

April 2024



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
 THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024 AT 4 P.M.
 VYSTAR VETERANS MEMORIAL ARENA

Commencement 2024

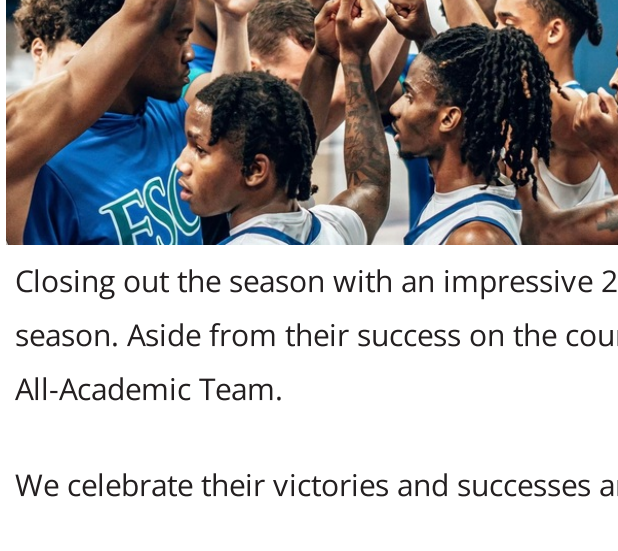
FSCJ's 2024 Commencement Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 9, at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered and all those who plan to attend to celebrate our students! Information regarding the schedule of events and parking will be shared soon.

To kick off the graduation season, Grad Fest events will begin later this month:

- Downtown Campus:** April 29, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Kent Campus:** April 30, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Nassau Center:** May 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- North Campus:** May 2, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- South Campus:** May 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

[Learn More](#)

News and Updates



Historic Season for FSCJ Men's Basketball

Congratulations to FSCJ Men's Basketball for their historic season! After winning the NJCAA Gulf South District Championship, the team competed in the NJCAA DII National Championship in Danville, Illinois. In the first round, they picked up an 89-75 win over #15 ranked Howard Community College, but fell just short in the second, with an 86-79 loss to the #2 seed South Suburban College.

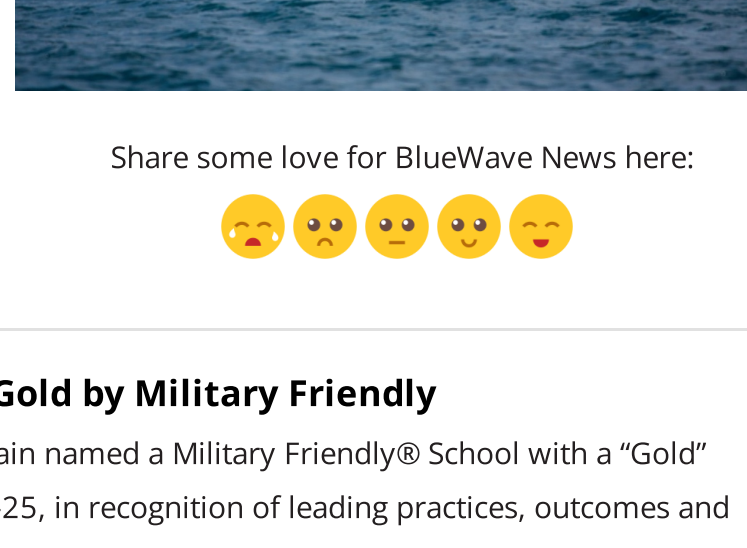
Closing out the season with an impressive 26-10 record, they even tied the record set during the 1981-82 season. Aside from their success on the court, the team also earned an average 3.18 GPA, making them an All-Academic Team.

We celebrate their victories and successes and look forward to next season!

[Read More](#)

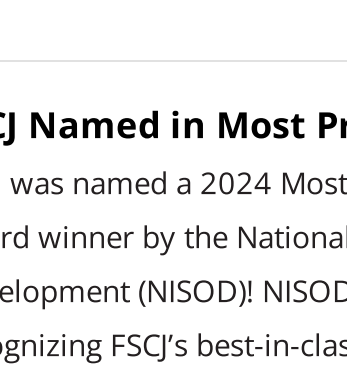
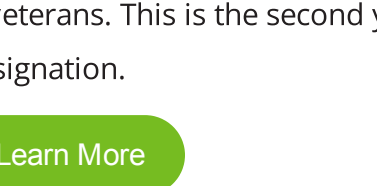
Goodbye, from BlueWave News

We are sad to say goodbye, but the time has come for BlueWave News to come to an end. It's been our honor to help keep you updated, sharing news, updates, highlights and activities from across the College for all these years. It's true; this is our official last edition.



With the bad news out of the way, we have some exciting news to share! With the impending announcement of FSCJ's mascot, a newly named newsletter will be hitting your inboxes next month. Be on the lookout!

Share some love for BlueWave News here:



FSCJ Ranked Gold by Military Friendly

FSCJ was once again named a Military Friendly® School with a "Gold" ranking for 2024-25, in recognition of leading practices, outcomes and effective programs for student veterans. This is the second year in a row the College has received this designation.

[Learn More](#)

FSCJ Named in Most Promising Places to Work

FSCJ was named a 2024 Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges award winner by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD)! NISOD joins Diverse: Issues in Higher Education in recognizing FSCJ's best-in-class student and staff recruitment and retention practices, inclusive learning and working environments, and meaningful community service and engagement opportunities. This is the third time in four years that FSCJ has been recognized in this way.



[Learn More](#)

Recreational Sports for Employees

Opening day for the annual FSCJ Employee Recreational Sports will be Monday, May 13. This employee wellness initiative provides College employees with fun co-ed recreational sports opportunities to enjoy May 13 through August 15. All employees are welcome to participate and no sign-up is needed.

Sports will take place at the following times and locations:

South Campus Gymnasium	South Campus Gymnasium
Basketball & Indoor Pickleball	Indoor Volleyball
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.	Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
North Campus Building D	South Campus Gymnasium
Outdoor Pickleball	Basketball & Indoor Pickleball
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.	Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Contact humanresources@fscj.edu with questions.

Guided Pathways Update Meetings

All faculty and staff are invited to join us for Guided Pathways update meetings. Information will be shared regarding the Guided Pathways work being done, with a member from a pillar group providing updates on their team's projects. The next meeting will be April 23, 2024, 3-3:45 p.m.

If you would like to receive an invitation to update meetings, click [here](#). You can read more on Guided Pathways by clicking on the green button below.

[Learn More](#)

Recruitment Update

It's been a robust recruitment cycle for the College's recruitment team. As we prepare for other upcoming signature recruitment events, we'll take this space to pause and give a huge thank you to the FSCJ family. More meaningful engagement is possible because of you.

There's another opportunity coming up. The Collegewide Open House will be held June 15 at South Campus. This annual event is our chance to showcase the excellent academic programs, meaningful support services and vibrant student life that make FSCJ an exceptional place. Hundreds of prospective students and their supporters will be on hand and eager to learn what sets us apart. Volunteer to help FSCJ create an unforgettable experience by clicking [here](#).

March student recruitment efforts by the numbers:

- Outreach events (on and off campus): 43
- Student connections: 821

Upcoming April events/participation:

- 4/16: FSCJ Student Experience for Baldwin High School (South Campus)
- 4/19: Nassau Center, FSCJ Takeover Day
- 4/26: South Campus, FSCJ Takeover Day
- 5/3: North Campus, FSCJ Takeover Day

If you have questions about student recruitment activities or wish to have our office meet with a group of prospective students, please contact us at fscjrecruitment@fscj.edu.

[Learn More](#)

Board Highlights

Review the highlights of the April 9, 2024, meeting of the FSCJ District Board of Trustees:

- The District Board of Trustees authorized College administration to negotiate and enter into a contract agreement for the Architectural Services: North Campus Nursing Renovation and Remodel, Bldgs B, C and E.
- The District Board of Trustees approved continuing contract status for the following full-time faculty members, effective with the 2024-25 faculty year.
 - Thomas Shapard, Professor of Humanities
 - Zhijing Teng, Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- The District Board of Trustees approved a faculty sabbatical for Rebecca Levy, Professor of Dance, effective with the 2024-25 faculty contract year.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the fee changes for the following courses to be effective Summer Term 2024: ASL1210, ASL1300, ASL1430, INT1000, INT1200, INT1201, INT1202, INT1203, MLT2800L, RET2835, ART2330C, ART2400C, ART2401C, ART2500C, ART2501C, ART2701C, ART2702C, ART2750C, ART2752C, ART2753C, ART2755C, PEM1320.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the FSCJ ACCESS program for Summer Term 2024.

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

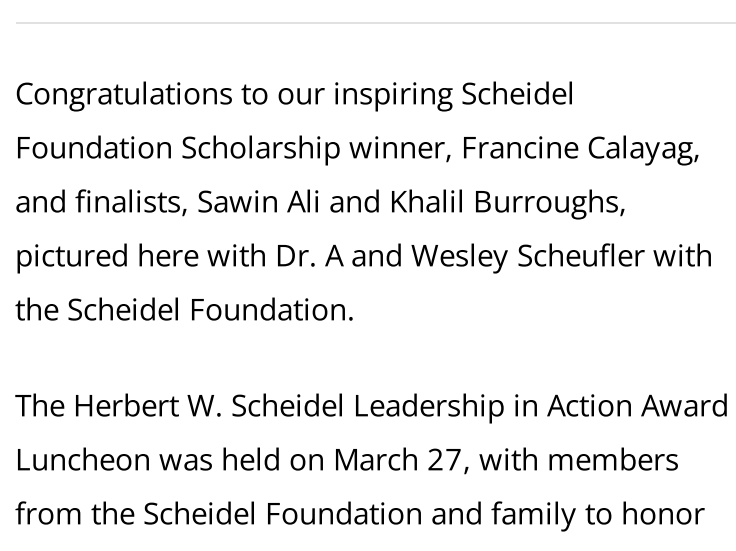
Comings and Goings

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:**
- Christi Bisson, Professor of Physical Therapy
 - Christie Jordan, Professor of Cardiovascular Technology
 - Julie Jorgenson, Professor of Nursing
 - Matthew Simmons, Professor of Mathematics
 - Abinaya Thangavel, Professor of Engineering Technology
- A&P Full-Time:**
- Karen Acevedo, AVP Strategy & Transformation
 - George Carr, Special Events Coordinator - Foundation
 - Andrea Cummings, Interim Director of Program Development
 - John Hartzog, Associate Dean of Information Technology
 - Laura Goodwin, Associate Director of Career Development
 - Courtney McCown, Interim Program Manager
 - Robert Peoples, Engineer I - Client Support
 - Peter Snell, Chief Information Officer
 - Peter Sukalo, Instructional Program Manager
 - Christopher Twigg, Interim Department Chair
 - Joe Williams, Institutional Research (IR) Analyst
 - Elena Yakimchuk, Assistant Director of Accounting

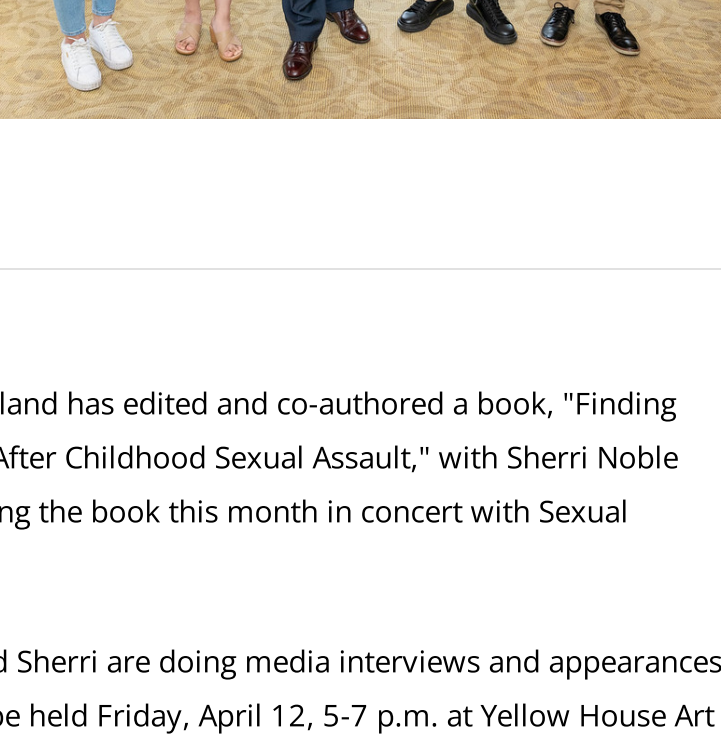
- Career Full-Time:**
- Gregory Burnette, Contact Center Representative II
 - Adrienne Clark, Student Success Advisor I
 - David Dangar, Security Officer
 - Angela Davis, Student Engagement Advisor II
 - Jennifer Derival, Business Office Coordinator
 - Samantha Diaz, Case Manager/Career Specialist
 - Richard Dube, Campus Police Officer
 - Melanie Ferren, Academic Department Coordinator
 - Jacquelyn Gardner, Case Manager/Career Specialist
 - Timothy Hair, Campus Police Officer
 - Michael Heindl, Student Success Advisor I
 - Jaeger Hess, Assistant Technical Director
 - Kathleen Howze, Campus Police Officer
 - Chance Labombarbe, Business Office Specialist
 - Joseph May, Simulation Lab Coordinator
 - Gloria McSwain, Contact Center Representative II
 - Solida Merritt, Simulation Lab Coordinator
 - Laura Montagano, Student Success Advisor II
 - Johnnie Murray, Case Manager/Career Specialist
 - Vicki Nathan Pierce, Curriculum Services Specialist
 - Daniel Pinkney, Senior Plant Service Worker
 - Marta Pino, Business Office Specialist
 - Armando Quintanilla, VA Enroll Services Processor
 - Ridge Reid, Contact Center Representative I
 - Cheryl Robinson, Administration Support Manager
 - Caridad Rodriguez, Plant Service Worker
 - Cory Savage-Hunt, Academic Department Coordinator
 - Colleen Segers, Administrative Services Support Specialist
 - Teniesce Shelborne, VA Enroll Services Processor
 - Elsy Torres, Plant Service Worker
 - Patricia Vaughns, Academic Department Coordinator
 - Tabatha Whitfield, Instructional Program Coordinator
 - Caroline Yazdyia, Student Engagement Advisor I

FSCJ In Action



FSCJ representatives attended the Changing Homelessness Volunteer Breakfast on Thursday, March 7. Dr. A gave welcoming remarks and introduced one of our students, Khalil Burroughs, who also spoke during the event.

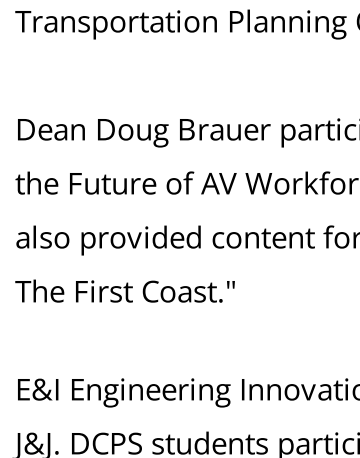
Congratulations to our inspiring Scheidel Foundation Scholarship winner, Francine Calayag, and finalists, Sawin Ali and Khalil Burroughs, pictured here with Dr. A and Wesley Scheuffer with the Scheidel Foundation.



The Herbert W. Scheidel Leadership in Action Award Luncheon was held on March 27, with members from the Scheidel Foundation and family to honor and celebrate the contributions of these students within the community.

[View Photos](#)

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments



Academic Tutor Amy Copeland has edited and co-authored a book, "Finding Sherri: Reclaiming Myself After Childhood Sexual Assault," with Sherri Noble Jones. The two are launching the book this month in concert with Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Throughout April, Amy and Sherri are doing media interviews and appearances. A book signing event will be held Friday, April 12, 5-7 p.m. at Yellow House Art Gallery. They are also presenting across the College, with the final presentation scheduled for April 16, at noon, Kent Campus. [Learn more.](#)

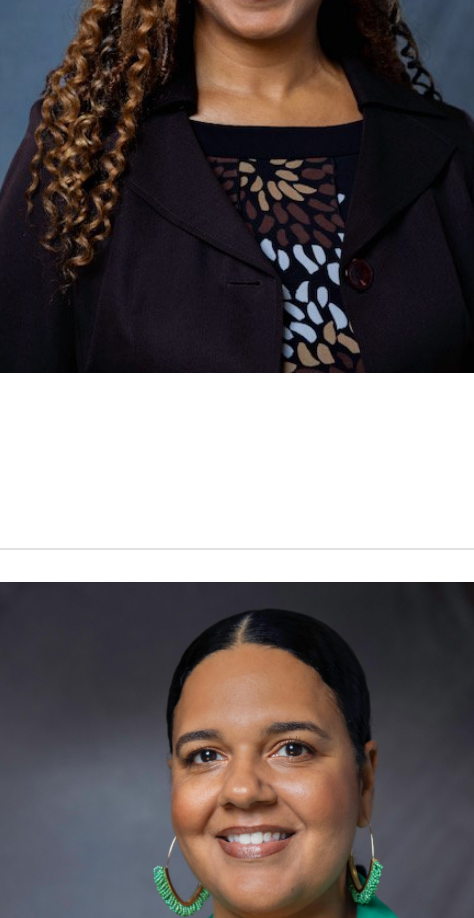
Professor Paul Soar presented at the 2024 Alternative Fuels and Vehicles Expo, sponsored by the Transportation Planning Office, on March 26.

Dean Doug Brauer participated as a featured webinar panelist addressing Autonomous Mobility: Driving the Future of AV Workforce Development, sponsored by JTA and ACES Mobility, on March 28. Dr. Brauer also provided content for a featured story on AI to appear in FCMA's 2024-25 edition of "Manufacturing on The First Coast."

E&I Engineering Innovations Laboratory hosted the Youth Leadership Development Program sponsored by J&J. DCPS students participated in nine STEM station activities on April 2.

Get to Know Your APC Colleagues: Phnessa Gray

April's Administrative & Professional Collaborative (APC) spotlight shines on South Campus Library & Learning Commons (LLC) Manager Dr. Phnessa Gray. She doesn't just oversee operations; she pioneers strategic initiatives aimed at enriching students' academic journeys, fostering engagement and enhancing their overall collegiate experience. With a team of 20 dedicated professionals, Dr. Gray drives holistic innovation, and excellence in service delivery.



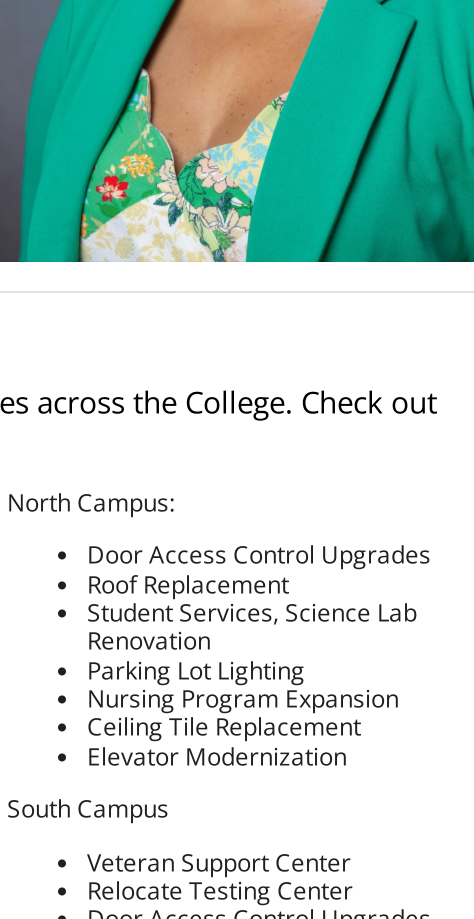
With over 25 years of diverse leadership experience, Dr. Gray embodies unwavering dedication to student success and community empowerment.

[Learn More](#)

Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Sadell Anderson

April's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight illuminates Project Coordinator Sadell Anderson.

Sadell has been employed with FSCJ for 20 years. She works as administrative support for the Adult Education Program. What she appreciates most about her job is the challenge of tackling problems and finding creative solutions that make a difference and supporting her colleagues to ensure job satisfaction of others, and helping foster a pleasant working environment.



[Learn More](#)

Facilities Updates

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

<p>Recently completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> URC, FSCJ Police Dept Remodel <p>Ongoing</p> <p>In progress Collegewide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADA Plumbing Vanities Door Access Control System Upgrades Elevator Door Lock Monitoring System Fire Alarm Panel Replacement Scan/Digitize Facilities Plans Science Lab Renovations Monument Signs, Building IDs, Wayfinding <p>Cecil Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BAS Control Upgrade 	<p>Deerwood Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interior Wayfinding Replacement Common Area Renovation Chiller Replacement Skylight Replacement <p>Downtown Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HR, Admin/Finance Renovations Student Housing Suite Renovation CWE Meeting Room Renovation Building Envelope Chiller Replacement Door Access Control Upgrades ADA Signage Elevator Modernization <p>Kent Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hot Water System Replacement Elevator Modernization Parking Lot Lighting Door Access Control Upgrade Art Lab Storage Science Lab Upgrades 	<p>North Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Door Access Control Upgrades Roof Replacement Student Services, Science Lab Renovation Parking Lot Lighting Nursing Program Expansion Ceiling Tile Replacement Elevator Modernization <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 Lab Negative Pressure Correction Boiler Replacement Roof Replacement Elevator Modernization
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Upcoming Events

Next Call:
May 15, 2 p.m.

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

Summer registration is open!
Fall registration begins April 15.

[View More Events](#)

BlueWave News Quiz

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

- What was the record for FSCJ Men's Basketball?
 - 26-8
 - 26-11
 - 26-9
 - 26-10
- When is the FSCJ Takeover Day at Nassau Center?
 - 4/19
 - 4/26
 - 5/3
 - 5/9
- Out of the last four years, how many times has FSCJ been recognized in the Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD)?
 - 4
 - 1
 - 3
 - 2

- What recreational sport is being offered at North Campus for employees?
 - Indoor Volleyball
 - Outdoor Pickleball
 - Basketball
 - Indoor Pickleball
- When is the next Collegewide Open House?
 - July 5
 - June 15
 - May 9
 - June 5

