

THE JOHNSONIAN



LEFT TO RIGHT: PATRICK O'NEILL '12, BRANDON HUDACKO '19, WALTER WOOD '11, AND MICHAEL VISBISKY.

When students entered Johnson College's first Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Technology (HVAC) class in 2009, College staff and faculty knew there was a lot of interest in this high demand program, and based on industry demand, had a feeling it would become one of the most sought-after programs on our campus. Over time, this program has experienced record enrollment to the point it's outgrowing its lab space inside Woolworth Hall.

This two-year Associate in Applied Science Degree program provides students with the skills needed for entry-level positions in installing, repairing, and troubleshooting various heating and cooling equipment. What you may not know is the faculty who teach these skills were, or, are Johnson College students themselves. Program Director Walter Wood '11 leads the team, including Michael Visbisky, HVAC Instructor, who is currently taking classes at the College to further his training, Patrick O'Neill '12, Adjunct HVAC Instructor, and Brandon Hudacko '19, HVAC Lab Assistant.

As Michael Visbisky shares, "My educational experience at Johnson College provides me with further insight into how my students learn and think. Being a student myself, helps me better understand my students." All the HVAC instructors echo Michael's comments. Walter Wood '11 added, "The education I received here at Johnson really opened my eyes to so many opportunities that the HVAC field has to offer, and I now share those same opportunities with my students."

When asked why they returned to teach HVAC while still working in the industry, they all agreed it's about sharing their combined 30 years of HVAC industry experience with students. Patrick O'Neill '12 said, "I returned to teach because I wanted to share my real-world knowledge so students are prepared to diagnose and resolve problems they'll see in the field." Brandon Hudacko '19, told us, "I returned to help students who may feel they don't have the mechanical ability to work in a trade like I did when I enrolled at Johnson College." No matter the reason, these instructors are giving their students real-world training in a supportive environment that doesn't end when class is over.

While Johnson College students acquire a well-rounded foundation of HVAC knowledge in the classroom and lab, they get to truly show their instructors their hands-on training when they're invited to accompany them to real-world job sites. These sites include houses that local non-profits are building or remodeling for the College's neighbors in need, and places where our instructors are hired to install or repair HVAC units. Nothing compares to real-world experience.

Whether in a classroom, lab, or on a job site, our instructors are inspired by what they see from their HVAC students.

"It means the world to me when I see my students excited about what they learn and their reactions when they master an assignment," said Patrick O'Neill '12.

Brandon Hudacko '19, shared, "All of my students have made me proud by being very driven to learn, perform and complete their projects. Some have even taught me tricks I now apply in the field."

Michael Visbisky added, "Witnessing my students' excitement about HVAC reignites my passion for the trade. It amazes me the progress the students make over the two-year program."

And finally, Program Director, Walter Wood '11, said, "It's great to hear our graduates' success stories on how far they are in attaining their career goals, knowing we all helped them enter the workforce better prepared than I was when I first started."

When asked what they see when looking out at a class or lab filled with eager students ready to dive into the hands-on training they expect from Johnson College, all four instructors say they see the future of the HVAC industry, and they believe it's in good hands.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

In November, I had the great opportunity to be the Keynote Speaker at the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce's Women's Network Luncheon. Joining me at the luncheon were Johnson College students Moriah Lovall, Xiara Figueroa, Nichole Nye, and Antonia LaTorre. Seeing our students there gave me the confidence I needed to deliver a message near and dear to my heart: making sure women don't self-sabotage their own success so they can stay in the workforce and thrive.

The audience was shocked to learn that from 2020 to 2021, 2,328,000 women left the workforce. The reasons for this staggering number are numerous and include: jobs held by women were disproportionately affected by the economic slowdown and shutdowns; greater family demands on women; COVID-19; and

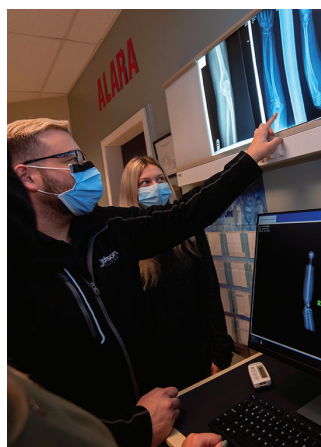
burnout. Women in the workforce are vital to our economy, and the GDP, and that's why we need to stop holding ourselves back.

Here are a few ways I believe women can re-enter, stay, and thrive in the workforce: acknowledge we sometimes sabotage ourselves, replace ruminating negative thoughts with positive, action-oriented problem-solving, be honest with ourselves, stop negative self-talk, replace self-criticism with self-correction, let ourselves be human, and mentor and support each other as women. Most of all, know it's okay to talk about this topic because we have all self-sabotaged at times!

To all the women working hard on so many levels, you are unique, and you are enough, right at this moment. Above all else, remember to be kinder and gentler to yourself. Show everyone how **We Work!**

Katie Leonard

KATIE LEONARD, ED.D. PRESIDENT & CEO



RECORD ENROLLMENT

On August 30, 2021, Johnson College welcomed its largest student body in the history of the College. Close to 550 students enrolled in Johnson College programs for the 2021-2022 academic year, outpacing last year's enrollment record by a whopping 8%! The College also welcomed its largest Dual Enrollment/Industry Fast Track class, with more than 40 students from around the area enrolled part-time or full-time for college credits while also earning their high school diplomas. This was the third year of record enrollment for the College.



ALUMNI EVENTS

On June 13, 2021, our distinguished Golden Alumni returned to campus to attend the 2021 Golden Alumni Society Reunion and Induction Ceremony. During the event, the Classes of 1970 and 1971 were inducted into the Golden Alumni Society. Then, on August 14, 2021, Johnson College alumni of all ages had the chance to meet and have fun during Alumni Night at PNC Field's Kost Pavilion during the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders game. Planning has begun for an exciting year of new Alumni events in 2022, so stay tuned.

FOUR NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

This fall, the College was busy launching FOUR new academic programs! These programs include three two-year associate degree programs: Civil Design Technology, Mechatronics Technology, and Welding Fabrication Manufacturing Technology; expanding on the one-year Welding Technology academic certificate program.



The College also added Industrial Technology, a one-year academic certificate program. The College now offers students a hands-on education in eighteen 2-year associate degree programs and four 1-year academic certificate programs. We work to get qualified students into industry fast!

ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY – RISE & ECHO



On October 26, 2021, Johnson College, United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania, The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development, and the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund announced a new transformational workforce development program to serve residents of Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, titled RISE: Readiness In Skilled Employment. By providing pathways to earning a family-sustaining wage, RISE helps to break the cycle of poverty, paves the way for future generations to succeed, and helps create a qualified workforce to benefit our entire region.

On November 3, 2021, NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania, Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging, Simplex Homes, the PA Department of Aging, and Johnson College unveiled the Elder Cottage Housing Opportunity (ECHO) project. ECHO allows older adults to remain close to family members or caretakers by providing cottages designed and built by our students which are then placed on the caretaker and/or loved one's property.



WIDENING THE PIPELINE FOR A TRAINED HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

Johnson College was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Health Care Foundation to support the College's "Widening the Pipeline for a Trained Healthcare Workforce" project. The grant will help Johnson College increase the pool of qualified, well-trained health care workers for our area.

Our mobile community outreach unit will travel throughout NEPA and beyond to provide a hands-on experience for potential students to see and feel what it is like to work in the health care field. With a focus on engaging nontraditional students, the College will show participants various paths to meet their educational training needs.



VISITORS TO CAMPUS

On August 26, 2021, the College's Advanced Manufacturing Technology lab inside Woolworth Hall was the location for The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce's in-person Back to Business Card Exchange. Everyone at the College was so happy to see so many local business and industry representatives attend. On November 9, 2021, the College welcomed members from the Appalachian Regional Commission, Northeastern PA Alliance, PA Department of Community and Economic Development, and Northeast PA government and business leaders. These visitors, including ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin, were able to see how grant funding from organizations like the Appalachian Regional Commission has provided even more opportunities for our students.



BOARD/STUDENT MIX & MINGLE

Students and members of the Johnson College Board of Directors participated in a mix and mingle event on December 1, 2021, in the Academic Resource Center on campus. This event gave current students a chance to discuss their Johnson College experience and have any questions answered by members of the College's Board of Directors. It also served as an opportunity for board members to ask the students for their first-hand feedback and suggestions. The College will use feedback from this session to make the student experience the best it can be at Johnson College.

SAVE THE DATES

ALUMNI NIGHT AT WILKES-BARRE/SCRANTON PENGUINS HOCKEY GAME

Saturday, February 5

ALUMNI & STUDENT CAREER FAIR

Wednesday, March 23

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 26

COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 14

29TH ANNUAL JOHNSON COLLEGE OPEN

Friday, May 20

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