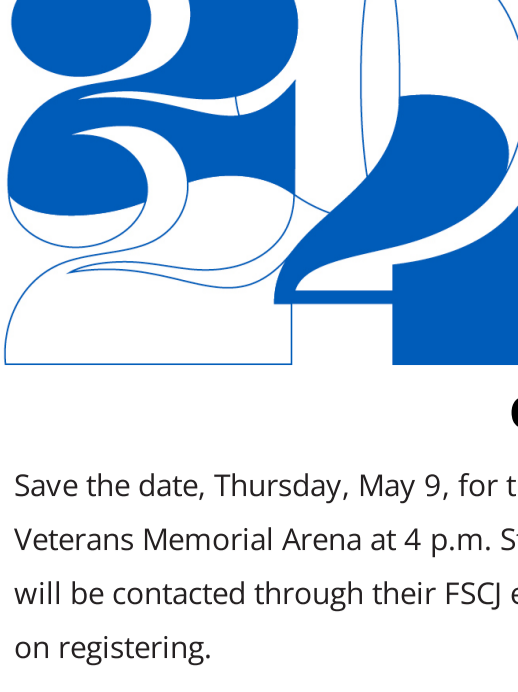


## February 2024



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

### Commencement 2024

Save the date, Thursday, May 9, for the 2024 Commencement Ceremony. The event will be held at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena at 4 p.m. Students eligible to participate in the 2024 Commencement celebration will be contacted through their FSCJ email beginning this week with further instructions and information on registering.

In addition to our in-person ceremony, we will once again host Grad Fest events where graduates can enjoy giveaways, activities and photo opportunities. Be on the lookout for information on ways you can volunteer.

- 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.

### News and Updates

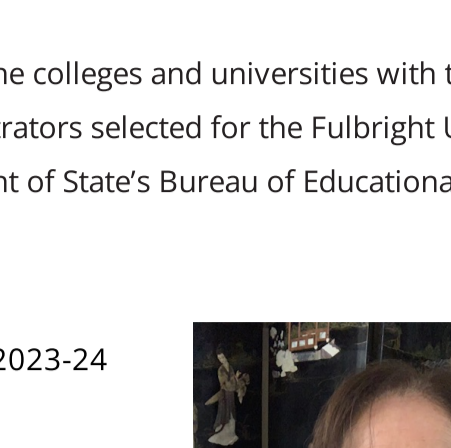
#### Mascot Voting Closes Soon

The top 3 finalists have been selected and the final choice is in your hands! Will it be Kraken, Manta Ray or Sea Dragon?

Faculty, staff, students and the community are invited to join us in making the final selection. Voting ends on February 23. Visit [fscj.edu/mascot](https://fscj.edu/mascot) or click on the button below.

The results will be announced during our Commencement Ceremony.

#### Help us choose our mascot!



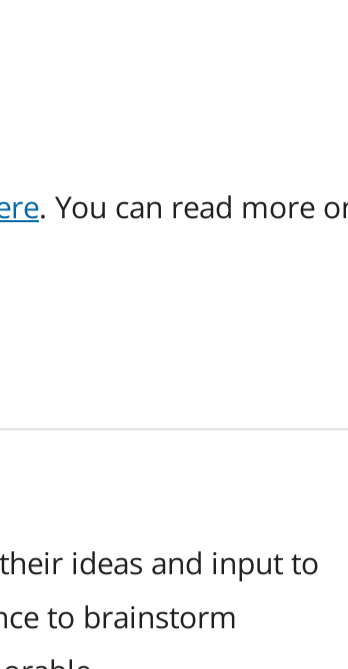
[Vote Now](#)

#### FSCJ Named Top Producing Institution for Fulbright U.S. Scholars

FSCJ was recognized for being among the colleges and universities with the highest number of faculty and administrators selected for the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Two scholars from FSCJ were selected for Fulbright awards for the 2023-24 academic year:

**Professor of Legal Studies Faith Litvack, J.D.** (*pictured here*)  
Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program to Japan, Yokohama National University, Project Title: "A Snapshot of the American Legal System"



**Adjunct English Language Institute Professor Aileen Hale**  
Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program to Colombia, Universidad Tecnologica de Bolivar, Project Title: "Enhancing English Teacher Preparation and School Partnerships with UTB"

[Learn More](#)

#### Guided Pathways Update Meetings

All faculty and staff are invited to join us for Guided Pathways update meetings in the coming months. 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.

Upcoming meetings:  
March 26, 2024, 3-3:45 p.m.  
April 23, 2024, 3-3:45 p.m.

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

[Learn More](#)

#### 60th Anniversary Planning is Underway

FSCJ's 60th Anniversary is coming up soon! Faculty and staff are invited to share their ideas and input to help develop a fitting celebration for this remarkable milestone. This is your chance to brainstorm celebration activities, share ideas on keepsakes and more to make the year memorable.

If you are interested in participating in a committee or just have an idea to pass along, please send an email with your interest to [communications@fscj.edu](mailto:communications@fscj.edu).



#### Beyond the Big Screen Events Continue

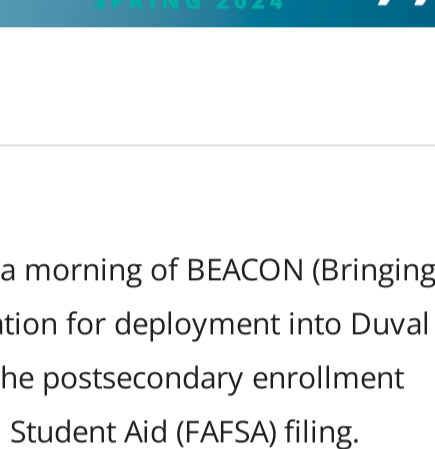
FSCJ's Literary and Film Series, Beyond the Big Screen, featuring "Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption," presentations continue this month, with the headline screening events taking place on March 5 and 7.

Click on the green button for the full schedule of events and more details.

[Learn More](#)

#### Make Your Celebration of Student Success Nominations

There is still time to submit your student nominations for the 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.

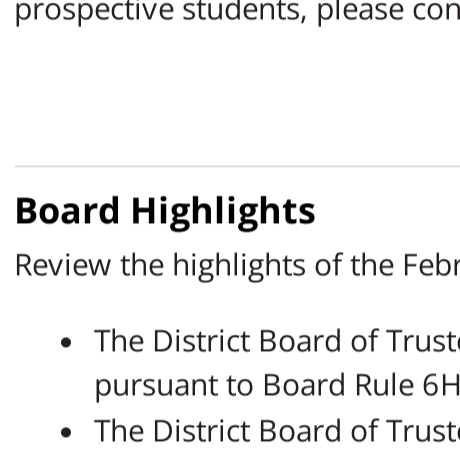


The schedule for each campus awards ceremony is as follows:

- 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. Deadlines are two weeks before the date of your campus award ceremony.

[Make a Nomination](#)



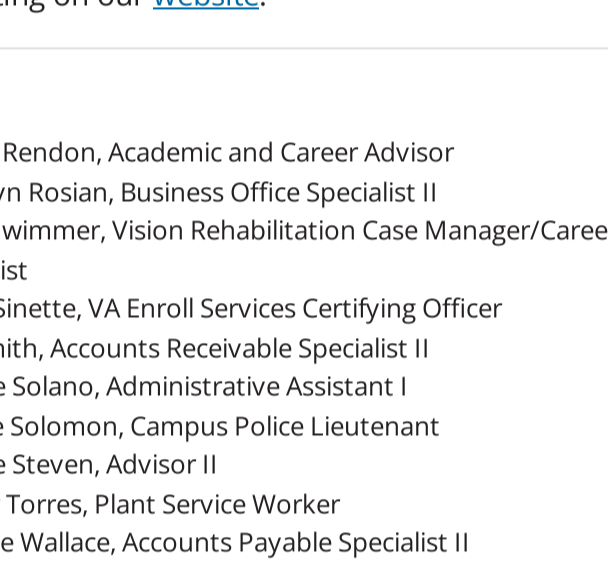
#### Employee Wellness Fair is March 7

Join us for the 2024 Wellness Fair. All employees are encouraged to attend for a chance to experience on-site health screenings, exciting door prizes, free personal care services and much more! The event will be held at the ATC from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, March 7.

This 2024 Wellness Fair aims to promote the Employee Wellness Programs' five elements of health and wellness.

#### Q&A with Dr. A

Make plans to attend the last Q&A with Dr. A event of 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.



Tuesday, March 5  
South Campus, Lakeside Room  
1:30-2:30 p.m.

#### Recruitment Update

A dozen FSCJ personnel joined other community volunteers recently for a morning of BEACON (Bringing Economic And Career Opportunities Nearer) program training in preparation for deployment into Duval County's public high schools. Volunteers met with students to continue the postsecondary enrollment conversation, focusing on completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) filing.

Volunteers are assisting students with understanding the application process, especially as complications have been reported with the new FAFSA form. Opened on December 31, the new form is intended to decrease the length of the application while increasing its simplicity.

January student recruitment efforts by the numbers:  
Individual tours: 6  
Outreach (on- and off-campus events): 30  
Student connections: 1,016

Upcoming events:  
2/23: FSCJ Principals and Counselors Workshop.  
2/20: Nassau County College and Career Fair, Yulee South Campus  
High School 3/11: Resources to Prepare Students for the Modern Workforce, sponsored by Career Source Northeast Florida, Advanced Technology Center  
2/22: Fletcher High School College Fair

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](mailto:fscjrecruitment@fscj.edu).

[Read More](#)

#### Board Highlights

Review the highlights of the February 13, 2024, meeting of the FSCJ District Board of Trustees:

- The District Board of Trustees approved fee changes for certain courses effective Summer Term 2024, pursuant to Board Rule 6HX7-4.19.
- The District Board of Trustees approved Amendment No. 2 to the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operating Budget.
- The District Board of Trustees approved Amendment No. 2 to the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Capital Outlay Budget.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the acceptance of the Feasibility Study, and approval for the Comprehensive Campaigns.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the Academic Calendar for 2024-25.

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:**  
Ahmed Al Zaidy, Professor of Cyber Security  
Lorrie Blitch, Professor of Nursing  
Diane Fair, Professor of Biomedical Sciences  
Monica Hardy, Professor of Health Information Management  
Racheli Nagel, Professor of Early Childhood Education  
Anthony Rundles, Professor of Digital Media  
Selena Sheeters, Professor of Nursing  
Cecile Washington, Professor of Cyber Security

**A&P Full-Time:**  
David Brown, Engineer III Network  
Monica Franklin, Dean of Health Sciences  
Carissa Gardner, Program Manager  
John Grissett, Program Manager  
Goran Latic, Engineer IV Network  
John Owens, Campus Facilities Director  
John Strickland, Vice President of Student Development  
Tatyssa Timoshchuk, Human Resources Analyst

**Career Full-Time:**  
Jennifer Anderson, Academic and Career Advisor  
Dennis Bent, Tradesworker Specialist  
Courtney Bogenschutz, Security Officer  
Samantha Burkitt, Department Coordinator  
Samantha Catone, Assistant Technical Director  
Erin Cooper, Assessment Specialist  
Dayna Adams, Administrative Specialist - Student Success  
Ingrid Delacruz, Administrative Services Support Specialist  
Michael Dobbins, Security Officer  
Cristal Everett, Assistant Supervisor of Plant Service Workers  
Meghan Feeley, Student Engagement Advisor I  
Wayne Gornillon, Plant Service Worker  
Marcus Gotlay, Tradesworker Specialist  
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Career Advisor  
Jasmine Hester, Interim Academic Department Coordinator  
Rumyana Kalaydzheva, Financial Aid Advisor II  
Louanne Kallender, Academic and Career Advisor  
Oliver Link, Distance Learning Assessment Specialist  
Norgila Lopez, Administrative Assistant I  
Cheryl Manning-Glass, Academic Department Coordinator  
Amanda Manzanilla, Student Support Coordinator  
Darling Martinez, Administrative Services Support Specialist  
Marilyn McNair, Academic and Career Advisor/Katherine McWilliams, Academic Department Coordinator  
Johnny Mike, Campus Police Lieutenant  
Laila Milatyar, Student Records Analyst I  
Jerry Morgan, Education and Career Lead Specialist  
Megan Morris, Academic and Career Advisor  
Aaron Murtdorf, Maintenance Site Manager  
Imma Odom-Jordan, Plant Service Worker  
Kelsey Olsen, Administrative Assistant I  
Vanessa Pence, Administrative Services Support Specialist  
Susan Raulerson, Administrative Services Support Specialist

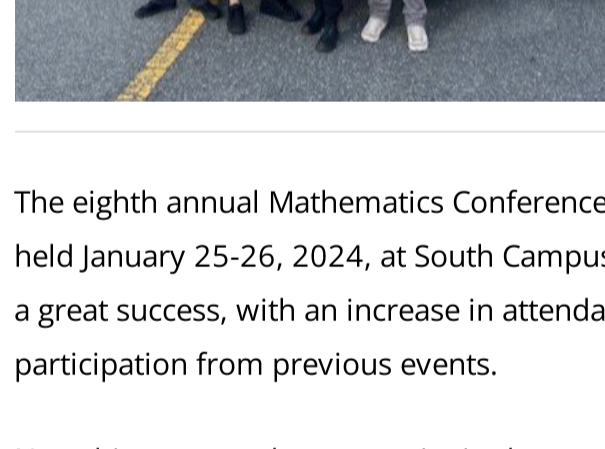
Yunior Rendon, Academic and Career Advisor  
Madelyn Roslan, Business Office Specialist II  
Ins Schwimmer, Vision Rehabilitation Case Manager/Career Specialist  
Jasiah Smetto, VA Enroll Services Certifying Officer  
Jodi Smith, Accounts Receivable Specialist II  
Bernice Solano, Administrative Assistant I  
George Solomon, Campus Police Lieutenant  
Danelle Steven, Advisor II  
Hector Torres, Plant Service Worker  
Dejane Wallace, Accounts Payable Specialist II  
Phillip Walker, Journeyman Plumber  
Richard Watson, Tradesworker Senior Specialist  
Charles White, Campus Police Officer  
Terisa Williams, Business Office Specialist II  
Earl Wyman, Security Officer  
Yuan Xu, Administrative Services Support Specialist  
Marina Yusupov, Business Office Coordinator  
Natalya Lopez, Administrative Assistant I  
Cheryl Manning-Glass, Academic Department Coordinator  
Amanda Manzanilla, Student Support Coordinator  
Darling Martinez, Administrative Services Support Specialist  
Marilyn McNair, Academic and Career Advisor  
Katherine McWilliams, Academic Department Coordinator  
Johnny Mike, Campus Police Lieutenant  
Laila Milatyar, Student Records Analyst I  
Jerry Morgan, Education and Career Lead Specialist  
Megan Morris, Academic and Career Advisor  
Aaron Murtdorf, Maintenance Site Manager  
Imma Odom-Jordan, Plant Service Worker  
Kelsey Olsen, Administrative Assistant I  
Vanessa Pence, Administrative Services Support Specialist  
Susan Raulerson, Administrative Services Support Specialist

**Who's Retiring?**  
The following employees have recently retired, or will soon be retiring, from FSCJ:  
Robert Jersdo  
Dr. Neal Henning  
Dr. Linda Herlocker  
Dr. Catherine Hurlbut  
Vickie Wetters

#### Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations to Chiffon Guest who recently earned a Master of Science (Submit your Ed Administration) from Barry University and a Guinness record for earned degree recognition! (Higher Ed Administration) [View here](#).

#### FSCJ In Action

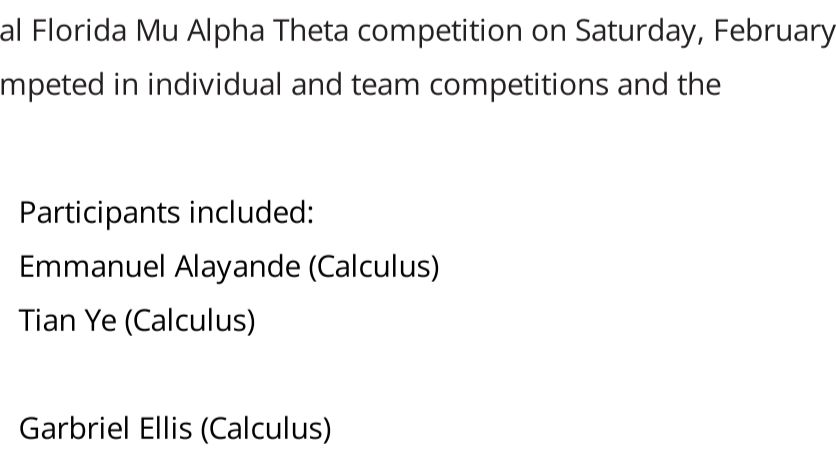


Coached by FSCJ IT Students Cameron Huffman and Sidney Miller and FSCJ IT Professor Chris Lee, the RL Brown Tech Nique Robotics Team won the Breakthrough Award at the FIRST LEGO League BlueWave Powerhouse Qualifier Tournament, held at FSCJ on January 13. This award celebrates a team that made significant progress in their confidence and capability in both the Robot Game and Innovation Project and is a shining example of excellent Core Values.

The tournament was jointly hosted by the STEM Success Through Scholarships, Support and Service (S-5) Grant, the Next Generation PLC Grant, and the organization Mentoring Families and Kids. Both grants are sponsored by the U.S. National Science Foundation.

The FSCJ S-5 Scholarship Program and the FSCJ Next Generation PLC Grant will sponsor the MFK Warriors Robotics Team at the FIRST LEGO League's Northeast Florida Regional Championship tournament at Legacy Park in Alachua, FL on February 17, 2024. Northeast Florida FIRST LEGO League is actively seeking volunteers. Individuals interested in volunteering as a judge should visit this [link](#).

On January 25, the eighth annual North Campus Tree Planting took place. JEA, Greenscape of Jacksonville and FSCJ students and employees came together to plant 50 more trees to bring the total to 400 planted over the past eight years. Volunteers planted a variety of Long Leaf Pine, Red Maple, Bald Cypress, Magnolia and Live Oak trees.



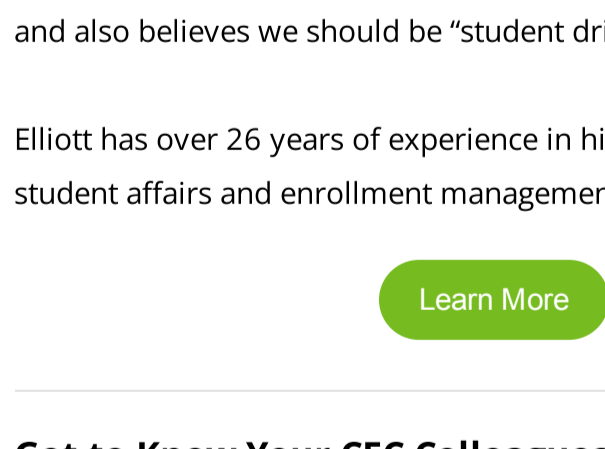
On January 27, FSCJ partnered with Electrathon of Tampa Bay to host a race at Cecil Center. Congratulations to FSCJ's Electrathon team for their second place finish!

The eighth annual Mathematics Conference was held January 25-26, 2024, at South Campus. It was a great success, with an increase in attendance and participation from previous events.



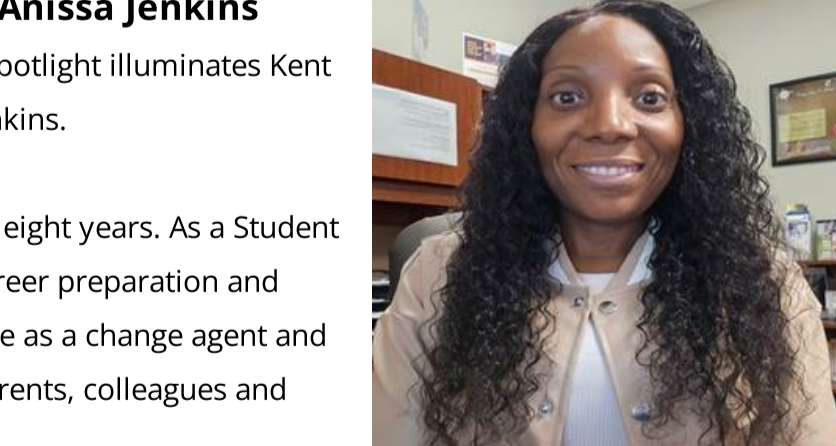
New this year, students were invited to participate in the Student Math Competition. On January 25, 28 students who are in or have recently completed MAC1105, MAC1140/47 or MAC2311 classes showcased their skills. Prizes were awarded to first, second and third place winners in each class category.

FSCJ students competed in the second regional Florida Mu Alpha Theta competition on Saturday, February 3 at Gainesville High School. Our students competed in individual and team competitions and the PreCalculus Team took fifth place!



Participants included:  
Emmanuel Aiyande (Calculus)  
Tian Ye (Calculus)  
Garbriel Ellis (Calculus)  
Samuel Deegan, Alpha (Precalculus)  
Kaitlin Konnick, Alpha (Precalculus)

On February 2, members of the FSCJ family joined the First Coast American Heart Association (AHA) in the fight against heart disease in women by participating in National Wear Red Day. Faculty, staff and students from across the College came together to show support and raise awareness by wearing red and posing for group photos. [View the photos here](#).

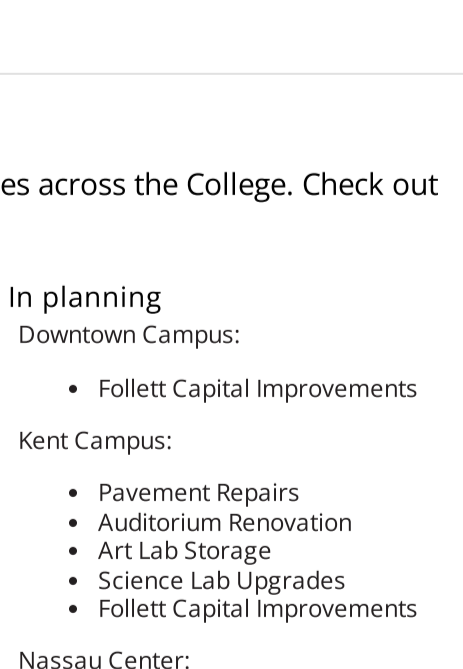


#### Get to Know Your APC Colleagues: Elliott Strickland

February's Administrative & Professional Collaborative (APC) spotlight shines on Vice President for Student Development Elliott Strickland.

He is brand new to FSCJ, having just joined the College in January. In his role, he provides collaborative leadership within all areas of Student Services. His vision revolves around being "student centered," and also believes we should be "student driven."

Elliott has over 26 years of experience in higher education primarily in student affairs and enrollment management.



[Learn More](#)

#### Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Anissa Jenkins

February's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight illuminates Kent Campus Student Success Advisor II Anissa Jenkins.

Ms. Jenkins has been employed with FSCJ for eight years. As a Student Success Advisor, she assists students with career preparation and workforce development. She aims to continue as a change agent and build positive relationships with students, parents, colleagues and other stakeholders.



[Learn More](#)

#### 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 Campus:	Downtown Campus:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cecil, BAS Control Upgrade</li> <li>• South, Wilson Center Sculpture</li> <li>• North, Furniture, LLC &amp; Exterior Cafe</li> <li>• North, Furniture - Assessment</li> <li>• North, Student Services Renovation Design</li> <li>• Kern, Door Access Control Upgrade (Buildgs F, P &amp; G)</li> <li>• Downtown &amp; North, Door Replacement &amp; CCUc Upgrades</li> <li>• Wall Repair</li> <li>• Drawlwood, Furniture, LLC</li> <li>• Nassau, Outdoor Education Center Renovation</li> <li>• Nassau, Furniture, Advising &amp; Assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HR, Admin/Finance Renovations</li> <li>• Student Housing Satellite Renovation</li> <li>• CVE Meeting Room Renovation</li> <li>• Boiler Dept. Remodel</li> <li>• Building Envelope</li> <li>• Chiller Replacement</li> <li>• Door Replacement and Upgrade</li> <li>• ADA Signage</li> <li>• Elevator Modernization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follet Capital Improvements</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADA Plumbing, Vanities</li> <li>• Door Lock Conversion to Access Control System</li> <li>• Emergency Responders Radio Communications System (ERKCS) Compliance</li> <li>• Fire Alarm Panel Replacement</li> <li>• Scan/Digitize Facilities Plans</li> <li>• Science Lab Renovations</li> <li>• Monument Signs, Building IDs, Wayfinding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hot Water System Replacement</li> <li>• Elevator Modernization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent Campus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pavement Repairs</li> <li>• Auditorium Renovation</li> <li>• Art Lab Storage</li> <li>• Science Lab Upgrades</li> <li>• Follet Capital Improvements</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Nassau Center: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrade</li> </ul> </li> <li>• North Campus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursing Program Expansion</li> <li>• Ceiling Tile Replacement</li> <li>• Elevator Replacement</li> </ul> </li> <li>• South Campus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire Academy/EMS Public Service Upgrade</li> <li>• Wilson Center Architect Assessment</li> <li>• Elevator Replacement</li> <li>• Auditorium Renovation</li> <li>• Security Renovation</li> <li>• LLC Furniture</li> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrade</li> <li>• Follet Capital Improvements</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAS Control Upgrade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CVD Skills Pad</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interior Directional Signage</li> <li>• Common Area Renovation</li> <li>• Elevator Modernization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Campus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrades</li> <li>• Roof Replacement</li> <li>• Elevator Replacement</li> <li>• L-Gaming Space Renovation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

#### Upcoming Events

**Next Call: March 13, 2 p.m.**

Call notes available at myFSCJ OnPoint Quick Link

[View More Events](#)

**Summer classes start May 6**

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

#### 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.

- When is the Nassau Center Grad Fest event?
  - April 29
  - April 30
  - May 1
  - May 2
- Which type of tree was not planted during the North Campus planting event?
  - Live Oak
  - Magnolia
  - Long Leaf Pine
  - Spruce
- Where will the Employee Wellness Fair be held?
  - South Campus
  - Advanced Technology Center
  - North Campus
  - Deerwood Center
- What new event was introduced during this year's Mathematics Conference?
  - Student Math Competition
  - Faculty Math Competition
  - Training Camp
  - Math Club Information Session
- What new form opened on December 31 to decrease the length of the application while increasing simplicity?
  - FSCJ application
  - Scholarship application
  - FAFSA
  - Residency form