



ON
CAMPUS:

Jones County Junior College

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PUBLIC 2 YEAR

Keeping up with the Joneses is going to be a little more difficult as Jones County Junior College (JCJC) takes campus life and a two-year college education to a higher level. Besides reaching out to more people through Learning Centers in cities throughout its eight-county district, the main Ellisville campus is making improvements in every facet of student life.

"We are providing students with innovative opportunities to learn and engage in an education that will take them further than ever before," said JCJC president Dr. Jesse Smith. "With access to the newest technology methods in the classroom, to the newest facilities, Jones students will be fully equipped to succeed and thrive. We are interested in meeting the physical and educational needs of our students."

One facet of Smith's vision is the Honors College, which was created three years ago. It provides opportunities for students to not only get a great education, but to be able to engage with other students, community members, and leaders.

Smith said, "We have to think outside the box. We are not just competing with neighboring states but globally. Students are demanding more skills to be successful in a wide variety of career paths. Jones is positioned to help them meet their goals."

The new president's vision includes Jones Hall, a liberal arts building. It is currently being constructed to house the humanities and social science departments. The building will have state-of-the-art "smart" classrooms to aid in instruction. This new focal point of the college will have a commons area for students and conference rooms.

"Jones has expanded so much!" said Myverick Garcia, a sophomore JCJC student from Hattiesburg. "This is an amazing and really good thing for Jones, as more people are going to junior colleges. However, I do not feel the affordable tuition is the only reason



For Next Magazine

Jones County Junior College assists students in several areas, including career and course advisement.

people are coming to Jones. With our new buildings and classes they are making available to suit everyone is a true attraction."

Also a part of the evolving campus is the new Student Success Center. This facility is designed to assist students in several areas including career and course advisement, personal development, tutoring, research and campus resources and counseling.

"It's a one-stop shop to ensure student success," said Smith. "We also have a success center especially for non-traditional students. This growing group of students may need assistance in adjusting to school especially after losing a job or juggling family responsibilities. We are creating a more inviting environment to support the academic and college life needs of students to foster success for those students on campus and online."

Other campus improvements include renovations of the J.B. Young Technical building, the addition of the SubConnection restaurant on campus, dormitories and athletic fields. A new physical fitness center and health center staffed by a nurse practitioner are other recent additions to the college campus. The campus

Jones County Junior College, 1911

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Web Address: www.jcjc.edu

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Undergraduate enrollment: 5,573

Annual tuition and fees: \$1,066 (tuition per semester: \$974.00)

Annual on campus room and board: \$1,560.00

Average ACT: 18.3

Financial Aid: Pell Grant, MTAG, MESH, ACG, Student Loan, Scholarships.

Percentage of students with financial aid: 69.9 percent

Faculty to student ratio: 20-1

Popular majors: Nursing, elementary ed, business admin, engineering, radiologic technology, welding, pre-med and forestry.

Satellite/Annex locations: Learning Centers in Bay Springs; Leakesville.

President: Dr. Jesse Smith

Director of Admissions: Rick Hamilton

cafeteria underwent major renovations last year to provide students with a food court experience.

"The new cafeteria is great!" said Garcia. "It is nice to have a variety of food to choose from. Some days I just want a sandwich, and other days I want a home-cooked meal, which the cafeteria prepares nicely with a glass of sweet tea to top it all off. The new ice cream machine is cool, too."

This fall, the soccer, baseball and softball fields will be playing in new facilities, with the help of community partnerships. The new fields will include facilities for fans and athletes.

"We are giving our coaches the resources they need to do their jobs well and inspire young athletes," said Smith.

Jones athletes are coming off an impressive history-making season. The lady's tennis team and both the men's and women's basketball teams claimed the state championship title. The Bobcat baseball team competed in the state playoffs and the football team continues to be nationally ranked every year.