

Volume 02-16

Mar/Apr 2016

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## Upcoming FCIS Events

**Heads' Retreat**  
June 13-15, 2016  
Naples Grande Beach  
Resort

**21st Century  
Learning Academy**  
June 22-24, 2016  
Corbett Prep of IDS, TPA

**New Heads' Institute**  
July 21-23, 2016  
Jupiter Beach  
Resort & Spa

**Finance Institute**  
July 22, 2016  
**Fundraising Institute**  
July 23, 2016  
Jupiter Beach  
Resort & Spa

**Administrators' Retreat**  
July 24-26, 2016  
Jupiter Beach  
Resort & Spa

## from the executive director...

Happy Spring to all as we enter the final stretch of the 2015-16 school year! Just like all of you, we remain busy, in our case, monitoring significant trends, completing major initiatives, and planning professional development events for the summer that will further the mission of our independent schools.

**Action from the 2016 Florida Legislature.** The Florida Legislature met from January through March of this year, which is allowed in an even year according to the state constitution. The results of that session are as follows:

- **HB 145** allows private schools to impose a **convenience fee** upon a student or family paying tuition, fees, or other student account charges by credit card, as long as the convenience fee does not exceed the total cost charged by the credit card company.
- **SB 672 (The Gardiner Scholarship Program)** expands the disabilities covered in the Personal Learning Scholarship Account (PLSA) to include autistic spectrum, as defined in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition*, and muscular dystrophy. In addition, high-risk 3 and 4 year olds may qualify.
- **HB 837 (Education Programs for Individuals with Disabilities)** expands the John M. McKay Scholarship Program by allowing private schools to establish a transition-to-work program for students up to 22 years of age if the student has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of completion.
- In addition, **HB 837** makes changes to the **dual enrollment** law requiring state colleges to establish an articulation agreement with each eligible private school in its geographical area.
- **HB 7029** requires that the **FHSAA** allow a transfer student to be immediately eligible to participate in athletics and to join an existing team if the roster has not reached the maximum size for the sport and if the coach determines that the student has the requisite skill and ability to participate. A transfer student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in the same sport at another

school during that school year, unless the student is a dependent of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders, a foster child relocated by placement in a different school zone, or a child moved by court order.

**CAPE.** Representatives from over 30 states attended the 2016 CAPE State Meeting in Washington, D.C. on March 12-13. Major issues discussed included school choice scholarship programs, high school athletics, sexual orientation, religious freedom, school accountability and independence, Child Care Block Grants, the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the creation of the position of an ombudsman, as well as the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) being used to rate early childhood programs in some states.

**NAIS.** The recent allegations of sexual abuse at several top independent schools in our nation are a reminder to all of our schools to review their policies and procedures for reporting allegations of abuse, as well as training faculty and staff to recognize possible abuse to promote the safety of our students. Below are various resources that may be helpful:

- See the ["Five Steps to Protecting Our Children"](#) produced by Darkness to Light (D2L). [D2L](#) is an organization that offers resources and training to help educators prevent child sexual abuse.
- For a refresher on reporting laws in your state, see ["Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect."](#)
- Order the NAIS book [The Handbook on Child Safety for School Leaders](#) and encourage more discussion of this topic among your faculty, staff, and board.
- Listen to a recording of the NAIS webinar ["Preventing and Responding to Educator Misconduct"](#) from 2013.

Barbara H. Hodges, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

# FCIS Professional Development Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming professional development opportunities.

**2016-17**

<p><b>Heads' Retreat</b> June 13-15, 2016 Naples Grande Beach Resort, Naples</p> <p><b>21st Century Learning Academy</b> June 22-24, 2016 Corbett Prep of IDS, TPA</p> <p><b>New Heads' Institute</b> July 21-23, 2016 Jupiter Beach Resort &amp; Spa</p> <p><b>Finance Institute</b> July 22, 2016 Jupiter Beach Resort &amp; Spa</p> <p><b>Fundraising Institute</b> July 23, 2016 Jupiter Beach Resort &amp; Spa</p> <p><b>Administrators' Retreat</b> July 24-26, 2016 Jupiter Beach Resort &amp; Spa</p>	<p><b>New Teacher Institute</b> September 18-20, 2016 Mission Inn Resort, Howey-in-the-Hills</p> <p><b>Governance Workshop</b> September 25-26, 2016 Hyatt Regency, Orlando Airport</p> <p><b>FCIS Pre-Conference: ISM</b> November 2, 2016 Hyatt Regency, Miami</p> <p><b>Gathering for New &amp; Prospective Heads</b> November 3, 2016 Hyatt Regency, Miami</p> <p><b>FCIS Annual Convention</b> November 3-4, 2016 Hyatt Regency, Miami</p>	<p><b>Prospective Heads' Institute I, II &amp; III</b> January 11-12, 2017 Mission Inn Resort, Howey-in-the-Hills</p> <p><b>Academy for High Performing Educators</b> January 22-24, 2017 Corbett Prep at IDS, Tampa</p> <p><b>Winter Symposium: Finance and Legal Workshop</b> February 7, 2017 <b>Technology Workshop</b> February 8, 2017 Shorecrest Prep, St. Petersburg</p> <p><b>Chair Training</b> June 12, 2017 Hammock Beach Resort, Palm Coast</p>	<p><b>Heads' Retreat</b> June 12-14, 2017 Hammock Beach Resort, Palm Coast</p> <p><b>21st Century Learning Academy</b> June 21-23, 2017 Corbett Prep at IDS, Tampa</p> <p><b>New Heads' Institute</b> July 27-29, 2017 Sheraton Sand Key, Clearwater</p> <p><b>Fundraising Institute</b> July 29, 2017 Sheraton Sand Key, Clearwater</p> <p><b>Administrators' Retreat</b> July 30-Aug 1 Sheraton Sand Key, Clearwater</p>
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## Heads' Luncheons Hosts

Thank you for hosting the 2016 Heads' Luncheon in your area.

**Tallahassee:** James Milford  
Maclay School

**Palm Beach Gardens:** Bob Goldberg  
The Benjamin School

**Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale:** Tane Bonham  
Christ Church School

**Miami:** Greg Blackburn  
St. Philip's Episcopal School

**Orlando:** Craig Maughan  
Trinity Preparatory School

**Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples:**  
Kevin Plummer  
Tampa Preparatory School

**Jacksonville:** Palmer Bell  
Riverside Presbyterian Day School

## School News

**Community School of Naples** was the only school in the state, and one of only 13 schools in the country, chosen to send participants to the 40th annual UNIS-UN Conference on March 3-4. This initiative, completely run by students from the United Nations International School in New York City and held over two days in the hall of the U.N. General Assembly, brought together almost 700 high school students from 40 schools around the world.



Dean Glenn Good from the College of Education at the University of Florida made a special visit to **St. Thomas Episcopal Parish School** in Coral Gables. Dean Good took a tour of the school and saw STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) in action through classroom visits to Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 3rd grade. St. Thomas' collaboration with the University of Florida has put inter-disciplinary study and a focus on 21st century teaching and learning at the forefront of the school's curriculum. Dean Good also spoke to the faculty and staff about the importance of communication, collaboration, and the crucial role a teacher plays in the overall success of our students.



**Palmer Trinity School** students and members of the school's science department joined the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science on a shark tagging trip, as part of the University's Shark Research & Conversation Program. The 1-day research expedition departed from Crandon Marina on Key Biscayne and was filmed for season 3 of Xploration Awesome Planet, a nationally syndicated educational TV series hosted by Philippe Cousteau Jr., grandson of the legendary Jacques Cousteau.



**Berkeley Preparatory School** is honored to recognize 11 students who have been named as National Merit Finalists among approximately 15,000 students from across the country as part of the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program.

**All Saints Academy** tennis duo, Holleman Hughes and Jake Myers, advanced to the Semi Finals and finished as one of the top four Boys' Doubles Teams in the State of Florida. Legendary ESPN announcer Dick Vitale couldn't resist showing All Saints some love!



## Certification Renewal

**Florida Professional Certificates  
expiring June 30, 2016**

- **Renew online at [www.fldoe.org/edcert](http://www.fldoe.org/edcert)**
- **Contact Keara Danger, [kdanger@fcis.org](mailto:kdanger@fcis.org), to submit your master inservice to the DOE on the CT-116.**

**Reminder!** All in-service earned during the 2015-16 school year must be entered by July 31, 2016.

## Winners of the 2016 DeWitt E. & Vera M. Hooker Grant

**\*\* \$5,000 Awarded \*\***

- \$500 to Elizabeth Bailey from Beaches Episcopal School for *Florida Sands Project*
- \$1,500 to Anna Baralt, Ed.D. from Shorecrest Preparatory School for *Coastal Awareness with ROVs*
- \$3,000 to Lee Munro from Saint Andrew's School for *Reducing Your Eco FootPrint.*



# Florida Kindergarten Council Corner

## Mark Your Calendars—FKC Convention 2017

### Friday, February 3, 2017

6:30-8:00pm Meet and Greet

Complimentary Beverages and Hors D'oeuvres

### Saturday, February 4, 2017

7:30am Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00am - 3:30pm General Meeting/Sessions/Lunch

## The DoubleTree Sea World Orlando

10100 International Drive

Orlando, FL—800-327-0363

