The Florida Civic Advance Summit

The Florida Civic Advance Summit was the first meeting of its kind in Florida and the nation. It brought together a diverse range of participants from all ages and backgrounds. Their shared concern was the need to address the poor civic health of Florida’s communities by working collaboratively with other organizations and citizens to develop, implement, and champion.

Florida’s across-the-board low performance on civic health indicators presents a major barrier to sustaining the highly desired quality of life and the competitive edge of the state’s communities. Finding collaborative and practical solutions to that issue was the goal of the February 2015 FCA Summit. The Summit brought together over 100 leaders representing a collaborative network – the Florida Civic Advance – composed of 30 organizations concerned about the civic health of Florida’s communities. The Summit was the first initiative of the Florida Civic Advance, a project initiated by the FCRC Florida Consensus Center at Florida State University in collaboration with many other organizations.

Summit participants appreciated the multiple opportunities for open dialogue with those from diverse perspectives and areas of knowledge. They were able to get to know each other and learned about new and proven best practices. (continued on page 2)
The Florida Civic Advance Summit (continued from page 1)

A highlight was forming new connections with others who are committed to achieving the same end. Participants agreed on three strategic next steps for addressing Florida’s civic health challenges:

- Develop a strategic design for how to best work together as a network and provide tangible assistance to local communities and leaders.
- Complete and implement the FCA’s organizational model that focuses on leadership development, best practices research, and community assistance.
- Provide multiple ways for partner organizations to work together formally and informally.

The Summit ended with a broad-based agreement to advance civic engagement in Florida and specific actions by many FCA organizations going forward. The FCRC Florida Consensus Center committed to seek the resources necessary to work collaboratively with others to strengthen civic life throughout the state. “Working together, we can go far,” Center Director Bob Jones concluded.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Coastal SEES (Science, Engineering and Education Sustainability) funded research project is focused on integrating stakeholder objectives with natural system models to promote the future of Chesapeake Bay oyster fishery.

The FCRC is working with researchers from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science with funding from National Science Foundation. The project is designed to develop recommendations for oyster policies and management that meet the needs of industry, citizen, and government stakeholders in the Choptank and Little Choptank Rivers of the Chesapeake Bay. The FCRC is the lead facilitator for the Oyster Futures Workgroup. The stakeholder consensus based process is designed to build consensus on policy and regulatory options that will be informed by stakeholder and scientific knowledge and by the joint development and use of a modeling tool.
North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership Stakeholders Advisory Committee

The FCRC Consensus Center is working with the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to facilitate the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership Stakeholder Advisory Committee (NFRWSP SAC). The Stakeholder Advisory Committee, which started meeting in June 2012, is providing guidance and advisory recommendations to the SRWMD, SJRWMD, DEP, and FDACS on development of a regional water supply plan spanning both districts. Committee members have been appointed by the Districts to represent the concerns of specific affected interests from each district as well as to communicate information about the North Florida water supply process to citizens and members of their organizations.

During the water supply plan, development process, the FCRC worked with the SAC to develop consensus recommendations to DEP and the districts pertaining to the development of a Minimum Flows and Levels Rule including Prevention and Recovery Strategies for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and for Priority Springs. The FCRC continues its work with the Committee to reach consensus on additional advisory recommendations regarding the Regional Water Supply Plan.
STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

DBPR Florida Building Commission
Entering into the sixteenth year of service, the FCRC Consensus Center continues to assist the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (previously the Department of Community Affairs) and the Florida Building Commission in its development, implementation and updating of the Florida Building Code and related programs. The FCRC also facilitates the Commission’s technical advisory and program oversight committees, issue specific workgroups and the triennial Code Update Process. In 2015, the FCRC facilitated a special issue Workgroup convened by the Commission that evaluated and developed recommendations for a legislative path to enhance and streamline the Commission’s Code development and implementation process. In addition, the FCRC facilitated the annual meeting of Technical Advisory Committee chairs to develop consensus recommendations for the funding of research projects regarding hurricane resistance research and other Code related topical areas.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Since 2003, the FCRC Consensus Center has facilitated the Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control (FCCMC) and the Pest Control Enforcement Advisory Council (PCEAC). In 2012, the Center started working with the Agricultural Feed, Seed and Fertilizer Advisory Council (AFSFAC).

The FCCMC is charged with providing recommendations to state and federal agencies regarding guidelines for resolving disputes, identifying research priorities and funding sources, and best management practices for the control of arthropods on publicly owned lands. Stakeholders include university medical entomology labs, environmental groups, private landowning citizens, and governmental agencies including DEP, FDACS, FWC, USEPA, USDA, and USFWS.

The AFSFAC advises FDACS regarding the regulation and enforcement of issues regarding agricultural feed, seed and fertilizer. Stakeholders include FDACS, UF/IFAS, and the aquaculture, dairy production, citrus, seed, feed, fertilizer beef cattle, poultry, field/row crops, and vegetable industries.

The PCEAC advises FDACS regarding the regulation of pest control practices and advises government agencies with respect to their related pest control responsibilities.
TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

Florida Freight Mobility and Trade Plan Investment Element Process
On the heels of the successful Freight Mobility and Trade Plan Policy Element Process, the FCRC facilitated the Florida Freight Mobility and Trade Plan Investment Element Process. The Center helped FDOT with process design, survey development, and meeting facilitation services. In the summer of 2015, the FCRC conducted 7 Listening Sessions around the state to get feedback on the final report.

Bicycle Pedestrian Partnership Council
The FCRC is providing process design and facilitation services to support a statewide “Partnership Council” established by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to provide advice on bicycle and pedestrian mobility issues. The Council includes key federal and state agency representatives, local government representatives and external stakeholders. They provide guidance to the Department and its partner agencies on policy matters affecting the bicycle and pedestrian transportation needs of the State of Florida. It reports annually on the status towards making Florida and its communities more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.

Bob Jones and Hal Beardall facilitate a meeting of the MPOAC Strategic Directions Process

Florida Transportation Plan and Strategic Intermodal System Plan Update
The FCRC Consensus Center provided assistance for the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Update Process through consultation and facilitation services for three Advisory Groups: the Infrastructure & Growth Leadership, Innovation & Economic Development, and Quality of Life/Quality of Places advisory groups.

Volusia TPO Board Strategic Planning Retreat
The FCRC Consensus Center designed and facilitated the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (R2CTPO) Board Strategic Planning Retreat in February 2015.

Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission
The Center facilitated two strategic planning sessions for the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission to develop specific guidelines, approaches, and next steps to achieve their vision of success.
TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

MPOAC Strategic Directions Process
The FCRC Consensus Center is engaged in a one-year collaborative process with the MPOAC members and strategic partners to develop and adopt a MPOAC strategic directions plan and implementation action plan. The MPOAC and its strategic partners will identify trends and key issues and envision a successful future to inform the structure for the plans. The FCRC is working directly with the Executive Director and an advisory committee in designing the steps in the strategic directions process. The FCRC is facilitating planning meetings, joint MPOAC workshops and the Strategic Directions Advisory Committee meetings.

Florida Automated Vehicles Initiative
The FCRC Consensus Center worked with the FDOT Central Office to provide process planning and facilitation services for three Florida Automated Vehicle Working Groups. The three Stakeholder Working Groups are: Technology and Infrastructure, Modal Applications and Policy. The Working Groups were chaired by senior managers at FDOT and comprised of individual stakeholders from across the State of Florida who represent organizations, agencies and perspectives that may be impacted by automated vehicle and connected vehicle technology. The Working Groups identified opportunities and challenges associated with implementing Automated Vehicle and Connected Vehicle technology on Florida roadways.

This 20-month process concluded with whitepapers containing consensus advice for the FDOT Systems Planning Office on addressing challenges and leveraging opportunities as AV and CV technology fills Florida roadways.

Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group
The FCRC facilitated the Joint Board Workshops of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations of Hillsborough, Pasco & Pinellas Counties in FDOT District 7. The three organizations agreed to form the Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group to develop regional consensus priorities and on helping the region speak with one voice in state discussions on transportation issues and resources.

Bob Jones, Hal Beardall and Chris Pedersen facilitated the meetings of the Florida Automated Vehicle Process
Monroe County Affordable Workforce Housing Stakeholder Process
With the economic rebound and hundreds of new resort rooms, the corresponding demand for employees and affordable workforce housing in the Florida Keys hospitality and related industries, is growing. The FCRC Consensus Center was asked by Monroe County to conduct a situation assessment, as a first step in addressing the problem. The Center interviewed a range of public leaders, affected stakeholders and citizens to lay the foundation and framework for a potential stakeholder process. Following the situation assessment, the Center began a collaborative stakeholder process to address affordable workforce housing in the County. The stakeholder committee will meet once a month for a year to address workforce housing issues and make recommendations to the County Commission. [Link to Monroe County website]

Florida State University Strategic Initiatives

After Action Report: Strozier Library Shooting
The FCRC Consensus Center conducted a review and produced an After Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan focused on the November 20, 2014 Strozier Library Shooting. The project included key campus stakeholders, community partners and subject matter experts. The review included all Florida State University entities with a role or responsibility in emergency response, which included members of the FSU Emergency Management Team as well as community response partners that coordinate, communicate and share incident command with the University. It also included an external panel of subject matter experts with experience in higher education settings.

The AAR and Correction Action and Improvement Plan process evaluated the strengths, successes, weaknesses, shortcomings and areas of improvement of Florida State University in preparing for, mitigating against, responding to, recovering and learning from the November 20, 2014 Strozier Library Shooting.

FSU Sociology Department Strategic Directions Process
Looking back, looking around and looking forward are the 3 key steps in any strategic planning process. The FCRC Consensus Center is engaged in a collaborative process with the FSU Department of Sociology faculty and key staff to develop and adopt a strategic directions plan and implementation action plan by June 2016. The process will take stock of trends and key issues and envision a successful future that will inform the structure and path for the Department in the coming years.

Strategic Planning: Center for Advanced Power Systems
The FCRC Consensus Center facilitated a half-day strategic planning workshop with senior staff of the Center on Advanced Power Systems. The FCRC provided consultation, process design, a pre-meeting survey, meeting facilitation and a workshop summary. The Center provided consultation to the CAPS director on next steps.
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FCRC Consensus Center

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The FCRC Leadership Council provides the Center with ongoing strategic advice in pursing its mission

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