

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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Inside this issue

Page 1

Executive Director Letter

Page 2

McKay Scholarships
Certification Renewals
Other Workshops

Page 3

School News
FCIS Workshops
Teachers

Page 4

Heads' Retreat 2014
Accredited Schools

Page 5

Certification/MIP
VISNET

Page 6

Accreditation Corner
FKC Corner

Upcoming FCIS Events

New Heads' Institute

July 24-26, 2014
Marriott Resort,
Hutchinson Island

Fundraising Workshop

July 26, 2014
Marriott Resort,
Hutchinson Island

Administrators' Retreat

July 27-29, 2014
Marriott Resort,
Hutchinson Island

from the executive director...

As the 2013-14 school year closes, I am reflecting back on this past year and looking forward to new possibilities in the 2014-15 school year. First on my mind is the hiring of two new FCIS staff members, whom I believe will be integral in helping our association move to new heights in serving our member schools. During this past year, FCIS conducted two national searches, one for the Director of Accreditation and one for the Director of Professional Development. Both searches drew candidates from across the nation. FCIS is proud to welcome Melissa Alton as the new Director of Accreditation and Alison Carlson as the new Director of Professional Development. If you have not already done so, please visit the FCIS website to view their brief biographies; it will become clear why these two individuals rose to the top of these searches with outstanding candidates. Melissa will officially be joining us on July 1, and Alison was able to join us on June 1. Of course with all of that excitement and anticipation for the future, we have to say goodbye to a very special person in our FCIS family – Carol Lee Curtis, who has served us so well over these past 15 years. Words cannot express our extreme gratitude to her for her fine work and commitment to FCIS.

Not only has staff changed at FCIS, but also our program offerings have continued to expand. Last July, we introduced the 21st Century Learning Academy, which has become an annual offering; the event moved this year to June, drawing 48 educators last week from around the state. We held our first FCIS New Heads Institute (NHI) last July, welcoming 11 new heads to FCIS. NHI brought in national leaders and state leaders in the areas of independent education, law, business, finance, and advancement. Registration is now open for the 2014 NHI, projecting a similar turnout. The Prospective Heads Institute, just completing a second year, expanded to include two tracks, drawing 24 administrative leaders from around the state. The first Leadership Partnership through Principles of Good Governance was held in early October in Coral Gables and is slated for the same timeframe this year in Orlando. I believe all of these programs have made a difference in our member schools.

Projecting to the 2014-15 school year, FCIS has formed a partnership with NAIS for participation in Data and Analysis for School Leadership (DASL). Data previously collected on the FCIS Annual Report will now be collected through DASL. Unlike the past, all FCIS schools, not just NAIS schools, will be able to access the data, allowing our schools to have at their fingertips the information necessary to make informed decisions about their futures. Later in the summer, FCIS will provide the training necessary for our schools to participate in this data-rich program. In addition, FCIS Master In-service Program will be more efficiently run as it is managed through an electronic database. FCIS staff is in the process of working with the software developer to customize it for FCIS. Once that process is completed, FCIS staff will conduct training to inform our member schools of how to access this program.

As you can probably tell, I am excited about the future of FCIS, and the changes that will enable our association to better serve our member schools.

Tallahassee. Through the work of our lobbyist, Brenda Dickinson, your support, and my presence in Tallahassee, FCIS was able to positively impact legislation proposed in the 2014 Legislative Session. Key bills included HB7069 Early Learning, which was defeated, and SB850 Expansion of Corporate Tax Scholarships, which passed. In addition, a new section of Law 1009.893 FS created the Florida National Merit Scholar Incentive Program for National Merit Scholars and National Achievement Scholars who elect to attend a Florida college or university. A more complete Legislative Report may be found on the FCIS website.

FCIS. It is not too early to plan to attend the FCIS Annual Convention on November 20-21, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverwalk Hotel. Plan to bring your entire faculty for Faculty Day on November 21. The program promises to be exceptional. For more information, go to www.fcis.org.

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

FLVS Courses Will Still Be Debited

From McKay Scholarships

May 9, 2014 Update

Despite assurances by legislators that the deductions from McKay Scholarships for completed FLVS courses would be fixed this session, this did not happen. As of Tuesday, April 29th, we were told it was in the conforming bill and should pass. Unfortunately, it was not placed in the conforming bill and was not changed before the session ended.

This means that parents of any McKay Scholarship recipient who takes an FLVS course (summer classes included) will see a deduction in their scholarship payment. For a two semester course the deduction will be approximately \$770.

It is important that schools make parents aware of this issue.

The Coalition will reach out to FLVS and ask that they post this information on their website since, for McKay parents, FLVS courses are not truly free.

We will work on trying to have the exemption language passed again next year. Next fall, we will call for parents and schools to contact their legislators to ask them to pass this legislation.

We want to thank Rep. Bileca for all of his efforts for our parents and students concerning this issue.

Two Other Issues Concerning Virtual Courses

1) McKay Scholarship recipients may only take two FLVS courses in a year without forfeiting their scholarship. Make sure that your parents understand that **if their child is enrolled in two courses during the school year, the student cannot take another course in the summer.**

No course number limit exists for enrolling in other virtual school programs. Students may enroll in more than two virtual courses if they are not through FLVS.

2) **McKay Scholarship recipients will LOSE their scholarship if they enroll in a virtual school course that is a district virtual school course.** This is considered reenrolling in the public school and eligibility for scholarships is lost upon enrollment.

Certification Renewal

**Florida Professional Certificates
expiring June 30, 2014**

- Renew online at www.fldoe.org/edcert
- Contact Keara Danger, kdanger@fcis.org, to submit your master inservice to the DOE on the CT-116.

Other Workshops

ISM
www.isminc.com/si — Summer Institute
June 23-July 20, Utah

SSATB
www.admission.org — Annual Meeting
Sept. 17-20, Orlando

School News



Forty-three students from **Community School of Naples** traveled to Orlando April 11-12 to compete in the Annual Mu Alpha Theta State Math Convention. CSN freshman Matthew Zhao was crowned a state champion as over 1200 students from 56 schools competed in the two-day event won by Buchholz High School of Gainesville. Zhao had two top 20 finishes, including winning first place in the Theta Quadrilaterals contest and taking 6th in the theta geometry test. Community School as a whole fared well, finishing 15th (3rd among private schools) in the overall sweepstakes.

Jack Koch, a junior at **Berkeley Preparatory School** in Tampa, began a fundraising project at the beginning of the school year to help Dickenson Elementary School, a school in need of technology and computers. He reached out to family and friends seeking any amount they were willing to give. He even gave \$1,500 of his own savings as a challenge to donors offering to match that amount. He eventually raised \$5,200 to put his goal into action. A self-described technology junkie, Koch feels that all students, regardless of financial limitations, deserve to have access to technology that can help them learn.

All Saints' Academy announced two new Electric Vehicle charging stations on campus! Congratulations to Mrs. Tricia Dugger (middle school division) and Mrs. Valerie Satterfield (lower school division) for being named the 2014 Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc. Faculty Prize recipients! The 2014 Karen Kirkner Spirit of the Heart Award was presented to Father Rick Gomer for his positive contribution to the lives of others.



Admiral Farragut Academy's Brittany McGee '15 competed on May 24 at the 38th Golden South Classic in Orlando. The Golden South Classic is an international, elite track and field meet for high school students. The event has been named one of three meets in the prestigious adidas® Golden Stripes series. The FHSAA announced that **The Out-of-Door Academy** received the prestigious Fred E. Rozelle Sportsmanship Award. It is presented to one school in each enrollment classification whose total sports' program best exemplifies the qualities of sportsmanship as demonstrated by its coaches, players and spectators. Congratulations!

Teachers

2015 NCHE Conference
National Council for History Education

"Encounters in History"
Flagler College, St. Augustine
March 19-21, 2015
more information can be found at:
www.nche.net/conference

The Weiss School
August 4-8, 2014
Curriculum for the Gifted

Need in-service points? Why not start by taking a Gifted Endorsement Course? Curriculum for the Gifted will be offered at The Weiss School August 4th through August 8th. Head of School, Dr. Denise Spirou will lead this exciting and innovative course. For more information, contact Dr. Spirou directly at dspirou@weisschool.org or 561-627-0740.

FCIS Workshops

New Heads' Institute
July 24-26, 2014
Marriott Resort,
Hutchinson Island

Fundraising Workshop
July 26, 2014
Marriott Resort,
Hutchinson Island

Administrators' Retreat
July 27-29, 2014
Marriott Resort,
Hutchinson Island

New Teacher Institute
September 21-23, 2014
Mission Hills Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills

2014 Convention
November 20-21, 2014
Hyatt Regency Riverfront,
Jacksonville

Prospective Heads' Institute I and II
January 14-15, 2015
Mission Hills Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills

Academy for High Performing Teachers and Administrators
January 25-27, 2015
Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

Evaluation Academy
February 15, 2015
Lake Highland Prep,
Orlando

Congratulations to Our New FCIS 2013-14 Schools

North Florida School of Special Education

Jacksonville

Head of School: Sally Hazelip

David Posnack Jewish Day School

Davie

Head of School: Dr. Richard Cuenca

Keystone Prep High School (New School Candidate)

Tampa

Head of School: Rick LeGendre

FCIS Heads' Retreat

June 9-11, 2014

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs

In June we welcomed 51 Heads of School to the 22nd Annual Heads' Retreat in Bonita Springs. At the Welcome Reception, two retiring school heads were recognized for their years of service to FCIS: Cathy Hardage, Head of St. Mark's Episcopal School in Jacksonville, and William Jablon, Head of Maclay School in Tallahassee. Cathy was the Head at St. Mark's for 8 years. She served on the FCIS Board and is currently one of the Convention Co-Chairs. Bill was Headmaster at Maclay for 38 years, serving under all four Executive Directors of FCIS. A Board Member for 12 years, Bill also participated in approximately 80 accreditation visits throughout the years! Carol Lee Curtis, retiring Director of Professional Development, was also honored for her fifteen years of exceptional service with FCIS. The following day Dr. Hodges introduced the new Director of Professional Development, Alison Carlson.



Bill Jablon, David Mahler
and Cathy Hardage

At this year's retreat the theme was "Positive Leadership in the 21st Century". Featured speakers were Mr. William T. Krizner, an attorney from Tallahassee, and Professor Richard P. Honack, an Adjunct Professor of Executive Education at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. In his workshop "The 7 Cornerstones in Creating Cohesive Cultures" Mr. Krizner identified essential traits for a thriving school community and provided practical strategies for cultivating a healthier school culture while also minimizing legal risks. Professor Honack presented his session "Strategic Thinking in the Nanosecond Culture" in which he characterized our fast-paced culture, the evolving values and leadership traits of each generation, and the resulting change in landscape for future workforces. He encouraged Heads to consider in their strategic planning how they and their schools will learn, educate, lead and market in this environment of changing values and new expectations. Heads found the workshops relevant, engaging and thought-provoking and seemed energized by their time spent relaxing and enjoying each other.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the 2015 Heads' Retreat on June 15-17, 2015, at the South Seas Island Resort on Captiva Island.

New Florida State Certification Requirement

The Department of Education has issued a new rule for ALL those renewing or reinstating a Florida Professional Certificate.

Here is an outline of the renewal and reinstatement requirements.

- Anyone renewing a state professional certificate after July 1, 2014, will be required to obtain one college credit or 20 in-service points in the area of teaching students with disabilities (SWD). This will not add to total already required (six semester hours/120 in-service points). Example: 100 master in-service points and 20 SWD master in-service points
- No one is exempt from meeting the requirement. It does not matter what you are certified in, whether or not you are teaching, what subject you are teaching, or what your degree major is in.
- A National Board certificate in Exceptional Needs Specialist - Early Childhood through Young Adult can be used to satisfy the requirement.
- A passing score on the Florida Subject Area Exam in Exceptional Student Education, Hearing Impairment, Visually Impaired, or Speech-Language Impaired can be used provided it was taken during the validity period of the professional certificate being renewed.
- If your certificate expires on June 30, 2014, or June 30, 2015, you will NOT need to meet the new requirement during this renewal period **provided** the renewal application and fee are **submitted** by **June 30, 2014**, and provided you have met renewal requirements by June 30, 2014. You can not submit your application and fee to renew unless all points are posted or you have your official transcript showing the completed college credit.



FCIS-VISNET Brought to you by FCIS, in partnership with the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools



FCIS is a partner with VISNET, a virtual school network created by the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools (NCAIS) with funds from the Edward E. Ford Foundation in 2009. Exclusive to FCIS accredited schools in the state of Florida, VISNET provides FCIS member schools with an array of professional development, online courses, blended learning resources and a rich content repository. After joining, VISNET schools will then have the opportunity to enhance 21st century learning resources – EPSCO, BrainPop, Middlebury Language Program, Haiku and many more at discounted prices!

Some highlights include:

- Unique elective courses where a student is an “intern” in a Green Industry or studies video game design, cartoon animation or Gothic Literature
- Professional Development opportunities including a summer conference for 21st Century Teachers and access to Campus Outreach Services webinar series with topics such as Internet Safety, Mental Health & Stress, Body Image and Alcohol Risk
- EBSCO – library database and resources, already used in FL state Universities
- Middlebury Language Institute competency and fluency programs, with native speakers in real-life situations
- Carone Fitness Program, where students can complete PE and health requirements in an innovative and stimulating program

VISNET membership guidelines for FCIS schools for the 2014-15 school year will remain the same! New members, go to fcis.vis-network.org/ or contact Tam at nguyen@fcis.org for additional information.

FCIS Accreditation Corner

Upcoming Events and Announcements from the FCIS Accreditation Office!

Workshops:

“Preparing for an Evaluation” - for Administrators and Steering Committee Chairs

- Administrators’ Retreat - July 27-29, 2014
- In-depth session available Monday afternoon
- Marriott Resort, Hutchinson Island

Standards Webinars - If your Head of School was unable to attend the live webinars on Financial Standards or Governance Standards, archived copies are available on the Head’s Portal. Pertinent in-depth information was reviewed during these webinars. Contact Tam Nguyen your password at tnguyen@fcis.org.

November 2014 - FCIS Convention, Jacksonville

- Three sessions on “Preparing for an Evaluation” and “Serving on a Team”

2014-15 Accreditation visits

- FCIS and FKC Chair information has been sent to Heads of School
- Please contact Chairs directly to schedule dates for evaluation
- **FCIS/FKC Review** evaluations—must be held between Sept. 30—Jan. 15, 2015
- It is **strongly** recommended that an administrator/Steering Committee Chair attend one of the above sessions as you prepare for your Five Year Evaluation

Florida Kindergarten Council Corner

Mark Your Calendars – FKC Convention 2015

Friday, January 30, 2015

6:30pm - 8:00pm Meet and Greet
Complimentary Beverages and Hors D’oeuvres

Saturday, January 31, 2015

7:30am—Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:00am—3:30pm General Meeting/Sessions/Lunch



The DoubleTree SeaWorld Orlando
10100 International Drive
Orlando, FL
800-327-0363



*We wish you a happy and safe summer!
From: The FCIS Office*

