

December 2023



Register for Professional Development Day

The eighth annual Professional Development Day, "Connect and Cultivate," will be held on Friday, January 5, 2024, at the Advanced Technology Center. Make plans to attend this day of professional development and growth. There will be six tracks: Scholarship, Self Care, Strategic Priorities, Student Awareness, Teaching and Learning, and Technology.

The morning will feature keynote Tony Bond from the "Great Place to Work® Trust Model" and his acclaimed presentation focusing on the employee and the definition of a great workplace: where employees trust the people they work for, have pride in what they do and enjoy the people they work with.

[Learn More](#)

News and Updates

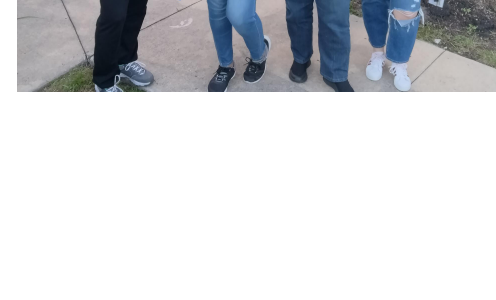
FSCJ Celebrates Giving Tuesday 2023

On November 28, FSCJ celebrated Giving Tuesday by collecting donations and funds for the FSCJ H.O.P.E. Food Pantry. FSCJ faculty, staff and students donated 1,420 pounds of food, which is enough for 1,183 meals for students in need. An additional \$2,780 was raised through online donations and matched by an anonymous donor, meaning \$5,560 was raised for the Food Pantry on this day alone. This is enough to purchase an additional 6,672 pounds of food!



Donations are always accepted so you can continue to support our students who are in need by dropping off food items or making a donation [online](#).

The FSCJ Foundation also received additional donations toward scholarships and other initiatives during this day of giving.



On December 5, faculty and staff continued the giving spirit through a day of service. More than 30 volunteers met at Farm Share to pack food and stock the shelves in their new warehouse. Five members of the FSCJ team also worked on the gardens at RL Brown Academy. After the destruction of the garden over the summer, they helped to restore the area by tilling, raking and making vegetable seed packets. Dr. Chris Perle and Dr. Cynthia Motzny connected with this group after the 2021 Urban Agriculture Symposium.

[Day of Service Photos](#)

Make Your Celebration of Student Success Nominations

You are invited to submit your student nominations for the annual Celebration of Student Success ceremonies.

Nominate up to three students from the Summer 2023, Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 Terms in the following categories:

- Academic Achievement
- Inspirational Achievement
- Outstanding Student Worker
- Outstanding Student Leadership



The schedule for each campus awards ceremony is as follows:

- South Campus – Tuesday, April 9, 2024, from 6-7:30 p.m.
- Kent Campus/Cecil Center – Tuesday, April 16, 2024, from 6-7:30 p.m.
- Deerwood Center – Thursday, April 18, 2024, from 6-7:30 p.m.
- North Campus/Nassau Center – Tuesday, April 23, 2024, from 6-7:30 p.m.
- Downtown Campus – Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 4-5:30 p.m.

Nominations may be submitted by completing the online form. Nomination deadlines are two weeks before the date of your campus award ceremony.

[Make a Nomination](#)



FSCJ Cross Country Finishes 19th at National Championships

FSCJ men's and women's cross country teams recently competed in the NJCAA DII National Cross Country Championships at John Hunt Park in Huntsville, Alabama. A record 118 colleges competed in the DII races and FSCJ finished 19th in the nation among them!

In the men's race, Ashton Curl recorded a personal record (PR) of 27:56 over the rolling 8,000m course. Sophomore Team Captain Jaxon McKim's final kilometer attack propelled him to finish three seconds behind in a new PR of 27:59. Ashton's time moves him to #3 on the FSCJ Top Ten All-Time cross country list and Jaxon now resides in the #4 spot.

Kayleigh McWatters passed eight runners in the final kilometer to clock a PR performance of 20:31, moving to #2 on the FSCJ Top Ten All-Time list and leading the previously unranked team to a solid 24th place team finish. Zahir Miller, Tytyonna Nesmith and Haily Guillen-Polanco turned in solid performances to secure a place in the Top 25 nationally.

[Read More](#)

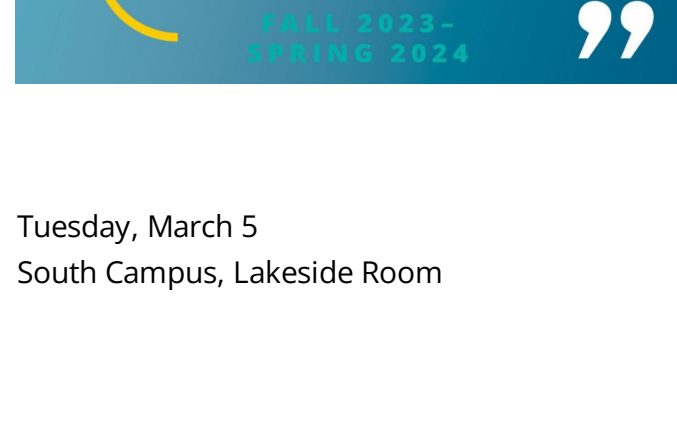
Men's Basketball Voted Best in State

FSCJ Men's Basketball is currently ranked #2 in the state and the NJCAA Region 8 Division II Men's Basketball Coaches' Poll votes have them as the best in Florida, ahead of Florida Gateway, Palm Beach State and Pasco-Hernando State. The team's four wins over DI teams have also powered them to "Receiving Votes" status in the national poll where they hope to set up camp soon.

The next home game will be Wednesday, January 3 vs. Eastern Florida State College. Check out the schedule [here](#) and help cheer them on.

Q&A with Dr. A

Make plans to join us for any of the remaining Q&A with Dr. A events taking place during Spring Term. This will be your opportunity to engage in open conversations with Dr. A and ask questions on initiatives and activities that are important to you.



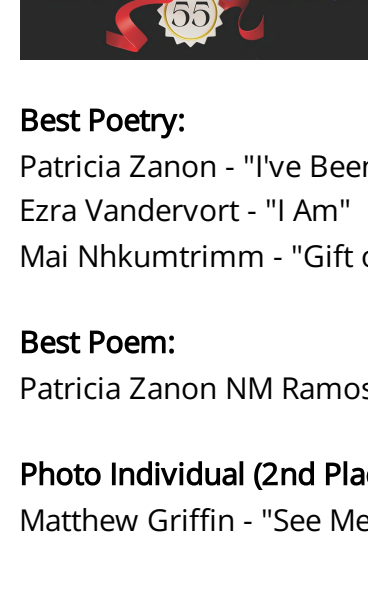
The schedule is below. All events will be 1:30-2:30 p.m. Please note: The previously announced date for South Campus has changed.

Thursday, January 25
Downtown Campus, T-140/141

Tuesday, March 5
South Campus, Lakeside Room

Tuesday, February 6
Deerwood Center, B1204, Large Academy Room

FSCJ's Student Publication Wins Multiple Awards



The editorial team for FSCJ's Student Magazine, "The Experience," Jasser Hammami and Sanja Stanic and Faculty Advisor Jennifer Chase attended the 64th Annual Florida College System Publications Association (FCSPA) Conference at Daytona State College. Our Division B students and the 55th anniversary magazine placed 1st in two categories and 2nd in three.

This year's edition features student entries in Spanish, German, Arabic and Tagalog, and is the first in the state's history to include foreign language submissions!

Best Poetry:
Patricia Zanon - "I've Been Offline"
Ezra Vandervort - "I Am"
Mai Nhkumtrim - "Gift of Night"

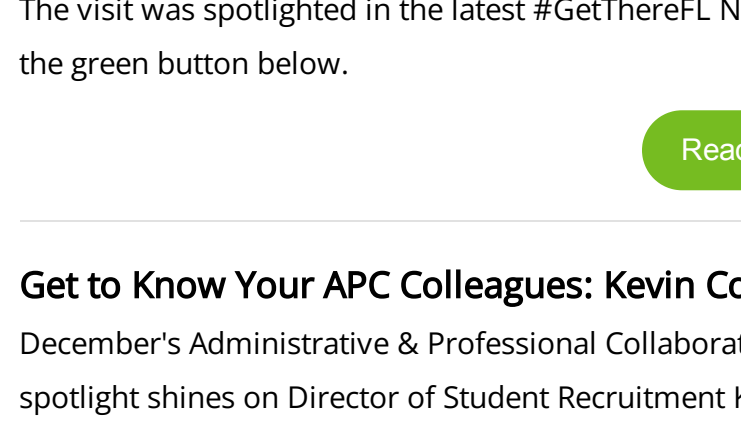
Artwork Individual (2nd Place):
Jacob Hood - "Finite"

Artworks Magazine (2nd Place):
Jacob Hood - "Finite"
Sandra Garcia - "I Fly Free" - "P.O.O.P."
Haleigh Canaday - "Spaceship Earth"

Best Poem:
Patricia Zanon NM Ramos- "I've Been Offline"

Check out the winning entries and the full magazine [here](#).

[The Experience](#)



Chancellor O'Farrell Visits FSCJ

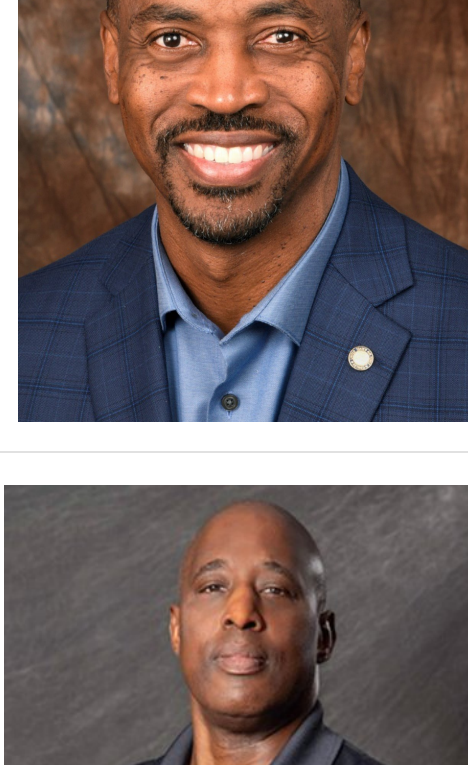
Chancellor Kevin O'Farrell recently visited FSCJ, meeting with individuals throughout the College to learn more about our engineering, technology, aviation and truck driving programs. He toured labs, took a look at our autonomous vehicle and visited the air hangar where aviation students prepare for their future.

The visit was spotlighted in the latest #GetThereFL Newsletter. You can read the full article by clicking on the green button below.

[Read More](#)

Get to Know Your APC Colleagues: Kevin Cotton

December's Administrative & Professional Collaborative (APC) spotlight shines on Director of Student Recruitment Kevin Cotton. He returned for a second stint at the College in September. In his current role, Kevin provides leadership and administrative oversight of Collegewide student recruitment.

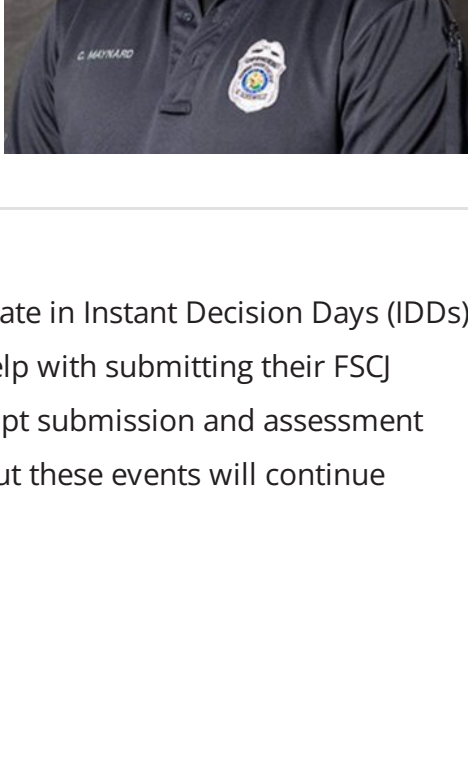


Not only is he an ardent champion of FSCJ, but he's also a graduate.

[Learn More](#)

Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Claude Maynard

December's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight illuminates Armed Security Officer Claude Maynard. In his role, he secures the safety of the students, staff and community.



What he likes most about his job is engaging with staff and students. He especially appreciates meeting and assisting new students.

[Learn More](#)

Recruitment Update

Our recruiters have been visiting service-district high schools to participate in Instant Decision Days (IDDs), which are opportunities for graduating high school seniors to receive help with submitting their FSCJ application and learn about enrollment steps such as residency, transcript submission and assessment guidelines. Approximately 273 students have received support so far, but these events will continue throughout the month.

November 2023 outreach by the numbers:

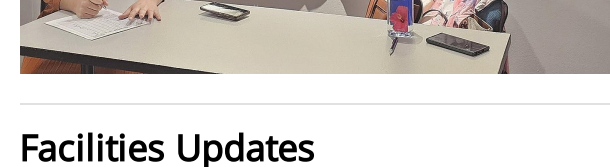
- 11 campus tours led
- 40 recruitment events conducted/attended
- 1,233 future student engagements achieved

The recruitment team is seeking volunteers for Duval County Public Schools BEACON (Bringing Economic and Career Opportunities Nearer) Program. BEACON volunteers receive financial aid training (Thursday, January 25, 2024) and are then deployed throughout the school system to speak with seniors about applying for financial aid, a critical step to successful college enrollment for many students. If you have questions or wish to volunteer, contact Associate Director Nichole Harris at nichole.harris@fscj.edu.

[Read More](#)

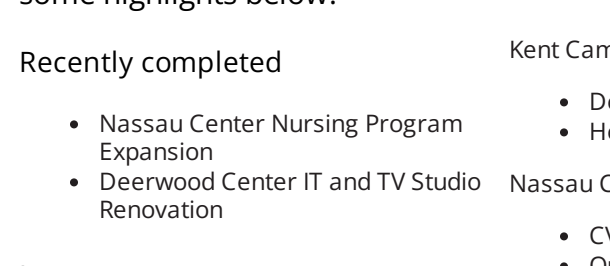
Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Professor Paul Soar, Professor Robert Wechsler and Dean Douglas Brauer were speakers at the 2023 National Science Foundation Principal Investigator's Conference in Washington, D.C. Their presentation was titled "Shifting Education Towards Electric and Autonomous Technologies."



Dean Brauer was also a panel speaker at the 2023 Florida Transportation, Growth & Infrastructure Solution Summit, virtual conference. His discussion was titled "Developing the Right Talent to Build & Operate Florida's Infrastructure Industries."

FSCJ in Action



At the November FSCJ Legal Studies Association (LSA) meeting, attorneys with the Department of Children and Families spoke to the students about their careers and experiences. Attendees also donated food for the FSCJ H.O.P.E. Food Pantry.

Facilities Updates

The Facilities Team has been hard at work, updating and upgrading spaces across the College. Check out some highlights below:

Recently completed	Kent Campus:	In planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nassau Center Nursing Program Expansion • Deerwood Center IT and TV Studio Renovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Door Access Control Upgrades • Hot Water System Replacement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking Lot Retaining Wall Repair
<p>In progress</p> <p>Ongoing Collaborative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Plumbing Vanities • Door Lock Conversion to Access Control System - Downtown, Kent, South & North • Emergency Responders Radio Communications System (ERCS) Compliance • Scan/Digitize Facilities Plans • Science Lab Renovations • Monument Signs, Building IDS, Wayfinding 	<p>Nassau Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVD Skills Pad • Outdoor Education Center Design <p>North Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Door Access Control Upgrades • Student Services, Science Lab Renovation • Boiler Replacement • CJC Pool Renovation • Nursing Offices Furniture Rehabilitation <p>South Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veteran Support Center • Relocate Testing Center • Door Access Control Upgrades • Fire Academy Skills Pad Rehabilitation • Wilson Center Sculpture • Lab Negative Pressure Correction • Mechanical Renovations • Roof Replacement • Boiler Replacement • Outdoor Cafe Seating • Building Envelope - Curtain Wall Replacement, URC • Chiller Replacement, AO • Door Replacement and Upgrades • ADA Hallway Signage • Elevator Modernization 	<p>Deerwood Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceiling Tile Replacement • Science Lab Upgrades • Elevator Replacement <p>North Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavement Repairs • Auditorium Renovations • Art Lab Storage • Science Lab Upgrades • Elevator Modernization <p>Nassau Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Door Access Control Upgrades <p>North Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing Program Expansion • Ceiling Tile Replacement • Science Lab Upgrades • Elevator Replacement <p>South Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Academy/EMS Public Service Upgrade • Wilson Center Architect Assessment • Elevator Replacement • E-Gaming Renovation • Honors Program Expansion • LLC Furniture • Door Access Control Upgrade
<p>Cecil Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAS Controls Upgrades 		
<p>Deerwood Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing Program Expansion (Phase I & II) • Interior Directional Signage • Common Area Renovation 		
<p>Downtown Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources, Admin/Finance Renovations • Student Housing Suite Renovation • CVE Meeting Room Renovation • Police Dept Remodel • Roof Replacement 		

Upcoming Events

Next Call:
January 17, 2 p.m.
Call notes available at myFSCJ OnPoint Quick Link

stay@FSCJ
Spring classes start Jan. 8.
FSCJ REGISTER NOW!

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Herbert W. Scheidel Leadership in Action Award SCHOLARSHIP
APPLY BY: FEB 15, 2024
Scholarship Foundation

[View More Events](#)

BlueWave News Quiz

Quiz winners will be selected at random from entries with all questions answered correctly. You have until 6 p.m. on the day the newsletter is distributed to email your answers to bluewave@fscj.edu. Three winners will receive a BlueWave prize pack! Please note: Previous quiz winners are not eligible to win for six months.

1. What is the deadline for Celebration of Student Success nominations?
 - a. April 9, 2024
 - b. April 16, 2024
 - c. Two weeks before the date of your campus award ceremony
 - d. April 18, 2024
2. Which of the following is not one of the six tracks that will be featured at the 2024 Professional Development Day?
 - a. Scholarship
 - b. Health
 - c. Student Awareness
 - d. Technology
3. When was Giving Tuesday?
 - a. November 28
 - b. December 5
 - c. November 24
 - d. November 21
4. What anniversary is being celebrated in the latest edition of "The Experience" magazine?
 - a. 64th
 - b. 60th
 - c. 50th
 - d. 55th
5. The recruitment team is seeking volunteers for what program?
 - a. BEACON
 - b. Instant Decision Days
 - c. Open House
 - d. Connections Community Partner Event