and responses.](#)

Upcoming Events

Here are a few upcoming events to note:

- Controlled Chaos Release - Tuesday, May 6, 2:30 p.m.
- Poverty Simulation - Wednesday, May 7, 12 - 4:30 p.m.
- Wind Ensemble - Thursday, May 8, 7 p.m. at Herculanum High School
- Commencement - Saturday, May 17, ceremonies at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Observatory: Aim For the Stars viewing event - Saturday, May 17, 6 p.m.
- Summer Musical - June 13-15 & 20-22 - Pump Boys and Dinettes at Hillsboro High School

Summer Schedule Reminder

Beginning May 19 through August 8, the College will observe summer business hours:
Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

On behalf of Cabinet, thank you for your continued excellence and collaboration! I hope you have a restful and enjoyable summer. I'll be around, so please don't hesitate to reach out anytime!



As always, my door is open. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly via email or phone. Thank you for all that you do to make Jefferson College a great place to work and learn.

Dena McCaffrey

**dmccaffr@jeffco.edu
Office (636) 481-3100 • Cell (636) 287-2000**