

October 2025



FSCJ Hosts Annual Years of Service Celebration

The annual Years of Service Celebration was held on Wednesday, September 17, to honor faculty and staff who have reached milestone years of service with the College. Members of the FSCJ family for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and even 60 years were invited for a time of fellowship, celebration and recognition of their achievements and contributions to the College and the students we serve.

College leadership, including Dr. A and members of the District Board of Trustees, the Executive Leadership Team, Campus Deans and supervisors also joined the celebration to share their gratitude.

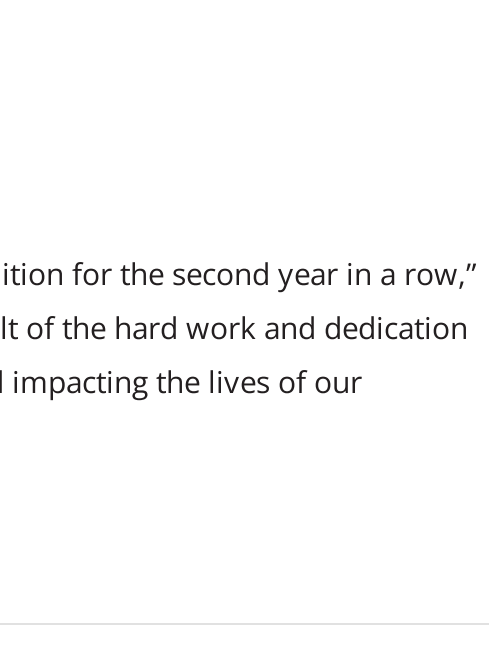
[View Photos](#)

News and Updates

FSCJ Receives "Great Colleges to Work For" Recognition for Second Consecutive Year

FSCJ was again named one of the best colleges to work for, according to the Great Colleges to Work For® program. The results are based on a survey of 199 colleges and universities. In all, 76 achieved "Great College to Work For" recognition for specific best practices and policies. FSCJ received the Honor Roll designation in 9 of 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
- Inclusion, Belonging & Community

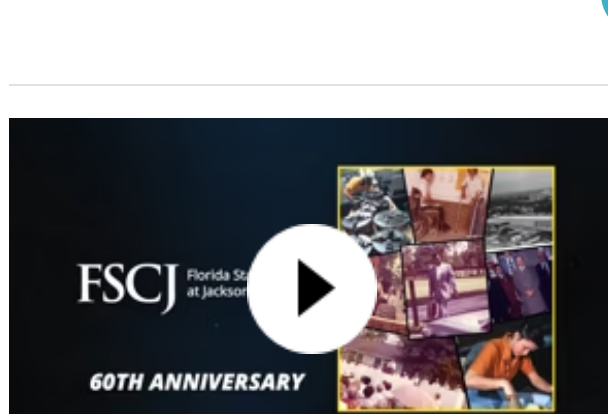


"We are excited to have received this Great Colleges to Work For recognition for the second year in a row," said College President John Avendano, Ph.D. "This honor is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff, who are committed to fulfilling our mission and impacting the lives of our students."

[Read More](#)

Join us for FSCJ Spirit Week

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to join us in celebrating FSCJ Spirit Week, October 20-24. Throughout this week, we'll come together as an FSCJ family to show our Manta Rays pride.



Share your photos on social throughout the week: #fscjspiritweek.

View the Collegewide list of events at fscj.edu/events.

Check out the list of activities below:

Monday, October 20, Manta Monday - Wear your Manta Rays gear and show your school pride.

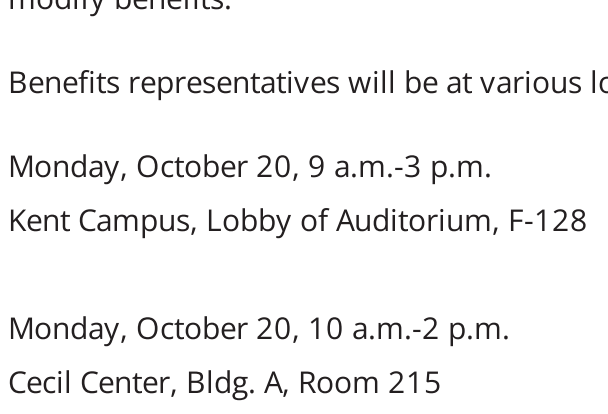
Tuesday, October 21, Twin Tuesday - Plan a matching outfit with a friend.

Wednesday, October 22, Sports Wednesday - Wear your favorite sports team gear.

Thursday, October 23, Throwback Thursday - Wear outfits from the past. Join us at 4 p.m. at South Campus for the [Manta Rays Spirit Night Tailgate](#) with lawn games and a cookout. At 6 p.m., [Manta Madness](#) activities will begin in the gym with a 3-point contest, knockerball, Athletics Hall of Fame announcement, dunk contest and basketball scrimmage.

Friday, October 24, [FSCJ Volleyball vs. Gulf Coast State College](#), 6 p.m. For more information or to view a full schedule, visit fscjmantarays.com. FSCJ Employees & Students - Free with ID, General Admission - \$6 (Card Only)

[View all Events](#)



60th Anniversary Celebration Continues

Check out this video, part of a 12-part series created to highlight specific timeframes throughout the College's history. This is the third video in the series. All 12 will be housed on the 60th webpage as they are finalized.

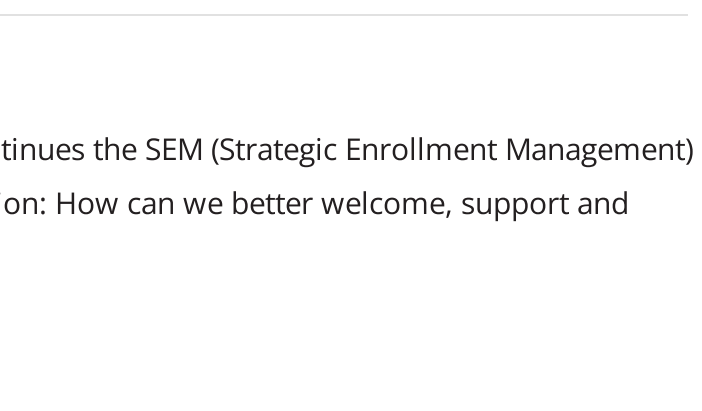
The 60th webpage also includes a list of events and stories of how FSCJ has impacted individuals throughout the community. We'll be highlighting different stories of alumni, partners and friends of the College throughout the year, so be sure to share yours!

fscj.edu/60

Don't Miss 2026 Benefits Open Enrollment

Benefits Open Enrollment is going on now through October 31, 2025. This Open Enrollment period gives employees an opportunity to review benefit plan options and make changes for the next plan year, effective January 1, 2026.

Employees may log into People First to enroll or modify benefits.



Benefits representatives will be at various locations on the following days:

Monday, October 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Kent Campus, Lobby of Auditorium, F-128

Thursday, October 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
North Campus, Bldg. E, Room 166

Monday, October 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Cecil Center, Bldg. A, Room 215

Thursday, October 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Nassau Center, Bldg. T, Room 126

Tuesday, October 21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
South Campus, Bldg. U, Room U-135A

Friday, October 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Downtown Campus ATC, Room T-140/141

Wednesday, October 22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Deerwood Center, Bldg. B, Room 1204

You can visit the Benefits Office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. between October 27 and 31 with additional questions.

[Read More](#)

SEM Collegewide Conversation Tour

The Student Affairs & Enrollment Management team continues the SEM (Strategic Enrollment Management) Collegewide Conversation Tour, exploring one big question: How can we better welcome, support and grow our student community?

Choose from the remaining sessions below and RSVP:

Downtown Campus/URC U103
Thursday, October 23
9:30 a.m.-noon or 1:30-4 p.m.

Kent Campus/D120
Thursday, October 30
9:30 a.m.-noon or 1:30-4 p.m.

[RSVP Now](#)

The Reporting Circuit Roadshow

Join us for "The Reporting Circuit" to explore how state reporting affects students, faculty and staff, fostering a deeper understanding of its significance across the College community while empowering your work. Participants will gain insight into the types of data submitted, key deadlines and the roles various departments play in ensuring accurate and timely reporting.

Choose from the remaining sessions below and RSVP:

Cecil Center North, A109 (Auditorium)
Thursday, October 16, 2-3 p.m.

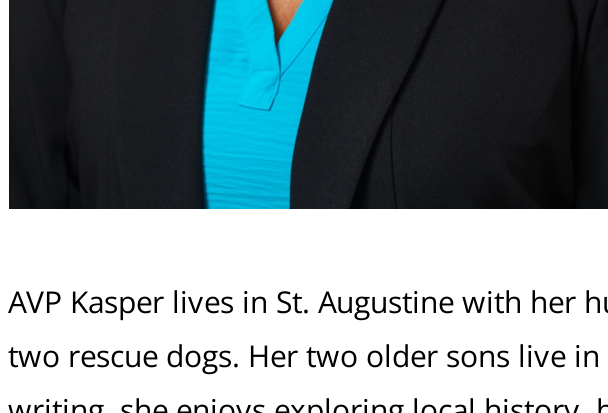
Downtown Campus, A1058 (Small Auditorium)
Wednesday, October 29, 10-11 a.m.

North Campus, E166
Tuesday, October 21, 10-11 a.m.

Nassau Center, T126
Thursday, October 30, 1-2 p.m.

[RSVP Now](#)

CEC 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 Employees' Council (CEC) is thrilled to announce that our Annual Poinsettia and Fern Sale is back, raising funds in support of book scholarships for eligible Career employees who are actively pursuing their educational goals and pathways.

Pricing: \$17 each, three for just \$45 (mix and match)
Final orders are due by Monday, November 24, at 5 p.m.
Orders will be delivered on Thursday, December 11, or individuals may pick up their order at Downtown Campus.

Thank you for your support! With questions or to request more information, please email cec@fscj.edu. View the [flier](#).

[Place an Order](#)

Recruitment Update

While the Student Recruitment Office is in the business of using words to share the FSCJ story with prospective students, we recognize the limits of language alone. The on-campus experience paints the picture and tells the story we want our prospective students to leave with. We want them to walk away with a feeling of awe to tell others about FSCJ.

So, the next time you're asked about FSCJ, feel free to extend an invitation and request a Campus Experience or connect with our team at fscjrecruitment@fscj.edu.

Upcoming events:
10/17: Community Fair & Trades Show; Jax Job Corps
10/22: Fernandina Beach High School Recruitment
Visit
10/22: Duncan Fletcher High School @ Downtown
10/29: College & Career Fair; Frank H Peterson

Engagement By the Numbers:
• Events: 39
• Student Connections: 930
• Individual tours: 10
• Attendees: 13

[Read More](#)

Get to Know Your APC Colleagues: Lisa Kasper



October's Administrative & Professional Collaborative (APC) spotlight shines on Associate Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Lisa Kasper, who joined FSCJ in May 2025. AVP Kasper leads strategic enrollment planning and supports the student experience through areas like Admissions, Advising, Student Recruitment, New Student Orientation and the Contact Center. She's also leading the SEM Collegewide Conversation Tour mentioned in the article above.

Some of her previous leadership roles include Director of Admissions at Borough of Manhattan Community College (CUNY), Ocean County College, and Montclair State University; Manager of Enrollment at The Culinary Institute of America; and University Associate Director of Communications at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

AVP Kasper lives in St. Augustine with her husband, Jason (also an FSCJ employee), her youngest son, and two rescue dogs. Her two older sons live in New Jersey and are very missed! When she's not working or writing, she enjoys exploring local history, browsing bookstores and chasing down her next story.

[Read More](#)

Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Shannon Reid



October's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight features Student Success Navigator Shannon Reid. For over two decades, Shannon has been a dedicated and familiar face at FSCJ, serving students and supporting her colleagues in multiple areas across the College. Shannon currently works in Advising, Financial Aid and Admissions - three essential departments that put her in direct contact with students and their success every single day.

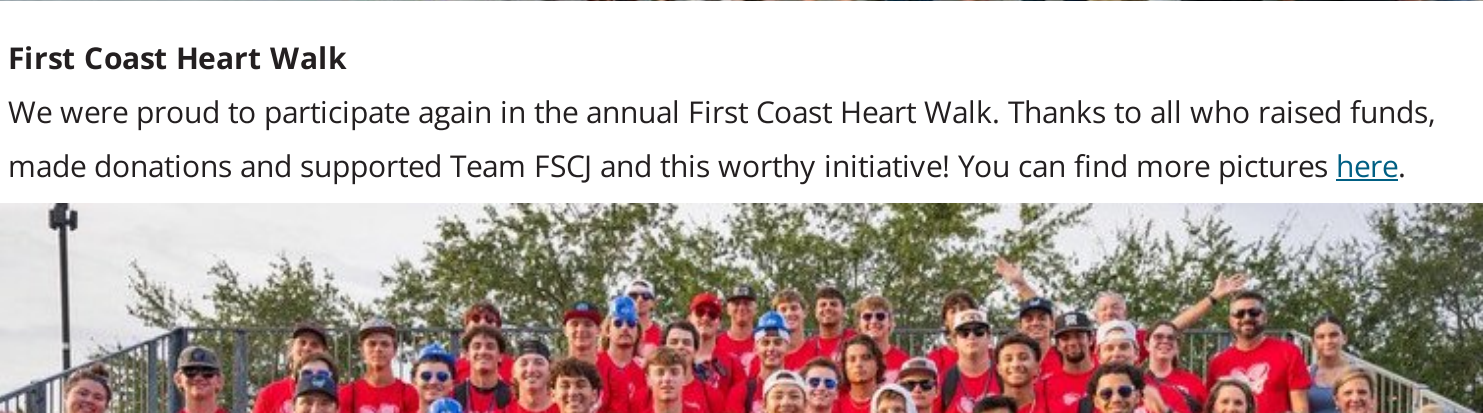
"My favorite part of the job is helping students," Shannon shares. "Seeing them succeed and knowing I had a small part in their journey is incredibly fulfilling. And honestly, I'm lucky to work with the best coworkers anyone could ask for."

Shannon's educational path reflects her drive and commitment to growth. She earned her A.A. in 2011 and went on to complete a B.A.S. in Digital Media from FSCJ in 2016. Most recently, in 2024, she earned her Master of Science in Information Technology with a concentration in Website Design from Southern New Hampshire University. Never one to back down from a challenge, Shannon is currently participating in the Lead from Where You Are program.

[Read More](#)

FSCJ In Action

We were pleased to welcome new members of the FSCJ family during the October New Employee Reception. These receptions are held throughout the year to formally introduce new faculty and staff to FSCJ, Dr. A and members of the leadership team.



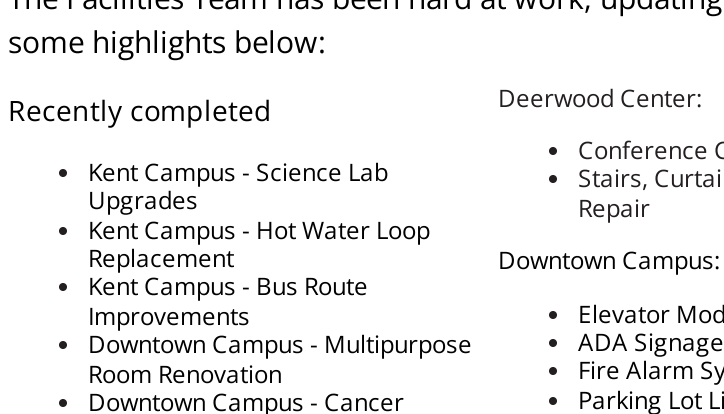
FSCJ and MOCA Partnership

The MOCA Fall Arts Celebration will be held on October 18 from noon to 2 p.m. Meet the Project Atrium: Muralsists in Action artists, celebrate the announcement of the Jax Contemporary Arts Triennial Awards, and view Sebastian Vallego: Where The Zephyrs Sleep with the artist. This event is free and open to all.

Make sure you see the completed Project Atrium: Muralsists in Action. Led by veteran artists Shaun Thurston and our very own Dustin Harewood, authors and collaborators on many murals around the city, a group of emerging muralists is transforming the museum's Atrium Gallery into a vibrant mural. Learn more [here](#).

As a reminder, FSCJ is proud to be an Exhibition Underwriter for MOCA, which gives our students, faculty, staff and retirees free admission to MOCA by showing their FSCJ ID during 2025.

College Retirees' Association Celebrates 30 Years



The College Retirees' Association (CRA), in partnership with the FSCJ Foundation, invited FSCJ/FJC Retirees to a special event in honor of the 30th Anniversary of the CRA on Thursday, September 11. Attendees gathered for lunch, shared memories and reconnected with friends and colleagues. See more pictures [here](#).

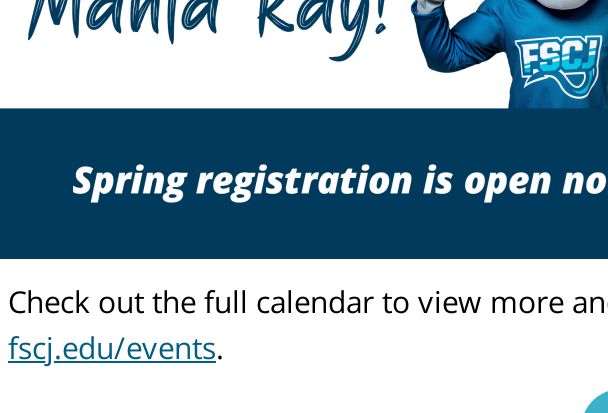
FSCJ Day on the USS Orleck

Thanks to all who joined us for FSCJ Day on the USS Orleck! As part of our 60th Anniversary celebration, we were honored to host FSCJ Day at the USS Orleck & Jacksonville Naval Museum, honoring our decades-long history of supporting Jacksonville's military community. From the presentation of colors by Bishop Kenny High School NJROTC to inspiring words from our guest speakers, the event was a true reflection of service and education. Check out more pictures [here](#).



First Coast Heart Walk

We were proud to participate again in the annual First Coast Heart Walk. You can find more pictures [here](#). We made donations and supported Team FSCJ and this worthy initiative! You can find more photos [raised funds](#).



Legal Studies Association Welcomes Alumni

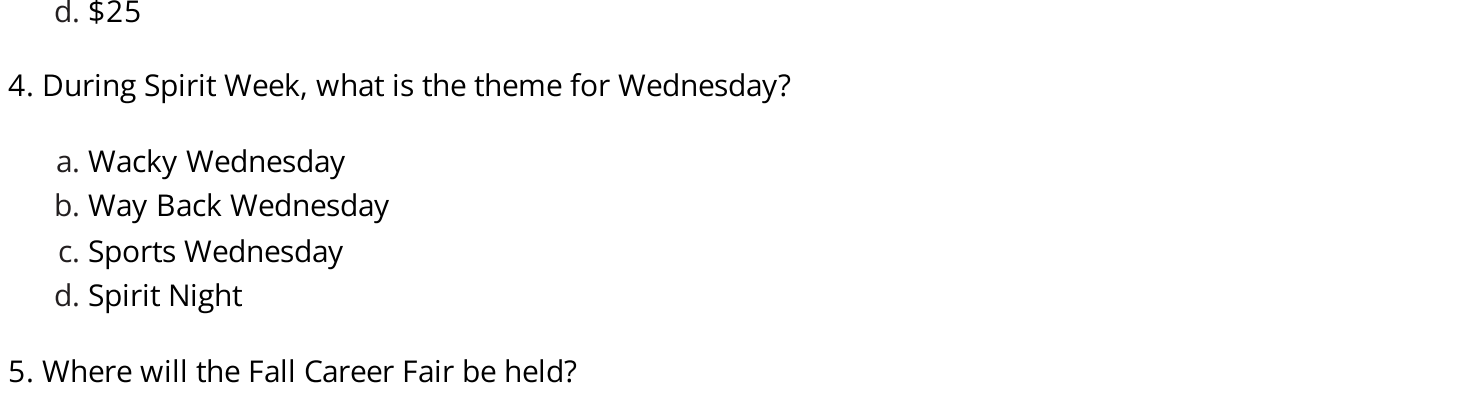
The FSCJ Legal Studies Association recently held its first meeting of the semester, featuring a panel of program alumni. The students and all attendees enjoyed hearing their stories and information about the jobs they currently hold.

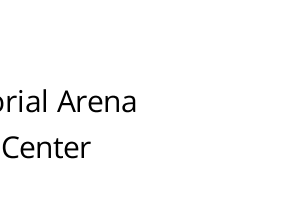
Facilities Updates

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

Recently completed	Deerwood Center:	South Campus:
• Kent Campus - Science Lab Upgrades • Kent Campus - Hot Water Loop Replacement • Kent Campus - Bus Route Improvements • Downtown Campus - Multipurpose Room Renovation • Downtown Campus - Cancer Survivor's Park Lighting • Nassau Center - Science Lab Remodel	• Conference Center Renovation • Stairs, Curtainwall and Balcony Repair • Downtown Campus: • Elevator Modernization • ADA Signage • Fire Alarm System Replacement • Parking Lot Lighting - Kent Campus: • Bathrooms Renovation • Auditorium Seating • Art Lab Furniture - Nassau Center: • Fire Alarm Replacement • Maintenance Vehicle/Equipment Storage Building - North Campus: • Student Services Renovation • Allied Health Program Renovation • Signage • Boiler Replacement • Athletics Renovation • Tower Stairwell Paint • Classroom Furniture	• Door Access Control Upgrades • Elevator Modernization • Lighting Controls Upgrade • Fire Alarm System Replacement • Men's Locker Room Renovation • Gymnasium Bleachers
In progress		In planning
Ongoing Collegewide: • Door Access Control Upgrades • Elevator Door Lock Monitoring Systems • Emergency Responders Radio Communications System • Fire Alarm Replacement • Scan/Digital Facilities Plans • Science Lab & Classroom Renovations • Wayfinding/Monument Signs • Memorial Benches/Legacy Walk • Energy Initiatives • Classroom USA Flag Replacement		Deerwood Center: • Parking Garage Joint Repair • Repurpose Bookstore Space • Classroom Furniture Downtown Campus: • Warehouse Building • JRC Renovation • Jr. Achievement Building and Career Job Placement Center Expansion Kent Campus: • Repurpose Bookstore Space South Campus: • Wilson Center Architect Assignment • Honors Program Expansion • Security Renovation

Upcoming Events



Stay a Manta Ray!  **Spring registration is open now!**

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.

1. When does Benefits Open Enrollment close?
a. January 1, 2026
b. October 13, 2025
c. October 31, 2025
d. December 1, 2025

2. How many colleges and universities achieved the 2025 Great College to Work For recognition for specific best practices and policies?
a. 76
b. 199
c. 9
d. 10

3. What is the price to order three ferns/poinsettias through this year's CEC Poinsettia and Fern Sale?
a. \$17
b. \$45
c. \$51
d. \$25

4. During Spirit Week, what is the theme for Wednesday?
a. Wacky Wednesday
b. Way Back Wednesday
c. Sports Wednesday
d. Spirit Night

5. Where will the Fall Career Fair be held?
a. Deerwood Center
b. Kent Campus
c. VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena
d. Advanced Technology Center