

May 2023



## Commencement 2023

We celebrated the achievements of our proud graduates during the 56th annual Commencement Ceremony on Thursday, May 11 at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena. Surrounded by an audience of their families and friends, students who completed FSCJ's bachelor's and associate degree programs accepted their diplomas from FSCJ President John Avendano, Ph.D., and the College's District Board of Trustees.

More than 3,600 degrees were awarded to FSCJ graduates and candidates for the 2022-23 academic year. Of these, 1,934 are associate in arts degrees, 894 are associate in science degrees and 774 are bachelor's degrees.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered and all those who attended to celebrate our graduates!

[View Photos](#)

## News and Updates



### FSCJ Pinning Ceremonies

Congratulations to our future health care professionals! Over the past few weeks, we have held multiple pinning ceremonies to celebrate our students who have completed the requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Associate in Science in Nursing (ASN) and Practical Nursing programs. Allied Health programs including Dental Hygiene, Radiography, Respiratory Therapy and Physical Therapist Assistant also held pinning ceremonies.

[View Photos](#)

Special congratulations to our dental hygiene graduates, faculty and staff for achieving a 100% pass rate on the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam (NBDHE). This is the 14th year in a row with all program graduates passing this exam.

### Celebration of Student Success Honorees Named

Faculty and staff nominated students to be recognized in the following categories for the Celebration of Student Success:

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



[View Honorees](#)

### Interior Design Supports Youth Community Housing Initiative

FSCJ Interior Design Technology faculty and students are working with PILLARS Plus to create modern, transitional housing for homeless youth in the community. Professor Theresa Menotte, Professor Laurie Taylor and their students have volunteered to help PILLARS create a design concept that showcases the program's potential, supports the residents' needs and attracts additional community engagement.



[Read More](#)



[View Photos](#)

### I'M IN Employee Giving Results

The I'M IN Employee Giving Campaign Celebration Breakfast was held on April 10. I'M IN supporters were invited to enjoy breakfast with colleagues in recognition of their giving. Thanks to their generosity, the average gift per employee increased by close to 50%, increasing our year-over-year total by 20%.

The President's Cup was also presented to South Campus for achieving the highest percentage of faculty and staff donors. Congratulations to Campus Dean Andrew Pierce and the team at South.

### Beyond the Big Screen

Start early on next year's Beyond the Big Screen book, "Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption." The movie was a box-office flop when it first came out, but it persisted in the heart of the audience, earning seven Oscar Nominations including "Best Picture" and becoming the most rented movie in 1995. It is now considered one of the "most beloved movies," yet most people don't even realize the original book was authored by Stephen King.



Events will be announced in the fall. With questions, email [sertenbe@fscj.edu](mailto:sertenbe@fscj.edu)

[Request a Book](#)

### SACSCOC Updates

As shared in the latest OnPoint call, during the SACSCOC on-site review, committee members are known to walk around and talk to students and employees. There are four things FSCJ Employees should be knowledgeable about when talking to a SACSCOC on-site reviewer: our Mission, Vision and Values; our Strategic Plan; our Outcomes Assessment process; and the QEP. The QEP one-sheeter is linked [here](#) and the Strategic Plan one-sheeter is linked [here](#).

[View Notes](#)

### Website Updates

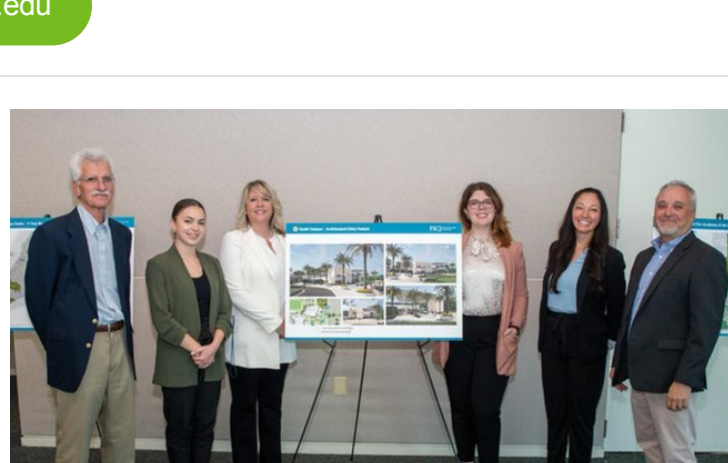
The new website launched earlier this year and we continue to make enhancements and upgrades. The latest updates include:

- A student notice module was implemented. This new module now displays the alerts on the homepage and current student page.
- A Career Coach widget is embedded within credit and Career Certificate program landing pages. This new widget now lists career options, outlook growth, regional (and national option) salaries and more.
- Effective May 17, all documents posted to the web must include a revision date. Documents will not be approved without a revision date posted somewhere on them.

[fscj.edu](https://fscj.edu)

### Facilities Updates

Thanks to all those who attended the FSCJ Master Plan Open House to learn about the College's plans for the future. You can take a look at photos from the event [here](#).



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

<p><b>Recently completed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Parking Lots 1-4, 6</li> <li>• Nursing Faculty Offices, Furniture</li> <li>• Classroom Upgrades, Furniture (North, Kent, Nassau, Downtown)</li> <li>• Kent SGA Meeting Room Renovation</li> <li>• Downtown Envelope Study</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kent Campus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrade</li> </ul> <p><b>Nassau Center:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial Vehicle Driving Skills Pad</li> <li>• Nursing Program Expansion</li> </ul> <p><b>North Campus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJC Course &amp; Skills Pad Resurface</li> <li>• Restroom Renovation</li> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrades</li> <li>• Student Services Renovation</li> <li>• Roof Replacement</li> </ul> <p><b>South Campus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veteran Support Center</li> <li>• Relocate Testing Center</li> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrade</li> <li>• Cybersecurity Lab</li> <li>• Classroom Upgrades, Furniture</li> <li>• Fire Academy Skills Pad Resurface</li> <li>• Wilson Center Sculpture</li> <li>• Science Lab Negative Pressure</li> <li>• Correction</li> <li>• Replace Duct Board</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cecil Center:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrade</li> </ul> <p><b>Deerwood Center:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooring Upgrade</li> <li>• Classroom Upgrade, Furniture</li> </ul> <p><b>Downtown Campus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follett Bookstore Renovation</li> <li>• Elevator Modernization</li> <li>• Career Center Expansion</li> </ul> <p><b>Kent Campus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pavement Repairs</li> <li>• Follett Bookstore Renovation</li> </ul>
<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p><b>Ongoing Collegewide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scan/Digitize Facilities Plans</li> <li>• Master Plan, 5-Year Plant Survey</li> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrades (DTC, Kent, North)</li> <li>• Emergency Responders Radio Communications System</li> </ul> <p><b>Cecil Center:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• San Jose Early College Construction</li> <li>• BAS Controls Upgrade</li> </ul> <p><b>Deerwood Center:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elevator Modernization</li> <li>• Nursing Program Expansion</li> </ul> <p><b>Downtown Campus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Resources Renovation</li> <li>• Roof Replacement</li> <li>• Building Envelope - Curtain Wall Replacement, URC</li> <li>• Student Housing Suite Upgrade</li> </ul>	<p><b>In planning</b></p> <p><b>Collegewide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science Lab Upgrades</li> <li>• Wayfinding - Monument Signs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Nassau Center:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrade</li> </ul> <p><b>North Campus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restroom Renovation</li> <li>• Replace Ceiling Tiles</li> <li>• Restroom Renovation, SIM Center</li> <li>• Negative Pressure Correction</li> </ul> <p><b>South Campus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follett Bookstore Renovation</li> <li>• Roof Replacement</li> <li>• Fire Academy/EMS Public Service Upgrade</li> </ul>

### Recruitment Update: Scholarship Award Presentation



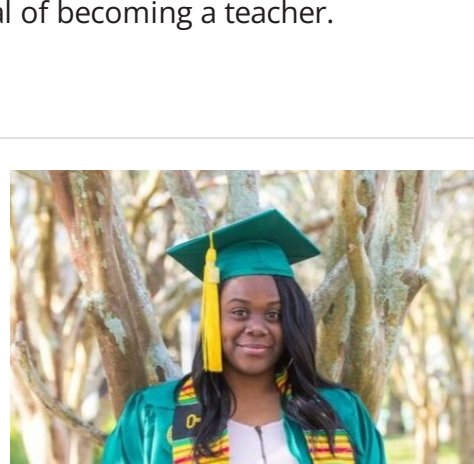
[Read More](#)

We were happy to present a \$1,000 scholarship to West Nassau High School Student Alexandria Patti on May 15. She was selected as the scholarship recipient after attending the College's first-ever Nassau Takeover Day in April.

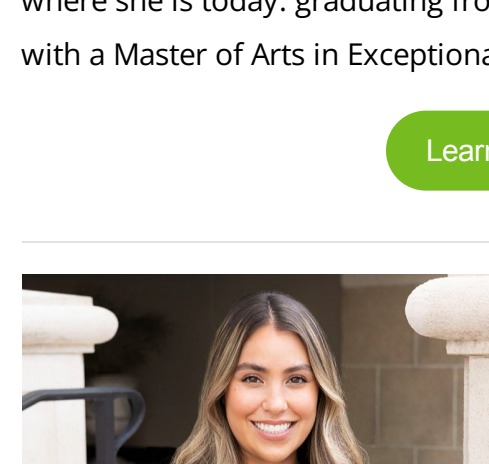
Following her high school graduation, Alexandria plans to enroll in our Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree program this fall and work toward her goal of becoming a teacher.

### TRIO Student Support Services-STEM Alumni Spotlight

After Quaneisha Graham graduated from high school in 2011, she enrolled at FSCJ to begin working toward her A.A. As a first-generation college student, Ms. Graham struggled and quickly became overwhelmed. After speaking with her advisor and attending fairs around campus, she found TRIO Student Support Services. Click on the green button to learn how TRIO helped her succeed and led her to where she is today: graduating from the University of West Florida with a Master of Arts in Exceptional Student Education.



[Learn More](#)



### Get to Know Your A&P Colleagues: Taylor Mejia

May's Administrative & Professional Collaborator (APC) spotlight shines on Director of Government and Community Relations Taylor Mejia. Taylor joined FSCJ in January of 2023, and is responsible for ensuring effective relationships are created and maintained with local, state and federal officials, government agencies, businesses, and community-based organizations. It is her goal to establish partnerships that will benefit both the College and the community.

[Learn More](#)

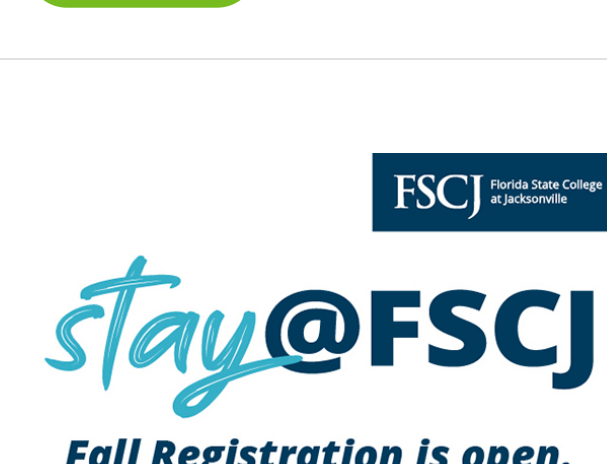
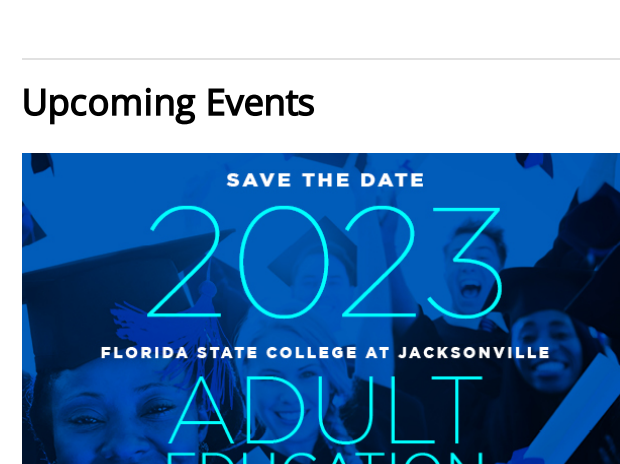
### FSCJ In Action



Students attended "The Symposium for Workforce Entrepreneurship" on April 19 as part of our new Trade Talks series. The event featured discussions with successful entrepreneurs in the electrical, HVAC/R and welding fields including Della Ray, 2020 Empowering Women in Industry Tradeswoman of the Year and Co-Founder of Alpha Duo, LLC.

[Learn More](#)

### Upcoming Events



[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 [bluewavenews@fscj.edu](mailto:bluewavenews@fscj.edu). Three winners will receive a BlueWave prize pack! Please note: Previous quiz winners are not eligible to win for six months.

- How many years in a row have the dental hygiene program graduates achieved a 100% pass rate on the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam?
  - a. 10
  - b. 12
  - c. 13
  - d. 14
- Which FSCJ location earned this year's President's Cup for achieving the highest percentage of faculty and staff donors?
  - a. Downtown Campus
  - b. South Campus
  - c. Kent Campus
  - d. North Campus
- What is the name of the next Beyond the Big Screen book selection?
  - a. Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption
  - b. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
  - c. Little Women
  - d. To Kill a Mockingbird
- How many degrees were awarded to FSCJ graduates and candidates for the 2022-23 academic year?
  - a. 1,934
  - b. 894
  - c. More than 3,600
  - d. 774
- Which of the below is NOT one of the four things the SACSCOC on-site reviewer will focus on during discussions with FSCJ employees?
  - a. Strategic Plan
  - b. Scholarships
  - c. Mission, Vision and Values
  - d. QEP