

September 2025



CONVOCATION 2025

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

Convocation 2025

Thanks to everyone who planned, prepared for and attended Convocation 2025, "Transforming Tomorrow," on Thursday, August 21 in the South Campus Gymnasium.

If you missed it or just 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.

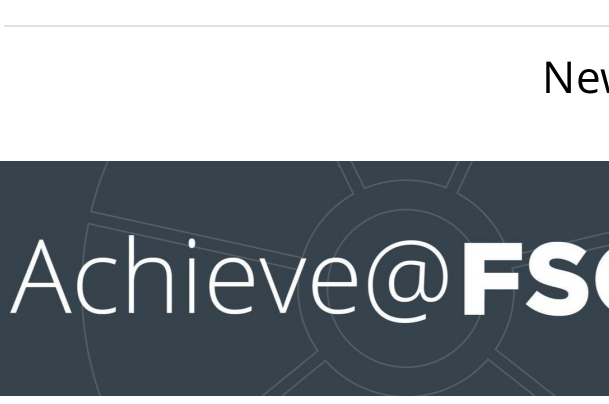
Many thanks also to all who brought donations for the [Career Closet](#) and [H.O.P.E. Food Pantry](#). Because of your generosity, the Career Closet now has 403 pieces of clothing to add to the racks to support students as they prepare for interviews and professional opportunities. The Food Pantry is now able to serve even more students thanks to you!

[View Photos](#)

FSCJ Kicks Off 60th Anniversary Celebration

During Convocation, we launched our 60th Anniversary Celebration. Throughout the year, we'll host different events and activities to highlight our history and look toward our future. Check out [fscj.edu/60](#) for more information.

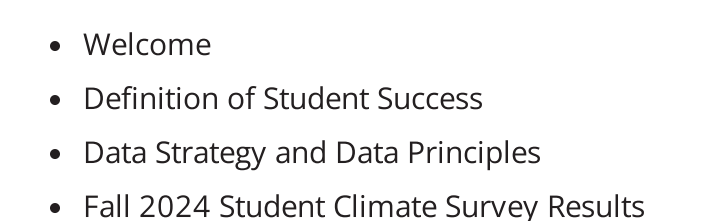
The 60th webpage also includes stories of how FSCJ has impacted individuals throughout the community. We'll be highlighting different stories of alumni, partners and friends of the College throughout the year, so be sure to share yours!



Check out this [video](#), part of a 12-part series created to highlight specific timeframes throughout the College's history. This is the second video in the series; the first was shown during Convocation. All 12 will be housed on the 60th webpage as they are finalized.

[fscj.edu/60](#)

News and Updates



Fall Data Summit

All FSCJ employees are invited to the Achieve@FSCJ Fall 2025 Data Summit: Data, Decisions and Disruptions on Friday, September 12, in person at the ATC or online via Webex.

Registration

In-person session located at ATC, T140/141: [Click Here](#)

Live online session: [Click Here](#)

Agenda

- Welcome
- Definition of Student Success
- Data Strategy and Data Principles
- Fall 2024 Student Climate Survey Results
- Results of AI Survey & Working with AI
- Transforming Tomorrow KPIs

With questions, please email Dr. Jerrett Dumouchel at jerrett.dumouchel@fscj.edu.

60th Email Signature

As part of our 60th Anniversary Celebration, you can download the new email signature graphic from [fscj.edu/branding](#).

Email signature guidelines can be found in the Brand and Style Guide, also available on the branding webpage.

[fscj.edu/branding](#)

FSCJ Included in NAAIC Mentorship Cohort

FSCJ is excited to be included in the 2025-26 National Applied AI Consortium (NAAIC) Mentorship Cohort! We are one of 13 institutions that will partner with NAAIC to launch and scale applied AI education nationwide. Participating institutions will receive expert mentorship, industry-aligned resources and support in developing and implementing AI associate degree programs that meet workforce needs.

2025-26 Mentorship Cohort:

Grand Rapids Community College
Moraine Park Technical College
Florida State College at Jacksonville
Fullerton College
Isothermal Community College
Laurel Ridge Community College
Texas State Technical College

Borough of Manhattan Community College
Northwest Arkansas Community College
City Colleges of Chicago
Ivy Tech Community College
El Camino College
Laramie County Community College

Learn more about NAAIC [here](#).

SEM Collegewide Conversation Tour

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

Choose your closest campus, pick a morning or afternoon session from the options below and RSVP:

North Campus/A236
Thursday, October 2
9:30 a.m. – noon or 1:30 – 4 p.m.

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

South Campus/Lakeview Room
Thursday, October 9
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.

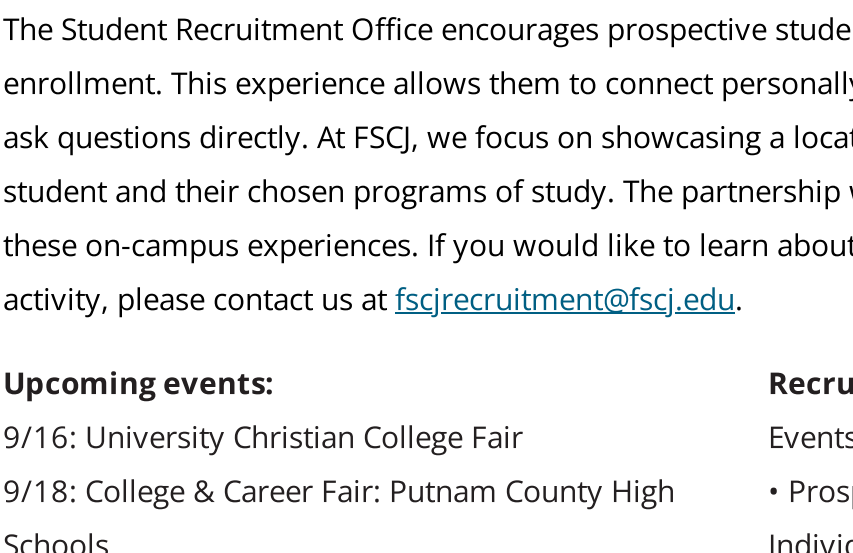
[RSVP Now](#)

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations to our Civics Education program and Dr. Naita Guine on being selected as a winner of the Community College Civic Info Challenge. The contestants were challenged with the question, "How might your campus equip more people to get, share, and discuss reliable information about what's happening in the places where they live?". Dr. Guine was one of eight award recipients selected to receive a grant to support the funding of the proposal idea for FSCJ's ELEVATE program.

FSCJ ELEVATE is a groundbreaking idea that will bridge liberal arts, sciences and technical education to empower students as informed citizens and career-ready professionals. Through "Community Info Briefings," a digital bulletin and a speaker series, ELEVATE will prepare students as civic information ambassadors, exploring different career paths and positioning FSCJ as a hub for informed community dialogue.

Read more about the Community College Civic Info Challenge [here](#).



Congratulations to our faculty who were awarded the Center of Academic Excellence designation from the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber & Two-Year Education (CAE2Y) through academic year 2030!

Learn more about the National Centers of Academic Excellence [here](#).

Congratulations to Dionne Griffin, who recently received a Master of Education from the University of North Florida and submitted a request for earned degree recognition!

Employees who wish to be recognized for completing a program of study can complete and submit an [Earned Degree Recognition form](#).

Recruitment Update

The Student Recruitment Office encourages prospective students to take a campus tour when considering enrollment. This experience allows them to connect personally with the school, explore the campus and ask questions directly. At FSCJ, we focus on showcasing a location that fits the interests of the prospective student and their chosen programs of study. The partnership with FSCJ faculty and staff is invaluable during these on-campus experiences. If you would like to learn about participating in this important recruitment activity, please contact us at fscjrecruitment@fscj.edu.

Upcoming events:

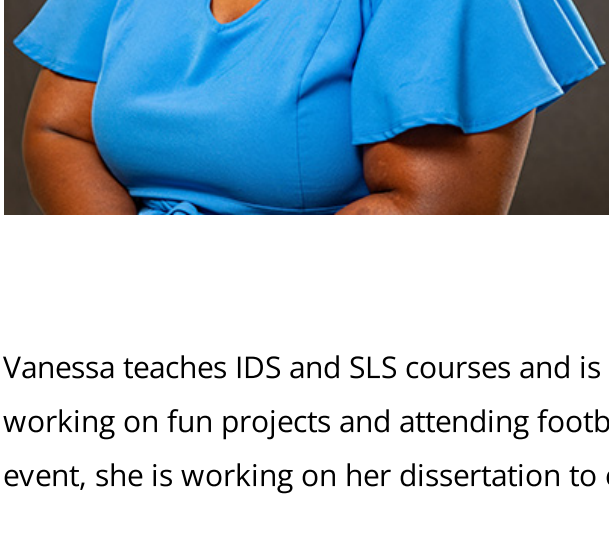
- 9/16: University Christian College Fair
- 9/18: College & Career Fair: Putnam County High Schools
- 9/20: 2025 HBCU Legacy College Fair
- 9/30: Douglas Anderson Senior Night

Recruitment by the numbers:

- Events: 9
- Prospective Student Connections: 135
- Individual tours: 17
- Attendees: 35

[Read More](#)

Get to Know Your APC Colleagues: Dr. Tara Haley



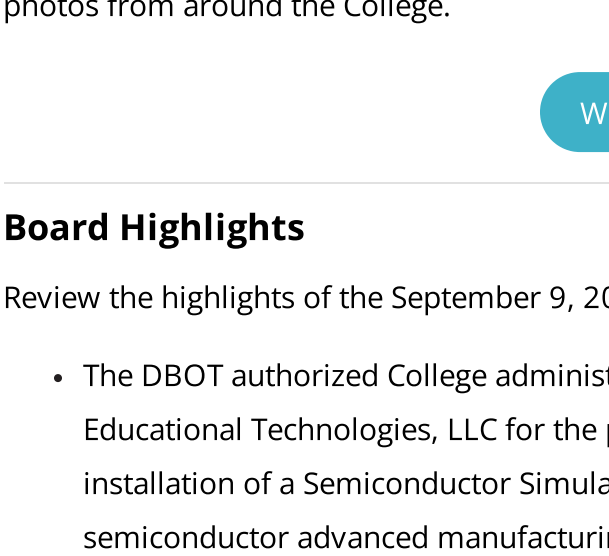
September's Administrative & Professional Collaborative (APC) spotlight shines on Associate Provost, Baccalaureate, Career and Technical Education Dr. Tara Haley.

Dr. Haley has been a dedicated member of FSCJ since 2017, beginning as the Instructional Program Manager for Human Services at North Campus. By 2019, she had advanced to the position of Dean of Education and Human Services, where she oversaw the Early Childhood Education and Human Services programs and managed the Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools (CCAMPS) grant and the Vision Education & Rehabilitation Center (VERC). In 2022, Tara became the inaugural Campus Dean for the Downtown Campus, and in May 2025, she was appointed Associate Provost for Baccalaureate, Career and Technical Education programs.

She is actively involved in several executive boards, including servicing as the Cabinet Chair for the Children's Home Society Community Partnership Schools and the Institutional Representative and State Conference Chair for the American Council on Education (ACE) Leadership Network of Florida. Tara is a graduate of the Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2024, and has been selected to serve on several accreditation site review teams both statewide and nationally.

[Read More](#)

Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Vanessa Gordon



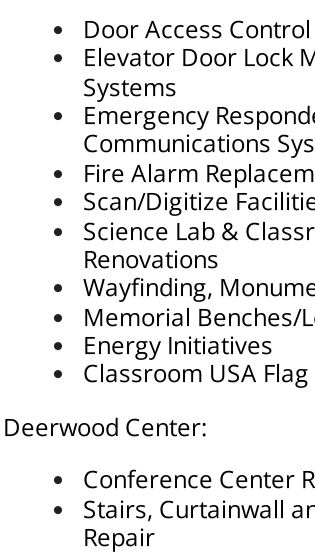
September's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight features Project Coordinator Vanessa Gordon, who started with the College in 2004 as a student assistant while earning her Associate in Arts. After completing her bachelor's degree from the University of Florida, she returned, serving as an advisor for the student newspaper before pursuing a master's degree at Chapman University in California.

Vanessa came back to FSCJ in 2014 as a program facilitator for Continuing Education, later moving to her current role with FSCJ's Online department, assisting with the enrollment and concerns of students and with the behind-the-scenes duties of faculty and staff.

Vanessa teaches IDS and SLS courses and is a Master Reviewer in Quality Matters. She enjoys reading, working on fun projects and attending football games with her mother. When not at work or a sporting event, she is working on her dissertation to earn a Ph.D. in Communication.

[Read More](#)

Invite Rayzor Ray to Your Event



Bring some extra excitement to your events with Rayzor Ray! Our beloved mascot is ready to make appearances that will energize the crowd and create unforgettable memories. Don't miss out—bookmark the Rayzor Ray Request Form today and secure a visit!

[Request Form](#)

FSCJ In Action

We were excited to celebrate our students returning to campus with different

Welcome Week activities across all of our campuses and centers.

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



[Welcome Week Photos](#)

Board Highlights

Review the highlights of the September 9, 2025, meeting of the FSCJ District Board of Trustees (DBOT):

- The DBOT authorized College administration to negotiate and enter into a contract with Bluegrass Educational Technologies, LLC for the provision of curriculum, training equipment, services and installation of a Semiconductor Simulation System. This system will support the development of a semiconductor advanced manufacturing workforce laboratory.
- The DBOT approved the following Full Cost of Instruction Fee for students taking certain repeat course enrollments at Florida State College at Jacksonville per Florida Statute 1009.285 to be effective Fall Term 2025-26, Bachelor's and Associate's College Credit Courses – Full Cost of Instruction Fee, Current Fee: \$280 / Proposed Fee \$289.
- The DBOT approved the 2025-26 Carry Forward Spending Plan.
- The DBOT approved the FCS Affordability Report for submission to the Florida Department of Education.

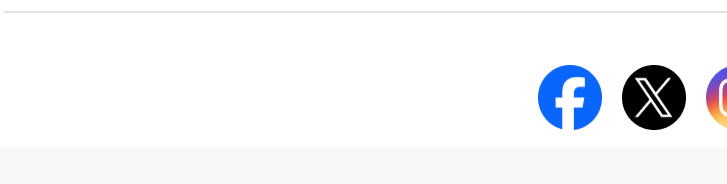
You can find more information on the Board of Trustees meeting on our [website](#).

Facilities Updates

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

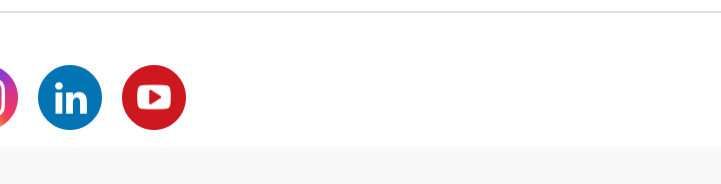
Recently completed	Downtown Campus:	South Campus:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deerwood Center - Classrooms to Computer Labs Renovation• Deerwood Center - Classroom Furniture• Cecil Center - Classroom Furniture• South Campus - Cafe Furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multipurpose Room Renovation• Elevator Modernization• ADA Signage• Fire Alarm System Replacement• Parking Lot Lighting• Cancer Survivor's Park Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Door Access Control Upgrades• Elevator Modernization• Lighting Controls Upgrade• Fire Alarm System Replacement• Men's Locker Room Renovation• Gymnasium Bleachers
In progress	Kent Campus:	In planning
<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 Replacement• Scan/Digitize Facilities Plans• Science Lab & Classroom Renovations• Wayfinding, Monument Signs• Memorial Benches/Legacy Walk• Energy Initiatives• Classroom USA Flag Replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science Lab Upgrades• Bus Route Improvements• Barbershop Renovation• Hot Water Loop Replacement• Auditorium Seating• Art Lab Furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parking Garage Joint Repair• Repurpose Bookstore Space• Classroom Furniture
	Nassau Center:	Downtown Campus:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science Lab Construction• Fire Alarm Replacement• Maintenance Vehicle/Equipment Storage Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warehouse Building• VERC Renovation• J. Achievement Building and Career Job Placement Center Expansion
	North Campus:	Kent Campus:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deerwood Center:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conference Center Renovation• Stairs, Curtainwall and Balcony Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Services Renovation• Allied Health Program Renovation• Signage• Boiler Replacement• Athletics Renovation• Tower Stairwell Paint• Classroom Furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repurpose Bookstore Space <p>South Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wilson Center Architect Assessment• Honors Program Expansion• Security Renovation

Upcoming Events



Next Call:
October 15, 2 p.m.

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



4th Annual International Education Conference
FREE Conference! Explore Study Abroad, Diplomacy Lab, and Global Learning at FSCJ



Monday, October 13 through
Friday, October 31, 2025



2025 First Coast Heart Walk
Saturday, October 4
Register and learn more: firstcoastheartwalk.org

Check out the events calendar to view more events 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. What is the theme of the Fall Data Summit?
 - a. Data, Decisions and Desserts
 - b. Data, Decisions and Disruptions
 - c. Data, Decisions and Development
 - d. Data, Decisions and Discipline
2. What anniversary is the College celebrating this year?
 - a. 30
 - b. 50
 - c. 60
 - d. 100
3. FSCJ is one of how many institutions selected to participate in the 2025-26 National Applied AI Consortium Mentorship Cohort?
 - a. 13
 - b. 15
 - c. 20
 - d. 25
4. When does 2026 Benefits Open Enrollment open?
 - a. January 1
 - b. October 13
 - c. October 31
 - d. October 15
5. What does "SEM" stand for?
 - a. Scholastic Enrollment Messaging
 - b. Student Educational Meeting
 - c. Student Enhancement Management
 - d. Strategic Enrollment Management