



## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

We are almost halfway through our school year. It is hard to believe that we already have a semester behind us. I would like to congratulate *Mrs. Gena Heffner, the 2018 Jackson County Technology Center Teacher of the Year*. Mrs. Heffner is in her twenty-fifth year as an instructor and has spent the last six at the JCTC. She is the original teacher who started the Teacher Academy program, and under her direction, the program has reached incredible heights. The Teacher Academy Program is number one in the state of Mississippi! Way to go Mrs. Heffner!



The Jackson County Technology Center has begun testing students with the ACT Work Keys Assessment. This work-ready test is required by many of the employers in our state and around the United States. We had forty students in our year two and three programs make silver or above on this test. Five students scored the highest level, which is platinum.

On behalf of our entire center, we want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season.

Dr. J.J. Morgan

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

### November

Automotive: Chasity Horton

Construction: Joshua Grayson

Information Technology: Jacob Lee

Instrumentation and Controls: Israel Davidson

Medical: Julian Candelario

Teacher Academy: Emilee Marksberry

Welding: Dustin House

### December

Automotive: Sarrah Garrow

Construction: Mark Warden

Information Technology: Carly Jones

Instrumentation and Controls:

Camren Rouse

Medical: Isabella Weaver

Teacher Academy: Katelyn Posey

Welding: Christopher Jordan

## The Face of JCTC: Mrs. Devers



Our Secretary Spotlight for the November issue of the JCTC News is Mrs. Devers! As the "Face of JCTC," Mrs. Devers is always willing to help out everyone who comes into the office. Not only does she assist students and guests at the front desk, she also takes care of the paperwork, accounting, and orders for teachers at JCTC--and makes sure the snack cart is stocked and ready for business! Mrs. Devers says her favorite part of the job is seeing all the wonderful students, teachers, and administrators that come through the tech center. She also wants students to know it is not scary to come to the office, as they are always happy to help students succeed! "This is the best place that I have ever worked; this is my favorite job by far," Mrs. Devers says. We are thankful for Mrs. Devers and all of her hard work to make JCTC the place to be!

A graphic featuring two spotlights at the top, one on the left and one on the right, both pointing downwards. A bright yellow beam of light from each spotlight converges towards the center, illuminating the text 'SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM' which is written in a blue, sans-serif font.

## SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM

JCTC's November Spotlight Program is Instrumentation and Controls! Taught by Fred Walton, this class has achieved monumental success despite its short time here at the Jackson County Technology Center. We sat down with Mr. Walton to find out more about this outstanding program.

*-What skills do your students learn through the I&C program?*

The I&C students learn skills ranging from OSHA safety practices to job-craft related skills sets. These skills provide the foundation to enable my students to build the skill sets needed to excel in the workplace. Keep in mind that these skills are also used to provide the students with that first step needed in the I&C program at MGCCC should they choose to pursue the college program there.



*-What awards or honors have you and your class received that you feel can help us demonstrate the class's success?*



First is the NCCER, National Center for Construction Education and Research, a nationally recognized certification in the industrial and commercial trades. My second year students also complete the OSHA 10 Hour certification program. This is a federal agency safety certification that all industry in the U.S.A use and recognize which demonstrates that you are trained and competent in the area of industry safety awareness and practices. It has been demonstrated to increase wages for employees who have received this certificate. The JCTC I&C students who enter the Maritime program have also

demonstrated great success based on training received here at the Center. Our students have also placed very well on the ACT-WorkKeys testing. Another and more immediate recognition my students receive is access to the MGCCC I&C program. As entry and acceptance to the program is very competitive, the JCTC program enables our students to enter the MGCCC program as long as they successfully complete the JCTC program.

*-What is a unique part of your program that one would not normally find in an ordinary class?*

The I&C program offers a significant amount of hands on training using the skills sets found in the trade area. This enables the students to become creative in the design and construction of various trade related platform systems to enforce skills and build a deeper understanding of I&C fundamentals and practices. This includes skills such as team work, critical thinking and work ethic to name a few.

*-Is there anything else you think we should know about the I&C program or I&C students?*

The I&C program provides students with the opportunity to explore their interests and test their skills. Through this program options are opened and made available that the students would not have if they pursued the traditional pathways. Job options such as I&C positions at Chevron or MS. Power may not be available. The opportunities presented through this program also include the chance to challenge yourself and your creativity while learning new skills and ideas.

As you can see, there is a lot that this program brings to the table, I only mention a few as space is limited. I am very proud of my students, past and present, and the work they have accomplished. Keep in mind, this program is only 3 years young and we are the only high school program in the state. My students have built the class, work stations, and foundation that will be used for years to come. So, is this teacher proud of and amazed with all of his students? YES, Yes I am!

## JUNIOR CHEF – SMHS!



We are so proud of our Culinary Program, housed at St. Martin High School; they received first place for their original recipe Chicken Crust Pizza in the “Savor the Flavor of Mississippi” regional competition! Team 5 Spices competed against five other teams from our region, and they qualified to compete for the state title in January against winners of other regional

competitions. The team has been preparing and practicing during class and after school since August, focusing on knife skills, cooking techniques, sanitation, nutrition of their recipe, and teamwork. This competition grades participants on time management, food preparation skills, safety, sanitation, recipe attractiveness, and taste appeal, as well as the contestants’ attitude and appearance. Also, the original recipe prepared for the judging panel must include ingredients supplied by local farmers, encouraging students to create a truly authentic Mississippi dish. Again, we are so proud of these young chefs and their dedication to excellence! JCTC wishes Team 5 Spices good luck at the state competition!



## VHS VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

JCTC is proud to recognize the members of the 2018 State Champion Volleyball team at Vancleave! These girls have trained and practiced every day during their fourth block classes, along with after-school practices. Manager Makaelyn Thrash says, “Winning always felt really nice because it was evidence of the girls’ hard work paying off,” and she hopes that the team can continue to carry the momentum that they have built up to future seasons. Thrash also states, “I think it’s just really important to realize these championships weren’t handed to them and they’ve all put in countless hours, blood, sweat, and tears into this sport.” Members of the team that are a part of JCTC include: Cheyenne Strickland (M1), Payton McKerchie (M1), Khadeejah Franklin (M1), Eve Mixon (M3), Ashley Chelette (M3), Erin Daughtery (TA1), MaKaelyn Thrash (manager, TA 3), and Anastasia Ashley (JV, M3). We are so proud of these exemplary young ladies and all the time they spent working to represent Vancleave and JCTC well! We cannot wait to see what they will do next year.

