

# THE JOHNSONIAN



## FRANCES & IDEAL SALDI DAY

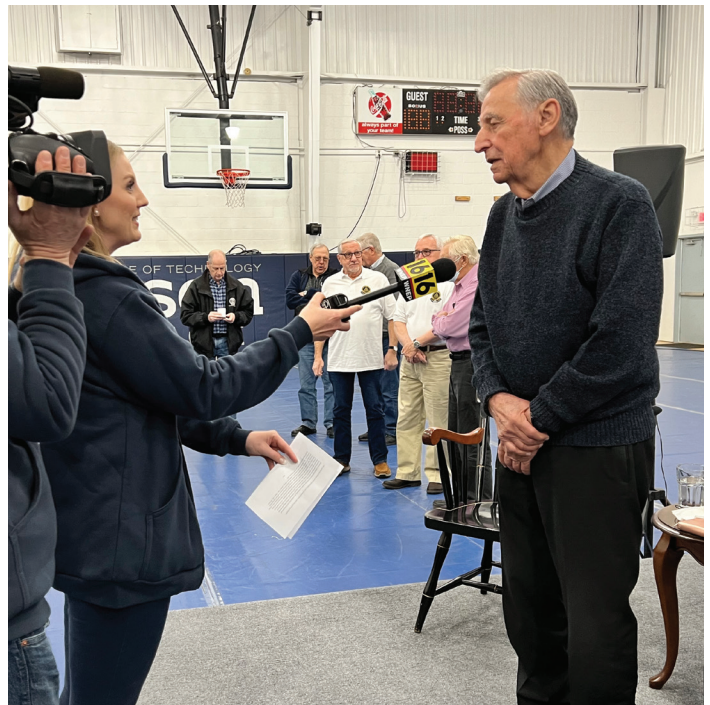
On April 20, 2022, the Moffat Student Center Gym was full of excitement as members of the Johnson College community gathered for an on-campus event to celebrate what will be known forever more as Frances & Ideal Saldi Day at the College. During the event, Johnson College President & CEO, Dr. Katie Leonard, announced a \$1,000,000 gift from the Johnson College alum, Ideal T. Saldi, and his wife, Frances P. Saldi. This gift, which will help fund the College's Innovation at Work Capital Campaign, is the largest gift from an alum and one of the most significant donations in Johnson College's history.

Frances & Ideal Saldi Day has been officially proclaimed by Dr. Leonard to serve as a reminder of how significant their gift is to the Johnson College community. The College's new gateway building will also be named Ideal Saldi Hall.

Ideal Saldi joined the Johnson College community when he began courses in the 9th grade. He honed his skills as a mechanist and graduated in 1949 before continuing his education as an honors student at The Pennsylvania State University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Saldi started his career at the General Electric Company, where he worked for 18 years. He rose through the ranks to become a general manager before leaving to start several companies of his own. Throughout his professional career, Mr. Saldi established 18 companies and continues to run two that he started in 1981. He has served on several boards of directors and has been awarded 18 patents.

"Johnson College kept me out of the coal mines and provided me the skills that allowed me to earn money to pay for college," said Mr. Saldi. "Whatever success I have enjoyed, I owe to Johnson College."



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

This past academic year was another huge success for all of us at Johnson College!

We continue to experience record enrollment and anticipate that this will continue with the addition of four new academic programs. Among our divisions of study, we now offer Civil Design Technology; Industrial Technology; Welding, Fabrication and Manufacturing Technology; and Mechatronics. With the help of our students, faculty, staff, and entire college community, we achieved full accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

With a little push from the weather, we moved the 2022 commencement ceremony to campus, where over 900 people celebrated our graduates as they walked across the stage, and into industry, with the education and tools needed for success. We are so proud of our students and can't wait to see the unique mark they leave on our region. Four of our students, now graduates, are already making great strides, placing in the state level SkillsUSA competition. Two will be continuing on to the national level!

As mentioned on the cover, we received a \$1,000,000 gift from Ideal T. Saldi '49 and his wife, Frances P. Saldi. This is a transformational gift for the College, and gives us the opportunity to turn the page and write a whole a new chapter in Johnson College's history.

While gathered together at the site of former Richmond Hall, we publicly revealed plans for Innovation at Work, our five-year, \$5 million comprehensive capital campaign focused on helping our students be even more successful. The campaign consists of four components: the construction of a new gateway building, Ideal Saldi Hall; the expansion of Woolworth Hall, which houses on-campus lab space for programs including HVAC and Electrical Construction Technology; the creation of a Transportation Education Center; and support for the College's Annual Fund and student scholarships.

We continue to reach these milestones because of the grit, focus, drive, and passion in our students, alumni, faculty and staff, industry partners, and community friends. Thank you! This year, together, we once again demonstrated how **We Work!!!**

**KATIE LEONARD, ED.D.** PRESIDENT & CEO

## AWARDS NIGHT

On Tuesday, May 10, 2022, Johnson College hosted its annual Awards Night on campus outside of the Health Science Technology Center. Members of the Class of 2022 were celebrated for their hard work and academic accomplishments by their family and friends as well as our faculty and staff. The Johnson College family looks forward to watching how their accomplishments inspire them to reach new levels of achievement in their futures.



## COMMENCEMENT

For the first time in over a decade, Johnson College held its commencement ceremony on campus. Although inclement weather was the cause for the location change from the Circle Drive-In to the college campus, we couldn't be happier with the result. On May 14, 2022, Johnson College conferred over 180 degrees to graduating students in the same location where they started their academic journey with us. Graduates were awarded Associate in Science degrees (A.S.), Associate of Applied Science degrees (A.A.S.), and academic certificates.

Nicholas J. Scarnato '80, CCO at Producto, gave the commencement address while the degrees were presented by Katie Leonard, Ed.D., president and CEO of Johnson College, and Marianne Gilmartin, Esq., chairperson of the board of directors. Evan Wilcox, a graduate of the College's Architectural Drafting and Design Technology program, and recipient of the Johnson College Award for Academic Excellence, served as the student speaker.





## 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JOHNSON COLLEGE OPEN

On May 20, 2022, Johnson College hosted the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Johnson College Open with the help of Gerrity's Supermarket. Over 130 golfers gathered at Pine Hills Country Club in Taylor, PA, to raise funds for the Presidential Scholarship Fund. This year's tournament raised over \$47,000 for student scholarships. Despite the interesting Northeastern Pennsylvania weather, it was a fantastic, fun-filled day!



## NEW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REVEAL

Johnson College publicly launched its \$5 million comprehensive, five-year, capital campaign, "Innovation at Work," during a community kickoff event on June 8, 2022.

The campaign consists of four components that will create an environment for growth and success: the construction of a new gateway building, named Ideal Saldi Hall, which will become the official entrance to the campus and include new lab and classroom space; the expansion of Woolworth Hall which houses on-campus lab space for programs including Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning and Electrical Construction Technology; the creation of a Transportation Education Center; and support of the College's Annual Fund and student scholarships.

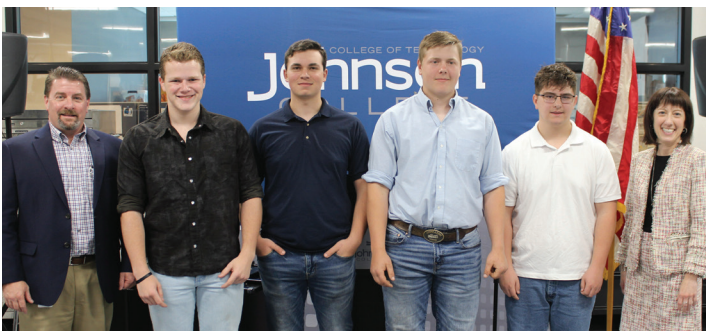
For more information, visit [Johnson.edu/innovationatwork](https://Johnson.edu/innovationatwork).



## ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS – YORK COLLEGE & BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY

Earlier this year, Johnson College signed articulation agreements with both Bloomsburg University and York College of Pennsylvania. These agreements will give students the opportunity to complete a 2-year degree at Johnson College before transferring to the participating schools to complete a bachelor's degree.

Creating pathways for students to achieve bachelor's degrees with institutions like Bloomsburg University and York College will ensure that they continue to build upon their Johnson College, hands-on education to advance their future careers.



## CCA INDUSTRY FAST TRACK RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Johnson College and the Commonwealth Charter Academy (CCA) acknowledged five students for completing the first year of their respective degrees in the Johnson College Industry Fast Track program.

Each of the five students recognized during the ceremony will be returning next year to continue classes either through the Industry Fast Track program or as

traditional College students following high school graduation.

Johnson College and CCA entered an agreement in the fall of 2021 that gives CCA students the opportunity to participate in this program. CCA meets with their enrolled high school students and if granted permission to participate, CCA covers the cost of the first year.





## COMPETITION BUILDS EXCELLENCE AT SKILLSUSA

Sometimes, all it takes is one step out of our comfort zone to forget what is behind us and shape the future. Johnson College students stepped up to that challenge at SkillsUSA to strengthen their skills and search for new opportunities. SkillsUSA sponsors national competitions for both high school and college students, preparing them for careers in technical, skilled, and service occupations.

“For me, it’s all about the students,” said Jim Burden, Johnson College Technical Instructor, and SkillsUSA chapter advisor. “The ideals and proficiencies gained from preparing for and competing in SkillsUSA will help our students succeed long after they leave Johnson College. If we can help students be better at their trade, and more successful in their life, we will have made a difference.”

On December 14, 2021, Johnson College hosted over 130 students at its fourth district SkillsUSA competition. Of the nine Johnson College students that participated at the district level, four received gold medals and moved on to the State competition in Hershey.

At the state level, Philip Davitt and Ryan Lesh both earned gold medals in Industrial Motor Control and Job Skills Demonstration and will represent Johnson College at the SkillsUSA Nationals in Atlanta. Evan Smith brought home a silver medal in Architectural Drafting while Conor Leone took 3rd place in Welding.

“My SkillsUSA experience had to be one of the most challenging events that I have ever encountered,” said Philip. “Preparing for this competition required countless hours of practicing and studying a topic - motor controls, which I knew very little about.” With help from Johnson College instructors, Philip honed in on the skills needed for the competition. “After surmounting these hardships, I considered this to be one of the most rewarding experiences in my life.”

Seeing what other contenders bring to the table helps students to understand the challenges they need to overcome in order to excel in their field. Ryan gives credit to the advisors and instructors at Johnson College for preparing them for this level of competition.



“I am extremely thankful to have been given the opportunity to compete at SkillsUSA,” Evan said. “It was an amazing experience seeing so many students for all the different trade competitions and there was a fantastic energy just buzzing from all of the competitors.”

As the world of technology continues to change, Johnson College strives to prepare its students for the future through experiential learning both in and out of the classroom.

## SAVE THE DATES

### OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, July 13

### ALUMNI NIGHT AT SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE RAILRIDERS BASEBALL GAME

Saturday, August 13

### FIRST DAY OF FALL SEMESTER

Monday, August 29

### FALL FEST

Saturday, October 1

### HOMECOMING

Sunday, October 2

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