



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 27, 2018  
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## **NEW Countywide Jackson County Early College Launches with Kickoff on March 8**

JACKSON, Michigan -- The community is invited to celebrate the launch of an exciting new educational opportunity for Jackson County students: The Jackson County Early College (JCEC). The brief kickoff event will be held on Thursday, March 8 at 5:30 p.m. in Bert Walker Hall, rooms 144 & 145, on the Central campus of Jackson College.

The new JCEC is open to students in every public high school in Jackson County and is designed to guide students beyond traditional dual enrollment (in which students select their own college courses) toward a career path and formal program of study. As early as ninth grade, students can begin taking classes on campus at Jackson College and get a head start on working towards an associate degree, certification, or credential.

JCEC students will see significant cost savings for their education compared to most traditional college students, with much of the expense covered by the home district.

"The Jackson County Early College (JCEC) program represents a transformational shift in education for the children of Jackson County," said Jeff Beal, superintendent of Jackson Public Schools. "This shift moves from a traditional K-12 approach to a much more robust K-14 pathway that will be tailored for every child to find their way from the classroom to a career."

JCEC is designed as a Universal Entry/Universal Exit model whereby students can begin their college education as early as their freshman year and stay all the way through year 13. This offers a maximum of 60 credits at a small fraction of the cost.

The concept of Universal Exit allows students the flexibility to leave the program at any time up to or before the end of their 13th year, provided they are meeting State of Michigan high school graduation requirements. Students can choose how intensive their pathway will be, as some will begin with just a few exploratory courses, while others can choose a more robust pathway which can yield a completed associate degree by the end of year 13.

"This is an inclusive program designed to encourage students from all backgrounds to earn college credits, a degree, or a certification; and be prepared for a meaningful and successful career in the community," said Jean Logan, Jackson County Early College Administrator. "One of our desired outcomes is 'community retention' – creating a workforce that will remain in the

area to support the growing economic base. The potential to impact Jackson County's business community in meeting its workforce needs is substantial."

Under the guidance of counselors and dedicated program director, Logan, students can apply now to the program, and begin planning to attend Jackson College classes in the fall of 2018.

For more information on the JCEC, please contact [info@jxncec.org](mailto:info@jxncec.org) or speak with Mrs. Miller.

Sincerely,

Dan Funston, Superintendent  
Concord Community Schools

Enclosed: JCEC Kickoff Invitation



**Please join us on  
Thursday, March 8, 2018  
at 5:30 p.m.  
For a kickoff event for  
Jackson County Early College**

*This exciting new option for Jackson County creates a pathway for students to start their college experience earlier and reach further. Students from our county's 12 public school districts can now enroll as early as 9th grade, and have the possibility to earn a high school diploma and complete an associate degree from Jackson College with a 13th year of education – at a fraction of the cost!*

*Learn more at this kickoff event!*

Short program followed by  
light refreshments

Jackson College Central Campus  
2111 Emmons Road  
Bert Walker Hall | Rooms 144 & 145