

## Leadership Conference Highlights



Leadership Conference attendees.

Leadership, membership, advocacy, and change were the key topics of the Leadership Conference held in Tallahassee in early February. Chapter, region, and commission leaders assembled to discuss the roles and responsibilities of each level of leadership in the Association.

The conference began with FACC President Will Benedicks detailing his focus for the year as membership growth. Dr. Benedicks highlighted the progress the Association has made over the last few years in its communication with members and advocacy efforts. While change and transition may be the themes of the day, he stressed the need for increasing membership and remaining true to the mission of FACC. He explained that his theme for the year "Access to Success" was based on the premise that the 28 community colleges are the open door to "access" for students. No matter the changes this central concept will not change, according to Benedicks.

Executive Director/CEO Michael Brawer echoed President Benedicks call to focus on membership in 2009. He asked for chapters to contact him to schedule visits to detail the importance of membership in a year of reduced budgets, less travel, college name changes, and a new state system. Brawer and President Benedicks plan to visit as many of the 29 chapters as possible during the year. These visits are designed to inspire and motivate members as well as provide opportunities to highlight what FACC is and has to offer to non-



(L to R) Byron Todd and Marsha Kiner.



(L to R) Pat Profeta and Rhea Cemer.



(L to R) Lee Johnson, Mike Hutley, Guy York, Debi McElroy.



Attendees are all smiles.

*Continued on page 2.*

## Leadership Conference continued from page 1.

members. Brawer told the group that he wanted these visits to be college-wide events designed to showcase FACC and its value to every college employee.

Regions and Chapters VP Dennis Storck and VP-Elect Gary Sligh led a discussion on leadership essential to the work of the Association. On every level, leadership is critical to the mission and goals of the FACC. Chapter and region officers have roles and responsibilities that are vital to the success of FACC. VP-Elect for Commissions Byron Todd also led conference attendees through a session on commission leadership where he reminded attendees to utilize technology as well as other resources for assistance when planning activities/events and meetings. They were encouraged to develop goals and objectives and review them annually. Developing strategies, priorities, and planning for the year are fundamental processes needed for a successful year as a chapter, region, or commission.

Awards Committee Chair Evelyn Ward reviewed the new Awards Criteria. The major changes can be found in the Chapter of the Year Criteria where this year there will be a Platinum Chapter, a Gold Chapter, and a Silver Chapter in addition to the Outstanding Chapter of the Year. More information on the new awards criteria can be found at [http://www.facc.org/facc/Award\\_information\\_and\\_applications.asp](http://www.facc.org/facc/Award_information_and_applications.asp).

Several hot topics were discussed during the two day conference including the FACC database, the substantive issues for the coming legislative session, membership development and changes to the annual convention format. Attendees weighed in on marketing tips and strategies which work on their campuses as well as the barriers they encountered. During an open forum on the annual convention format, the issue of focusing more on the professional development resonated with all the attendees. Executive Director/CEO Michael Brawer expressed his desire to align the convention format more with a traditional conference schedule which highlights professional development



Phil Scala (L) and John Barbieri (R)

and takes the focus off of the business meetings. He suggested that it is easier to market a conference/convention when the professional/educational development benefits jump off the page. He asked for volunteers to sit on a special convention committee to assist in examining how to redesign the convention as well as assist in planning for the 60<sup>th</sup> year celebration needed for November.

The conference ended with leaders being encouraged to visit the FACC Calendar on the website to view upcoming conferences. They were also provided a glimpse of new changes coming in March to the website: Login/Logout button on FACC page, Join Now, Renew Now, and Edit My Profile links, and Private Members Only Pages.

Visit [www.facc.org](http://www.facc.org) to view all the new features.

Thank you to everyone who attended the conference from Broward College, Central Florida Community College, Chipola College, Daytona State College, Florida Community College at Jacksonville, Gulf Coast Community College, Hillsborough Community College, Indian River State College, Lake City Community College, Lake Sumter Community College, Manatee Community College, Miami Dade College, Pasco-Hernando Community College, Pensacola Junior College, St. Johns River Community College, St. Petersburg College, Santa Fe College, Tallahassee Community College and Valencia Community College! ■

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Michael Brawer

## Outline of Goals for 2009

**H**ello FACC. All too quickly the winter break has come and gone and I find myself deep into the excitement of a new term, working with our new CEO, Michael Brawer, and going over my presidential goals for 2009. I have two goals and they are very straight forward: professional



development and membership growth. On these issues, as on every important FACC issue, Michael and I agree. If the measure of a person's

intelligence is how much he or she agrees with you, then Michael Brawer is going to be very, very good for FACC.

I want to improve professional development opportunities and promote what we do to the community. Toward that end I would like to revive *Visions*, the Journal of Applied Research for the Florida Association of Community Colleges. We need to publicize our exemplary practices awards and at the same time share our professional abilities with the entire college community. In addition, we need to promote the wonderful programs we are affiliated with and or sponsor. One such FACC sponsorship is the Bellwether Awards presented by the Community College Futures Assembly. Held in Orlando in January by the University of Florida, Community College Leadership Consortium, it showcases innovative community

college programs from across the nation. The only Florida finalist this year was Indian River State College, *The IRSC Baccalaureate Transition Team*, presented by Vice President for Instructional Services, Dr. Mary Locke and President, Dr. Ed Massey. Past Florida Bellwether winners include Daytona State College, Seminole Community College, and Palm Beach Community College. While realizing that just because I had not heard of the Bellwether Awards before does not equate to FACC not knowing about the awards, I must say the Bellwether finalist programs are impressive, but so are the FACC exemplary awards and in the future we should consider submitting our award winners to the Bellwether competition. Also, we should include exemplary

provisional "health care providers" (for lack of a better name) commission. If any of you are interested in helping Carolyn, or know of someone who you think would be, please contact Carolyn at [lytlecc@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:lytlecc@tcc.fl.edu).

In 2009 an increase in membership is vital to FACC. Perennially, the FACC president promotes membership and, against the backdrop of Florida's economy, this year is no exception; as the economy falters and legislative monies for the system decrease so do monies to our institutions, and likewise, to FACC. My talking point is the "power of one." If each member can bring one new member to FACC, our membership would double. That may be wishful thinking, but we can try. If only one in ten is successful, then

**If you believe as I do, that against the backdrop of our change to the Florida College System and hard economic times there is strength in numbers: Then embrace the "power of one."**

practice winner articles in the *Current*. As I said, we need to do a better job of showcasing and promoting what we do.

A potential area to promote professional development and increase membership is to explore the possibilities of a "health care providers" commission. Many of our colleges have first rate nursing and EMT programs, yet we do not have a commission where they can network and share common ground. I have asked Carolyn Lytle of Tallahassee Community College (TCC), this year's TCC Chapter President and a full time nursing faculty member, to explore the potential of forming a

membership increases by almost 800. If you believe as I do, that against the backdrop of our change to the Florida College System and hard economic times there is strength in numbers: Then embrace the "power of one."

A last thought: As the Legislature and Governor continue to explore our transition to the Florida College System remember that the outstanding success of Florida's Community Colleges is because of you. The system can change, but continued success is assured because of what you have done and will continue to do, name change notwithstanding. ■

## Member Spotlight: Bobbi Moran

With near perfect attendance for the past 24 years at FACC Annual Conventions (only missing one due to illness), Bobbi Moran of Central Florida Community College is a dedicated member. In 2001 she was given Honorary Life Member status and continues to be active and involved.

Moran has held many FACC Committee and Chapter officer positions and currently chairs the Credentials Committee. This committee is responsible for verifying the Convention attendees report and for ensuring the credentials of all voting delegates at the Annual Convention. Moran has been chair since 1996.

“It has been a pleasure working with Bobbi. I do not know a more dedicated Central Florida Community College employee or FACC member. She is always diligent to ensure the credentials report is perfect,” Joyce Traynom said.

“Bobbi is a great example of the spirit of FACC. She is always there with a smiling face and a “Hi’ya Honey” to greet you at convention. It has been a pleasure to work with Bobbi on the Credentials Committee because I always know everything will be under control when she is there,” Eileen Johnson said.

Many thanks go to Bobbi for her hard work and dedication to FACC. Members like you help our Association succeed. ■



Bobbi Moran of Central Florida Community College is a long-time member with a record of near perfect attendance.

*Would you like to nominate someone for the Member Spotlight? Please send the nominee’s name, contact information and a few reasons why you think they should be recognized to Tina at [tingramm@facc.org](mailto:tingramm@facc.org)*

## Community College Conference on Legal Issues

Lawyers and educators alike gathered in Orlando in February for the fourth annual Community College Conference on Legal Issues, hosted by Valencia Community College and cooperating sponsors FACC, AACC, NACUA and The College Board. The annual conference that focuses on law-related topics specific to community colleges drew 163 participants from 21 states this year.

A town hall-style meeting, titled “Understanding the Laws That Shape our Institutions,” kicked off the three-day event with an expert panel of community college general counsel members and facilitator Sanford C. Shugart, president of Valencia Community College.

Keynote speaker Robert O’Neill, a law professor at the University of Texas and former president of the University of Virginia, addressed the conference at the general session on key issues related to free speech and academic freedom on campus. Twenty different breakout sessions covered diverse and engaging subjects ranging from legal challenges posed by Face Book, to new FERPA



-Valencia Community College President Sanford Shugart fields questions from the audience during town hall meeting

and FMLA regulations, to dealing with layoffs in difficult times. A final town hall meeting on first amendment rights facilitated by Mr. O’Neill explored in depth the legal issues pertaining to free speech and community college faculty, students and staff.

Audio recordings of all conference sessions are available for purchase on CD-Rom and can be ordered at [www.valenciacc.edu/communitycollegelaw](http://www.valenciacc.edu/communitycollegelaw). Stay tuned for details on next year’s conference to be held in early 2010. ■

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO

Michael Brawer,  
Executive Director/CEO

## The View from Here

The first 60-odd days of my tenure here at the helm of the FACC has been among the most exciting in my professional career. By the time you receive this publication, we will have conducted three Council of Presidents meetings, one Trustee's Conference, one FACC Leadership Conference, one FACC Executive Committee meeting, and one



FACC Board of Directors meeting. I have represented the FACC, as co-sponsor, at national conferences in Orlando, including the Bellwether Awards Futures

Conference conducted by the University of Florida, and the Community College Conference on Legal Issues, conducted by Valencia Community College. I have visited three chapters, CCLA and Chipola College, and Tallahassee Community, albeit the latter was during November while I was still teaching adjunct there, while transitioning with my predecessor.

I have been welcomed into the fold and treated like one of the gang by the most dedicated group of professional college lobbyists I have ever met. Moreover, I have been warmly accepted by the group of college presidents who, with just a couple exceptions, didn't know me from a hill of beans. FACC President Will Benedicks and I have developed a great rapport built upon a similar vision of change and growth for your Association, a passion for professional development as a focus for our mission, and a similar warped, sense of humor that gets us through the drives up and down

the highway in our travels together. And finally, I am beginning to find my way around the FACC office and the business of the Association with the help of a dedicated staff of professionals here. I can't thank them enough for their loyalty, commitment, and patience as I expound my vision for our future, and ask stupid questions like where do we keep the paper clips, or how do I use the office voice mail!

Now, you may ask, what exactly is that vision? Well, it's a vision based on common sense (I hope...) and one that should keep your Association financially stable, administratively strong and organized, and effectively branded. When nonmembers ask you, "What does the FACC actually do?", I hope my simple vision will help you answer it, in very basic terms, using the three-legged stool concept. As you know, a well-built stool has three legs, each interconnected with a support rod. No one leg is completely independent of the others, and all must work together to remain strong and provide support.

The first leg must be to reemphasize our focus on **professional development**. As educators, if we do nothing else, we must provide ways for you to become better at what you do, as well as provide mechanisms for your leadership development. To this end we are looking at our convention model, and tweaking it to emphasize professional growth and development, as well as accommodating your meetings and other traditional activities. We are also kicking the tires, so to speak, on other possible "signature" events designed to advance the professional skills for community college employees across all levels.

The second leg of the stool is **recognition**. Again, it is incumbent upon us to recognize and award the best and

brightest stars among us, and utilize and transcend their knowledge, skills, and experience to connect with the first leg of the stool. Our awards programs need to be better marketed, and the audience expanded, in order to create the synergy necessary to bring more members into the association. Besides, who better is there to provide professional development than the experts we recognize among ourselves?

The third leg is **representation**. The FACC is actively involved with promoting the cause of the community colleges to the powers that be. Through our tight knit group of professional college lobbyists, our contracted lobbyist team, and me, your message is being carried daily into the Capitol. For the most part we are a team of educators who everyday help the legislators learn and understand the challenges facing the college system. The downside of term limits is that we have a more transient legislature, with many young members who do not have the historical knowledge of the system. Hence, our lobbying team is always educating them and helping them to make the right decisions on our issues. The issues are numerous and diverse, from student records to financial aid, to program expansion and statewide retirement, not to mention budget and capital outlay.

It's a big job, but a worthy one, yet not one for the faint of heart. I urge all of you to sustain the passion and create the synergy we need to change and grow. Tell the FACC story to your nonmember colleagues. If every single FACC member brought in one new member our numbers and influence would expand exponentially. You hold the power of one, which creates the power in numbers, and together we are much stronger than any other way. ■

# Trustees Commission Annual Legislative Conference

Trustees Commission Chair Nancy Watkins, HCC, and FACC Executive Director/CEO Michael Brawer welcomed more than 60 Trustees to Tallahassee in early February for the Trustees Commission Annual Legislative Conference. The two-day conference provided the trustees with an update on the new Florida College System, a review of the 2009-2010 Legislative Budget Request, a review of the FACC substantive legislative issues, and a legislative session forecast review by FACC lobbyists.

A highlight of the conference was the reception co-sponsored by the Foundation for Florida's Colleges and FACC for the Trustees with Governor Charlie Crist. The reception was held at the Governor's Mansion where Chancellor Willis Holcombe and Commissioner of Education Dr. Eric J. Smith spoke to the Trustees, Presidents, Foundation for Florida's Colleges members, and Legislators in attendance. Governor Crist expressed his appreciation for the role of community colleges in providing affordable education as well as preparing the state's

workers for the critical jobs needed in the current economy.

The conference closed with trustees hearing from legislative leaders at the Capitol in the House Chambers. Special thanks go to Speaker pro tempore Larry Cretul, Senator Evelyn Lynn, Senator Steve Oelrich, Representative Will Weatherford, Representative David Rivera, Representative Matt Hudson, Representative Seth McKeel, Representative Tom Grady, and Representative Michelle Rehwinkel-Vasilinda for their participation. ■



FACC staff with Governor Charlie Crist



(L to R) Mr. Rod Jurado, Governor Charlie Crist, Dr. Gwen Stephenson, Ms. Nancy Watkins, Mr. Andrew Graham and Ms. Pat Dix



House Chambers



(L to R) Speaker pro tempore Larry Cretul and Dr. Jackson Sasser

## Chapter Headlines

### MCC Reorganizes to Manage Growth

Citing rapid enrollment growth and proposed four-year degree programs, Manatee Community College (MCC) President Dr. Lars A. Hafner has announced sweeping organizational changes.

Hafner said, "We need to act now to ensure that MCC will reach the high points as a multifaceted, mature and highly developed institution with the appropriate infrastructure in place." Early enrollment figures indicate a likely double-digit increase over spring 2008 for a new all-time spring term high of between 10,000 and 11,000 students. If the pace continues, an estimated 15,000 students could be enrolled at MCC in three to five years. The seven- to 10 year-perspective is even more dramatic, pointing to a strong possibility for MCC to increase by the same numbers in a single decade that it took the first 50 years to achieve.

Suggestions from academic and administrative leaders contributed to the rationale for the organizational changes. The reorganization allows for 13 replacement and new full-time faculty positions selected by academic leaders.

"Strengthening the full-time faculty

is necessary to meet enrollment growth and sustain quality," Hafner said, adding, "New positions are possible due to savings realized by reassignments, productivity measures and skilled people taking on additional responsibilities."

Many administrative changes are in title only and more accurately reflect jobs that individuals are doing or will bring MCC personnel into parity with other colleges. The reorganization actually represents a net decrease in administrative positions due to past and concurrent reductions in administrative posts, Hafner noted.

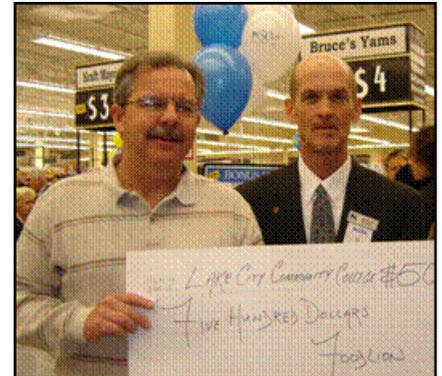
The first phase of reorganization includes the following changes, some of which are effective immediately and others that will be phased in during coming months:

A provost at each campus will have responsibility and authority to implement both academic and administrative campus-based decisions. Provosts are: Mike Mears, MCC Bradenton; Darlene Wedler-Johnson, MCC Venice; Bonnie Hesselberg, MCC Lakewood Ranch.

Mears also will serve in the newly created position of vice president of baccalaureate programs to direct the

*Continued on page 10.*

### Lake City Community College's FACC Chapter Receives Donation



Mike Williams (center), presents check for \$500 Kerry Hagler (left) and Mike Lee to benefit the Lake City Community College Chapter of FACC.

Food Lion opened its newest store in Florida on November 19, 2008 in Lake City. Part of the celebration included a donation to the Lake City Community College chapter of FACC. Mike Williams, Food Lion's Lake City Store manager, presented a \$500 check to LCCC's FACC President Kerry Hagler and LCCC Foundation Executive Director Mike Lee. The Foundation transferred the check to LCCC FACC Chapter in January.

Food Lion has been in Lake City for the past 20 years and needed an expanded location. The newest store was built in Lake City's Heritage Oaks Plaza.

Food Lion has been a long time supporter of educational programs in Lake City. Columbia High School's JROTC Torch Club also received a \$500 donation as part of the store's Grand Opening celebration. ■

### Brawer and Benedicks Visit Chipola



(L to R) Dr. Gene Prough, Will Benedicks, Michael Brawer, and Rachel West.

FACC's newest editions, Executive Director/CEO Mike Brawer and President Will Benedicks recently addressed the Chipola College FACC Chapter at one of their General Membership Meetings held in January. Both FACC leaders stressed the importance of membership in FACC for community college faculty as well as staff members. Chipola President Dr. Gene Prough and FACC President Rachel West presented their guests with Chipola polo shirts. ■

## Dory Lock Receives 2008 Manatee Community College FACC Unsung Hero Award



(L to R) Bradley Davis (2009 MCC Chapter President), Dr. Lars Hafner (Manatee Community College President), Ms. Lock, Dr. Mike Mears (2008 MCC Chapter President).

Dory Lock, Grants Specialist at Manatee Community College (MCC), has received the 2008 Unsung Hero Award from the MCC Chapter of the Florida Association of Community Colleges (FACC). The award is in recognition of her tireless efforts to plan and support fundraising events for scholarships, coordinate donations for various local charities and serving as archive coordinator for the MCC Chapter.

Dr. Mears nominated Ms Lock due to “her caring nature and her ability to step up to the plate whenever help is needed. She is a special person with a very giving heart to help her colleagues and her community.” Ms Lock has been with MCC for almost nine years and an FACC member for more than five years. ■

## IRSC Identified as Finalist for Prestigious Bellwether Award

When Indian River State College was faced with the challenge of adding nine Bachelor’s degree programs to meet critical workforce needs and obtain Baccalaureate level accreditation in less than a year, it was the College’s culture of communication, collaboration and creativity that made it possible. By establishing a college-wide Baccalaureate Transition Team, IRSC capitalized on these institutional strengths and successfully moved from program concept to program implementation in record time. This achievement was recently recognized by the Community College Futures Assembly, which identified IRSC as a finalist for the prestigious Bellwether Award which honors trend-setting institutions throughout the United States and Canada.

Composed of 30 key institutional stakeholders, supported by faculty, academic, curricular, technical and other sub-committees, Indian River’s Baccalaureate Transition Team discovered creative solutions because issues were viewed systemically instead of in isolation. This kind of planning prevented problems in the implementation phase and



(L to R) Dr. Dale Campbell, Futures Assembly Director, Dr. Will Benedicks, ISP Judge, FACC President, Dr. Carl Hite, President, and Mr. John Squires, Math Department Chair (CSCC), and Dr. Jim Rose, ISP Judge, and Chair, 2009 Futures State Directors Commission and National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges.

fostered widespread ownership of the Baccalaureate programs. The team approach was extremely helpful in preparation for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) substantive change application. IRSC achieved Level II accreditation in June, 2007, and over 1,000 students are currently pursuing their Bachelor’s Degrees at IRSC.

IRSC was selected as a Bellwether Finalist in the Planning, Governance and Finance category and presented at the 15th Community College Futures Assembly which convenes annually as an independent national policy forum for opinion leaders to identify critical issues facing the future of community colleges, and to recognize Bellwether Finalist colleges. ■

## SJRCC Begins Bachelor’s Degree Plans

The St. Johns River Community College District Board of Trustees unanimously approved the College’s request to initiate the first step toward offering a four-year degree. The Trustees participated in a workshop Wednesday to determine if the 50-year-old College should proceed with what will be the first of many steps - conducting a community interest/need survey. Results from the survey could justify applying to become a state college and offering a bachelor’s degree by as early as August 2010.

“I see it as the next step for community colleges,” SJRCC President Joe Pickens said, predicting that all 28 of Florida’s community colleges will one day offer a bachelor’s degree. “The issue isn’t that something is wrong with the community college system, but that there are not enough baccalaureate degree institutions to meet the need in Florida.”

The survey, to be conducted by an internal panel of administrators, will be given to students and community

members as well as members of the workforce industry to indicate where the biggest needs lie. “We need to give the survey plenty of time and listen carefully to what the community tells us,” Pickens said.

Board Chairman William “Bunky” Roberts announced that if the funding is available, the College should proceed with the opportunity. “We don’t want to get left behind,” Roberts said.

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**SRJCC Begins Bachelor's Degree Plans continued from page 9.**

Although Pickens admitted that funding would be the College's biggest challenge, he announced that a bill could soon pass allowing state universities to control their own tuition, thus doubling universities' tuition in as little as five years. "The financial realities of students being place-bound presents a bigger need for our offerings," Pickens said.

Programs discussed for bachelor's degree possibilities included nursing, early childhood education (Pre-K through third grade) and fine arts. In addition to the degree(s) there may be a new name for the college.

Additional criteria needed once an interest and need are established is whether the College offers sufficient facilities, faculty and other resources. The College has until May to present its survey presentation to the Board and until June 1 to submit its letter of intent to the Department of Education.

Currently, 13 of the state's 28 community colleges offer baccalaureate degrees. Colleges that have already made the switch include FCCJ, Daytona State College, Chipola College, Broward College, St. Petersburg College, Northwest Florida State College (formerly Okaloosa-Walton) and most recently, Santa Fe College in Gainesville. Trustees from Central Florida Community College in Ocala have recently approved commencement for a bachelor's degree program for the fall of 2010.

For eight years, SJRCC has provided access to baccalaureate degree programs through university partnerships. SJRCC currently answers the demand for nurses, radiologic technicians, respiratory care therapists and law enforcement officers with two-year associate in science degrees and for teachers with its EPI program.

The last time SJRCC changed its name was in 1977 when it was called St. Johns River Junior College. SJRCC serves approximately 10,000 students on three full-service campuses in Palatka, Orange Park and St. Augustine. ■

**MCC Reorganizes to Manage Growth continued from page 8.**

college's four-year degree initiative. Six administrators will have the title of associate vice president: MariLynn Lewy, student services; Helen Meyer, student development; Karen Kester, finance; Traci Steen, facilities and planning; Brad Davis, program evaluation and compliance; Daisy Vulovich, corporate and community development.

The MCC Venice campus executive officer (CEO), Ann Roggero, has accepted a position with the Foundation for MCC as director of development for MCC Venice.

The career and technical education program staff and director, Idelia Phillips, will relocate to MCC Lakewood Ranch to coordinate credit and noncredit workforce programs in one place.

Donald Bowman, vice president, student development and enrollment

services, will assume responsibility for the Academic Resource Center, and Carol Probstfeld, vice president, business and administrative services, will be more involved in governmental relations and strategic planning.

New full-time positions of adjunct faculty coordinator and volunteer coordinator will be filled by Mary DiTaranto and Judy Wishart, respectively.

In the area of nursing, a 12-month program chair for nursing will be advertised, and a consultant will be brought in to help develop the four-year bachelor of science in nursing program.

Hafner said more changes can be expected in coming weeks and months as the College continues to examine ways that MCC can be more productive and effective while meeting coming budget constraints. ■



**Save the Date!**

**April 16-17, 2009**

**FACC Joint Spring Commission Conference**

Equity Commission

Faculty Commission

Institutional Effectiveness & Professional Development Commission

Instructional Innovation Commission

Rural Campuses Commission

Technology Commission

- Hosted by South Florida Community College in Avon Park, FL
- For more information, visit the Commissions websites at [www.facc.org](http://www.facc.org) or the Technology Commission website at: <http://www.southflorida.edu/technology/> or contact Conference Coordinator, Melanie Jackson at SFCC (863) 784-7015 [jacksonm@southflorida.edu](mailto:jacksonm@southflorida.edu)
- Keynote speaker on April 16, 2009 will be **Dr. Willis N. Holcombe**, Chancellor, Division of Community Colleges
- Many Commissions have "Exemplary Practice" awards
- Submit a "Call for Proposal" to lead a workshop and receive a 50% discount on your conference registration costs
- Hotel rooms available for \$75 or \$76-check out the Technology Commission website for further information
- Deadline for registration submission and hotel room reservations is March 25, 2009

## Convention Winners

### Chapter of the Year: Indian River State College

The Indian River State College was the proud recipient of FACC Chapter of the Year Award. The year's activities were highlighted by such unique events as 'Jeans and Jersey Day', 'Red White and Blue Day', and a Home Run Derby. Other distinguishing moments from the convention for Indian River included being recognized as Region V chapter of the Year, and saluting Lori Starling as the Unsung Hero. Exemplary Practice Award winners from IRSC included Patty Durham for her presentation, "Adult Education to College Transitioning and Success Fair." 📖



(L to R) Carol Quinn, 2008 FACC President; Michael Pelitera, 2008 IRSC FACC President; and Michael Brawer, FACC Executive Director/CEO

### Back to Back Wins: Student Development Commission Named Commission of the Year for Second Consecutive Year at FACC Convention

For a second year in a row, the Student Development Commission was named the Commission of Year. In addition to this prestigious win, the Student Development Commission shined throughout convention with participation in many meetings and activities. 📖



(L to R) Carol Quinn, 2008 FACC President; Susan Thomas, 2008 Student Development Commission Chair and Geoffrey Fortunato, 2009 Student Development Commission Chair

### Retirees' Commission Basket Winner

Congratulations to Dr. Michelle Balon of Pasco-Hernando Community College as the winner of the fall-themed basket offered by the Retirees' Commission at the recent convention.

Thanks to all the wonderful FACC participants who contributed to the effort which netted the Retirees' Commission over \$500. 📖

## Got News?

Help *Current* stay current. Send us your chapter news, story ideas, Letters to the Editor or questions. See page 21 for deadline dates. You can send your news and articles to Tina at [tingramm@facc.org](mailto:tingramm@facc.org). We are looking forward to hearing from you and publishing the articles that are important to you.

### Lake City Receives Honors at the 2008 FACC Convention



(L to R) Debbie Osborne; Bethany Jenkins, 2009 FACC Lake City President; Amie Smith, FACC Lake City Secretary; and Chuck Hall, Lake City Community College President.

The Annual FACC Convention was held November 19-21, in Orlando, Florida. Representing Lake City Community College were Dr. Chuck Hall, LCCC president; Bethany Jenkins, FACC president-elect; Debbie Osborne, FACC fundraising chair; and Amie Smith, FACC secretary.

The hard work paid off with Lake City Community College receiving the following: 2008 Region II Chapter of the Year; 2008 Membership Award (having 50 percent plus employees as members); 2008 Unsung Hero Award – Toni Briley, FACC membership chair; 2008 Unsung Hero Award – Bethany Jenkins, FACC president-elect, and Kerry Hagler, LCCC chapter of FACC president received the 2008 Presidential Appreciation Award. In addition to these awards the chapter president-elect Bethany Jenkins was named the 2009 Region II Director-Elect and 2010 Region II Director/Member of the FACC Board of Directors.

Congratulations to all for a very rewarding year. 📖

# Commission Roundup

## Institutional Effectiveness Embraces Staff and Program Development

During the 2008 FACC Annual Convention, the Assembly of Delegates granted the request of the Institutional Effectiveness Commission to change its name to the Institution Effectiveness, Planning, and Professional Development Commission (IEPPDC). The name change allows the Commission to expand its role to include Staff and Program Development. Juanita Scott, newly elected Chair of IEPPDC and Coordinator for Professional Development at Pensacola Junior College, stated the change will allow those responsible for overall professional development at their institution an opportunity to network and share resources with colleagues throughout Florida's community college system.

"We have big plans." Scott stated, "There is so much growth potential and so many resources available within our community college system. Once implemented, our plans will surely contribute to the enhancement of professional development. Even better, the blend of Institutional Effectiveness and Professional Development reflects a direct focus on quality and efficiency. We want to highlight the common goals between these two functions."

Peter Usinger, newly elected IEPPD Vice-Chair and Director of Institutional Research, Effectiveness, and Planning at Polk Community College, emphasized the significant affect the combination will have on SACS reviews. He indicated that the integration of professional development with IEPPDC would allow institutions to achieve levels of improvement and close the loop between desired and actual outcomes.

The Commission has developed an e-newsletter to share its progress and upcoming events among its members and will soon unveil its goals and

objectives for the upcoming year. If you would like to receive the IEPPDC newsletter, send your request to Juanita Scott at [jscott@pjc.edu](mailto:jscott@pjc.edu) or call (850) 484-1953. ■

## Career and Professional Employees Commission to Team Up with the Student Development Commission for Spring Conference

The Career and Professional Employees Commission is pleased to announce they will be joining the Student Development Commission for their Spring Conference, May 13th - May 15th 2009 in beautiful Orlando. "Providing Connection and Direction" is the theme. The Conference will provide high-quality educational sessions as well as the opportunity to network with colleagues from all over the state.

Registration information can be found on the FACC website. Mark your calendars and join us for an exciting time. ■

## Student Development Commission 42nd Annual SDC Spring Conference

Join the "Commission of the Year" in beautiful Orlando for the 42nd Annual Student Development Commission Spring Conference May 13- May 15, 2009, "Providing Connection and Direction." This conference is a great way to network with colleagues from the State University System, as well as to share ideas and strategies that will directly impact the services that we offer to all students. The conference will showcase Exemplary Practices, feature informative and innovative concurrent sessions, as well as include a FACC Legislative update and an update from the SUS/ICUF institutions. We invite all Student Services personnel to share

your talents, make new friends, and enjoy the exciting speakers. Registration for this conference is \$70.00 and can be done by visiting: <http://www.valenciacc.edu/conference/conferences.cfm>

To keep up-to-date with the SDC/FACC events and news in your area, please feel free to contact your Region Representative listed below.

### *Region I Representative:*

Aimee Watts,  
Northwest Florida State College  
[wattsa@nwfstatecollege.edu](mailto:wattsa@nwfstatecollege.edu) • 850-729-5277

### *Region II Representative:*

Sally Myers,  
St. Johns River CC  
[sallymyers@sjrcc.edu](mailto:sallymyers@sjrcc.edu) • 386-312-4037

### *Region III Representative:*

Charlene Latimer,  
Daytona State College  
[latimec@daytonastate.edu](mailto:latimec@daytonastate.edu)

### *Region IV Representative:*

John Shandlay,  
Edison State College  
[jshandlay@edison.edu](mailto:jshandlay@edison.edu)

### *Region V Representative:*

Jeff Peters,  
Palm Beach CC  
[petersj@pbcc.edu](mailto:petersj@pbcc.edu) 561-207-5348  
<http://www.valenciacc.edu/conference/conferences.cfm>.

See you in Orlando! ■

## Retirees Commission Announces the Establishment of their Exemplary Practice Award

The Retirees Commission is offering a \$200 award to the FACC Chapter named the winner of the Retirees Commission Exemplary Practice Award. The nomination packet, which can be found on the FACC website, is due to the Retirees Commission Award Coordinator, Nancy A. Buhl, by October 15, 2009.

The Retirees Commission Exemplary Practice Award will be announced at the FACC Annual Convention.

More information can be found at [http://www.facc.org/facc/Retirees\\_Commission.asp](http://www.facc.org/facc/Retirees_Commission.asp). ■

# Countdown to the 2009 Session

By Donald Payton, Chair,  
Legislative Committee

As I write this article, I'm watching the legislative session countdown clock on the *Tallahassee Democrat* website relentlessly ticking away the hours, minutes and seconds until the scheduled March 3 opening of the 2009 legislative session. Fourteen days, 7 hours and 58 minutes until the gavel drops and the session gets underway.

It's a legislative session that will be dominated, once again, by the budget. The state's ongoing revenue shortfalls guarantee that the session will be difficult and contentious. We've just gone through our third round of budget reductions in the last 18 months. Unfortunately, revenues continue to lag behind estimates by \$100 million or more per month, and we are looking at the very real possibility of further cuts in this year's budget. On top of that, revenues could be down by another \$5-6 billion for the fiscal year beginning in July. Not a pretty picture.

To put this all in perspective, though, you should know that we're not alone. My home state, Illinois, (no jokes, please!) faces a \$9 billion budget shortfall. California and Kansas have suspended the payment of income tax refunds. New York is trying to figure out how to cope with a \$15 billion shortfall. They're considering a variety of new taxes, including a 4% tax on internet downloads. California is contending with a staggering \$42 billion deficit, and their legislature remains deadlocked, at least for the moment. So, in relative terms, Florida is actually not as bad off as some of our sister states. That, of course, doesn't lessen our pain.

So what will happen? There's an increasingly widespread recognition among legislators that we've cut the fat from the state budget and that we're now into bone. We cannot cut our way out of the budget shortfall

without doing significant damage to fundamental state services and to the people who depend upon them. Legislators are beginning to look for new or additional sources of revenue. Cigarette taxes are on the table, as is the Seminole Gaming Compact. Sales tax exemptions are being reviewed. A freshman Democrat in the House, Representative Michelle Rehwinkle Vasilinda (D-Tallahassee), has teamed up with a veteran Senate Republican, Senator Evelyn Lynn (R-Ormond Beach), in introducing legislation to enforce Florida's sales tax on internet sales. That move, supported by both organized labor and the Florida Chamber of Commerce, could generate as much as \$2 billion in new revenues. In the higher education arena, we can expect tuition to rise once again.

At the end of the day, we aren't going to tax or cut our way out of our budget problems. It will more likely be some combination of both.

Governor Crist will present his budget recommendations to the legislature on Friday, February 20, a month later than normal. The Governor had requested and received a 30-day delay for submission of his budget in order to have time to assess the impact of the last round of budget cuts as well as the just-passed federal economic stimulus bill.

While they've awaited the Governor's recommendations, the

legislature's various appropriations committees have, for the last several weeks, been hearing presentations from agency heads on the budget needs of their departments. Commissioner Smith, Chancellor Holcombe and our presidents have done a terrific job of presenting our system's funding needs. Our priorities are: (1) funding the system's operating budget request; (2) fully funding the community college capital outlay (PECO) request; (3) fully funding the Facilities Enhancement Challenge Grant Program; and (4) fully funding the Philip Benjamin Matching Grant Program. The message is: funding should follow the students. And the students are coming to our doors.

We've asked for an operating funding increase of \$129 million. We don't have any unrealistic expectations,



*Speaker pro tempore  
Larry Cretul*

though, of receiving that increase in today's economic environment. It's an attempt to point out what it would take to maintain current services and fund the massive growth being experienced

*Continued on page 14.*

by our system. Statewide, as universities have restricted enrollment, we've grown by more than 50,000 students over the last year, and are on track to add as many again this year. Because access and the open enrollment door are fundamental to our system, we thought it vital to present a realistic picture of our funding needs.

**On the substantive legislation front, the key issue we will face this year is legislation implementing the reports of the Florida College System Task Force and the State College Pilot Project.**

On the substantive legislation front, the key issue we will face this year is legislation implementing the reports of the Florida College System Task Force and the State College Pilot Project. Both groups have submitted their reports to the legislature, which will now attempt to reconcile them and shape legislation implementing their recommendations.

What's been most striking is the level of similarity between the two documents. With a very few exceptions, the recommendations of the two groups are quite similar, reflecting the shared values of our presidents. The two most significant differences deal with the funding of community college baccalaureate degrees and the process

by which second and subsequent baccalaureate degrees at individual institutions are approved. We expect the legislature to begin workshopping these

issues shortly after the session begins. We may see a first draft of the legislation as early as the first week of March.

In order not to detract from our two greatest priorities - the budget and baccalaureate/State Colleges issues - our system is moving forward with only two substantive legislative initiatives of our own. One seeks to resolve the conflicts between state and federal laws

relating to student records. The other deals with protecting the in-state tuition and Bright Futures eligibility of certain students whose parents move out of state at the end of their high school careers because of job changes or other factors.

As happens each year, legislators will introduce thousands of bills, most of which will die during the committee review process. Your college lobbyists review each of these bills and react to those which affect our system and appear to have the "legs" to move through the legislative process.

Beginning in the first week of March and continuing throughout the legislative session, FACC will provide you with a weekly summary of events in the state legislature. Watch for *Perception* in your mailbox, or view it on the FACC website, [www.facc.org](http://www.facc.org).

As always, if you have any questions about legislative issues, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Brawer ([mbrawer@facc.org](mailto:mbrawer@facc.org)), me ([paytond@scf.edu](mailto:paytond@scf.edu)), or any of the college lobbyists. ■

## Florida Association of Community Colleges Foundation, Inc

The Florida Association of Community Colleges Foundation, Inc. is a not for profit corporation which was formed on June 4, 1991. The general objectives and purposes of the FACC Foundation, Inc. are to provide charitable and educational aid in the form of financial resources and other property and services to the Florida Association of Community Colleges.

Now that the Foundation has accomplished its goal of property ownership for the Association, the FACC Foundation will begin to embark upon its other objectives and goals which will include the following:

- To promote education and other related activities for students, faculty, staff, and other related

to the Florida Association of Community Colleges

- To encourage professional development, learning, and dissemination of information through activities of the Florida Association of Community Colleges
- To support such purposes as educational scholarships, awards, recognitions, and benevolent and bereavement acknowledgements

Please visit the FACC Foundation website at [www.facc.org/facc/FACC\\_Foundation](http://www.facc.org/facc/FACC_Foundation) to find out how chapters, regions, commissions, and individual members can play a role as members/donors. ■

Florida Association of Community Colleges Foundation, Inc  
Board of Directors:  
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Mr. Bob Richburg  
Dr. Ronda Ryder

# Florida Shines Despite Budget Cuts

By Christy Taylor,  
Staff Writer, Graphic Designer

If it feels like Florida's education system is sinking in a sea of budget cuts and shortfalls, hold tight. Commissioner Dr. Eric J. Smith and Chancellor of the Florida College System Dr. Willis N. Holcombe believe creativity and commitment will keep things afloat until the waters are calm again.

"Tight budgets are a reality," Chancellor Holcombe said. "It is amazing to me how the colleges are so creative in finding local solutions to fill in the gaps."

Holcombe noted that the 2008-2009 year saw cuts in the budget and next year will bring even more, yet the colleges in Florida's community college system served 55,000 more students than in 2007-2008.

"That is a real testament to the commitment by our boards and presidents," Holcombe said.

Commissioner Smith agrees. Having been on the job for a year, he has been impressed with the performance of the community college

Commissioner Smith said.

While the Department vows to keep the importance of the community college system in the forefront of the Florida Legislature, the fact is money will be tight. Smith and Holcombe say the colleges have helped to keep precious dollars in the classrooms, cutting non-instruction liabilities by using technology and outsourcing opportunities. They pledge their support in any way they can.

"The goal is to have students not affected. Is that possible? We don't know, but there are a number of colleges doing a good job despite the shortfall," Holcombe said. "The colleges are doing their dead-level best and we in Tallahassee are aware of that."

One item that is stirring up a lot of interest is President Barack Obama's stimulus plan. The Department is reviewing the plan very carefully, aiming to position themselves to access the available money. Though the document is still being studied, Commissioner Smith said the increase

Utilizing partnerships with the private sector is also a strategy that both the State and individual colleges will be working to secure. Programs such as the Phillip Benjamin Matching Program, that uses lottery dollars to match private donations, contributed \$48 million in matching money in the past, but has become a casualty of the State's budget woes. Smith says restoring programs like this are a must as private donors value the importance of leveraging their money. Private donations in the form of scholarships, program dollars and equipment funding continue to be received and distributed at the state level, but the Commissioner and the Chancellor agree local fundraising efforts are the most effective. Working with local Health and Public Safety groups, for instance, can lead to donations of instruction time, books and uniforms for students. It is a win-win for all involved as colleges are able to provide services cost-efficiently to students and the community is able to find good, trained people to employ.

A program that may need to be placed on hold until the budget crisis is resolved is the development of four-year baccalaureate programs in Florida's community colleges. Right now half of the community colleges in the system offer these degrees. While legislation passed last year opens the door for future development of the program, Commissioner Smith and Chancellor Holcombe believe the issue may need more discussion.

"One thing we have all wrestled with is how to deal with access. It is the same mission just a different degree level. How do you balance that in difficult times?" Chancellor Holcombe asked. "Our message in the Department, and system-wide, is that this program shouldn't come at the expense of the certificate and technical degree or lower division transfer degree.



**"Of course the decrease in funding, particularly to personnel, makes it more difficult but we remain optimistic in the commitment held by our leadership."**

**—Dr. Eric J. Smith,  
Commissioner**

system and is dedicated to maintaining open access for students despite limited resources.

"Of course the decrease in funding, particularly to personnel, makes it more difficult but we remain optimistic in the commitment held by our leadership,"

of Pell Grants distributed through the plan is interesting and will help many students obtain financial assistance. The Pell Grants will help combat the needed tuition increase and keep the door of access available to the neediest of students.

## Florida Shines Despite Budget Cuts continued from page 15.

There needs to be a balance here and perhaps baccalaureate funding needs to be on hold during these times.”

“We have thought a lot about how the program operates and how it fits in to the historical mission of the community college,” Commissioner Smith agreed. “Now it is in the hands of the Legislature of how quickly, or slowly, to move forward.”

Despite the ominous cloud looming of tighter budgets and unfunded

premier community college system in the country for the way it produces degrees and helps students.”

Commissioner Smith began his career in Florida more than 30 years ago as a classroom teacher and later in several administrative positions in Florida school districts. He spent 16 years as a district superintendent in Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland. His goal for Florida’s Department of Education is to increase academic

Review Panel since 2003. His trust of Florida education is clear as he earned a master’s degree in school administration from the University of Central Florida (Orlando) and his doctorate of curriculum and instruction from the University of Florida (Gainesville.)

Chancellor Holcombe thinks Florida’s strength is in its ability to provide access to higher education for residents. He is particularly impressed with the way community colleges and universities work together to provide seamless education opportunities. With half of university students coming from community colleges, the partnership is essential.

“We can’t talk about the state of higher education in Florida without talking about the relationship of the community colleges with the universities. Florida does this better than anyone,” Chancellor Holcombe said. “It is vital to the state’s economic health for students to rely on this system of education.”

Dr. Holcombe has been the Chancellor of the Florida Community College System since October 2007. Prior to becoming Chancellor he was the President of Broward Community College (1987-2004) and Vice President of the College at Brevard Community College (1981-1987) among other positions. As a veteran of the Florida Community College System in both teaching and administrative roles, Holcombe knows the resolve of the people that help make the community colleges run will carry them through current conditions. He and Commissioner Smith agree that as long as the goal is to provide Florida’s residents with access to education and training, the state will reap the benefits.

“I am optimistic about the future. Yes, there are short-term issues, mostly coming from the economic downturn, but we will get through them and emerge even stronger,” Chancellor Holcombe said. “Our goal is to help insulate Florida with a better trained workforce.”



**“I am optimistic about the future. Yes, there are short-term issues, mostly coming from the economic downturn, but we will get through them and emerge even stronger.”**

**— Dr. Willis N. Holcombe,  
Chancellor,  
Florida College System**

programs, Florida’s community college system continues to shine. Commissioner Smith says even in the short time he has been with the Department, he has seen already seen the State’s strengths.

“I have been here a little over a year and consider the post-secondary college system in Florida a jewel,” Smith said. “It is nationally recognized as the

achievement of all students and to reduce the disparity in achievement among student subgroups. The Commissioner is past Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the College Board and a member of the Board of Directors for the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. He has also served as Chair of the National Assessment of Title 1 Independent

## 2009 Convention Service Project



Plans are already underway for our 2009 Convention Service Project. We are hoping to connect with a charity in Region V for this year’s project so that our work together benefits different parts of the state of Florida every year. It is great to see us all come together to help those in need. Our past projects have been collecting books and puzzles for the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County and school supplies for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast.

The FACC Board has established an ad-hoc committee to oversee service project ideas. If you are interested in serving on that committee or if you have ideas for future service projects, contact Dr. Gary Sligh, Vice President Elect for Regions and Chapters at [sligh@lsc.edu](mailto:sligh@lsc.edu).

# SMARTHINKING Inks Deal With Florida College System

## *The Florida College System Uses Portion of College Access Grant to Fund Online Tutoring and Academic Support*

SMARTHINKING, INC. ([www.smarthinking.com](http://www.smarthinking.com)), the market leader in providing online tutoring and academic support to students, has announced that The Florida College System (FCS), formerly the Division of Community Colleges, has elected to use a portion of its College Access Grant to assist in funding the cost of SMARTHINKING for its colleges. Using the grant dollars, FCS will supplement the cost of SMARTHINKING services to state colleges in Florida who use the service this year. This will provide all schools with a discounted rate and allow the state's small schools to receive the same services as large institutions, for the same price. FCS will supplement a portion of the cost for the first 34,000+ hours purchased statewide through July 31, 2009. This plan takes into consideration the annual growth in usage expected by Florida colleges during the 2008 fiscal year.

Studies by Florida colleges have shown that students who use SMARTHINKING's online tutoring services achieve higher grades than those who do not. This success has led to increased usage. FCS has been looking for a more affordable way for its colleges to cover the cost of the program and this grant will allow colleges to continue offering this successful service. Currently 21 of the state's 28 community colleges utilize SMARTHINKING to provide supplemental tutoring to both on-campus and online students, as well as expand their ability to meet the ever-growing needs of their students for academic assistance outside the classroom. For more information about SMARTHINKING, visit [www.smarthinking.com](http://www.smarthinking.com).

"Applying grant funds to expand our relationship with SMARTHINKING is timely for faculty

and students in Florida," said Dr. Judith Bilsky, Executive Vice Chancellor, Florida Department of Education, Florida College System (Formerly Division of Community Colleges). "We are excited to offer this opportunity for every institution that is part of the Florida College System throughout the state, to continue or even expand their use of SMARTHINKING Online Tutoring. This will allow them to meet the ever-growing academic support needs of students both on and off campus and enhance their learning experience."

"Tallahassee Community College is pleased to be able to help not only our students, but students throughout the state, by managing the grant funds for the Florida Department of Education's Division of Community Colleges.

courses and programs. And, since Broward College now offers nine fully online degrees, SMARTHINKING is a critically-important resource for our online students as well," said Russ Adkins, Associate VP of Instructional Technology, and Janet Sturdy, Associate Dean of Learning Resources, in a joint statement.

"This expanded relationship with the Florida Department of Education enables all campuses, large and small, within the Florida College System, to continue to offer outstanding academic support to their students and we are proud that SMARTHINKING is a part of their success," said Burck Smith, CEO of SMARTHINKING.

SMARTHINKING is the market leader in providing online tutoring and academic support to students. Their

**"This expanded relationship with the Florida Department of Education enables all campuses, large and small, within the Florida College System, to continue to offer outstanding academic support to their students**

**—Burck Smith, CEO, SMARTHINKING**

The access to SMARTHINKING's quality educators anytime, anywhere complements our own academic services providing students help when they need it most," said Dr. Barbara Sloan, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Tallahassee Community College.

"Broward College began using SMARTHINKING in 2005 as a means of enhancing our students' access to tutoring services, especially during evenings and on weekends. Broward students and faculty have embraced these high quality tutoring resources, especially those for math and writing. In addition, our in-house tutors use the SMARTHINKING platform to provide tutoring in our health-related

services were honored with the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) CODiE award for Best Instruction Solution for Students at Home. Schools, colleges, universities, libraries, government agencies, textbook publishers and other education providers partner with SMARTHINKING to increase student achievement and enhance learning. SMARTHINKING connects students to e-structor®-certified tutors for assistance in math, writing, science and business, up to 24/7, on any Internet connected computer. SMARTHINKING's corporate office is located in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [www.smarthinking.com](http://www.smarthinking.com). ■

# Florida Committed to Open Government

By Charlie Crist, Governor

Florida has a long history with Open Government and public records laws. Florida's Public Record Laws were created in 1909 and in 1976 Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine was enacted. Citizens, media, and lawmakers alike have fought to keep state and local government actions open and accessible to the public. Citizens truly deserve to have public officials and governmental bodies that are beyond reproach. Transparency builds trust in government leadership, and that trust is irreplaceable Florida's broad interpretation of open government ensures that government agencies operate in the sunshine.

Not all American government entities share Florida's commitment to open government. Elected officials and

would keep state government open and I based my promise on the infamous quote by President Abraham Lincoln. I pledged that under my watch Florida government would be "of the people, by the people and for the people." On my second day in office I took action on my promise by creating the Office of Open Government. The office falls under Executive Order 07-01 this states in part:

"The Office of Open Government is charged with providing the Office of the Governor and each of the executive agencies under my purview with the guidance and tools to serve Florida with integrity and transparency.

"To the end, the Office's primary functions will be : (1) to assure full and expeditious compliance with Florida's

initiative spread. Ms. JoAnn Carrin was appointed Director of the Office of Open Government, which, she began to work quickly on streamlining the public record response process within the Governor's Executive Office of the Governor. The office began tracking the response time for Executive Office of the Governor public record requests and often responded to the requests within twenty four hours

In addition the office created a public records contact list that includes thirty-six agencies and the State University System. Three contact persons are included for each office: a "main", "backup", and one Spanish speaking contact. At least one of these contacts is in the general counsel's office. The list of the agency contacts are located on the Office of Open Government website. This list makes the public records request process easier and more efficient.

In addition to contacts, the Open Government website includes other helpful information on Florida's Sunshine Law and Public Records Act. This includes outside links to the latest Government-in-the-Sunshine Manual and Attorney General Office's Open Government Mediation Program. This information is included so that the people of Florida may be full aware of the information they have accessible to them.

In cooperation with the Florida Institute of Government free Public Record and Sunshine Law training was provided to 500 state agency managers in February. One month later, I issued a proclamation to officially designate March 11-17 2007 as Sunshine Week for the citizens of Florida. The Florida Society of Newspaper Editors traditionally sponsors Sunshine Week during the Legislative Session each spring. Events such as the Florida First Amendment Foundation's Sunshine Recognition Luncheon raised public

*Continued on page 19.*

Transparency builds trust in government leadership, and that trust is irreplaceable Florida's broad interpretation of open government ensures that government agencies operate in the sunshine.

government agencies create distrust when they hide their activities or close off the people's information. Even if no wrongdoing occurs, the mere fact that a meeting is held behind closed doors is enough to draw suspicion.

My dedication to the Sunshine Law began while I was in high school and Florida State University's student government. While attending Florida State University I became a fraternal brother of Pi Kappa Alpha and also served as vice president of the student body. Upon graduation from Florida State University I attended law school in Alabama and began my career in Florida government in the State Attorney's Office. When I was elected into office as Florida's forty-fourth governor I made open government a top priority. During my inaugural address I made a promise to the state of Florida that I

open government and public records laws, and (2) to provide training to all executive agencies under my purview on transparency and accountability. The office will also have primary responsibility for ensuring that the Office of the Governor complies with public records requests in an expeditious manner.

"Each agency secretary is further directed to designate a person at his or her agency who will act as the agency's public records/open government contact person. That individual will be responsible for complying with public records/ open government request and compliance at their respective agency and will also be the primary liaison between that agency and the Office of Open Government for purposes of training and compliance."

An immediate sense of interest and excitement grew as the news of this

## Florida Committed to Open Government from page 18.

records awareness among consumers, state agencies and the media. This year we look forward to expanding and strengthening our partnerships with such organizations in the future.

This past June I issued Executive Order 07-107 creating the Commission on Open Government Reform. The Order charges the Commission to “review, evaluate, and issue recommendations concerning policies, statutes, and Article 1 Section 24 of the Florida Constitution, relating to the public’s right of access to government meetings and records.” The Commission has held public hearings in Ft. Lauderdale, Sarasota, Kissimmee, and Tallahassee, and the Commissions final meetings in Tallahassee on August 26-27, 2008 and October 21, 2008. The meeting schedules are listed on the Commission’s website and the documents from of all meetings are also posted on the website. The commission will report to the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2008.

To me Open Government is a very important part of federal and state government and they way that they operate. This initiative will allow us to continue to keep Florida government transparent and free from corruption. This is an ininitave, that I as Governor cannot do alone, we must all join together for the betterment of our state. ■



## Top Five Ways to Save Money or Energy

1. **Turn your computer off at night.** Even a computer on standby mode consumes energy. If you don’t use your computer, then there is no need to have it remain turned on.
2. If you don’t turn off your computer at night, then at **least turn off your monitor.** Look at the label on the back of your monitor and you’ll be surprised to see how much energy it consumes.
3. **Turn your television off at night.** Same thing as your computer and computer monitor. A television consumes a ton of energy. Unlike a computer, a television doesn’t have a standby mode, so the option to reduce the power consumption isn’t there. Most all televisions come with a sleep timer. Also, if you have a big TV, indeed check the back of the unit and look at the label. You will be shocked to see how much power it consumes. My 60 Inch television takes up 650 Watts / hour.
4. **Charge your mobile devices while driving.** Instead of charging your cell phone, PDA, GPS systems, etc. in the house using AC power, simply charge them while driving your car. Granted, we aren’t talking about a lot of savings here, but if one million people did this, it would make a big difference.
5. **Reduce the Brightness on your laptop screen.** Doing so preserves the life of your battery and reduces the number of times you’ll have to plug in to wall to recharge your battery.

## FACC Staff

### *Executive Director/CEO*

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The views and opinions expressed in *CURRENT* are not necessarily those of the Florida Association of Community Colleges, its members, directors, or officers.

# **FACC 60th** **Annual Convention**

**November 18-20, 2009**

International Plaza  
10100 International Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32821  
(800) 327-0363

Room Rate:  
\$112 single/double

**Reservations Are Now Open:**  
**(800) 327-0363**

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**SUCCESS**



## **Featuring:**

**60th Anniversary Gala**

**Keynote speaker**

**30+ Professional  
development sessions**

**Awards and recognitions**

**Exhibitor and sponsor tradeshow**

# FACC 2009 Calendar

## March

Council of Presidents 03/05/09

## April

Council of Presidents 04/02/09

Spring Holiday-FACC Offices Closed 04/10/09

Joint Meeting: Equity, Faculty, IEC, IIC,  
Technology, and Rural Campuses 04/16/09-04/17/09

Region I Spring Conference 04/17/09

Region V Spring Conference 04/22/09

Region IV Spring Conference 04/24/09

## May

Deadline for *Current* Articles 05/04/09

Council of Presidents 05/07/09

Joint Meeting: Student Development & CPEC 05/13/09-05/15/09

Joint Meeting: Administration, Facilities, and OWEC 05/14/09-05/15/09

Memorial Day-FACC Offices Closed 05/25/09

## June

*Current* Published 06/01/09

Council of Presidents (tentative) 06/4/09-06/05/09

## July

Independence Day-FACC Offices Closed 07/04/09

Membership Conference (tentative) 07/09/09-07/10/09

Board of Directors Meeting (tentative) 07/10/09

## August

Deadline for *Current* Articles 08/20/09

## September

Labor Day-FACC Offices Closed 09/07/09

Board of Directors Meeting 09/11/09

*Current* Published 09/14/09

Deadline for *Current* Articles 09/21/09

## October

*Current* Published 10/16/09

## November

Deadline for *Current* Articles 11/09/09

Veteran's Day-FACC Offices Closed 11/11/09

Board of Directors Meeting 11/17/09

FACC Annual Convention 11/18/09-11/20/09

Thanksgiving-FACC Offices Closed 11/26/09-11/27/09

## December

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Winter Holidays-FACC Offices Closed 12/21/09-01/01/10