

## Breaking News

### "JCJC to Offer Bachelor's Degrees"

HATTIESBURG – The title you see above is *The Hattiesburg American* headline that south Mississippi residents awoke to on the morning of 24-October-07. In his article entitled "JCJC to offer bachelor's degrees," *THA* higher education issues reporter David McRaney informed Mississippi citizens that "officials at Jones County Junior College [in Ellisville, MS] announced [on 23-Oct-07] the two-year college will offer four-year bachelor's degrees in more than a dozen categories through an alliance with Ohio's Franklin University." Bill Chan, the Director of the Community College Alliance for FU, told McRaney that the online degrees will fall under three umbrellas. Two of these are *business* and computer science. The business offerings include accounting, business administration, and human resources. According to McRaney's report, administrative officials at JCJC are extremely excited about the new program to offer online bachelor's degrees through FU.

JCJC's students, alumni, faculty and staff share a passion for their institution (JCJC) that is unmatched by their peers at institutions like USM. Many, if not most, of these individuals will share the same excitement about the idea of a partnership between JCJC and a four-year institution like FU. The "StoryChat" board at *THA Online* is already buzzing about this, and judging from the two most recent posts (shown below), that excitement is evident. About the only question MS citizens have concerns why USM did not partner with JCJC.

#### STORYCHAT

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I read a little while ago in the Clarion-Ledger that Ole Miss and Holmes Community College also offer a similar program. Maybe Southern Miss wasn't interested, or JCJC wasn't interested.

Posted by: **SoMissJoe** on Wed Oct 24, 2007 9:08 am

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Isn't it too bad that our own Mississippi schools can't cooperate with one another in terms of educating our citizens. As a graduate of both JCJC and Southern Miss, I think that partnership is a great one....why would JCJC choose to send students out of state rather than to USM or one of our other in-state institutions?

Posted by: **drlinbob** on Wed Oct 24, 2007 8:38 am

According to *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges 2008*, Franklin University is a *private* university located in Columbus, Ohio, that was founded in 1902 and *specializes in business*. As one source tells USMNEWS.NET, when the JCJC family realizes they've been handed the opportunity to grab a 4-year degree at *low cost* from a *private* university in *Ohio* that was founded in 1902 and that *specializes in business*, they might no longer scoff at the idea that USM may have passed on the partnership idea. Not

only that, the affinity that JCJC students, alumni, et al. feel about their school will likely grow by taking advantage of the FU option. If, and when, these benefits are understood, the CoB's future prospects may be significantly different than they appear now.