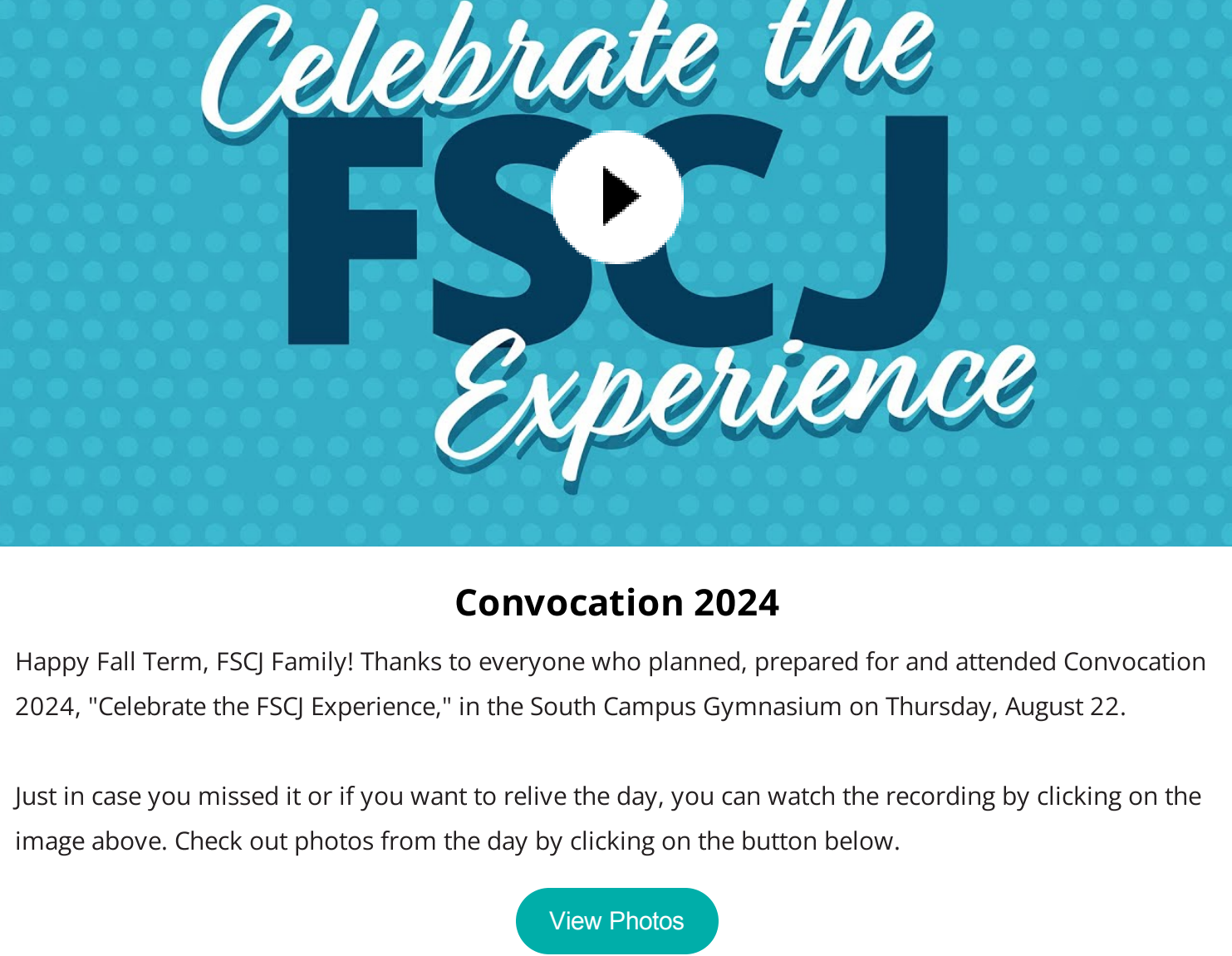


September 2024



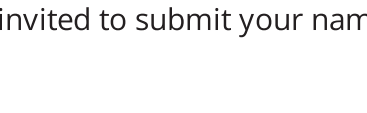
Convocation 2024

Happy Fall Term, FSCJ Family! Thanks to everyone who planned, prepared for and attended Convocation 2024, "Celebrate the FSCJ Experience," in the South Campus Gymnasium on Thursday, August 22.

Just in case you missed it or if you want to relive the day, you can watch the recording by clicking on the image above. Check out photos from the day by clicking on the button below.

[View Photos](#)

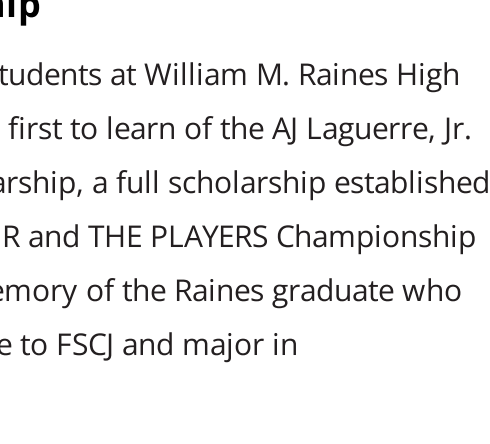
How would you rate this year's event?



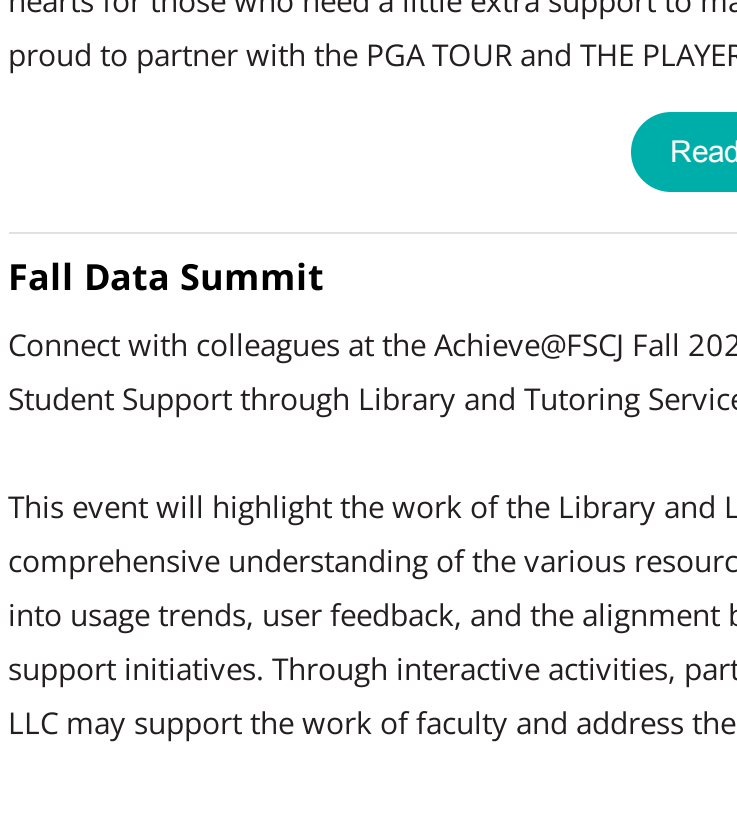
News and Updates

Mascot Costume Reveal

Have you heard? The mascot costume has arrived and will be revealed on World Manta Day, September 17. Faculty, staff and students are invited to join us on [Facebook Live](#) or at the South Campus Gymnasium at 9:30 a.m. to be among the first to see the mascot.



Following the announcement, you'll be invited to submit your name ideas at fscj.edu/mascot.



FSCJ Announces Memorial Scholarship with PGA TOUR and THE PLAYERS Championship

On August 26, students at William M. Raines High School were the first to learn of the AJ Laguerre, Jr. Endowed Scholarship, a full scholarship established by the PGA TOUR and THE PLAYERS Championship to honor the memory of the Raines graduate who planned to come to FSCJ and major in cybersecurity.

During the announcement, Dr. Avendano posthumously awarded AJ an Honorary Associate in Science degree in Cybersecurity. The degree and a custom jersey were presented to family members in attendance.

"Partnership is what brings us together today. It's people, and the people in organizations, with ideas and hearts for those who need a little extra support to make their dreams a reality," said Dr. Avendano. "We are proud to partner with the PGA TOUR and THE PLAYERS to honor AJ's dream and aspirations."

[Read More](#)

Fall Data Summit

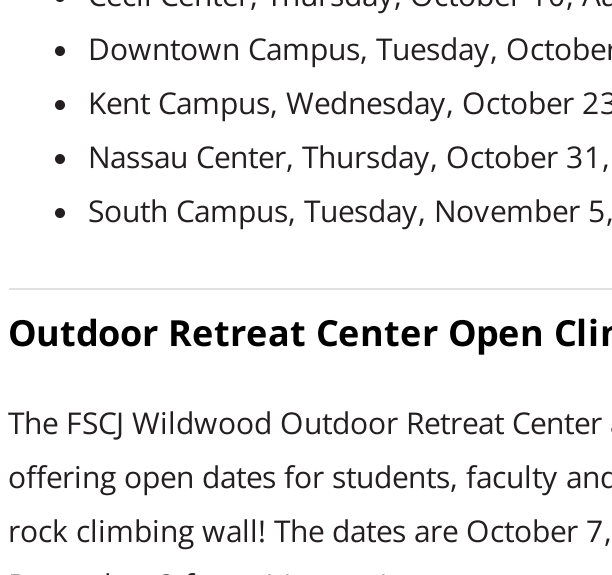
Connect with colleagues at the Achieve@FSCJ Fall 2024 Data Summit, Empowering Success: Enhancing Student Support through Library and Tutoring Services, on Friday, September 13, 9 a.m.-noon.

This event will highlight the work of the Library and Learning Commons (LLC). Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of the various resources and services offered, including detailed insights into usage trends, user feedback, and the alignment between the work of the LLC and larger student support initiatives. Through interactive activities, participants will engage with data and discuss how the LLC may support the work of faculty and address the existing and emerging needs of FSCJ's students.

Register here:

- In-person session, ATC, T140/141: [Click here](#)
- Live online session: [Click here](#)

This meeting is part of FSCJ's ATD efforts. With questions, email Dr. Jerrett Dumouchel at: jerrett.dumouchel@fscj.edu.



Q&A with Dr. A

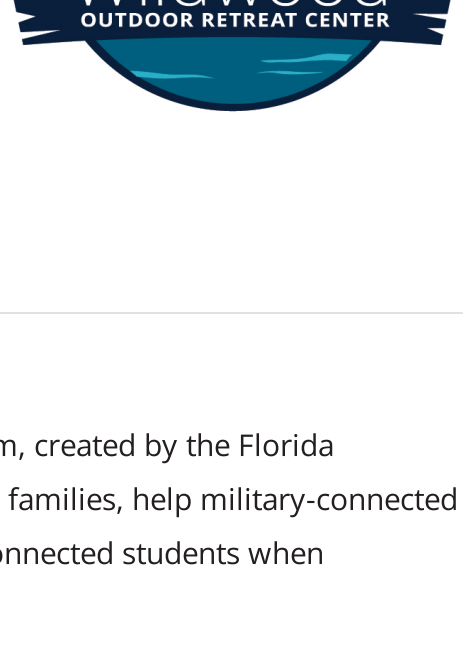
You're invited to the Fall Term 2024 Q&A with Dr. A events. Join us for an open conversation with Dr. Avendano, where he'll talk about important College priorities and future goals and initiatives for the upcoming year. Bring your thoughts and questions for Dr. A.

All events will be held from 1:30-2:30 p.m.:

- Deerwood Center, Tuesday, September 17, Room B-1204
- North Campus, Thursday, October 3, Auditorium
- Cecil Center, Thursday, October 10, Auditorium
- Downtown Campus, Tuesday, October 15, ATC T140/141
- Kent Campus, Wednesday, October 23, D-120
- Nassau Center, Thursday, October 31, Nassau Room (T-126)
- South Campus, Tuesday, November 5, Lakeside Room

Outdoor Retreat Center Open Climbing Opportunities

The FSCJ Wildwood Outdoor Retreat Center at Nassau Center will be offering open dates for students, faculty and staff to experience the rock climbing wall! The dates are October 7, November 4 and December 2 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

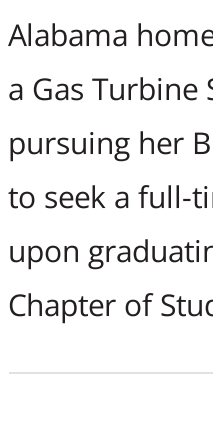


With questions or for more information on the climbing dates, please reach out to brad.frick@fscj.edu. If any teams or faculty would like to reserve a spot for team building or climbing wall activities, please also reach out to the email above.

[Learn More](#)

Military and Veteran Spotlight

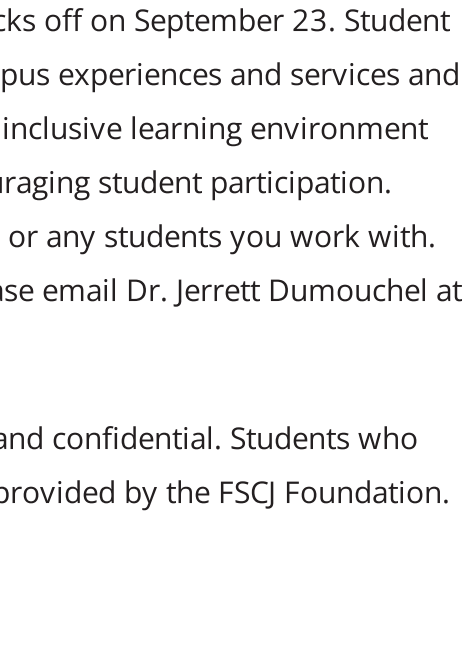
FSCJ is applying to become a Purple Star Campus. The Purple Star program, created by the Florida Legislature, recognizes schools that "support the unique needs of military families, help military-connected students navigate critical challenges and provide resources for military-connected students when transitioning to a new school environment."

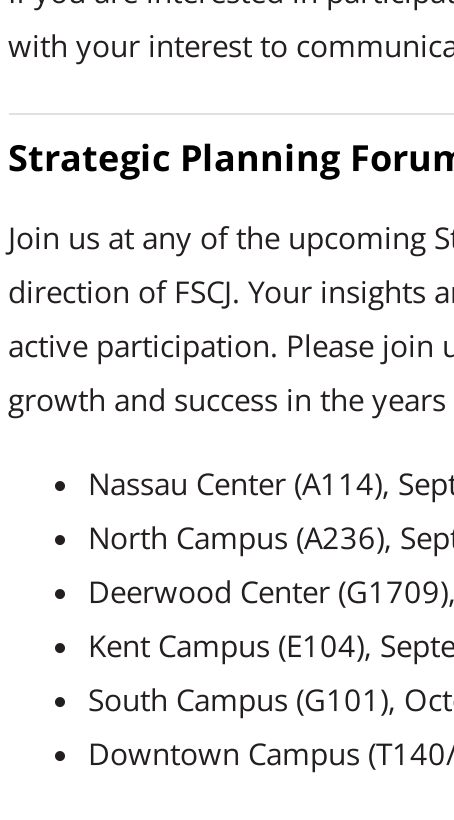


The MVSVC/Veterans Center for Excellence hosted a two-hour drop-in/drop-out Manta Military Meet-Up, a military-affiliated student gathering on September 6. Students new to the College had the opportunity to meet their peers and learn about military-specific resources offered at FSCJ from subject-matter experts. This event created a sense of community and grounding, providing students an opportunity to engage with their peers and service providers on campus, as well as introducing the Vet2Vet mentoring and transition program, a requirement for the Purple Star Campus application.

Latoya Neri: Veteran Student Spotlight

Latoya Neri is a VA Work Study in our Military & Veterans program and has been with us for nearly two years. She calls Aliceville, Alabama home and is a U.S. Navy Veteran, having served four years as a Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical). She is currently pursuing her Bachelor's in Information Systems Technology and plans to seek a full-time position as a data analyst at a financial institution upon graduating next spring. Latoya is the treasurer of the FSCJ Chapter of Student Veterans of America (SVA).





Student Climate Survey

The 2024 Student Climate Survey kicks off on September 23. Student responses will help us measure campus experiences and services and provide a safer, more equitable and inclusive learning environment for everyone. You can help by encouraging student participation. Share the [digital flyer](#) with your class or any students you work with. For questions about the survey, please email Dr. Jerrett Dumouchel at jerrett.dumouchel@fscj.edu.

The survey will run through November 8. Responses will be anonymous and confidential. Students who complete the survey may be eligible to win one of the 20 gift card prizes provided by the FSCJ Foundation.

[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.

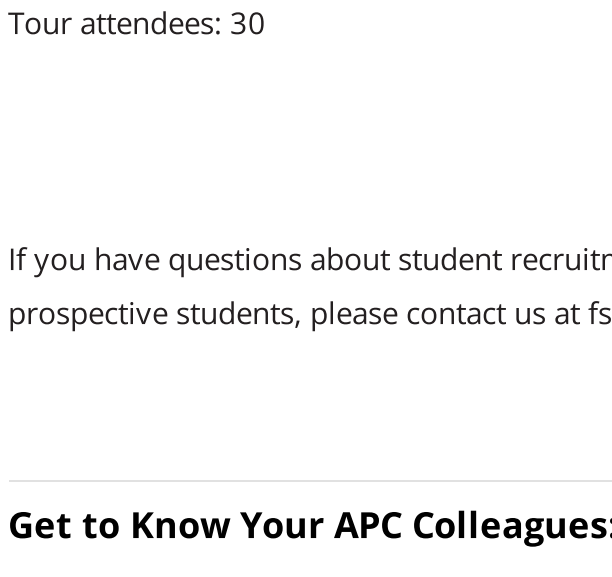
If you are interested in participating in a committee or just have an idea to pass along, please send an email with your interest to communications@fscj.edu.

Strategic Planning Forums

Join us at any of the upcoming Strategic Planning Forums, where we will collaborate to shape the future direction of FSCJ. Your insights and expertise are invaluable to this process, and we look forward to your active participation. Please join us as we work together to develop a strategic vision that will guide our growth and success in the years to come.

- Nassau Center (A114), September 12, 1-2 p.m.
- North Campus (A236), September 17, 2-3 p.m.
- Deerwood Center (G1709), September 19, 2-3 p.m.
- Kent Campus (E104), September 24, 2-3 p.m.
- South Campus (G101), October 1, 2-3 p.m.
- Downtown Campus (T140/141), October 3, 2-3 p.m.

[Register Here](#)



Manta Ray Shop is Now Open

Get your Manta Ray merch now from the FSCJ Mascot Shop! We've got shirts, hats, cups, bags and more available for purchase. The on-campus bookstores also have some of the items for sale if you prefer to stop by and browse.

[Mascot Shop](#)

Recruitment Update

As we gear up to connect with a new cohort of high school seniors, there are numerous opportunities for the College community to get involved in hands-on student recruitment. Here are some ways to partner with the Recruitment office:

- Volunteer to showcase your program or class for a campus tour.
- Offer an in-guest presentation of your program for a career-specific high school visit.
- Serve as a guest speaker for a virtual presentation on your program or student support services area.

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact fscjrecruitment@fscj.edu with the subject line "Dive into Manta Ray Nation."

Recruitment by the numbers, August 2024:

Events: 23
Student Connections: 616
Tours: 13
Tour attendees: 30

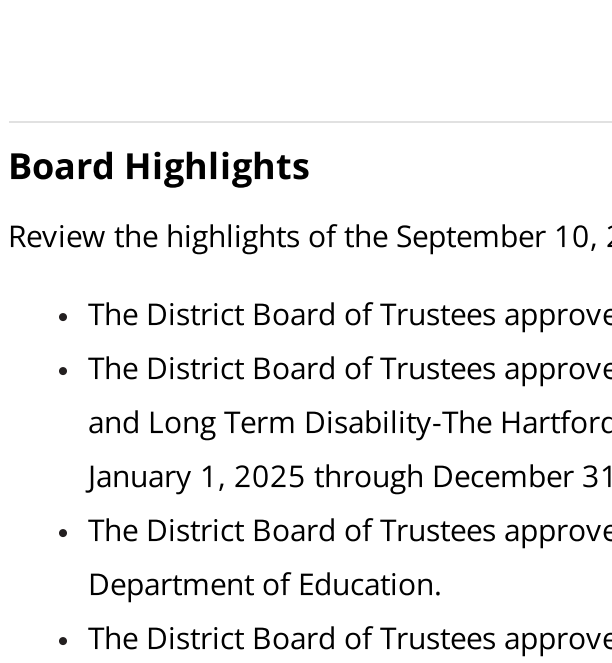
September recruitment events at a glance:

9/12: PACE Center for Girls Career Fair
9/19: Pepsi-Jacksonville Employee Appreciation Week Health Fair
9/21: HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) Legacy Tour
9/27: Eagle's View Academy - Why FSCJ? Presentation

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: Courtney McCown



September's Administrative & Professional Collaborative (APC) spotlight shines on Courtney McCown, the program manager for the Health Sciences department. With over sixteen years of experience at FSCJ, she has held various roles across Academic Advising, Student Records, Continuing Workforce Education, Humanities and as a math adjunct instructor. Her extensive background equips her with a strong ability to solve complex problems and adapt quickly to new challenges.

In her current role, Courtney collaborates closely with the Dean, faculty and staff to ensure the smooth operation and success of Health Sciences programs. Her responsibilities include overseeing affiliation agreements, analyzing class scheduling needs, and recruiting, onboarding and supporting the department's many adjuncts.

[Learn More](#)

Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Rebecca Ann Nelson



September's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight features Academic Department Coordinator for Curriculum Services and CEC Chair Rebecca Ann Nelson.

Ms. Nelson began her career at FSCJ in May 2009, working as a program assistant to support a \$1.5 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant program. In April 2012, she transitioned to curriculum specialist under the Academic Affairs umbrella. She later became curriculum coordinator in May 2023. In total, Rebecca has been with FSCJ for 15 years and looks forward to continued growth and future opportunities.

Rebecca's job focus is to provide guidance and direction to faculty, academic administrators and key stakeholders on the design and development of curriculum proposals in accordance with the College and Florida Department of Education standards for new, modified, reactivated or inactivated program and course curriculum.

[Learn More](#)

Board Highlights

Review the highlights of the September 10, 2024, meeting of the FSCJ District Board of Trustees:

- The District Board of Trustees approved the College's pursuit of a new accrediting agency.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the continuation of Life Insurance-The Hartford Company and Long Term Disability-The Hartford Company insurance benefit premiums for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the FCS Affordability Report for submission to the Florida Department of Education.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the 2024-25 Carry Forward Spending Plan.

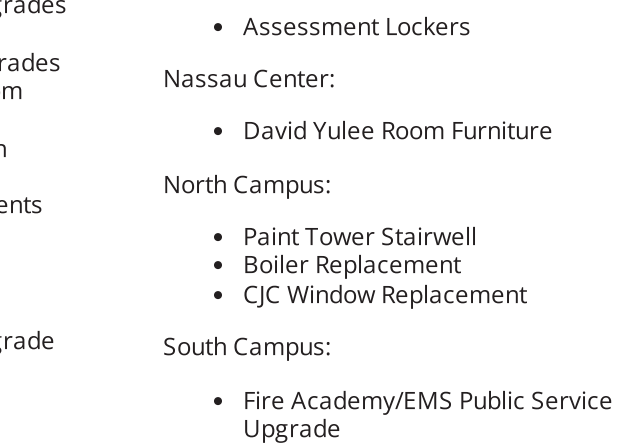
You can find more information on the Board of Trustees meeting on our [website](#).

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations to Mary Banks, Laboratory Manager, A&P Physical Science - Downtown Campus for completing the Managing at FSCJ Certification program!

FSCJ In Action

We were thrilled to celebrate our students coming back to campus with different Welcome Week activities across all of our campuses and centers.

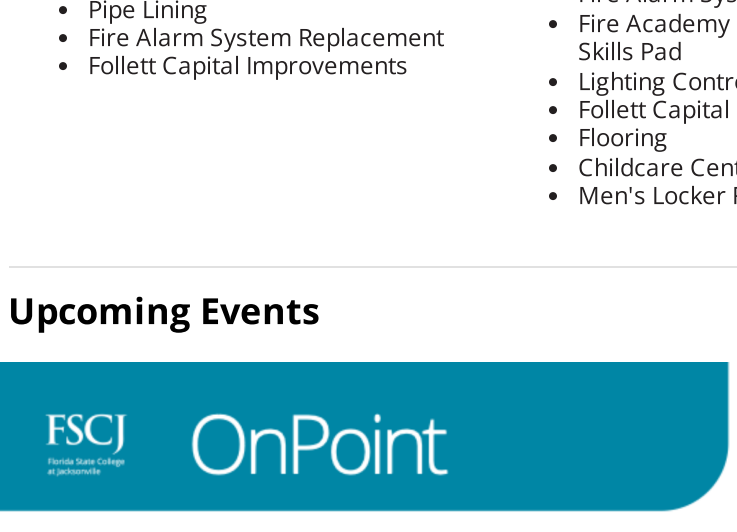


Click on the green button below to check out photos from around the College.

[View Photos](#)



FSCJ Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society President Stephanie Wall, Vice President Elayna Higginbotham, Secretary Maricris Ortiz and Professor of Nursing Dr. Melisa Robinson were proud to donate more than 500 toys to Wolfson Children's Hospital. We hope these donations will bring joy, happiness and positivity to many children in their time of uncertainty and need.



FSCJ and Brooks Rehabilitation celebrated the first cohort of students who completed the new certified nursing assistant (CNA) to licensed practical nurse (LPN) program. The graduates participated in a pinning ceremony at FSCJ North Campus on August 21, 2024, to commemorate their completion. [Read more.](#)



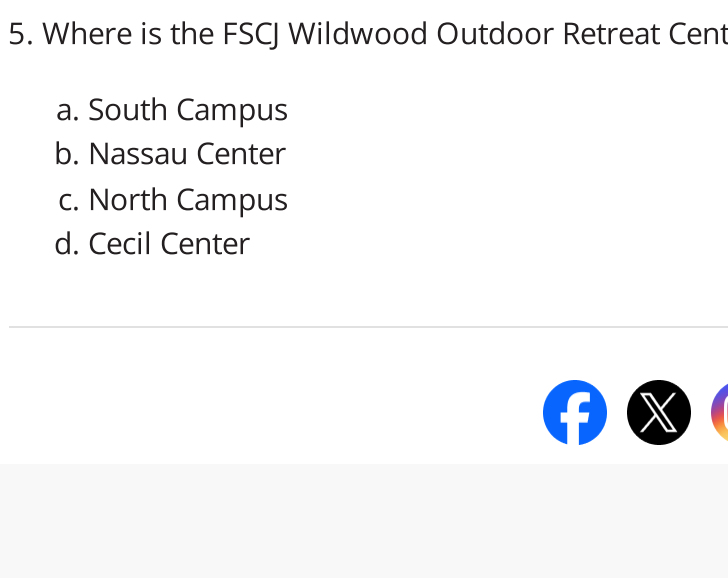
The inaugural celebration for the LEAP (Lift, Empower, Achieve, Persist) Program completers was held earlier this month at the Downtown Campus Art Gallery. Nine finished in this cohort and the team is working to grow from there!

LEAP is designed to provide personal, academic, social and career developmental support to underrepresented male students at FSCJ. Program participants use educational pathways to help establish a greater sense of self-worth and self-reliance, culminating in outcomes that impact success both inside and outside the classroom.

Facilities Updates

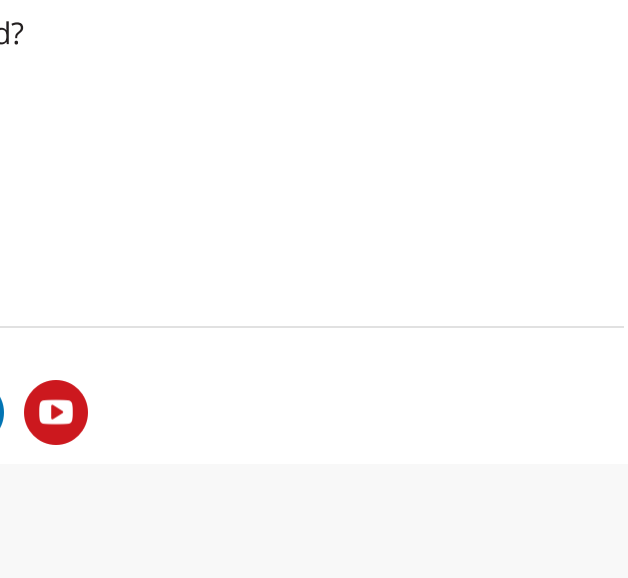
The Facilities Team has been hard at work, updating and upgrading spaces across the College. Check out some highlights below:

Recently completed	Kent Campus:	In planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kent, Parking Lot LightingKent, Elevator ModernizationDeerwood, Lobby Furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hot Water System ReplacementDoor Access Control UpgradesScience Lab UpgradesAddressable Chimes UpgradesAuditorium Dressing Room RenovationCareer Closet RenovationAuditorium RenovationFollett Capital Improvements	<p>Deerwood Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessment Lockers <p>Nassau Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">David Yulee Room Furniture Upgrade
<p>On progress</p> <p>College-wide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Door Access Control UpgradesElevator Door Lock Monitoring SystemsEmergency Responders RadioCommunications SystemFire Alarm Panel ReplacementScan/Digital Facilities PlansScience Lab & Classroom RenovationsMonument Signs, Building IDs, WayfindingEnergy Initiatives <p>Deerwood Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sightline ReplacementFurniture, OutdoorComputer Lab Upgrades, AcademySpace Renovation	<p>Nassau Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Science Lab RemodelDoor Access Control UpgradeParking Lot Lighting <p>North Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Door Access Control UpgradesStudent Services, Science Lab RenovationNursing Program ExpansionParking Lot LightingElevator ModernizationBDA Monitoring SystemIndividual Addressable Monitoring SystemCJC Twillins <p>South Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Door Access Control UpgradesRoof ReplacementElevator ModernizationOutdoor FurnitureGym and Gym Floor, RenovationFire Tower RepairFire Alarm System ReplacementFire Academy/Pipe Replacement, Skills PadLighting Controls UpgradeFollett Capital ImprovementsFlooringChildcare Center RenovationMen's Locker Room Renovation	<p>North Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Paint Tower StairwellBoiler ReplacementCJC Window Replacement <p>South Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fire Academy/EEMS Public Service UpgradeWilson Center Architect AssessmentHonors Program ExpansionSecurity Renovation



Next Call:
October 9, 2 p.m.

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



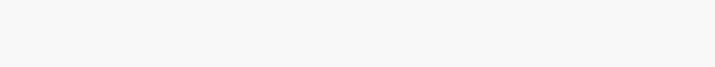
Register and learn more: firstcoastheartwalk.org



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

Available on:

- Apple
- Spotify
- and many other podcast apps!



[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. What FSCJ group recently collected and donated toys to Wolfson Children's Hospital?

- FSCJ Foundation
- Student Government Association
- Athletics
- FSCJ Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society

2. Where was the AJ Laguerre, Jr. Endowed Scholarship announcement event held?

- PGA TOUR
- William M. Raines High School
- THE PLAYERS Championship
- FSCJ Downtown Campus

3. When is World Manta Day?

- September 17
- August 18
- September 19
- September 12

4. FSCJ is applying to be a _____ Star Campus, a program that recognizes schools that support the unique needs of military students and families.

- Gold
- Four
- Purple
- Silver

5. Where is the FSCJ Wildwood Outdoor Retreat Center located?

- South Campus
- Nassau Center
- North Campus
- Cecil Center