



The Center for Sustainability

In December 2011, JCCC was awarded an EnergyWorks KC Green Jobs Workforce Development grant from the Mid-America Regional Council. The \$49,950 grant helped the center develop a **sustainability hospitality internship** option for students in the college's hospitality management program. Students in the program are required to complete a 360-hour internship in the hospitality industry. The grant will develop additional options for students to consider.

The sustainability-focused internships began with a single pilot in the spring 2012 semester at EBT Restaurant, Kansas City, Mo. Internships will continue for three more students in the fall 2012 and spring 2013 semesters.

Students are trained in best practices for saving energy and water, reducing waste through recycling and composting programs, using environmentally friendly cleaners and chemicals, and reducing supply chain waste and pollution through the use of local product purchases. They use that knowledge to work with restaurant and hotel managers to identify how the facility could implement the practices. Students also help institute mechanisms to track the effects of what they implement to identify how much money has been saved; the goal is to demonstrate to other area restaurants and hotels that sustainable practices are worthy investments.

Funds from the grant are used to pay the student interns and provide participating restaurants and hotels with up to \$2,600 to implement the practices. Funding is also provided to restaurants if they

choose to participate in the Green Restaurant Association's certification program. The program has been in place since 1990 and provides a comprehensive list of standards that restaurants must meet in order to achieve certification. EBT Restaurant is expected to become the area's first non-franchise, full-service restaurant to achieve certification.

The internship program is designed to meet the EnergyWorks KC Green Jobs Workforce goals of establishing a green jobs pipeline for the Kansas City metropolitan area, in this case in the hospitality management field, and of increasing building energy efficiency and water conservation practices in the metropolitan area.

Ten area restaurants have also expressed interest in the green internship program, and it has won the support of the Greater Kansas City Restaurant Association.

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During the spring 2012 semester, JCCC partnered with Studio 804, a design/build program at the University of Kansas School of Architecture and Urban Planning, to construct a classroom building on the JCCC campus.

The 3,000-square-foot **Galileo's Pavilion** was built on existing green space between the Science building and the multilevel Galileo's Garden parking garage on campus. The building was designed to achieve LEED platinum certification and houses two classrooms and a student lounge. Construction began in December 2011; the building opened for classes in fall 2012.

Each year, architecture students in the KU program



Peter Gaskamp, graduate

Peter Gaskamp’s college path initially took many turns. Now, this JCCC graduate is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Kansas.

After high school graduation in 2001, Gaskamp enrolled at a four-year university. That lasted one year because, he said, he lacked interest in studying.

“I did ok as a student, but I didn’t have any direction,” Gaskamp recalled. “I lacked an interest in anything in particular. So, I quit college and did other things for a while.”

Gaskamp said he finally realized where his life was heading if he didn’t further his education.

“I knew I needed to get back into the classroom,” he said. “Once I did, something clicked this time. I was motivated.”

When Gaskamp first started at JCCC, he focused on studying and making good grades. He initially overlooked opportunities for involvement.

“I dragged my feet because I was mainly here to study hard and get good grades,” Gaskamp said. “But [a professor] finally convinced me that it would be good for me to get involved. He encouraged me to join the Student Environmental Alliance. Opportunities started to open up, and I got involved in other groups and committees on campus.”

It was that involvement in JCCC sustainability efforts that led to Gaskamp’s interest in transferring to a four-year university to pursue a degree in civil engineering with an emphasis in environmental studies.

“Connecting with others in my extracurricular roles helped me communicate better with people,” he said. “I think being involved and being successful in the classroom plays into the whole college experience.”

design and construct a building over the course of an academic year, gaining practical experience in bringing a design to fruition. The KU students were able to construct the building for about half of its projected \$1.45 million estimated cost by donating their labor and by creative use of building materials. The building houses two classrooms and a lounge. Clad in reclaimed gray slate chalkboards, the building incorporates such energy-saving features as photovoltaic solar panels on the roof, a small 2-kilowatt wind turbine, LED lighting, sedum rooftop plants, and a rain-collecting cistern that will be used to water living walls of plants on the north sides of both classrooms as well as the lounge.

The two classrooms flank a courtyard and are connected by the wing housing the lounge. The courtyard is home to the college’s Galileo’s Garden sculpture by Dale Eldred.

Studio 804 students designed and constructed the building, which cost an estimated \$700,000, a portion of which was paid for by JCCC students through a \$1-per-credit-hour green fee. The remainder of the funds for the building came from the college’s campus development and capital outlay funds.

In 2011–2012, the college’s new **composting program** led to 33 tons of organic waste being diverted from the landfill. The compost, derived from waste from JCCC’s kitchens, is used as soil amendment for the campus farm and landscaping. The 2.5-acre JCCC farm is entering its second year of production, with sales to the college’s dining

services, its culinary program and local community-supported agriculture cooperatives. The farm supports the college’s sustainable agriculture program.

In 2011–2012, the college switched to a **single-stream recycling system** and launched the **E3 Office Program**, which stresses efficiency in resources used in college offices. Compared to 2010, the college reduced its overall landfill tonnage by 13 percent over the course of the year. Savings from reduced landfill costs combined with recycling revenue brought more than \$22,000 to the college.

In October 2011, JCCC held the **Kansas City area’s first student-centered sustainability conference, Epicenter**, attended by nearly 150 students from 17 area high schools and regional higher education institutions. Epicenter 2011 was envisioned as a platform for students to learn about sustainability, share resources and initiatives from their own schools, and generate and inspire student sustainability leadership. Keynote speaker Alex Steffen, co-founder of Worldchanging, was followed by peer presenters who shared their experiences with making their campuses more efficient, climate change solutions, pursuit of green jobs, and establishing and operating a student green fee. Federal earmark funding and a contribution from the JCCC sustainability initiatives fund made it possible for students to attend free of charge. The event was such a success that Epicenter 2012 was held at JCCC in October.