



**Photo by Lilian Hulme** 

TJC band members march in formation in the parking area next to Pat Hartley Fields on Aug. 23. The temperature was 104 degrees Fahrenheit as they practiced.

**Left: Members of the Touch of Gold** colorguard practice along side members of the band. The Band is comprised of more than 200 members and is the largest student organization on campus with students from all over the country according to the TJC Marching Band homepage. **Bottom right: A member of the Touch of Gold colorguard twirls** a flag through the air, as the percussion ensemble and drumline practice in the background. The TJC band has been performing for more than 75 years.





## **Trade: Partnerships fulfill** local employer needs

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driving here, certified nursing assistant, certified medical assistant, we have pharmacy tech programs, that to name a few."

Adam Palacios, director of business and industry partnerships, skilled

trades, and continuing studies, shares two developing programs, the importance of the school's independence, and the flourishing opportunities their campus provides.

"I'm developing an ammonia technician program. So we are presenting for the curriculum instruction this fall, and then we'll have it in the fall of 2024. So, we have that program developing," Palacios said.

They are looking into a forklift warehouse operations program, along with the Brookshire's program.

Palacios spoke about how businesses reach out to them for training for employees, and opportunities in their non-accredited programs and teaching. He explains that businesses tour the campus weekly, looking to recruit, and the efficiency that he is able to provide through collaboration within the campus.

"We are the probably the most community facing school, at that we give tours, probably at least once a week to businesses," Palacios said.

Palacios said employers come to them looking to fulfill staffing needs.

"One of the first questions they ask is, do you have the workforce to meet my needs? Do you have the capabilities to ultimately provide the workforce. We are that industrial manufacturing hub, or we're also the continuing studies, which are non-credit courses," Palacios said. "So if they want customized courses that match exactly what they're doing, we're able to do that."

He said that TJC West can work with local businesses to create custom programs in a fraction of the time it would take at a four-year accredited program.

"We move at the speed of business," Palacios said.

For more information about the programs and certifications at The School of Trades and Continuing Studies, visit TJC.edu.

