**Former student lab attendants at Jody Richards Hall re-adjust after the lab closed for remodeling**

Jody Richards Hall has officially shut down for remodeling as of March 15, according to WKU’s official [website](https://www.wku.edu/news/articles/index.php?view=article&articleid=11824). As a result, student lab attendants are looking for new employment.

Freshman Garrett Dillion said he began working at JRH as a lab attendant in December up until the shutdown. As a freshman, Dillion said he was interested in getting more involved on campus which led to him getting a job on campus at JRH.

Dillion said he was informed about the remodeling of the lab approximately two weeks before shutdown and immediately started looking for a new job.

“I was worried that I wouldn’t be able to find a job in a timely manner because I wasn’t given much of a heads up, but I was able to find one pretty fast,” Dillon said.

Dillion described himself as “lucky” as it was easy for him to find new employment with the help of his mother.

“My mom plays pickleball regularly with Beth Gafford, the manager of Service and Supply on campus,” Dillion said. “After my mom explained the situation at JRH, Beth offered to interview me.”

Dillion said after the interview with Gafford, he became interested in the job position and began working on March 22 in Surplus at Shipping and Receiving.

Gafford said Surplus is a place on campus where all faculty and staff members can browse for items that may be useful in their offices or classrooms. She said they can also bring their used items to Surplus which adds to the collection of items faculty and staff members can browse.

“The student workers at Surplus assist in helping customers find what they need, organizing our items and auctioning things on GovDeals that we no longer have room for,” Gafford said.

Dillion said it was a huge adjustment for him to go from working a desk job to working a job that requires more customer service and manual labor.

“So far, I like working at Surplus and I am excited to learn more about it,” Dillion said. “It has been great for me to experience two different types of jobs on campus all in my freshman year of college.”

Senior film major Veronica Vallejo-Garcia, former lab attendant at JRH, said she has had a different experience after the shutdown as she has not found new employment yet.

Vallejo-Garcia said that not many campus jobs are not hiring due to it being towards the end of the semester. She said most of them are looking for workers that will stay long-term, which does not apply to her as she graduates in December.

Working at the lab in JRH allowed her to better her skills in the Adobe Suite, which she needs a good understanding of for her career, Vallejo-Garcia said.

“It’s been hard to look for jobs on campus that I have experience with but also relate to my field of study as being a lab attendant at JRH did,” Vallejo-Garcia said.

Vallejo-Garcia said that because she doesn’t have reliable transportation, an off-campus job is out of the question for her. She said having an on-campus job allowed her to save up for transportation but since losing her job, she has not been able to do this anymore.

“I luckily have enough money to get me through June, but after that I have no idea what to do if I cannot find a proper job,” Vallejo-Garcia said.

Vallejo-Garcia said that having to save the money that she does have for necessities and bills has caused her grades to go down as she is not able to buy the proper materials she needs for class.

“The constraint of having to buy materials for my art classes has been so hard,” Vallejo-Garcia said. “If I buy the materials I need, I won't have enough money for bills, but if I do not buy the materials I need, I get low grades.”

Another struggle Vallejo-Garcia said she has is finding the time to go to different labs open on campus in order to use the software she needs for her classes. She said the labs in JRH were the most accessible for her to use. When she wasn't monitoring the lab at JRH during the time of her employment, she was most likely utilizing the lab for her own assignments, she said.

Vallejo-Garcia said that while there are other labs located in classrooms at JRH, they aren’t the quietest environment and she struggles to concentrate. The classroom labs in JRH are mostly occupied by visual journalism photography students who tend to be loud when communicating, she said.

WKU’s official website shows that other labs are located in Cherry Hall, Grise Hall, Cravens Library and Snell Hall.

Due to the fact that these labs are located towards the top of the hill, Vallejo-Garcia says she finds it difficult to make time to walk there, especially when the buses aren’t running.

“While I do think the renovation will be more visually appealing when it's completed, it has caused a lot of stress on the student employees who worked there, including me,” Vallejo-Garcia said.