



JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

to the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees

DECEMBER 12, 2013



I am pleased to submit our first report of the 2013-14 academic year to the VSC Board of Trustees in our new two-page format. We intend to continue producing a summary of faculty, staff and student accomplishments and will provide a link to that summary in future reports.

## JSC COLLEGE PLAN, YEAR 4

The fall 2013 semester launched Year 4 of our five-year strategic plan, "JSC 2010-2015: A Plan for Access, Engagement & Success." As we do each fall, we have updated the plan to reflect last year's accomplishments and a work plan for the current year.



## 'STATE OF THE COLLEGE' CONVERSATION

On Monday, Nov. 4, students, faculty and staff joined me for a "State of the College" presentation and conversation. My remarks, which focused in large part on the progress we have made in our college plan, are available [here](#).

## STRENGTHENING OUR TIES TO LAMOILLE COUNTY & VERMONT

Priority #4 of our five-year plan calls on JSC to build stronger relationships with and contributions to Lamoille County and Vermont. Three items are worth highlighting in this regard:



- David Bergh has been assigned expanded responsibilities and now holds the title of dean of student life and college relations. Building on the strong relationships he already has with many area businesses and organizations, Dave is working to further expand our connections and explore ways that JSC can support area businesses and contribute to the region's economic growth.
- We convened our first "President's Roundtable" with area business, community and civic leaders on Thursday evening, Dec. 5. In all, more than 20 leaders have agreed to share their perceptions of workplace needs, gaps in workforce skills, and what JSC can do to continue to contribute to a thriving Vermont and help us realize our collective vision for Vermont's future. We look forward to continuing these gatherings once every semester.
- In conjunction with the Community College of Vermont, our External Degree Program staff have hosted meetings with businesses and their employees in Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille and Washington counties on how CCV and EDP can be used to develop a more knowledgeable and skilled workforce



while augmenting employee-retention efforts. The meetings have been well-received and have led to renewed interest in these affordable, statewide programs of higher education.

## NEW ACCOUNTING CERTIFICATE

Under the leadership of Associate Professor Henrique Cezar (Business & Economics), JSC is creating a new certificate program in accounting designed to prepare students for the CPA exam without requiring enrollment in an undergraduate or master's degree program — and it will be the only college in Vermont to do so.



The program reflects changing licensing standards for CPAs that take effect in July 2014. The curriculum has been approved by the Vermont Board of Accountancy and is now undergoing committee review at JSC. As currently designed, the required coursework for the certificate can be completed independent of an undergraduate degree or incorporated into an existing degree program.

An article about the new CPA licensing requirements and the proposed certificate program at Johnson State was featured on [vtdigger.org](http://vtdigger.org) October 22 and is available [here](#).

## FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR ATHLETICS & REC

JSC's Department of Athletics & Recreation has developed a five-year strategic plan that sets ambitious goals to achieve through the year 2018.

The plan reinforces the goals identified in the college's comprehensive five-year plan, "JSC 2010-2015: A Plan for Access, Engagement & Success": to identify and recruit student-athletes most likely to succeed at JSC; to increase student-athlete retention and graduation rates; to strengthen

athletics programs at JSC through gifts, grants and investments; and to strengthen JSC's contributions to and relationship with Lamoille County and Vermont. The plan establishes six specific goals:

- Increase the student-athlete population to 20% of total full-time undergraduates;
- Grow the number of varsity sports sponsors to 16;
- Increase the student-athlete retention rate to 75%;
- Realize a goal of having 50% of the coaches at JSC have full-time status; and
- Launch a capital campaign to fund upgrades to athletics fields and facilities.

The complete plan is available [here](#).

## PREPARING FOR REACCREDITATION

We are in the early stages of gearing up for reaccreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Academic Dean Dan Regan is leading this college-wide effort to secure the full 10 years of reaccreditation in 2015.

This year we are concentrating on gathering the materials we need to conduct a searching self-study, which will begin by summer. Every department and program will be asked to respond to two basic questions: "How do you know what you *say* you know about your program or activity?" and "What changes have you made in light of what you've learned?" The focus will be on evidence — what we have, how we obtained it, and how we put it to use.

We believe in the value of regional peer accreditation as a way to assure ourselves and the public we serve that what we offer at Johnson State College is of high quality and worthy of the public's trust. We look forward to the opportunity to examine our strengths and challenges as part of this important effort.

