



JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

to the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees

FEBRUARY 20, 2014



We kicked off the spring 2014 semester with a full slate of activities, events and presentations designed to reinvigorate and reconnect students with campus and academic life, including a community lunch and service opportunities on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the first day of the semester. One of the week's highlights was a presentation by Professor Gina Mireault to our returning students titled "Where Are You Now? ... and Other (Dis)Orienting Questions." Her lively talk was intended primarily for first-year students returning for their second semester, but her words of wisdom resonate with all of us. A transcript with accompanying visuals is available [here](#).



Dr. Gina Mireault

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS



With thanks to the many faculty and staff involved, we are finalizing plans and course offerings for several new programs slated to launch in fall 2014: a **pre-physical therapy** concentration within Environmental & Health Sciences; an **accounting certificate** within Business & Economics that prepares students to sit for the CPA exam; a **health and sport psychology** concentration within Behavioral Sciences; a **sport management** concentration within Business & Economics; and a **wellness and alternative medicine major offered statewide** through our External Degree Program (EDP). In addition, we are actively exploring the possibility of several more, including a master's degree in communication to be offered online through EDP.



FACULTY SEARCHES

Postings are out and applications are being reviewed for faculty in education (two positions — one focused on special education; the other on literacy), writing and literature (fiction specialty), business (economics specialty), counseling (focus on graduate degree program, with a secondary responsibility to teach psychology), fine arts (sculpture/3-D specialty), a visiting music professor and a visiting anthropology and sociology professor.

SUPPORTING THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM



President Murphy spoke before the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing & General Affairs Jan. 22 about how JSC is preparing students for successful careers in Vermont and how the college can support the growth and development slated for Newport, Jay and other Northeast Kingdom communities. In addition to noting the majors at JSC that prepare graduates for meaningful work in the valuable economic sectors of tourism, travel, recreation, and environmental and health sciences, she described the key role JSC internships play in catapulting graduates

into successful careers — citing Steve Cook, Vermont’s deputy commissioner for tourism and marketing, as one example. She noted that many leaders in government, emergency management, environmental remediation, and regional and transportation planning — all important areas as Vermont develops new businesses, new resorts, new industries — got their start at Johnson State.

On a related front, Business & Economics faculty members Jim Black, Henrique Cezar and Todd Comen, along with Dean of Student Life & College Relations David Bergh, have been involved in meetings about projected needs in the Northeast Kingdom and in efforts to forge stronger connections with neighboring Lamoille County businesses and organizations.



Comen Cezar Black Bergh

SUPPORTING THE JOHNSON COMMUNITY

With the generous support of Johnson Dining Services/Sodexo, the bi-weekly Johnson CommUNITY Meal will be offered weekly starting March 5. This will double the number of meals offered through the program, which is a collaboration of Johnson State College, the United Church of Johnson and Laraway Youth & Family Services. Since December 2010, with the help of JSC student volunteers, the program has provided 4,106 meals. To date, guests have contributed more than \$2,500, which has been donated to the Johnson Food Shelf.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AT JSC



Beth Walsh, formerly of UVM, joined the college in January as our new coordinator of career development. Beth has helped raise the profile of this office by staffing outreach tables, holding scheduled drop-in hours, and giving class presentations and workshops. Internship standards for students, faculty and site supervisors are being updated as well. The JSC

internship program was the focus of a recent Lamoille Economic Development Corp. newsletter.

VISITING WRITER DAVID HUDDLE

We are pleased to welcome award-winning author and poet David Huddle, our visiting writer for the spring semester, who will work with Assistant Professor Liz Powell and our B.F.A. students in creative writing. We are thrilled to have a writer of David’s stature with us. David will give a public reading at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, in Stearns. You can learn more about David [here](#).



PROMOTING HEALTHY CHOICES AMONG STUDENTS

The fall 2013 semester saw a dramatic decrease in the number of alcohol-policy violations compared to fall 2012, down from 48 last year to just 14 this year. While many factors may be at play, Student Life staff believe that providing the incoming class with education and prevention tools to make healthy alcohol-related decisions is a factor. At the end of the fall 2013 semester, in fact, 88 percent of incoming first-year and transfer students had completed the first part of the new AlcoholEdu/Haven online educational course we adopted this year. These courses incorporate evidence-based prevention strategies while educating students about high-risk drinking and sexual assault.

VERONIKA SCOTT TO BE 2014 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Our 2014 Commencement speaker will be Veronika Scott, founder and CEO of the Detroit-based [Empowerment Plan](#), which employs homeless women in the manufacture of coats that transform into sleeping bags that in turn are given to homeless individuals in Detroit and beyond. Veronika is a dynamic young woman and impressive speaker who joined us in September as part of our Common Reading Initiative.

