

# AFC at FSCJ Chapter Newsletter



May, 2021  
Quarter 2 /2021

**President:** Bryan Stewart

**Vice-President/President Elect:**  
Blake Ehlers

**Immediate Past President:**  
Jay Whittington

**Secretary:** Kerri Burns

**Treasurer:** Denise Giarrusso

**Membership Chair:**  
Dr. Monica Franklin

**Fundraising Coordinator:**  
Terry Hollingshead

**Historian:** Matt Wetzel

**Publications Rep:** Trina McCowan

**Professional Development:** Dr.  
Jametoria Burton

**Service Projects Coord:**  
Ashlie Barker-Empelo

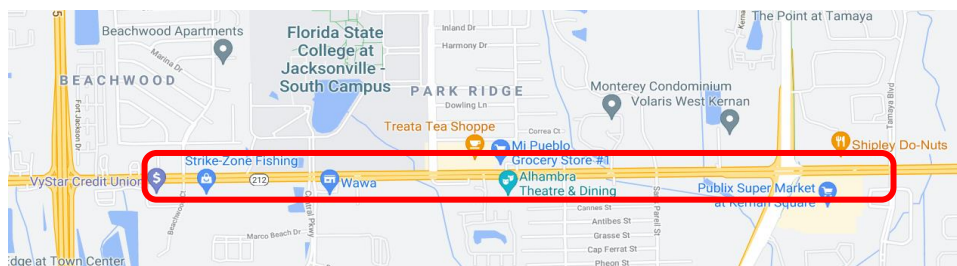
## Message from the Chapter President

Greetings Chapter!

Our membership continues to grow and we have added twelve new members in the past three months. Our goal is to add 50 new members to our nearly 200 by the end of the spring term. Keep spreading the word!

We sincerely hope you enjoyed the 2021 AFC Region II Spring Conference & Commission Fair on Friday, April 23rd. During this virtual event, we had professional development breakout sessions and representatives from several of our fourteen Commissions present information and approaches to getting involved.

With Dr. Avendano's permission and support, we applied and have been approved to participate in the FDOT Adopt-a-Highway campaign. On a quarterly basis, we will have teams removing litter and debris on both sides of a two-mile stretch of Beach Blvd. from Tamaya Blvd. (just east of Kernan Blvd.) westward to just east of I-295 (please see map below). Our Chapter name "FSCJ AFC CHAPTER" will be placed on signs at either end indicating we are adopting that section of highway. We are very delighted to be a part of this program and even more proud that we can make a difference in this manner.



Our next quarterly meeting is May 21st and will include a Legislative Update from Virginia Berg, our FSCJ Director of Government Relations.

- Bryan Stewart

### Your Campus/Center Reps

**North/Nassau:** Audrey Antee,  
Deborah Brabham, Donna Martin

**South Campus:** Chandra Shuler,  
Thomas Morris

**Kent/Cecil:** Renee Lewis, Anita  
Scotlis

**Open/Deerwood:** Crishana  
Benton

**AO/URC:** Bonnie Lucey, Karen  
Johns

**Downtown/ATC:** Vacant

**Interested in serving? Contact  
any officer or representative  
today!**



## Get the Most Out of Your AFC Membership

Did you know the AFC has a podcast, book club and speaker bureau? Every month, we'll highlight an aspect of the AFC website that will help you get the most out of your membership and connect with like minded colleagues across the state. This month, we'll start with the basics: accessing your homepage and profile on the official AFC website.

1. Start by going to <https://www.myafchome.org/>, AFC's homepage
2. Click on the Member Login button at the top right of the page.
3. To set or reset your password, click on the reset password link and provide the email you listed on your AFC application.
4. After resetting your password and logging in, you can click on My Profile and choose which commissions you'd like to be a part of, add an image, update your professional bio, and view your association history.

## 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Conference – Together Towards Tomorrow

All AFC Members are invited to attend the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Conference on May 20, 2021. The conference will feature Larry Johnson, Jr., the President of Phoenix College as Keynote Speaker. Dr. Johnson is actively engaged in the higher education learning landscape. He is a member of the Presidents' Round Table, the National Council on Black American Affairs, and affiliate councils of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Johnson is actively engaged in national dialogues centered on student retention and completion. He is also a member of the AACC Commission on Colleges Readiness.

Conference agenda, program, and registration can be accessed from [HERE](#).

The conference will feature **a Virtual Escape Room Social** from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. on May 19th. Click [HERE](#) to register for the Escape Room (prizes will be awarded).

## Help Wanted! Social Media Representative

If you are tech and social media savvy and would like an opportunity to actively impact our Chapter in a positive way by promoting events and items of interest, we are looking for you! Please let Bryan Stewart know if you are interested by emailing him at [bstewart@fscj.edu](mailto:bstewart@fscj.edu)

## Chapter Calendar

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, May, 20, 2021: 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
(1 step eligible)

Quarterly Evening Social: Wednesday, May 26, 6:30 p.m. (via MS Teams)

### AFC Values:

*Professional Growth and Development, Advocacy, Leadership,  
Community, Innovation, and Networking*

### AFC Commissions Click for Information

- [Administration Commission](#)
- [Campus Safety Commission](#)
- [Career & Professional Employees](#)
- [Communications & Marketing Commission](#)
- [Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Commission](#)
- [Facilities Commission](#)
- [Faculty Commission](#)
- [Healthcare Education Commission](#)
- [Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, & Professional Development Commission](#)
- [Learning Resources Commission](#)
- [Student Development Commission](#)
- [Technology Commission](#)

### Get to Know... Deborah Williams



Higher education is the stock and trade of my family. I have had sisters, brothers, nephews, nieces, and cousins working at colleges and universities all over the country during my lifetime, and it has turned out to be the perfect choice for me.

I began my career in higher education as a part-time librarian at Keiser University's Jacksonville, Florida campus in 2008 while completing a master's degree in Library and Information Science. I was fortunate to be offered and accept a full time Campus Librarian position in 2010. During my time there I worked closely with community partners and received the Bridge Builder award in 2015 for planning and spearheading an annual children's book drive during Family Literacy month in September. The donated books benefitting the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of Duval county. The ELC of Duval county provides a book to children visiting their offices to promote early literacy. In 2019, we collected over 1500 children's books in 30 days from our campus community which were used to replenish supply. Imagine what would happen if every college library did that.

Although I work in higher education, I am passionate about the impact of family literacy and learning on future college success. Today's four-year old learning to read proficiently is possibly tomorrow's successful community college student and the parent is very likely a community college student today.

I began working as a part-time librarian at Florida State College at Jacksonville's Deerwood Center Library and Learning Commons in 2014. I developed an affinity for the mission of the community college there

- [Trustees Commission](#)
- [Workforce, Adult & Continuing Education Commission](#)

and later accepted my current position as the Library and Learning Commons Manager at the Nassau Center LLC in 2020. I hope to continue volunteering and promoting family literacy in the context of the community college in my new role.

I hold a Master of Public Administration from Temple University and earned Master of Arts in Library and Information Science at the University of South Florida in 2008. In 2018, I completed an Educational Specialist degree at the University of West Florida, and I am currently a doctoral candidate in the process of completing my dissertation for the Doctor of Education degree in Curriculum and Assessment.

I am proud to be a member of the Association of Florida Colleges and look forward getting to work!

### Get to Know... Denise Giarrusso



I have worked in postsecondary education for almost two decades, beginning my journey in January 2003 working at Hillsborough Community College as a Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities. I moved to Jacksonville in June 2006 when I accepted the position of Director of Services for Students with Disabilities at FSCJ. In July 2016 I was hired as the Associate Director of Student Support Services and in February of this

year transitioned to the Assessment and Certification Manager at our Downtown campus. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Exceptional Education and a Masters of Arts degree in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, both from the University of South Florida. Additionally, I am a nationally certified rehabilitation counselor.

I recognize the benefits that membership in professional organizations offer and in 2003 enrolled as a member of Florida Association of Community Colleges, which is now known as Association of Florida Colleges (AFC). I have enjoyed attending conferences, meeting other professionals, keeping abreast of what is happening in our state, and the opportunity to network and share innovative and creative ideas with other like-minded professionals. I am also a member of the National Rehabilitation Association, serve as a board member for the Florida Rehabilitation Association, and most recently became a member of the Florida Association of College Test Administrator (FACTA).

On a personal note, I am married, have two children and a grandson. In my free time I enjoy cooking, gardening, biking, walking, and traveling.