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Upcoming FCIS Events

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

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

Finance Institute
July 28, 2017
Sheraton Sand Key,
Clearwater

Fundraising Institute
July 29, 2017
Sheraton Sand Key,
Clearwater

from the executive director...

For us as educators, the month of June is a time of looking back over the past school year and looking forward to a new school year that will be just around the corner. Here at the FCIS Office, we are engaged in that very process. The 2016-17 school year has been a busy and productive year; we hope that you have felt the positive impact of that work in your individual schools.

This past year, we brought various new resources and services to our member schools.

- In July 2016, we added a new professional development opportunity, The Finance Institute, to our summer programming. Due to the success of that program, The Finance Institute will continue in July 2017.
- November brought additional resources and services. The business officers' preconference was added to the annual convention programming. The FCIS/FKC Standards and Indicators for Accreditation, effective July 1, 2017, were presented to the membership during the Annual Meeting.
- FCIS has provided webinars on each standard since that rollout with record attendance.
- FCIS has continued to pilot the new evaluation process, which includes a pre-compliance visit to check standards. The responses from member schools and evaluation teams have been positive.
- In February, FCIS successfully completed the process through NASBA to become a CPE provider, making it easier for business officers who are CPAs to get needed credits.
- In March, FCIS's work was successful in defeating a proposed FHSAA standard that would have given international students one year of athletic participation in high school.
- In May, FCIS launched its first annual business officers' conference after the dissolution of FISBO with 49 individuals registering for the new conference.
- In mid-June, FCIS provided chair training for approximately 40 heads who will lead the new accreditation process.
- On June 22, FCIS provided the first of three trainings on preparing for an FCIS evaluation in the 2017-18 school year.

As the new school year dawns on July 1, FCIS will continue to target our professional development offerings to meet the needs of our schools, will continue to refine our accreditation process offering opportunities to schools to customize their visits, and will continue to lobby for initiatives with the Legislature and Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) that protect our independence. We are committed to the mission of "promoting the highest standards for PK-12 education through (our) accreditation process, professional development programming, and advocacy efforts".

CAPE. On April 6, the governor of Arizona made history when he signed into law a bill that would eventually extend eligibility to every student in public schools to apply for the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA). Initially, when the ESA program was launched in 2011, only students with special needs were able to apply. Under Arizona law, the state will deposit funds into an account that parents can spend in various ways, including private school tuition, textbooks, tutoring, and educational therapies. Arizona will pay 90% of the contribution typically made for individual students in public and charter schools, except in the case of low-income students who will receive 100%. The new law requires that ESA students take one form of assessment: a norm-referenced test, the state assessment, an advanced placement test, or a college entrance test. Those tests may be administered within or outside the school.

FCIS Standards. The New FCIS/FKC Standards and Indicators will go into effect on July 1, 2017. Please visit the FCIS website, where you will find archived webinars on every standard and dates for webinars on preparing your school for an upcoming evaluation.

FCIS Convention. It is not too early to make plans to attend the 2017 FCIS Annual Convention at the Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate on November 2-3. For a listing of the major speakers and other information, please go to www.fcis.org.

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

FCIS Professional Development Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming professional development opportunities.

2017-18

<p>New Heads' Institute July 27-29, 2017 Sheraton Sand Key, Clearwater</p> <p>Finance Institute July 28, 2017 Sheraton Sand Key, Clearwater</p> <p>Fundraising Institute July 29, 2017 Sheraton Sand Key, Clearwater</p> <p>Administrators' Retreat July 30-August 1, 2017 Sheraton Sand Key, Clearwater</p> <p>New Teacher Institute September 17-19, 2017 Mission Inn Resort, Howey-in-the-Hills</p> <p>Leadership Partners through Principles of Good Governance October 1-2, 2017 Hyatt Regency, Orlando Airport</p>	<p>FCIS Pre-Conf: ISM November 1, 2017 Omni ChampionsGate, Orlando</p> <p>Business Officers' Pre-Conf November 1, 2017 Omni ChampionsGate, Orlando</p> <p>Gathering for New & Prospective Heads November 2, 2017 Omni ChampionsGate, Orlando</p> <p>Annual Convention November 2-3, 2017 Omni ChampionsGate, Orlando</p> <p>Prospective Heads' Institute I, II & III January 10-11, 2018 Mission Inn Resort, Howey-in-the-Hills</p>	<p>Academy for High Performing Educators January 21-23, 2018 Corbett Prep at IDS, Tampa</p> <p>Winter Symposium: Finance and Legal Workshop February 6, 2018 Technology Workshop February 7, 2018 Pine Crest, Ft. Lauderdale</p> <p>Business Officers' Conference May 6-8, 2018 Renaissance Hotel, Orlando</p> <p>Chair Training June 11, 2018 Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs</p>	<p>Heads' Retreat June 11-13, 2018 Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs</p> <p>Summer Symposium June 20-21, 2018 Corbett Prep at IDS, Tampa</p> <p>New Heads' Institute July 26-28, 2018 Delray Beach Marriott , Delray</p> <p>Finance Institute July 27, 2018 Delray Beach Marriott , Delray</p> <p>Fundraising Institute July 28, 2018 Delray Beach Marriott , Delray</p> <p>Administrators' Retreat July 29-31 Delray Beach Marriott , Delray</p>
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Congratulations to Our New FCIS 2016-2017 Accredited and New School Candidate Schools

Accredited
Keystone Prep High School
Odessa
Head of School: PJ Petrillo

New School Candidate
The Greene School
West Palm Beach
Head of School: Denise Spirou

New School Candidate
Mainspring Academy
Jacksonville
Head of School: Garrett Adamson

School News

Berkeley Preparatory School Board of Trustees announced the school's future home for early childhood education in honor of Headmaster Joseph W. Seivold and his wife, Joan. Construction on the spectacular 30,000 sq ft Seivold Center for Early Education will begin early summer.



Carrollwood Day School has been designated a 2017 National School of Character. CDS was first recognized as an NSOC in 2003. Through an in-depth and rigorous evaluation process, CDS was found to be an exemplary model of character development.

Brandon Academy has announced they are an official IB World School offering the Diploma Programme. Congratulations, Brandon Academy!

The Bolles School is now one of three private high schools in the world and the only independent school in the Southeast to own an Anatomage table. The highly advanced human dissection table and anatomy visualization system, almost exclusively seen in hospital or university settings, arrived at the Bolles Upper School Physics Lab in Schultz Hall in early April.

The Cornerstone School's eighth-grade STEM students constructed a pink prosthetic hand for a 4 year-old using a 3D printer. Blakeley will soon travel from her hometown in Oregon to Florida to pick up her pink prosthetic hand decorated with Disney's "Little Mermaid" stickers.

Mark Schusterman, Athletic Director at **Gulliver Preparatory School**, was inducted into the Florida High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2017 after a remarkable career spanning three-plus decades where he was a pioneer for fastpitch softball in the state of Florida. Congratulations!

Community School of Naples celebrated the grand opening of their new 35,635 sq ft Student Union on April 25th. The building is equipped with a state-of-the-art Innovation Lab, Information Commons, Dining Hall, and 85-seat Lecture Hall.



Winners of the 2017 DeWitt E. & Vera M. Hooker Grant

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

- \$1000 to Lauren Fantle from Maclay School for *Holocaust Educational Trunk*
- \$4000 to Shana Gutterman, Amanda Watsky, Stephanie Teitelbaum, Karianne Jaffa and Lauren Resnick from Martin J Gottlieb Day School for *Game Creation Station*

Certification Renewal

Florida Professional Certificates
expiring June 30, 2017

- 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.

Reminder! All in-service earned during The 2016-17 school year must be entered by July 31, 2017.

FKC Corner



Mark Your Calendars - FKC Convention 2018

Friday, February 9, 2018

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

Saturday, February 10, 2018

7:30am Registration
8:00am - 1:05pm Breakfast/General Meeting/Sessions

The DoubleTree Sea World Orlando

10100 International Drive
Orlando, FL
800-327-0363



FCIS Business Officers' Retreat

May 7-9, 2017

Renaissance Airport Hotel, Orlando

FCIS welcomed 43 participants to Orlando for the first Annual FCIS Business Officers' Conference. Business Officers, Heads, and other school leaders attended the almost two-day event, *Navigating the Tide of Change*. This was the 31st conference for Florida independent school business officers, formerly known as FISBO.

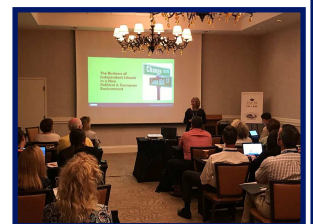
On Monday morning Bill Kummel, Principal at Rational Partners LLC, gave the keynote presentation, "Institutional Economics: An Integrated Approach to Program, Population, and Philanthropy". Bill described the large forces that challenge the traditional economic model of independent schools and colleges. He highlighted the importance of an effective, efficient and sustainable balance of resources to environment to assess current and optimize future economics for program, population and philanthropy. He provided an integrated roadmap, an analytic methodology and performance benchmarks to optimize market, educational and financial dynamics for near and long-term institutional performance; he asked participants to consider what actions their institutions could take to ensure their future choices. Following his keynote, Bill facilitated a roundtable discussion that provided an opportunity for a deeper dive into these topics and asked participants to bring their own school's metrics to consider. Additional topics covered throughout the conference included: new child care regulation, campus facilities' cost curve, employment law updates, insurance and benefits plans, OSHA updates, data and financial sustainability, 403b current trends, and not-for-profit accounting update. On Monday afternoon, Dr. Barbara Hodges presented "How Does Data Inform Independent School Sustainability?" She looked at school data trends among independent schools on a state, regional, and national level, as well as how those trends impact sustainability. Schools considered their own data as compared to financial trends in Florida independent schools, as well as on a national level.

On Tuesday afternoon, Donna Orem, President of the National Association of Independent Schools, gave the closing keynote, "The Business of Independent Schools in a New Political and Consumer Environment". Donna outlined the increased human resource regulation, affecting both the bottom line and school culture. She underscored the ways in which the new administration in Washington, DC could shift practices and focus that bring both opportunities and challenges. She warned that a new generation of parents, who appear to be more cost conscious, are putting further pressure on the business model, calling into question its long-term viability, and she highlighted the importance of risk management practices. Donna examined the latest trends in these three areas and suggested strategies for ensuring schools' health and viability.

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

FCIS is now 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. Continue to look for future events to earn CPE credits!

Be sure to mark your calendar for the 2018 FCIS Business Officers' Conference on May 6-8 at the Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel!



FCIS Heads' Retreat

June 12-14, 2017

Hammock Beach Resort, Palm Coast

In June, FCIS welcomed 57 Heads of School to the 25th Annual Heads' Retreat in Palm Coast. At the Welcome Reception, John Watson, Palmer Bell and Richard Gehman were recognized for their years of service to FCIS. John Watson was the Head at Seacrest Country Day School for 5 years and served as an active member and wise regional advisor on educational policy. Palmer Bell was the Head at Riverside Presbyterian Day School for 9 years and served on the FCIS Board of Directors, on the Executive Committee, and as an Evaluation Chair. Richard Gehman was the Head at Oak Hall School for 24 years and served on the FCIS Board of Directors, on the Executive Committee, as FCIS President and as an Evaluation Chair. Best wishes to John, Palmer, and Richard for many years of joyful retirement!

At this year's retreat, the theme was *Leading Strategic Innovation*. Tim Fish, Chief Innovation Officer, and Jefferson G. Burnett, Senior Vice President of Education Innovation, at the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), kicked off the program. In their session "Put Your Pack on...Moving Strategic Innovation Forward in Your School", they explored what strategic whole-school innovation actually looks like and what needs to be in place for it to succeed. They also examined the risks involved and how schools adapt to better support failure and rapid iteration. This hands-on session provided an overview of the Magnetic Mountain, NAIS's innovation framework, and deconstructed examples of strategic innovation from several schools. Tim and Jefferson provided a lens for examining innovation in schools and the essential tools needed to move the process forward. The next day Justin Reich, Co-Founder of EdTechTeacher and Executive Director of MIT Teaching Systems Lab, presented "Launching Innovation in Schools". Justin explored strategies and practices for creating conditions for a thriving culture of innovation in teaching and learning. He also discussed the crucial role that teacher-leadership plays in instructional improvement and effective strategies for school leaders to foster teacher leadership. In the afternoon, Justin presented "Innovation Conversations: Working Together through Ups and Downs". In this session, he shared strategies for improving the quality of dialogue and collaboration in schools in the service of innovation and instructional improvement. Heads found the workshops relevant, engaging and thought provoking.

Heads were energized by their time spent delving into strategic innovation and 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 buffet, and with a number of kids in attendance; the atmosphere was fun and lively.

Special thanks to the Hammock Beach Resort for their outstanding service and delicious food.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the next Heads' Retreat on June 11-13, 2018, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs!



21st Century Learning Academy

June 21-23, 2017

At the end of June, FCIS educators from across the state attended the *21st Century Learning Academy* at Corbett Preparatory School of IDS in Tampa.

On the first day, Andrew Watson, President of Translate the Brain, kicked off the afternoon with his session “Putting Memory to Work”. Andrew introduced working memory, emphasizing its centrality to all classroom learning, and highlighted the importance of brain research for independent school classrooms. In her session, “Rabbit Holes: Stimulating Intellectual Curiosity with the Use of Technology”, Stacy Filocco, Upper School Social Studies Teacher at Academy of the Holy Names, outlined the steps for a multi-faceted, student-driven project in which students conduct independent research, evaluate information, and ultimately present their findings to the class while reflecting on the process to the teacher.

The next day Brad Rathgeber, Executive Director of One Schoolhouse, presented “Valuing the Uniqueness of Each Student”. Brad examined students’ diverse learning styles and explored new approaches for differentiating in the classroom. Dr. Joan McGettigan, Director of Educational & Information Technology at North Broward Preparatory School, presented “In the Era of Fake News, Digital Fluency is THE Essential Skill We Need to Teach”. She introduced lessons, strategies and resources to help students become “digitally fluent” and highlighted the importance of this critical skill in today’s world. In her session, “Design Thinking in the Classroom”, Sarah Finnemore, 4th Grade Teacher and Literacy Consultant, and Katy Deegan, Lower School Educational Technologist, both at Shorecrest Preparatory School, introduced a systematic approach to solving a problem that uses logic, imagination and inspiration to encourage natural innovation. They modeled simple, yet powerful ways to create a classroom of engineers and to help schools creatively integrate Design Thinking into the curriculum. In his session, “Creating a Virtual Reality Program that Fits Your School Culture”, Chad Lewis, Director of Technology at Tampa Preparatory School, discussed ways to leverage the power of virtual reality to create 3D immersive simulations and explored tools to help visualize complex mathematical functions and create works of art. In his session, “The Death of Multiple Choice”, Matthew Parets, Teacher and Computer Science Department Chair at Montverde Academy, discussed how personal technology will fit in classrooms today and tomorrow and how to grade fairly without every assignment being simple completion or eternal essays. Betsy Eveland, PK Teacher, and Mary Scott, Instructional Specialist/Technology Integration, both at Lake Highland Preparatory School, ended the day with their session “Seesaw Into Learning – Creating Digital Portfolios”. They proposed ways to engage all learners on a deeper level using Seesaw, an interactive, live journal app that encourages student collaboration with peers, parents, and teachers.

On the last day, Dr. Amishi Jha, Associate Professor of Psychology, Director of Contemplative Neuroscience, UMindfulness Initiative at the University of Miami presented “Improving Attention and Resilience with Mindfulness Training”. She discussed recent scientific findings regarding the effectiveness of mindfulness training programs to promote resilience and to benefit a broad range of high stress/high performance groups, including military service members, athletes, educators, and student. As a follow up, Juan Carlos Garcia, Coordinator of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program, and Dr. Jacqueline Blue, Guidance Counselor and Licensed Psychologist, both at Gulliver Schools, presented “Mindfulness-Based Attention Training (MBAT) with Teachers and Parents”. They provided an overview of a short-form mindfulness training program developed by Dr. Jha’s laboratory at the University of Miami. Participants engaged in mindfulness exercises and learned how the program can benefit a school community.

These sessions were interactive and collaborative, and participants enjoyed exploring the different topics, discussing new ways of developing 21st century skills and innovating in the classroom, 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 Academy. We appreciate their enthusiasm for 21st century learning and their generous hospitality.