




Learn. Serve. Lead.

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

A photograph of two men in business suits standing in a hallway. The man in the foreground is wearing a blue checkered suit, glasses, and a backpack with a 'WENCER' logo. He is smiling and giving a thumbs up. The man behind him is older, with a white beard, wearing a dark suit and a red patterned tie. He is also smiling. Both are wearing name tags. The background shows a well-lit hallway with an 'EXIT' sign and other people in the distance.

**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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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.

flicg.org



01 Board of Directors



John Meeks
CHAIR
Levy County
Commissioner



Larry Harvey
VICE CHAIR
Putnam County
Commissioner



Robert Bender
**SECRETARY/
TREASURER**
Escambia County
Commissioner



Susan Adams
Indian River County
Commissioner



Terry Burroughs
Okeechobee County
Commissioner



Emma Byrd
Henry County
Commissioner



Andy Dance
Flagler County
Commissioner

UF/IFAS Instructors:



Dr. Matt Sowcik
Associate Professor
CLD Specialization
Coordinator



Dr. Nathan Palardy
Assistant Professor



Nathan Kervin

Walton County
Director of Human
Resources



Rob Lewis

Sarasota County
Government Relations



Amy Lockhart

Seminole County
Commissioner



Janet Long

Pinellas County
Commissioner



Vince Long

Leon County
Commissioner



Sean Parks

Lake County
Commissioner



Michelle Stone

Marion County
Commissioner

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01 2022 Milestones

Held the following classes in-person:

CCC/CGE

Ethics (45 participants;
35 new commissioners)

CCC

**New Commissioner
Orientation**
(45 participants)

ACC I and ACC II

**9 days of combined
leadership training**
(38 commissioners
participating)

Created new elective course on Special Governmental Entities

Created two new County Economic Development Classes

**Supported/Coordinated FAC Innovation Day in Miami-Dade County during
FAC Legislative Conference**

Hosted the following webinars:

- Transportation Highlights of the New Infrastructure Bill
- Introducing the State Cybersecurity Program for Local Governments
- County Roles in Economic Development
- The Future of Water Resource Funding in Florida: Options and Opportunities
- Navigating the Waters of HB 53 (Stormwater and Wastewater)
- FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): Risk Rating 2.0

By the Numbers



532

Status: Since its inception, the CCC program has graduated 532 county commissioners.



40

Status: Since its inception, the CGE program has graduated 40 county staff from the program.

2022 Milestones *Cont.*

Hosted the following training seminars during FAC’s Annual Conference:

- Disaster Recovery Basics for County Officials
- Campaign Bootcamp
- Community Voices, Informed Choices (UF/IFAS)
- Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) Alumni Program
- Protecting County Stimulus Funding

Created a second studio (Studio 67 B) for expanded digital content development

Developed Hurricane Recovery Policy Recommendation to FAC committees

Participated in NACo’s Congressional Fellowship Program in Miami-Dade County.



285

Status: Since its inception, the ACC I Program has graduated 285 county commissioners.



41

Status: Since its inception, 41 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 Commissioner (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.

532

Status: Since its inception, the CCC program has graduated 532 count 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.

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, ICG successfully transferred its in-class content to a digital learning platform. While all core and elective classes can be taken on-demand, the ICG Board requires that at least two classes be taken in-person, which are offered at various times of the year.

2022 CCC GRADUATES

- Lacey D. Cannon
- Ryan J. Perez
- Jamie Storey
- Travis Land
- Anna Prizzia
- Renee Wyatt
- Maria G. Marino
- Darrell Smith
- William (Boots) McCormick
- Kirby Smith

All ICG Programs are sponsored by UF/IFAS



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 are available online, allowing more county staff to participate.

40

Status: Since its inception, the CGE program has graduated 40 county staff from the program.

2022 CGE GRADUATES

- **Breezy Adkinson**
- **Teresa Crawford**
- **Teresa Lowery**
- **Olajuwon White**
- **Elizabeth Alt**
- **Sara Little**
- **Glen Salyer**
- **Alyssa Winston**

ICG Leadership Forum

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.

The Advanced County Commissioner - Level I

The Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) education program is an advanced leadership program designed for graduates of the Certified County Commissioner (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.

285

Status: Since its inception, the ACC I Program has graduated 285 county commissioners.

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

2022 ACC I GRADUATES

- **Mary Alford**
- **Rene Flowers**
- **Sam Parker**
- **Michael Barker**
- **Jeff Gold**
- **James Renninger**
- **Betsy Condon**
- **Maribel Gomez Cordero**
- **Carolyn Brown Spooner**
- **Andrew Dance**
- **John F. Martin**
- **Mayra Uribe**
- **Joseph Earman**
- **Laura Moss**
- **Marihelen Wheeler**
- **Craig Estep**
- **Kimblin NeSmith**
- **Christian Whitehurst**



The Advanced County Commissioner - 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.

41

Status: Since its inception, 41 county commissioners completed the inaugural year of this ACC Level II program.

2022 ACC II GRADUATES

- Susan Adams
- Robert Bender
- Christopher G. Constance
- Bradley Goodbread
- Gregory Hansen
- Harold E. Jenkins II
- Russell A. Melendy
- Scott Monlyn
- Joe Mullins
- Dave Sullivan
- Ralph Thomas
- Cathy Townsend
- Bill Truex

Specialty Classes

In response to member interest in expanding their knowledge of county issues, ICG has endeavored to develop an expansive list of Specialty Elective Classes. In all, ICG offers more than 45 elective classes under the following issue areas:



Affordable Housing



County Structure



Human Resources



Technology



Communications



Economic Development



Planning/Growth Management



Resiliency



Infrastructure & Environment



County Operations and Efficiencies



Emergency Management & Public Safety

Some of the new electives developed in 2022 include:

- “Special Government Entities”
- “Transportation 101 for County Officials”
- “Floodplain Management and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): A Primer for County Officials”
- “Litigation Risks in Planning – How to Avoid Them”
- “Understanding Your County Economy: What Do County Commissioners Really Need to Know?”





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 which includes tips for becoming an effective communicator with the media and with the community.





Studio 67



Studio 67 was created in 2020 to ensure counties could stay informed on emerging issues impacting their communities. This multi-purpose studio was expanded in 2022 and is equipped to host webinars, podcasts, video interviews, and ICG courses. Since its inception, more than 80 webinars and podcasts have been generated.



Webinar Wednesdays

- **Rural Broadband Solutions**
- **Planning for the \$1.9T American Rescue Plan and Emergency Rental Assistance Program Implementation Strategies**
- **Redistricting County Commissions in 2021**
- **Best Practices - Polk County: Helping HANDS**
- **Aetna - Covid-19 Vaccine Update**
- **Best Practices - Flagler County: Fire Leadership Academy**
- **Best Practices - Volusia County: Youth Services in a Pandemic - From Obstacles to Innovation**
- **COVID and Counties: It's Not Just A Horrible Disease - It Could Be Your Next Employee Lawsuit by Bryant Miller Olive**
- **COVID-19 Rental Assistance: A Playbook for Immediate Deadlines and Program Implementation**
- **2021 Fiscal Outlook featuring Joe Rulison, CEO/Founder, three+one**
- **Modernizing on a Dime: How St. Petersburg, FL moved quickly to save small businesses by rethinking how they work**
- **The Future of Public Meetings By OnBoard**
- **CARES Act: The End is Nigh! Webinar by Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A.**
- **IEM Webinar - A Holistic Approach to COVID-19 Response and Recovery**
- **FDOT: Update on MCORES**
- **Results 2020 - Overview of County Elections**
- **A Look at the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) Update**
- **Use CARES Act Funds to Improve Mental Health In Your County**
- **Media in a Virtual World**
- **COVID-19 & Mental Health in the Workplace**
- **Community Policing in Florida**
- **Solutions to COVID-19 Budget Challenges**
- **Election Security During COVID-19**
- **COVID-19: The Science Behind the Headlines**
- **COVID-19 Rapid Contact Tracing**
- **Florida's Housing Framework: Legislative Update and COVID 19**
- **Navigating Public Employees' Speech Rights**

- **Demographics are Destiny: How Demographic Trends are Reshaping Florida and the United States**
- **Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez Provides an Update on the 2020 Census**
- **New Tech Entering the Market to Help with Reopening**
- **Campaigning and Communicating in a COVID World**
- **5G, Public Safety & Cybersecurity**
- **Is your virtual BOCC meeting secure?**
- **What Now? Clean Waterways Act - New Requirements on Florida Counties**
- **Maximizing Federal Assistance: Seeking, Obtaining, and Using CARES Act & Federal Assistance Funds**
- **Making the Most of Libraries During COVID-19**
- **CARES Act Webinar: Distribution of CARES Act Monies**
- **Virtual Town Hall With Florida's Agriculture Commissioner**
- **Working with Utilities During the Pandemic & Hurricane Season**
- **Preparing for Hurricane Season During COVID-19**
- **Making the Most of Your County Cash Flow During COVID-19**
- **The Florida Economy**
- **COVID-19: Getting the Highest Reimbursement Dollars**
- **Unprecedented Leadership: How to Lead During COVID-19**
- **The Future of COVID-19: Research, Vaccines, & How to Move Forward**
- **The Science of COVID-19: Today & In The Future**
- **Introducing the State of Florida Cybersecurity Grant Program for Local**

Governments

- **County Roles in Economic Development**
- **Transportation Highlights of the New Federal Infrastructure Bill**
- **Navigating the Waters of HB53: Stormwater and Wastewater 20-year Needs Analyses**
- **The Future of Water Resource Funding in Florida: Options and Opportunities**
- **EMA and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): Risk Rating 2.0**
- **County Transportation Funding and Gas Tax Indexing**
- **Understanding the Property Tax Assessment Process in Florida**
- **Supporting Economic Development in Florida**
- **Who's on First? Navigating, Understanding, & Complying with Federal COVID Funding**
- **Disaster Response Bootcamp for County Commissioners - The County's Role in Emergency Management**
- **Innovating County Government: How Miami-Dade County Modernizes Services**
- **Disaster Response Bootcamp for County Commissioners - The State's Role in Emergency Management**
- **Looking to the Future: Counties & Emergency Management**

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04

ICG Goals for 2023

- Evaluate CCC core curriculum; assess if additional classes are warranted.
- Continue monitoring the efficacy of ICG's online learning platform.
- Continue expanding course electives, including the following:
 - Emergency Management Operation Basics for County Officials
 - Disaster Recovery Funding for Counties
 - Hazard Mitigation Planning
 - Hazard Mitigation Project Funding
 - Charter Counties
 - Basic Stormwater Management for County Officials
 - Solid Waste, Recycling, and Landfills
- Evaluate the Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) programs and assess alternative models
- Expand significantly video and audio podcast content to reach a broader, diverse audience.
- Leverage partnership opportunities with FAC affiliates and other organizations to develop additional education opportunities.
- Complete New County Commissioner Handbook





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