

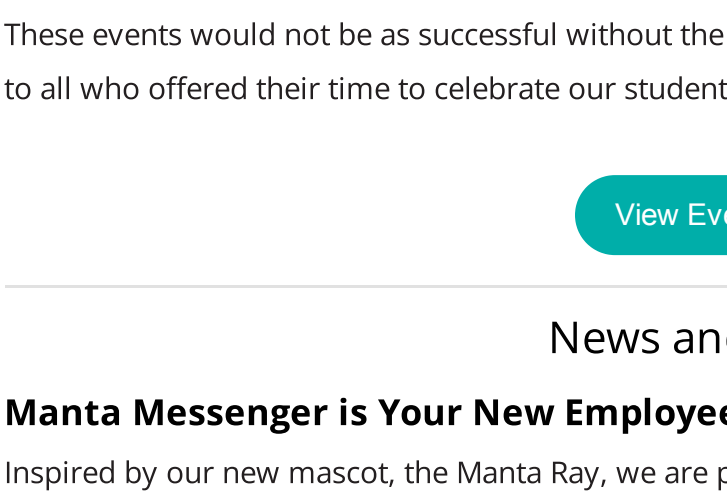
## May 2024



### Commencement 2024

We were honored to celebrate the achievements of our proud graduates during the 57th annual Commencement Ceremony on Thursday, May 9 at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena. Surrounded by an audience of their families and friends, students who completed FSCJ's bachelor's and associate degree programs accepted their diplomas from FSCJ President John Avendano, Ph.D., and the College's District Board of Trustees.

More than 3,300 degrees were awarded to FSCJ graduates and candidates for the 2023-24 academic year. Of these, 1,747 are associate in arts degrees, 887 are associate in science degrees and 729 are bachelor's degrees.



During the ceremony, we also announced the results of our mascot selection process. You should have received an email during the event with a video announcement as well, but just in case you missed it, you can watch it and learn more [here](#).

We hope you're excited for the new mascot like we are. Tell us what you think here!



These events would not be as successful without the support of our faculty and staff volunteers. Thank you to all who offered their time to celebrate our students during the ceremony and Grad Fest events!

[View Event Photos](#)

### News and Updates

#### Manta Messenger is Your New Employee Newsletter

Inspired by our new mascot, the Manta Ray, we are pleased to bring you the first-ever edition of the Manta Messenger, our new monthly employee newsletter. Just like the old newsletter, it will bring you news, events and updates from around the College.

We are always on the lookout for exciting content so please share your stories by emailing [newsletter@fscj.edu](mailto:newsletter@fscj.edu). You can find archive editions at [fscj.edu/newsletter](https://fscj.edu/newsletter).

#### Congratulations to our Faculty and Staff Award Recipients



Congratulations to all recipients of this year's Distinguished Faculty Awards, Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Award, Administrative and Professional Collaborative Exceptional Service and Initiative Award, Career Employees' Council Recognition of Excellence Award and the new IRISE Awards.

They were celebrated during the Employee Awards Luncheon on April 25. Faculty winners were also recognized during Faculty Focus Day on April 12.

<b>Distinguished Faculty Award for Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences, Adult Education and ESOL</b> Dr. Shep Shepard, Professor of History Dr. Scott Matthews, Professor of History	<b>IRISE Awards Integrity Award</b> Darci Lanaghan, Director of Benefits and Human Resources Information Systems
<b>Distinguished Faculty Award for Bachelors, Career &amp; Technical Education</b> Susan Amburgey, Professor of Logistics	<b>Respect for All Served by FSCJ Award</b> Dr. Kathleen Clez-Volz, Associate Provost for Curriculum and Instruction
<b>Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Award</b> Galya Taborn, Adjunct Professor of Human Services	<b>Innovation Award</b> Lance Culver, Laboratory Manager in the Urban Agriculture Initiative at Downtown Campus
<b>Administrative and Professional Collaborative Exceptional Service and Initiative Award</b> Dr. Marc Boese, Executive Director of Organizational Development	<b>Student-Centered Award</b> Terence Wright, Director of Campus Enrollment & Student Services
<b>Career Employees' Council Recognition of Excellence Award</b> Ashlie Empleo, Program Coordinator - H.O.P.E. Food Pantry	<b>Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Service Award</b> Fulton Burns, Director and Professor of Theatre

You can click [here](#) to learn more about each award recipient.

[View Event Photos](#)



#### FSCJ Honors Celebration of Student Success Awards Recipients

Faculty and staff nominated students to be recognized during the Celebration of Student Success events. Five different events were held throughout March and April.

Award categories included:

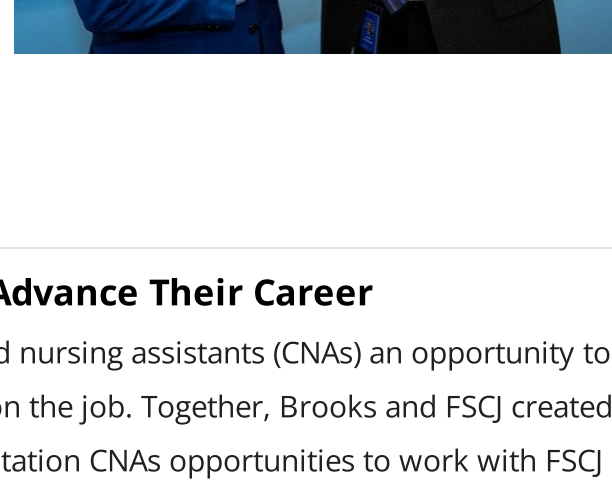
- Academic Achievement
- Inspirational Achievement
- Outstanding Student Worker
- Outstanding Student Leadership

Click on the button below to view the list of honorees and photos from the events.

[Learn More](#)

#### Nassau Center Wins President's Cup

FSCJ Foundation hosted the IM IN Breakfast on Friday, May 3. Faculty and staff who made donations during the IM IN Campaign were invited for breakfast in celebration of their generosity and to award the President's Cup.



The coveted trophy is given each year to the campus/center with the highest percentage of donors. Congratulations to this year's winner: Nassau Center!

[View Photos](#)

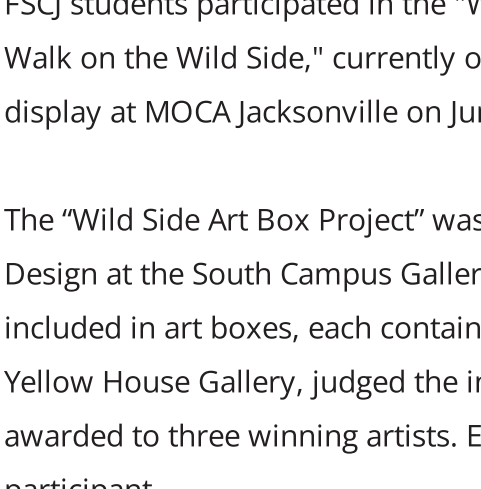
#### FSCJ Partners with Brooks Rehab to Help CNAs Advance Their Career

FSCJ and Brooks Rehabilitation have partnered to offer certified nursing assistants (CNAs) an opportunity to work toward becoming a licensed practical nurse (LPN) while on the job. Together, Brooks and FSCJ created this pilot program which allows a cohort of 11 Brooks Rehabilitation CNAs opportunities to work with FSCJ instructors during the workday. Their tuition is covered by Brooks and laptops, scrubs and supplies are also provided.

The first cohort will graduate in summer 2024 and will then take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to become LPNs. To date, all have passed their coursework and standardized tests.

[Learn More](#)

#### FSCJ Foundation Hosts Annual Golf Tournament



FSCJ Foundation hosted its fourth annual FSCJ Golf Classic, presented by First Florida Credit Union, on Monday, April 22 at Queens Harbour Yacht & Country Club. Each year, this event raises funds for FSCJ Athletics and student-athletes.

[View Photos](#)

#### Student Artwork on Display at MOCA Next Month

FSCJ students participated in the "Wild Side Art Box Project," drawing inspiration from the exhibition, "A Walk on the Wild Side," currently on display at MOCA Jacksonville until June 30, 2024. Their work will be on display at MOCA Jacksonville on June 5, 2024, from 5 to 8 p.m. as part of Art Walk.

The "Wild Side Art Box Project" was originally exhibited during the 37th Annual Student Exhibit of Art and Design at the South Campus Gallery. FSCJ invited students and faculty to create small artworks to be included in art boxes, each containing 11 unique works by participating artists. Hope McMath, owner of Yellow House Gallery, judged the individual works. Donors bought the boxes and the proceeds were awarded to three winning artists. Each participating artist also received a piece of artwork from another participant.

Learn about the "A Walk on the Wild Side" exhibit [here](#).

#### Recruitment Update

Earlier this month, the Student Recruitment office successfully concluded FSCJ Takeover Days at the Nassau Center and South and North campuses. After the well-received launch last year in Nassau County, two additional days were added to the 2023-24 calendar. Nearly 200 seniors took advantage of the opportunity to complete their enrollment steps, attend mock classes taught by FSCJ faculty, meet other students planning to attend in the fall and explore our center/campus offerings. During the three days, 59 students applied and 53 students received advising and registration assistance.

Focus now shifts to the annual Collegewide Open House which will be Saturday, June 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at South Campus. No matter the location of your office, or your position, there is a role for all to play as the proverbial doors of our institution are opened to the community. You can support Open House by registering as an onsite volunteer [here](#).

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 [fscjrecruitment@fscj.edu](mailto:fscjrecruitment@fscj.edu).

[Read More](#)

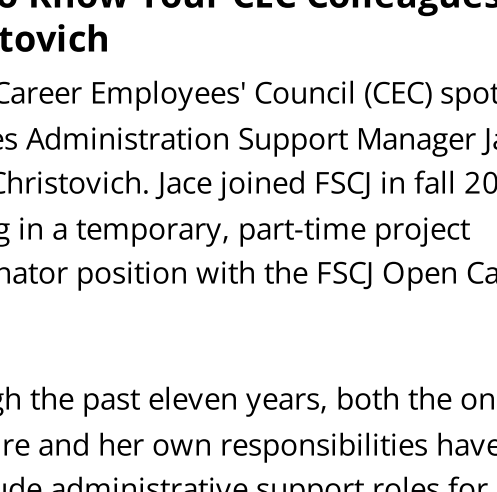


#### Get to Know Your APC Colleagues: John Putyrski

May's Administrative & Professional Collaborative (APC) spotlight shines on Men's Basketball Coach John Putyrski, who joined the College in August 2023. John came to Jacksonville after most recently serving as an assistant coach for the University of Texas at Arlington.

Under his leadership, the team won the regular season and conference tournament championships and competed in the national championship. The team also improved their grade point average to a program record 3.18 this past fall.

[Learn More](#)



#### Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Jace Christovich

May's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight features Administration Support Manager Janet "Jace" Christovich. Jace joined FSCJ in fall 2012, starting in a temporary, part-time project coordinator position with the FSCJ Open Campus Team.

Through the past eleven years, both the online structure and her own responsibilities have evolved to include administrative support roles for Campus Operations, the Deerwood Campus Dean, FSCJ Online and many Deerwood departments and College initiatives.

[Learn More](#)

#### Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations to our latest Leadership Academy graduates: Yakup Bilgili, Brandi Bleak, Heather Carter, Phillip Delacruz, Alexandra Diaz, Ashlie Empleo, Lauren Finch, Kelly Harbert, Danyell Mack, Doreen Sterling and Brandy Williams

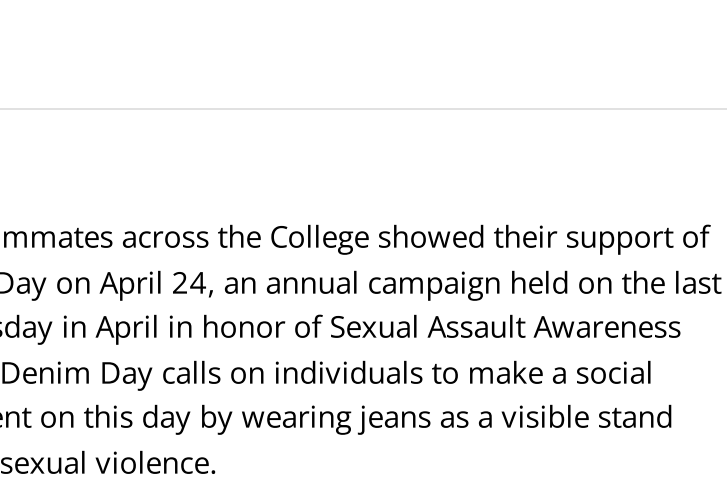


The FSCJ Leadership Academy is designed to enhance Leadership Skills and build upon existing components of the professionalism competency to propel employees toward being effective leaders. This two-year, cohort-based program entails 50 hours of course participation and applications are accepted at the beginning of each Fall Term.

Academic Tutor Amy Copeland, editor and co-author of "Finding Sherri: Reclaiming Myself After Childhood Sexual Assault," appeared with Sherri Noble Jones on River City Plus to talk about the book, the process of writing it and how this work connects with her work at FSCJ. [Watch the interview.](#)

Professor Jennifer Chase was recently featured on WJCT First Coast Connect, talking about her memoir and recent album, "I Can Smell You from Here: Thirty Years, 17 Centen Letters to My Town 1993-2023."

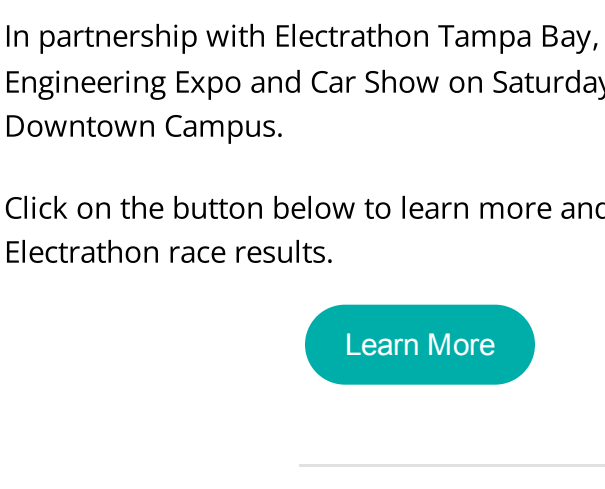
[Watch Here](#)



#### May Retirees

Thomas Arcuri, 52 years of service  
Jean Baker, 34 years of service  
Margaret Nixon, 18 years of service

#### FSCJ In Action

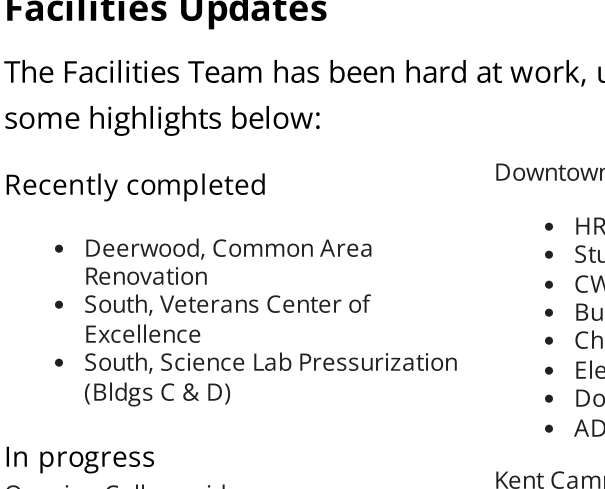
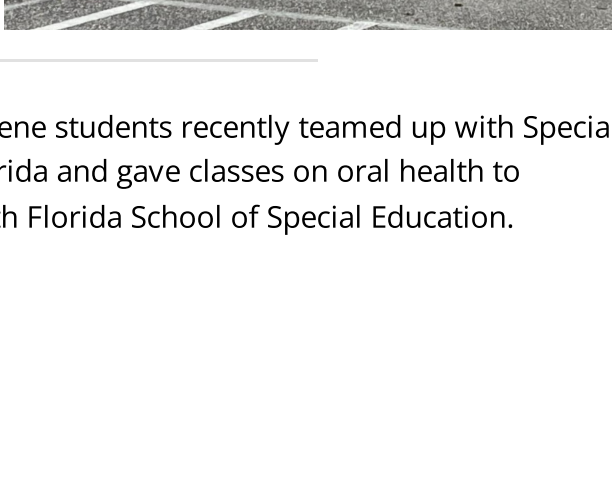


FSCJ teammates across the College showed their support of Denim Day on April 24, an annual campaign held on the last Wednesday in April in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Denim Day calls on individuals to make a social statement on this day by wearing jeans as a visible stand against sexual violence.

In partnership with Electrathon Tampa Bay, FSCJ hosted an Engineering Expo and Car Show on Saturday, April 27 at Downtown Campus.

Click on the button below to learn more and see the Electrathon race results.

[Learn More](#)



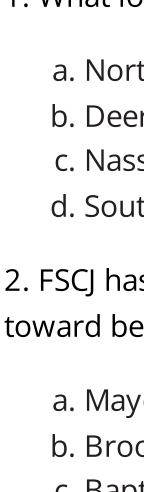
FSCJ dental hygiene students recently teamed up with Special Olympics of Florida and gave classes on oral health to students at North Florida School of Special Education.

#### Facilities Updates

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

<b>Recently completed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deerwood, Common Area Renovation</li><li>• South, Veterans Center of Excellence</li><li>• South, Science Lab Pressurization (Bldgs C &amp; D)</li></ul> <b>In progress</b> <p>Ongoing Collegewide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ADA Plumbing Vanities</li><li>• Door Access Control Upgrades</li><li>• Elevator Door Lock Monitoring Systems</li><li>• Emergency Responders Radio Communications System (ERRECS) Compliance</li><li>• Fire Alarm Panel Replacement</li><li>• Scan/Digitize Facilities Plans</li><li>• Science Lab and Classroom Renovations</li><li>• Monument Signs, Building IDs, Wayfinding</li></ul> <b>Ceol Center:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BAS Control Upgrades</li></ul> <b>Deerwood Center:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interior Wayfinding</li><li>• Skylight Replacement</li></ul>	<b>Downtown Campus:</b> <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>• Building Elevator</li><li>• Chiller Replacement</li><li>• Elevator Modernization</li><li>• Door Access Control Upgrades</li><li>• ADA Signage</li></ul> <b>Kent Campus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hot Water System Replacement</li><li>• Elevator Modernization</li><li>• Parking Lot Lighting</li><li>• Door Access Control Upgrades</li><li>• Art Lab Furniture</li><li>• Science Lab Upgrades</li></ul> <b>North Campus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Door Access Control Upgrades</li><li>• Roof Replacement</li><li>• Student Services, Science Lab Renovation</li><li>• Nursing Program Expansion</li><li>• Replace Ceiling Tiles</li><li>• Elevator Modernization</li><li>• COT Classroom Furniture</li></ul> <b>South Campus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Door Access Control Upgrades</li><li>• Fire Academy Skills Pad</li><li>• Boiler Replacement</li><li>• Roof Replacement</li><li>• Elevator Modernization</li><li>• Outdoor Furniture</li></ul>	<b>In planning</b> <p><b>Downtown Campus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follett Capital Improvements</li><li>• Grants Conference Room</li><li>• Artist Series Furniture</li></ul> <p><b>Kent Campus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pavement Repair's</li><li>• Auditorium &amp; Career Closet Renovation</li><li>• Follett Capital Improvements</li></ul> <p><b>Nassau Center:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Door Access Control Upgrade</li></ul> <p><b>North Campus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ceiling Tile Replacement</li><li>• Door Access Control Upgrade</li></ul> <p><b>South Campus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fire Academy/EMS Public Service Upgrade</li><li>• Wilson Center Architect Assessment</li><li>• Honors Program Expansion</li><li>• Security Renovation</li><li>• Gym/Athletics Renovation</li><li>• Follett Capital Improvements</li></ul>
---	--	---

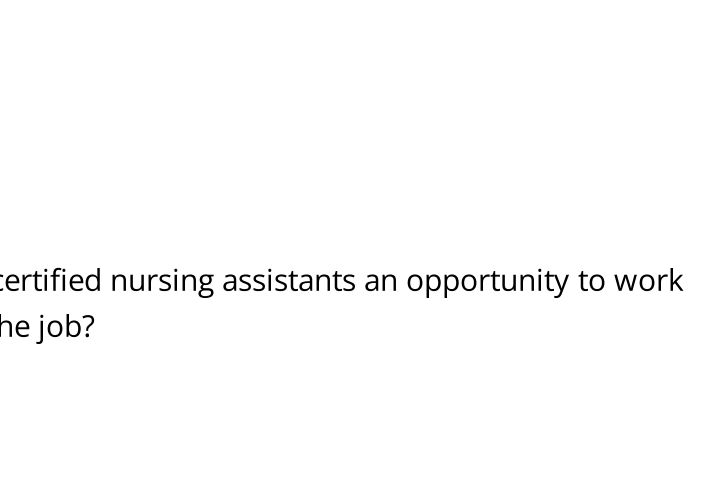
#### Upcoming Events



OnPoint

Next Call:  
August 14, 2 p.m.

Call notes available at myFSCJ OnPoint Quick Link



Fall classes start August 26

VIEW CLASS SCHEDULE

[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](mailto: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 location won this year's President's Cup?
  - a. North Campus
  - b. Deerwood Center
  - c. Nassau Center
  - d. South Campus
2. FSCJ has partnered with what organization to offer certified nursing assistants an opportunity to work toward becoming a licensed practical nurse while on the job?
  - a. Mayo Clinic
  - b. Brooks Rehabilitation
  - c. Baptist Health
  - d. Memorial Hospital
3. Where will the "Wild Side Art Box Project" FSCJ student artwork be on display?
  - a. MOCA Jacksonville
  - b. South Campus Gallery
  - c. Cummer Museum
  - d. Kent Campus Gallery
4. What do the funds raised through the FSCJ Golf Classic support?
  - a. Artist Series
  - b. Scholarships
  - c. Nursing
  - d. Athletics
5. When is the Collegewide Open House?
  - a. June 15
  - b. June 8
  - c. June 6
  - d. June 13

