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FCIS Convention 2017

Upcoming FCIS Events

Prospective Heads' I, II, & III
January 10-11, 2018
Mission Inn Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills

Academy for High Performing Educators
January 21-23, 2018
Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

**Winter Symposiums:
Crisis Management /Legal Workshop**
February 6, 2018
Technology Workshop
February 7, 2018
Pine Crest,
Ft. Lauderdale

from the executive director...

Happy Holidays to everyone as we bid farewell to the year of 2017 and welcome the new year of 2018. The 2017-18 school year began with many new challenges for our schools as Hurricane Irma impacted much of our state. Although some of those challenges remain, we were very fortunate that all of our schools were able to return to operation within two weeks of the storm. Those trying times have underlined what is so important about our independent schools within the state and nation – a spirit of teamwork and support for each other. We now look forward to a much needed break and a new year with many new possibilities ahead.

The 2017 **Annual Business Meeting** in ChampionsGate was a great time for colleagues to gather and to reflect on the accomplishments of FCIS over the past five years. President Robert Stephens reviewed the five Strategic Priorities of the FCIS Strategic Plan, 2013-18 and the progress realized in each area. As one of the five major priorities, Robert gave an update on the implementation of the new accreditation process, based on the FCIS Standards and Indicators approved at the 2016 Annual Business Meeting. FCIS has received positive feedback on the new process, as well as appreciation of the customization features. In addition, FCIS is completing the accreditation portal and, if everything proceeds as planned, FCIS will be looking for schools that would like to pilot writing the self-study in the portal during the second semester of the 2017-18 school year.

2017 FCIS CONVENTION. The 62nd Annual FCIS Convention was held in ChampionsGate on November 2 and 3. The theme, “FORWARD FAST: Preparing our Schools Today for a Rapidly Approaching Tomorrow”, resonated throughout the convention, including the two pre-conferences and the Annual Business Meeting. I want to personally thank the convention co-chairs, Mark Heller, Head of Academy at the Lakes; Dr. Ryan

Kelly, Head of Carrollwood Day School; and Joe Seivold, Headmaster of Berkeley Preparatory School, as well as members of the convention steering committee, who spent untold hours in dedication to our member schools.

At the FCIS Annual Business Meeting, new Directors were elected, along with current officers being elected to an additional one-year term. The newly elected Directors include Cynthia Lane, Head of Sweetwater Episcopal Academy, and Byron Lawson, Head of Trinity Preparatory School. Officers elected to an additional one-year term include Robert Stephens, President; Kevin Plummer, Vice-President; Dr. Dana Markham, Secretary; and Tane Bonham, Treasurer; David Mahler remains as the Immediate Past President.

CAPE. The U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) recently published a projection of education statistics to the year 2025. In this report, NCES projected that private school enrollment in elementary and secondary schools will decrease by 6 percent between 2013 and 2025. In contrast, total enrollment in elementary and secondary schools, both public and private, nationwide is predicted to increase by 2 percent during the same period. In addition, NCES projects that the number of private school teachers will decline by 2 percent by 2025, dropping from 441,000 to 433,000. NCES also predicts that the private school student/teacher ratio will drop to 11.8 by 2025; that same ratio was 12.2 in 2013 and 14.5 in 2000. In public schools, NCES projects that the student/teacher ratio will decrease to 15.5 by 2025; that same ratio was 16.1 in 2013 and 16.0 in 2000.

Happy Holidays!

Barbara H. Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

FCIS Professional Development Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming professional development opportunities.

2017-18

Prospective Heads' Institute I, II & III
January 10-11, 2018
Mission Inn Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills

Academy for High Performing Educators
January 21-23, 2018
Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

Winter Symposiums:
Crisis Management/Legal Workshop
February 6, 2018
Technology Workshop
February 7, 2018
Pine Crest,
Ft. Lauderdale

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

Legal Webinars with Suzanne Bogdan

*Managing Gender Identity Issues
and Determining the
School's Obligations*

Jan. 19, 2018 @ 12:00 p.m.

*School Obligations Regarding
Background Checks (including Early
Childhood and Summer Camp Workers)
and Obligations for Schools Receiving
State Scholarship Funds*

Feb. 22, 2018 @ 12:00 p.m.

*SHRM/HRCI credits will be offered.

Florida Kindergarten Council 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



Heads' Luncheons

Save the date cards and/or invitations will be sent for the following area Heads' Luncheons.

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Jacksonville Area

Hosted by: Kim Bednarek
The Discovery School

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Miami Area

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

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale Areas

Hosted by: Tane Bonham
Christ Church School

Thursday, April 26, 2018

West Palm Beach Area

Hosted by: Dr. Edwin Gordon
Palm Beach Day Academy

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Tallahassee/Panhandle Area

Hosted by: James Milford
Maclay 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: Dr. David Rowe
Lake Highland Preparatory School

School News

St. Thomas Episcopal School takes home "The Gold" from its area spelling bee on November 10th. Twenty-five teams competed in the 10th Annual Independent Schools of South Florida (ISSF) Spelling Bee, a highly competitive event for 5th grade students. Congratulations St. Thomas 5th graders!



Berkeley Preparatory School sophomore Trey Morris is wise beyond his years. He started his own fundraiser to support Hurricane Irma victims in Puerto Rico. "If Irma had hit Tampa like they thought it would, everyone else would be doing what we are doing right now, sending help to get us back on our feet. It's our job to help them too," said Morris. His fundraising efforts were featured on News Channel 8. Berkeley Prep's mathematics teacher, Mike Van Treese, was recognized as a recipient of the Excellence in Science/Mathematics Teacher Award by the Barrett Family Foundation. He was one of 12 recipients of a \$10,000 cash award. Congratulations, Mike!

On October 1st, nine students from China who attend **Community School of Naples' Upper School** assisted at the members-only preview of "Children's China: Celebrating Culture, Character and Confucius," a new traveling exhibit at the Golisano Children's Museum of Naples. The students, who hail from all over China, had been selected by CSN to join its International Program based on their academic qualifications and proficiency in English.

Tampa Preparatory School's Chris Maraghy was presented an award of \$10,000 by the Barrett Family foundation for his personal commitment and enthusiasm for teaching science. His teaching serves as an example of using innovative, motivational methods to cultivate student interest. Congratulations, Chris!



2017 FCIS Convention Presidents' Reception



2017 FCIS Convention

Thank you to the Convention Committee Chairs, Dr. Ryan Kelly, Head of Carrollwood Day School; Joe Seivold, Head of Berkeley Preparatory School; and Mark Heller, Head of Academy at the Lakes.



Congratulations to Stephen Russey, Retired Head of School at St. John's Country Day School. He was honored with the Edgar McCleary Award at Thursday's Luncheon.



2017 FCIS Convention



2017 FCIS Convention

Forward Fast: Preparing Schools Today for a Rapidly Approaching Tomorrow

Thank you to all the schools, speakers and sponsors who participated in the FCIS Annual Convention at the Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate in November. Convention Committee Chairs, Joe Seivold, Head of Berkeley Preparatory School; Dr. Ryan Kelly, Head of Carrollwood Day School; and Mark Heller, Head of Academy at the Lakes, designed a program that highlighted the importance of future-oriented programming and curriculum, novel approaches to leadership, information on the “new” demographics, and a cautionary tale about tomorrow. The world is changing rapidly, and school leaders and faculties must be prepared to embrace change and to think broadly and boldly, as well as ahead.

FCIS kicked off the Convention with an ISM pre-conference workshop, Session I: Performance Characteristics of Advancement Professionals and Session II: A Real-Time Assessment of Your Development Operations. Participants spent the morning focused on their school’s strategic process for advancing its mission through the integration of its admission, development, and marketing communications programs. In the afternoon session, participants looked at their school’s development efforts and capacity to establish data-informed objectives, measure school’s progress, and perform as a unified team. With the ISM Development Assessment Tool, participants evaluated their operations and developed a plan to build on strengths, address challenges, and take advantage of opportunities. Best practices were highlighted, and, based on the findings of the assessment, participants analyzed their donor engagement and Development Office management as the two primary success predictors.

For the second year, there was a pre-conference workshop targeted to Business Officers. This year, the workshop was led by James Honan, Senior Lecturer on Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education. Participants attended Mr. Honan’s presentation, Strategic Financial Management of Independent Schools: Stewardship and Sustainability. Mr. Honan focused on key financial planning/management challenges facing independent school leaders and trustees and highlighted selected frameworks and tools for leading conversations regarding these issues among key stakeholders. Participants examined current financial challenges and gained strategies and tools for ensuring their school’s health and viability.

Approximately 1,800 educators from 133 independent schools attended two energizing days filled with innovative sessions on topics targeting educational leadership, sustainability, student health and wellbeing, and diverse uses of evolving technologies to enhance teaching and engage learners at any level and in any discipline. Hal Gregersen, Executive Director of the MIT Leadership Center and Senior Lecturer at MIT Sloan School of Management, and Dr. Mark Milliron, Co-Founder and Chief Learning Officer of Civitas Learning, delivered outstanding keynote addresses. In his presentation, Mr. Gregersen outlined the five key skills – the Innovator’s DNA – that leaders leverage to solve vexing problems, discover new markets and fuel economic growth. Using examples of leaders from across the business, social enterprise, and education spectrums, Mr. Gregersen focused attendees’ energy on actively developing these skills through brief, high-energy learning activities. By understanding the tools innovative leaders use to solve problems, attendees learned how to create cultures where they, and especially others, can do the same. Dr. Milliron introduced five vital focus areas that will prepare educators to help students get ready for the challenges of today and the promise of tomorrow. He explored how to build out an integrated infrastructure that brings together the best of facilities, online and mobile tools; how to optimize a learning mix that includes more fluid and increasingly digital curricular resources and strategies; how to double down on the importance of psycho-social factors; how to make the most of analytics platforms and apps powered by data science and design thinking; and how to embrace the imperative to champion “tomorrow-ready learning” grounded in rich tradition, but tuned for the fast-moving dynamics of the road ahead.

2017 FCIS Convention, con't

Forward Fast: Preparing Schools Today for a Rapidly Approaching Tomorrow

Participants attended luncheons on both days in anticipation of our two luncheon keynotes: Geoff Guidera, Senior Vice President of Administration at Strategic Property Partners, LLC, and Dr. Jimmie Davis, Jr., President of STEMflorida, Inc. On Thursday, approximately 350 administrators attended the luncheon to hear Mr. Guidera's presentation. He highlighted the value proposition of an independent school education and shared a personal account of his path from an independent school student to a transformative business professional. On Friday, over 500 faculty members attended the luncheon to hear Dr. Jimmie Davis. Dr. Davis underscored the importance of continuing to improve the access, affordability and expertise associated with student learning and to break, change, and refine the old models of teaching. He encouraged teachers to innovate and to inspire students to explore, learn and live outside of the classroom.

During the Friday luncheon, door prizes were awarded, and the lucky winners went home with a variety of gift cards to restaurants and retail stores and overnight stays at a couple of beautiful resorts. Dr. Barbara Hodges also delivered a "state of the association" address on Thursday, bringing members up to date on current and future FCIS initiatives, trends in independent schools on both a state and national level, and FCIS's progress on its five-year strategic plan.

Again this year, FCIS offered a mobile app for the Convention to provide participants with helpful information and navigation of the schedule, sessions, special events, hotel and exhibitors. Participants were able to give feedback on each session that they attended as well as on their overall Convention experience, which will shape the planning for next year's Convention.

Mark your calendars for next year! The 2018 FCIS Annual Convention will take place at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront on November 15-16.



We wish you a happy and safe holiday season!
From: The FCIS Office
Dr. Barbara Hodges, Melissa Alton, Alison Carlson,
Keara Danger, Julie Johnson and Matt Wilson

