



## ***Jump starting a career:*** ***Hunter Langhart***

Hunter Langhart, a 2012 graduate of Blue Valley West High School, wasted little time positioning himself for a career in broadcast communications. He chose to attend JCCC because he's anxious to jump at early opportunities to gain broadcast experience.

"I heard JCCC was a great place and it provides hands-on broadcast opportunities," he said. "So, when looking at colleges, I decided to check it out."

Even in the first year of college, JCCC's journalism and media communications program provides students with supervised on-the-job training while earning college credit. It's this kind of opportunity former students call invaluable and rare for underclassmen at four-year universities.

"I know JCCC provides quality education at a great value," Langhart said. "I had one friend who originally was going to go straight to the University of Kansas, but he decided JCCC would be a better place for him to start. He did that and now he's finishing his filmmaking degree at KU. My plan is to get as many classes as I can at JCCC before transferring on to finish my bachelor's degree at a four-year university."

Langhart also expects JCCC to provide him with a smooth transition from high school to a college environment.

With the jump start he's receiving at JCCC, lights, camera and action are just around the corner for this college freshman.

"I know JCCC will provide the foundation I need for a career I want," Langhart said. "I can't wait to get started!"

## ***The Center for Sustainability***

JCCC's Center for Sustainability and the Student Sustainability Committee offered Epicenter 2012, a student sustainability conference held on the JCCC campus in October 2012. Topics included a look at a sustainable urban mushroom farm, a farm-to-table restaurant that uses locally grown meat and produce, environmental and economically sustainable engineering projects throughout the world, and ways to cut clutter without sending items to landfills.

JCCC and its Center for Sustainability were named to the U.S. Green Building Council's Center for Green Schools second annual Best of Green Schools list, which highlights top educational institutions and individuals across the country for embracing environmental initiatives. JCCC was recognized in the two-year school category.

The Best of Green Schools 2012 list highlights schools, districts, individuals and communities working toward the common goal of healthy, high-performing learning places for all. Through this list, the Center for Green Schools is working to bring recognition to the hard work being done across the country and to honor the heroes and shining examples of the green schools movement.

Among its activities, the Center for Sustainability at JCCC hosts national webinars for community colleges and is beginning the same for the Kansas Higher Education Sustainability Network. The college has created academic programs teaching solar technology, energy auditing and sustainable agriculture, and faculty who incorporate sustainable concepts into existing courses and who create new courses teaching sustainability applications within given fields and disciplines are rewarded with small grants through the Sunflower Project.

In 2009, JCCC's students asked for the creation of a green fee that gathers more than \$400,000 a year for sustainability

projects. An example of the use of these dollars in 2012-2013 was the purchase of two used hybrid vehicles for use in the college's automotive technology program.

JCCC has completed, has under construction or has applied for LEED designation for college structures. The Olathe Health Education Center is LEED gold, and Galileo's Pavilion is LEED platinum, the top rating.

A single-stream recycling system on campus has brought in more than \$75,000 for student scholarships, while JCCC's composting system has diverted close to 65 tons of organic waste from the landfill since June 2011. Waste diversion rates rose from 14 percent in 2010 to 35 percent in 2012. The recycling rate increased 38 percent from 2011 to 2012, and overall trash weight decreased 22 percent during the same period. Overall, the college's waste minimization program has led to a \$16,000 savings in trash disposal costs from 2011 to 2012.

In addition, aggressive energy efficiency retrofits have led to almost \$1,000,000 in avoided energy costs since 2008.

This year, JCCC solar technology students built solar personal-device charging tables that were deployed around campus. The students also traveled to Las Pintas, Mexico, to install low-cost solar thermal water heaters in the homes of local residents.

JCCC's sustainable hospitality internship program, in cooperation with EnergyWorksKC, matched student interns with five area restaurants, helping them become more energy and water efficient and reducing their environmental footprint.

The campus farm continues to scale up operations and serves as a lab for the growing sustainable agriculture program at JCCC. Food from an offshoot of the farm in Lawrence has been donated to a local food bank as part of the city's Common Ground program.



## A great place to start: Josh Thrutchley

With an ACT score of 32, Josh Thrutchley showed up on the radar of many colleges and universities when he graduated from Shawnee Mission East High School in 2010. However, he wanted time to solidify his thoughts on a specific career, something in the medical field, so he chose to begin college life at JCCC.

"JCCC is a great place with great professors," Thrutchley said. "All of them are great in their own way. I know JCCC is rated one of the top community colleges in the nation, and there is a reason more than 20,000 students study here each semester. It is just a great place to be."

Several JCCC professors had a particular impact on Thrutchley.

"One is Dr. Michael Hembree," he said. "He got me interested in the history side of education. I did an Honors contract with him my last semester on World War I. That has always interested me but I hadn't taken the time to explore the topic. Hembree was my *Western Civilization I* and *II* professor, and I became more interested in finding out more about World War I."

The JCCC honors program stimulates and challenges academically talented students, providing them with an opportunity to excel and achieve their educational goals. The program allows students to explore new ideas, engage in creative activities, research areas of interest, sharpen skills, become independent learners and collaborate with experienced faculty.

As part of his honors work, Thrutchley spent extra time with Hembree outside of class analyzing the operations and offerings of the World War I museum in Kansas City. He presented his findings in a research paper.

Outside of the JCCC honors program, Thrutchley was involved in the pre-med club, which met twice a month.

"This group offered members tips on what to expect when applying to medical school," he said. "The club has JCCC pre-med counselors come down and talk to us."



The two years Thrutchley spent at JCCC helped him prepare for further studies at a university. Thrutchley now attends the University of Missouri-Kansas City, eyeing an undergraduate degree in chemistry with aspirations to enter medical school. He continues to dig deeper and aim higher by challenging himself through honors classes.

Solar personal-device charging table

Galileo's Pavilion

