

September 2023



Convocation Recap

Thanks to all who joined us at FSCJ South Campus Gymnasium on Thursday, August 24 for the kickoff to our academic year, Convocation 2023: Dr. A and our event emcees, Dr. Sam Ertenberg and Professor Joe LaBarbera, used their acting skills and brought the "Cheers" theme to life.

Event speakers included District Board of Trustees Chair Wayne Young, Dr. John Wall, Dr. Jacquelyn Thompson, Karen Acevedo and Dr. Linda Herlocker. In his keynote address, Dr. A shared his appreciation for all faculty and staff, updates from across the College and helped us gear up for the new year. We'd like to thank danceWORKS who joined us again this year for a special performance.

Thank you to all who brought donations for the FSCJ H.O.P.E. Food Pantry! We collected 202.5 pounds of food that will support our students' needs. You can continue to make donations at the pantry locations at Downtown and South campuses or by dropping off items at any of the Student Life offices. Find locations, hours and learn more [here](#).

[View Photos](#)

Tell us how you felt about this year's event.



News and Updates

Q&A with Dr. A

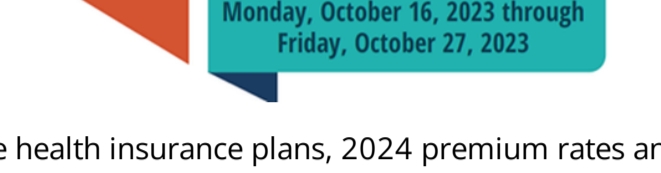
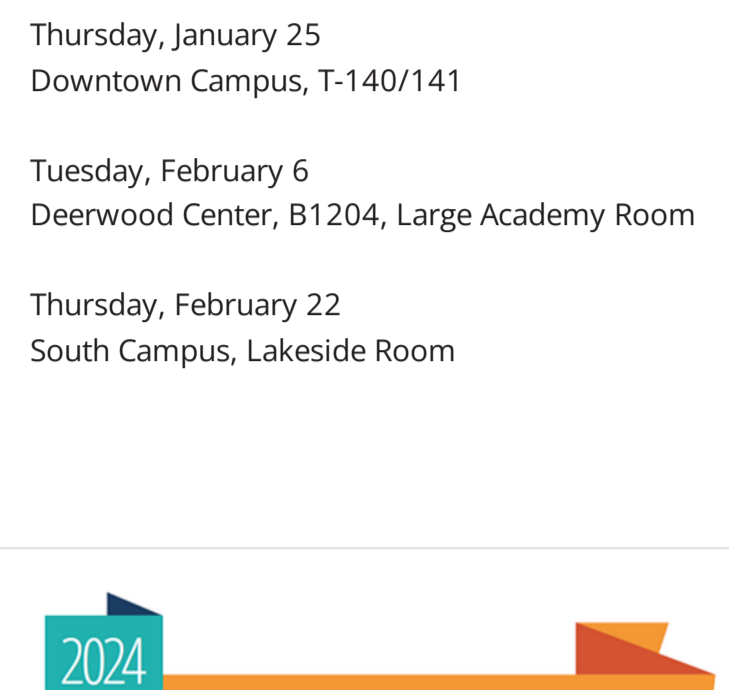
Make plans to join us for any of the Q&A with Dr. A events taking place throughout the Fall and Spring Terms. This is your opportunity to engage in open conversations with Dr. A and ask questions on initiatives and activities that are important to you.

Campus Deans will send out invites for each location. The full schedule is below. All events will be 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 14 North Campus, E166	Thursday, January 25 Downtown Campus, T-140/141
Thursday, September 28 Nassau Center, Nassau Room	Tuesday, February 6 Deerwood Center, B1204, Large Academy Room
Thursday, October 5 Kent Campus, D-120	Thursday, February 22 South Campus, Lakeside Room

Benefits Open Enrollment

Benefits Open Enrollment for 2024 will be held October 16-27, 2023. During this time, employees can make changes to their insurance plan elections to include adding or removing dependents. The Benefits team will be available on each campus during the first week of Open Enrollment to assist with enrollment elections.



Be on the lookout for information on the changes to the health insurance plans, 2024 premium rates and vendor information in the upcoming weeks.

Free Access to FSCJ Fitness Centers

Did you know FSCJ faculty, staff and students get free access to our Fitness Centers? You can stop by any of the locations to check out our equipment and start your fall workout routine. We are upgrading equipment across the different facilities as well, so visit often, but don't forget your FSCJ ID!

In addition, Athletics is working with Facilities to install badge readers at each location so you can enjoy workouts before or after the workday. After-hours access details are being finalized and updates will be shared soon.

[View Hours and Locations](#)

Succession Planning Program

The FSCJ Succession Planning Program is a year-long initiative that will provide individualized professional development opportunities designed to prepare employees for critical positions within the institution. While participation in the program does not guarantee that an employee will advance into a specific position, it will provide the employee with opportunities to enhance their competencies, skills and experience.

The Executive Leadership Team has approved the following critical positions for the 2023-24 year:
[Associate Provost, Curriculum and Instruction](#)
[Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management & Student Success](#)
[Chief Human Resource Officer](#)

All FSCJ employees are eligible to apply. Interested participants must complete the Succession Planning Application Form. Two to seven employees per position will be selected to participate in the program. Approval up through the employee's chain of command to the Vice President is required and will be obtained through an electronic workflow. Applications and approvals are due Friday, September 15.

Email humanresources@fscj.edu with questions.

[Application Form](#)

FSCJ.edu Update

FSCJ.edu updates will begin later this month as we prepare for the October 1 launch of the new College Catalog. Between September 25 and October 1, we will be updating and testing program landing pages to ensure they link to the appropriate Catalog page. As such, there will be a content freeze during that time.

We appreciate your support and patience as this transition takes place. If timelines change, additional updates will be shared.



NCCER Class Supports Goodwill and Sulzbacher Center

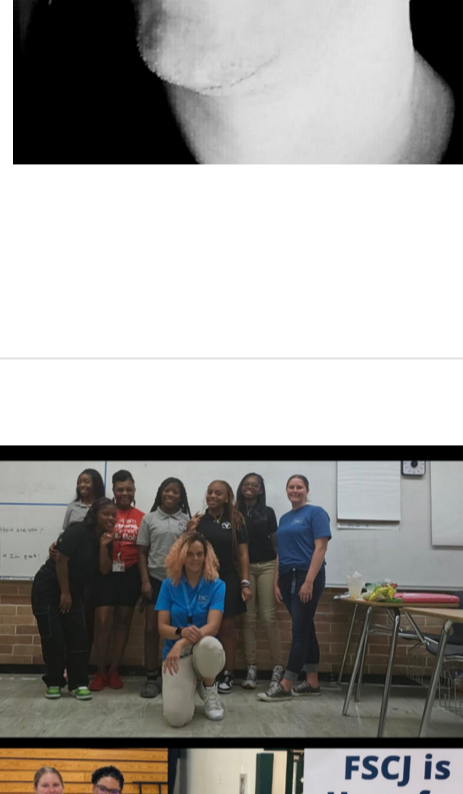
Students in the Goodwill/Sulzbacher cohort are learning how to use power tools in the NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) class.

Following completion, students will obtain a NCCER Core Certification, a Forklift OSHA License and American Heart Association AED/CPR card.

Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Lance Culver

The Career Employees' Council (CEC) is the representative voice for the Career employees of FSCJ. September's spotlight illuminates Laboratory Manager Lance Culver. Lance began working at FSCJ in 2021, and works with the Urban Agriculture Initiative.

He meticulously seeds and maintains over 1,000 plants weekly to contribute to crucial aquaponics and hydroponics research. These plants serve research purposes and supply the FSCJ Downtown Campus Culinary Department and Cafe Frisch with top-quality produce. Under his direction, the Urban Agriculture Lab thrives as a hub of research, education and community impact, making a lasting difference in sustainable practices and the future of agriculture.



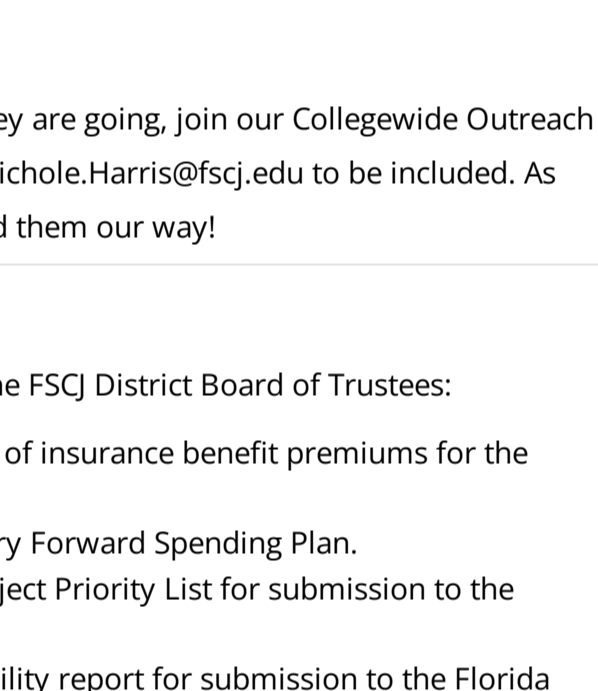
[Learn More](#)

Recruitment Update

Hurricane Idalia put a short pause on recruitment activity as we started to ramp up for the beginning of the new academic year, cancelling nine events the last week in August, but the recruitment team is not stopping! We have already visited several of our Duval and Nassau county schools and have events planned throughout the new year.

August 2023 Outreach Efforts:

- Attended 13 recruitment events across Duval and Nassau counties.
- Helped 131 students understand who FSCJ is and what opportunities we have for them.
- Led 24 campus tours showing 64 potential students all that FSCJ offers.



If you want to see where the recruitment team is and where they are going, join our Collegewide Outreach Events Calendar. Contact Associate Director Nichole Harris at Nichole.Harris@fscj.edu to be included. As always, if you know someone interested in attending FSCJ, send them our way!

Board Highlights

Review the highlights of the September 12, 2023, meeting of the FSCJ District Board of Trustees:

- The District Board of Trustees approved the continuation of insurance benefit premiums for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the 2023-24 Carry Forward Spending Plan.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the College's Project Priority List for submission to the Division of Colleges.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the FCS Affordability report for submission to the Florida Department of Education.

You can find more information on the Board of Trustees meeting on our [website](#).

Comings and Goings

This list includes those individuals who are filling the newly appointed Faculty full-time positions, full-time A&P positions and full-time Career Employee positions.

Faculty Full-Time

- Kimberley Yasameen Alkhatyat, Professor of Engineering Technology
- Elizabeth Braswell, Professor of Dental Hygiene
- Andreas Glover, Professor of Criminal Justice
- Desmond Harris, Professor of Respiratory Care
- Tiffani Mickens, Professor of Nursing
- Bridgette Minoza, Professor of Nursing
- Wyatt Taylor, Professor of History
- Holly Varthakavi, Professor of American Sign Language

A&P Full-Time

- Lino Ballagas Rodríguez, Functional Analyst
- Bradley Bartlett, Engineer IV Network
- Alexandra Benigno, Budget Analyst
- Darlene Bogenpohl, Instructional Program Manager
- Elysia Cochran, Instructional Program Manager
- Phenessa Gray, Library and Learning Commons Manager
- Sabrina Hartsell, Head Coach - Women's Softball
- Jeffrey Hess, Associate Provost for Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Chelsea Hinck, Head Coach - Women's Volleyball
- Whitney Lafond, Interim Dean Arts and Sciences
- Amanda Priestler, Engineer IV Software
- John Putyrski, Head Coach - Men's Basketball
- Anthony Yertzell, Library and Learning Commons Manager

Career Full-Time

- Toni Abbott, Campus Operations Coordinator
- Labrena Bowman, Campus Dual Enrollment Coordinator
- Jamica Brown, Academic Department Coordinator
- Samantha Burkitt, Administrative Assistant III
- Arnel Carreiro, Duplicating and Mailroom Coordinator
- Adrian Castillo, Armed Security Officer
- Michael Crosby, Academic Tutor
- Antoinette Everett, Campus Operations Coordinator
- Valeria Farias-Millan, Military Program Specialist
- Marcus Gotay, Supervisor of Plant Service Workers
- Martha Henderson, Academic Department Coordinator
- Trenee King, Interim Senior Specialist
- Marie Lafortune, Student Records Specialist
- Eric Latak, Plant Service Worker
- Meghan McGoldrick, Human Resources Coordinator
- Alexandra Nickel, Accounts Receivable Specialist II
- Jennifer Revenaugh, Campus Operations Coordinator
- Sheryl Shelton, Administrative Assistant I
- Richard Sidney, Associate Program Specialist
- James Van Court, Duplicating and Mailroom Coordinator
- Chester Williams, Academic and Career Advisor
- Leila Williams, Business Office Specialist II

Who's Retiring?

The following employees have recently retired, or will soon be retiring, from FSCJ:

- Dana Kuehn
- Dr. Jeffrey Smith

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations to the following employees who received a degree and submitted a request for earned degree recognition! Employees who wish to be recognized for completing a program of study can complete and submit an [Earned Degree Recognition form](#).

- Heather Carter, Doctor of Education Nova Southeastern University
- Valarie Smith, Master's Webster University
- Okoy Emejuru, Master of Science Capella University
- Natcha Perez-Bruno, Associate in Arts FSCJ
- Kasey Anderson, Master of Science, Hospitality Florida International University
- Barry Summers, Master of Science, Business Administration Columbia College
- Emily Towery, Bachelor's FSCJ
- Annette Barrineau, PhD, Business Administration Walden University
- Brandi Black, Master's University of North Florida
- Briante Becote, PhD, Cyber Operations Dakota State University
- Opal Johnson, Bachelor's in Business Administration FSCJ

FSCJ In Action



Thanks to everyone who participated in the annual First Coast Heart Walk, which was held on Saturday, September 9, 2023. This year, Team FSCJ raised more than \$4,400 and we had 245 registered participants, with additional walkers joining us on the day of the event.

[View Photos](#)

Facilities Updates

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

Recently completed	Downtown Campuses	In planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deerwood, Elevator Modernization-Center Stage • Cecil, SanJose Early College Construction • North, Door Access Control Upgrades • North, Pavement Resurface CJC Driving Course & Skills Pad • North, Restroom Renovation-Bldg A • South, Door Access Control Upgrades-Bldgs D&T • South, Science Lab Negative Pressure Correction-Bldgs C&D • South, AHU Ductwork, VAV Replace & Abatement-Bldgs E&F 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources Renovation • Roof Replacement • Building Envelope - Curtain Wall Replacement, URC • Student Housing Suite Upgrade • Admin/Finance Remodel • Conference Room Furniture • Chiller Replacement, AD • Door Access Control Upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Door Access Control Upgrade Cecil Center: • Door Access Control Upgrade Deerwood Center: • Flooring Upgrade • IT/NOC Area/TV Studio Upgrade
<p>Ongoing Collegewide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scan/Digitize Facilities Plans • Door Lock Conversion to Access Control System - Downtown, Kent, South & North • Emergency Responders Radio Communications System (ERRCS) Compliance • Fire Alarm Panel Replacement • Science Lab Upgrades - Design • Wayfinding - Monument Signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Campus: Door Access Control Upgrade • Nassau Center: CVD Skills Pad • Nursing Program Expansion • Outdoor Ed Center Conceptual Design • North Campus: Door Access Control Upgrades • Roof/Kalwall Replacement • South Campus: Veteran Support Center • Relocate Testing Center, Student Services Admin, Financial Services • Door Access Control Upgrade • Fire Academy Skills Pad Resurface • Wilson Center Sculpture • Lab Negative Pressure Correction • Replace Ductwork • Roof Replacement • Boiler Replacement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown Campus: Elevator Modernization • CWB Meeting Room Renovation • Police Dept Space Assessment • Kent Campus: Pavement Repairs • Auditorium Renovation • Art Lab Shelving • Science Lab Upgrades • Nassau Center: Door Access Control Upgrade • North Campus: Science Lab Upgrades • South Campus: Fire Academy/EMS Public Service Upgrade • Wilson Center Architect Assessment • Outdoor Cafe, Furniture • Elevator Replacement • Honors Program Expansion • E-Gaming and Building F Renovation

Upcoming Events

OnPoint

Next Call:
October 11, 2 p.m.

Call notes available at
[myFSCJ OnPoint Quick Link](#)

It's not too late to take classes this Fall!

Session C starts Oct. 23

[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 BlueWave prize pack is emailed to you. Previous quiz winners are not eligible to win for six months.

1. What time do all of the Q&A with Dr. A events begin?
 - a. Noon
 - b. 2:30 p.m.
 - c. 1:30 p.m.
 - d. 1 p.m.
2. When are applications and approvals due for the FSCJ Succession Planning Program?
 - a. September 15
 - b. October 15
 - c. September 14
 - d. October 1
3. How many recruitment events did the Recruitment team attend in August?
 - a. 12
 - b. 24
 - c. 9
 - d. 13
4. Students in the NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) class are in what cohort?
 - a. Goodwill/Sulzbacher
 - b. BEAM
 - c. Mission House
 - d. Changing Homelessness
5. What is the last day for 2024 Benefits Open Enrollment?
 - a. October 16
 - b. October 27
 - c. January 1
 - d. November 27