

THE SECRETARY'S WORKGROUP ON THE SCHOOL CODE REVISION: MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Mary G. Bennett, Government Relations Specialist for the School District of Volusia County, has 33 years experience in public and private education. Her 31 years in the Volusia school district include serving as the Dropout Prevention/Juvenile Justice Specialist, the Middle School/Alternative Education Facilitator, and as a junior high school English teacher. Dr. Bennett was also a Regional Dropout Prevention Coordinator for the Florida Department of Education, on-loan from the school district. She has served on the Daytona Beach Community College District Board of Trustees and the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission. Dr. Bennett represents the charter school district initiative constituency in the state of Florida. This constituency is a cross-section of educators, parents, students, and community members who believe in local control, increased flexibility, and strong accountability and also “think outside the box.” The School District of Volusia County was the first charter school district approved by the State Board of Education and Dr. Bennett was actively involved in the development of her district’s initiative, which focuses on accelerating student achievement.

Douglas W. Crawford earned his Ph. D. in Education Administration from Florida State University. He has served as a teacher and held various administrative positions with the School Board of Dade County. Within the House Committee on Education, he was Staff Director from 1978-1980, and then served as Director of Planning and Budgeting in the Department of Education from 1980-1983. From 1983-1989, he was Director of the Division of Public Schools, and is presently serving as Executive Director of the Florida Association of School Administrators.

Brenda Dickinson is the President of the Home Education Foundation. Ms. Dickinson has been involved with issues relating to home education since 1985 when the law making home education legal in Florida was passed. She has lobbied to create opportunities for home-educated students which equal those provided for public and private school students in Florida, such as dual enrollment in colleges and universities, extracurricular activities at public and private schools who are members of the FHSAA, and inclusion in the Bright Futures Scholarships program. Brenda has also served on the Board of Directors and lobbied on behalf of the Florida Virtual High School. During the 2000-2001 school year 41,128 children in 27,792 families were being home educated. The Home Education Foundation represents these students and their families on legislative and policy issues related to home education. HEF works with statewide and local support group leaders keeping them abreast of issues that will affect them. Brenda Dickinson, on behalf of HEF, will be corresponding with these various leaders regarding the School Code Workgroup.

David Keith Foy began his professional career in 1993. He received both a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master in Public Administration from Florida State University. In his current position, Mr. Foy is the chief administrative officer and lobbyist for the Florida Student Association, Inc. (FSA). Mr. Foy is ultimately responsible to the Board of Directors and executes board policies and directives. In addition, Mr. Foy is the chief fiduciary officer and manages all association personnel. He serves as FSA’s development officer, establishing ties within the Tallahassee community and with other organizations to promote the association’s mission. David Foy began his career in public service in 1995 at the Florida Parole Commission as a Personnel Technician in the Office of Personnel Management. He was responsible for designing, coordinating and facilitating training workshops and seminars for Commission personnel as well as developing the Annual Training and Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Plans. In 1996, Mr. Foy served the Department of Insurance as an assistant to the Deputy Director of Insurer Services – the Division of Insurer Services regulates all domestic and foreign insurers operating in the state of Florida. Mr. Foy

coordinated the Division's business and management functions, to include: human resources, finances, training, purchasing, and business contracts. In addition, he advised and made recommendations to the Director and Deputy Director on all business and administrative issues affecting Insurer Services. Mr. Foy was an active student leader at Florida State University and was an FSU Seminole Torchbearer. He served as a Graduate Senator in Florida State University's Student Senate, 1994-1995, and worked as an Inter-Fraternity Council Representative in 1993. In 1998, Mr. Foy accepted a Coordinator of Governmental Affairs position with the Florida Board of Regents (BOR). As a registered lobbyist for the State University System (SUS) of Florida, Mr. Foy made presentations to the Board of Regents; to university officials; to faculty members; to higher education organizations; to the Governor's Office and to legislative committees. Mr. Foy was instrumental in bringing technology to the Board's legislative outreach. He revised the BOR "Legislative Briefing Book" and "Legislative Newsletter" as well as designed and implemented the BOR "Electronic Newspaper Clips" service. Mr. Foy volunteers his time and effort as a student mentor with the Take Stock in Children and College Reach-Out Program. He currently mentors a high school student at Leon High School in Tallahassee, Florida. Mr. Foy is married and resides in Tallahassee. His hobbies include: golf, baseball and beach volleyball.

Joy Frank is the General Counsel and Legislative Consultant for the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. Ms. Frank has over twenty years of professional experience in the legislative process including serving in legislative staff positions, working for the Department of Education, and lobbying on behalf of several associations. Specifically, she has served as the Executive Staff Director and Legislative Affairs Director for the Florida Department of Education; Staff Director for the House Committee on Public Schools; Policy Coordinator for the House Democratic Office; Staff Attorney for the House Committee on Health and Rehabilitative Services; and Legislative Analyst for the Senate Committee on Health and Rehabilitative Services. She has also represented associations on health care, elderly, and disability issues; and represented a CPA firm on legislative issues relating to health care. Ms. Frank is a member of the Florida Bar and the Georgia Bar (inactive).

Deborah Gallay is Vice Chancellor for Planning Budgeting and Policy Analysis in the Division of Colleges and Universities. She has had a long association with education planning, policy, and budgeting. For 2 ½ years prior to her current appointment, Debi served as the Associate Vice Chancellor. She also served as the Director of Institutional Research for the Board General office for several years. In addition, Debi served as the Education Policy Coordinator under three of Florida's Governors. Earlier in her career, she was associated with an institute primarily conducting education finance research for several states and the federal government.

Dr. Patrick Heffernan grew up in Miami and earned his B.A. in Philosophy *cum laude* from Florida Atlantic University. After teaching at the elementary and secondary level in both public and private schools, he earned his Masters and Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of London. He subsequently joined the Faculty of Education at Cambridge University, where he taught for six years as a Lecturer in Philosophy of Education at Homerton College, Cambridge, England. Dr. Heffernan later served as the Director of the Fay School in Southborough, Massachusetts and as Executive Director of the Education Foundation for the Archdiocese of Miami. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Greater Miami and served on Florida's Blue Ribbon Committee on Educational Governance. Dr. Heffernan became President of Floridians for School Choice early in 1998.

Patty Hightower resides in Pensacola with her husband, Jimmy. She has two sons. Andy is a legislative aide in Washington, DC and Patrick is beginning his junior year at FSU. Patty is presently serving as President of the Florida PTA. She has held many offices in the PTA at the state, county and local level. She also serves as the Florida representative to the National PTA Council of States. She serves on the Parent Involvement Planning Team, the Commissioner of

Education's Community Involvement Council, and on the Advisory Committee on Exceptional Student Education. She has given presentations on "Taking Charge of Your TV" and "Building Successful Partnerships" for state and local organizations. She also does leadership training for PTA. In Escambia County she serves on the half-cent sales tax watchdog committee overseeing the use of the sales tax for construction in the school district. She is an elder in her church, sings in the choir, teaches senior high Sunday school, and plays hand bells. She holds a Masters in Education from the University of Alabama.

Larry Keough, as the associate for education at the Florida Catholic Conference, is the legislative advocate for Florida Catholic Schools, which is the largest system of nonpublic schools in Florida with 93,000 plus students in 215 schools. As a member of the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools' Executive Committee, Larry also has represented the 29 nonpublic school associations and 290,000 K-12 students within the association. He also works with officials at the state Department of Education and public school lobbyists in an attempt to formulate good public policy for all children, regardless of the schools they attend. As a father of three boys and two girls, including two children with special needs, he is both a parental advocate and professional advocate. Larry has been imminently involved in three statewide school choice programs in Florida, the Opportunity Scholarship Program, the McKay Scholarship Program and the Corporate Tax Scholarship Program. In addition, he has actively supported the seamless system of education, as well as lobbying for nonpublic school students to receive services they are legally entitled, and for ESE legislation and rules that are in the best interest of all disabled children.

Dr. Theresa Klebacha is the Executive Vice Chancellor of Student and Academic Success of the Community College System. She served as the Assistant Executive Director of the Division of Community Colleges prior to that appointment and has previously served as Staff Director for the Florida House of Representatives Committee on Community Colleges and Career Preparation.

R. E. LeMon is Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs for the Division of Colleges and Universities. After a dozen years on university campuses in New Orleans, Japan, and the People's Republic of China, he spent thirteen years moving from an entry-level Coordinator to Vice Chancellor in the former Board of Regents Office of Academic and Student Affairs, where he and his staff have been responsible for all systemic academic and student related issues for the State University System.

Dr. Kim McDougal is Interim Policy Coordinator for the Education Policy Unit of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. She represents Governor Jeb Bush on education budget and policy issues, including the Bush-Brogan A+ Education Plan and One Florida education initiatives. She has played a key role in advancing Florida's education reform effort, serving as a Senior Governmental Education Analyst for the Governor since 1999, and serving as an advisor on accountability and performance measures to the Education Governance Reorganization Transition Task Force. She previously served for ten years in the Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability as an Education Policy Analyst, was a certified teacher in Louisiana, and has taught at the university level in the College of Education. She earned her bachelor's degree from Tulane University and her master's and doctorate degrees from the Florida State University College of Education. She is a solid Seminole fan and has completed three marathons.

Mr. Sydney H. McKenzie III is presently the General Counsel in the Office of the Interim Chancellor of Community Colleges and previously served as General Counsel to the Florida State Board of Community Colleges and the Division of Community Colleges. In addition to private practice, he has also served as General Counsel to the Department of Education and to a number of other state agencies.

Ronald G. Meyer is a founding Partner of Meyer and Brooks, P.A., Tallahassee, Florida. Previously a partner in the Tampa law firm of Frank and Meyer, P.A. Served as General Counsel for the Florida

Teaching Profession-National Education Association (now known as the Florida Education Association (FEA) on an in-house basis (1978-82). Mr. Meyer is Past Chairman of the Labor and Employment Law Section of the Florida Bar; past member of the Florida Governor's Commission on the Status of Women; member Tallahassee Association of Women Lawyers. Meyer has been awarded an "Av" rating (highest attainable) by Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Meyer's practice areas include representation of professionals and employees in private and public sector matters, including licensure issues, contract issues, discrimination, sexual harassment and enforcement of constitutional rights. Representation is also provided to the Florida Education Association as well as administrator organizations. Meyer was admitted to, and is in active good standing with, the Florida Bar, since 1972; District of Columbia Bar, since 1975; is admitted to practice before the Bars of the United States Supreme Court; the Circuit Courts of Appeal for the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits; United States District Courts for the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Florida and the Southern District of Alabama Meyer's undergraduate Degree is in Broadcasting from the College of Communications, University of Florida; Juris Doctorate Degree from Stetson University College of Law; Member: Moot Court, Prosecution Clinic and Law Review Editor; Recipient, International Academy of Trial Lawyers and Clint Green Trial Practice Awards.

Kathy Mizereck - Legislative Affairs Director, Florida Department of Education. Kathy spent ten years as a high school reading and English teacher in Pinellas County. Upon relocating to Tallahassee, she worked as a university project manager overseeing the development of a variety of assessment instruments. She served as staff to the Florida Commission on Education Reform and Accountability from 1991-94, before returning in 1997 to fill the Executive Director's position, and spent three years as a senior cabinet aide for education policy to Florida's Secretary of State. Since March of 1998, Kathy has served as Director of Legislative Affairs for the Florida Department of Education.

Jeff Muir is Director of Government Relations at the University of South Florida where he has worked for 18 years. Jeff received his Bachelor and Masters degrees from USF and in 1982 earned his J.D. from Stetson University College of Law. In addition to his duties at USF, Jeff has had overall coordination responsibility for all SUS substantive legislation for the last several years.

Janet D. Owen is the Director of Governmental Affairs and Associate General Counsel at the University of North Florida. A Jacksonville native and graduate of the University of Florida, she received her law degree from Stetson University College of Law in 1985. She was a senior associate with the Jacksonville law firm of Brant, Moore, Sapp, Macdonald & Wells prior to her appointment to become the UNF's first associate general counsel in 1994. Ms. Owen was appointed to serve as UNF's Director of Governmental Affairs in January 1998. In that capacity, she has worked on system wide initiatives and legislation to increase efficiency and flexibility for the state universities. As a member of the state university lobbying team, she serves as the liaison to the university general counsels. In March 2000, Ms. Owen was appointed by the Chancellor to chair a statewide committee to review and recommend changes to the system rules governing student discipline.

James A. Robinson III is the General Counsel of the Florida Department of Education. Jim previously served as Council Director of the Resource and Land Management Council of the Florida House of Representatives, and General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs. Before coming to Tallahassee, Jim served as Senior Attorney and principal trial lawyer for the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Mr. Robinson graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Maine in 1975 and received his J.D. degree from the University of Maine School of Law in Portland in 1979. Mr. Robinson oversees a legal staff consisting of 8 attorneys and administrative assistants, which is responsible for providing legal assistance and counsel to the State Board of Education, Commissioner of Education, and divisions, bureaus and offices within the Department of Education. The Office of General Counsel will assist Mr. Robinson in connection with his service on the workgroup.

Steven Ray Wallace became FCCJ's fourth College President on July 28, 1997. His résumé includes professional service in Minnesota, Ohio and California. In all, Dr. Wallace has spent 25 years working in community colleges, starting with his alma mater, Chaffey Community College in California. Dr. Wallace has served as both an instructor and administrator during his career. He began as an adjunct faculty member at Chaffey, and in 1975 became a full-time faculty member in the college's innovative Learning Center. In 1977, Dr. Wallace became Chaffey's district director of learning disabilities and two years later served as director of marketing and legislative affairs for the 20,000-student college. In 1981, Dr. Wallace left Chaffey for Lakeland Community College in Ohio. There he served as vice president for administrative services for nine years. Dr. Wallace administered a wide range of college functions including finance, computer services, human resources, strategic planning, admissions and registration, legislative and legal affairs, and the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. Dr. Wallace has held two previous college president positions - both in Minnesota: first at Austin Community College (1990-92) and then at Inver Hills Community College (1992-97). He also held statewide responsibilities concerning faculty professional development, academic and administrative computing, labor relations, and distance learning. He is recognized nationally for his leadership in community economic development, student success initiatives, academic technology and the emerging community college baccalaureate degree. Dr. Wallace earned an associate in arts degree in 1972 from Chaffey Community College, followed by bachelors and master's degrees in psychology from California State University at San Bernardino. He received a doctorate in higher education administration in 1989 from Claremont Graduate University in California. His dissertation was titled "Influence of the Economic Development Program of a Comprehensive Community College on Business Decisions of Companies in its Service Area." Dr. Wallace's initial years at Florida Community College at Jacksonville have been devoted to getting the College to be more responsive to student, employer and community needs. Significant planning efforts have resulted in major new initiatives in student access and success, technology, program development and facilities construction. Since arriving in Jacksonville, Dr. Wallace has been actively involved in the community serving on numerous local boards such as the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, United Way, Communities in Schools, First Coast YMCA, Enterprise North Florida, First Coast Workforce Development Executive Committee, Jacksonville Symphony Association, Take Stock in Children Leadership Council (chair), and WJCT Public Broadcasting. His statewide leadership roles include past chair of the Community College Council of Presidents and appointments to the boards of the North Florida Technology Alliance, Florida Distance Learning Consortium, the Florida Virtual Campus (co-chair), and the Business & Higher Education Partnership of the Florida Council of 100. He was a member of Leadership Florida's Class 18. Dr. Wallace resides on the Southside with his wife, Amelia -a teacher - and two children, Devon (19) and Michael (9).

John L. Winn is currently the Assistant Secretary to the Florida Board of Education. He came to this position following serving as the Education Policy Coordinator for the Executive Office of the Governor and Executive Director of the Education Governance Reorganization Transition Task Force. He earned his undergraduate degree from Florida State University in 1970 and an MA from the University of Florida in 1973. In the Department of Education, he has served as the Director of the Office of Policy Research and Accountability, Education Policy Director, and Director of the Prevention Center. In addition, Dr. Winn has taught at the Elementary, Middle, and High School levels, and been an instructor at the Community College level. He has been a major contributor to education reform efforts in Florida.