

July 2025



CONVOCATION
2025
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

Convocation 2025

Please join us for Convocation 2025 on Thursday, August 21, in the South Campus Gymnasium. This annual event serves as a kickoff to our academic year and it's a great time to reconnect with colleagues and hear the latest updates from across the College.

Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and the official program will begin at 9:45 a.m. Plenary starts at 1 p.m.

Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items to donate for the FSCJ H.O.P.E. Food Pantry!

News and Updates

FSCJ Bookstores to Reopen July 28

FSCJ campus stores at South Campus, North Campus and Downtown Campus will reopen on July 28—now powered by BiblIU! This exciting change will bring a new look and feel to our campus bookstores, while ensuring that course materials are ready for students to purchase before the start of each term. FSCJ will continue to bring affordable, digital-first course materials through FSCJ's ACCESS program.

Benefits:

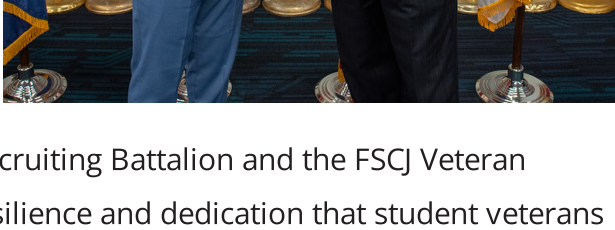
- Day-One Digital Access – Students in FSCJ ACCESS classes will receive their required course materials automatically through Canvas, eliminating delays in getting textbooks.
- Significant Cost Savings – FSCJ ACCESS ensures students pay the lowest possible price for course materials, usually far below traditional textbook costs.
- Financial Aid Compatibility – FSCJ ACCESS charges are built into student tuition and can be covered by financial aid, making materials more accessible to all students.
- Opt-Out Flexibility – In FSCJ ACCESS, students retain the ability to opt out and back in without penalty until the drop (add/drop) deadline.
- Faculty Insights – With BiblIU's platform, faculty can track student engagement data and monitor course material usage to help tailor instruction.
- FSCJ Merchandise – The campus stores will continue to offer school-branded merchandise, supplies, electronics and more. Shop online at [ShopFSCJ.com](#).

For more information, contact BiblIU's [24/7 customer support team](#) with questions.

[ShopFSCJ.com](#)

Student Veteran Honored with Purple Heart

In a moving ceremony held at South Campus, FSCJ proudly recognized Sergeant (Retired) Kenneth Dominguez, a current student and decorated U.S. Army veteran, as he was formally awarded the Purple Heart. This prestigious military honor, bestowed upon those wounded in action while serving against an enemy of the United States, reflects Sergeant Dominguez's courage and sacrifice in defense of our nation.



The event, hosted in partnership with the Jacksonville Army Recruiting Battalion and the FSCJ Veteran Center for Excellence, served as a powerful reminder of the resilience and dedication that student veterans bring to our campus community. It also highlighted the vital role of the Veteran Center as a space where achievements are honored, service is recognized and every veteran's story matters.

[View Photos](#)

Welcome, New Colleagues!



We were happy to welcome the newest additions to the FSCJ family during the New Employee Reception on June 12.

These receptions are held throughout the year to formally introduce new faculty and staff to FSCJ, Dr. A and members of the leadership team. Attendees enjoy the time as they get to know each other over breakfast.

[View Photos](#)

Department Naming Updates

There have been some recent naming updates throughout the College, which were approved by the Senior Academic Leadership Team (SALT). New signage is in the works and all references to the previous names on the website, print materials, etc., will gradually be changing over to the new as well.

Current Name	New Name
Library & Learning Commons	Library & Tutoring Services
Center for International Education	Office of Global Learning
Center for Civic Engagement	Office of Civic Engagement
Learning Commons (South G200)	Center for Academic Engagement

As you notice mentions of the previous names, you can contact communications@fscj.edu. We appreciate your support!

FSCJ Employee Recreational Sports

The annual FSCJ Employee Recreational Sports wellness initiative provides College employees with enjoyable co-ed recreational sports opportunities through August 14. Participation is open to all employees, and no sign-up is required.

Basketball – Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.; South Campus Gymnasium

Pickleball – Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.; South Campus Gymnasium

Employees are encouraged to join the FSCJ Employee Recreational Sports Channel on Microsoft Teams (click the button below) for discussions and real-time updates on summer activities.

[Join the Teams Channel!](#)

Heart Walk Captains Needed

The 2025 Jacksonville Heart Walk will be held on Saturday, October 4, at the Downtown Fairgrounds. Participants interested in leading a team as a captain are invited to sign up now. Captains will be expected to lead a team of 5-10 participants with a goal to raise \$600. Captains who sign up by July 12 will receive a special souvenir!

[Click here](#), select Register, Start a Team, Name your team, then for Company select Florida State College at Jacksonville. Once you are set up in the Heart Walk system, have your participants sign up under your team. Contact hrraining@fscj.edu with any questions.

Submit 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.

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

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!

Cohort 8

John Downs, Adjunct Instructor
Laura Perry, Adjunct Instructor
Amanda Sarrto, Professor of Math
Susan Slavicz, Adjunct Instructor
Garland Stavoff, Professor of IT
Liz Thomas, Professor of Digital Media
Felicia Wider-Lewis, Adjunct Instructor
Kathyleen Wyatt, Adjunct Instructor

Cohort 9

Annelle Bonnett, Adjunct Instructor
Portia Carty, Adjunct Instructor
Roman Cech, Dean of Social and Behavioral Science
Tamara Gibson, Adjunct Instructor
Naita Guine, Director of Program Development
Dena Karakoshi, Adjunct Instructor
Debidatta Mahapatra, Professor of Political Science
Caroline Sampson, Professor of Math
Kimberly Stone, Adjunct Instructor

Recruitment Update

Although the Open House last month, which welcomed more than 830 prospective students, marked the final major recruitment event for the 2024-25 cycle, our efforts continue throughout the summer. For the 25-26 cycle, we welcome the opportunity to collaborate with departments across the college on or in support of your recruitment initiatives. Simply send us an email with the subject: Dive into Manta Ray Nation! There are countless dreams in our community that our collective efforts can bring to fruition.



Upcoming events:

7/10: Career Source Virtual Education Fair
7/11: Community Resource Fair hosted by State Representative Kiyan Michael (R) – Florida House District 16
7/16: Level Up Summer Camp/Tour @ Downtown Campus
7/26: 2025 Clay County Back to School Bash
7/29 and 7/31: Pepsi Career Fair

Recruitment by the numbers:

Events: 34
Student Connections: 1,142
Individual tours: 11
Attendees: 21

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 CEC Colleagues: Jennifer Grey



July's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight features Jennifer Grey, a dedicated and dynamic Career Employee who has been awarded the CEC Recognition of Excellence Award for her outstanding contributions to FSCJ!

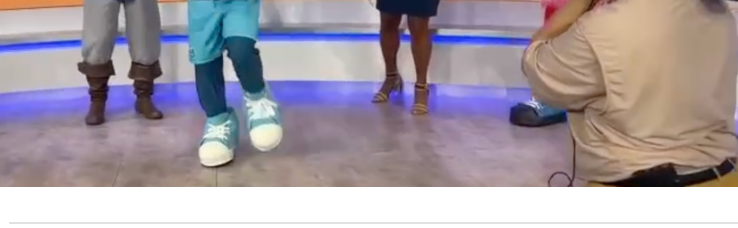
Since joining the College in 2012, Jennifer has worn many hats. As she approaches her 13-year anniversary, her impact on FSCJ Library and Tutoring Services and beyond is both profound and far-reaching. From organizing events and managing the library's social media and marketing to overseeing patron records, interlibrary loan services, and annual inventories, her work touches nearly every corner of the department.

She also serves as the steward of FSCJ's history through her management of the College Archives. Beyond her daily duties, she contributes to the 60th Anniversary Committee, where she combs through FSCJ's vast collection of press clippings to create a timeline of our rich institutional history.

When she's not at work, you'll likely find Jennifer catching up on sleep, reading, watching movies with friends, baking just-for-fun creations or taking photos.

[Learn More](#)

FSCJ In Action



Did you see Rayzor Ray on News4jax? Our beloved mascot participated in a friendly competition with other area mascots on The Morning Show in honor of National Mascot Day. Rayzor Ray appeared with Scampi from the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp, St. Johns River State College's Viktor the Viking and Jacksonville University's Dunk'n the Dolphin.

[Watch the Video](#)



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](#)

Who's Retiring?

Congratulations and well wishes to the following faculty and staff who have recently retired or are retiring soon!

Tricia May, Plant Service Worker
Jeff Foster, Engineer V, Client Support
Donna Speegle, Academic Department Coordinator
Poonwiles Amarasing, E-Learning Instructional Designer
Sam Bateh, Senior Security Officer
Janet Christovich, Administration Support Manager
Annette Barrineau, Dean of Business
Wei Kitto, Professor of Mathematics

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, Building Envelope, URC Replace Curtain Wall
- Downtown, Vehicle Charging Stations
- North: Elevator Modernization
- South: Parking Lot Lighting Retrofit, Restroom Renovation, Bldg T
- Nassau: Furniture, Science Labs

In progress

Ongoing Collegewide:

- Door Access Control Upgrades
- Elevator Door Lock Monitoring Systems
- Emergency Responders Radio Communications System
- Fire Alarm Replacement
- Scan/Digitize Facilities Plans
- Science Lab & Classroom Renovations
- Wayfinding, Monument Signs
- Memorial Benches/Legacy Walk
- Energy Initiatives
- Classroom USA Flag Replacement

Deerwood Center:

- Classrooms to Computer Labs Renovation
- Deerwood Conference Center Renovation
- Stairs, Curtainwall and Balcony Repair

Downtown Campus:

- Multipurpose Room Renovation
- Elevator Modernization
- ADA Signage
- Fire Alarm System Replacement
- Parking Lot Lighting
- Cancer Survivor's Park Lighting

Kent Campus:

- Addressable Device Upgrades
- Science Lab Upgrades
- Auditorium Dressing Room Renovation
- Student Life Common Area
- Bus Route Improvements
- Barbershop Renovation
- Hot Water Loop Replacement

Nassau Center:

- Science Lab Construction
- Door Access Control Upgrade
- Fire Alarm Replacement
- Maintenance Vehicle/Equipment Storage Building

North Campus:

- Student Services Renovation
- Allied Health Program Renovation
- BDA Monitoring System
- Individual Addressable Monitoring System
- Signage
- CJC Pavilion, Lobby Breakroom Furniture
- Boiler Replacement
- Athletics Renovation
- Tower Stairwell Paint

South Campus:

- Door Access Control Upgrades
- Elevator Modernization
- Lighting Controls Upgrade
- Fire Alarm System Replacement
- Childcare Center Renovation
- Men's Locker Room Renovation
- Legacy Walk Benches
- Gymnasium Bleachers

In planning

Deerwood Center:

- Parking Garage Joint Repair


Downtown Campus:

- Warehouse Building
- VERC Renovation
- Jr. Achievement Building and Career Job Placement Center Expansion

South Campus:

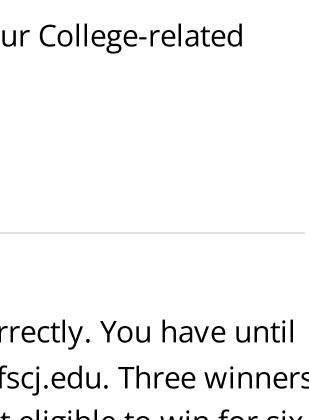
- Wilson Center Architect Assessment
- Honors Program Expansion
- Security Renovation

Upcoming Events



OnPoint
Next Call:
August 13, 2 p.m.
Call notes available at [myFSCJ OnPoint Quick Link](#)

Stay a
Manta Ray!



Full registration is open now!

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 is the new name for Library & Learning Program?
 - a. Library
 - b. Learning Commons
 - c. Library & Tutoring Services
 - d. Tutoring Center
2. When is the 2025 Heart Walk?
 - a. October 4
 - b. October 25
 - c. November 4
 - d. September 21
3. Which of the following local mascots was not part of the News4jax National Mascot Day appearance?
 - a. Rayzor Ray from FSCJ
 - b. Ozzie the Osprey from UNF
 - c. Dunk'n the Dolphin from JU
 - d. Viktor the Viking from St. Johns River State College
4. When will the campus bookstores reopen?
 - a. July 28
 - b. August 21
 - c. July 21
 - d. August 28
5. How long is the QueST, Quality eLearning Strategies for Teaching, course offered by Training and Organizational Development alongside the Academy for Teaching and Learning?
 - a. One Week
 - b. Four Weeks
 - c. Six Weeks
 - d. Six Hours