

June 4, 2025

Jewell Family:

On May 16, the Board of Trustees held its final meeting of the academic year. The next day, we celebrated 220 new Jewell graduates. It was a beautiful day on The Hill as students completed their walk around the quad.

This past year has been challenging yet rewarding. As we reflect on this year, we wanted to connect with the Jewell community who has walked alongside us in our journey to Reimagine Jewell (RJ) and share some encouraging news.

With the Board's focus on creating a strategic roadmap and financial stability for the College, Jewell realigned academic offerings into five divisions and realized the goal of reducing expenses by \$7 million. As part of the journey to reimagine the way the College delivers its mission, Jewell also added two new partners for graduate programs: an entrepreneurial MBA—the first of its kind in the country, and a new M.S.Ed. track. The College has nearly 200 students currently enrolled in these programs and expects that number to exceed 300 by August 2025.

Jewell also launched a \$25 million RJ campaign in January with a phase one goal to secure \$9 million in gifts by August 1. The College met this goal in May, thanks to the incredible generosity from alumni and a local foundation:

- Dan '76 and Wanda '77 O'Dell made the first gift to RJ, officially establishing the campaign. They also responded to a second giving request at a crucial moment in our fundraising.
- Mark '79 and Karen '80 Mathes announced a significant gift at an event hosted at their home to encourage alumni to provide immediate support and momentum.
- At Achievement Day Convocation, Linda Pillsbury Roos '68, on behalf of the Pillsbury Foundation, presented a \$2 million gift to the RJ campaign. Linda and the Pillsbury family have been steadfast in their stewardship of William Jewell College for more than 100 years.
- Many alumni families faithfully contributed to the momentum. The Alumni Board of Governors, with leadership from President Deana Zahnd '88, engaged alumni through communications that included 15 virtual town halls. As a result, Cardinal giving of more than \$7 million enabled a \$1.2 million gift from the William T. Kemper Foundation, delivering the first phase of more than \$9 million.
- The Achievement Day Dinner Celebration was hosted by Trustee Sarah Rowland at her beautiful Ever Glades Farm where we celebrated the 2025 class of alumni achievers and announced the accomplishment of the phase one goal for Reimagine Jewell.

Only with alumni and members of our community like these with a steadfast belief in Jewell, our students, our mission, and our values will we continue to secure essential support while we realize the full transformation of the College over the course of the next academic year.

Following a comprehensive review by the Athletic Task Force, the William Jewell College Board of Trustees has unanimously reaffirmed the College's commitment to NCAA Division II athletics and continued membership in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC). In conjunction with this decision, the Board has announced the formation of a new Committee on Athletics. This committee will provide strategic oversight and ensure that the College's athletic programs are aligned with institutional priorities and long-term goals. These actions underscore Jewell's dedication to the growth, integration, and sustained success of athletics as a vital component of the student experience and the College's mission.

The Board of Trustees approved four new members to the Board, all Jewell graduates. These outstanding additions will bring new energy to the Board as we deepen our alumni representation and experience

across business, technology, and health sectors. You can expect more information about each of our new Board members soon in an official release.

The announcement of the next interim president who will lead the College through 2025-2026 will come early this summer.

Meanwhile, we're excited to celebrate our Class of 2025! These graduates join almost 20,000 alumni across the globe launching careers in healthcare, STEM, business, education, social science, and human services as well as those in pursuit of graduate degrees. Our greater than 99% placement rate continues to be powered by a large number of graduates who choose to live and work in the vibrant Kansas City community. This tradition continues with the class of 2025. As we feature our new alumni in the coming weeks, we invite you to follow our social channels and help us lift up these young professionals:

[Linked In](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Threads](#) | [X](#) | [Bluesky](#)

We offer our sincere gratitude for your partnership and grace, and please continue to reach out with your questions and ideas. You can reach our leadership team at [president@william.jewell.edu](mailto:president@william.jewell.edu). We look forward to welcoming our new and returning students in August to build on the momentum we have created.

For Jewell,

Susan Chambers '90, Interim President  
Bill Gautreaux '85, Board of Trustees Chair