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FCIS 2019 Convention

Upcoming FCIS Events

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

Academy for High Performing Educators
January 26-28, 2020
Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

Early Childhood Institute
February 1, 2020
The Doubletree SeaWorld,
Orlando

from the executive director...

Happy Holidays to each and every member of our FCIS family! The first semester of the 2019-20 school year is coming to an end, and we look forward to the new opportunities that await in 2020.

The recent 2019 Annual Business Meeting in Orlando provided a great time for colleagues to gather, connect, and reflect on the accomplishments of our schools and association over the past few years. FCIS President, Dr. Dana Markham, opened the annual meeting, noting that FCIS is not only a premier independent school accrediting association in the United States, but FCIS is one of the founders of the International Council Advancing Independent School Accreditation (ICAISA), formerly the NAIS Commission on Accreditation. As a matter of note, ICAISA became separately incorporated from NAIS on July 1, 2018, although ICAISA continues to enjoy a close relationship with NAIS. FCIS is playing a key role in advancing accreditation on a national and international level through ICAISA, made even more possible by my being tapped to be chair of the ICAISA Board of Directors. Within the state of Florida, FCIS looks forward to advancing our member schools as the association continues to address the goals outlined in the 2018-23 Strategic Plan - prioritizing the successful implementation of the new standards/accrediting process adopted on July 1, 2017, promoting capacity development for our member schools, developing partnerships that have strategic value, and expanding FCIS's future capacity and capabilities.

2019 FCIS CONVENTION. The 64th Annual FCIS Convention was held in Orlando on November 7 and 8. The theme, "Learn Today, Learn Tomorrow", resonated throughout the convention, including the two pre-conferences and the Annual Business Meeting. I want to personally thank the convention co-chairs, Cynthia Lane, Head of Sweetwater Episcopal Academy, and Byron Lawson, Jr., Head of Trinity Preparatory School, as well as the convention steering committee members, who spent untold hours in dedication to our member schools.

At the FCIS Annual Business Meeting, new Directors were elected. The newly elected Directors include: Lori Menger, Head of San Jose Episcopal Day School, and Dr. Mike Sligh, Head of Lakeland Christian School; both were elected to a first two-year term. In addition, Byron Lawson, Jr., Head of Trinity Preparatory School, was elected to a second two-year term.

CAPE. The results of the 2019 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) were released on October 30. Average reading scores for both fourth and eighth graders have dropped on a national level since 2017. In the area of math, fourth grade scores have increased by one point, and eighth grade scores have decreased by one point. Catholic private schools outperformed public schools in both subject areas; the aggregate of private schools were not in the report due to fact that they did not reach the 70% participation level.

Upcoming Events. Registration is now open for High Performing Educators Academy in Tampa, Early Childhood Institute in Orlando, and Winter Symposiums in Fort Lauderdale. The High Performing Educators Academy always receives rave reviews, with participants describing it as a life-changing professional development opportunity. The Early Childhood Institute will feature Daniel Hodgins, who will speak on "Creating Caring and Cooperative Environments for Young Children"; this event allows early childhood educators to come together, network, and explore best practices in their field. This year, the theme of the Winter Symposiums is Student Health and Wellness and will feature David Gleason, Clinical Psychologist, Founder, Developmental Empathy LLC, and Dr. Scott Poland, Professor, College of Psychology, and Co-Director of the Suicide and Violence Prevention Office, Nova Southeastern University. The Winter Symposiums will continue the theme of student wellness promoted at the 2019 Annual Convention. Please plan to join us!

Barbara H. Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

FCIS Professional Development Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming professional development opportunities.

2019-2020

**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

**Academy for High
Performing Educators**
January 26-28, 2020
Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

Early Childhood Institute
February 1, 2020
The Doubletree SeaWorld,
Orlando

Winter Symposiums
February 5-6, 2020
Pine Crest School,
Fort Lauderdale

**Business Officers'
Conference**
May 3-5, 2020
Renaissance Hotel, Orlando

Heads' Retreat
June 15-17, 2020
South Seas Island Resort,
Captiva Island

Summer Symposiums
June 24-25, 2020
Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
Sheraton Sand Key,
Clearwater

- **New Heads' Institute**
July 23-25, 2020
- **Finance Institute**
July 24, 2020
- **Fundraising Institute**
July 25, 2020
- **Aspiring Administrators'
Institute**
July 26-27, 2020
- **Administrators' Institute**
July 26-28, 2020

Legal Webinars with Suzanne Bogdan

Employee Separations and Reductions in Force
Jan. 13, 2020 @ 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.

WINTER SYMPOSIUMS

At What Cost? Defending Adolescent Development in Fiercely Competitive Schools

DATE: Wednesday, February 5, 2020

TIME: 8:45 AM - 3:15 PM

LOCATION: Pine Crest School
1501 NE 62nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334

SPEAKER: David Gleason, Psy.D.
Clinical Psychologist; Founder, Developmental Empathy LLC

Who should attend? Heads • Division Heads
Senior Administrators • School Counselors • Teachers

Anxiety, disillusionment and depression emerge, sometimes with devastating outcomes, as conflicts between ever-increasing school expectations and students' developmental capacities persist. Concurrently, over the past decade, unprecedented human brain research has revealed that environment not only affects adolescent identity, but it shapes the brain itself. In light of the intensifying pressures on adolescents that we admit to imposing on them, what must we do now? For all our students, finding the right balance between an appropriate level of academic rigor and educating them in healthy, safe and balanced ways has crucial lifelong implications.

COST: \$225 (Members) | Bundled Cost for 2 Days:
\$395 (Members)

DEADLINE: January 22, 2020

Educators Making the Difference for Students in a Challenging World

DATE: Wednesday, February 5, 2020

TIME: 8:45 AM - 3:15 PM

LOCATION: Pine Crest School
1501 NE 62nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334

SPEAKER: Dr. Scott Poland
Professor, College of Psychology; and Co-Director of the Suicide and Violence Prevention Office, Nova Southeastern University

Who should attend? Heads • Division Heads
Senior Administrators • School Counselors • Teachers

The mental health needs of students, the screen age, the incidence of bullying, cyberbullying, school violence, and suicide have resulted in very challenging times to be an educator. This presentation will help everyone enhance their knowledge and understanding of the risk factors for students. Research has emphasized the need for all students to feel a connection to school and it is very important for each student to have a significant relationship with one or more adults. Numerous tragedies could have been prevented if students had come forward and alerted school personnel and other adults about the warning signs of suicide and/or violence. School safety is an inside job and a commitment is needed from students, faculty and parents.

COST: \$225 (Members) | Bundled Cost for 2 Days:
\$395 (Members)

DEADLINE: January 22, 2020

EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE

Join FCIS for an event specifically designed for early childhood educators (PK-Grade 3) and administrators. Hear from a dynamic keynote speaker and attend breakout sessions to learn cutting-edge ideas! You don't want to miss this opportunity. Register today at www.fcis.org.

DATE: Saturday, February 1, 2020

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at Sea World
10100 International Dr., Orlando

Schedule:

7:45 AM - Registration
8:00 AM - Full Breakfast
9:00 AM - Keynote Speaker
10:15 AM - Breakout Session 1
11:15 AM - Breakout Session 2
12:15 PM - Breakout Session 3

Keynote Speaker: Daniel Hodgins | Early Childhood Consultant

Topic: Creating Caring and Cooperative Environments for Young Children

Quality programs should not be based on academics but how to develop caring and cooperative children. This presentation will assist in developing empathy, respect and a sense of belonging through PLAY.

Daniel Hodgins is an exceptional international presenter and author (*Boys: Changing the Classroom, Not the Child* and *Get Over it: Re-learning Guidance Practices*.) As a consultant he has a unique grasp of children and family issues learned from over 36 years of experience working as a teacher, director, educator and parent in both private and public schools. In addition, Daniel has worked as a Cooperative Nursery School teacher, a teacher in elementary school and a coordinator of early childhood education.

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 Day School

Tuesday, April 21, 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 Presidents' Reception Honoring New FCIS School Heads





Learn Today! Learn Tomorrow! **Hyatt Regency, Orlando—November 6-8**

Thank you to all the schools, speakers and sponsors who participated in the FCIS Annual Convention at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport in November. Convention Committee Chairs, Cynthia Lane, Head of Sweetwater Episcopal Academy, and Byron Lawson, Head of Trinity Preparatory School, designed a program that highlighted the evolving needs of today's learners in independent schools.

FCIS kicked off the Convention with an ISM pre-conference workshop, *Session I: Strategic Financial Planning and Session II: Financial Aid – Understanding Need*. In the morning, Terry Moore, ISM Consultant, explored basic sustainability variables, tuition setting policies, and the two types of strategic planning. In the afternoon, Terry defined what financial “need” means at different schools, by considering financial aid policies, awarding strategies, and need assessment protocols necessary for effective program management.

For the fourth year, a pre-conference workshop targeted to Business Officers was offered. This year, the workshop was led by Gigi Chinisci, retired Assistant Director of Admission at Albuquerque Academy; Gigi's presentation was titled, *Bringing Disney's Philosophy to Your School*. She introduced Walt Disney's business philosophy, explored the science of positive psychology, and shared simple practices for setting a school apart within a crowded field.

At the Convention, FCIS welcomed approximately 1,800 educators from 135 independent schools for two energizing days filled with innovative sessions on topics targeting educational leadership, sustainability, marketing, fundraising, diversity and inclusion, student health and wellbeing, and evolving technologies to enhance teaching and engage learners. Richard Weissbourd, Ed.D., Senior Lecturer, Director of Making Caring Common, and Co-Director of the Human Development and Psychology Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Denise Pope, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer at the Stanford Graduate School of Education and Co-Founder of Challenge Success, delivered outstanding keynote addresses. In his presentation, *How Can Schools Develop Caring and Thriving Students?*, Dr. Weissbourd explored current trends and provided concrete strategies that schools can utilize to develop empathetic, caring, justice-minded children, who are also happy and able to pursue meaningful achievement. On Friday, in her keynote, *Teaching for Healthy, Engaged Students in a Fast-Paced World*, Dr. Pope examined the latest research on academic pressure and the tension that parents, students, and teachers often experience over issues such as homework, grades, college admissions, and the culture of competition. She offered concrete strategies and tools for creating a healthier and more productive school environment without sacrificing achievement.

Dr. Barbara Hodges delivered a “state of the association” address on Thursday, bringing members up to date on current and future FCIS initiatives and trends in independent schools on both a state and national level.

Participants attended luncheons on both days in anticipation of our two luncheon keynotes: Michael J. McCulley, retired astronaut, who presented *Space Talk (Astronaut Selection to Flying in Space)*, and Dr. Jeff Duke, Associate Professor at the University of Central Florida, who presented *Capturing the Heart of the 21st Century Student*. During the 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.

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, with results used to shape the planning for next year's Convention.

Mark your calendars for next year! The 2020 FCIS Annual Convention will take place at the Hyatt Regency Miami Hotel on November 5-6.



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

