

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Jefferson State Community College has a long and storied history, dating back to its creation as one of 12 junior colleges authorized by the Alabama State Legislature on May 3, 1963. The College's first students began attending classes on September 30, 1965 in Birmingham, Alabama, and its focus on being an educational leader in the state has not wavered since that day.

Many "firsts" have followed for Jefferson State since then. It was the first in the state to receive national accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in December 1968. It was the first to earn community college status. It was the first to develop an accredited nursing program in Alabama. And it offers the only accredited culinary program in the region.

Acknowledging the scope of the programs and services of Jefferson State, the Alabama State Board of Education in 1989 changed the name of the institution from Jefferson State Junior College to Jefferson State Community College, better defining its mission and reflecting its unparalleled work.

Dr. Leroy Brown was named the first president of Jefferson State in August 1964, and Dr. George Layton succeeded Dr. Brown in June 1971. Dr. Judy M. Merritt became Jefferson State's third President in December 1979, and she continues to serve the College today, taking it to heights never before imaginable.

Under visionary leadership, the College has grown and thrived. Enrollment that first day in 1965 stood at 1,100. It has now passed the 22,000-mark at four campuses in four counties — one of the largest community colleges in the state. Jefferson State offers more than 120 University Transfer Programs, 40 Career Programs and numerous Certificate Programs at its four campuses in Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair and Chilton counties.

Thirteen buildings, located on 274 acres in northeast Jefferson County, comprise the original campus. In 1993, the College opened the Shelby-Hoover campus, extending convenient access to the residents of Shelby County and southern Jefferson County. The College continued its outreach in the region, establishing the St. Clair-Pell City campus in the fall of 2006, followed by the Chilton-Clanton site in 2008.

Over more than 45 years, Jefferson State has provided countless educational opportunities throughout the region with a tradition of quality academic instruction, workforce development and cutting-edge technology training. Achievements include 100 percent job placement rate for Radiologic Technology graduates for the past seven years, 3,320 registered nurse graduates, and the first in Alabama to offer dual enrollment to high school students. With these accomplishments, in addition to our online programs, impressive workforce development partnerships, and an outreach focus that provides opportunities for corporate and community education, it is easy to understand the College's reputation as the premier institution among its peers.

Not content to rest on its laurels, the College in 2009, addressed the need for a long-term vision for the school, developing a detailed, multi-year Strategic Plan that will guide its actions over the next five years and encourage the partnership of regional corporate and governmental leaders. JSCC personnel, as well as private business, industry, governmental and community leaders came together to establish a Strategic Planning Task Force. The Task Force identified a number of critical needs for the College:

I. EXPAND AND ENHANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Establish new nursing programs at the Clanton and Pell City campuses
- Enhance Workforce Development in the four-county region
- Develop and implement a University Center within the Jefferson State network

II. EXPAND STUDENT OUTREACH

- Provide technology infrastructure to all Jefferson State campuses
- Enhance and expand distance learning capabilities
- Enhance technology for Jefferson State students, faculty and administration

A comprehensive Feasibility Analysis was conducted in August 2009 to gauge support among corporate and community leaders in the greater Birmingham, four-county region for the proposed Strategic Plan. Based upon the positive results of the Feasibility Analysis, the Jefferson State Community College Foundation initiated the **Partners for Progress** campaign to financially support the goals and objectives of the five-year Strategic Plan.