Wharton County Junior College’s Mission Statement

Wharton County Junior College is a public, two-year, comprehensive community college offering a wide range of postsecondary educational programs and services including associate degrees, certificates, continuing education courses, cultural affairs, and leisure-time activities for the benefit of the community and a population of students that varies in age, background, and ability.

The college affords opportunities for individual growth and expression and promotes the development of the total person through scholarly and creative activity and the application of knowledge for the good of society. Its curricular and co-curricular activities lay a foundation for lifelong learning and involved citizenship and encourage the pursuit of knowledge, innovation, experimentation, and excellence in human endeavor. It prepares students for entry-level positions, for advancement in various occupations and professions, for a broad understanding of the liberal arts and sciences, and for transfer to baccalaureate-granting institutions.

Wharton County Junior College is an institution that emphasizes personal attention to students, innovation, and flexibility in its credit and noncredit offerings, and responsiveness to the diversity of communities it serves. The college is dedicated to providing an educational environment that recognizes individuality, stresses the importance of human relationships, and reflects the democratic values of society.
Message from the President

The 2007-2008 year was exceptional for Wharton County Junior College. Although our accomplishments were many, we would like to share a few of our most important accomplishments because they provide an excellent foundation for continued success in 2008-2009.

• The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board granted approval for Wharton County Junior College to offer the Associate of Applied Science degree and an enhanced skills Certificate program in Nuclear Power Technology. These new offerings are right on target with the college’s mission to benefit the community and a diverse population of students. Both programs will help Gulf Coast residents to gain the necessary skills for high-paying jobs while supporting the area’s nuclear power industry in its quest to hire hundreds of new workers to staff planned expansions and to replace retiring employees.

• In April 2008 the college hosted a grand opening celebration of its Bay City Campus. The campus is home to the Nuclear Power Technology Program and the Process Technology Program. The 20,000 square-foot campus also allows students the opportunity to take academic transfer courses. The campus supports the needs of Matagorda County’s growing power-generation industry that serves chemical plants, oil refineries, and pipeline operations.

• The college submitted its reaccreditation self-study report at the end of August 2008 to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The accreditation process is a continuing evaluation that helps to improve and strengthen colleges. To prepare for Wharton County Junior College’s accreditation review, the faculty, staff, administrators, members of the Board of Trustees, and some of our students contributed to the self-study report compiled over a three-year period.

• College staff continued to work closely with staff at the University of Houston in anticipation of the transfer of WCJC’s operations in Sugar Land to a new building at the University of Houston System at Sugar Land. In addition to meeting the needs of Fort Bend County’s growing population, housing both the UHSSL and WCJC on the same campus will help each institution devote more funds to educational activities rather than to maintaining separate infrastructures. The joint venture will allow students to fulfill almost all of their educational needs on a single campus that offers lower-division and upper-division courses. The new building is scheduled to open for classes in June 2009.

• The Wharton County Junior College Foundation’s annual gala was a big success. A highly successful fundraising campaign resulted in the Foundation’s 2008 gala being the most successful to date. The foundation raised $101,515 to benefit its endowment that supports academic programs, student scholarships, and faculty development. The event featured a dinner, auctions, and a performance by the Capitol Steps. About 500 guests attended the event, making this gala the largest ever sponsored by the foundation.

The Wharton County Junior College Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff continue to work hard to help the college reach its strategic goals, while fostering exceptional learning opportunities for our students. This annual report shows our commitment to the people of our service area. We are grateful to all who worked so hard this year to make Wharton County Junior College the college of choice for so many.

Betty A. McCrohan
President

Wharton County Junior College held a grand opening celebration for its Bay City Campus in April 2008. Remarks were provided at the event by, left to right, WCJC Board of Trustees Chair P. D. “Danny” Gertson, Ill, Bay City Mayor Richard Knapik, Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald, WCJC President Betty McCrohan, WCJC Foundation President Ann Uher, and Bay City Community Development Corporation Board Member and Director of Workforce Development at the STP Clarence Fenner.
President’s Report to the Community 2007-2008

The 2007-2008 academic year marked the completion of the third year in a four-year process that WCJC is undertaking to gain Reaffirmation of Accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). This is the regional accrediting body for degree-granting higher education institutions in the 11 southern states that extend from Virginia to Texas, Latin America, and other approved international sites.

A major focus of this effort was submitting a 300-page Compliance Certification document to SACS. Thousands of man-hours went into compiling the report, beginning in 2005-06 with the appointment of an 10-member SACS Leadership Team (see team member list on next page) and a 20-member SACS Compliance Committee (see committee member list on next page). Since that time, these teams, along with dozens of small task groups, have conducted fact-finding studies and reviews with internal and external stakeholders to verify compliance with the Commission's list of 73 principles and standards, made suggestions for improvement, and compiled their findings in the required report. Included in the SACS Compliance Certification document are reports about WCJC’s processes as well as solid evidence of current practices. During some months, the Leadership Team met weekly to conduct its work.
The On-Site Review Committee presented its findings after a three-day visit in October 2008. This committee requested further documentation in only two compliance areas and recommended several revisions to the QEP.
Focus on WCJC’s Process Technology Program

After graduating from WCJC and Stephen F. Austin University, Wayne Stephens taught public school before joining Celanese Chemical in Bay City. After rising to a top operator position, he went back to his calling in education and became a training specialist at the plant. Other operating and training positions followed at Gulf Coast refineries and chemical plants before he joined Nuclear Utilities Services Training Corporation (NUSTC) in Maryland in 1989.

Stephens launched NUSTC’s chemical, refining, and pharmaceutical video training programs and in the process won several Emmy-equivalents for excellence in industrial training videos. Next was the development of over 2,000 manuals at a CITGO refinery. Stephens’ videos are still in use worldwide.

After 28 years of plant operations and delivering industrial training, Stephens became WCJC’s process technology program director in 2003. Since taking the helm, Stephens has “grown” the program from 23 students to over 100 students, and he has a steadfast devotion to see each of them succeed.

Renee Koehler is one such student. The 42-year-old mother of four says Stephens and all her instructors are always available and “never leave a subject until everybody understands it.” Initially, Koehler, who earned a GED after she dropped out of high school, wondered if she could even get into college. With the opening of WCJC’s Bay City Campus and her mom’s encouragement, she applied to the process technology program. She felt process technology would give her a “good, marketable skill.” One week later Koehler started classes and has maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average, even while working weekends. Now she is encouraging others, saying, “Even if you didn’t start in the right way, you can make up for lost time.”

Bay City Campus Formally Dedicated

WCJC formally dedicated its fourth, and newest, campus in Bay City on Thursday, April 17, 2008. The 20,000-square-foot campus, which opened in August 2007, offers degree programs in nuclear power technology and process technology, as well as core courses like English, mathematics, and computer science.

WCJC introduced its two-year nuclear power technology program in cooperation with and partnership with Matagorda County’s power generation industry. Students trained in nuclear power technology will be in a position to seek employment at the South Texas Project (STP). This program joins the college’s well-established process technology program, which started in Bay City in 1998.

An enhanced skills certificate in nuclear power technology, requiring only three courses, is also available for individuals with an associate degree in process technology who wish to work in the nuclear power field. In spring 2008, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board granted WCJC approval to award an Associate in Applied Science degree in Nuclear Power Technology and an enhanced skills certificate in nuclear power technology that is linked to the Associate in Applied Science degree in Process Technology.

Clarence Fenner, STP’s head of workforce development, said “The [THECB’s] approval is a
Focus on WCJC’s Power Technology Program

Steve Sieben began working as a plant operator at the South Texas Project (STP) in 1982 after graduating from WCJC. During more than two decades with STP, he has worked in operations, training, outage management, and quality assurance. Since 2004, following a three-year leave to serve as a Christian missionary in central Mexico, he has worked on special projects at STP, including the development of WCJC’s nuclear power technology curriculum.

Sieben’s next project was what STP called “really big.” The company wanted him to lead WCJC’s nuclear power technology program since a condition of program approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is that programs be lead by individuals with industry experience.

In addition to directing the program and teaching in it, Sieben recruits students through talks at area schools. One recruit is Richard Cartwright, a 2008 graduate of Bay City High School, who admits he was initially attracted by the high paying jobs. After rising to the top of his introductory nuclear power technology class that he took at night during his senior year of high school, Cartwright found there’s much more to the field than money, and he’s taken a keen interest in it. Since he wants to live in Bay City, he feels WCJC’s nuclear power technology program is his best opportunity to stay in his hometown, go to school, and then work at STP. He appreciates the personal attention he gets in his classes at WCJC.

Cartwright’s goal is to earn a bachelor’s degree in engineering. Sieben hopes he does, because he says Cartwright is very intelligent, well-rounded, and a perfect fit for the nuclear plant.
Record Breaking Year for the Foundation

The Wharton County Junior College Foundation’s decision to move its annual gala to a new venue paid off. The gala’s relocation from the Wharton Civic Center to the Safari Texas Ranch in Richmond, which offered a larger venue, allowed the Foundation to increase its sponsorship participation and in turn garner $101,515 in net proceeds. The previous year’s gala brought in $35,000 in proceeds.

Political puns flowed fast and thick as the Capitol Steps, a wildly popular Washington, D.C.—based comedy troupe presented “The Lighter Side of Politics.” Along with the always current and creative entertainment by the Capitol Steps, the evening included a reception, dinner, and live and silent auctions.

Underwriters for the event were the Rosenberg-Richmond Auto Mile. Dealerships include the Finnegan Auto Group, Fort Bend Toyota, Ernie Guzman Hyundai, Gillman Honda/Nissan, and Legacy Ford/Lincoln Mercury. There were 45 additional sponsorships for the event.

“Success of this year’s gala is attributed to the overwhelming support we received from college supporters in Wharton County, Matagorda County, Fort Bend County, and Harris County,” said Jim Gonzales, Gala Committee Chair. “By moving the event to a new venue, we reached out and received new sponsorships from new friends of the college. The gala is an opportunity to continue to raise the profile and image of the college throughout the region.”

The Capitol Steps has performed for the last five U.S. presidents and for millions of Americans on network television and National Public Radio. “Politics Takes a Holiday,” the troupe’s live radio show, is aired on NPR four times yearly – New Year’s Day, April Fool’s Day, Independence Day, and Halloween.

Brilliant performers who have perfected political parodies, the Capitol Steps began as a group of Senate staffers who set out in 1981 to satirize the very people and places that employed them. Since then they have recorded 28 albums and won numerous awards for comedy and musical theatre.

Proceeds from “The Lighter Side of Politics” benefited the foundation’s endowment that supports student scholarships, faculty development, and academic programs at Wharton County Junior College.
2007-2008 Revenue Sources

TOTAL REVENUE......... $33,990,185

- Tuition & Fees.......................... $11,119,680 .....(33%)
- State Appropriations* ........... $11,111,970 .....(33%)
- Grants & Contracts................. $4,628,132 .....(13%)
- Ad Valorem Taxes.................. $4,246,434 .....(13%)
- Income Investments............... $1,327,074 .....(4%)
- Other.............................................$801,408 .....(3%)
- Auxiliary .......................................$755,487 .....(1%)

TOTAL REVENUE $33,990,185

2007-2008 Budget Expenditures

TOTAL EXPENDITURES....... $32,799,534

- Instruction..............................$12,521,029 .....(38%)
- Institutional Support ..............$5,480,219 .....(17%)
- Operations/Management ...........$3,871,355 .....(12%)
- Academic Support...................$2,620,646 .....(8%)
- Scholarships.......................... $2,514,591 .....(8%)
- Student Services.....................$2,090,743 .....(6%)
- Public Service.........................$1,607,154 .....(5%)
- Depreciation ............................$1,035,777 .....(3%)
- Auxiliary Expenses .................$623,953 .....(2%)
- Other............................................$434,070 .....(1%)

TOTAL EXPENDITURES $32,799,534

*Includes employee benefits and formula funding

1. Tuition & Fees (33%)
2. State Appropriations* (33%)
3. Grants & Contracts (13%)
4. Ad Valorem Taxes (13%)
5. Income Investments (4%)
6. Other (3%)
7. Auxiliary (1%)

1. Instruction (38%)
2. Institutional Support (17%)
3. Operations/Management (12%)
4. Academic Support (8%)
5. Scholarships (8%)
6. Student Services (6%)
7. Public Service (5%)
8. Depreciation (3%)
9. Auxiliary Expenses (2%)
10. Other (1%)
President’s Report to the Community 2007-2008

Pell Grant Awards (total number and amount)

Credit Enrollment History Fall Semesters
**Unduplicated Annual Enrollment**  
**Sept. 2007 - Aug. 2008**
- Credit Students: 8,738
- Non-Credit Continuing Education: 858

**Other Unduplicated**  
**Non-Credit Enrollment**  
**Sept. 2007 - Aug. 2008**
- Kids’ College: 1,955
- Adult Basic Education: 1,118

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**Unduplicated Enrollment**  
**by Campus and Extension Center**  
**Fall 2007**
- Wharton Campus: 1,774
- Sugar Land Campus: 1,794
- WCJC Fort Bend Technical Center: 1,595
- Bay City Campus: 130
- El Campo Extension Center: 0
- Palacios Extension Center: 0
- Dual Credit & Concurrent Enrollment: 786
- Distance Education (Internet/ITV): 924

Approximately 435 students attended more than one campus.

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**Teaching Location**  
(full & part-time faculty)
- Wharton Campus: 114 (43%)
- Sugar Land Campus: 84 (31%)
- Richmond Campus: 98 (37%)
- Bay City Campus: 10 (4%)
- El Campo Extension Center: 0 (0%)
- Palacios Extension Center: 0 (0%)
- Other Locations:
  - Distance Education: 36 (13%)
  - Dual/Concurrent High School: 30 (11%)

Approximately 78 instructors teach at more than one campus.

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**Faculty Characteristics**
- Total Faculty: 267
  - Full-time Faculty: 146 (55%)
  - Part-Time Faculty: 121 (45%)
- Total Minority Faculty: 58 (22%)
- Average Age: 51
- Student-Faculty Ratio: 22:1

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**Unduplicated Credit Student**  
**Demographics Fall 2007**
- Total Fall 2007 Headcount: 5,892

**By Ethnicity**
- White/Non-Hispanic: 3,309 (56%)
- Hispanic: 1,533 (26%)
- Black/Non-Hispanic: 507 (9%)
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 279 (5%)
- Indian/Alaskan Native: 13 (0%)
- International: 204 (3%)
- Unknown: 47 (1%)

**By Age**
- Under 20: 2,848 (48%)
- 20-24: 1,817 (31%)
- 25-29: 530 (9%)
- 30-39: 433 (7%)
- 40-over: 264 (5%)

**By Gender**
- Women: 3,406 (58%)
- Men: 2,486 (42%)

**By Residency**
- Texas Residents: 5,742 (97%)
  - In-District Residents: 1,308 (22%)
  - Out-of-District: 4,434 (75%)
- Outside Texas/Foreign: 110 (2%)
- Texas Exemption/Waiver: 40 (1%)

**Fall 2007 Full-Time Faculty**  
**Educational Attainment**
- Doctorate: 30 (21%)
- Master’s: 87 (60%)
- Bachelor’s: 11 (7%)
- Associate/Certificate: 18 (12%)

**Fall 2007 Full-Time Faculty**  
**Length of Teaching Service**
- 5 Years or Less: 57 (39%)
- 6–10 Years: 49 (34%)
- 11–15 Years: 9 (6%)
- 16–20 Years: 11 (8%)
- More than 20 Years: 20 (13%)