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Summer Symposiums

Upcoming FCIS Events

Leadership Academy
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point,
Bonita Springs

New Heads' Institute
July 25-27, 2019

Finance Institute
July 26, 2019

Fundraising Institute
July 27, 2019

Aspiring Administrators' Institute
July 28-29, 2019

Administrators' Institute
July 28-30, 2019

New Teacher Institute
September 15-17, 2019
Mission Inn Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills

from the executive director...

As many of you are reading this newsletter, another school year is coming to an end. I hope that you are making plans for some much needed rest and relaxation sometime during the summer months. This school year brought many opportunities and many challenges. Soon after we had all just settled into the 2018-19 school year, our state encountered another major hurricane, Michael, the first Category 5 hurricane to strike the United States since 1992. This time, considerable damage was done to the Florida Panhandle. Two of our schools sustained significant damage from the hurricane, but neither school was deterred by that damage, and our member schools were there to support them and help pick them up. In both cases, these schools were the first schools to reopen in their counties, despite all of the hardships that the faculty, staff, students, and families had endured. One is back on its original site, and the other is meeting on two temporary campuses, one made of portables. I am moved by the resilience of our schools that were damaged and by the generous hearts of FCIS schools from around the state. It truly exemplifies the meaning of the "FCIS family". All of our schools have had their own challenges and their own opportunities. As I travel around the state, I continue to marvel at the quality educational experiences that are being provided by our FCIS schools; our schools are truly "leading in excellence".

New Opportunities. FCIS continues to add new resources to support our member schools. Below are the highlights of those resources.

- This was the first full year of implementation of the accreditation portal, which debuted in January 2018. A new enhancement of the portal this year was the addition of a feature that allows schools to upload their documentation directly into the portal to coincide with standards and indicators.
- The FCIS Director and Assistant Director of Accreditation continued to move around the state to offer evaluation and portal training.
- The FCIS Director of Accreditation developed training materials to help schools better understand the function of "Essential Questions".
- FCIS expanded its governance training to include the "Partnership of 3", which focused on the team of the head of school, board chair, and chief financial officer.
- FCIS expanded The Leadership Academy to include a new Aspiring Administrators' Institute, which will debut in August.
- Under the leadership of the FCIS Director of Professional Development, FCIS formed a collaborative

partnership with The Klingenstein Center at Teachers College Columbia University to provide quality professional development for administrators and teachers.

2019 Florida Legislative Session. The 2019 Florida Legislative Session convened on March 5 and concluded on May 4. The most impactful educational changes were found in SB 7070, which included the Family Empowerment Scholarship; the bill was quickly signed into law by the Governor. This new statute provides additional funding for scholarships begun as Florida Tax Credit Scholarships (FTCS). Unlike the FTCS, these new scholarships will be funded by the state in a similar manner as the McKay Scholarship. Families may still go to the websites of the Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFOs), such as StepUp and AAA, and there should be a link to the FLDOE. More information on the results of the 2019 Legislative Session may be found on the FCIS website.

ICAISA. The International Council Advancing Independent School Accreditation, made up of 20 independent school associations from around the world, has just named its founding executive director. Bonnie Ricci, formerly head of school at The Birches School in Massachusetts and the previous Director of Accreditation of the Association of Independent Schools of the Northeast (AISNE), will begin her new role on July 1, 2019. I was elected to the position of chair of the ICAISA Board of Directors in February, and I look forward to the work of promoting the value and quality of independent school accreditation around the world.

FCIS Convention. It is not too early to make plans to attend the 2019 FCIS Annual Convention at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport on November 7-8, 2019. Convention information can be found on the FCIS website.

In Closing. As the new school year dawns on July 1, 2019, FCIS will continue to focus on offering professional development opportunities to meet the needs of our schools, will continue to refine our relatively new accreditation process and resources, and will continue to advocate for the independence of our schools through lobbying efforts with the Florida Legislature and the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA).

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

FCIS Professional Development Calendar

2019-2020

Leadership Academy

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs

New Heads' Institute

July 25-27, 2019



Finance Institute

July 26, 2019

Fundraising Institute

July 27, 2019



New Offering! *Aspiring Administrators' Institute*

July 28-29, 2019



Administrators' Institute

July 28-30, 2019

New Teacher Institute

September 15-17, 2019

Mission Inn Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills

Leadership Partners through Principles of Good Governance

October 6-7, 2019

Hyatt Regency Int'l Airport,
Orlando

Pre-Conf: ISM

November 6, 2019

Hyatt Regency Airport,
Orlando

Business Officers' Pre-Conf

November 6, 2019

Hyatt Regency Airport,
Orlando

Annual Convention

November 7-8, 2019

Hyatt Regency Airport,
Orlando

Prospective Heads' Institute I, II & III

January 8-9, 2020

Mission Inn Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills

Academy for High Performing Educators

January 26-28, 2020

Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

Winter Symposiums

February 5-6, 2020

Pine Crest School,
Fort Lauderdale

Chair Training

June 15, 2020

South Seas Island Resort,
Captiva Island

Heads' Retreat

June 15-17, 2020

South Seas Island Resort,
Captiva Island

Certification Renewal

Florida Professional Certificates Expiring June 30, 2019

Renew online at www.fldoe.org and contact Keara Danger, kdanger@fcis.org,
to submit your master in-service to the DOE on the CT-116.

School News



On May 15, **Maclay School** unveiled a trio of new innovative student labs designed to foster student learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. The labs, made from refurbished shipping containers, are much like the structures seen on HGTV's popular "Container Homes" series. The three labs will each house a different focus including Biomedical and Student Research; Art, Inspiration and Design; and Computer Science, Robotics and Engineering. Together with a shared courtyard of gardens designed to foster student collaboration, they comprise the Beck Family Research Center (BFRC) named in honor of lead donors, Mike and Kelly Beck.

The Village School of Naples (TVS) is dedicated to creating the next generation of environmentally responsible global citizens with its urban and rural farming project. Since August of last year, students in the Upper School's Agricultural Engineering Department have embarked on a sustainable journey into agricultural engineering with the mission of understanding renewable resources on a deeper level. TVS students further integrated technology and the arts into the program by documenting their work and experiences online at <https://sites.google.com/tvsnaples.org/tvsae/home>, and posting on social media sites like Twitter - https://twitter.com/TVS_Engineers. TVS students even created a chickcam to monitor the hatching of baby chickens.

With the goal of preparing students for college success and international fluencies, **The Bolles School** has been investing wisely in resources, partnerships and opportunities that are

yielding extraordinary university-level, globally focused experiences for upper school students. One of the most recent additions to influence the school's academic and global offerings is a partnership with GOA, Global Online Academy, through which students can participate in a broad selection of college-level courses with peers from all over the world. For the second year, The Bolles School Sharks Swim Program has contributed \$10,000 in a collaborative partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida and The City of Jacksonville to provide swim lessons for inner-city youth. This partnership is focused on decreasing the number of drownings in Duval County and providing a lifetime of safe swimming for local youth.

On April 29, **Tampa Preparatory School's** Coach Joe Fenlon was inducted into the FHSAA Hall of Fame. He has invested 36 years into the basketball program at Tampa Prep and surpassed 750 career wins this season. He is not only a mentor and role model to the players on his basketball team, but to everyone that walks the halls at Tampa Prep. Congratulations to Coach Fenlon for a much deserved recognition by the FHSAA!



Several Lower School students representing **Community School of Naples** were honored recently for their achievement in this year's WordMasters Challenge™ — a national vocabulary competition based on completing analogies, involving nearly 150,000 students nationwide. Congratulations!



DASL DATA ENTRY IS OPEN AND CLOSES ON OCTOBER 9



DASL is a must-have tool for driving strategic conversations at your school. Adding accurate and complete data will help you lead and promote excellence. It also provides members with access to resources such as the NAIS DASL Databook .

There are two exciting changes this year. Based on input from over 900 DASL users, NAIS streamlined questions and removed the ones that were rarely answered and/or rarely used in reporting. NAIS also aligned its questions and data with the U.S. Census.

Also check the DASL site regularly for updates, webinars, tips, and more. Please feel free to contact them at daslhelp@nais.org.

Complete Data: <https://dasl.nais.org/Public>

FCIS Business Officers' Conference

May 5-7, 2019

Renaissance Airport Hotel, Orlando

FCIS welcomed over 60 participants to Orlando for the third Annual FCIS Business Officers' Conference. Business Officers, Heads, and other school leaders attended the almost two-day event. This was the 33rd conference for Florida independent school business officers, formerly known as FISBO.

On Monday morning, Jeff Shields, President and CEO of the National Business Officers' Association (NBOA), gave the opening keynote presentation, *Perspectives and Insights for Navigating Financial Trends*. Participants explored the top trends facing independent school business officers and discussed strategies for addressing them and leading a school to future financial success. Additional topics covered throughout the conference included: risk management, employment law issues, catastrophic property insurance, school sustainability, fringe benefits, financial aid and net tuition revenue, high-level customer service, auxiliary programs, and 21st century trends in independent schools. On Monday afternoon, Dr. Barbara Hodges presented *The Business Officer's Role in Leading and Maintaining Accreditation*. She discussed the value of accreditation to an independent school, the role of accreditation in long term school sustainability, and the extent to which the chief business officer should lead and maintain accreditation. Participants learned the importance of accreditation as a facilitator of best practices in promoting the health and sustainability of an independent school.

On Tuesday morning, Tim Fish, Chief Innovation Officer at the National Association of Independent Schools, gave the closing keynote, *Re-imagining Independent Schools: An Innovator's Journey*. Participants took a close look at what needs to be in place for whole school innovation to succeed and learned new capabilities to help build a future-wise school.

Throughout the conference, participants networked with colleagues at peer schools and continued discussions in classroom settings and informal conversations during meals.



FCIS is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors. Be sure to look for future events to earn CPE credits!

Save the date! Mark your calendar for the **2020 FCIS Business Officers' Conference** on May 10-12 at the Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel!



FCIS Heads' Retreat

June 10-12, 2019

Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island Beach Resort & Spa

In June, we welcomed 44 Heads of School to the 26th Annual Heads' Retreat on Singer Island.

On the first day, Harry Kraemer, Professor at Northwest University's Kellogg School of Management, kicked off the program. In his session, *Becoming a Values-based Leader*, Harry highlighted the importance of Four Key Principles (self-reflection, balance, true self-confidence, and genuine humility) in the actions and decisions Heads make as a leader of their school.

The next day, Ian Symmonds, President and Chief Strategist of Ian Symmonds & Associates, presented *Leadership in the New Normal*. In this session, Ian identified the skills, attributes, and dispositions that leaders need in the brave, new normal of independent schools. Participants discussed how to best lead their organizations, as the industry moves through a pivotal inflection point, a shifting business model, changing modes of delivery, and a redefined role of education in the world. Heads found the workshops relevant, engaging, and thought provoking.

Heads were energized by their time spent delving into the type of leadership needed in today's economic and political environment and in a rapidly changing world and by networking with each other. On Tuesday, spouses were invited to a poolside chat to share conversation and enjoy the beautiful resort facilities. On Tuesday evening, there was a great turnout at the family barbecue, and with a number of kids in attendance, the atmosphere was fun and lively.

Special thanks to the Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island Beach Resort & Spa for their outstanding service and delicious food.



**FCIS HEADS'
RETREAT
WAS A
SUCCESS!!**

Special Thanks to:
Ian Symmonds
Harry Kraemer
& FCIS Executive
Director,
Dr. Barbara
Hodges



Be sure to mark your calendar for the next Heads' Retreat on June 15-17, 2020, at the South Seas Island Resort, Captiva Island!

Summer Symposiums

June 19-20, 2019

Corbett Preparatory School of IDS, Tampa

At the end of June, FCIS held the *Summer Symposiums*, an exciting collaboration with The Klingenstein Center at Teachers College, Columbia University. Administrators and teachers from across the state signed up to attend either one or two full-day FCIS workshops at Corbett Preparatory School of IDS in Tampa. The first day was designed for administrators and teachers to explore the principles of data-driven leadership and experience a hands-on simulation of a data-driven inquiry process in structured leadership teams. The second day was designed to illuminate key discoveries and practical teaching strategies from the science of learning.

Full of Data, Yet Starving for Information: An Introduction to Data-Driven School Leadership

On the first day, Kenny Graves, Ph.D., Upper School Ethics & Technology Coordinator at Ethical Culture Fieldston School, explored the underlying principles of data-driven leadership; how school teams use data-driven

Summer Symposiums, Continued

June 19-20, 2019

Corbett Preparatory School of IDS, Tampa

leadership and evidence-based decision making in their work; what constitutes as “good data,” and how to prepare and analyze the data to answer learner-centered questions that address problems of practice; and what the ethical responsibilities are to protect student data in the digital age. Participants learned to improve their data literacy; generate measurable, learner-centered questions about problems of practice; recognize, analyze, and interpret “good data”; and understand emergent ethical issues pertaining to the data collected in schools.



Powerful Teaching: Unleash the Science of Learning



On the second day, cognitive scientist, Founder of RetrievalPractice.org & Former K-12 Teacher, Pooja K. Agarwal, Ph.D., illuminated key discoveries and practical teaching strategies from the science of learning, while challenging ingrained beliefs about how learning works. Participants went behind the scenes and explored key findings from cognitive science research; thought critically about current teaching practices from a research-based perspective; challenged myths and misconceptions about how humans learn; and discovered practical classroom strategies for building a supportive classroom culture.

These programs were interactive and collaborative, and participants enjoyed diving deeply into each topic and connecting with colleagues at peer schools from around the state.

Special thanks to Dr. Joyce Swarzman and Corbett Preparatory School of IDS for hosting the Symposiums. We appreciate their enthusiasm for professional development as well as their generous hospitality.