



FOUNDED: 1969

LOCATED: Overland Park, KS

ENROLLMENT: 20,869

OFFERING: More than 50 degree and certificate programs

"If we had a scheduling policy that had any teeth in it, we would be a more efficient campus. We're already making great progress. The Strategic Scheduling Check-Up has given us the tools and data we need to create and enforce such a policy."

—Lin Knudson
Dean, Academic
Support Division

JCCC USES DATA TO MAXIMIZE STUDENT SUCCESS, EFFICIENCY AND CAPACITY

A nine percent enrollment increase and decreasing budgets were the catalysts Johnson County Community College needed to find new ways to be more efficient. JCCC commissioned Ad Astra to complete a Strategic Scheduling Check-Up to evaluate its space and course offering challenges and offer recommendations on scheduling policies.

Course Offerings and Space Allocation

Initially, schedulers were juggling hundreds of subterms, making it hard to build conflict-free schedules for students, faculty and space. Dr. Lin Knudson, Dean, Academic Support Division, analyzed the Meeting Pattern report in Astra Schedule to eliminate those that were "off the grid," meaning they conflicted with two standard meeting patterns to schedule just one. In addition, her team looked at 656 specific offerings in the schedule that could potentially be eliminated because of their low historical demand reported in the Check-Up. "Two departments have already responded to the data and eliminated unnecessary courses," Knudson reports. "This opens space for critical path courses and reduces our part-time instructional expenses."

Eliminating unneeded courses helped alleviate JCCC's space challenges. Knudson plans to tour the campus with the deans to review the classroom inventory and address inequitable allocation and wasted space caused by departmental room ownership. In addition, JCCC is increasing enrollment capacities, by two seats per section, to meet demand and control costs.

Policy Creation: Faculty Hiring and Academic Scheduling

To make hiring decisions more efficient, JCCC created a Faculty Hiring Rubric to gauge true need. The Rubric scores the potential need by its effect on accreditation, initiatives, strategic plan, internal burden and external demand. External demand is based on sections needed divided by sections offered, as defined in the Check-Up. Requests must meet a minimum score before new hires are approved.

Knudson is excited about JCCC's progress and plans to use the strategies learned in the Strategic Scheduling Check-Up to create a data-driven academic scheduling policy. In addition, deans will continue to examine ongoing course demand analytics to ensure they are offering courses based on need. These steps increase operational efficiency and uncover previously wasted space that can be reallocated centrally. This will increase JCCC's effective capacity for growth, giving more students a better chance for success.



