



December 2, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WJEF celebrates its 50th Anniversary
Open House scheduled 4-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9

WJEF, the student-run radio station at Jefferson High School, will celebrate its 50th anniversary of broadcasting with an Open House, 4-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, 2022. Program is scheduled for 5 p.m., with remarks by special guests Mayor Tony Roswarski, Sen. Ron Alting and Rep. Sheila Klinker.

The station first broadcast with the call letters WJJE under the leadership of William Fraser, hitting the airwaves in January 1972; the station's first song was "We've Only Just Begun" by The Carpenters. When another station retired the WJEF call letters, Jefferson High School quickly adopted them; by 1991, the station was known as JEFF 92.

The station has undergone several changes over the years, evolving and adapting to advancements in technology. It broadcast in mono until 1990, when it switched over to stereo, and the format changed to "Easy Rock" from "Adult Contemporary," settling on the "Oldies" label in 1991. The station has seen the music world transition as well; students started out spinning LPs, moved on to CDs and now play digital music files.

Among the notable alumni are Brian Lamb, founder of C-SPAN; many alumni have gone on to highly successful careers in all areas of the communication and entertainment industries. Randy Brist succeeded founder William Fraser, running the program from 1984 until his retirement in 2018. Current instructor is Jamie Long.

The station currently broadcasts at 91.9 FM, with 250 watts of power. WJEF airs all Jefferson High School football and basketball games, with students providing the stats, play-by-play and color commentary live. Students write and read their own news updates. And students have hosted live morning shows from 7-8 a.m. daily.

Alumni and supporters will gather to celebrate 50 years of broadcasting at the William S. Fraser Radio & TV Center in Jefferson High School. Enter through the main front doors on 18th Street or through the South Canopy, off Hiatt Drive.

For more information, or to arrange for interviews or photos, contact Cindy Gerlach, LSC Director of Communications, at cgerlach@lsc.k12.in.us, 765-771-6043