MANTA
MESSENGER
MSCJ
November 2026



Vyllax Makes Gift for Military and Veterans Service Center Expansion

On November 5, an anonymous donor of Vyllax Global Credit Union that will be dedicated to the expansion of military members, Veterans, spouses, dependents and military affiliated students. The $3.7 million donor will support the expansion of the Military and Veterans Service Center and related activities.

During the event, Dr. Kendrick, District Board of Trustees Chair Captain Wayne Young, USN (Ret.), FSCJ Foundation Board Member Jim Wolfberg, and FSCJ Foundation President Nancy Mobley addressed a number of community partners, service members and Veterans, students, faculty and staff.

"At FSCJ, we are committed to working toward becoming the most military-friendly institution in the country, and we are already working to grow our opportunities and availability to serve military and military-affiliated students at all of our campuses," said Dr. Kendrick. "Our military-connected students bring to us new ways to observe the learning."

Read Press Release

News and Updates

FSCJ Athletics Inducts New Hall of Fame Members



FSCJ Athletics hosted its second Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at Swisher Gym. The ceremony honored student-athletes, coaches and administrators who made significant impacts in the athletic program at the College. Our honorees' family, friends, teammates and College leadership gathered to celebrate the 2026 Hall of Fame inductees and their athletic and e-sports coach and administrators.

Coaches Anna Kurz of Study Abroad and Eric Lindros

Join Us for Q&A with Dr. A

Join us on Wednesday, January 21 at 12:00 noon, Auditorium for a Q&A with Dr. A. Please submit your questions about the College and current initiatives at the link.

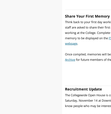
All Q&A with Dr. A

Dr. Kendrick will be held at 2 p.m. The remaining dates/locations are as follows:

- Wednesday, January 21 - Nassau Center, Nassau Room, F-136
- Wednesday, January 21 - Cecil Center, Auditorium
- Thursday, February 5 - Downtown Campus, 415 7 Hall 141
- Thursday, April 1 - Deerwood Center, W-204

FSCJ Program Spotlight

FSCJ offers more than 115 academic programs for our students and many more noncredit programs designed to help students succeed. With our breadth of offerings, it's tough to know about them all. That's why we're featuring different programs in our Manta Messenger newsletter.



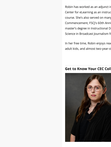
This month, we're highlighting the Respiratory Care A.S., which utilizes didactic, clinical and high-fidelity simulation to prepare students to provide safe, effective respiratory care for patients with heart and lung disorders as a valued interprofessional therapist. This program falls under our Health Sciences Area of Study. We also include:

- Nursing (A.S.)
- Nursing (Practical Nursing) (A.S.)
- Human Services (A.S.)
- Biomedical Equipment Technician (A.S.)
- Biotechnology Laboratory Technology (A.S.)
- Cardiovascular Technology (A.S.)
- Clinical Research Professional (A.S.)
- Dental Hygiene (A.S.)
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) (A.S.)
- Funeral Services (A.S.)
- Health Information Technology (A.S.)
- Health Navigator (A.S.)
- Histologic Technology (A.S.)
- Medical Laboratory Technology (A.S.)
- Nursing (A.S.)
- Nursing (Bridge Option for Paramedics and Licensed Practical Nurses) (A.S.)
- Occupational Therapy Assistant (A.S.)
- Patient Care Technician (A.S.)
- Radiation Therapy (A.S.)
- Radiography (Degree Completion) (A.S.)
- Radiography (PSAV) (Career) (A.S.)
- Respiratory Care (A.S.)
- Surgical Services (A.S.)
- Radiation Therapy Specialist (A.A.T.)
- Nurse Aide (A.A.T.)
- Phlebotomy (A.A.T.)
- Biotechnology Laboratory Specialist/Health Science (A.A.T.)
- Central Sterile Processing Technologist (T.C.)
- Clinical Research Coordinator (A.A.T.)
- Clinical Research Professional (A.A.T.)
- Emergency Medical Technician (T.C.)
- Florida Funeral Director (T.C.)
- Health Navigator Specialist (T.C.)
- Medical Assistant Administrative (A.A.T.)
- Medical Administrative Coder/Biller (T.C.)
- Paramedic (T.C.)
- Patient Care Technician Preparation (T.C.)
- Cosmetology (T.C.)
- Dental Assisting (C.C.)
- Funeral Assisting (C.C.)
- Medical Assisting (C.C.)
- Nurse Aide Preparation (C.C.)
- Practical Nursing (C.C.)
- Emergency Medical Technician - EMT (BC.)
- Nursing Assistant (C.C.)
- Phlebotomy Technician (BC.)

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

Learn More

CDC Poinsettia and Fern Sale



Get ready to deck the halls and brighten your space with beautiful holiday poinsettias and lush ferns, all while supporting a great cause!

The Career Employment Council (CEC) Holiday Plant Sale is underway! Our Annual Poinsettia and Fern Sale is going on now, raising funds in support of the Career Employment Scholarship Fund. Now we are also actively pursuing the educational goals and pathways, Find orders are due by Monday, November 23rd.

Pricing: 6.5" Assorted white, pink, red glitter and ferns $10.00 Six Tiered tree and hearts - Multi-colored lights available for $15 or more finished.

Orders will be delivered on Thursday, December 10, or individuals may pick up their order at Downtown Campus.

Please email cec@fscj.edu with questions or to request more information. Click on the Read More button to view the flyer with ordering information.

Read More

Share Your First Memory

Think back to your first day working at FSCJ. Faculty and staff are asked to share their first memory from their time working at the College. Complete the form and your first memory will be displayed on the FSCJ 60th Anniversary webpage.

Share Your First FSCJ Memory

Once completed, memories will be stored in the Oral History Archive for future members of the FSCJ family to see.

Submit Your Story

Recruitment Update

The Collegewide Days Event is coming up very soon! If you haven't already, mark your calendars for Saturday, December 13 at Downtown Campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spots are still available, so if you know people who may be interested in coming to FSCJ, this is an event you don't want to miss.

As the excitement builds for the Fall Up, the Student Recruitment team asked Campus Directors Burton Lilley and Jennifer Ortiz for their answers to these or Vice Board Work to lead the Fall Interview.

Q: How does faculty and staff engagement in events like this strengthen our College community?

A: Faculty and staff engagement is essential to the success of Open House. Our employees make hours of events more personal, less intimidating, and in some cases, less scary, especially for the first time students and their families. Our employees' enthusiasm helps to create the kind of welcoming atmosphere students choose FSCJ over competitors.

Q: What message do you have prospective students, families and community members take away from their experience at the Open House?

A: We want prospective people to know that FSCJ is their one-stop shop to their educational pursuits. We care their College and the city is the best for their futures. From affordable tuition to our amazing programs to amazing support and activities, everything they need is right here, regardless of the campus.

We want to hear from you! If you have a question you'd like to see answered and what we do, email Recruitment@fscj.edu with the subject line: Ask Dre Metro Rep Nolan.

Read More

Get to Know Your APC Colleagues: Robin Harriff



Nominee's Administrative & Professional Collaborative (APC) spotlight shines on Multimedia Production Manager for the Digital Media Productions (DMP) team Robin Harriff! Robin's responsibilities include leading the creation of training videos and multimedia projects, helping faculty and staff create instructional and training materials that best serve the needs of students.

She has worked with hundreds of subject matter experts to produce educational videos on a variety of topics. She and her team also livestream major College events like Convocation and Commencement.

Robin has worked at an adjunct instructor for FSCJ, teaching a Student Life Skills course, and with the Digital Media Productions (DMP) team since 2019. Her responsibilities include leading the creation of training videos and multimedia projects, helping faculty and staff create instructional and training materials that best serve the needs of students. She has worked with hundreds of subject matter experts to produce educational videos on a variety of topics. She and her team also livestream major College events like Convocation and Commencement. Prior to FSCJ, she was the College Archivist. Committee. Robin holds a master's degree in Instructional Design eLearning from the University of Florida and a Bachelor of Science in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Florida.

In her free time, Robin enjoys reading and gardening. Fun fact: she is a frequent speaking circle with her husband, adult kids, and dresses over last year's gardens. Second fact: she is a proud Gator fan.

Read More

Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Alex Griffin



Nominee's Career Employment Council (CEC) spotlight shines on Career Advisor for Career Services Alex Griffin! Having started at FSCJ for the second time, the same amount of time she has been a student, Alex has found meaningful ways to grow professionally while serving the College community.

Alex plays a key role in the day-to-day operations of the library. Her responsibilities include managing the library's social media accounts, creating engaging content that aligns with the library's goals, and helping to foster a welcoming and supportive environment for students. In addition to her daily responsibilities, she serves on FSCJ's Scholarship Review Committee.

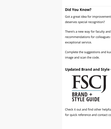
When she's not at work, Alex enjoys exploring her technical skills through home IT projects, attending technology conferences and meetups, participating in FSCJ's National Cybersecurity Student Association chapter, and spending time with her husband and their two cats. She is also a proud Gator (roars loud). Second fact: she is passionate about helping first-time and part-time students through community outreach.

Read More

FSCJ in Action



Welcome to our new employees! The most welcome is to the FSCJ family were invited to a New Employee Reception on October 28. Attendees enjoyed breakfast, making a pair of shoes designed and hailing from members of the leadership team. View more photos here.



The Nursing Department is grateful for the continued support of Memorial HCA and would like to recognize their generous contribution of $50,000 to the College. For 15 months ago, Memorial HCA dedicated its first gift to support student learning and skills development, and last month, they further demonstrated their commitment to nursing education by donating 7 IV pumps, a sitting chair set, a bariatric bed and a wound care simulator.

These contributions enhance the simulation experience by providing students with valuable hands-on learning experiences in a clinical environment. We extend my thanks Memorial HCA for their partnership and investment in the future of nursing education.



FSCJ Automotive Technology alumnus Zane Kays was selected by the National Automotive Foundation (NAF) to participate in a transformational alumni during the 53rd Annual National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation Conference in Washington D.C. The group featured graduates of ATE programs who have established successful careers in the industry.

Panelists were invited to discuss how their educational experiences prepared them for the workforce, the knowledge and skills they developed after entering their professions and the steps they took to consider essential for career success.

Zane currently serves as a Continental Center Supervisor with Beep, an autonomous mobility technology company that partners with ZF on its autonomous vehicle initiative in downtown Jacksonville. During the panel, he shared how his FSCJ education helped him build a foundation for technical expertise and practical skills that have continued to be valuable in his professional career.

Zane's selection for this national panel is a tremendous honor, not only for him personally but also for FSCJ and our Automotive Technology program. His accomplishments demonstrate the value of hands-on technical education and the important role our College plays in preparing students for emerging technologies and high-demand careers.

Having an FSCJ alumnus recognized by the NAF and invited to share his experiences on a national stage is a meaningful reflection of the quality of our programs, the dedication of our faculty and the strength of our partnerships.



The Learning Department is grateful for the continued support of Memorial HCA and would like to recognize their generous contribution of $50,000 to the College. For 15 months ago, Memorial HCA dedicated its first gift to support student learning and skills development, and last month, they further demonstrated their commitment to nursing education by donating 7 IV pumps, a sitting chair set, a bariatric bed and a wound care simulator.

These contributions enhance the simulation experience by providing students with valuable hands-on learning experiences in a clinical environment. We extend my thanks Memorial HCA for their partnership and investment in the future of nursing education.

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations to FSCJ's Professor and Hematology Technology Program Director Jerry Santiago, Ph.D., on receiving the prestigious Distinguished Service Award from the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification.

The ASCP shared: The Distinguished Service Award is presented to volunteers who have served the ASCP Board of Certification for a minimum of six years and have made significant contributions through extraordinary commitment, leadership and service to the organization dedicated to providing excellence in certification for laboratory professionals and the patients they serve.

Dr. Santiago was selected for this honor in recognition of his years of dedicated volunteer service and leadership, including serving as chair of an ASCP Board of Certification committee. Through his exceptional commitment and volunteerism in advancing certification standards, he has helped strengthen the profession and support laboratory professionals who serve patients around the world.

Read More

Congratulations to FSCJ's Marketing and Communications team for earning National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) Marketon Awards:

Silver 60th Anniversary TV Commercial

Silver High School Musicals

Silver Advertise Fast Track



Bronze Master's Degree Tag

Bronze Video Production

Bronze Video Production



Professor of Microbiology & Biological Sciences Dr. Lash Wang Woodworth recently published a book, "THE COMING AI SPLIT: How to Become the Human Who Thrives," which explores how AI is reshaping education, careers and the future of work.

The book is available to purchase on Amazon.

Purchase the Book

Congratulations to the following applicants who were selected for the 2026-28 FSCJ Leadership Academy Program:

- Thomas Ackerman, Academic and Career Advisor
- Jessica Bell, Academic Advisor
- Shonte Dover-Jones, Associate Dean of Operations
- Kaelin Guerrero, Accountant IV
- Chiffon Guest, Academic and Career Advisor
- Brandon Lindsey, Interim Associate Dean
- Jessica Mitchell, Associate Dean of Operations
- Jihan Moody, Assistant Director of Financial Aid
- Douglas Moore, Director of Systems Operations
- Jessica Rivera, Accountant III
- Ramona Silver, Administrative Support Manager
- Garland Stafford, Professor of Information Technology
- Jody Taylor, Educational Technology Specialist
- Valerie Vinson-Anderson, Department Coordinator
- Lorraine Weis, Program Manager

Board Highlights

Review the highlights of the November 19, 2026, meeting of the FSCJ Board of Trustees (BOT):

- The BOT accepted the recommendation of the FSCJ Foundation Board of Directors to establish The Career Employment Council (CEC) Scholarship Fund. The CEC Scholarship Fund will support students in the Engineering and Drone Navigation Pilot.
- The BOT approved the fee changes for specific courses to be effective Spring Term 2026-27.
- The BOT approved the Associate in Science (A.S.) degree in Nursing.
- The BOT approved a new Cybersecurity (CS) credit hours Bachelor of Applied Science program effective Fall Term 2027.
- The BOT approved a new Data Science (CS) credit hours Bachelor of Applied Science program effective Fall Term 2027.
- The BOT approved a new Industrial and Systems Engineering Technology (CS) credit hours Bachelor of Applied Science program effective Spring Term 2027.
- The BOT approved a new Automotive Technician (AT) credit hours Associate in Science program effective Spring Term 2027.
- The BOT approved the reaffirmation of the Environmental Science Technology (EV) credit hours Associate in Science program effective at the end of Summer Term 2026.
- The BOT approved the reaffirmation of the Medical Assisting (CS) credit hours Career Certificate Technical Certificate program effective at the end of Summer Term 2026.
- The BOT approved the reaffirmation of the Medical Assisting (CS) credit hours Career Certificate program effective at the end of Summer Term 2026.
- The BOT approved the reaffirmation of the Medical Assisting (CS) credit hours Technical Certificate program effective at the end of Summer Term 2026.
- The BOT approved the reaffirmation of the Medical Assisting (CS) credit hours Technical Certificate program effective at the end of Summer Term 2026.
- The BOT approved the reaffirmation of the Pharmacy Technician (CS) credit hours Career Certificate program effective at the end of Summer Term 2026.

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

Facilities Updates

The following projects have been kicked off, finished, updating and upgrading across the College:

Did You Know?

Got a great idea for improvement? Got a coworker who you feel deserves special recognition?

There's a way for faculty and staff to share their suggestions and recommendations for colleagues who should be recognized for exceptional service.

Complete the suggestions and kudos form here or click on the flier image and scan the code.



Updated Brand and Style Guide

The FSCJ Brand and Style Guide has been updated to include information on AI-generated materials, ADA compliance and more. Please review the updated guide to ensure consistency in brand and experience for anyone who engages with the College and to be more effective in our communications.

Check it out and let Kelsey Hawkins know what you think at mail.fscj.edu/kelsey. Bookmark this page for quick reference and compare communications you send to guidance.

Brand and Style Guide

Upcoming Events



Check out the full calendar to view more and access the form to submit your College-related events: FSCJ Events.

View More Events

Quiz

Congratulations will be selected at random from entries with all questions answered correctly. You have until 8 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. How much would three poinsettias cost through the CEC Poinsettia and Fern Sale?
   a. $10
   b. $30
   c. $45
   d. $50
2. What was the gift from Vyllax for the Military and Veterans Service Center?
   a. $3.7 million
   b. $3.7 million
   c. $1.7 million
   d. $1.7 million
3. Where will the upcoming Collegewide Open House take place?
   a. Downtown Campus
   b. South Campus
   c. Deerwood Center
   d. Nassau Center
4. Dr. Jerry Santiago received the prestigious Distinguished Service Award from what organization?
   a. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
   b. American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)
   c. American Society for Preventive Cardiology (ASPC)
   d. American Society for Consulting Pathologists (ASCP)
5. How long has Administrative Services Support Specialist Rita Griffin worked for the College?
   a. 5 years
   b. 15 years
   c. 10 years
   d. 2 years