

THE JOHNSONIAN

2021

When the Covid-19 lockdown hit, Levi was diagnosed with testicular cancer, which motivated him to make sure he found employment in his field. Months after treatment, he is now cancer-free and working in his current position at Digging and Rigging, Inc. as an assistant mechanic.

Josh said the robotics and automation portion of the Electronic Engineering Technology program was the most enjoyable for him. He also enjoyed working on his class's Capstone project: building a large scale 3D printer. He felt accomplished creating something that is available commercially, and being able to build it from nothing and make it bigger and better. This project, included in his portfolio, helped secure his current position at Simona American Industries.

Both graduates said the lessons they received at Johnson were invaluable. Johnson College's former Diesel Technology Program Director instilled in Levi a similar lesson his father taught him: "You don't have to be the smartest man in the room, but always be the hardest-working." Levi expanded, saying, "No matter how pointless or easy something seems, keep your head down and work hard. Your boss will see that."

As a self-described over-analyzer, Josh said the best advice he received from his program director was, "Keep it simple. Start with the basics and go from there." He said this has helped him with tasks from designing to troubleshooting issues.

Both graduates had words of advice for current and future students. Levi said, "Take advantage of every little thing that they're willing to let you do." He wishes he took more advantage of the opportunities the College had to offer, such as industry specific training through the Diesel program. Josh said, "Everything about the College, from [the College's motto] 'We Work' to how the classes are run, is geared towards a work environment. Take it seriously." He elaborated, "The [work] ethic that is instilled is absolutely vital to being marketable and being a professional."

2020 GRADS FIND SUCCESS

As different as 2020 was, Johnson College graduates are still thriving. Jeremiah "Levi" Johnson '20, a graduate from the Diesel Truck Technology program, and Joshual "Josh" Thomas '20, a graduate from the Electronic Engineering Technology program, have found success in each of their fields.

Levi was cautious about attending post-secondary school at a large university for fear of distractions, so when a high school friend enrolled in the Diesel Truck Technology program at Johnson College, Levi took a closer look at the College. Levi is a "big hands-on kind of guy" when it comes to his learning style and his friend assured him that the majority of education was hands-on, not just theory. He attended an Open House, and said he was, "sold."

While looking for the next step to advance in his career while staying close to home, Josh, a military veteran, found Johnson College's Electronic Engineering Technology program a great fit. According to Josh, the friendly and helpful staff and faculty stood out at the College, specifically, Rick Fornes '94, Electronic Engineering Program Director. Josh says he is an impressive instructor and mentor, who went beyond the classroom to help him professionally and personally. Josh said he felt like the instructors helped prepare him to tackle any job with general knowledge and common sense.

According to Levi, the strong relationships and communication skills that Levi gained at Johnson College help him in his current position. "I work well with my team, not because I'm the smartest, the strongest or anything like that, but because I can talk to them like I already met them before," Levi said. "And I take a lot of that from Johnson College and hanging out with the people from class."



COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
Johnson
COLLEGE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

In 2020, there were many challenges and the Johnson College community persevered. When opportunities presented themselves we rose to meet them; and when we were tested, we sharpened our essential skills and advanced to a new level, learning more about ourselves and the expectations of the real-world along the way.

In 2021 we will continue to create an even better and stronger Johnson College. We will once again be welcoming the most students to campus; we will be hosting the Middle States Commission on Higher Education for a virtual site visit for accreditation; we will continue to build strong partnerships with many new and existing regional essential industries; new construction will begin taking place on campus; at least one, new 2-year associate degree program will be introduced; and much more!

Our future is so bright! As we prepare our students for their essential careers, we remain committed to producing the best technicians and technologists. Our industry partners rely on us for this. Together, we will continue to demonstrate to the region just how **WE WORK!**

Katie Leonard
KATIE LEONARD, ED.D.

VIRTUAL MIX & MINGLE

Students were invited to join members of the Board of Directors for a virtual event on Wednesday, December 2. This event gave current students a chance to discuss their Johnson College experience and have any questions answered by members of our Board of Directors. It also served as an opportunity for board members to ask the students for their first-hand feedback and suggestions. Feedback from this session will be used to inform the College's Spring Semester and Strategic Plans.



STEM ON CAMPUS

In November, Johnson College hosted students from United Neighborhood Centers, Scranton West Intermediate, and the Boy Scouts for multiple STEM Challenge Events. The events focused on engineering principals, computer programming, robotics, and circuitry. Students were also shown the types of careers that use the knowledge and technology utilized in the challenges.

WE HAVE A FIRE ENGINE!!!

In December, the City of Scranton donated a 1989 Sutphen Fire Engine to the College. Mark Kozemko '79, Automotive Technology Program Director, said, "The Diesel Truck Technology, Automotive Technology, and Heavy Equipment Technology students will be trained on every system of the truck, from the front bumper to the rear bumper. Student training will include engine and driveline, electrical and lighting, and basic preventative maintenance. They will also be trained on systems that are unique to firefighting vehicles including the water pumping system, water storage system, and emergency vehicle lighting and warning systems."





JOHNSON COLLEGE AT SIMPLEX HOMES

At Johnson College, we mean it when we say “industry is our students’ campus.” As the College continues to grow the industry and live lab experiences for students, it further strengthened its relationship with Simplex Homes during the Fall ‘20 semester. When the opportunity of having lab space at Simplex Homes was brought to Cullen McKenna ‘11, Associate Program Director, Electrical Construction and Maintenance Technology, he jumped at the chance to expand the program.

Under guidance from McKenna, the first-year students in the Building Trade & Technology division of programs created a classroom and new lab space in the Simplex Homes’ facility in Scranton. Students in the carpentry rotation framed the walls and created a drop ceiling for the classroom that now houses the residential wiring classes for the Electrical Construction & Maintenance Technology program. McKenna designed the space with residential wiring in mind. “When a space is built with purpose, it will fill its purpose phenomenally,” McKenna said. This new lab space reflects what students will encounter in the field.

McKenna believes this new space is a win-win for the College & Simplex Homes. Students see different processes by being on an active job site and Simplex Homes has access to high quality candidates right on their property. He said, “The students get to put out high-quality work and get that real-world experience. It’s like going to work.” Charlie Kasko, Director of Manufacturing at Simplex Homes, also thinks it’s great for students to experience an actual work environment since it gives them an idea of what it’s like out in the field. He said, “Simplex has had a great partnership with Johnson College for a long time and having [students] here brings it a step further. They have the opportunity to intern and shadow employees here and by building these relationships with students, they will become good, long-term employees.” McKenna said that Simplex Homes has already offered internships and jobs to students who were on site.



COLLEGE COMMUNITY STEPS UP

On August 18th, Johnson College hosted its first-ever Day of Giving, which raised \$31,820. All donations made within the 24-hour period supported the College’s Presidential Scholarship Fund. This fund assists students by reducing the financial burden of college and gives them the opportunity to focus on the real-world, hands-on education they receive at the College.

Then, on December 1st, the College participated in the world-wide charitable event, Giving Tuesday. This year, the College encouraged people through emails and social media posts to donate to its Annual Fund. At the end of the day, through numerous donations and a matching gift from Dr. Katie Leonard, the College raised \$8,210 to help students receive the most hands-on, technically driven, and industry-centered education possible.



PODCASTS ARE COOL

The Tech Talk with Johnson College podcast, started in 2020, prior to the pandemic and continues its production in 2021. During the show, Dr. Katie Leonard and her guests discuss regional opportunities, national economic issues, the effects of the pandemic, and the evolving role that technology plays in the job market. Past guests include Kellie Barrett, Vice President of Order and Fulfillment at Road Scholar; Teri Ooms, Executive Director at the Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development; Matthew Cirba, Computer Information Technology Instructor and Creator/Owner of Garlic Jar Media; Stephen Midura, Northeast Pennsylvania Market Director at Johnson Controls; Darryl Jayne, General Manager of Gibbons Ford; LaTida Smith, President and CEO of the Moses Taylor Foundation (pictured above with Dr. Katie Leonard); and Ryan Leckey, Ph.D., Emmy award-winning host from WNEP-TV. You can access all Tech Talk episodes via Johnson.edu, iTunes or Spotify.



INDUSTRY ON CAMPUS

During the fall semester, students were acquainted with a variety of industries located in Northeast Pennsylvania, and beyond. Many of Johnson College's industry partners visited campus to meet with students and instructors. Representatives talked with students about their industry, what their companies do, and discussed opportunities for internships and careers. Partners also hosted a variety of activities including virtual meetings for students and on campus interviews. Participating partners included: CANPACK; Sanofi; Milnes Engineering, Construction & Survey; Lutron Electronics Co., Inc.; Olympia Chimney Supply, Inc.; Road Scholar Transport; Tobyhanna Army Depot; Ball Corporation; Sandvik; Johnson Controls; Wayne J. Pisanchyn Plumbing & Heating; and others.

In addition to industry labs like the one at Simplex Homes, students had the opportunity to experience the field first-hand with visits to different industry locations throughout the semester. Some highlights include HVAC students uninstalling the sealed system components of a walk-in cooler/freezer, installing a new walk-in cooler and diagnosing a rooftop heating system at Colarusso's Coal Fire Pizza, and uninstalling and reinstalling a central A/C System for Sean Byrne Construction. There were also field trips to Five Star John Deere; Jus' By Luck Farms; Filament Innovations, Inc.; and Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center. During these field trips, students were able to observe professionals working in a real-world environment.

In October, Johnson College held its biannual career fair. Students and alumni had the chance to meet and discuss career opportunities. Dana Healey, Career Services Manager, said, "The career fair is a great way for our students to get in front of industry professionals and start making those connections that are so important in finding an internship and career that they love."

More than 30 employers were represented throughout the many lab spaces and classrooms of the College. Employers included: A. Pickett Construction, Inc., Altec Industries, Inc.; Automated Lifestyles LLC; Cable Associates, Inc.; Carpenters Local 445; CSTK- Central States Thermo King; Dempsey Uniform & Linen Supply; Doyle & Roth Manufacturing Co., Inc.; Fastenal Company; Gibbons Ford; Greiner Packaging; Hendricks Manufacturing; Lockheed Martin Corporation; Boilermaker's Union; Keystone Sanitary Landfill; Marshall Machinery, Inc.; Milnes Engineering, Construction & Survey; MotorWorld, part of the MileOne Autogroup; Northeast Infrastructure LLC; Pennsylvania State Police; S2W Contracting LLC; Select Products Holdings, LLC; SERVPRO of Kingston, Pittston City and Wyoming County; Simplex Homes; Stadium International Trucks; Summit Utility Structures; The AZEK Company; The Physician's Resource for Medical Equipment, Inc.; Tobyhanna Army Depot; Toyota of Scranton; US Army; and The Lodge at Woodloch.

SAVE THE DATES

CAREER FAIR | Wednesday, March 24

OPEN HOUSE | Saturday, March 27

COMMENCEMENT | Tuesday, May 11

JOHNSON COLLEGE OPEN | Friday, May 21

COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
Johnson
COLLEGE