

February 2025

FSCJ 2025 COMMENCEMENT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025 AT 4 P.M. • VYSTAR VETERANS MEMORIAL ARENA

Commencement is May 7

Save the date, Wednesday, May 7, for the 2025 Commencement Ceremony. The event will be held at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena at 4 p.m. 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 after the ceremony.

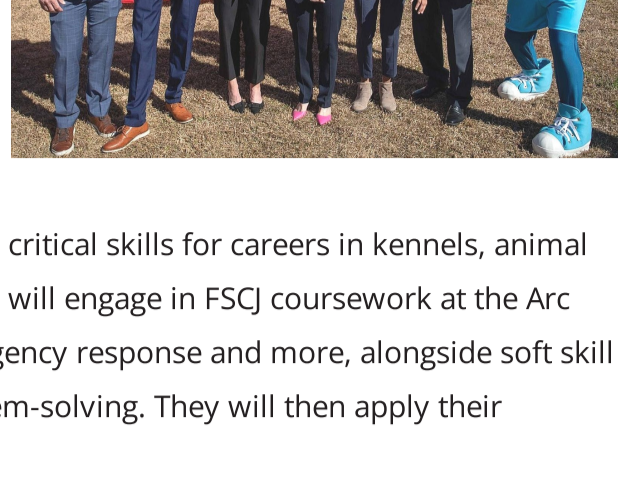
Before the in-person ceremony, we will host a single Grad Bash event at South Campus on Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Grad Bash is a special way for us to connect with our graduates personally before they cross the stage at Commencement. There will be activities for graduates and their guests, entertainment and giveaways, and an opportunity for group photos with family and friends.

If you are interested in volunteering for either or both of these opportunities, please speak with your supervisor and contact us at commencement@fscj.edu.

News and Updates

FSCJ, Arc Jacksonville and COJ Announce PAWS Program

On Tuesday, January 28, FSCJ joined with the City of Jacksonville leadership, COJ Animal Care and Protective Services (ACPS) and the Arc Jacksonville to celebrate the launch of the Professional Animal Workers Certificate (PAWS). Offered through our VERTICAL program, PAWS provides individuals with intellectual and developmental differences (IDD) the opportunity to gain both comprehensive education and real-world, hands-on experience in animal care.

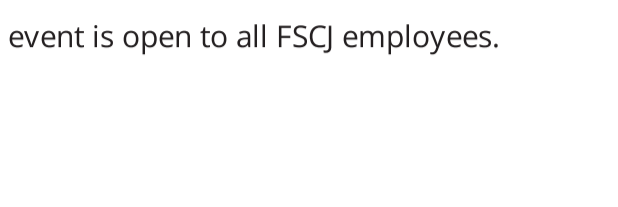


PAWS is a 12-week course designed to equip participants with critical skills for careers in kennels, animal daycare centers and other pet-related businesses. Participants will engage in FSCJ coursework at the Arc Jacksonville's campus covering animal safety, behavior, emergency response and more, alongside soft skill development including communication, teamwork and problem-solving. They will then apply their knowledge through a practical internship at ACPS.

Learn More

Spring Data Summit is Tomorrow

Connect with colleagues tomorrow at the Achieve@FSCJ Spring 2025 Data Summit - Sharing Love of Data from Continuous Quality Improvement Initiatives at ACPS.



The event will begin discussions on continuous quality improvement by highlighting academic and non-academic assessment. This will be followed by sharing continuous quality insights from VIP 2.0, and an overview of the initiatives of the upcoming strategic plan. The summit will conclude with a focus on Six Sigma, including a Six Sigma Black Belt panel discussion. This event is open to all FSCJ employees.

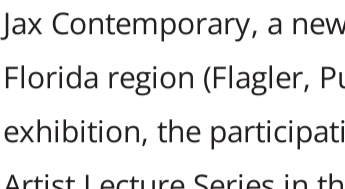
Friday, February 14, 9 a.m.-noon

In-person session located at ATC, T140/141: Register here

Live online session: Register here

With questions, email Dr. Jerrett Dumouchel at jerrett.dumouchel@fscj.edu.

Free MOCA Admission with FSCJ ID



FSCJ is proud to be an Events and Program underwriter for MOCA's upcoming exhibition, Jax Contemporary: A Juried Art Show for Greater Jacksonville. With this partnership, FSCJ students, faculty, staff and retirees receive free admission to MOCA by showing their FSCJ ID during 2025.

Jax Contemporary, a new triennial exhibition, recognizes the incredible talent of artists in the northeast Florida region (Flagler, Putnam, Baker, Clay, St. Johns, Duval, and Nassau Counties). Throughout the exhibition, the participating artists will have an opportunity to talk more broadly about their work in an Artist Lecture Series in the MOCA theatre. JAX Contemporary seeks to support and promote the contemporary art practices of our area and showcase the broad vitality of artistic voices representing this moment in history in Jacksonville. Jax Contemporary opens on March 29, 2025.

Free Student Memberships are available upon request at the time of entry.

FSCJ Athletes Excel in the Classroom

Congratulations to our Manta Rays! Our student-athletes are on track to earn national recognition as NJCAA All-Academic Teams, awarded to teams with a 3.0 or higher average GPA.

Additional congratulations are for the 2024 USTECCEA Cross-Country Academic Awards recipients.

Below are the current standings for Fall Term 2024:

Baseball, 3.20

Men's Basketball, 3.23

Women's Basketball, 3.26

Men's Cross Country, 2.93

Women's Cross Country, 3.31

Softball, 3.21

Beach Volleyball, 3.19

Indoor Volleyball, 3.02

Department Average, 3.16

Men's All-Academic Athletes:

Gershorn Allen

Camden Budd

Benjamin Hale

Noah Looney

Women's All-Academic Athletes:

Ava Banks

Ellie Cardozo

Faiih Harrold

Zahir Miller

Ashtyn Parsons

Felicity Tipton

Under the first-year Head Coach Jessica Eaton, the Women's Basketball GPA increased from 2.71 to

3.26.

NJCAA Division II Men's All-Academic Team Awards:

#2 FSCJ Men's Cross Country

In addition, we had 17 student-athletes achieve a perfect 4.0 in their coursework.

NJCAA Division II Women's All-Academic Team Awards: #8 FSCJ Women's Cross Country



Invite Rayzor Ray to Your Event

Bring some extra excitement to your events with Rayzor Ray! Our beloved mascot is ready to make appearances that will energize the crowd and create unforgettable memories. Don't miss out—bookmark the Rayzor Ray Request Form today and secure a visit!

Request Form

Visit the mascot shop to get your manta ray gear! Mascot polo shirts can be ordered here.

Celebration of Student Success Nominations Due Now

It's time to submit your student nominations for the Celebration of Student Success ceremonies. Nominate up to three students from the Summer 2024, Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 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:

Deerwood Center - Thursday, April 3, 6-7:30 p.m., Academy Room, B1204

Downtown Campus - Thursday, April 10, 4-5:30 p.m., Auditorium, A1068

Kent Campus/Cecil Center - Tuesday, April 15, 6-7:30 p.m., Room D120

South Campus - Thursday, April 17, 6-7:30 p.m., Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts, Lakeside Room

North Campus/Nassau Center - Tuesday, April 22, 6-7:30 p.m., Auditorium, C126

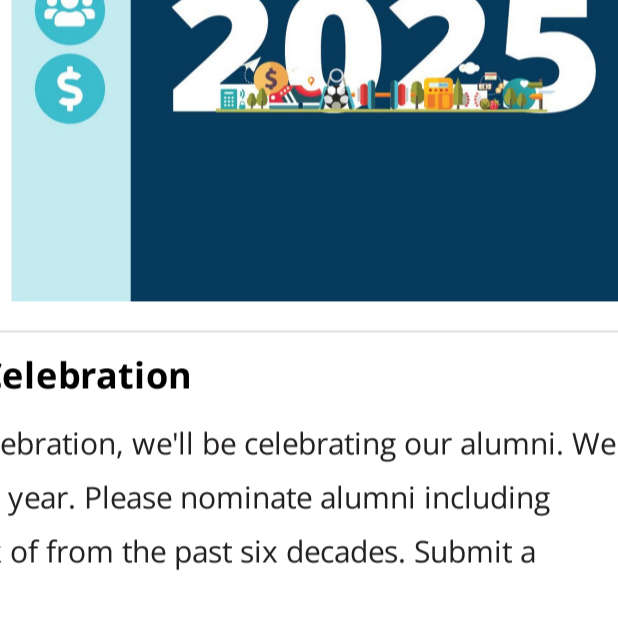
Nominations may be submitted by completing the online form. Deadlines are two weeks before the date of your campus award ceremony.

Make a Nomination

Get Ready for the Employee Wellness Fair

The 2025 Employee Wellness Fair will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2025, from 9 a.m. - noon at the Advanced Technology Center. This year's event will feature the following:

- Gift card drawings and swag giveaways
• FSCJ Health and Human Services free to all employees
• On-site health screenings
• Variety of vendors
• Wellness workshops



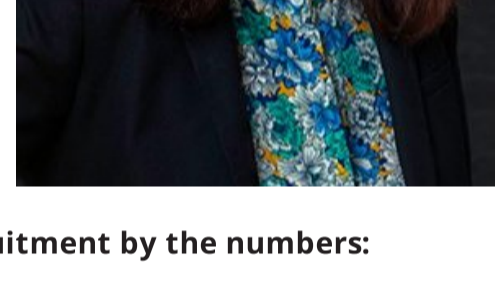
Seeking Alumni Nominations for Anniversary Celebration

FSCJ's 60th Anniversary begins August 2025! As part of our celebration, we'll be celebrating our alumni. We are collecting nominations for alumni features throughout the year. Please nominate alumni including fellow employees, yourself, retirees and anyone you can think of from the past six decades. Submit a nomination here.

Faculty and staff are also invited to share their ideas and input to help develop a fitting celebration. If you are interested in participating in a committee or have an idea to share, email communications@fscj.edu.

Recruitment Update

As the student recruitment office approaches the home stretch of the recruitment year within the high school market, we are pleased to announce Bonnie Lucey has joined the team.



After successful years as a dual enrollment coordinator, Bonnie returns to the familiar grounds of student recruitment, a role she played previously at FSCJ and other colleges. She will serve schools in Duval County, especially those near South Campus, and targeted community agencies.

Recruitment by the numbers:
Events: 59
Student Connections: 1,064
Individual Tours: 9
Tour attendees: 24

If you're interested in participating in recruitment events, please contact us at fscjrecruitment@fscj.edu with the subject line Dive into Manta Ray Nation.

Read More

Get to Know Your APC Colleagues: Hanna Sairam



February's Administrative & Professional Collaborative (APC) spotlight shines on Director of the Honors Program Hannah Sairam, who began in January and brings nearly five years of experience in academic advising and experiential learning, as well as Honors programming and pedagogy. She holds a master's in Higher Education & Student Affairs, as well as a bachelor's degree in English and Women's Studies, both from the University of South Carolina (USC).

Prior to joining FSCJ, Hannah worked with USC in international education, academic advising and the Honors College before moving to UNF, where she served as a First Year Advisor.

In her new position, Hannah is able to combine each of these experiences in order to cultivate the holistic development of Honors students enrolled in FSCJ's A.A. program. She collaborates with departments from academic and student affairs to plan course schedules, develop intentional programming opportunities and foster students' intellectual curiosity.

Learn More

Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Robin Sarge



February's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight features Administrative Project Manager Robin Sarge. Robin has been with FSCJ for 17 years, starting as an Administrative Specialist at the Deerwood Center. She's now working in the Provost's Office where she has been the last four years.

In her role, Robin coordinates a broad range of executive-level administrative support functions, including assisting all academic departments with the budget process planning each fiscal year.

Robin has an A.A. degree and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She has served on many councils including the Policy Development & Review Committee, and has participated in a few Six Sigma projects as well: stipend process, document workflow/e-signature and BR/APM process.

Learn More

FSCJ In Action

Our Automotive Technology Department partnered with Electrathon of Tampa Bay to hold an electrathon race at FSCJ Cecil Center last month. The 160-pound race cars are built by hand and can hit 60 mph, powered by two lead-acid or lithium-ion batteries. View more photos and read more here.



Mark your calendar: The Electrathon series will return to Downtown Campus on April 5.

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations to Shawn Hubbell for earning a Master of Science, Hospitality Management from Florida International University.

Submit your request for earned degree recognition here.

Board Highlights

Review the highlights of the February 11, 2024, meeting of the FSCJ District Board of Trustees:

- The District Board of Trustees approved the specified successor article and appendix of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the College and the United Faculty of Florida - Florida State College at Jacksonville ("Union") pending ratification by the faculty.
• The District Board of Trustees approved a recurring base salary increase of \$750 for all eligible full-time employees (non-instructional and instructional). Employees serving in a full-time position (non-instructional and instructional) are hired as of November 30, 2024 and continuing in a full-time position are eligible for the increase to be effective February 16, 2025.
• The District Board of Trustees approved fee changes for specific courses to be effective Summer Term 2025, pursuant to Board Rule 6HX7-4.19.
• The District Board of Trustees approved the Academic Calendar for 2025-26.

You can find more information on the Board of Trustees meeting on our website.

Facilities Updates

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

Table with columns: Recently completed, Ongoing College-wide, Cecil Center, Deerwood Center, Downtown Campus, Nassau Center, North Campus, South Campus, In planning.

Upcoming Events

Event promotion for Stay a Manta Ray! Summer classes start May 5. Includes FSCJ logo and registration link.

OnPoint event promotion for March 12, 2 p.m. Includes call notes available at myFSCJ OnPoint Quick Link.

Check out the events calendar to view more events 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.

- 1. What does PAWS stand for?
a. Professional Animal Wishes
b. Pets And Workforce
c. Professional Animal Workers
d. Pets Are Wonderful
2. How many student-athletes achieved a perfect 4.0 in their coursework for Fall Term 2024?
a. 15
b. 17
c. 14
d. 18
3. What is the name of the event being held on the Saturday before Commencement to celebrate the graduates?
a. Grad Bash
b. Grad Fest
c. Con-GRAD-ulations
d. Hats Off to Grads
4. Where was the recent Electrathon race held?
a. Downtown Campus
b. South Campus
c. North Campus
d. Cecil Center
5. When is Commencement 2025?
a. May 7
b. May 7
c. May 7
d. May 7