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FCIS Winter Symposiums

Upcoming FCIS Events

Business Officers' Conference

May 7-9, 2017

Renaissance Hotel, Orlando

FCIS Chair Training

June 12, 2017

Hammock Beach Resort,
Palm Coast

Heads' Retreat

June 12-14, 2017

Hammock Beach Resort,
Palm Coast

21st Century Learning Academy

June 21-23, 2017

Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

New Heads' Institute

July 27-29, 2017

Sheraton Sand Key,
Clearwater

Administrators' Retreat

July 30-August 1, 2017

Sheraton Sand Key,
Clearwater

from the executive director...

In just a few short weeks, we will officially be in the spring season and the fourth quarter of the 2016-17 school year. This is probably one of the busiest times within the independent school world, not only for our schools, but also for FCIS. We have just concluded our six-part legal webinar series for the year, along with the High Performing Educators' Academy and the two-day winter symposium on enrollment management, legal issues, and technology. We are forging ahead, preparing for the 2017 Florida Legislative Session, which begins on March 7, as well as completing plans for the first-ever FCIS Business Officers' Conference in May and the Heads' Retreat and 21st Century Learning Academy, slated for June. In the midst of all of that preparation, we are in one of the busiest times in the accreditation season, with multiple teams going out weekly to our member schools for five-year evaluations.

FCIS Business Officers' Conference, "Navigating the Tide of Change", will be held on May 7-9, 2017 at the Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel. We encourage not only business officers, but their teams to attend this important event. This conference will replace the Florida Independent Schools Business Officers (FISBO) event which has typically been in the spring. FCIS business officers came together to form FISBO in 1987 and met together once a year up until 2016. In 2013, FISBO partnered with the MISBO to have a joint conference, which provided outstanding professional development. FISBO, which has always been a part of FCIS, approached FCIS in 2016 and requested that the conference come under the direction of the FCIS staff. The FCIS staff has worked hard and is proud to present this business conference. In addition, FCIS has 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.

Legal Webinar Series. On February 22, 2017, the FCIS Legal Webinar Series for 2016-17 concluded with the webinar, "What Are the Most Frequent Claims Brought against Independent Schools? How Do You Avoid Them?". Suzanne Bogdan, Partner and Chair of the Education Practice Group for Fisher and Philips, has dialogued with me on various topics throughout the school year. Approximately 400 individuals from our

member schools have participated in this series. All of these webinars are archived on the heads' portal on the FCIS website. Suzanne and I are already planning our series for the 2017-18 school year. Please share with me any topics that you would like to see covered in the coming year.

CAPE. Two new studies released by *Education Next*, an educational journal published by the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and the Harvard Program on Education Policy and Governance at the Harvard Kennedy School, indicate that private school parents are significantly more satisfied than public school parents. The study from *Education Next* examined parent satisfaction levels on five key characteristics: teacher quality, discipline, expectations for achievement, safety, and instruction in character and values. In addition, this same study looked at the satisfaction levels of charter school parents, which fell somewhere between the satisfaction levels of private and public school parents. In the area of teacher quality, 46 percent of private school parents were very satisfied, as compared to 23 percent of public school parents. Regarding character and values, 59 percent of private school parents were very satisfied, while only 21 percent of public school parents were very satisfied.

New FCIS/FKS Standards. The new standards will go into effect on July 1, 2017. Schools may choose between following the old self-study template or the new template during the 2017-18 school year, but must adhere to the new standards. Melissa Alton, Director of Accreditation, is conducting monthly webinars on the new standards.

Heads' Retreat. On June 12-14, the FCIS Heads' Retreat will be held at the Hammock Beach Resort, Palm Coast. Featured speakers will include Tim Fish, NAIS Vice President for Innovation, and Dr. Justin Reich, Executive Director of the MIT Teaching Systems Lab. Make plans now to attend this annual event, which has become a favorite of many heads of school over the years. Registration is now open.

Barbara H. Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

School News

A dedicated group of **Pine School** students, under the mentorship of science/math teacher Karlheinz Haas and social studies teacher Nathaniel Osborn, are one of only fifteen schools nationwide (and the only group in FL) to be selected by the Lemelson-



MIT Foundation under their InvenTeam Program to receive up to \$10,000 in grant funding to invent technological solutions to real-world problems. The group will receive this funding to create a device to monitor Manatee Grass ecosystem in the Indian River. The Pine School's InvenTeam will design and build a mechanical/electronic device consisting of a combination of hydrophone and underwater camera, to be installed at nearby locations of water-quality monitors currently deployed along the length the Indian River Lagoon. Congratulations!

The Huffington Post featured **The Cornerstone School**, Ocala, in their January 6 article, *Inventor Dean Kamen: What Your Child Will Need to Know to Get Ahead in the 21st Century*. Joe Moseley, Stem Coordinator at The Cornerstone School in Ocala, Florida has been mentoring FIRST children for over a decade. He teaches students ages 6-10 basic automatic programming language. Full article: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/inventor-dean-kamen-what-your-child-will-need-to-know_us_586ab269e4b04d7df167d67f?timestamp=1483765112317



Congratulations to **All Saints Academy's** Team RoboFusion on placing second out of 16 teams in the Robot Missions category at their latest FIRST Lego League tournament!

Heads' Luncheons

Save the date cards and/or invitations will be sent for the following area Heads' Luncheons. Please feel free to contact another "area host" if you are unable to attend your area luncheon.

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Tallahassee/Panhandle Area

Hosted by: Peter Klekamp

Holy Comforter Episcopal School

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Miami Area

Hosted by: Patrick Roberts

Palmer Trinity School

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 (new date)

Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples Areas

Hosted by: Dr. Joyce Swarzman

Corbett Preparatory School of IDS

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale Areas

Hosted by: Dr. Dana Markham

Pine Crest School

Friday, April 21, 2017 (new date)

Orlando Area

Hosted by: Dr. Steve Whitaker

The First Academy

Friday, May 5, 2017

North Palm Beach Area

Hosted by: Bob Goldberg

The Benjamin School

Thursday, May 11, 2017

Jacksonville Area

Hosted by: Martha Milton

Beaches Episcopal School

Certification Renewal

Florida Professional Certificates Expiring June 30, 2017

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

FCIS Professional Development Calendar

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21st Century Learning Academy
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Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

New Heads' Institute
July 27-29, 2017
Sheraton Sand Key,
Clearwater

Finance Institute
July 28, 2017
Sheraton Sand Key,
Clearwater

Fundraising Institute
July 29, 2017
Sheraton Sand Key,
Clearwater

Administrators' Retreat
July 30-August 1, 2017
Sheraton Sand Key,
Clearwater

Prospective Heads' Institute Mission Inn Resort January 11-12, 2017

The Prospective Heads' Institute had a robust response this year and again offered three distinct tracks for participants at different stages of their careers. FCIS welcomed seventeen new candidates for the first year program, eight returning candidates for the second year program, and five returning candidates for the third year program to the beautiful Mission Inn Resort, just north of Orlando. Several experienced heads from FCIS member schools served on the faculty and shared expertise, data and personal stories about the process and challenges of becoming a head. Candidates attended presentations and participated in discussions on the following topics: governance, communication, leadership, fundraising, building relationships and trust, time management, enrollment, finance and marketing. Ryan Kelly, Head of Carrollwood Day School, and Stephen Golden, CFO at Carrollwood Day School, presented a session together on financial and risk management. Linc Eldredge, Founder of Brigham Hill Consultancy, presented an overview of the head search process, as well as sessions on interviewing and search committees. He also shared resources and facilitated workshops to review resumes and case studies. Candidates had the chance to network with colleagues at peer schools and continue discussions throughout the two-day experience in classroom settings and informal conversations during meals.

Many thanks to our outstanding FCIS panel: Richard Gehman, Head, Oak Hall School; James Milford, Head, Maclay School; Dr. Jan Pullen, Head, Saint Stephen's Episcopal School; Joe Seivold, Head, Berkeley Preparatory School; and FCIS Executive Director, Dr. Barbara Hodges. The positive feedback was overwhelming. Every first and second year participant surveyed reported that they would be interested in participating in the program for another year, and every third year participant surveyed would recommend this program to someone considering a headship.



**Academy for High Performing Educators
Corbett Preparatory School of IDS
January 22-24, 2017**

FCIS welcomed 25 participants to the Academy for High Performing Educators at Corbett Preparatory School of IDS in Tampa. Participants spent three energizing days with Dr. Joyce Swarzman while learning methods and strategies for tapping into the strengths, uniqueness and diverse learning styles of all students in order to create the most effective and supportive learning environment for student engagement, as well as leadership strategies to energize administrative teams. This intensive workshop provided opportunities to learn and model techniques using current brain research, positive phrasing, and multiple intelligences. Participants enjoyed spending time together, sharing ideas, and celebrating the education profession. In addition to earning 30 Master In-service points, all participants had the opportunity to earn 30 additional points by implementing and documenting these structures and strategies in their classrooms or schools. Dr. Swarzman has a gift for inspiring teachers and administrators and reaffirming the difference they are making in the lives of their students. Participants left the workshop raving about their experience and excited to implement new teaching strategies to enhance the learning environment in their classrooms.



**FCIS Winter Symposium
Shorecrest Preparatory School, St. Petersburg
February 7-8, 2017**

FCIS welcomed participants to the Winter Symposium which included an Enrollment Management and Legal Day and a Technology Day. This year's Winter Symposiums took place on the beautiful campus of Shorecrest Preparatory School in St. Petersburg. We would like to thank Mike Murphy for opening his school to us and Anna Baralt, Director of Educational Technology, for helping with planning and logistics and for providing tech support throughout the event.

School leaders attended the first one-day workshop, Building Sustainable Schools for the Future through Legal and Enrollment Management. In the morning, Heather Hoerle, Executive Director of The Enrollment Management Association, outlined what every school leader needs to know about enrollment management. Heather shared the data and trends related to finding, admitting, and retaining mission-appropriate students. She introduced innovative approaches to the independent school educational and financial model and best practices for leading enrollment strategy in order to overcome ever-increasing challenges. In his afternoon session, Bill Krizner, Owner and Operating Partner of The Krizner Group, presented an update on critical school and employment law trends in order to equip school administrators with practical tools to best ensure ongoing compliance. Topics included: perpetual enrollment contracts, social media concerns, issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, and student and faculty handbooks. Bill shared some of the most unique and challenging fact patterns that his clients have posed and challenged the audience to successfully navigate these demanding scenarios and to avoid similar mistakes in the future. These interactive sessions provided opportunities for participants to ask questions and seek out advice on these topics.

Administrators and teachers attended the second one-day workshop, Building Schools for the Future through Innovation. Jon Moser, CEO and Founder of Finalsity, kicked off the day with his presentation, Top Trends in Education: Preparing for What's New and What's Next 2017-2020. He outlined measures schools can take to keep up with changes in education and shared tips on current and upcoming trends, including the need for schools to perform a SWOT analysis, wearables that are changing everything in and out of the classroom, the new sustainability that schools should be considering, updates to the "flipped classroom" concept, and much more. Participants discovered what learning in the future looks like and how schools can get ready with new tools and strategies.

FCIS Winter Symposium, Con't Shorecrest Preparatory School, St. Petersburg February 7-8, 2017

Following the keynote, there were concurrent sessions targeted to administrators and to teachers. For administrators, Chad Lewis, Director of Technology at Tampa Preparatory School presented Learning Spaces Redefined (How Environment Can Drive Pedagogy). Chad examined how the combination of mobile furniture, multiple interactive projectors, and student-owned devices encourages teachers to make lessons an interactive experience. Following Chad's session, D. Scott Looney, Head at Hawken School in Cleveland, OH, presented Creating a New High School Transcript: The Mastery Transcript Consortium. He introduced a joint effort of independent schools to reimagine the transcript with a focus on student mastery, one which features authentic assessment of learning, not simply letter grades. Participants explored three questions: How can we move past letter grades and time based crediting and still have our students accepted at fine colleges? How can we assess for deeper learning? How can we retain the challenge of our curriculum without the pressure of letter grades?

For teachers, Denise Musselwhite, Director of Technology, and Rita Kienle, Academic Technology Integrationist, both at Trinity Preparatory School, presented Innovative Support for Teaching and Teachers. Denise and Rita introduced their curriculum design coach program, highlighting blended options via Canvas and insights related to the challenges of creating an environment that supports innovative teaching and its impact in the classroom. Next, Joanne Barrett, Director of Instructional Technology at The Out-of-Door Academy, presented Innovative Teaching and Learning. Joanne discussed the importance of teaching skills that promote inquiry-based learning and embracing the use of technology to answer questions, solve problems and collaborate. She shared ways that schools can challenge the status quo of the traditional classroom to better prepare students for the future. Next, Christine Scoby, Middle School Technology Coordinator and Curriculum Dean, and Cindy Williams, Middle School Art Teacher, both at Shorecrest Preparatory School, presented Visioning the Future of Instructional Spaces to Enhance Creativity and Learning. Christine and Cindy explored the elements of classroom design that allow students to easily flow from large group discussion to small groups focused on collaboration and how to turn wasted-spaces in hallways and classrooms into hubs of active learning. Finally, Meghan Campagna, Middle Division Technology Integration Coordinator at Berkeley Preparatory School, presented Harnessing the Power of Video in the Classroom. Meghan shared examples of video projects and the rubrics and planning that went into creating each project plan. She introduced a number of iPad apps, along with uses of iMovie for any discipline. Throughout the presentation, she highlighted the important relationship between technology coordinator and teacher.

Participants enjoyed meeting colleagues from other FCIS schools and engaging in conversations about using technology to enhance teaching and learning and about innovative initiatives to reshape the way schools think about the future of education. Many thanks to all of our engaging and thought-provoking presenters.

