

August 2026



Convocation 2026

We hope to see you at Convocation on Thursday, August 27, at South Campus. Update: A light breakfast will be served in the Manta Rays Cafe at 8:30 a.m., and the program will begin at 9:30 a.m. inside the Gymnasium. Attendees will enjoy a 60th Anniversary FSCJ Employee Lunch at 11:30 a.m., where we will recap the momentous events and activities that took place this year and celebrate our faculty and staff who made them possible.

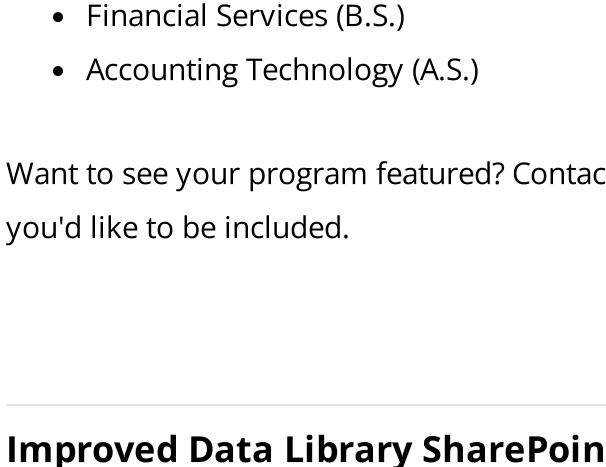
Don't forget to bring your old FJC, FCCJ and old logo FSCJ/BlueWave branded clothing to trade in for a new FSCJ Manta Rays t-shirt (limit two t-shirts per person, regardless of the number of items exchanged until supplies run out). The FSCJ H.O.P.E. Food Pantry and Career Closet will also accept donations of nonperishable food/toiletries and professional attire.

After lunch, Plenary will be held in the South Campus Wilson Center at 1:30 p.m.

News and Updates

FSCJ Program Spotlight

FSCJ is proud to offer more than 170 academic programs for our students and many more supplemental programs designed to help students succeed. With our breadth of offerings, it's tough to know about them all. That's why we'll be featuring different programs in our Manta Messenger newsletter.



Our first feature highlights the Business Analytics Associate in Science (A.S.) This program provides students with skills in a broad range of business functions including management, marketing, accounting, computer applications, data visualization, database report creation and artificial intelligence (AI) in business.

This program falls under the Business and Financial Services Area of Study that also includes:

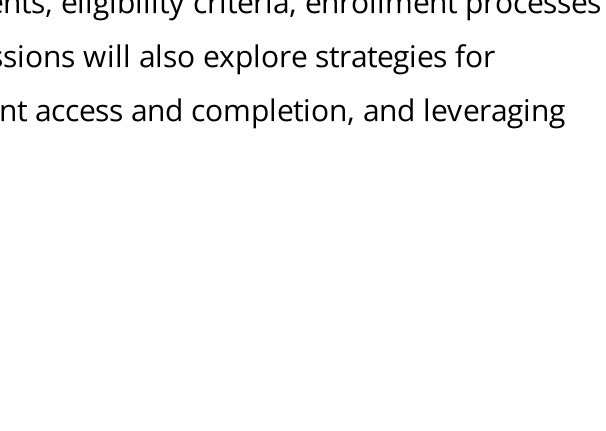
- Logistics (B.A.S.)
- Supervision and Management (B.A.S.)
- Business Administration (B.S.)
- Financial Services (B.S.)
- Accounting Technology (A.S.)
- Business Administration (A.S.)
- Business Analytics (A.S.)
- Office Administration (A.S.)
- Legal Studies (Paralegal Studies) (A.S.)
- Supply Chain Management (A.S.)

Want to see your program featured? Contact communications@fscj.edu with your program name and how you'd like to be included.

Learn More

Improved Data Library SharePoint

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness has updated the design and structure of the Data Library SharePoint, making it easier to navigate and locate helpful information. The Data Library is your first place to check for institutional data, dashboards and reports that answer common questions and support decision-making across the College.



Check out the Data Library [here](#) or click the button below.

Data Library

Register for the Fall Data Summit

Make plans to attend the Fall Data Summit, Bridging Futures: A Data Summit on Dual Enrollment on Friday, September 11, 2026, from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Advanced Technology Center, T-140, and virtual via WebEx.

The event will begin by providing a comprehensive understanding of Dual Enrollment and its impact on student success. Attendees will learn about program requirements, eligibility criteria, enrollment processes and best practices for supporting dual enrollment students. Sessions will also explore strategies for strengthening partnerships with K-12 schools, improving student access and completion, and leveraging dual enrollment as a pathway to college and career readiness.

Registration Instructions

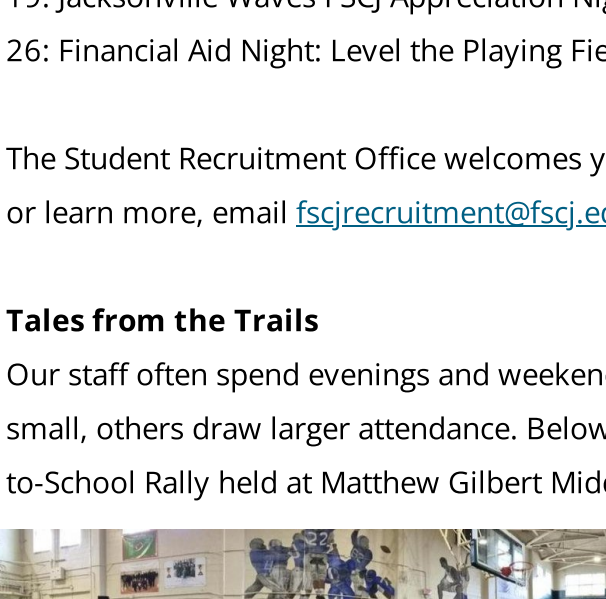
- In-person session, ATC, T-140: [Click Here](#)
- Live online session: [Click Here](#)
- Alternatively, log on to my.fscj.edu. On the Employee Self-Service page, locate "Useful Links" and click on "myLearning." Select the "Learning Library" tab, search for "PD 2631 Fall 2026 Data Summit," click view sessions, and register for the in-person session or the live online session.

Your attendance counts for three non-credit hours of professional development toward the One Percent Salary Incentive. With questions, please email Dr. Jerrett Dumouchel at jerrett.dumouchel@fscj.edu.

60th Anniversary Celebration Continues

Our 60th Anniversary Celebration is nearing its end. We'll be capping off this momentous year during Convocation 2026.

Make sure to visit the 60th webpage, which includes a list of events and stories of how FSCJ has impacted individuals throughout the community. We've been highlighting different stories of alumni, partners and friends of the College throughout the year, so be sure to share yours!



Check out this 2020-24 recap video, the final one in our 12-part series created to highlight specific timeframes throughout the College's history. All 12 will be housed on the 60th webpage.

fscj.edu/60

Recruitment Update

The Collegewide Open House will be returning this fall. Previously held as an annual summer event, Open House will take place this year on Saturday, November 14, at Downtown Campus.

This year's move to the fall follows the successful launch of Campus Discovery Days, a spring semester series held across four separate days at four locations that highlighted the unique character and offerings of the College's campuses and centers. Together, the Collegewide Open House and Campus Discovery Days, along with other recruitment initiatives, will create a synchronized wave of community engagement, helping prospective students and their families explore all that FSCJ has to offer.

We are excited about the year ahead and encourage you to stop by the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management table during breakfast at Convocation to sign up for Open House and/or Campus Discovery Days. Faculty and staff are encouraged to get involved by serving!

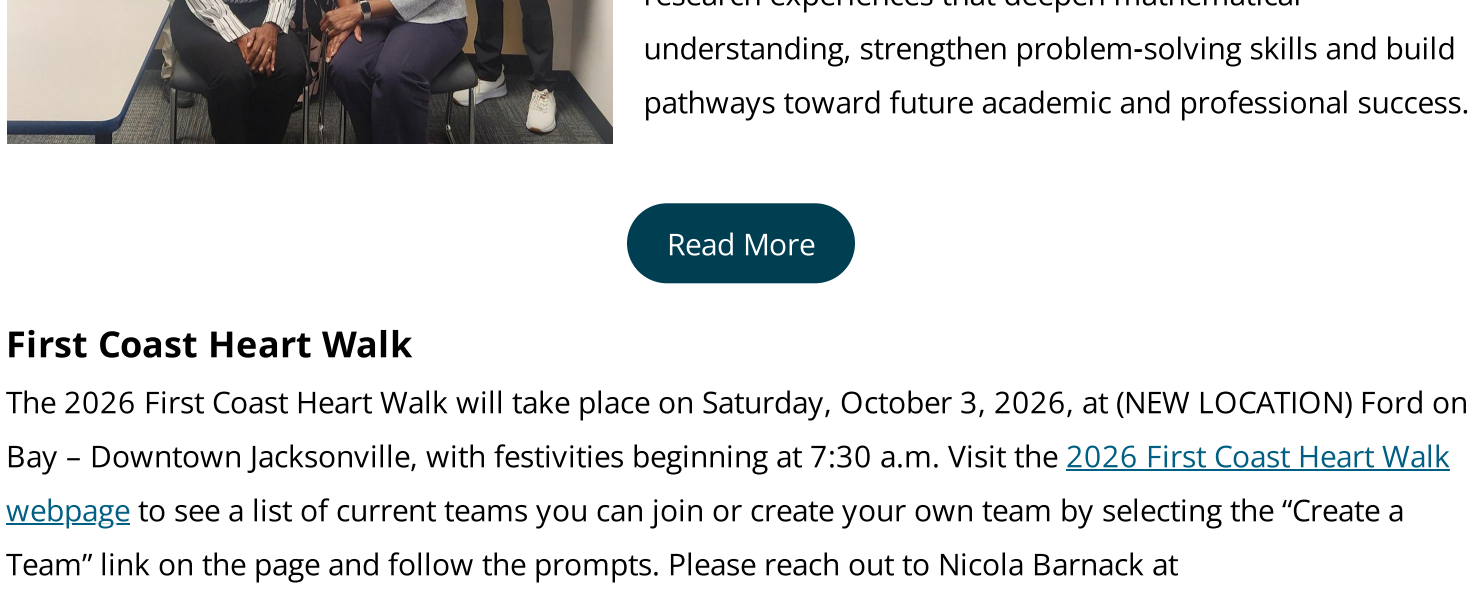
Upcoming events for August:

- 13: City of Atlantic Beach Resource Fair
- 18: FSCJ with The Opportunity Project
- 19: FSCJ with Daniel Kids
- 19: Jacksonville Waves FSCJ Appreciation Night
- 26: Financial Aid Night: Level the Playing Field Academy

The Student Recruitment Office welcomes your ideas and partnership opportunities. To share suggestions or learn more, email fscjrecruitment@fscj.edu. Add Dive into Manta Rays Nation in the subject line.

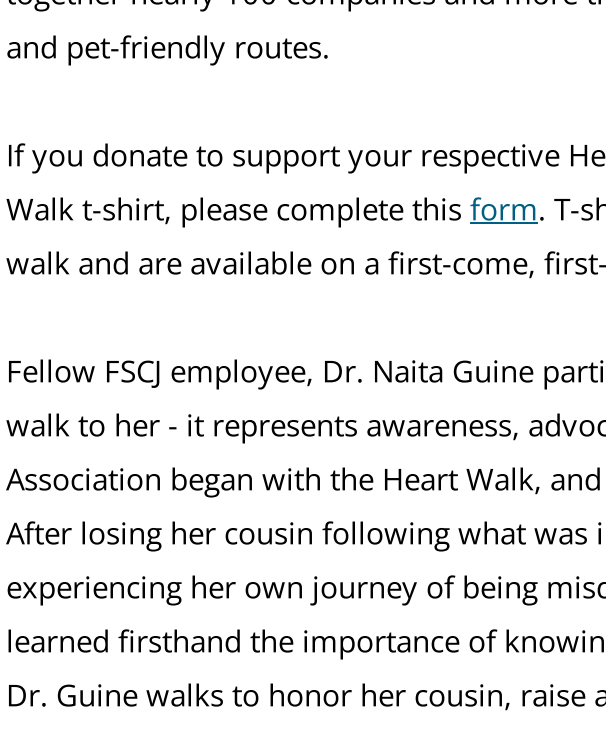
Tales from the Trails

Our staff often spend evenings and weekends connecting with prospective students. Some events are small, others draw larger attendance. Below is a panoramic view from the annual Historic Eastside Back-to-School Rally held at Matthew Gilbert Middle School.



Read More

Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Samantha Burkitt



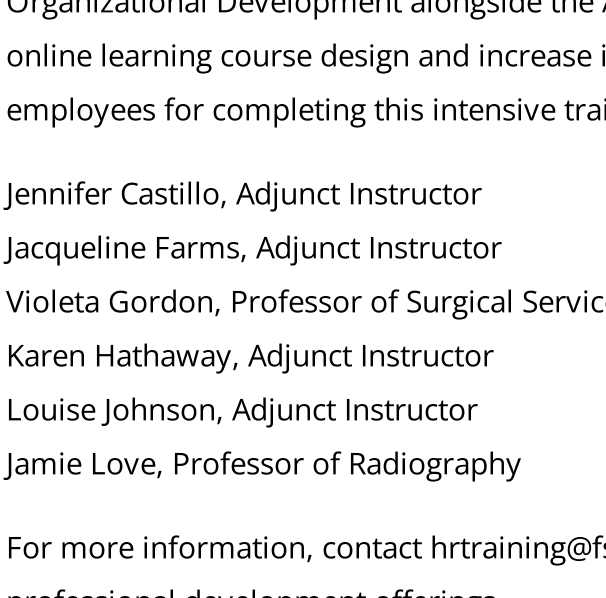
August's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight features Workforce Education Department Coordinator Samantha Burkitt. A valued member of the FSCJ family since December 2020, she provides essential support for Career Certificate programs by assisting with scheduling, faculty forms, budgeting, instructor hiring and supporting the Dean of Workforce Education.

She serves as a communication link between Career Certificate programs and the Dean, supports coworkers across the College and strives for excellence in serving students and colleagues. Samantha also serves on the Medical Assisting BILT Committee.

Samantha earned her Associate in Arts from St. Johns River State College in 2008 and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at FSCJ. She enjoys spending quality time with her husband, exploring new destinations through cruising, visiting Disney World whenever possible and reading.

Read More

FSCJ In Action



Congratulations to Dr. Shelletha Baker who was awarded a mini-grant from the Center of Undergraduate Research in Mathematics (CURM) for the 2026-27 year. The award will provide funds for Dr. Baker to work with five early career student participants at FSCJ.

Through this grant, FSCJ will partner with Georgia Gwinnett College to engage students in collaborative, year-long research experiences that deepen mathematical understanding, strengthen problem-solving skills and build pathways toward future academic and professional success.

Read More

First Coast Heart Walk

The 2026 First Coast Heart Walk will take place on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at (NEW LOCATION) Ford on Bay – Downtown Jacksonville, with festivities beginning at 7:30 a.m. Visit the [2026 First Coast Heart Walk webpage](#) to see a list of current teams you can join or create your own team by selecting the "Create a Team" link on the page and follow the prompts. Please reach out to Nicola Barnack at nicola.barnack@heart.org for assistance.

The First Coast Heart Walk brings us together to get active, honor survivors, raise lifesaving funds, and enjoy time with colleagues, friends and family. As Jacksonville's largest outdoor walking event, it brings together nearly 100 companies and more than 25,000 participants, with both 1-mile and 3-mile family- and pet-friendly routes.

If you donate to support your respective Heart Walk team and would like an FSCJ 2026 First Coast Heart Walk t-shirt, please complete this [form](#). T-shirts are available for FSCJ employees who participate in the walk and are available on a first-come, first-served basis and while supplies last.

Fellow FSCJ employee, Dr. Naita Guine participates in the Heart Walk because it represents more than a walk to her - it represents awareness, advocacy and hope. Her introduction to the American Heart Association began with the Heart Walk, and over the years, her connection has become deeply personal. After losing her cousin following what was initially dismissed as stroke-like symptoms and later experiencing her own journey of being misdiagnosed and not being heard by a healthcare provider, she learned firsthand the importance of knowing your body, asking questions and advocating for your health. Dr. Guine walks to honor her cousin, raise awareness and support the American Heart Association's work to improve health outcomes and address health inequities. She walks because everyone deserves to be heard, informed and empowered to fight for their health.

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations to Vanessa Gordon, who recently received a Doctor of Philosophy: Communication from Liberty University 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](#).

QueST, Quality eLearning Strategies for Teaching, is a six-week course offered by Training and Organizational Development alongside the Academy for Teaching and Learning to help faculty enhance online learning course design and increase interaction with students. Congratulations to the following employees for completing this intensive training course!

Jennifer Castillo, Adjunct Instructor	Prabir Mandal, Adjunct Instructor
Jacqueline Farms, Adjunct Instructor	Jennifer McWhorter, Adjunct Instructor
Violeta Gordon, Professor of Surgical Services	Austin Pitts, Adjunct Instructor
Karen Hathaway, Adjunct Instructor	Rosalee Alston Rivers, Adjunct Instructor
Louise Johnson, Adjunct Instructor	Debra Sells, Adjunct Instructor
Jamie Love, Professor of Radiography	La Tarsha Stallworth, Adjunct Instructor

For more information, contact trtraining@fscj.edu. Explore the [Learning Library](#) for additional FSCJ professional development offerings.

"Caught in the Act" – Elevating the FSCJ Experience Spotlight: Have you witnessed a colleague in the act of elevating the FSCJ Experience for students, community members or colleagues? If yes, we want to hear about it! Selected stories will be featured in HR newsletters. Please share your stories [here](#).

Board Highlights

Review the highlights of the August 11, 2026, meeting of the FSCJ District Board of Trustees (DBOT):

- The DBOT approved a two percent salary increase calculated on base salary as of August 11, 2026, for all eligible full-time non-instructional employees. Employees serving in a full-time position as of June 30, 2026, and continuing in a full-time position are eligible for the increase to be effective September 1, 2026.
- The DBOT approved a two percent increase for part-time non-instructional employees on the Administrative, Professional and Career Salary Indexes. Employees serving in a part-time position as of June 30, 2026, and continuing in a part-time position are eligible for the increase to be effective September 1, 2026.
- The DBOT approved the activation of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Awareness (9 credit hours) Technical Certificate program embedded within the Computer Information Technology Associate in Science program effective Fall Term 2026.
- The DBOT approved the activation of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Practitioner (18 credit hours) Technical Certificate program embedded within the Computer Information Technology Associate in Science program effective Fall Term 2026.
- The DBOT approved the College's list of general education courses.

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

Facilities Updates

The Facilities Team has been hard at work, updating and upgrading spaces across the College.

Recently Completed	Downtown Campus:	In Planning
- Downtown, Cafe Furniture Replacement - South, Vinyl Graphics Installation, Blg U - Kent, Upholster Auditorium Seating	- Fire Alarm System Replacement - Coffee Cafe Remodel - ATC, Boiler Replacement	- Cecil Center: - Cecil Workforce Training Hub - Deerwood Center: - Parking Garage Joint Repair
In Progress	Kent Campus:	
Ongoing Collegewide: - Door Access Control Upgrades - Fire Alarm Replacement - Scan/Digitize Facilities Plans - Energy Initiatives - Classroom USA Flag Replacement - Library Master Planning	Student Services Carpet Replacement	- Downtown Campus: - Warehouse Building - TI Lab Relocation
Cecil Center: Electrical Lab Renovation	Nassau Center: - Fire Alarm Replacement - Barrier Arm Replacement - Propane Tank Installation - Wildwood Outdoor Retreat Center Renovation	Kent Campus: Interior Design Lab Relocation
Deerwood Center: Nursing Admin Area Remodel	North Campus: - Scoreboard Screen Framing - Building A Upgrades	North Campus: Nursing & Allied Health Program Design Concept
	South Campus: - Fire Alarm System Replacement - Fire Academy AHU Replacement - Klin Repairs - Canopy Repairs - Boiler Replacement - Covered Walkway Repairs - CUP Plant Pump Unit Replacement - Fire Academy Flooring and Paint - Wayfinding Monument Entrances - Athletics Laundry Renovation - Landscaping Near Bookstore	South Campus: - New Burn Building - Science Lab Upgrades

Show Your Manta Rays Spirit

View all • MANTA APPAREL • FSCJ T-SHIRT COLLECTION

Get your Manta Rays merch now! In partnership with Baker's Sports, the local t-shirt, hoodies, a special baseball jersey and more. We are pleased to offer t-shirts, hoodies, a special baseball jersey and more.

Make your selection and customize it with different designs so you can represent FSCJ and our athletics teams. You'll also be helping out our program, as FSCJ Athletics will receive a portion of the proceeds from your purchase!

Mascot Shop

Did You Know?

Did you know we still have suggestion boxes located at each campus and center? This is where you can anonymously submit an idea or recommendation for consideration. Click on the button below for the maps to find your nearest suggestion box.

Suggestion Box Maps

Upcoming Events

OnPoint

Next Call:

September 16, 2 p.m.

Click here for previous call notes.

They are also available via the myFSCJ OnPoint Quick Link.

Stay a Manta Ray!

Fall registration is open!

Classes start Aug. 31

FSCJ

Check out the full calendar to view more and access the form to submit your College-related events: fscj.edu/events.

View More Events

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 newsletter@fscj.edu. Three winners will receive a Manta Messenger prize pack! Please note: Previous quiz winners are not eligible to win for six months.

- What time will the Convocation 2026 program begin?
 - 9:30 a.m.
 - 9:30 a.m.
 - 9:30 a.m.
 - 9:30 a.m.
- Where will the next Collegewide Open House be held?
 - Deerwood Center
 - Downtown Campus
 - South Campus
 - Nassau Center
- What should an employee submit to be recognized for completing a program of study?
 - Transcript
 - Diploma Photo
 - Diploma Survey
 - Earned Degree Recognition Form
- What degree is Samantha Burkitt working to complete at FSCJ?
 - Business Administration B.S.
 - Associate in Arts
 - Business Administration A.S.
 - Human Systems Technology B.A.S.
- How many weeks is the QueST, Quality eLearning Strategies for Teaching, professional development course?
 - Three
 - Four
 - Six
 - Eight