

# Classes Start in Douglas County



**J**ohnson County Community College opened a College Close to Home site in three rooms of the former Lawrence Centennial

School, now the Lawrence Virtual School, at 2145 Louisiana St., in the spring 2008 semester.

JCCC is expanding outreach efforts into Lawrence after being invited to serve county residents by the Douglas County Career and Technical Education Consortium with the approval of the University of Kansas.

“JCCC’s focus in Lawrence is on technical/vocational education and workforce training that does not duplicate what KU offers,” said Dr. Bill Osborn, dean, Community Outreach and Media Resources.

Currently, JCCC’s College Close to Home program offers credit classes that count toward an associate’s degree or certificate at off-site locations for students’ convenience and has nine established sites throughout Johnson County.

Initially, the Douglas County Close to Home classes will be *Business Math*, *Introduction to Writing*, *Fundamentals of Math*, *Technical Math*, *Job Search Skills*, *Career Life Planning*, *Industrial Safety*, *Workplace Skills*, and *Certified Nurse Aide* and *Certified Medication Aide* labs.

“The College Close to Home site in Douglas County is a huge benefit to the Lawrence business community, the Lawrence Public Schools and students and, ultimately, to JCCC,” said Dr. Lorelee Stevens, assistant dean, Community Outreach for Credit Instruction.

The College Close to Home partnership is a natural extension of the Douglas County-Johnson County Technical College Preparation Program that allows high school students in both counties to receive advance-standing credit for high school classes when applied toward a JCCC technical certificate.

Since 2004, Osborn and Stevens have been attending meetings with the Douglas County Career Technical Consortium, a 40-member taskforce co-chaired by the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and Lawrence Public Schools. Richard W. Lariviere, provost and executive vice chancellor, KU, sent a letter to Lavern Squier, president and CEO, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, in 2007, saying it would be “reasonable and desirable” for JCCC to deliver technical training in Lawrence.

“We have a close and successful working relationship with JCCC through our Edwards Campus. We have high confidence in their ability to deliver first-rate training. We also have a sound track record of working with them to avoid duplication of course offerings and to articulate offerings to the advantage of students,” Lariviere wrote in his letter.

JCCC’s location in Lawrence Centennial School is one block south of Lawrence High School. It offers a classroom with Internet access, a health occupations lab and a resource room for instructors, staff and students.

For more information, contact Stevens at 913-469-8500, ext. 2750. 🍀

## Instruction

JCCC classes in Douglas County are offered at Lawrence Virtual School, 2145 Louisiana St.



Drs. Bill Osborn and Lorelee Stevens collaborated with the Douglas County Career Technical Consortium to provide classes in Douglas County.