



San Jacinto College

Process Technology

Students in San Jacinto College’s process technology program get a head start to lucrative careers, thanks in large part to experiential learning made possible by the extraordinary engagement of regional employers.

Companies donated more than \$12 million to build a state-of-the-art center for petrochemical, energy, and technology at San Jacinto, which is located in the heart of the Texas Gulf Coast petrochemical region. But they’ve invested far more than money and equipment. Industry experts helped the college build labs, design curriculum, set course sequences, and develop assignments that align closely with the problems graduates will solve in the field.

Students troubleshoot equipment, operate simulators, and, as a capstone course, run a glycol distillation unit like those they’ll encounter on the job. Their hands-on experiences increase each semester; by graduation, they have the chance to work in teams to keep a lab running in 24-hour shifts. Graduates enter a variety of careers, not just in oil facilities but also wastewater treatment, canneries, and pharmaceutical plants.

The college wants to ensure these opportunities are available to all students. Currently, 55 percent of San Jac’s process technology students are Hispanic, and the program is committed to increasing representation of women from 11 percent to 25 percent. When the

college realized that high schoolers in a lower-income community of color didn’t know much about the petroleum plant across the street, they banded with other regional leaders to educate those students about the regional economy, job opportunities, and pathways to prosperity.

“San Jacinto College and the process technology program recognize equity as fundamental to our mission...” says Jim Griffin, senior vice president and associate vice chancellor for petrochemical training. “We know and appreciate the value of providing a trained workforce for the petrochemical industry in our region so that our industry partners can build a diverse team of workers.” ■

92%
of students
employed one year
after graduation

Average salary
one year after
graduation:
\$52,453

