

Feb. 3, 2025

To Our Cardinal Community,

As promised, we want to update you on the College's recent [announcement](#) and share recommendations made by the Financial Exigency Management Committee (FEMC) and approved by the Board of Trustees on Jan. 22.

A committee comprised of faculty and Trustees was tasked with evaluating programs, departments and corresponding instructional needs. Recommendations were made with a strategic focus on ensuring relevance and maintaining excellence for students, employers and the community long into the future.

The approved plan reorganizes majors into five new Academic Divisions: 1) Business and Communication, 2) Behavioral and Natural Sciences, 3) Analytical Science, 4) Community Engagement and Applied Arts, and 5) Culture, Society and Justice. View our full list of majors at [www.jewell.edu/programs](http://www.jewell.edu/programs).

Jewell remains committed to scholarships awarded to current students for the remainder of this year and into 2025-26. All majors, courses and athletics programs are continuing as planned for the spring 2025 semester. An athletics task force convened by the Board of Trustees comprised of department leaders, coaches, athletic alumni and Trustees is working to complete the new vision for Cardinal Athletics before the end of the academic year.

Beginning with the 2025-26 academic year, the following majors will be phased out: Nonprofit Leadership, Healthcare Leadership, Integrated Healthcare, Theatre and Musical Theatre. Non-major programs that will be phased out include The Honors Institute, Cardinal Sound athletic band and French language courses. For students with majors being discontinued, teach-out planning is underway to ensure currently enrolled students can complete their major as planned. Despite savings from unfilled positions and 13 retirements and resignations, a reduction in force of 14 faculty and 18 staff was necessary as part of the reorganization of work college wide.

With expense savings established before January and the full implementation of the FEMC recommendations, Jewell has identified 95 percent of the college-wide goal of \$7 million in reductions ahead of 2025-26. We will seek to improve the structural deficit another \$5 million through improved net tuition revenue, and additional expense management initiatives over the course of the next academic year.

We are working diligently to Reimagine Jewell for the future and continue creating pathways to success for students. We are grateful to faculty for engaging in meaningful ways in this process to ensure Jewell's relevance as a leading higher education institution while sustaining Jewell's mission. Our work will continue in 2025, and the College is launching the Reimagine Jewell initiative that includes a goal to raise \$25 million over the next four years to underwrite operations, including student scholarships. Alumni engagement is a critical need at this time. The Alumni Board of Governors and other alumni have begun working together with College leaders to engage all 19,000+ Jewell graduates to help us meet the moment through gifts of ideas, time and donations.

We welcome and value feedback, questions and suggestions from alumni during this journey. Reach out at [president@william.jewell.edu](mailto:president@william.jewell.edu). Should you wish to learn more or contribute to the Reimagine Jewell fundraising initiative, we invite you to contact Vice President Clark Morris at [morrisc@william.jewell.edu](mailto:morrisc@william.jewell.edu).

For Jewell,

Bill Gautreaux, Chair - William Jewell College Board of Trustees, Class of 1985

Susan Chambers, Interim President - William Jewell College, Class of 1990