

July 2026



Convocation 2026

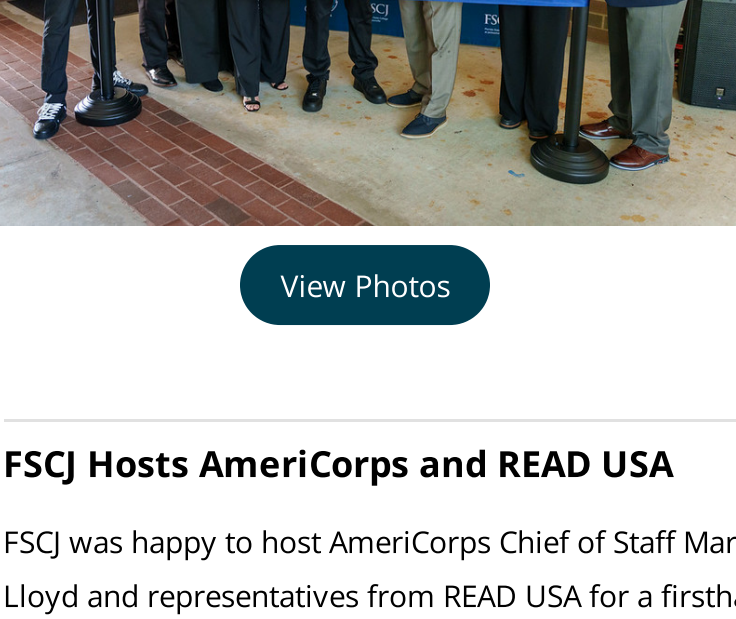
We hope to see you at Convocation on Thursday, August 27, at South Campus. A light breakfast will be served in the South Campus Caf   at 9 a.m., and the program will begin at 9:30 a.m. Inside the Gymnasium. Following Convocation, attendees will enjoy a 60th Anniversary FSCJ Employee Lunch at 11:30 a.m.,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

Attendees can participate in our annual raffle for prizes and trade in their old FJC, FCCJ and old logo FSCJ/BlueWave branded clothing 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 Opens New Barbering Lab at Kent Campus



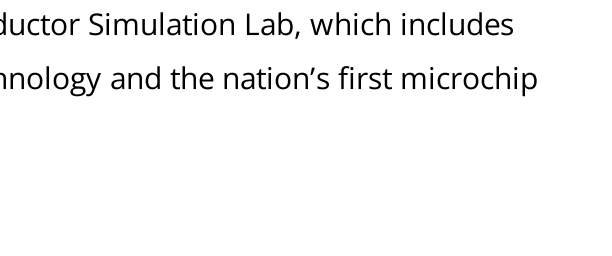
[View Photos](#)

On June 23, FSCJ hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil the new Barbering Lab at Kent Campus, expanding the program to serve even more students. Within this new space, students will have opportunities for personal and professional growth as they prepare for the required state licensing exam.

The expansion was made possible thanks to a \$40,000 grant the College received during the 2024 National Association of Community College Entrepreneurs Pitch for the Skilled Trades competition. Read more [here](#).

FSCJ Hosts AmeriCorps and READ USA

FSCJ was happy to host AmeriCorps Chief of Staff Mark Lloyd and representatives from READ USA for a firsthand look at the innovative approach to workforce development through Summer Leadership Academy. The visit demonstrated how READ USA is bringing together career exploration, workforce preparation, leadership development and community partnerships into one comprehensive experience for teens.



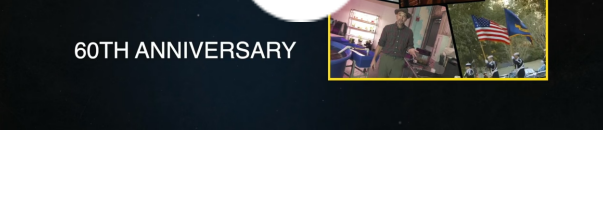
While at FSCJ, Mr. Lloyd also toured our cutting-edge Semiconductor Simulation Lab, which includes advanced manufacturing, automated logistics, automotive technology and the nation's first microchip manufacturing technician training program.

[Read More](#)

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 2015-2019 recap video, part of a 12-part series created to highlight specific timeframes throughout the College's history. All 12 will be housed on the 60th webpage as they are finalized.

[fscj.edu/60](#)

Employee Rec Sports at South Campus

Summer FSCJ Employee Recreational Sports continues with co-ed basketball and pickleball at the South Campus Gymnasium (Bldg. R) on Mondays and Thursdays from 6:30-8 p.m. through Thursday, August 20.

Either half- or full-court basketball games are played, depending on the employee turnout. Even if you are new to pickleball, you are invited to learn as you play. Paddles and balls will be provided if you do not have your own.

Please remember to complete the waiver during your first visit of the summer. Also, please join the [FSCJ Employee Recreation Sports Team Channel](#), where you can stay up to date on announcements, ask questions and post photos.

If you are interested in leading another sport as part of the FSCJ Employee Recreational Sports offerings, please contact Lithesha Holloman at lithesha.holloman@fscj.edu.

Recruitment Update

The Student Recruitment Office hosts a variety of large-scale events throughout the year to engage prospective students, such as open houses, workshops, presentations and our new Campus Discovery Days. Personal interactions and relationship building can turn into meaningful partnerships as well.

One example is a new partnership between the Student Recruitment Office and Break Barriers, a local organization focused on reducing recidivism. The executive director and program director met with Student Recruitment leadership to explore career training opportunities for residents of their transitional housing program, located near Downtown Campus.

One resident recently completed the College's Commercial Vehicle Driving program after working closely with staff to successfully navigate the admissions process and secure a scholarship through Workforce Education. Today, he is employed by a Florida-based trucking company.

The relationships maintained and developed by staff and faculty are just as important as the ones nurtured by Student Recruitment. If you have partnerships you'd like to introduce the Student Recruitment Office staff to, please contact us at fscjrecruitment@fscj.edu with the subject line "Dive into Manta Ray Nation." We want to hear from you.

Upcoming July events:

- 23: Jacksonville Waves basketball game tabling
- 25: YMCA of Florida's First Coast Military Appreciation Back-to-School Bash (Wildlight YMCA)
- 30: Empowerment Resources STEM group @ Downtown Campus

[Read More](#)

Get to Know Your New A&P Officers and Representatives

The Administrative & Professional Collaborative (APC) would like to congratulate and introduce its 2026-27 Officers and Representatives! After being nominated by their peers, they accepted the opportunity to be listed as a candidate and were elected for these roles. Many thanks to all of the APC employees who voted during this election.



Chair: Monica Franklin

Chair-Elect: Susan Mythen

Past Chair: Ashli Archer

Secretary: Kerri Burns

AO/URC Representatives



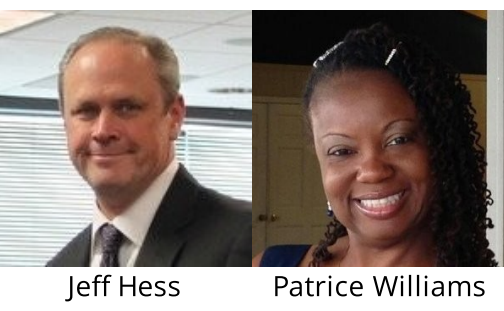
Karen Acevedo

James Artley

Lori Cimino

Maggy Dartiguenave

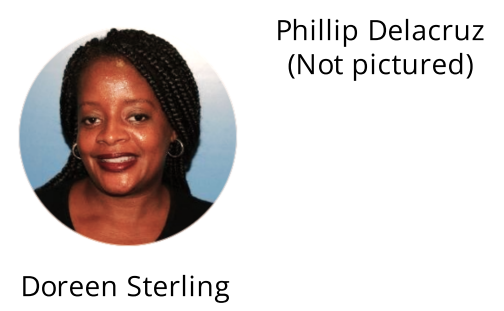
Downtown/ATC Representatives



Le'Titia Parsons-Davis

Sha'Kia Riggins

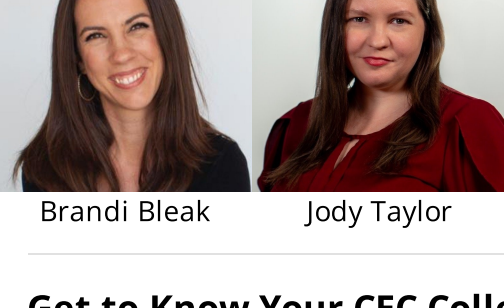
North/Nassau Representatives



Steven Gunter

Brad Frick

Kent/Cecil Representatives



Jeff Hess

Patrice Williams

South Representatives



Doreen Sterling

Phillip Delacruz
(Not pictured)

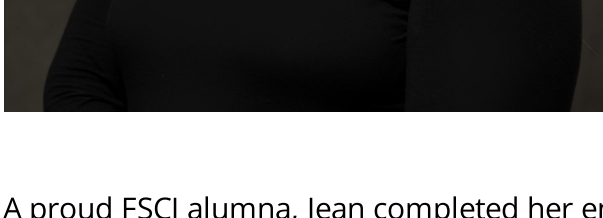
Deerwood Representatives



Brandi Bleak

Jody Taylor

Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Jean Dealmeida



July's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight features Project Coordinator Jean Dealmeida. With nearly three decades of dedicated service, Jean has become a cornerstone of innovation, collaboration and institutional knowledge at FSCJ.

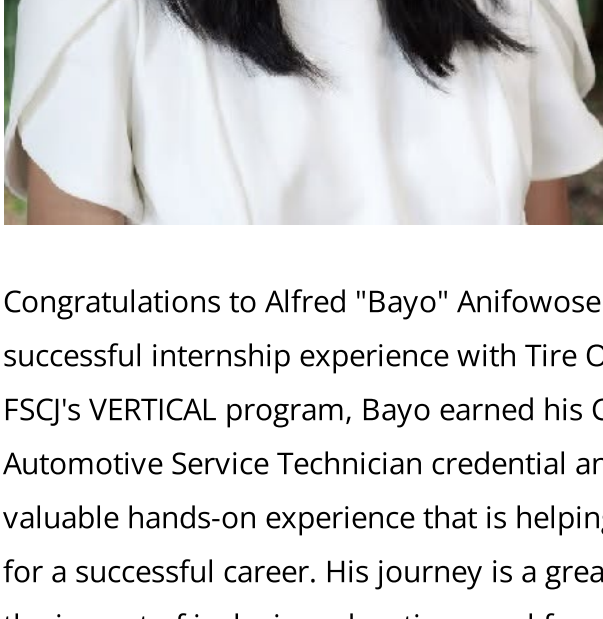
Jean has held a variety of roles across Student Services and Information Technology. Her journey has included positions in Admissions, Records and Registration, Information Technology and serving as a subject-matter expert during major ERP system conversions. Since 2016, she has served as a Project Coordinator within the Applications Development/ERP Support team.

A proud FSCJ alumna, Jean completed her entire educational journey at the College. Her credentials include multiple technical certificates in Office Software Applications, an A.S. in Office Software Application Administration, an A.A. and a B.A.S. in Information Technology Management. Balancing full-time work with continued education, she demonstrated resilience and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Outside of work, Jean enjoys spending time with her family and is passionate about quilting and enjoys digital scrapbooking to preserve family history. Additionally, Jean is an amateur astronomer who loves stargazing and astrophotography, and she finds peace in gardening and spending time outdoors.

[Read More](#)

FSCJ In Action



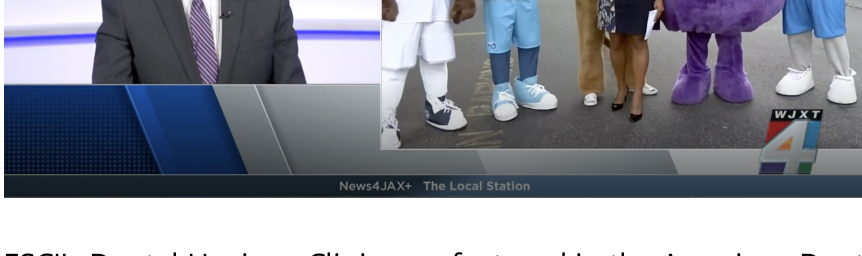
Congratulations to FSCJ Student Cerissa Salameda, winner of the FSCLS 2026 Carleen Van Siden Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Medical Laboratory Science.

She earned her B.S. in Health, summa cum laude, from the University of North Florida and is currently pursuing her A.S. in Medical Laboratory Technology at FSCJ and is preparing for clinical training at Mayo Clinic. In her role as Prevention Specialist with Community Coalition Alliance, Inc., Cerissa ensures the accuracy and accessibility of public health resources while leading community outreach initiatives targeting diverse populations. Her work reflects a strong commitment to quality assurance, evidence-based practice and culturally responsive care. Read more [here](#).

Congratulations to Alfred "Bayo" Anifowose on his successful internship experience with Tire Outlet! Through FSCJ's VERTICAL program, Bayo earned his Certified Automotive Service Technician credential and gained valuable hands-on experience that is helping prepare him for a successful career. His journey is a great example of the impact of inclusive education, workforce development and community partnerships.



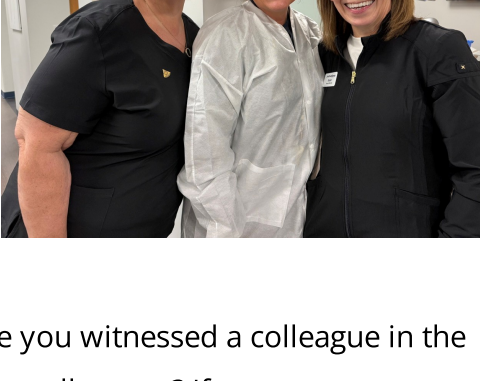
VERTICAL's inclusive, career-readiness training offers adult students with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to earn meaningful, industry-recognized credentials leading to relevant employment. Read more [here](#).



Rayzor Ray was once again included in News4Jax's National Mascot Day Competition on June 17. The mascots showed off their dance moves and demonstrated their speed in a foot race.

View the broadcast [here](#).

FSCJ's Dental Hygiene Clinic was featured in the American Dental Education Association Bulletin on Dental Education. The article shared details about the College's "Educate the Educator Conference—Exploring the Use of Air Polishing, Piezo and Magneto Power Scaling," presented by HuFriedyGroup. The event was a purpose-built experience to strengthen faculty expertise and elevate the way clinical care is taught. Read the article [here](#).



"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](#).

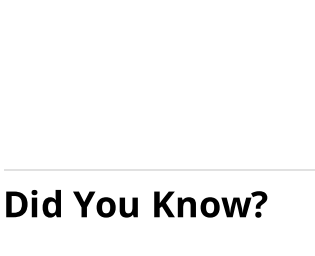
Facilities Updates

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

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

Show Your Manta Rays Spirit

View all Merch Apparel > [View Merchandise](#)



Get your Manta Rays merch now! In partnership with Baker's Sports, the local uniform provider for FSCJ's Athletics teams, 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!

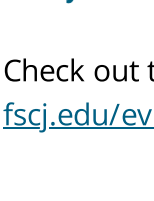
[Mascot Shop](#)

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

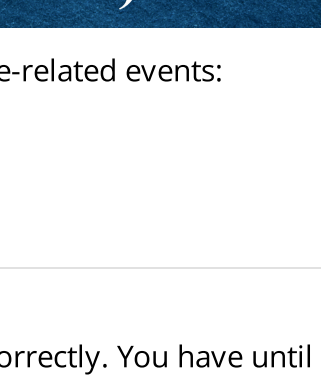
Next Call:
August 12, 2 p.m.

[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
Florida State College
at Jacksonville

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.

- When is Convocation 2026?
 - Thursday, August 27
 - 8/27/2026
 - August 27
 - All of the above
- AmeriCorps Chief of Staff Mark Lloyd toured which space at the ATC during his visit with READ USA?
 - Welding Lab
 - Automotive Collision Repair Classroom
 - Semiconductor Simulation Lab
 - Barbering Lab
- When was the News4Jax National Mascot Day competition?
 - June 17
 - July 27
 - September 2
 - January 7
- Which of the following is NOT one of Jean Dealmeida's interests/hobbies?
 - Quilting
 - Stargazing
 - Astrophotography
 - Gardening
- Where is the Empowerment Resources STEM group?
 - Deerwood Center
 - North Campus
 - South Campus
 - Downtown Campus