JCCC Names Four Scholars

For years, Johnson County Community College has had a respected Scholars-in-Residence program, bringing in and paying visiting scholars to address students, faculty and the public. In a moment of Zen, the college woke to scholarship right under its collective nose and is initiating a JCCC College Scholars program to recognize its own faculty involved in impressive research and publication.

After an application process in the spring, four JCCC faculty members have been named as JCCC scholars for 2008-2009, two in the fall semester and two in the spring. The JCCC scholars are Dr. Nancy Holcroft, associate professor, science; Dr. Ellyn Mulcahy, assistant professor, science; Dr. Andrea Broomfield, associate professor, English; and Stu Shafer, professor, sociology.

JCCC scholars will be held to the same general expectations as visiting scholars: two presentations—one in the evening tailored for a general audience and one in the daytime tailored for students, faculty and staff; two classroom visits as an invited guest or one faculty seminar/colloquium.

The four scholars were selected from a field of 12 applicants by eight people on the College Scholars committee with consideration given to general interest, relevance of topic and diversity of disciplines.

“The applications were extremely competitive, and the committee was overwhelmed by the gifted group of scholars at JCCC,” said Patti Ward, interim honors program facilitator, a member of the committee.

Dr. James Leiker, associate professor, history, conceived of the JCCC College Scholars program and put together a proposal for its funding and continuation on an annual basis.

“The Scholar-in-Residence program has done a good job bringing in outside scholars. Now it’s time to highlight our internal faculty’s research that is just as original and exciting,” Leiker said.

For more information about the JCCC Scholars program, contact Ward at 913-469-8500, ext. 2512.