

Fall 2020



MSJC Offers Career Education Classes in Person

When Mt. San Jacinto College (MSJC) began its Fall 2020 semester on Aug. 17, most students attended classes online amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

But hands-on Career Education courses such as automotive, nursing and diagnostic medical sonography (DMS) were held on MSJC campuses when necessary. The same is planned for Spring 2021. MSJC DMS Department Chair Tracy Francis welcomed students during the first day of the fall semester after taking their temperatures to maintain a safe learning environment during the pandemic.

Student Ruby Aquino of Menifee took scans of a fellow student for hands-on practice while they were partitioned by a plastic curtain as a safety precaution to prepare them for the essential healthcare industry.

The college has put into place such preventative safety measures for those few classes that must be held in person.

“We wish we could welcome all of our students back to our campuses right now,” said Dr. Roger Schultz, MSJC Superintendent/President. “We ordered our campuses closed on March 13 because of COVID-19, and for the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff, we’ll remain mostly closed for the foreseeable future. Hopefully, we can welcome back our students in person soon.”

Students can learn more about MSJC Career Education programs at www.msjc.edu/CareerEducation and can see the Spring 2021 schedule at www.msjc.edu/schedule. Spring registration begins Nov. 30 and the semester starts Jan. 19. Transform your life at MSJC.

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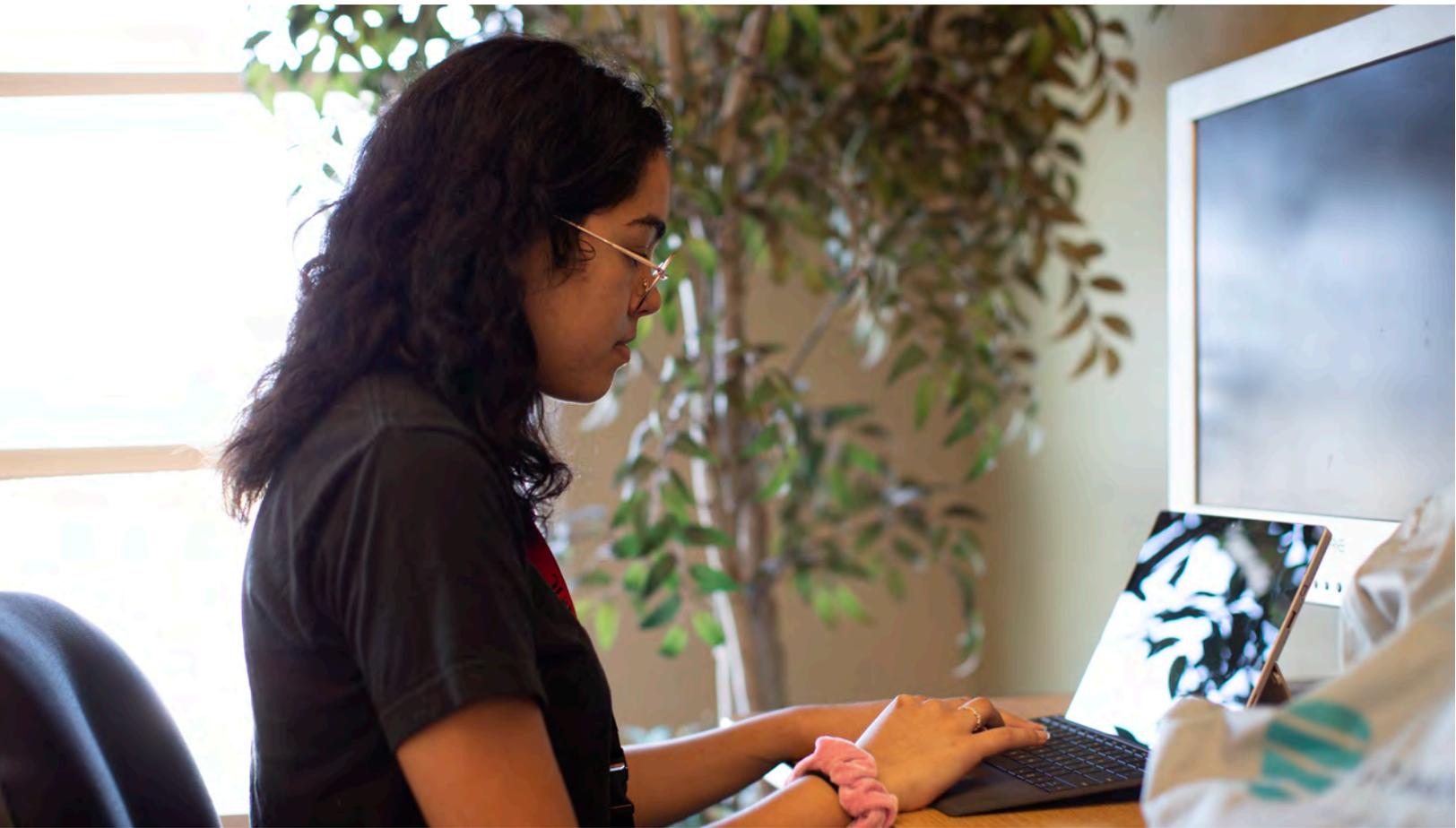
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Micro programs offer opportunities for new skills, career changes

Everyone knows that unemployment rates rise during economic recessions like the current COVID-19-induced recession. What's less clear, particularly during this unpredictable pandemic, is when the recession will end.

If you are unemployed or underemployed, or if you are an employer whose workers need to learn new skills to adapt to industry changes, now's a great time to consider participating in micro programs through MSJC Career Education.

The college's micro programs can help people get back into the workplace by earning industry-recognized certificates and/or learning new skills for evolving industries in short timespans.

Among the college's micro programs that can lead to immediate employment skillsets are Administration of Justice, including private security/loss prevention, corrections, and computer forensics; Business/Accounting; Construction; and Culinary Arts. Learn more at www.msjc.edu/microprograms.

In addition, MSJC's Community Education and Workplace Training offer short-term programs such as pharmacy technician, personal training, real estate, home inspection, veterinary assistant, and notary. Learn about these and additional programs at www.msjc.edu/communityeducationworkplacetraing.

The Spring 2021 schedule is available at www.msjc.edu/schedule. Registration begins Nov. 30 and the semester starts Jan. 19. Learn new skills now.



Apprenticeship Program

The MSJC Apprenticeship program debuted in Fall 2020, with a focus on automotive, and plans to expand in other concentrations in 2021.

Companies with auto maintenance and repair facilities are helping students who are looking for a career through a combination of structured on-the-job training and related classroom instruction at MSJC.

Among the first students to join the program was Perris resident Isaiah Gil.

“I wanted to become an apprentice in order to start a career in the automotive industry,” he said. “I love working on cars, and this has been a dream of mine for years. This is a wonderful opportunity and I had to take advantage of it.”

Each student in the program receives apprentice employment; structured and supervised on-the-job training; wage/skill progression; related instruction at MSJC with fees waived; oversight by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards; and a certificate upon completion.

The college plans to expand the program in Fall 2021 with a focus on engineering, water technology, wine hospitality, geographic information systems, building energy systems, and/or digital media.

Students and employers from any industry interested in participating in the MSJC Apprenticeship program should email Apprenticeship@msjc.edu.

Umoja Program, Counselor Join Career Education Team

The Umoja program has moved into Career Education. About 1,100 African American and Black students make up MSJC’s highest priority group. As detailed in the MSJC Equity Pledge, the data show the college has failed to respond to the needs of its African American and Black students.

Umoja (a Kiswahili word meaning unity) is a community and critical resource dedicated to enhancing the cultural and educational experiences of African American and other students. Umoja at MSJC provides access to degree requirement and transferable courses (English, Mathematics, and Guidance); offers educational, career, and personal counseling; hosts and attends numerous culturally relevant events; and attends campus tours at 4-year institutions.

MSJC’s Umoja group engages about 88 active students and has reached about 150. The college aims to grow its Umoja community to help even more African American and Black students improve their student success and transfer rates.

Umoja Coordinator Darnell Bing, who is a counselor and assistant professor, also moved to Career Education. Bing, who has been with MSJC since August 2016, will continue counseling students of any academic discipline.



MSJC Helps Business Alumna Keeps Her Eyes on the Prize

Aurea Lawson's path to a bachelor's degree in hospitality management took some detours after she graduated from high school in 2012 in Oklahoma.

But after earning her associate degree in business administration from MSJC in May 2017, she landed a great job and is now poised to earn her bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Le Cordon Bleu Hospitality Management from American InterContinental University in December 2020.

Lawson, 26, works as a career exploration program coordinator at Vital Link, an Orange County nonprofit that helps K-16 students learn more about Career Education and various career paths. Among her duties is coordinating with school districts to put on large-scale events and arrange field trips.

After earning her bachelor's, Lawson plans to get her master's degree and work at a large hotel or large-scale events company in Orange County.

Lawson said MSJC helped prepare her well for her current career path and has some wise advice for students.

"If you're going to take a while, don't panic," she said. "As long as you know where you're headed, you'll be OK. Just keep going. Keep your eyes on the prize."

Community Education Offers Workforce Training Options

During challenging economic climates like this when many people are out of work or underemployed, MSJC's Community Education program provides a great opportunity for local residents to quickly learn new skills that will help prepare them for new careers and jobs in the region.

Community Education can offer options for workforce training that may not be available in the college's other Career Education programs, said Morris Myers, who is the Director of Workforce & Economic Development.

Some of the courses in Community Education's fee-based programs can fill gaps that may result from the economic impact of the pandemic, he said.

Myers began overseeing the Community Education program in Fall 2020. He joined MSJC in January 2016.

A longtime Temecula area resident, Myers serves on the Riverside County Workforce Development Board, Temecula Education Foundation, Murrieta Temecula Group, Boys & Girls Club of Southwest, the Murrieta Wildomar Chamber of Commerce, and the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest California.

Learn more about MSJC's Community Education programs and courses at www.msjc.edu/communityeducationworkplacetraining.



MSJC Career Education



951-639-5352



www.msjc.edu/CareerEducation