

March 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. We need volunteers to help with the various important tasks throughout the day, such as setting up the arena, passing out programs, cheering on and checking in graduates, assisting guests to their seats, helping graduates prepare and line up for the ceremony, and cleaning up afterward. If you are interested, please talk with your supervisor and contact us at commencement@fscj.edu.

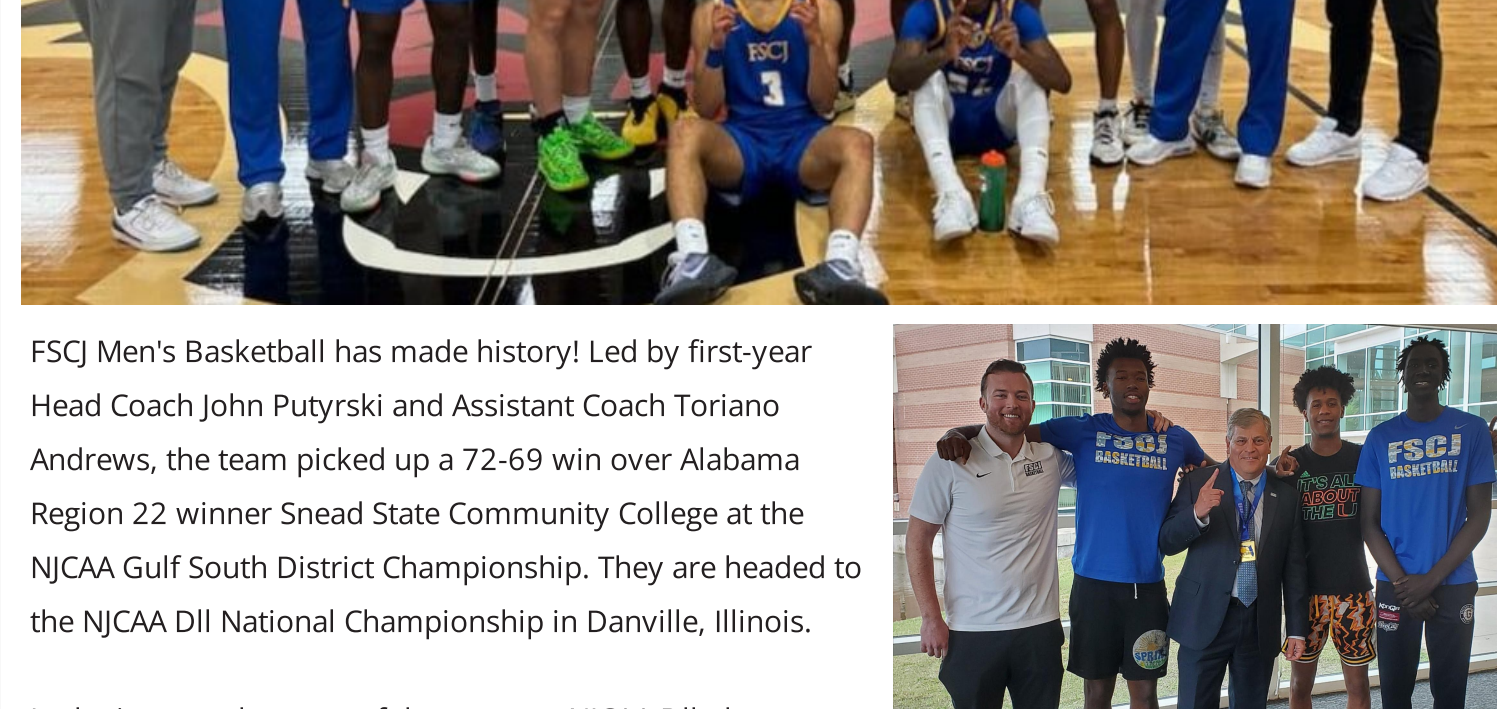
In addition to the in-person ceremony, we also need volunteers for Grad Fest events which will be held at the following locations on these dates:

- 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.

These events would not be as successful without the support of volunteers like you! Please consider being a part of our team.

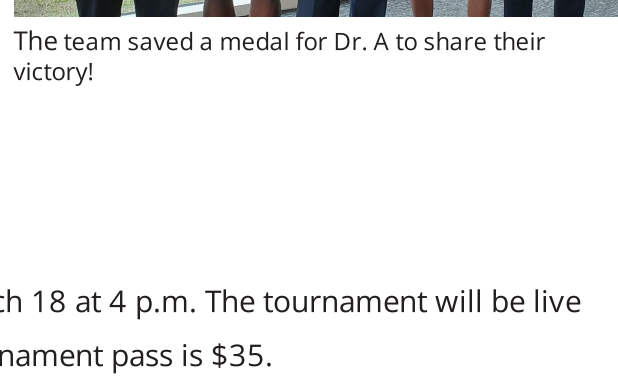
## News and Updates

### Men's Basketball Headed to National Championship



FSCJ Men's Basketball has made history! Led by first-year Head Coach John Putyrski and Assistant Coach Toriano Andrews, the team picked up a 72-69 win over Alabama Region 22 winner Snead State Community College at the NJCAA Gulf South District Championship. They are headed to the NJCAA DII National Championship in Danville, Illinois.

In the inaugural season of the move to NJCAA DII, the program (25-8) has captured the FCSAA Sun-Lakes Conference Championship, FCSAA/NJCAA Region 8 Championship for the first time ever, and now their very first NJCAA DII Gulf South District Championship.



The team saved a medal for Dr. A to share their victory!

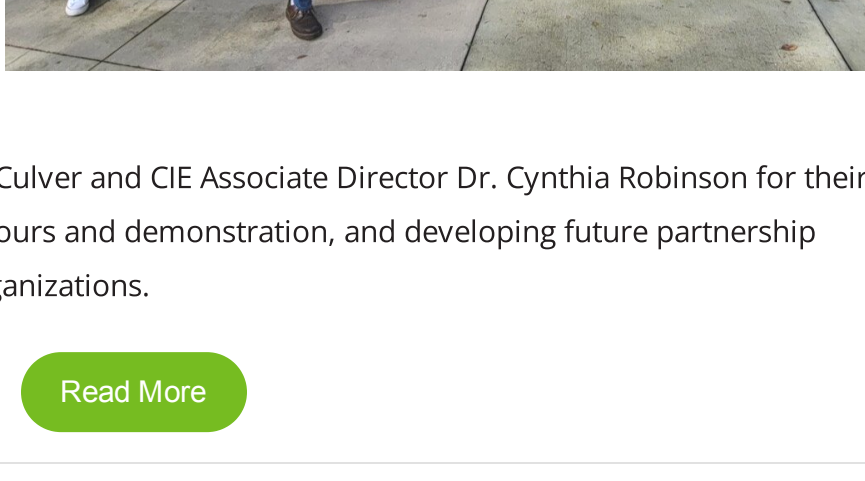
They will face off against Howard Community College on March 18 at 4 p.m. The tournament will be live streamed [here](#). Pay-per-view day passes are \$12 and the tournament pass is \$35.

Join us to cheer them on before they leave for the big game!  
FSCJ South Campus, Northeast Parking Lot in front of Child Development Center  
Saturday, March 16, 1 p.m.

[Read More](#)

### Urban Ag and Center for International Education Team Up for JCSA Tours

On January 11, students with the Jacksonville Sister Cities Association (JCSA), Changwon City, South Korea Exchange Student Program visited the Urban Ag Project at Downtown Campus. In conjunction and collaboration with FSCJ's Center for International Education (CIE), Urban Ag hosted the students for a tour and demonstration of the classroom and lab spaces.



Many thanks to Laboratory Manager Lance Culver and CIE Associate Director Dr. Cynthia Robinson for their efforts in initiating the visit, facilitating the tours and demonstration, and developing future partnership opportunities with JCSA and many other organizations.

[Read More](#)

### FSCJ Diplomacy Lab

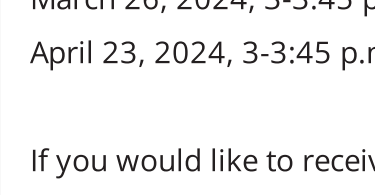
FSCJ is proud to be the first open-access college to partner with the Department of State's Diplomacy Lab. The partnership was made possible through our own Professor of Biological Sciences Dr. Lourdes Normand-McKay and consists of Diplomacy Lab Teams comprised of students and a faculty member who serves as their guide.

Teams will undertake research projects identified by the U.S. Department of State and approved by FSCJ. The projects selected explore current, real-world diplomacy issues that are of mutual interest to the participants and are suitable for exploration in an academic environment.

[Learn More](#)

### FSCJ Hospitality Management Ranked Nationally

Congrats to FSCJ's Hospitality Management A.S. degree program for their #2 ranking in the Southeast Region by Course Advisor. See the top 10 [here](#).



This report analyzed 176 schools in the U.S. to see which ones offered the best associate degree programs for students. Nationally, FSCJ was ranked 19th!

### 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.

- 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](#)

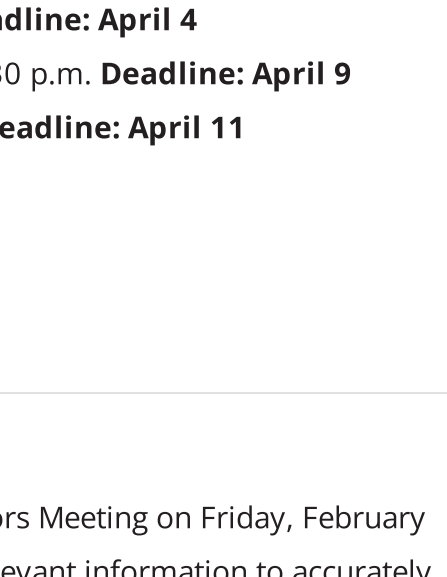
### 60th Anniversary Planning is Underway

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.

### 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 and nomination deadlines for each campus awards ceremony are below:

- South Campus – Tuesday, April 9, 2024, from 6-7:30 p.m. **Deadline: March 26**
- Kent Campus/Cecil Center – Tuesday, April 16, 2024, from 6-7:30 p.m. **Deadline: April 2**
- Deerwood Center – Thursday, April 18, 2024, from 6-7:30 p.m. **Deadline: April 4**
- North Campus/Nassau Center – Tuesday, April 23, 2024, from 6-7:30 p.m. **Deadline: April 9**
- Downtown Campus – Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 4-5:30 p.m. **Deadline: April 11**

Nominations may be submitted by completing the online form.

[Make a Nomination](#)

### Recruitment Update

The Student Recruitment Office hosted its annual Principals and Counselors Meeting on Friday, February 23. The aim of the meeting is to ensure these influential partners have relevant information to accurately advocate for the College. This year's meeting offered the groups a seven-stop campus tour, where they heard from program personnel and witnessed student learning in various locations, including Visual Arts, American Sign Language, danceWORKS, Digital Media, IT, Music/Chorus, Sports/eSports, and Theatre.

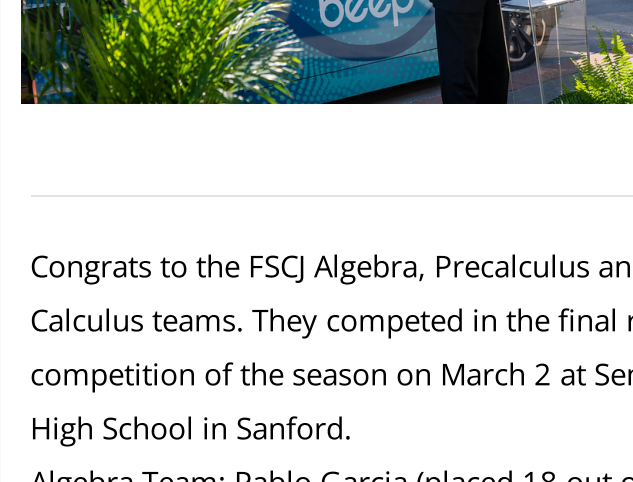
On the heels of the tour, the nearly 70 principals and counselors attended two blocks of 20-minute sessions on college readiness, the Honors Program, articulation programs and more. In addition, greetings from South Campus Dean Andrew Pierce, an introduction by VP of Student Development Elliott Strickland and a presentation by Director of Continuing Education Jefferson Everett rounded out the morning.

- Upcoming events: 3/25: Application Day, Beachside High School  
3/29: FSCJ Connections Community Partner Event, Nassau Center  
3/15: First Coast YMCA two-campus tour, North and Downtown

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 fsjrecruitment@fscj.edu.

[Read More](#)

### FSCJ In Action



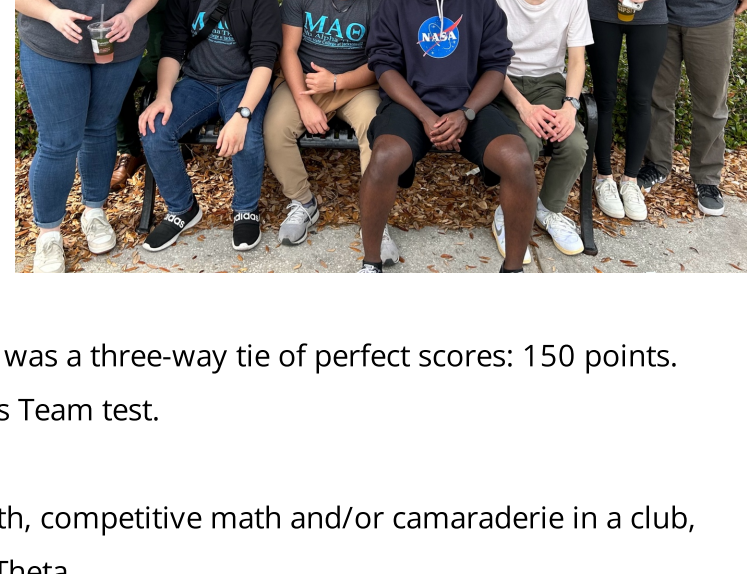
On Saturday, February 24, FSCJ hosted the Jacksonville Dental Society's annual Give Kids a Smile Day dental wellness event, where free dental services were provided for children ages 4 to 18.

During the day, 94 children were treated at the FSCJ North Campus Dental Clinic with fillings, cleanings and primary tooth extractions.

[View Photos](#)

The 2024 Wellness Fair was held at the ATCC on Thursday, March 7. Faculty and staff attendees were able to speak with different vendors, pick up free goodies, sample healthy treats and more.

[View Photos](#)



The Jacksonville Transit Authority (JTA) and FSCJ launched the first autonomous shuttle at Downtown Campus on Tuesday, February 20. Dr. Avendano, along with representatives from JTA and Beep, spoke with media attendees about what this partnership means for our students, downtown and the Jacksonville community.

[View Photos](#)

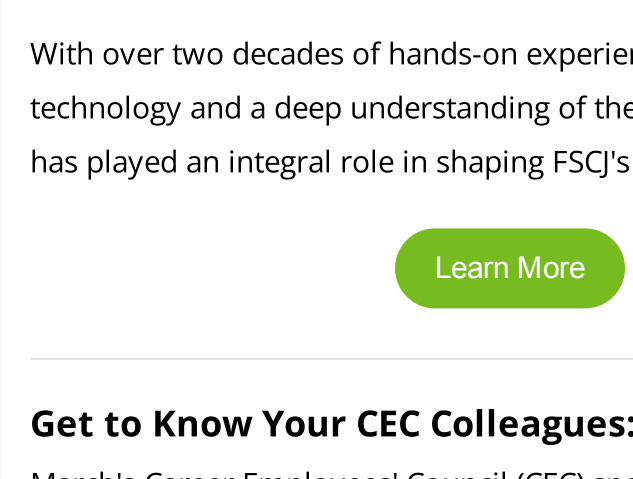
Congrats to the FSCJ Algebra, Precalculus and Calculus teams. They competed in the final regional competition of the season on March 2 at Seminole High School in Sanford.

Algebra Team: Pablo Garcia (placed 18 out of 54, Algebra II) and Tabitha Broussard  
Precalculus Team: Samuel Deegan (placed 21 out of 66) and Kaitlin Konnick  
Calculus Team: Emmanuel Alayande, Tian Ye, Garbriel Ellis and Vincent Gillaspay



This competition came strong in calculus. First place was a three-way tie of perfect scores: 150 points. Vincent won his dispute in an answer on the Calculus Team test.

If you have any students who would enjoy more math, competitive math and/or camaraderie in a club, please tell them about the Math Club and Mu Alpha Theta.

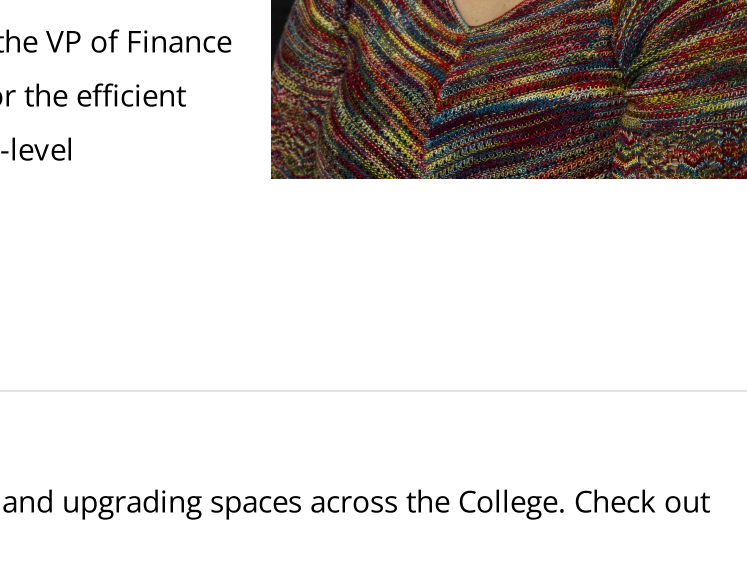


FSCJ Board of Trustees Board Chair Wayne Young, Vice Chair for Nassau County Rod Odom, Trustee Mike Bell, Dr. A and Director of Government and Community Relations Taylor Mejia are pictured here at the Legislative Reception, held in conjunction with the Trustees Commission Legislative Briefing in Tallahassee.

To see the legislative updates from each week, click [here](#).

On March 9, 117 children and family members attended the FSCJ Family Literacy Fair. It was apparent from the smiles on the faces of the attendees that they had a great time.

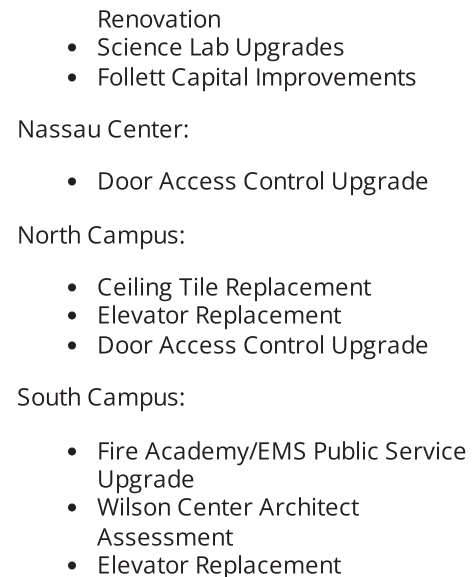
The positive association they will have with FSCJ and North Campus would not have been possible without the support of all the faculty, staff and student volunteers who helped with set up, book distribution, face painting, storybook reading, nail painting, snow cone distribution, Medical Simulation Center tours, registration and clean up. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the 2024 FSCJ Family Literacy Fair a success!



[View Photos](#)

### Get to Know Your APC Colleagues: Pete Snell

March's Administrative & Professional Collaborative (APC) spotlight shines on Chief Information Officer Pete Snell. His journey at FSCJ began in 1999, when he started as a part-time desktop support technician, providing technical assistance to Downtown Campus. Over the years, Pete's dedication, passion and expertise propelled him through various technology roles within the institution.

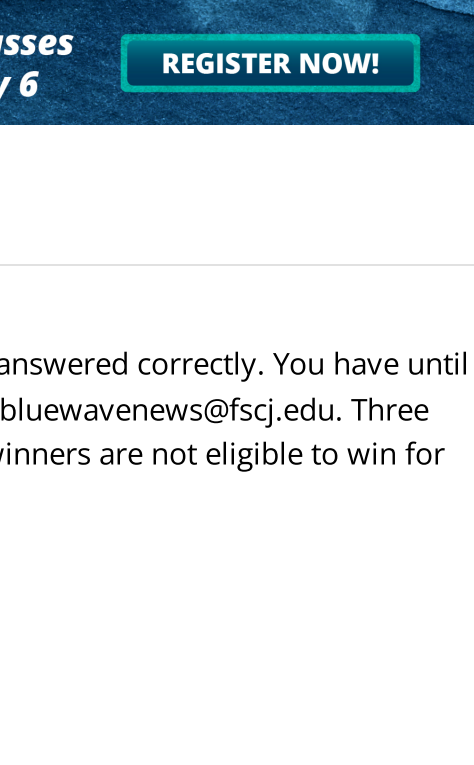


With over two decades of hands-on experience in information technology and a deep understanding of the college's operations, Pete has played an integral role in shaping FSCJ's technological landscape.

[Learn More](#)

### Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Shannon Oliver

March's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight illuminates Administration Support Manager Shannon Oliver. Shannon has worked at FSCJ for eight years, starting as a Student Success Advisor I, advising students at the campus advising centers and eventually ended up in District Financial Aid. She then began working in the Adult Education department as an Academic and Career Coordinator working with Adult High School, GED and ESOL students.



She is currently Administration Support Manager to the VP of Finance and Administration. In this role, she is responsible for the efficient management of a broad range of ongoing, executive-level administrative support functions.

[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><b>Recently completed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North, Renof Bldg. B, C &amp; E</li> <li>• North, Nursing Offices Furniture</li> <li>• Downtown, Renof ATC &amp; Bldg A</li> <li>• South, Renof Bldg F</li> <li>• South, Renovation e-Gaming Space</li> <li>• Nassau, CVD Skills Pad</li> </ul> <p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Ongoing Collegewide:</p> <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 (ERCS) 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> <p>Cecil Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAS Control Upgrade</li> </ul> <p>Deerwood Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interior Directional Signage</li> <li>• Common Area Renovation</li> </ul> | <p><b>Downtown Campus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HR, Admin/Finance Renovations</li> <li>• Student Housing Suite Renovation</li> <li>• CIVE Meeting Room Renovation</li> <li>• Police 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> <p>Kent Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hot Water System Replacement</li> <li>• Elevator Modernization</li> <li>• Parking Lot Lighting</li> </ul> <p>North Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrades</li> <li>• Roof Replacement</li> <li>• Student Services, Science Lab Renovation</li> <li>• Parking Lot Lighting</li> <li>• Nursing Program Expansion</li> </ul> <p>South Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veteran Support Center</li> <li>• Relocate Testing Center</li> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrades</li> <li>• Fire Academy Skills Pad, Driving Course &amp; Parking Rehabilitation</li> <li>• Lab Negative Pressure Correction</li> <li>• Boiler Replacement</li> <li>• Roof Replacement</li> </ul> | <p><b>In planning</b></p> <p>Cecil Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrades</li> </ul> <p>Downtown Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follett Capital Improvements</li> </ul> <p>Kent Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pavement Repairs</li> <li>• Auditorium &amp; Career Closet Renovation</li> <li>• Science Lab Upgrades</li> <li>• Follett Capital Improvements</li> </ul> <p>Nassau Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrade</li> </ul> <p>North Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceiling Tile Replacement</li> <li>• Elevator Replacement</li> <li>• Door Access Control Upgrade</li> </ul> <p>South Campus:</p> <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>• Honors Program Expansion</li> <li>• Security Renovation</li> <li>• Gym/Athletics Renovation</li> <li>• Follett Capital Improvements</li> </ul> |
|---|---|---|

### Upcoming Events

**Next Call:  
April 10, 2 p.m.**

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

**Summer classes start May 6**

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

[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. Three winners will receive a BlueWave prize pack! Please note: Previous quiz winners are not eligible to win for six months.

1. What organization is FSCJ partnering with for the Diplomacy Lab?
  - a. Department of Education
  - b. Department of State
  - c. Foreign Policy Department
  - d. U.S. Embassy
2. What team did FSCJ's Men's Basketball team defeat during the NJCAA Gulf South District Championship?
  - a. Gulf Coast State College
  - b. Howard Community College
  - c. Snead State Community College
  - d. Tallahassee Community College
3. How many children were treated at North Campus during Give Kids a Smile Day?
  - a. 94
  - b. 117
  - c. 45
  - d. 132
4. What should you do if you are interested in volunteering to help with Commencement events?
  - a. Talk to your supervisor and email commencement@fscj.edu
  - b. Show up to one or all of the events
  - c. Submit a request in myFSCJ
  - d. Call the Help Desk
5. FSCJ's Hospitality Management A.S. degree program received what ranking in the Southeast Region by Course Advisor?
  - a. #10
  - b. #3
  - c. #1
  - d. #2

