

RECOGNITION

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FLORIDA COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN



CONNECTIONS

2016 REPORT OF THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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Our goal is to provide communication, promotion and collaboration among the hundreds of organizations working in all 67 counties that are focused on the welfare of the women of Florida. We are all interested in improving the well-being of Florida women and girls – and by extension, all Floridians. In doing so, we strive to be a resource for lawmakers, businesses, and residents so they have a better understanding of these important issues.

It is through collaborative efforts that information and resources can be shared for those who are working so diligently to affect change and improve lives.



THE FLORIDA WOMEN'S
HALL OF FAME

Carol Jenkins Barnett
Helen Aguirre Ferré
Elmira Leto



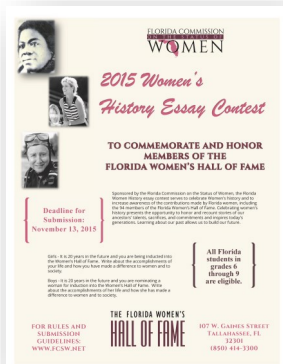
FLORIDA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

For 35 years, the Commission has continued the tradition of honoring and remembering women who have improved the lives of all Floridians through the **Florida Women's Hall of Fame**. It is a privilege to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the women of our state, and to permanently preserve their stories for future generations in the Capitol Rotunda. The three women inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2016 demonstrated their commitment as educators, child and family advocates, journalists, humanitarians, and community leaders. These outstanding women are also being recognized through the production of video biographies that are available on the Commission's website, fcsw.net.

EDUCATION

FLORIDA WOMEN'S DAY AT THE CAPITOL

More than 130 women and many organizations from across Florida traveled to Tallahassee to participate in Florida Women's Day at the Capitol. This annual event brings together legislators, public policy experts, members of community organizations, and the public in order to inform and motivate women to engage in the legislative process, and to help them gather the tools needed to be leaders on policy changes impacting women.



WOMEN'S HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

Florida students in grades 6—9 participated in the Inaugural Florida Women's Essay Contest designed to allow young people the opportunity to gain a more relevant appreciation of women's roles in history, and engage young minds of women's role in the future. Winning essayists were awarded prizes and recognized during Women's Day at the Capitol in Tallahassee.

THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women is a non-partisan body with a focus of raising awareness and celebrating the contributions and success of all Floridians, along with providing a collaborative platform for those seeking information on issues that affect women, girls and their families in our state.

Celebrating the achievements and contributions of these Floridians has and will always be a top priority for the Commission. We are proud to be the presenting

organization of the prestigious Florida Women's Hall of Fame and the Florida Achievement Awards.

We understand that each community in our state is unique, representing both rural and urban areas and that the ethnic and cultural diversity of the state's population is varied. In each of these communities there is valuable work being done to understand and assist the needs of women and girls unique to those communities, and we know that information should be shared.

COLLABORATION

FLORIDA FINANCIAL EDUCATION SUMMIT

Based on the feedback from our program of work in 2015, that included traveling across the state to engage the women in Florida in discussions about the most pressing issues, accomplishments and challenges they faced, the Commission concluded there was a real need for coordinated efforts among public and private service and financial organizations to educate women and their families on how to best access financial education and resources.

The Commission, together with the Florida Department of Financial Services launched our first **Financial Education Summit**. The Summit was designed to bring together leaders at the local, county and state levels to learn of these important challenges facing women and families and to expand coalitions that will enhance the delivery of financial education.

More than 60 community leaders were in attendance, which took place on November 17, 2016 on the campus of



Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter, and featured the programs of eight different organizations, both public and private. The 2016 Summit will serve as a first step in the FCSW's long-term effort to identify the critical, daily challenges of Florida women and their families, and provide answers to the most common concerns about personal finances.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

As we continue to expand our reach with organizations and individuals in all 67 counties, the 2016 Summit will serve as a template for future Financial Education collaborative efforts across Florida with the goal of connecting financial education programs with social service professionals serving a range of targeted audiences. From elementary-aged students to seniors already retired, women in every stage of life and circumstance can benefit from the vast financial education resources that are freely available in every community. Subjects include spending, saving, investing, borrowing, business and keeping finances safe from financial abuse. Through this outreach effort, women and families in Florida will be better prepared for future economic challenges.

INFORMATION

WEBSITE, SPEAKERS BUREAU, AND FACT SHEETS

The Commission's vision is to be the established resource for information in support of the empowerment and success of women. With this in mind, our website has been redesigned and is continually updated with the latest informational resources and fact sheets available regarding Florida women and families. The FCSW Speaker's Bureau was established this year to help raise awareness of women's issues, educate women about the resources of the Commission and achieve positive change for Florida Women.



CELEBRATION

FCSW FLORIDA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

By celebrating individual achievements, we present a more expansive vision of what we can do, and it encourages us all to think larger and bolder. In 2016, the Commission presented 12 FCSW Florida Achievement Awards and 4 Legislative Achievement Awards at a special ceremony and luncheon in Gainesville, FL. Subsequent recognition took place in a number of counties across the state further raising the awareness of the honorees and the programs of the Commission.

The recipients of the FCSW Florida Achievement Award are the embodiment of dedicated community service. Each day, they volunteer to mentor children, advocate for women and families in need, and help to make our communities and our state a much better place.



2016 Commission Members

Nancy C. Acevedo (Winter Springs)

Maruchi Azorin, M.B.A. (Tampa)

Rita Barreto Craig (West Palm Beach)

Deborah Cox-Roush (Lithia)

Denise Dell-Powell (Orlando)

Yvonne Fry (Plant City)

Ashley Guinn (Melbourne)

Melissa R. Hagan (Lynn Haven)

Patti W. Hamilton (Tequesta)

Susanne Hebert (Clearwater)

Gayle Jacobson (Niceville)

Amy Kryak (Port St. Lucie)

Wenda Lewis (Gainesville)

Nancy Peek McGowan (Jacksonville)

Genean Hawkins McKinnon (Winter Park)

Cindy Hartley Ross (Lakeland)

Elena Guardiola Spottswood (Key West)

Ekecia Grayson Taylor (Daytona Beach)

Lady Dhyana Ziegler, DCJ, Ph.D. (Tallahassee)



CONNECT WITH US AND GET INVOLVED

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2017 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

March 29-30: Women's Day at the Capitol

Tallahassee

September: Women's Hall of Fame Induction

Orlando

November: FCSW Florida Achievement Awards

Daytona Beach