

THE CLEANLINESS OF FRESNO CITY CAMPUS

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Fresno City College is an active campus with many events occurring at once. The buildings are constantly being used and need to be cleaned.

When the college custodial staff cleans they focus on certain areas depending on the building size and foot traffic. Certain areas need more cleaning than others, according to Jerry Hernandez, the buildings and grounds custodial manager.

“They’ll start with the bathrooms, eating areas. Make sure that all the sanitation side of the responsibilities is done, as well as the garbage, throwing out the garbage, cleaning the classrooms,” Hernandez said. “Custodians have assignments. Either the floor or an entire building.”

Most of the staff works on a night shift to clean the buildings. The custodial staff seen throughout the day focuses on “bathroom refreshers,” or general eating areas, according to Hernandez.

Giovanny Alvarez, a criminology major at FCC, said that the campus is well maintained, overall

“The bathrooms? Honestly, there’s some bathrooms where people try to avoid, I don’t know if it’s how old they are or if it’s just they’re not maintained,” Alvarez said. “But for the most part, the campus itself is maintained, the bathrooms could use a little work.”

According to the 2020/2021 Human Resource Priorities Report, it was recommended that there should be an additional four custodial staff members on the team. Since then the school received approval for two additional custodial staff members according to Daniel Moore, the vice president of Administrative Services.

“And in addition, we’ve increased student workers that assist with some of the custodial refreshers and things of that nature as well,” Hernandez said.

FCC is constantly evolving. Over the past few years new additions have been added, such as the West Fresno Center and the New Science Building. These additions also have to be accommodated.

The campus has developed and changed since 2020.

So while they have added two additional staff members which will help, they still have to actively



Pieces of dirt and debris on the floor of upstairs in the Old Administration Building hallway, March 26. Photo by Sophia Wilson.

search for new ways to optimize the work on campus.

“We do our best to recalibrate, and it’s still a work in progress,” Moore said.

Isaac McCombs, an English major at FCC, said that one area on campus that isn’t clean are the lockers.

“There’s just a lot of dirt and sometimes trash in there, even though there’s like nothing in there,” McCombs said.

FCC is a campus that constantly hosts different events. The staff does their best to compensate for this, but it may cause people to be moved around to accommodate for events.

“So, there’s some days we might have one event. There’s some we might have 17,” Moore said. “We kind of take a flex approach, where, for instance, if we know on a given Wednesday there’s going to be 17 things going on, we do our best to maybe flex resources temporarily.”

People complain about campus, but when asked overall, students don’t seem to have much of an issue other than the bathroom.

Elisa Tapia, an English major at FCC, has concerns over the bathroom being dirty.

“I feel like the campus is pretty clean. The restrooms

can kinda get dirty, but that’s just restrooms,” Tapia said. “No, that restroom up there [second story Art/Home Economics building restrooms] that’s always dirty, they should really fix that.”

Recently, a new program, Respect the Ram, started to bring this up.

According to Moore, keeping the campus clean should not be only a responsibility delegated to building services.

“We’re not asking people to put on gloves and to get a scrubbing machine, but if you’re in a classroom or a conference room when you get up, if you can push your chair back in, if you eat food, if you can make sure you put your trash into, you know, receptacle. If you’re walking on campus and you see a Pepsi can on the ground, please pick it up, put it in the trash,” Moore said. “Little things like that add up so that the limited

building services, staffing resources we have, we can focus on other things.”

Respect the Ram flyers, which will lead students to be able to submit requests or concerns about areas or issues are arising on campus through QR codes. Hernandez encourages students to utilize this feature.

Despite the criticism from some students on campus, FCC has been complimented for its cleanliness and was “hitting the mark,” according to Moore.

“I think it’s every five to seven years we get accredited, we got a lot of compliments on the cleanliness level of our campus grounds and bathrooms and classrooms, in comparison to other districts in college, the accreditation team has, in fact, visited,” Moore said. “So regardless of what Jerry [Hernandez] or Daniel [Moore] says, that really speaks volumes in the context of the education, public sector community that we’re in.”

FCC PRESIDENT DENISE WHISENHUNT FOCUSES ON STUDENT VOICES

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Fresno City College President Denise Whisenhunt said her time in office so far has been defined by listening, to help her understand the needs of students, faculty and the overall community.

“I’ve been trying to listen rather than assume,” Whisenhunt said.

Since stepping into her role, Whisenhunt has done what she described as a “listening tour,” meeting with hundreds of people across campus, including student government, faculty and students.

Through these conversations, one theme stood out to her.

“Time and time again from students and staff, is that they love the school,” Whisenhunt said.

That feedback shaped her early priorities, which includes strengthening connections within FCC and continuing to build a strong community.

Whisenhunt plans to introduce many ways to keep the FCC community involved, an example being celebrating the college’s 115th anniversary. This includes more community

events such as the “night walk” on April 30 highlighting FCC’s history.

Whisenhunt emphasized that understanding FCC’s legacy can play a big role in building school pride.

I just wanted to create that sense of pride that’s already existing, kind of elevate those voices by connecting us to our roots,” Whisenhunt said.

One of the most important concerns by students was the district’s ICE protocol, which had caused some confusion for students. The protocol asked students to notify the president’s office if approached by an ICE agent and also call the State California Community College Police Department. Whisenhunt said FCC is actively working to improve communication and clarity.

“Our commitment to make this a safer place for students is important for all students,” Whisenhunt said.

Efforts to improve the protocol includes expanding information to FCC’s website and continuing to talks with student groups and clubs.

“This has been an ongoing thing that we’re working on,” Whisenhunt said. “We’re in troubling times, and we’re really trying to do as best we can.”



Photo of President Denise Whisenhunt alongside Fresno City College events and campus community. Graphic by Miley Araujo and photos taken by FCC.