WCJC: A STRONG ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTOR to the Texas economy

State funding helps students afford an education so they can contribute to a productive Texas workforce
WCJC helps students achieve their dreams while stimulating the economy

Serving More Students
- More than 6,900 students enrolled at Wharton County Junior College in Fall 2010 – taking academic transfer courses and working towards associate degrees and certificates to achieve their dreams.
- Wharton County Junior College’s enrollment has increased 55 percent since Fall 1999.
- During the 2008-09 academic year, just under 1,700 Wharton County Junior College students transferred to more than 35 different four-year institutions to continue their education. Over half these students transferred to Texas A&M University, the University of Texas, and the University of Houston.
  - Compared to someone with a high school diploma, associate degree graduates earn $12,200 more per year, on average, over the course of a working lifetime (undiscounted).
  - Students’ higher incomes expand the state’s economic base and help fulfill employers’ needs for a trained workforce.

Contributing to a Strong Workforce
- WCJC awarded 467 Associate of Arts, Associate of Applied Science and Associate of Arts in Teaching degrees during the 2009-10 academic year. Another 256 students completed certificate programs.
- WCJC continues to meet community and employer needs by offering training for high-demand occupations such as process technology, nuclear power technology, nursing, dental hygiene, public safety training, and computer technology.
- In Fall 2010, the most popular majors declared by WCJC students were Biology, Business Administration, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Specialization, Engineering, General Studies, Kinesiology, Nursing, Physical Therapy Assistant, Psychology and Radiologic Technology.

“For many the possibility of enrolling at a four-year university is not an option. For some it is simply a financial strain. Others may not have the required academic credentials for acceptance immediately following high school. Many times, community colleges like Wharton County Junior College are the only option for these students to receive a post-secondary education.”

Betty A. McCrohan
President
Wharton County Junior College
Denise Adams
Associate in Arts Degree in Business Administration
 WCJC Class of 2005

Denise was 48 when she returned to college with the dream of teaching. Like many non-traditional students, Denise was working full-time as a newspaper reporter and caring for her family when she registered for classes. Had it not been for the proximity of Wharton County Junior College’s Fort Bend Technical Center in Richmond, this Rosenberg resident says she could not have enrolled. Driving into Houston simply was not an option.

Denise quickly completed the hours needed to transfer to the University of Houston through the innovative 2+2 program between WCJC and UH. Denise credits WCJC for giving her the self-confidence she needed to go back to school and earn a four-year degree.

“The teachers at WCJC genuinely care about their students, they love their subjects and they make that next step into the university world a lot easier.”

In 2006, Denise earned her coveted bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies from UH-Downtown. She is thankful she could take all her classes at the University of Houston System at Sugar Land since she was still juggling work and family responsibilities.

“WCJC in Richmond and Sugar Land are lifelines, and I’m not exaggerating,” says this B. F. Terry High School (Lamar Consolidated ISD) publications teacher who is witnessing how WCJC is meeting the needs of her students. “Community colleges are vitally important to students and the community.”

Brenda Escobedo
Associate in Arts Degree in General Studies
 WCJC Class of 2009

Brenda Escobedo always thought she wanted to earn a medical degree. Before committing to years of schooling she tried different courses after enrolling at Wharton County Junior College. In high school, the ambitious teen, who graduated third in her class, earned 12 hours of college credit. She accomplished this through the dual credit program delivered via an interactive video network between WCJC and Louise ISD.

At the Wharton campus, Brenda took anatomy and physiology as an elective, spending extra hours learning from life-size models of the human body and her accommodating instructor. Other electives included business law, economics and human services. Always, she returned to biology.

Brenda’s goal is to work in public health and epidemiology. Armed with her associate’s degree from WCJC and her bachelor’s degree from the University of Houston Victoria, she is currently pursuing her masters at UHV. If all goes well, this Phi Theta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honoree will graduate in December 2011. Then she will begin the five-year path to concurrently earn her masters degree in public health and her medical degree.

Brenda feels fortunate to have started college at WCJC. In addition to smaller classes she could live at home and work to pay her tuition. “It’s very important to have a junior college because it’s a stepping stone to prepare you for the university level. You’re not just a face to your instructors. They know your name and are always available to help you.”

Student success = skilled workers with income to spend
Rural colleges like WCJC face unique challenges

Wharton County Junior College faces increased funding challenges due to a small tax base coupled with significant increases in operational expenses.

**WCJC’s service area is larger than its tax base**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wharton County Junior College Tax District Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008..................................................................40,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005..................................................................41,554</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WCJC is challenged to do more with less**

Higher enrollments increase WCJC’s expenses without a corresponding state revenue increase.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wharton County Junior College Credit Enrollment History</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1999 – Fall 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999..................................................................4,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002..................................................................5,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005..................................................................6,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008..................................................................6,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009..................................................................6,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010..................................................................6,922</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reduced state support = Increased tuition**

Funding cuts = increased tuition = more student loan debt for students.

**Average State Appropriation**

- **Per WCJC Student Contact Hour**
  - FISCAL YEAR
    - 1998-1999 .............................................$3.58
    - 2009-2010 .............................................$2.80

**State of Texas appropriation for WCJC during this time period: -21.67%**

**WCJC Cost for 12 Semester Credit Hours**

- **ACADEMIC YEAR**
  - IN-DISTRICT
    - 1998-1999 .............................................$342
    - 2008-2009 .............................................$768
    - 2009-2010 .............................................$888

- **OUT-OF-DISTRICT**
  - 1998-1999 .............................................$570
  - 2008-2009 .............................................$1,320
  - 2009-2010 .............................................$1,440

**WCJC tuition increase for this time period: >150%**
Local employers & school districts rely on WCJC for training

“The WCJC Police Academy is a great benefit to local law enforcement agencies like ours. Its graduates are well trained and have a sound knowledge of basic laws so it makes it really easy to integrate them into our organization. Most of the graduates were born and raised in the area and this makes it easier to retain them. The WCJC Police Academy is a quality program that I simply can’t praise enough. I hope Texas legislators will boost funding to the college and this valuable law enforcement program.”

“With today’s nursing shortage and a growing Fort Bend County population, we recognize the value of having the WCJC Sugar Land campus, and particularly its nursing program, nearby. It’s a win-win situation for our hospital and their students. We provide clinical support and expertise to the nursing students and introduce them to our culture and values. When the students complete their nursing education, we have access to a group of potential employees who are better prepared to meet our standards of excellence.”

“Most jobs today require at least one to two years of post-secondary education. Having Wharton County Junior College’s Fort Bend Technical Center/Richmond campus located nearby makes that post-secondary education possible for many of our high school graduates who might not otherwise attend college. That’s because they can live at home and keep their high school jobs to help pay tuition. Even our students enrolled in high school benefit from WCJC. By participating in the college’s Tech Prep, dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP) and Advanced Technical Credit (ATC) courses, these students can begin their college programs while in high school. This prepares them to enter the workplace more quickly, which is important for ambitious students, but essential for those who are helping support their families.”

“Wharton County Junior College’s nuclear power technology and process technology programs at its Bay City campus provide a vital source of potential employees to meet our growing needs in the power generation industry. At STP alone, we will need at least 1,200 new employees through 2017. Graduates of these two WCJC programs also help staff the many chemical plants, oil refineries, pharmaceutical plants and pipeline operations along the Texas Gulf Coast. With so many baby boomers on the verge of retiring, WCJC’s nuclear power technology and process technology programs are more critical than ever at keeping these plants staffed and operating safely. Not only do the taxes paid by these industries help support the Texas economy, but the starting salaries of $40,000 to $68,500 – with earning potential of $100,000 plus – enable new employees to make major purchases that boost the economy.”
Economic Impact Provided by WCJC

**WCJC Stimulates Economic Growth**
- WCJC spending for supplies and services in FY 2008-09 generated a net impact of $19.4 million in added income in the economy.
- The increased productivity of area workers due to the accumulation of past and present WCJC skills in the workforce contributed approximately $269.0 million in added income in FY 2008-09.

**Income Growth Due to WCJC**

- WCJC spending for supplies and services in FY 2008-09 generated a net impact of $19.4 million in added income in the economy.
- The increased productivity of area workers due to the accumulation of past and present WCJC skills in the workforce contributed approximately $269.0 million in added income in FY 2008-09.

**WCJC Leverages Taxpayer Dollars**
- Around 95% of WCJC students remain in the State and contribute to economic growth. Students who enter the workforce expand the tax base by generating higher earnings and reducing social costs.
- Students enjoy higher earnings after receiving education from WCJC, thereby expanding the tax base and reducing the burden on state and local taxpayers. In the aggregate, higher student income and associated increases in property income generate about $2.4 million in added tax revenue each year.

**Education is the Ticket to a Better Job for WCJC Students**
- Of the 109,500 new and replacement jobs anticipated to be available in the WCJC Service Region by 2020, nearly a third of them (32%) will require, at minimum, some kind of post-secondary training.

**Local Jobs by Education Level**

- Source: *The Economic Contribution of Wharton County Junior College by Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. (EMSI), April 2010*
**Hot Careers at WCJC**

These WCJC programs lead to careers, most of which are identified as high-growth jobs by the Gulf Coast Workforce Board. They also have excellent earning potential with these median annual wages according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Median Annual Wage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science: Network Administration</td>
<td>$66,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Management</td>
<td>$79,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Academy</td>
<td>$44,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration &amp; Electrical</td>
<td>$39,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear Power Technology</td>
<td>$72,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing: ADN degree</td>
<td>$62,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Academy</td>
<td>$51,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process Technology</td>
<td>$42,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiologic Technology</td>
<td>$52,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational Nursing</td>
<td>$39,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welding Technology</td>
<td>$33,550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, call or write to:

**Wharton County Junior College**

Office of the President  
911 Boling Highway  
Wharton, Texas  77488

1-800-561-WCJC  |  www.wcjc.edu
Associate of Applied Science Degrees

- Automotive Technology
- Computer Science: Computer Programming
- Computer Science: Network Administration
- Construction Management
- Dental Hygiene
- Early Childhood
- Electronics Engineering Technology
- Emergency Medical Technology
- Engineering Design
- Health Information Technology
- Human Services
- Law Enforcement
- Nuclear Power Technology
- Nursing: ADN degree
- Office Administration
- Paralegal Studies
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Process Technology
- Radiologic Technology

Associate of Arts Degree
with emphasis of study in 20 different disciplines

Certificate Programs

- Automotive Technology
- Computer Science: Cisco Router Networking
- PC Technical Support
- Cosmetology
- Dental Hygiene
- Early Childhood
- Emergency Medical Technology/Paramedic
- Engineering Design: Architectural Design
- Computer Aided Drafting
- Fire Academy
- Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Electrical
- Human Services
- Nuclear Power Technology
- Office Administration
- Police Academy
- Surgical Technology
- Vocational Nursing
- Welding Technology

Interesting Facts About WCJC*

- Founded in 1946
- Four campus locations: Wharton, Sugar Land, Richmond, Bay City
- Extension centers: El Campo, Palacios
- More than 6,900 credit students
- 155 full-time and 134 part-time faculty
- Average class size of 22.8 students
- Average age of WCJC student is 22.8
- Male/female ratio: Male 43% | Female 57%
- Ethnic Makeup: 51% Anglo | 11% African-American | 28% Hispanic | 7% Asian | 3% Other

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*Official Fall 2010 Figures

Financial aid distribution awards of $12 million annually

Programs

- Adult Basic Education
- Associate of Applied Science degrees
- Associate of Arts degree
- Associate of Arts in Teaching degree
- Certificates and Certifications
- Continuing Education
- Distance Learning
- Dual Credit & Concurrent Enrollment
- Kids’ College
- Senior Citizen Programs
- Workforce Development
- Campus housing

WCJC offers students a wide variety of programs