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Upcoming FCIS Events

Pre-Conf: ISM
November 6, 2019
Hyatt Regency Airport,
Orlando

Business Officers' Pre-Conf
November 6, 2019
Hyatt Regency Airport,
Orlando

Annual Convention
November 7-8, 2019
Hyatt Regency Airport,
Orlando

Prospective Heads' Institute I, II & III
January 8-9, 2020
Mission Inn Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills

Accreditation Training
January 14, 2020
The Bolles School,
Jacksonville

Accreditation Training
January 16, 2020
Gulliver Schools,
Miami

from the executive director...

Our 2019-20 school year has gotten off to a fairly smooth start. Although we can't boast of cooler weather, like many other parts of the United States, we are thankful that our opening months of school were not interrupted by a hurricane, which has been the case in Florida for the previous two falls. Our schools have seemingly settled into their routines, and we are already looking forward to gathering in just a week or so for the 2019 Annual Convention, hosted by our Orlando schools at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport Hotel.

FCIS Enrollment. After an increasing aggregate enrollment from 2011 to 2017, the total enrollment for FCIS schools has remained almost the same for the third year in a row. The total enrollment of our 154 schools is 74,152, just a little under an increase of 1000 students. Forty-seven percent of our schools have declined in enrollment over the past five years, up from forty-one percent in the previous year. Fifty-three percent of FCIS schools have increased in enrollment over the past five years. Of the 73 schools that have declined in enrollment, 62% of those schools are elementary schools, and 55% are faith-based. Forty-two percent of the schools declining have enrollments of under 200 students. Of the 81 schools with increased enrollment, 34 have increased at a rate greater than 10% over the past five years. Forty-four percent of those growing at the most significant rate are elementary schools, and 47% of the 34 are religiously based schools.

FCIS Standards, Evaluation Process, and Accreditation Portal. We are in Year Three with the FCIS Standards and Indicators that were adopted on July 1, 2017. We are now in full implementation of the process focusing on school improvement and involving the school in identifying essential questions to gain feedback from the visiting evaluation team. The Accreditation Portal, which opened in January 2018, has been enhanced this summer to provide for greater ease in entering self-studies and data and in completing evaluation reports. The FCIS Accreditation Team will continue to offer training around the state and will present several sessions at the upcoming FCIS Convention in November.

FCIS Annual Convention. The FCIS Convention Steering Committee with the help of FCIS Director of Professional Development, Alison Carlson, has planned an outstanding program for the Annual Convention at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport Hotel on November 7 and 8. Special thanks go to Cynthia Lane, Head of Sweetwater Episcopal Academy; Byron Lawson, Head of Trinity Preparatory School; and all of the Central Florida FCIS schools for chairing and hosting this important event. Thursday keynote speakers include **Richard Weissbourd, Ed.D.**, Senior Lecturer, Director of Making Caring Common, and Co-Director of the Human Development and Psychology Program, Harvard Graduate School of Education; and **Michael J. McCulley**, Astronaut. On Friday, **Denise Pope, Ph.D.**, Senior Lecturer, Stanford Graduate School of Education and Co-Founder, Challenge Success, will open the faculty day, followed by luncheon keynote speaker, **Dr. Jeff Duke**, Coaching Specialist, College of Health Professions and Sciences, University of Central Florida. This convention is one not to be missed!

International Council Advancing Independent School Accreditation (ICAISA). Founded originally as the NAIS Commission on Accreditation in early 2002 by NAIS, ICAISA, now a separate not-for-profit association, is expanding its mission to provide a more comprehensive international voice on independent school accreditation. For over 17 years, this body has provided professional development and a review process, whereby the 20 member associations have voluntarily submitted to being visited and evaluated by peer associations to determine compliance with the ICAISA Criteria and to challenge member associations to engage in self-reflection and growth. FCIS underwent its second review process by ICAISA in spring 2018, after completing a comprehensive self-study. I am pleased to announce that the evaluation report and one-year response report has been positively received by the ICAISA Board of Directors, and recognition of the quality of the FCIS accreditation process continues.

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

FCIS Professional Development Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming professional development opportunities.

2019-2020

<p>Pre-Conf: ISM November 6, 2019 Hyatt Regency Airport, Orlando</p> <p>Business Officers' Pre-Conf November 6, 2019 Hyatt Regency Airport, Orlando</p> <p>Gathering for New & Prospective Heads November 7, 2019 Hyatt Regency Airport, Orlando</p> <p>Annual Convention November 7-8, 2019 Hyatt Regency Airport, Orlando</p>	<p>Prospective Heads' Institute I, II & III January 8-9, 2020 Mission Inn Resort, Howey-in-the-Hills</p> <p>Accreditation Training January 14, 2020 The Bolles School, Jacksonville</p> <p>Accreditation Training January 16, 2020 Gulliver Schools, Miami</p> <p>Academy for High Performing Educators January 26-28, 2020 Corbett Prep at IDS, Tampa</p>	<p>Early Childhood Institute February 1, 2020 The Doubletree SeaWorld, Orlando</p> <p>Winter Symposiums February 5-6, 2020 Pine Crest School, Fort Lauderdale</p> <p>Business Officers' Conference May 3-5, 2020 Renaissance Hotel, Orlando</p> <p>Heads' Retreat June 15-17, 2020 South Seas Island Resort, Captiva Island</p> <p>Summer Symposiums June 24-25, 2020 Corbett Prep at IDS, Tampa</p>	<p>LEADERSHIP ACADEMY Sheraton Sand Key, Clearwater</p> <p>New Heads' Institute July 23-25, 2020</p> <p>Finance Institute July 24, 2020</p> <p>Fundraising Institute July 25, 2020</p> <p>Aspiring Administrators' Institute July 26-27, 2020</p> <p>Administrators' Institute July 26-28, 2020</p>
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Legal Webinars with Suzanne Bogdan

Investigations/Discipline
Nov. 13, 2019 @ 12:00 p.m.

Employee Separations and Reductions in Force
Jan. 13, 2020 @ 12:00 p.m.

Vaping, Medical Marijuana, and Hemp
Dec. 17, 2019 @ 12:00 p.m.

Enrollment Contracts, Perpetual Contracts, and Enforcement
Feb. 11, 2020 @ 12:00 p.m.

Accreditation Trainings

Melissa Alton, Director of Accreditation and Julie Johnson, Assistant Director of Accreditation and Member Services, will be offering Accreditation training for those preparing for an upcoming self-study. Register online at www.fcis.org/events.

The Bolles School, Jacksonville
January 14, 2020 (10 am -12 pm)
Cost: \$40 per person

Gulliver Schools, Miami
January 16, 2020 (10 am -12 pm)
Cost: \$40 per person
Miami Location Sold Out!
Go to fcis.org to join the waitlist.

School News

The Out-of-Door Academy Seniors, Brian Lutton and Andrew Dowdell, completed a 6,000-mile journey this summer in a 1985 Mercedes retrofitted to run on discarded food grease. Waffle House had been their most consistent source of old grease throughout the trip. On July 25, in rush hour traffic outside of Worcester, MA smoke began pouring through the dashboard. The fire was caused by a faulty started solenoid that melted a mass of wires under the hood. The boys returned home to Sarasota on Aug. 1, and they are already planning their next trip, this time in a car retrofitted



Photo: Herald-Tribune staff photo/Ryan McKinnon

Tampa Prep's Coach Joe Fenlon was inducted into the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) Hall of Fame after becoming the Tampa Bay area's all-time winningest boys basketball coach. Congratulations Coach Fenlon!

Two Middle School teachers at **Community School of Naples** helped spearhead a year-long student project which will culminate in time for this Veterans Day with the publication of a new book, *Through Their Eyes: The Community School of Naples Veterans Project* on November 10, 2019. During the 2018-19 school year, art teacher Tom Geyer, and Jimmi Stevens, teacher and faculty advisor for the school's Veteran Appreciation Club, put together a student-centric curriculum honoring veterans of Southwest Florida with the aim of publishing a book illustrated and written by CSN students.

Check out the full story in the Herald-Tribune, Sept 19, by Ryan McKinnon. Congratulations and Good Luck On Your Next Adventure!

A team made up of three teachers and 12 students from **Oxbridge Academy**, recently traveled to the Dominican Republic to fit a whole school for the deaf, plus many elderly patients, with hearing aids. Oxbridge Academy senior Tyler Arscott started volunteering with the Starkey Foundation after seeing his own father experience hearing loss. The Foundation strives to give hearing aids to people in need in more than 100 countries. Oxbridge Academy is working to create this opportunity for students again and look forward to another year of generosity from the Starkey team. Congratulations, Oxbridge Academy!

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.

Friday, April 17, 2020

Jacksonville Area

Hosted by: Lori Menger
San Jose Episcopal DaySchool

Monday, April 20, 2020

Tallahassee/Panhandle Area

Hosted by: James Milford
Maclay School

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

West Palm Beach Area

Hosted by: Deborah Strainge
St. Mark's Episcopal School

Thursday, April 30, 2020

Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale Areas

Hosted by: Dr. Dana Markham
Pine Crest School

Friday, May 1, 2020

Miami Area

Hosted by: Arvi Balseiro
The Cushman School

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

Orlando Area

Hosted by: Byron Lawson
Trinity Preparatory School

Friday, May 8, 2020

Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples Areas

Hosted by: Kevin Plummer
Tampa Preparatory School

FCIS New Teacher Institute 2019

Sept 15-17

The *New Teacher Institute* welcomed 43 enthusiastic, new and nearly new independent school teachers at the beautiful Mission Inn, just north of Orlando. On Sunday, teachers from 17 different FCIS schools gathered to spend almost two full days together. They participated in a wide variety of workshops designed to strengthen and enhance their teaching and learning. Topics included: independent school culture and tradition, parents as partners, classroom and time management, lesson planning and assessment, differentiated learning, technology and innovation, teacher observations, narrative comment reports, maintaining balance, fixed vs. growth mindsets, and bringing joy into the classroom. Lori Smith, an Orlando attorney, presented a session on professionalism; how to be an asset, not a liability, to your school; social media use; and other important legal issues relating to independent schools. After spending several weeks in the classroom, new teachers were eager to reflect on their experiences so far, to ask questions, and to discuss and expand their knowledge of best practices. They also took full advantage of connecting with educators from peer schools and enjoyed learning from each other and building the foundation for professional learning networks for ongoing collegial support.

Special thanks to our dedicated teaching faculty: **Jennifer Geimer**, Middle School Director, The Cushman School; **Kathleen Malanowski**, Lower School Principal, North Broward Preparatory School; **Donald Morrison**, Dean of Faculty, Tampa Preparatory School; **Dr. Joyce Burick Swarzman**, Head, Corbett Preparatory School of IDS; and **Robert Franz**, Upper Division History Teacher, Berkeley Preparatory School.



Leadership Partners through Principles of Good Governance

October 6-7

On October 6-7, 43 Heads and Board Chairs met at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport for the *FCIS Leadership Partners through Principles of Good Governance* workshop. Dr. Barbara Hodges, FCIS Executive Director, and Dr. Jan Pullen, Head of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Day School in Bradenton, teamed up to design the program and lead each of the sessions. They offered strategies for strengthening the partnership, support and collaboration between Heads and Board Chairs. Topics included: *The Relationship Needed for Good Leadership, Leadership and Effective Communication, Issues Facing Independent Schools Today, Strategic Planning and Board Expectations, and Effective Governance*. Each topic led to many informal discussions that carried over into Sunday evening's dinner and Monday's lunch. Time was also allocated for questions, candid observations and brainstorming. A major factor in a school's success is a healthy Head-Board Chair relationship, and participants took full advantage of their time together to share goals and challenges facing their individual schools as well as the broader independent school community.