

BlueWave **NEWS**

November 2021



FSCJ to Compete for the Aspen Prize

The Aspen Institute recently named FSCJ one of the 150 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. The colleges selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high and improving levels of student success as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.

The 150 eligible colleges have been invited to submit data and narratives as the next steps in an intensive data and practice review process, culminating in the announcement of the prize winner in spring 2023.

[Learn More](#)

Thank You, Veterans!



In celebration of their courage, sacrifice and commitment to our country, we have developed a webpage to recognize FSCJ faculty and staff who have been part of our armed forces. We are adding to our listing of veterans who've answered a call to service which continues today in the work they do to serve our students.

To all veterans, we thank you for answering the call and for the extraordinary sacrifices you and your family have made for us in the name of freedom.

[Learn More](#)

We also want to honor those veterans who never made it home. Outside of Cafe Frisch sits a Missing Man Table. This table is reserved to honor our missing, fallen or imprisoned military service members. Each item on the table, including the table itself, holds a special meaning. Next time you stop by Cafe Frisch, please notice the table and honor the seat that remains unclaimed.

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is coming soon! Join us on November 30, 2021, as we collect food and monetary donations for the FSCJ H.O.P.E. Food Pantry. Online donations up to \$10,000 will be matched by a generous donor, doubling the impact of your gift!

#GIVING
TUESDAY

There will also be volunteer opportunities at a mobile food pantry at our Downtown Campus. More information will be coming soon, so be on the lookout for how you can help FSCJ make a huge difference for our students this year.



Powered by EAB Navigate

myGradPlan is Live

We are pleased to announce that myGradPlan is now live for students, faculty and staff use. Designed to help students get from orientation to graduation day in the shortest time possible, this helpful tool allows students to build class sequences and degree plans so they know what classes they need to take and when.

More features are being added, including simple, one-button class registration for Summer Term. Check out the site at fscj.edu/mygradplan.

Learn More

U.S. Department of Education Grant Helps Establish Educational Opportunity Center

FSCJ recently received a five-year, \$1,160,250 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to establish a TRiO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) to support adults from Duval and Nassau counties, specifically those who belong to traditionally underrepresented populations, have limited English proficiency or are living with disabilities. Focus will also be given to homeless children/youths, students who are in foster care/aging out of the foster care system, other disconnected students, and veterans, military spouses and their dependents.

The EOC will identify and serve 850 eligible participants yearly, eliminating the barriers to postsecondary education. A team of dedicated EOC Enrollment Coaches will also assist and connect participants to the following:

- Guidance on secondary school reentry or entry to a general educational development (GED®)/alternative program
- Individualized career and academic counseling
- Tutoring services
- Career workshops/counseling
- Veteran workshops on benefits, military spouse education, etc.
- Education and counseling designed to improve financial and economic literacy
- Mentoring services
- Support with college admission and financial aid applications
- Preparations for college entrance exams

Learn More



Chef Jeff Henderson Visits Culinary Students

Before speaking at the FSCJ Foundation's Power of Possible event, the award-winning celebrity chef and best-selling author Jeff Henderson met with students in our culinary arts programs. He talked to them about how his background and experiences led him to where he is now and inspired them to continue to pursue their passion.

[View Photos](#)

FSCJ Author Series

The 2022 FSCJ Author Series features the book, "From Scratch: A Memoir of Love, Sicily, and Finding Home" by Tembi Locke, actor, producer, advocate and bestselling author. Planning is underway for in-person and virtual events related to the book.

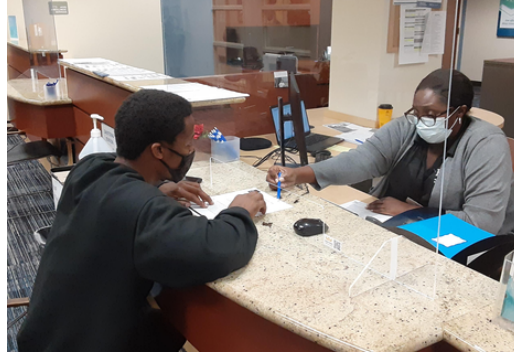


The author's visit and book signing return this year on March 1 and 2, 2022. More details will be shared soon. To get involved or incorporate "From Scratch" into your classroom, contact Professor Boyd at Melissa.Boyd@fscj.edu.

[Learn More](#)

November Recruitment Update

October was an exciting month for Recruitment & Admissions! In partnership with the FSCJ community, we hosted three Imagine Your Future events allowing students to learn more about the programs we offer and receive help with their FSCJ applications and FAFSA. Over the three days, we helped 94 prospective students! Thank you to everyone who helped make these events such a success. We have one additional event at our Nassau Center on November 18.



Below is a summary of October outreach efforts:

- Attended 43 events connecting with more than 1,000 prospective students.
- Assisted more than 1,500 interested students through QLess calls and walk-in appointments.

Know someone interested in joining the FSCJ family? Be sure to send them our way!

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations to the FSCJ employees who pulled together for a strong overall second-place finish in the First Coast Games! Teams competed in all offered sports, with the basketball and football teams bringing home a win for each of their divisions. The closing ceremony took place near the Downtown YMCA featuring a 5k race. FSCJ employees showed their winning spirit with several individuals winning their age groups including Matt Wetzel, James Huskins, Cyrus Kitto and Dora Kress. [View more photos.](#)





LLC Manager Deborah M. Williams was a presenter at the Midwestern Educational Research Association's (MWERA) 43rd Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. Deborah presented a paper titled, "A phenomenological study of academic librarians and the library sciences curriculum gap." She was also nominated for and accepted the position of chair over the "Education in the Professions" division of the Conference for the 2022-24 term.

FSCJ Get Fit Trails



The new FSCJ Get Fit Trails are officially open! Faculty, staff and students have already started to enjoy trail walks while getting some Vitamin D and extra steps.

The FSCJ Employee Wellness committee encourages you to keep using the trails by walking with a buddy during lunch, creating a team challenge in your department or ending your workday with a workout. To view the pictures from our kickoff events, click [here](#).

[View Maps](#)

Get to Know Your A&P Colleagues: Megan Dross

November's Administrative & Professional Collaborative (APC) spotlight shines on Director of Student Recruitment and Admissions Megan Dross. In her role, she provides leadership and support to her department that is focused on helping students begin their academic journey here at FSCJ.

[Learn More](#)



BlueWave Athletics Updates

For the second time this season, Men's Cross Country freshman Brennan Popik took over the #1 spot and led Adrian Figueroa, John Bear, Drew Stone and Lucas VanGinkel to an 8th place finish at Embry-Riddle University. Brennan and Adrian moved to 5th and 7th on the BlueWave All-Time Top 10 list with their performance. The Women's Cross Country Team Captain Hannah Ziegler led the women with an 8th place finish on the course famous for being the most challenging in the state. Hailey Smith, Meghan Bonser and Faith Harrold had a best kick of the meet as well. "No one runs a PR on this course; it's too hard. We had three women PR on this course today - absolutely awesome," said Coach Jody Hale.

The FSCJ Women's basketball team welcomes back Diana Couch as the head coach for the 2021-22 season. Although this is a new role for Coach Couch, she is no stranger to FSCJ, having served as the associate director of athletics from 2018-20. "I am extremely grateful to the selection committee and the FSCJ administration for their confidence in me to lead the women's basketball program," said Coach Couch. "Our goal is to put a solid competitive team on the floor, achieve national academic recognition and gain the respect of our community through service. I am excited to return to FSCJ athletics in this new role and am ready to get to work." Couch's prior experience includes coaching in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference, head women's basketball coach at Fort Scott Community College and women's assistant basketball coach at Newman University in Wichita, KS.



Board Highlights

Review the highlights of the November 9, 2021, meeting of the FSCJ District Board of Trustees:

- The District Board of Trustees authorized College administration to negotiate and enter into an indefinite quantity contract with Follett Higher Education Group as the top-ranked proposer to provide bookstore management services for the initial term of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2027, with the option to extend the contract for up to two additional two-year terms.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the revised 2021-22 Career Salary Index as part of the Pay Plan.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the proposed Strategic Plan 2021-24 (Visionary Impact Plan 2.0) and revised Mission, Vision and Values.
- The District Board of Trustees approved a one-time lump sum payment to all qualifying non-instructional full-time and regular part-time employees effective with the processing of the December 22, 2021 payroll.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the FSCJ ACCESS Program to be effective Spring Term 2021-22 pursuant to Board Rule 6Hx7-4.19.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the inactivation of the Radiation Therapy Specialist Technical Certificate program embedded within the Associate in Science degree program in Radiation Therapy, effective at the end of the Fall Term 2021.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the inactivation of the Radiation Therapy Specialist Advanced Technical Certificate program embedded within the Associate in Science degree program in Radiation Therapy, effective at the end of the Spring Term 2022.
- The District Board of Trustees approved a new Financial Technology (FinTech) Advanced Technical Certificate program embedded within the Bachelor of Science degree program in Information Systems Technology, effective Fall Term 2022.

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

Comings and Goings

Who's New

This list includes those individuals who are filling the newly appointed Faculty full-time positions, full-time A&P positions and full-time Career Employee positions.

Faculty Full-Time

- Rebecca Alter, Professor of Nursing-Pediatrics and Maternity
- Matthew Doggett, Professor of Speech/Director of Forensics
- Elizabeth Lacinski, Professor of Nursing-Pediatrics and Maternity
- Regina Lee, Professor of Surgical Services
- Lopest Manuel, Professor of Nursing
- Savannah O'Steen, Professor of Radiography
- Wendy Steffes, Professor of Nursing-Pediatrics and Maternity
- Allison Turner, Temporary Professor of Business

A&P Full-Time

- Elizabeth Abbott, Interim Director of Program Development
- James Artley, Associate Director of Student Conduct
- Johnny Bowman, Director of Program Development
- Michael Carpenter, Interim Director, Fire Academy of the South
- Lauren Finch, Director of Campus/Center Enrollment and Student Services
- Wanda Ford, Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration
- Elise Horowitz, Department Chair
- Carla Jenkins, Director of Campus/Center Enrollment and Student Services
- Jan Levius, Interim Associate Director of Academic Advising Services
- Kelly McLauchlan, E-Learning Instructional Designer
- Linda Roy, Dean of Nursing
- Oksana Spears, Interim Library and Learning Commons Manager
- William Thomas, Engineer I - Client Support

Career Full-Time

- Jennifer Anderson, Enrollment Coach
- Leanne Aston, Assistant Box Office Coordinator
- Beth Bess, Administrative Assistant I
- Michael Brock, Journeyman

- Marcellus Brown, Armed Security Officer
- Sherman Calmese, Armed Security Officer
- Trend Collins, Student Recruiter
- Daynah Delacruz, Library Assistant I
- Sendy Dumerlus, Enrollment Coach
- Kermit Dunwoody, Security Officer II
- Ronny Elmore, Laboratory Manager
- Ashley Gilpin, Library Assistant I
- Laura Goodwin, Interim Case Manager/Career Specialist
- Laurence Greene, Interim Project Coordinator
- Brandy Groves, Library Assistant II
- Virginia Harris, Box Office Specialist
- Clair Hart, Interim Project Coordinator
- Damion Henderson, Security Officer I
- Luis Hernandez, Integrated System Specialist
- Corey Hibbard, Call Center Representative I
- Jeremiah Higingbotham, Advisor II
- Christopher Jackson, Campus HVAC Facilities Manager
- Derek Kruse, Tradesworker III
- Gabrielle Lopez, Business Office Specialist II
- Irene Luna, Student Success Advisor I
- Nalix Marquez-Lopez, Plant Service Worker
- Vicky Mossuto, Box Office Assistant
- Alexandra Nickel, Business Office Specialist II
- Rishi Raval, Call Center Representative I
- Martin Reyes, Interim Case Manager/Career Specialist
- Alberto Rodriguez, Student Records Coordinator
- Sonya Samuels, Accountant IV
- Shana Spiller, Business Office Specialist II
- Joleen Stahl, Program Advisor
- Noelle Tafaoa, Purchasing Contracts Coordinator
- Emily Towery, Student Services Lead Specialist
- Alyssa Young, Call Center Representative I

Who's Retiring?

The following employees have recently retired, or will soon be retiring, from FSCJ:

- Robert Calhoun
- Maxine Phillips

In the News

FSCJ's faculty, staff, students, programs and leadership are often highlighted by local and regional media outlets - online, on air and in print. Read articles featuring important updates and activities happening within the College by clicking [here](#).

FSCJ In Action



FSCJ's 11th Blocktoberfest took place on October 29. The event brought together FSCJ art and design students for a printmaking extravaganza. With the help of a steamroller, students were able to complete their oversized works of art.

Click on the image to watch the spotlight video.

On October 12, Urban Agriculture (Urban Ag) at FSCJ celebrated its kick off in conjunction with National Farmers' Day. Students, faculty, staff, urban growers and friends from the community enjoyed lively discussions, planting demonstrations, tours of the aquaponics learning lab, plant giveaways and snacks prepared by our own FSCJ culinary artists. Participants donated food items for our H.O.P.E. Food Pantry. In total, 30.43 pounds were collected, which will provide 25 meals.

The Urban Ag at FSCJ project started in 2019 after the completion of the Ready To Grow grant awarded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). [Learn more.](#)



The Student Services team collected a total of 133.3 pounds of food for our students at their Student Services Professional Development Day, which was held on Friday, November 5. Their donations will help roughly 26 students, providing each with a day's worth of food!

Upcoming Events



SPRING TERM REGISTRATION **NOW OPEN**

Register through myFSCJ. To view class schedules,
visit fscj.edu/schedules

ΦΘΚ

UPSILON ETA CHAPTER

INDUCTION CEREMONY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2021 · 6 P.M.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Save the Date:
Friday, January 7, 2022

[View Upcoming Events](#)

BlueWave News Quiz

Test your knowledge. To ensure all faculty and staff have an opportunity to submit answers, the 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 bluewavenews@fscj.edu. The three winners will receive a BlueWave prize pack! **Please note:** Previous quiz winners, while eligible to submit answers, are not eligible for additional prizes for six months.

- 1) What cross country course is known for being the most challenging one in the state?
 - a. University of Florida
 - b. University of North Florida
 - c. Florida State University
 - d. Embry-Riddle University
- 2) FSCJ is one of how many institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence?
 - a. 10
 - b. 100
 - c. 150
 - d. 50
- 3) Where is the Missing Man Table that honors our missing, fallen or imprisoned military service members located?
 - a. Cafe Frisch
 - b. North Campus
 - c. Cecil Center
 - d. Military and Veterans Service Center
- 4) Urban Ag at FSCJ celebrated its kick off in conjunction with what national holiday?
 - a. National Agriculture Day
 - b. National Farmers' Day
 - c. Farm Workers Day
 - d. Arbor Day
- 5) What date is this year's Giving Tuesday?
 - a. December 7
 - b. November 16
 - c. November 30
 - d. November 23



Connect with us!