

# JOHNSON COLLEGE OPENS ITS FIRST-EVER SATELLITE CAMPUS



In an effort to transform education, the economy, and the quality of the workforce throughout the Greater Hazleton region, Johnson College has partnered with Greater Hazleton CAN DO to address the demands of industry in the area. Together, they have introduced the College's first-ever satellite campus, Johnson College at the CAN DO Training Center, located in the Humboldt Industrial Park in Hazleton.

During a press conference on February 1, 2023, at the 30,000 sq. ft. industrial facility, Dr. Katie Leonard, President & CEO of Johnson College, officially announced the new campus and shared exciting details for the future of the College. Her presentation was followed by remarks by key members of the partnership including Joseph Lettiere, President and CEO of CAN DO; Charles Burkhardt, Chair of the CAN DO Board of Directors; and Pat Dietz, Chairperson of the Johnson College Board of Directors.

"We have heard from area employers and the programs that will be offered here are built to meet their needs," Dr. Leonard said. "We look forward to hearing from the Greater Hazleton community in terms of how this building can once again become an asset that we all share. We are here to help meet the needs of our friends and neighbors in this great community."

The goal of this new campus is to create unique and affordable academic experiences for students in partnership with industry to prepare them for careers in the Hazleton region and beyond. The College is built on its reputation for providing hands-on learning in a supportive environment and members of its community are thrilled to share this experience in a new area.

CAN DO President & CEO Joseph Lettiere said, "For many years, CAN DO has worked to bring a technical school to Greater Hazleton to assist in improving the area's access to career-ready job training. It is our mission to improve the quality of life in Greater Hazleton through the creation and retention of a full range of employment opportunities and I strongly believe that the programs Johnson College plans to offer truly move the needle for our community. I'd like to thank Dr. Katie Leonard, the Johnson College Board of Directors, as well as the CAN DO Board of Directors for their willingness to take the risk in making this investment with us."

Johnson College at the CAN DO Training Center offers an array of certificate and degree programs that will begin in Fall 2023. These include academic certificates in Welding Technology, Industrial Technology, and Building & Property Maintenance and an associate degree in Electrical Construction Technology. It also offers continuing education certificates in areas including Medical Assistant, Computer User Support & Security Specialist, and Class A CDL Driver Training. Students will be able to complete all programs and certificates at the Hazleton campus.

The new campus began running its Class A CDL Driver Training course in March and has already had many students successfully complete the course.





The spring semester always reminds me just how beautiful change can be. As I watched the winter fade away and the flowers begin to bloom, many of our dreams for Johnson College also came into focus.

We celebrated the achievements of our largest graduating class as they walked across the stage at our 104<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony, ready to enter the workforce and become industry professionals. I am excited to see where their Johnson College education may take them.

As we continue to experience record-setting enrollment and a greater demand for industry employees, it was time for the College to expand. With help from members of our Johnson College community, we began to spread across the Northeastern Pennsylvania region to help provide better access to education and opportunities for employment. We introduced our first-ever satellite campus in the Greater

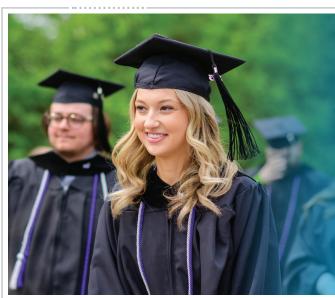
Hazleton region, expanded our lab space within industry at 5 Star Equipment and at the Wilkes-Barre-Scranton International Airport, and developed mobile training laboratories.

Speaking of celebrations, we are even planning to introduce a Celebration of Industry event, where we will truly celebrate industry and all that our partners contribute to our community.

All of these accomplishments are made possible by our students, alumni, faculty and staff, industry partners, and community friends. Their passion and support for Johnson College have helped our roots to grow and reach areas of the region where we are needed most by the community, workforce, and most importantly, students.

Thank you!

KATIE LEONARD, ED.D.
PRESIDENT & CEO



### COMMENCEMENT

Johnson College celebrated its largest graduating class at its 104<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony on May 13, 2023, on our Scranton campus.

Recipients of the College's Award for Academic Excellence, Jacob Banta, an Automotive Technology program graduate, and Richard Christianson, a Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Technology program graduate, served as student speakers. They were proceeded by Alumni speaker, Matthew Michalek '85, Vice President of Operations of L.R. Costanzo Company, and Co-Owner of B & M Property Development.

John W. Cosgrove, CEO of AllOne Foundation & Charities, gave the commencement address before Dr. Katie Leonard, President & CEO of Johnson College, and Patrick Dietz, Senior Vice President of Peoples Security Bank and Chair of the Johnson College Board of Directors, presented the degrees.

#### AWARDS NIGHT

On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, Johnson College hosted its annual Awards Night outside the Health Science Technology Center on our Scranton campus. Members of the Class of 2023 were celebrated for their hard work and academic accomplishments by their family and friends as well as our faculty and staff.





### MOBILE TRAINING LABORATORIES

In order to provide access to hands-on education and training in rural areas of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Johnson College has developed two mobile training laboratories. Using Area Development grants awarded by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and matching funds, these 35' trailers have been outfitted with student workstations and equipment for training in STEM and the building trades.

The two cutting-edge mobile laboratories will serve Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Susquehanna, and Wayne counties. Both will help the College reach more students and industry partners in rural areas and provide access to education and jobs that may not have existed, or been more difficult for them to previously obtain.

# STUDENT JOINS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a way to always keep the student perspective top of mind, the Board of Directors added a student representative. The group welcomed Stephanie Ropietski, a Veterinary Nursing student, to the Board during its meeting on March 23, 2023. Stephanie will continue to meet with the Board throughout the 2023-24 academic school year and provide insight into what students enjoy about their College experience as well as what they believe can be improved.





# SALDI DAY FORUM

In 2022, Johnson College proclaimed April 20th as Frances and Ideal Saldi Day to honor the Saldis for their loyal and generous support of the College. As a lasting tribute to the Saldis, a Saldi Day Forum will be held each year to celebrate a distinguished alum.

The College welcomed Justin Marchuska, Il '94, co-founder of Marchuska Brothers Construction, LLC, for an interactive conversation with members of the Johnson College community. Justin shared stories about his experience as a Building Construction Technology student and his professional career following graduation.



#### CARPENTRY AUCTION

The Carpentry & Cabinetmaking Technology program held its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Carpentry Auction on campus on April 12, 2023, to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of NEPA. Participating students raised close to \$6,000 for the nonprofit organization.

More than 60 items were created by Carpentry and Cabinetmaking students for the auction including cutting boards, cabinets, tables, and more.



## **NEW AVIATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**



Students can now fully immerse themselves in industry in Johnson College's new two-year Aviation Technology associates degree program starting Fall 2023.

During a press conference on March 23, 2023, Dr. Katie Leonard, President & CEO of Johnson College, announced the College's new program and partnership with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport. Students in this program will gain a very unique and hands-on learning experience in a lab located at the airport.

The Aviation Technology program will prepare students as entry-level technicians with the latest knowledge of

diagnosis, repair procedures, preventative maintenance, and necessary safety application in aviation technology. The program will provide students with the knowledge and skills outlined in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Mechanics Airman Certification Standard (ACS) in preparation for the FAA licensure exam for general, airframe, and powerplant knowledge.

"The aviation technology industry expects rapid-paced growth within the next decade," said Dr. Katie Leonard. "Johnson College is prepared to meet that demand by offering our students hands-on experience and training on campus and at in-field labs, giving them an advantage to succeed in this in-demand industry.

Students within this program will be prepared for careers in the aviation technology industry as aircraft mechanics, airframe mechanics, aviation technicians, aircraft specialists, and similar roles. Per the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the aviation technology field has a 6% growth potential through 2031.

"We're excited to have this new partnership with Johnson College", said Carl R. Beardsley, Jr., AVP Executive Director. "This new degree program will greatly benefit the aviation industry, and we support Johnson College in its efforts to meet the demand in these fields in the world of aviation."



# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**OPEN HOUSE: SCRANTON** | Wednesday, July 12

**OPEN HOUSE: HAZLETON** | Thursday, July 27

**ALUMNI NIGHT: SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE RAILRIDERS** 

**BASEBALL GAME** | Saturday, August 5

FIRST DAY OF FALL SEMESTER | Monday, August 28

