



# JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

to the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees

APRIL 9, 2015



Recent highlights at JSC include new funding from the Vermont Genetics Network for research on exercise and stress management, the second competition at Harvard University for JSC's Model U.N. Club, and a joint student-faculty presentation before the Education committees of the Vermont House & Senate. These and other **noteworthy accomplishments of JSC students, faculty, staff and alumni are presented in a supplement to this report** that can be read [here](#).

## EARLY COLLEGE @ JSC

The Early College program has proved tremendously popular in our part of the state — and tremendously successful here at JSC. In enacting the program last year, the legislature approved 18 Early College slots per state college, and applications for the program at JSC exceeded that number. As we prepare for the program's second year — the 2015-16 academic year — we again are seeing overwhelming interest.



As of this writing, the Vermont Senate has passed an amendment that would allow Castleton, Lyndon and JSC to share a combined enrollment cap of 54 students instead of the current cap of 18 per institution; Senate and gubernatorial approval are expected. In anticipation of successful passage, we are grateful to Castleton and Lyndon for their flexibility which will allow us to enroll 29 students in the program. We have received a total of 36 applications for next year and currently have deposits from 26 of those, and we continue to receive inquiries almost daily.

## CELEBRATING THE DIVERSITY & INNOVATION OF VT BUSINESSES



Several years ago we launched the Vermont Business Speakers Series, which brings Vermont entrepreneurs to campus to share their stories with students. Students have been inspired by the speakers and learned much about the ways globalization, technology and shifting demographics have changed the way we live and work — and how more dynamic forms of work are replacing “jobs for life.” We reinforce these points by showcasing innovative, non-traditional Vermont company founders who have found success by creating their own future. So far this semester we have brought to campus Orah Moore, owner and operator of Haymaker Press; and Mike Comeau, owner of Johnson's Sterling Market as well as grocery stores in Richmond and Waterbury.

Moore told how she grew her interest in photography into a business as a photographer and manufacturer of greeting cards. In addition to challenging students to think about their work-style preferences, skills and passions, she stressed the hard work and dedication required to operate a business. Comeau began his grocery career as a teenager, working the late shift for 10 years. He offered pearls of wisdom about the value of a strong work ethic, the importance of empowering employees and the need for self-reliance and resilience. He noted that the net income of his business is three times higher than a year ago, which he attributed in part to empowering his workers to reach shared goals. We are grateful to have a downtown grocery within walking distance of campus for many reasons, including the opportunity for part-time work for our students and full-time employment for a recent graduate.



## INCREASING COLLEGE ASPIRATIONS IN LAMOILLE COUNTY

The entire sophomore class from Lamoille Union High School (100+ students) will spend the day at JSC on Wednesday, April 15, attending workshops and participating in activities designed to spark their interest in earning a college degree. The program is part of the Lamoille Educational Aspiration Project (LEAP), a program funded by a grant from the Vermont Student Assistance

Corporation aimed at increasing students' post-secondary aspirations. Academic Dean Dan Regan suggested the idea of bringing the students to campus and has worked with Assistant Professor Kathleen Brinegar (Education) to plan the day, which includes sessions with JSC faculty members.

### MORE APRIL ADMISSIONS EVENTS

JSC's second annual **Community Journalism Day** takes place Friday, April 17. This year the focus is on media ethics. Visiting high school groups will attend a panel discussion featuring Ken Picard (*Seven Days*), Mike Donoghue (*Burlington Free Press*) and Chris Braithwaite (*Barton Chronicle*); attend a workshop at which they review case studies and attempt to find the best ethical solutions; and hear from faculty member Sawyer Alberti, who will discuss ethical issues related to viewing and sharing news on social media, with particular focus on the terror campaign being waged in the Middle East by ISIS/ISIL/Da'ish.

This year's **Integrative Medicine Day**, sponsored by JSC's Wellness & Alternative Medicine (WAM) program, takes place two days later, on Sunday, April 19, at the Stoweflake Resort & Spa in Stowe. The free, annual event gives WAM students an opportunity to learn about career options from practicing professionals and experience a variety of alternative medicine and wellness modalities. We have invited prospective students who have expressed an interest in the WAM program at Johnson State.

### CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH CAREERS

We hosted our annual **Spring Career Fair** Thursday, March 26, hosting more than 50 employers and attracting a record number of students. Departments engaged in a friendly competition to send the most students attend the fair.

Later that day we held our third "**Dinner with the Boss**," an event made possible by the JSC Alumni Association. The evening connects business leaders who are JSC alums with students at a catered dinner and features information business etiquette and career opportunities. Seven alums and 25 students — at least two of whom received job offers by the end of the evening! — participated.



South Burlington Chief of Police Trevor Whipple, JSC class of 1994, talks with a student during "Dinner with the Boss."

### SHAPE POOL REOPENING CREATES A SPLASH

Closed since November due to ongoing equipment failures, the JSC pool reopened the week of March 16 with great fanfare — and a new, energy-efficient heating and ventilation system. Confirming President Murphy's statement that "an outpouring of feedback from the local and campus community confirmed the importance of the pool as an educational, recreational and therapeutic resource for area schools and nearby residents as well as the JSC community," the re-opening garnered lead-story status among local media, and more than 60 adults and children attended a celebratory open house on Saturday, March 21.

### SAAC PARTNERS WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS

JSC's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee has partnered with Special Olympics in promoting the "**Spread the Word to End the R-Word**" campaign. In collaboration with the "Think College" program, SAAC hosted a table during lunch one day and had more than 100 people sign a pledge to remove the R-Word from their vocabulary and replace it with more respectful words.



This was followed on March 21 by JSC's first annual **Special Olympics Basketball Tournament**, also hosted by SAAC. Five Special Olympics teams comprising nearly 50 athletes and more than twice as many fans turned out for the four-hour event. SAAC was represented by 18 student-athletes who helped coordinate logistics, officiate, sell concessions and cheer on the athletes. One of the highlights of the day was the half-time dance-off led by JSC "Think College" student Tristan Geoffrey and the JSC mascot, Boris the Badger.

### 38<sup>TH</sup> CASINO NIGHT FOR LAMOILLE UNITED WAY

One of the College's longest-running traditions, the annual spring Casino Night sponsored by JSC's Student Government Association, raised over \$800 for the United Way of Lamoille County. The event attracted more than 100 students and community members, many of whom dressed to the nines for the "Hollywood" theme.

