The Florida Council for Resource Development (FCRD) has been invited to have the president or designee represent FCRD at both the Council of Presidents (COP) and the Florida Community College Lobbyists meetings throughout the coming year. Three other councils were also invited to participate: the Council of Business Affairs (COBA), the Council for Instructional Affairs (CIA) and the Council for Student Affairs (CSA). There is a communications liaison from each of the two groups.

The FCRD representative acts as a sounding board and liaison for immediate feedback, subject-matter research, and input from the field. The council representatives have the opportunity to give reports and present issues for consideration as appropriate. This invitation to active participation also has the potential to elevate the visibility of FCRD and the achievements of the community colleges’ foundation and grants offices.

Brad Davis, as acting FCRD president, is the current liaison with these two groups. He attended the July meetings of both groups in Tampa. Major topics dealt with budget issues and the pledge of the Florida Community College System to accept students without placing any caps on enrollment. The COP requested that FCRD present its “work plan” during their October meeting. Based on the FCRD strategic plan, the work plan will be discussed and finalized during the fall conference on September 14. FCRD Board member, Robin Johnston (TCC), attended the August COP and lobbyist meetings in Tallahassee, where budgetary and legislative issues were discussed further.

Any questions or suggestions regarding FCRD advocacy on issues or initiatives should be directed to Brad Davis at davisb@mccfl.edu or by phone at (941) 752-5388.

FCRD Advocacy Advances

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Strategic Planning Initiatives

A year ago, at the 2006 fall FCRD Conference, a strategic planning session was added to the conference agenda. The purpose of the session was to gather input from FCRD members with regard to the future direction of the organization. The following question was posed to the membership: What are the three most important priorities or outcomes we should achieve over the next three years?

Each person was asked to generate three to five ideas in response to the question. The ideas were posted on the wall, sorted and, in some cases, briefly discussed during the strategic planning session. The ideas fell into three general categories:

1. Sharing of resources and best practices
2. Professional development for members
3. Advocacy for resource development

Implementing Resource Development Strategic Priorities

When FCRD met in spring 2007 at Brevard Community College, a second strategy session was held. Members divided into groups based on the above categories. Each group was asked to develop one to three recommendations to the board for short-term action items for 2007-2008.

The results of that discussion included the following recommendations:

1. Sharing Resources and Best Practices
   A. Establish a Web site or Web presence
2. Professional Development
   A. Establish a listserv or Yahoo group
   B. Develop a training seminar as part of a future conference that allows small groups to break out for in-depth discussion and sharing on key topics.
   C. Address prioritizing research needs, evaluating resource development offices and criteria for identifying best practices as topics for a future conference.
3. Advocacy for Resource Development
   A. Explore the formation of a council within FACC and incorporation of FCRD
   B. Have a representative attend COP meetings and report back via a listserv
   C. Consider co-locating FCRD meetings with COBA and COP meetings
   D. Include resource development certification and degree programs (both grants and development) as a topic for a future conference

Strategic Priorities Update

At the Board of Directors meeting in July 2007, progress was noted in all areas of the strategic plan.

1. A listserv through Yahoo has been established to expand communication among members throughout the year.
2. A representative has been appointed to attend Council of Presidents meetings and report back to the membership.
3. Several of the conference topics suggested as a result of the strategic planning process have been included in the fall 2007 conference agenda.
4. Plans are under way for an expanded conference format in fall 2008 that will include the other topics suggested as well as training seminars for directed discussion and sharing on key topics.
Survey of Foundation Needs

During August 2007, FCRD and The Foundation for Florida’s Community Colleges conducted a training needs assessment 1) to ascertain the general background and training needs of Florida’s community college foundations and 2) to determine the type and level of professional development that would enhance the effectiveness of development directors and their staff.

The survey requested background information regarding the size of the foundation’s endowment, the tenure of the director, years of experience with specialized foundation functions, the organization’s reporting structure with relation to the college and the identification of whether current foundation-related functions are undertaken by the foundation directly, by the college or by a third party.

The survey continues by asking for the sources of professional development utilized by the foundation. The document then requests information on the need for training on core foundation functions and activities related to the foundation director and the organization’s staff.

The aggregate results of the survey will be reported to the foundation directors in attendance at the FCRD fall conference on September 13 and 14. A task force will review the results and develop a plan for training and professional development that may be implemented via FCRD conferences, formal training sessions or informational materials for use by individual college foundations.

Grant Office Professional Development Survey

* What are the most important skills and strategies for a successful grants office?
* How would we rank our own proficiency in these areas?
* Will you share your expertise with colleagues as a mentor or workshop presenter?
* What level of professional development do we need in each area (beginning, intermediate or advanced)?
* Which areas need to be addressed first?
* What is the most effective way of providing professional development in the identified areas?

At the 2007 fall conference, grant office staff will get the opportunity to preview a draft survey format designed to answer these questions. Directors, grant writers, accountants, compliance officers and other staff may suggest changes in format, direction and content. Volunteers are being sought to analyze the survey results and make recommendations for professional development and mentoring activities.

Share Your Ideas, Successes and Expertise

**Ideas**

If you have ideas that will enhance FCRD conferences or enhance the organization’s support for Florida’s community college development offices, let us know by contacting Cash Pealer (CFCC), FCRD president-elect, by writing to pealer@cf.edu.

**Brag a little—Brag a lot**

Kudos aren’t just for the CRD


Write a short description (50-100 words) and send it to Debbie Douma (PJC) at ddouma@pjc.edu.

**Expertise**

Share your insight with your CRD colleagues. When you feel inspired … e-mail a tip on getting that extra point on the evaluation section of a proposal or let us know about your expertise on special events, major college celebrations (50th, etc.) or partnership development.

Share with Rosanne Brandenburg at brandbr@lssc.edu or Brad Davis. davisb@mccfl.edu

Needs assessment leads to effective professional development
The Florida Council for Resource Development (FCRD) provides a source of networking that facilitates training, advocacy and sharing of expertise in support of foundation and grant offices at the 28 public institutions within the Florida Community College System. The goal of the organization is to enhance the ability of its members to procure external funding from public and private sources in order to advance the mission, values and strategic priorities of their individual institutions. FCRD is an all-volunteer organization that traditionally organizes two conferences per year: a fall conference in Tallahassee (for access to government officials) and a spring conference hosted by the president-elect at his/her college (to learn about sister colleges and their initiatives).

Active participation in FCRD has its rewards! Join our vision for: ► shared resources and best practices, ► professional development and mentoring and ► advocacy for resource development initiatives.

Greetings!
We enter the new academic year with enthusiasm despite the knowledge that our state faces numerous budgetary challenges. In a sense, this is the time in which resource development offices can really shine. Without increases in tuition and with pending cuts in existing budget allocations from the state, institutions of higher education will need to depend on external funding for many of its innovative initiatives, laboratory upgrades and program enhancements.

In this type of scenario foundation and grants offices are often expected to bring in record amounts from donors and grant-funding sources, both public and private.

While we may all compete from time to time by applying to the same funding agencies, sharing and collaboration can lead to the procurement of large grants that would not be available to a single applicant. The Florida Council for Resource Development (FCRD) provides a unique mechanism to foment partnerships and to learn from one another.

The strategic planning process, which began a year ago, has led to more than talk. As an organization we are putting the plan into action. This newsletter is a first—at least during the time that I have been in Florida. It contains information about the initiatives we are taking as a group.

Join in—ask and learn—share and mentor—and spread the word that resource development takes committed action on the part of individuals at our institutions—on all levels.

I hope that you can attend our semi-annual conferences, participate in the listserv and become active in FCRD initiatives. Thank you.

Brad Davis, Acting President