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In response to increasing requests for education programs and technical assistance, the Florida Association of Counties created the Florida Counties Foundation (FCF) in 1990. FCF is a private, non-profit 501(c)3 governed by a Board of Directors which is comprised of county commissioners, county administrators, and county attorneys. In 2018, the Foundation was rebranded as the Institute for County Government (ICG). ICG oversees the content of all the education programs as well as FAC's Annual Conference and the Innovation and Policy Conference.

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The Institute for County Government enhances the leadership skills of county officials, to facilitate innovative thinking and action by those leaders, and, ultimately to enable counties to prosper as communities in the 21st century.

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01 | BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Commissioner



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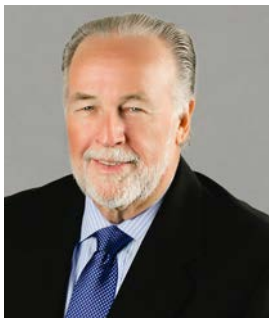
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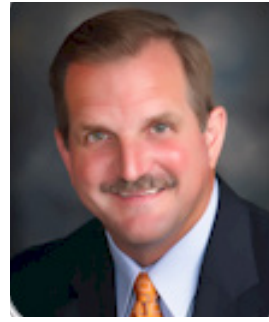
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Ralph Thomas, Jr.

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Commissioner



Richard Wesch

Lee County Attorney

02 | 2019 MILESTONES



Held the following:

- 25 CCC/CGE Workshops
- 5 ACC workshops
- 3 ACC2 workshops



For the 14th consecutive year, hosted the first-tier Advanced Leadership Program class (ACC1) for county commissioners;



Successfully launched the second-tier leadership program (ACC2) for county commissioners under the direction of Dr. Matt Sowcik (Department of Agricultural Education and Communication);



Formed a partnership with UF/IFAS to deliver both leadership programs, ensuring a more seamless transition between the two;



Compressed the CCC training schedule, allowing CCC participants to graduate early.



Developed a new growth management class titled "Growth Management in the Next Decade."



By the Numbers



476

Status: Since its inception, the CCC program has graduated 476 county commissioners.



13

Status: Since its inception, the CGE program has graduated 13 county employees from the program.



Hosted the second Innovation and Policy Day in Bay County, focusing on Hurricane Michael Recovery;



Added eight new elective courses at no cost to the ICG.



Launched the “Best Practices in County Government” award program

- Alachua County – Emergency Operations Center Shelter Communications APP
- St. Lucie County – Student Perks Coffee Cart
- Orange County – Recycling Quality Improvement Program
- Pasco County – Connected City: America’s First Gigabit community
- Volusia County – Animal Abuse Database
- Leon County – Development Support and Environment Management “Upgrade”
- Osceola County – Sense Park
- Polk County – Helping Hands



237

Status: Since its inception, the ACC I Program has graduated 237 county commissioners.



14

Status: Since its inception, 14 county commissioners completed the inaugural year of this ACC Level II program.

03 | STRATEGIC PLAN AND GUIDANCE

In 2018, the ICG Board of Directors adopted a strategic plan to guide its training and other initiatives. As adopted, the plan structures the functions of the ICG around three principal areas: (1) Education and Leadership; (2) Research and Innovation; and, (3) Signature Initiatives.

Education

The Certified County Commission (CCC) Program

Launched in 1996, the Certified County Commissioner Program is a voluntary program of study designed for county commissioners to learn information and enhance skills relevant to their duties and responsibilities. Courses are taught by a team of experts, which includes university faculty, government officials, professional speakers, FAC members and FAC staff.

476

Status: Since its inception, the CCC program has graduated 476 county commissioners.

CCC participants must complete a total of 45 hours of course work. This includes 30 hours of core, 9 hours of elective and 6 hours of continuing education courses. Completion of the course requirements results in the designation of Certified County Commissioner. CCC courses are offered year-round at FAC conferences and may now be completed in 6-12 months.



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IFAS Plant Science
Research and Education Unit
Frank Stronach
Plant Science Center

WELCOME
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watchFire

The County Government Education (CGE) Program

Launched in 2017, this program is a voluntary program of study for county staff that is based on our current Certified County Commissioner (CCC) program. Content for this program includes county government structure and authority, finance and budget, growth management, ethics and Sunshine Law, and Florida's legislative process. The County Government Education courses will be offered year-round, mostly in conjunction with FAC conferences.

13

Status: The CGE program has graduated 13 county employees from the program.



ICG Leadership Forum

ICG offers advanced leadership training through the ICG Leadership Forum. The first two tiers of the leadership program are held in partnership with the University of Florida and are designed to advance the skills of county officials and enable them to meet the unique challenges of their duties and to enhance their leadership skills and style.

ACC Level I

The Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) education program is an advanced leadership program designed for graduates of the Certified County Commissioners (CCC) program. The course content focuses on leadership with an emphasis on the future of Florida. Participants are tasked with preparing for the future by thinking and acting anew and asserting skillful leadership in times of daunting challenges and rapid change.

Organized as a series of three seminars, the ACC program is completed after 27 hours of total course work. Participating commissioners must commit to fully participate in all three seminars.

237

Status: Since its inception, the ACC I Program has graduated 237 county commissioners.

ACC Level II

Launched in 2019, ACC Level II is a new leadership program developed strategically for ACC graduates who seek to expand their education opportunities. ICG has collaborated with UF/IFAS Leadership Institute to develop this next level training that is designed to build upon the skills learned in the CCC and ACC programs. ACC Level II gives alumni an opportunity to develop the tools and skills needed to be strong versatile leaders and lead the way in transforming their counties and the state of Florida.

14

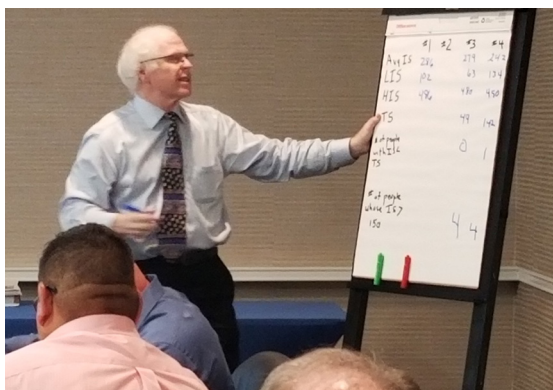
Status: The inaugural class of the ACC Level II Program had 14 graduates.



Political Training Program

The Political Training Program was created as an answer to many of our members who expressed frustration that counties were not well represented in the legislature; that too many anti-local bills were being pushed and supported by legislators who have little understanding of county government; that one solution to this problem would be to encourage more county commissioner to run for higher office, especially the Legislature.

The program focuses on personal and political preparation for future service as an elected official and community leader. Ideal attendees for the program are commissioners or county staff who are interested in running for higher office, especially the Legislature.



Chairman's Program

The Chairman's Program provides training on the duties, powers and responsibilities of the chair and vice chair leadership positions. The program also explores how chairmen can avoid highly predictable problems and make slight changes in behavior to most effectively run a county commission meeting. While this program is designed for board chairs and vice chairs, all commissioners will benefit from the training. Tips for becoming an effective communicator with the media and with the community.

Research and Data

The primary goal of this area is to ensure that ICG is the most trusted resource for Florida county data and information. Specifically, the plan calls for ICG to produce and publish credible, reliable research on issues facing Florida counties under the ICG brand; to produce and provide expert public policy analysis to Florida counties county stakeholders, state and federal partners, and the public. Some of ICG's recent works includes:



FLORIDA COUNTY GOVERNMENT GUIDE

Maintaining and updating the Florida County Government Guide (an ICG publication)



NEW COURSE CONTENT

Developing new course content based on state and national issues affecting counties



EDUCATION DELIVERY FORMATS

Developing new education delivery formats, including virtual and other online learning platforms



INNOVATION DAY

Planning and coordinating the Innovation Day during FAC's Innovation and Policy Conference. Created in 2018, the ICG Innovation Day provides participants with an immersive experience that exposes them to technological and programmatic solutions to county problems. Recent Innovation Day experiences have included field trips to planned communities, solar farms, and multi-use public safety complexes. The 2019 Innovation Day also included a "Service Day" where participants worked with a local non-profit to assist a residential property owner whose home was impacted by Hurricane Michael.



BEST PRACTICES IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT AWARD

Implementing the Best Practices in County Government Award Program. The program solicits applications from counties who want to showcase innovative and cost-saving initiatives in their counties. Applicants are recognized at FAC's Legislative Conference.

Signature Initiatives

The ICG Signature Initiatives represent unique partnerships, projects, and other activities that further the ICG's mission, while creating value opportunities for counties. By leveraging formal and informal partnerships with other organizations, ICG develops new training courses, participates in special projects, and offers peer review support for county and regional initiatives. Recent collaboratives have resulted in developing the following new courses:



**Emergency Management
101 for County Officials**



**Floodplain Management 101
for County Officials**



**Disaster Mitigation Strategies
for County Officials**



**Public Works 101
for County Officials**



**Transportation Planning 101
for County Officials**



**Affordable Housing
for County Officials**



**Growth Management
in the Next Decade**



**Political Candidates
Training Program**



**New Chairman's
Training Program**



Other initiatives include the following:

- Participating on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) "Digital Coasts Advisory Committee"
- Peer reviewing "A Public Officials Guide to Floodplain Management" for the National Association of Floodplain Managers
- Participating on the UF/IFAS Roadmap Steering Committee
- Partnering with Florida State University's Department of Urban Planning on a project titled "Recommendations and Guidance on Intra-Regional Mitigation Planning Coordination and Social Vulnerability Assessment in the UD-MDI area of Broward County and Statewide"
- Partnering with the Florida Division of Emergency Management to identify specific information gaps on floodplain management for county officials
- Developing strategic partnerships with:
 - Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA)
 - Florida Division of Emergency Management (Mitigation Bureau)
 - Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association (FAPA)
 - Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
 - Florida Housing Coalition (Affordable Housing)



Before we can act differently we have to think differently! ACC gave me the insight and tools to look at various topics and analyze the implications to my county, region and state. I am grateful for the education and the relationships ACC has provided me.

- Mike Swindle | Hendry County Commissioner

04 | LOOKING FORWARD

Virtual Learning

As a result of COVID-19, the ICG has had to reconsider its traditional education delivery system. While plans are being made to continue with in-person classes, the pandemic has created opportunities that will allow it to provide members with education in alternative formats. Specifically, plans are being made to providing classes virtually with user-friendly platforms such as “Zoom” and “GoTo Meeting.” While not as desirable as an in-person experience, these platforms are effective and will provide cost-savings for participants and the ICG.

In addition to these formal on-line learning efforts, the ICG has initiated a weekly webinar series known as “Webinar Wednesdays.” Since starting in April 2020, the following webinars have been offered:

- Leading Remotely and Working Remotely – (Dr. Matt Sowcik, UF/IFAS).
- The Science of COVID-19: Today & In the Future – (UF/IFAS and UF Health)
- The Future of COVID-19: Research, Vaccines, & How to Move Forward – UF/IFAS and UF Health)
- COVID-19: Getting the Highest Reimbursement Dollars – (Witt O’Brien’s)
- COVID-19 and The Florida Economy – (The Florida Chamber)
- Making the Most of Your County Cash Flow During COVID-19 (3 Plus 1)
- Preparing for Hurricane Season During COVID-19 (DSI)
- Planning & Working with Utilities During the Pandemic and Hurricane Season – (Florida Power and Light)



Podcasting/Videocasting



To extend its reach to more counties, and to provide on-demand learning, the ICG plans on developing a series of monthly podcasts that will cover a broad range of county topics, including: COVID-19 response and recovery; transportation; economic development; ethics; smart infrastructure, among others.

WEBINAR

The Science of COVID-19: Today and In the Future

Thursday, April 2 at 1:00 pm EDT



REGISTER NOW



ICG in partnership with



WEBINAR

The Future of COVID-19: Research, Vaccines and How to Move Forward

Thursday, April 23 at 1:00 pm EDT



CLICK TO REGISTER



WEBINAR

Making the Most of Your County Cash Flow During COVID-19

Wednesday, May 20, 2020
at 1:00 pm EDT

REGISTER NOW



PREPARING FOR

HURRICANE SEASON

DURING COVID-19



Wednesday, May 27, 2020
2:00 pm EDT

REGISTER NOW



CCC and CGE Core Courses

NEW COMMISSIONER WORKSHOP

This in-depth course is designed to help officials transition into their new governing roles. Participants will gain an understanding of the wide range of topics that are important for their job including legal requirements, nature of county organization, finance and budget, and strategies for success in this role.

ETHICS, PUBLIC RECORDS & SUNSHINE LAWS (MANDATORY)

This course is designed to give commissioners an understanding of Florida's stringent laws. Participants will broaden their knowledge of ethics requirements for elected officials, understand the Sunshine Law and Public Records Law, learn about reporting requirements, and become familiar with the process of an ethics complaint.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This course provides guidance for commissioners to better manage their county's fiscal affairs. Participants will gain a basic understanding of the state's fiscal trends, budgeting process, revenue sources available to their counties and the what, when and how to issue debt.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT & LAND USE DECISIONS

This course is designed to give commissioners an understanding of the history of land use planning in Florida and how we got where we are today. Participants will learn the realities of implementing comprehensive plans including how amendments, development approvals, and exceptions should be handled.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE & AUTHORITY

This course looks at the authority that has been granted to counties by all sources, including the citizens. Participants will broaden their knowledge of county government form and function, of state government and how it relates to federal government, and of mandates and the impact they have on counties.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

This course looks at the functions of county government. Participants will better understand state mandated county government services including public safety, transportation and health and human services.

CCC and CGE Electives

- FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT 101 FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS
- DISASTER MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS
- PUBLIC WORKS 101 FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS
- TRANSPORTATION PLANNING 101 FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS
- GROWTH MANAGEMENT IN THE NEXT DECADE
- POLITICAL CANDIDATES TRAINING PROGRAM
- NEW CHAIRMAN'S TRAINING PROGRAM
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- CHARTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT



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