

October 2024



Years of Service and Retiree Celebration

We are pleased to have the opportunity to recognize members of the FSCJ family who have reached significant years of service milestones as well as those who are entering retirement.

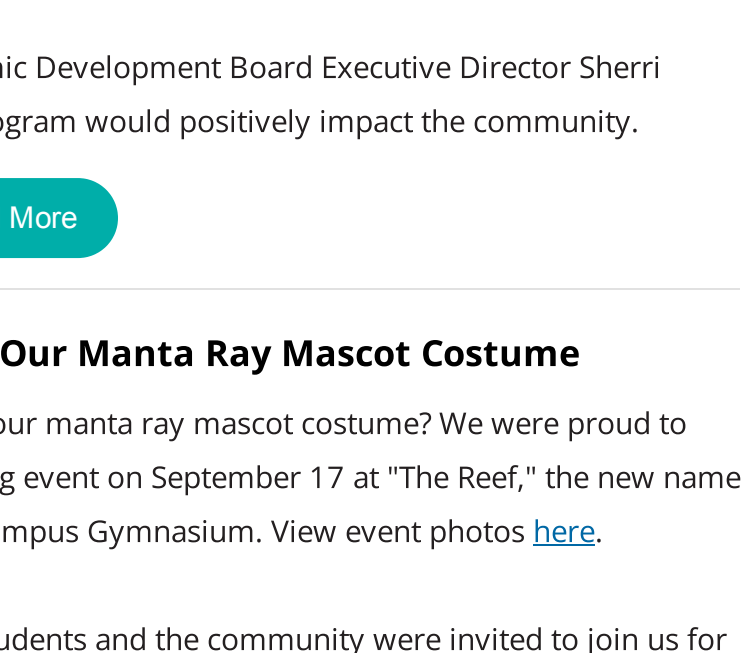
The latest Years of Service and Retiree Celebration was held on Thursday, September 19. Dr. A, members of the District Board of Trustees, Executive Leadership Team, Campus Deans and supervisors gathered to honor and celebrate the contributions of the honorees.

[View Photos](#)

News and Updates

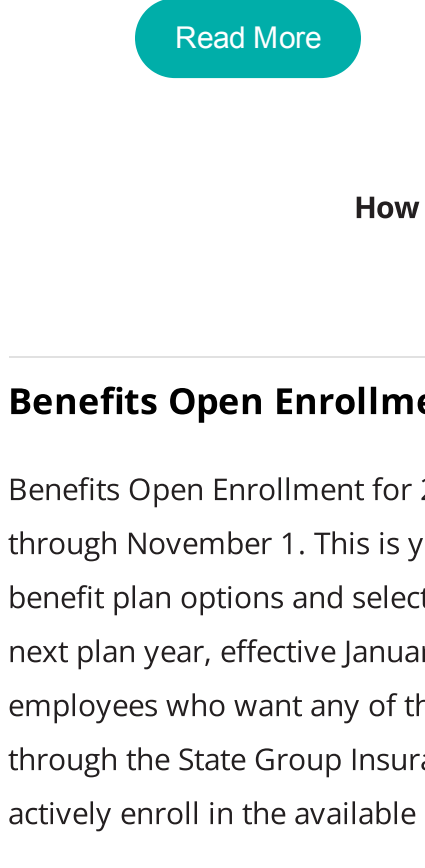
Commercial Vehicle Driving Ribbon Cutting

FSCJ hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 12 to unveil the new Commercial Vehicle Driving program at the Nassau Center. Dr. A was joined by AVP of Academic Operations and Nassau Center Campus Dean Dr. Rich Turner and Instructional Program Manager Joe Lackey to share details of the program, which allows Nassau County residents to obtain certification to fill the demand for jobs in the commercial vehicle driving field.



Senator Clay Yarborough and Nassau County Economic Development Board Executive Director Sherri Mitchell were also in attendance, sharing how the program would positively impact the community.

[Read More](#)



Introducing Our Manta Ray Mascot Costume

Have you seen our manta ray mascot costume? We were proud to host an unveiling event on September 17 at "The Reef," the new name for the South Campus Gymnasium. View event photos [here](#).

Faculty, staff, students and the community were invited to join us for this event, where we introduced the costume to the world and kicked off the naming process. Attendees were among the first to see the mascot which will represent our athletics teams and carry the FSCJ team spirit across the College and into the community. The name will be announced very soon so be on the lookout for that announcement.

Many thanks to Dr. Samantha Ertenberg for suiting up to be our mascot for the festivities! She's now passing the duties along to hand-selected student workers who completed an interview process and will wear the costume for various events and activities.

Visit the [mascot shop](#) to get your manta ray gear!

How do you like the look of our manta ray costume?

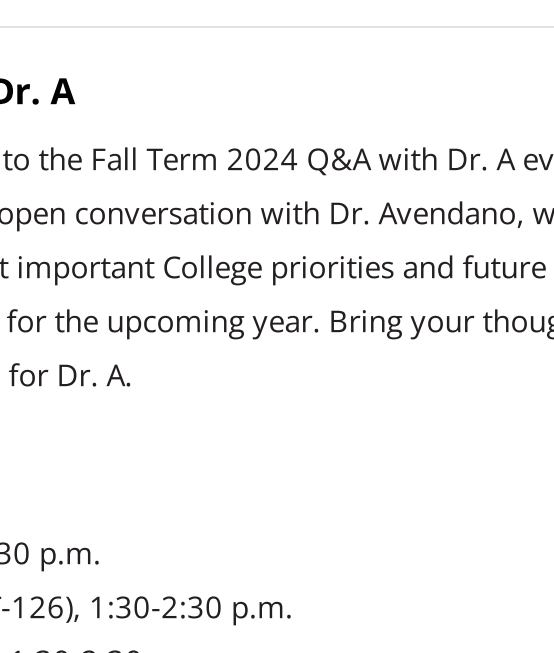


Benefits Open Enrollment

Benefits Open Enrollment for 2025 is going on now through November 1. This is your time to review benefit plan options and select insurance(s) for the next plan year, effective January 1, 2025. All eligible employees who want any of the benefits offered through the State Group Insurance Program must actively enroll in the available plans.

Please note: FSCJ will not automatically enroll employees in State Group Insurance benefits. You are under no obligation to enroll in any of the State Group Insurance offerings. However, failure to enroll will mean you do not have insurance coverage for the 2025 plan year.

Check your Human Resources emails or contact benefits@fscj.edu for more information.

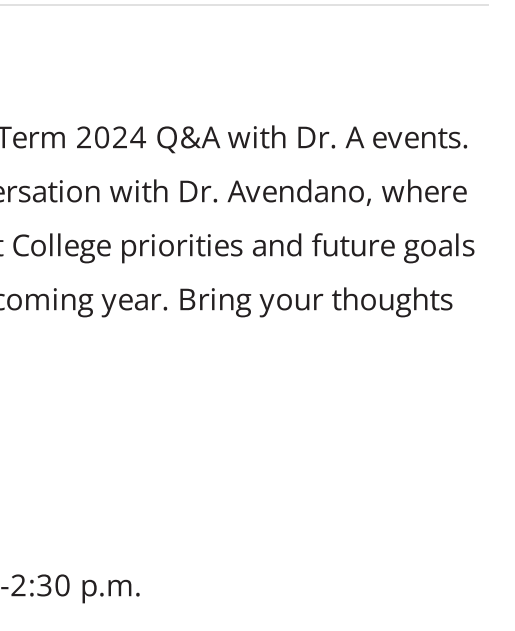


FSCJ Recognized by Great Colleges to Work For

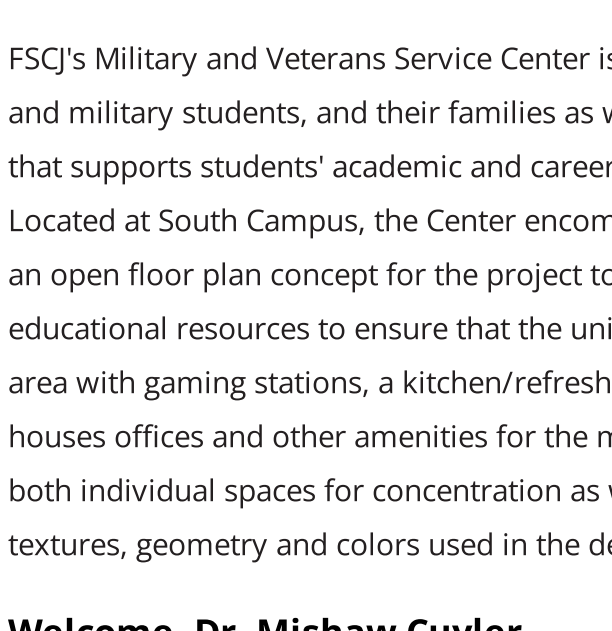
Dr. A recently shared that FSCJ was named a Great College to Work For with the special designation as an Honor Roll Institution for 2024!

We were one of 75 institutions out of 216 to be recognized, and one of only 42 institutions to receive the Honor Roll distinction. The Honor Roll distinction goes to the top 10 colleges recognized the greatest number of times in each size category. This is our first year participating in the Great Colleges to Work For program so it is an honor to be recognized and to receive the Honor Roll designation in 9 of the 10 categories, including:

- Job Satisfaction & Support
- Professional Development
- Mission & Pride
- Supervisor/Department Chair Effectiveness
- Confidence in Senior Leadership
- Faculty & Staff Well-being
- Shared Governance
- Faculty Experience
- Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging



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Q&A with Dr. A

You're invited to the Fall Term 2024 Q&A with Dr. A. events. Join us for an open conversation with Dr. Avendano, where he'll talk about important College priorities and future goals and initiatives for the upcoming year. Bring your thoughts and questions for Dr. A.

Remaining events:

- Kent Campus, Wednesday, October 30, 9-12:00, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- Nassau Center, Thursday, October 31, Nassau Room (T-126), 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- South Campus, Tuesday, November 5, Lakeside Room, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- Cecil Center, Thursday, November 21, Auditorium, 2-3 p.m.

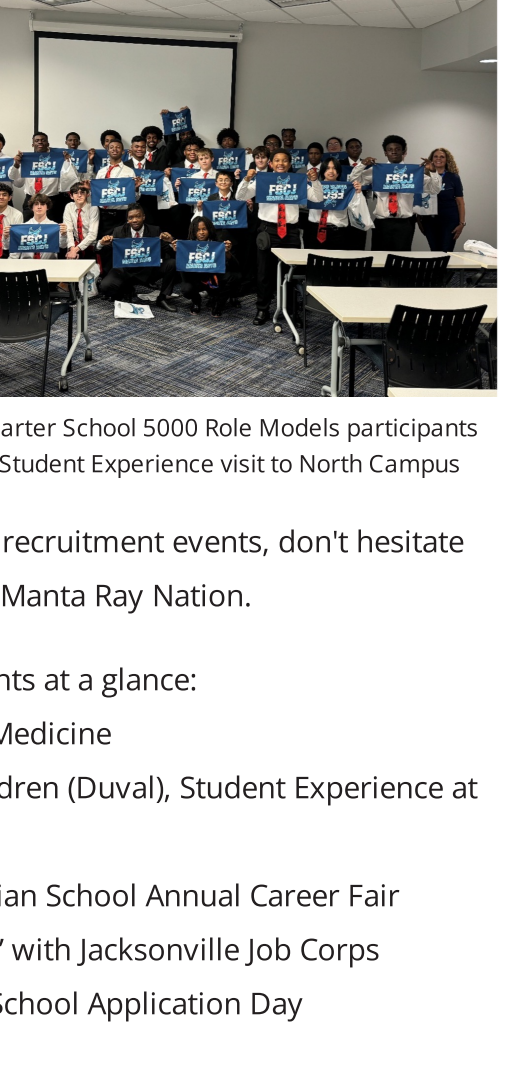
Military and Veteran Spotlight

FSCJ's Military and Veterans Service Center is designed to provide, improve and expand services for Veteran and military students, and their families as well. The Center offers a holistic, student-centered environment that supports students' academic and career goals, in addition to their personal and mental well-being. Located at South Campus, the Center encompasses 3,750 square feet in Building "U." The design team used an open floor plan concept for the project to maximize space and provide a variety of flexible options for educational resources to ensure that the unique needs and challenges are met. Included are a large lounge area with gaming stations, a kitchen/refresh zone with lockers and a training classroom for students. It also houses offices and other amenities for the managing staff. The success of the design is that users can find both individual spaces for concentration as well as larger spaces for collaboration. The modern aesthetic of textures, geometry and colors used in the design are lyrically blended to celebrate the spirit of FSCJ.

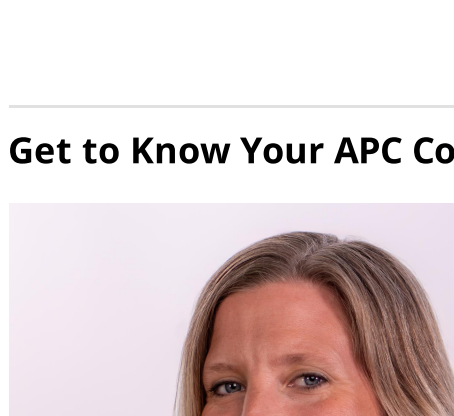
Welcome, Dr. Mishaw Cuyler

We would like to introduce our new Executive Director of Military Affairs & Veteran Services Mishaw Cuyler, Ph.D. Following a two-month search process, he was selected to fill the position starting October 1 and has hit the ground running.

Dr. Cuyler has more than 21 years of military leadership experience, retiring from the U.S. Army as a Lieutenant Colonel. His expertise includes higher education and healthcare administration with concentration in managing complex initiatives, graduate education, and community and industry partnership. Additionally, Dr. Cuyler is skilled in overseeing curriculum development, fostering research collaborations, and implementing engagement and recruitment strategies.



[Read More](#)



Student Climate Survey

The 2024 Student Climate Survey kicked off on September 23 and will run through November 8. Student responses will help us measure campus experiences and services and provide a safer, more equitable and inclusive learning environment for everyone. Students who complete the survey may be eligible to win one of the 20 gift card prizes provided by the FSCJ Foundation. You can help by encouraging student participation. Share the [digital flier](#) with your class or any students you work with.

For questions about the survey, please email Dr. Jerrett Dumouchel at jerrett.dumouchel@fscj.edu.

[Learn More](#)

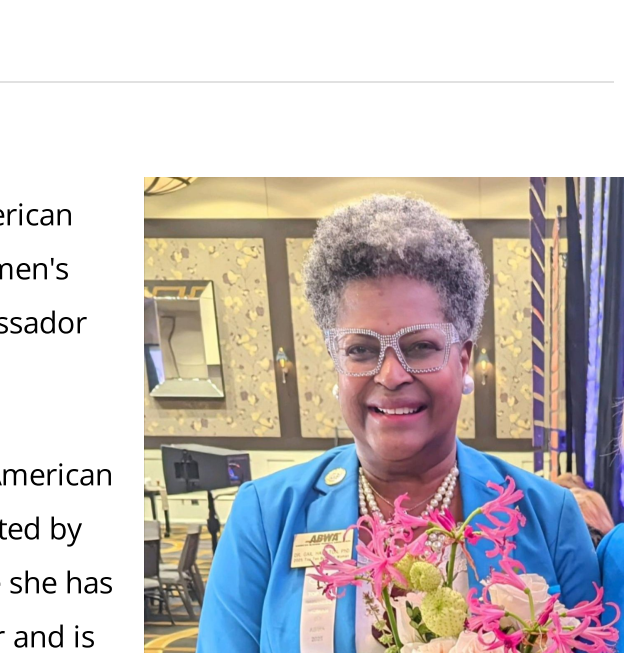
60th Anniversary Planning

FSCJ's 60th Anniversary begins in August 2025! Faculty and staff are invited to share their ideas and input to help develop a fitting celebration for this remarkable milestone. This is your chance to brainstorm celebration activities, share ideas on keepsakes and more to make the year even more memorable.

If you are interested in participating in a committee or just have an idea to pass along, please send an email with your interest to communications@fscj.edu.

Recruitment Update

Faculty participation in the student recruitment process is essential. The faculty's voice brings the College's value proposition to life, showcasing the actual academic experience. A recent spontaneous conversation between a member of the Student Recruitment office and a local high school counselor vividly illustrates the power of faculty-prospective student engagement. The counselor fondly recalled attending an event with her family and how impressed her 11th-grade son was with the event and the professors he met that evening.



Duval Charter School 5000 Role Models participants during a Student Experience visit to North Campus

If you're a faculty member (or not) and are interested in participating in recruitment events, don't hesitate to contact us at fscjrecruitment@fscj.edu with the subject line Dive into Manta Ray Nation.

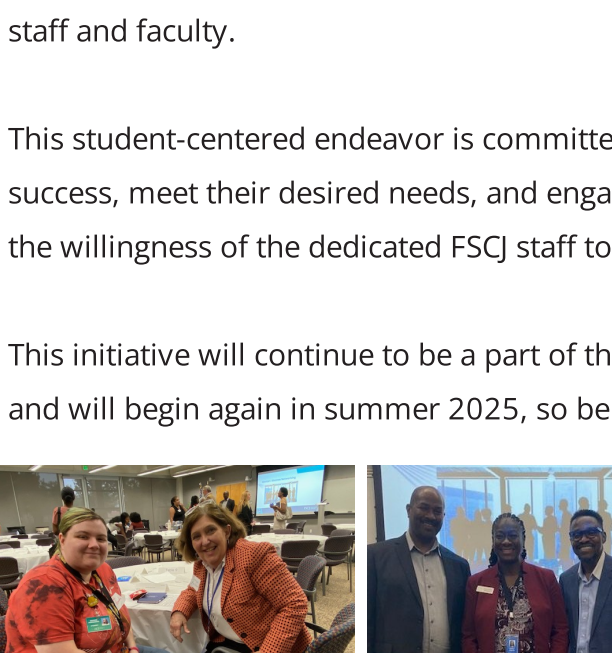
Recruitment by the numbers, September:

Events: 33	October recruitment events at a glance:
Student Connections: 458	10/12: Black Women in Medicine
Tours: 9	10/14: Take Stock in Children (Duval), Student Experience at South Campus
Tour attendees: 10	10/18: Lighthouse Christian School Annual Career Fair
	10/22: "Why FSCJ & CTE?" with Jacksonville Job Corps
	10/29: Englewood High School Application Day

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.

[Read More](#)

Get to Know Your APC Colleagues: Shannon Dew

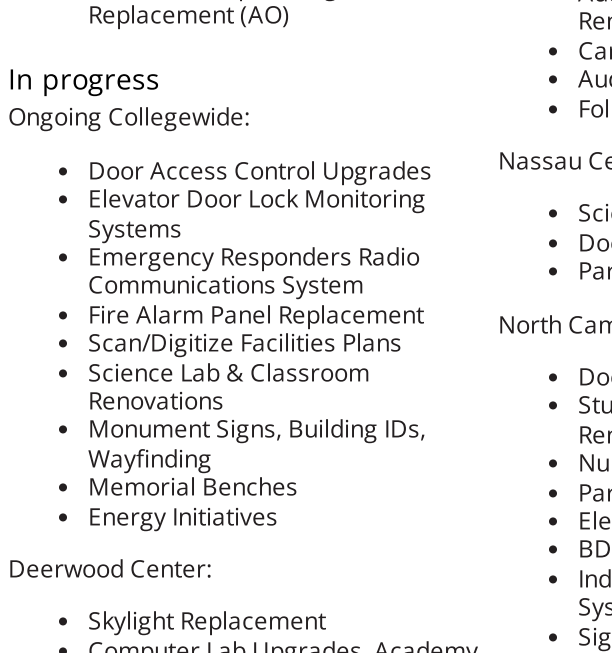


October's Administrative & Professional Collaborative (APC) spotlight shines on Director of Library Services Shannon Dew. Serving in this role for more than a decade, she provides strategic leadership in library services, overseeing both campus and online operations to support student success and faculty needs. Shannon collaborates with academic divisions and departments to integrate information resources and instructional technologies, ensuring the library's active role in the College's educational mission.

In addition to her leadership at FSCJ, Shannon is a strong advocate for advancing educational accessibility, particularly in the area of textbook affordability.

[Learn More](#)

Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Ashlie Barker-Emploe



October's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight shines on Program Coordinator for the H.O.P.E. Food Pantry, Ashlie Barker-Emploe. Ashlie has worked at FSCJ for nine years and has been in her current position with the H.O.P.E. (Helping Out People Every Day) Food Pantry for four years.

Her previous years at FSCJ were spent as an Advisor II in Student Engagement where she oversaw the food pantry program and other areas in the department.

Ashlie has been the service chair for the AFC for the past couple of years and had the opportunity to serve on several hiring committees and the first round of the FSCJ Succession Planning Application Screening Committee. She also has had the pleasure of serving on every planning committee for FSCJ's Giving Tuesday events since they began!

[Learn More](#)

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

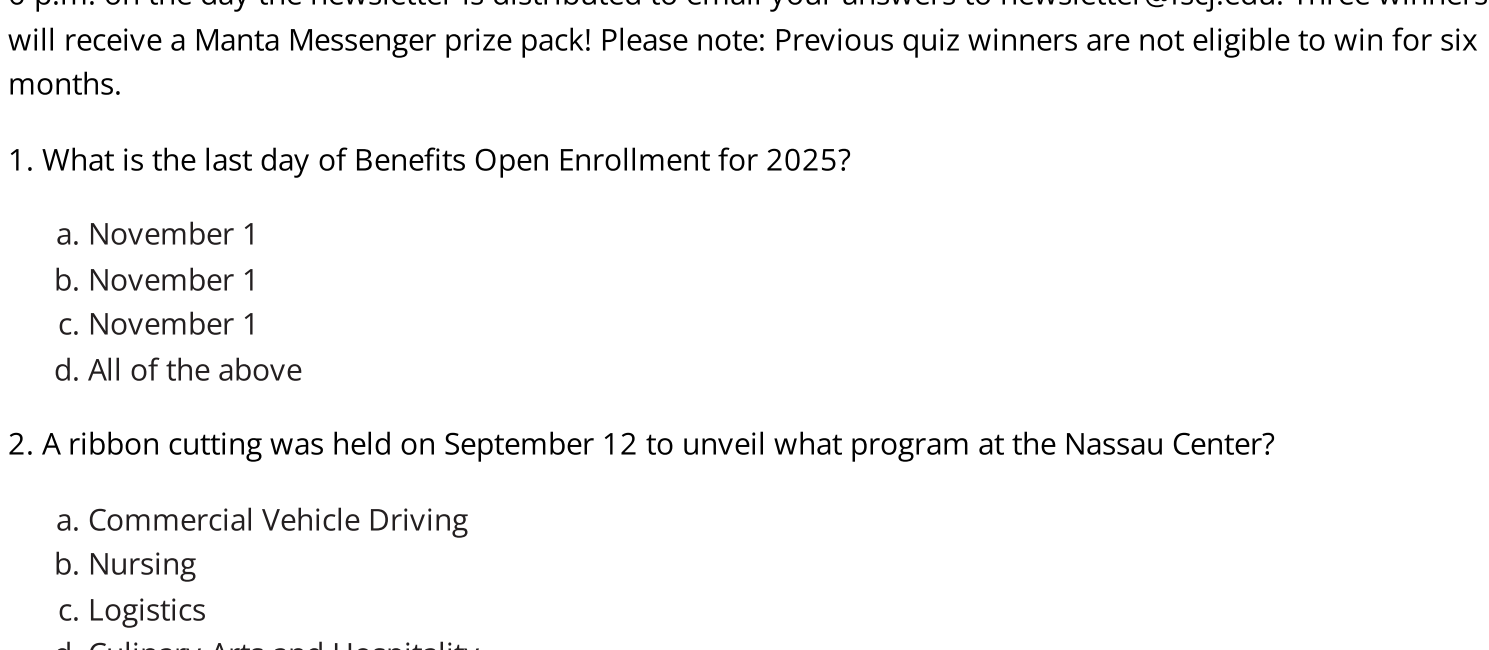
Congratulations to Professor Gail Hamilton, winner of the American Business Woman of the Year from the American Business Women's Association (ABWA). Professor Hamilton will serve as an ambassador and national spokeswoman for the organization.



Each year, chapters are asked to nominate a member for the American Business Woman of the Year. Professor Hamilton was nominated by the EmpowerHer ABWA Chapter out of Orangeburg, SC, where she has been a member since 2020, and has served as finance director and is currently president of the chapter.

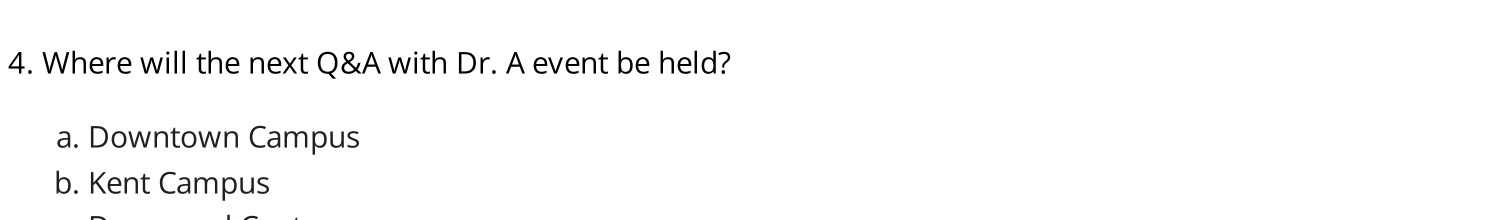
The ABWA was founded in 1949, headquartered in Kansas. The organization has more than 150 chapters throughout the United States with over 10,000 members. Learn more about ABWA [here](#).

FSCJ In Action



The FSCJ Family showed up in a big way this year for the annual First Coast Heart Walk. Thanks to all who participated, raised funds, made donations and supported Team FSCJ and this worthy initiative!

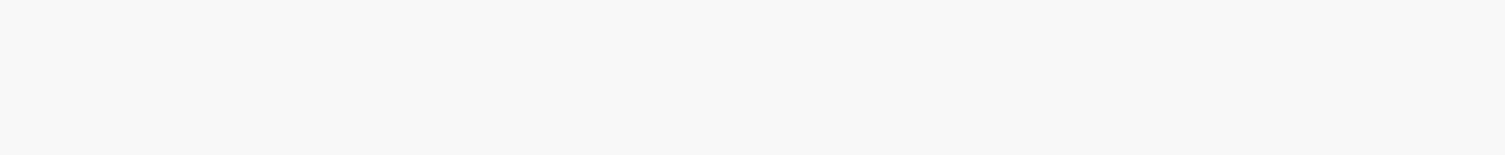
[View Photos](#)



The Student Support and Engagement office introduced the second cohort of the Student Mentorship Program during the September 25 kick-off event. Students were paired with their mentors, consisting of staff and faculty.

This student-centered endeavor is committed to creating an environment that allows students to strive for success, meet their desired needs, and engage them academically, socially and civically. It also highlights the willingness of the dedicated FSCJ staff to provide students with guidance, feedback and encouragement.

This initiative will continue to be a part of the FSCJ culture. The mentoring opportunity is a yearly initiative and will begin again in summer 2025, so be on the lookout for your opportunity to participate.



Facilities Updates

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

Recently completed	Kent Campus:	In planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deerwood, Outdoor Furniture• Nassau, Classroom Paint• Downtown, Pipe Lining, Chiller Replacement (AC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hot Water System Replacement• Door Access Control Upgrades• Science Lab Upgrades• Auditorium Dressing Room Renovation• Career Closet Renovations• Follett Capital Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nassau Center:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Yulee Room Furniture• North Campus:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paint Tower Stairwell• Boiler Replacement• CJC Window Replacement• South Campus:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire Academy/EMS Public Service Upgrade• Wilson Center Architect Assessment• Honors Program Expansion• Security Renovation

In progress	Nassau Center:
<p>Ongoing Collegewide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Door Access Control Upgrades• Elevator Door Lock Monitoring Systems• Emergency Responders Radio Communications System• Fire Alarm Panel Replacement• Scan/Digital Facilities Plans• Science Lab & Classroom Renovations• Monument Signs, Building IDs, Wayfinding• Memorial Benches• Energy Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer Lab Upgrades, Academy Space Renovation• Assessment Locker Replacement

Deerwood Center:	North Campus:	South Campus:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skylight Replacement• Computer Lab Upgrades, Academy Space Renovation• Assessment Locker Replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Door Access Control Upgrades• Student Services, Science Lab Renovation• Nursing Program Expansion• Parking Lot Lighting• Elevator Modernization• ADA Monitoring System• Individual Addressable Monitoring System• Signage• CJC Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Door Access Control Upgrades• Roof Replacement• Elevator Modernization• Gym and Gym Floor, Renovation/Refinish• Fire Tower Repair• Fire Academy Pipe Replacement, Sullis Pad• Lighting Controls Upgrade• Fire Alarm System Replacement• Follett Capital Improvements• Flooring• Childcare Center Renovation• Men's Locker Room Renovation• Science Lab Upgrades

Downtown Campus:	South Campus:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VESC Renovation• Building Envelope• Chiller Replacement• Elevator Modernization• Door Access Control Upgrades• ADA Signage• Fire Alarm System Replacement• Follett Capital Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Door Access Control Upgrades• Roof Replacement• Elevator Modernization• Gym and Gym Floor, Renovation/Refinish• Fire Tower Repair• Fire Academy Pipe Replacement, Sullis Pad• Lighting Controls Upgrade• Fire Alarm System Replacement• Follett Capital Improvements• Flooring• Childcare Center Renovation• Men's Locker Room Renovation• Science Lab Upgrades

Upcoming Events

Next Call:
November 20, 2 p.m.

Call notes available at [myFSCJ OnPoint Quick Link](#)

Fall Episodes:
9/5, 10/1, 11/4, 12/2

Available on:

- YouTube
- iStock
- Apple TV

and many other podcast services!

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 1
2024
8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Register at
[training.fscj.edu](#)

FSCJ Academy for Teaching & Learning
SEVENTH ANNUAL
Science Symposium
Downtown Campus
Advanced Technology Center

Spring classes start January 6

FALL CAREER FAIR
Research with employers
Expand your job search

November 7, 2024, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
FSCJ Advanced Technology Center

PHI KAPPA PSI
UPSILON ALPHA CHAPTER
INDUCTION CEREMONY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024 • 9 p.m.
FSCJ Kent Campus, Auditorium, F-128
3939 Roosevelt Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32205

[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.
- What is the last day of Benefits Open Enrollment for 2025?
 - a. November 1
 - b. November 1
 - c. November 1
 - d. All of the above
 - A ribbon cutting was held on September 12 to unveil what program at the Nassau Center?
 - a. Commercial Vehicle Driving
 - b. Nursing
 - c. Logistics
 - d. Culinary Arts and Hospitality
 - How many gift card prizes are being provided by the FSCJ Foundation for Student Climate Survey completions?
 - a. 25
 - b. 10
 - c. 20
 - d. 50
 - Where will the next Q&A with Dr. A event be held?
 - a. Downtown Campus
 - b. Kent Campus
 - c. Deerwood Center
 - d. Cecil Center
 - FSCJ was one of how many institutions to receive the Honor Roll distinction from Great Colleges to Work For?
 - a. 75
 - b. 216
 - c. 42
 - d. 10

