



# INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

Volume 01-18

Jan/Feb 2018

## Inside this issue

### Page 1

Executive Director Letter

### Page 2

Prof. Dev. Calendar  
Heads' Luncheons

### Page 3

Accr'd Corner  
School News  
Prospective Heads'  
Institute

### Page 4

Academy for High  
Performing Educators  
FCIS Winter Symposium

### Page 5

FCIS Winter Symposium

## Upcoming FCIS Events

### Business Officers' Conference

May 6-8, 2018  
Renaissance Hotel,  
Orlando

### Chair Training

June 11, 2018  
Hyatt Regency  
Coconut Point,  
Bonita Springs

### Heads' Retreat

June 11-13, 2018  
Hyatt Regency  
Coconut Point,  
Bonita Springs

## from the executive director...

With less than three weeks until spring, FCIS is finishing a busy winter. First, FCIS spent considerable time self-reflecting and preparing its self-study for the NAIS Commission on Accreditation Review, which will take place on March 19-21, 2018. Next, FCIS was busy working with developers to complete the accreditation portal, which is now open. At the same time, FCIS was preparing for the sixth annual Prospective Heads' Institute held at Howey in the Hills, with record attendance, in January. In addition, FCIS was planning the Winter Symposium, focusing on technology, crisis management, and liability issues, held at Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale on February 6 and 7, 2018. Simultaneously, FCIS was advocating for independent schools during the 2018 Florida Legislative Session which began on January 9 and will conclude on March 9, 2018.

**FCIS Accreditation Portal.** One of the most significant accomplishments this winter is the completion of the accreditation portal, debuting in January 2018 as a result of three years of planning and collaboration with the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS). Multiple accreditation teams are now completing their reports in the portal, and several schools are writing their self-studies in the portal. Regional trainings in the use of the portal are being held around the state under the direction of FCIS staff: Melissa Alton, Director of Accreditation; Julie Johnson, Assistant Director of Accreditation; and Matt Wilson, Director of Technology. The portal utilizes the new self-study template and accompanying team report template that coordinate with the FCIS Standards and Indicators that went into effect on July 1, 2017. During the 2018-19 school year, schools being evaluated will only have the option of using the new self-study template, although schools can continue to choose whether or not to use the portal for one more year with full implementation of the portal in the 2019-20 school year.

**NAIS Commission of Accreditation Review.** FCIS has just completed its self-study and submitted it to the review team who will visit FCIS on March 19-21. The chair of the review team is Rhonda Durham, Executive Director of the Independent School Association of the Southwest; Rhonda also serves as the

chair of the NAIS Commission on Accreditation. She will be accompanied by Carole Everett, Executive Director of the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools. Our review team will be meeting with the FCIS Board of Directors, FCIS staff, FCIS Commission on Accreditation, and evaluation chairs. In addition, the team will be visiting two schools with one school having completed the old evaluation process last spring and one school preparing its self-study in the accreditation portal for a visit in the 2018-19 school year. We are honored to have our fine colleagues from the NAIS Commission visiting our association, and we look forward to their feedback which promises to help us continue to grow in meeting the needs of our member schools.

**Legal Webinar Series.** The 2017-18 Legal Webinar Series, featuring a dialogue with Suzanne Bogdan and me as FCIS Executive Director came to a conclusion on February 22. Suzanne and I are now looking for suggestions for topics for the 2018-19 school year. Please submit those topics to either Suzanne or me. The webinars that we have done over the past seven years are archived on the heads' portal on the FCIS website.

**2018 Legislative Session.** The 2018 Florida Legislative Session will come to conclusion on March 9. During this session, FCIS has advocated for the restoration of dual enrollment to private school students, without the costs being passed along to the private schools. In addition, we have spent a great deal of time working with legislators in response to bills on private school accountability. The results of our efforts will not be known until Session ends and the bills travel to the Governor's Office.

**2018 Heads Retreat.** The 2018 FCIS Heads Retreat will be held June 11-13 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Spa and Resort. Make plans now to attend one of our heads' favorite events; registration opens soon.

*Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.*  
Executive Director

# FCIS Professional Development Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming professional development opportunities.

**2017-18**

## **Business Officers' Conference**

May 6-8, 2018  
Renaissance Hotel, Orlando

## **Chair Training**

June 11, 2018  
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point,  
Bonita Springs

## **Heads' Retreat**

June 11-13, 2018  
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point,  
Bonita Springs

## **Summer Symposium**

June 20-21, 2018  
Corbett Prep at IDS,  
Tampa

## **New Heads' Institute**

July 26-28, 2018  
Delray Beach Marriott,  
Delray

## **Finance Institute**

July 27, 2018  
Delray Beach Marriott,  
Delray

## **Fundraising Institute**

July 28, 2018  
Delray Beach Marriott,  
Delray

## **Administrators' Retreat**

July 29-31, 2018  
Delray Beach Marriott,  
Delray

## **FCIS Webinar**

### **The FCIS Accreditation Portal: Creating the Self-Study**

March 7 @ 12:00pm

This webinar will train Heads, Self-Study Coordinators, faculty and staff on the use of the FCIS Accreditation Portal for creating their school's Self-Study.

## **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 10, 2018**

### **Jacksonville Area**

Hosted by: Kim Bednarek  
The Discovery School

**Thursday, April 26, 2018**

### **West Palm Beach Area**

Hosted by: Dr. Edwin Gordon  
Palm Beach Day Academy

**Tuesday, April 24, 2018**

### **Miami Area**

Hosted by: The Reverend Dr. Greg Blackburn  
St. Philip's Episcopal School

**Tuesday, May 1, 2018**

### **Tallahassee/Panhandle Area**

Hosted by: James Milford  
Maclay School

**Wednesday, April 25, 2018**

### **Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale Areas**

Hosted by: Tane Bonham  
Christ Church School

**Thursday, May 3, 2018**

### **Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples Areas**

Hosted by: Robert Stephens  
St. John's Episcopal Parish Day School

**Wednesday, May 9, 2018**

### **Orlando Area**

Hosted by: Byron Lawson  
Trinity Preparatory School

## Accreditation Corner

### FCIS Accreditation Regional Trainings are underway!

If you missed our sessions in Tampa and Jacksonville, FCIS will be conducting trainings on May 1 in Tallahassee and July 30 in Delray Beach. These trainings cover responsibilities of the host school, using the FCIS accreditation portal, preparing for a compliance visit, and writing the self study. To register, please call or e-mail Assistant Director of Accreditation, Julie Johnson at (813) 287-2820 or [jjohnson@fcis.org](mailto:jjohnson@fcis.org).

## School News



Elizabeth Galbut, graduate of **Community School of Naples'** Class of '07, has been chosen for the 2018 edition of the Forbes 30 Under 30. She was also recently honored as one of New York

City's 33 Under 33 Top Innovators, and as a TechWeek100 Innovative Investor. Elizabeth is a venture capitalist, designer, professor, and global speaker on healthcare innovation. She is Managing Partner of SoGal Ventures, which invests in diverse founding teams in the U.S. and Asia.



be held on Friday, March 9 at the Florida Theatre. Congratulations, Catherine!

**St. Mark's Episcopal Day School** sixth grader, Catherine Nichols, was the first runner-up in the Duval County District Spelling Bee and has advanced to the First Coast Spelling Bee to

**All Saints Academy** won the National High School Award for excellence in STEM at FETC International Conference in Orlando.



### Prospective Heads' Institute Mission Inn Resort January 10-11, 2018

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 27 new candidates for the first-year program, 9 returning candidates for the second-year program, and 6 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. 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.

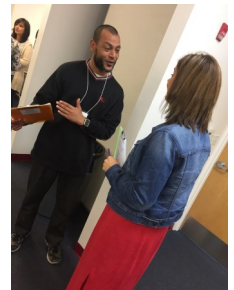
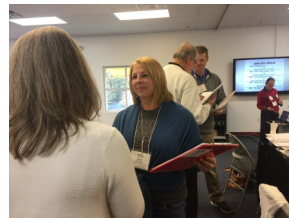
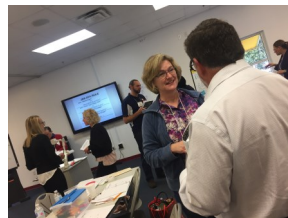
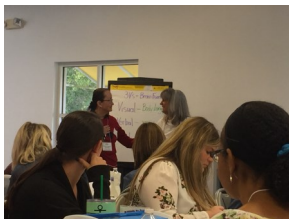
**Prospective Heads' Institute, Con't**  
**Mission Inn Resort**  
**January 10-11, 2018**

Many thanks to our outstanding FCIS leadership presenters: Ryan Kelly, Head, Carrollwood Day School; James Milford, Head, Maclay School; Kevin Plummer, Head, Tampa Preparatory School; Dr. Jan Pullen, Head, Saint Stephen's Episcopal 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 21-23, 2018**

FCIS welcomed 30 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 exploring 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**  
**Pine Crest School, Fort Lauderdale**  
**February 6-7, 2018**

In February, FCIS welcomed participants to this year's Winter Symposiums on the beautiful campus of Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale. We would like to thank Dr. Dana Markham for opening her school to us, Lisa Ockerman for helping to design the technology program, and Carrie Anderson for coordinating the logistics throughout the planning and at the event.



## FCIS Winter Symposium, Con't Pine Crest School, Fort Lauderdale February 6-7, 2018

School leaders attended the first one-day workshop on the topic of crisis management and legal issues facing independent schools. In the morning, Joseph Markham, Executive Director of Security and Support Service at Pine Crest School, outlined what every school leader needs to know about crisis management. Joe presented on the safety of our children in schools and what educators can do to protect them. He discussed how to build a prepared security program, as well as how to be ready for and respond to both internal and external threats, including medical emergencies, active shooters, and proper communication with news agencies. Participants learned about some of the common issues facing schools, such as the safe termination of an employee and drug use by both students and employees. In her afternoon session, Suzanne Bogdan, Regional Managing Partner, Fisher & Phillips LLP, presented an update on the numerous legal issues that schools need to navigate from the moment that a student applies for admissions through graduation or dismissal. Participants learned about the areas of potential liability in the admissions process, risk management relating to trips or other school events, and the processes that must be in place for a court to uphold student disciplinary expulsions. 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 on the topic of innovative teaching and learning and technology integration. In the morning, Felix Jacomino, Director of Innovation and Technology and his team at Gulliver Schools kicked off the day with their session, *Innovation & Technology – A Story One FCIS School Would Like to Share*. They demonstrated how to share a school's story by using various "digital windows" and embracing the many advantages of being connected, collaborative, and creative. Next, Dr. Joan McGettigan, Director of Educational and Information Technology at North Broward Preparatory School presented *Design Thinking Across the Curriculum*. She highlighted the importance in today's world of being able to ask the right question, rather than memorize a right answer. She outlined how to implement design thinking in the classroom as a way to promote critical thinking skills and creative problem solving and to help develop resiliency and empathy.

In the afternoon, there were concurrent sessions facilitated by The Innovation Team at Pine Crest School. In their session, *Make Learning*, Lisa Ockerman, Kris Swanson, Vicki Spitalnick, Bethany Hawkins, and Matt Stevens shared insights into building a culture of innovation where faculty embrace opportunities to integrate technology, MakerEd, and STEAM skills into the core curriculum. They highlighted strategies for harnessing support and empowering students, classrooms, and creative spaces. Alexis Cobo, Ella Yankelevich, Yamara Higgins, Debra Jacoby, Michael Luetjen, Pedro Uribe, Lisa Saunders, Kelly Paredes, and Myrielle Badio presented their session, *Computer Science*, and emphasized the importance of incorporating logical, critical thinking and problem solving into classroom curriculum. They provided a hands-on experience on the creation, collaboration, and communication in an integrated Computer Science curriculum and demonstrated how Computer Science progresses from Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 with the use of innovative technologies, robotics, and maker activities. Keri Kolettis, Joe Kelley, David Ellich, and Michael Luetjen presented *STEAM-Related Academic Competitions and Entrepreneurship*. Participants explored how to create a learning environment in which students are driving inquiry, taking action, and making a difference in areas that require innovative solutions. The presenters highlighted the importance of creating relevant learning experiences, building student agency, and connecting the classroom with the world through competitive academic STEM-related programs. Dave Burgess, Ashley Porter, and Pery Shusterman presented their session *Teaching Through Video Production*. They toured participants through their video labs and demonstrated how teachers and students can harness the power of technology through video production by creating educational newscasts.

Participants enjoyed meeting colleagues from other FCIS schools and engaging in conversations about innovative ways to use technology to enhance teaching and learning. Many thanks to all of our engaging and thought-provoking presenters.

