

2017 Annual Report



FLORIDA COMMISSION
on the STATUS of WOMEN

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women has provided more than 25 years of service to improve the lives of all Floridians through ***Collaboration, Education and Celebration***. We are a non-partisan body with a focus on raising awareness and celebrating the contributions and successes 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. In doing so, we strive to be a resource for lawmakers, businesses, and residents so they have a better understanding of these important issues. This ***2017 Annual Report*** chronicles the work of the Commission.

Collaboration. Education. Celebration.

COLLABORATION

2017 Florida Women's Online Resource Directory Launched

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women is focused on providing a collaborative platform for those seeking information on issues that affect women, girls and their families in our state. Each of the 67 counties is unique and we value and applaud the incredible work being done by the hundreds of organizations in each community.

There is great power in uniting and connecting. Finding each other, however, is not always easy. To fill this information gap, the Commission published the 2017 Florida Women's Resource Directory on our website to connect groups and organizations vital to improving the status of women and families in Florida. The Directory has more than 400 organizations and continues to grow and expand as a useful resource.



EDUCATION

Commission Hosts 4th Annual Forum to Educate Women on Legislative Process

For the fourth year, the Commission hosted an educational program focused on the legislative process for women across the state so they are better informed participants in issues that matter to them and their communities. Working hand in hand with our partners from across Florida, the Commission presented this two-day, non partisan forum in our state's capitol dedicated to educating women about the legislative process. Attendees gained a better understanding of how ideas become laws and learned the tools needed to be leaders in their communities. This annual event is one of education and inspiration, providing a unique opportunity to observe the legislative process in action.

Nearly 200 women from across Florida traveled to the Florida Capitol on March 29 - 30, 2017, to learn from experienced professionals, develop personal relationships and be inspired to work with like-minded organizations to create a better state for the women and families of Florida.

"This event is an awesome contribution to the empowerment and advancement of women who are actively involved in service to their communities."

- 2017 Attendee



Seven Florida Students Awarded for 2017 Essay Contest

The Florida Women's History essay contest serves to celebrate women's history and to increase awareness of the contributions made by Florida women, including the 100 members of the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. Entries for this year's contest were challenged to write about their dreams of furthering women's advancement in our society, using a fictitious \$1,000,000 grant. Winning essayists were awarded prizes and recognized along with their teachers at a special ceremony at the Commission's Women's History Month Celebration Luncheon at the Capitol in Tallahassee on March 30, 2017.



Winners 6 - 7 grade: 1st-Autumn Rhodes, Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School; 2nd - Sarah Garfield, Polo Park Middle School; 3rd -Samantha Kalish, Polo Park Middle School.

Winners 8 - 9 grade: 1st-Grace Stanley, Brown Barge Middle School; 2nd-Keegan Weitzel, Eastside High School; 3rd-Evelyn Gonzalez, Hialeah Senior High School.

Florida Women's Hall of Fame: Celebrating 35 Years and First-Time Partnership with Florida Chamber Foundation

For the first time, the Hall of Fame ceremony was held in Orlando, Florida. Focusing on both Collaboration and Celebration, our partnership with the Florida Chamber Foundation and their annual Future of Florida Forum, presented a greater opportunity to recognize the many ways that women's history has become woven into the fabric of our state and national story in a more meaningful way. In addition, we launched a new and vibrant website, flwomenshalloffame.org to ensure the legacies of the Women in the Hall of Fame are available to inspire future generations. With the support of the Florida Chamber Foundation, the event was streamed live for audiences around the state and attended by some of the leading voices in Florida government and business.



Mary Lou Baker

Clearwater, FL

The second woman to be elected and serve in the Florida Legislature, Mary Lou Baker was a courageous legislator and author of the historic Women's Emancipation Act (1943).



Kathleen "Scotty" Culp

Satellite Beach, FL

Scotty Culp made military history in 1944 by being the first woman to make a premeditated free fall parachute jump. She spent her life giving to her community, state, and nation.



Katherine Fernandez Rundle

Miami, FL

State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle has relentlessly fought for over 30 years to empower victimized women, crime victims, at-risk youth, and those seeking to get off drugs, always aiming to make Florida safer.

"Every woman in the Florida Women's Hall of Fame represents someone who cast aside so many of the barriers of daily life and moved us forward. I am privileged and humbled by this recognition."

- Katherine Fernandez Rundle, 2017 Florida Women's Hall of Fame Inductee



Celebrating Our 35th Anniversary

Our partnership with the Florida Chamber Foundation, for the first time this year, is strong evidence of our belief in the critical importance of collaboration to further advance, recognize and celebrate the vital work being accomplished by the citizens of our state and is a significant turning point in the Women's Hall of Fame program.

Learn more about the Florida Women's Hall of Fame at flwomenshalloffame.org





FLORIDA COMMISSION *on the STATUS of WOMEN*

2017 Commission Members

Nancy C. Acevedo (Winter Springs)
Maruchi Azorin, M.B.A. (Tampa)
Madelyn Butler (Tampa)
Jennifer Canady (Lakeland)
Rita Barreto Craig (Palm Beach Gardens)
Denise Dell-Powell (Orlando)
Heather Fitzenhagen (Ft. Myers)
Yvonne Fry (Plant City)
Ashley Guinn (Melbourne)
Patti W. Hamilton (Tequesta)
Susanne Hebert (Clearwater)
Karin Hoffman (Light House Point)
Gayle Jacobson (Niceville)
Wenda Lewis (Gainesville)
Genean Hawkins McKinnon (Winter Park)
Cara C. Perry (Palm City)
Jenna Persons (Ft. Myers)
Cindy Hartley Ross (Lakeland)
Elena Guardiola Spottswood (Key West)
Marilyn Stout (Cape Coral)
Lady Dhyana Ziegler, DCJ, Ph.D. (Tallahassee)

CONNECT WITH US AND GET INVOLVED

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Tallahassee, FL 32301
850.414.3300

www.fcsw.net
[Facebook.com/flcsw](https://www.facebook.com/flcsw)
Twitter: @fcswomen

2018 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

February 6-7: Legislative Education Summit, Tallahassee

September: Women's Hall of Fame Induction, Orlando

November: FCSW Florida Achievement Awards, Tampa

WEB www.fcsw.net CALL 850-414-3300



FLORIDA COMMISSION
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FLORIDA 2030
FLORIDA CHAMBER FOUNDATION

2017 Florida Women’s Town Hall Meeting Report

The Commission focused on building and expanding its collaborative relationships throughout the year.

Chief among this effort was our work with the Florida Chamber Foundation as part of the Florida 2030 research project. This two year program will stimulate strategic thinking about Florida’s future and engage business and community leaders in each of Florida’s 67 counties and identify key trends and the factors that can drive their regional economy.

The Commission hosted a **Women’s Town Hall Meeting** as part of our annual Legislative Education Summit in the Capital. Working hand-in-hand with the Chamber Foundation, the Commission collected input and feedback on the challenges and opportunities impacting women and families. The data collected will be included with the Chamber’s soon to be released report and is highlighted in this report.

“Women in Florida should look at science, engineering, and math careers to help improve our infrastructure and environment.”

- 2017 Women’s Town Hall Participant

Florida Facts

According to statistics from the Florida Chamber Foundation:

- Florida is the third most populous state in the nation.
- If Florida were a country, it would be the 16th largest economy in the world.
- More than 1,000 people move to Florida each day.
- By 2030, six million more residents will call Florida home and 2 million more jobs will be needed.

The United Way of Florida estimates:

- Of Florida’s 7.5 million households, 14.5% lived in poverty in 2015.
- A Florida family of four will need to earn \$47,484 to afford basic necessities.
- Today, 45% of Florida’s households are considered “Asset Limited, Income Constrained and Employed” and earn under this threshold, a full 3.3 million households.

http://www.uwof.org/sites/uwof.org/files/17UW%20ALICE%20Report_FL%20Update_2.14.17_Lowres_0.pdf

Collaboration. Education. Celebration.

Following is a summary of responses from participants in the 2017 Florida Women's Town Hall Meeting held on March 29, 2017, at the Florida Capitol.



Responses reflect the views of 57 women from across Florida who participated in the Florida Town Hall.

How long have you lived in your current community?

2 years - 2%
 5 years - 12%
 10 years - 12 %
 20 years - 17%
 All my life - 12 %

Do you work?

Self employed - 31%
 Company - 33%
 Government - 18 %
 Retired - 4%
 Unemployed - 4 %
 Student - 10%

When you think about the future, is YOUR Community positioned for global competition and vibrant & sustainable communities?

Yes - 43%
 No - 57%

How do you feel about the access to talent and a skilled workforce in your community?

Strength and Improving - 8%
 Strength but Weakening - 17%
 Weakness but Improving - 50 %
 Weakness and Getting Worse - 25%

How do you feel about the transportation systems in your community?

Strength and Improving - 17%
 Strength but Weakening - 17%
 Weakness but Improving - 42 %
 Weakness and Getting Worse - 25%

How do you feel about economic development in your community or region?

Strength and Improving - 0%
 Strength but Weakening - 0%
Weakness but Improving - 78%
Weakness and Getting Worse - 22%

How do you feel about the affordability of housing in your community?

Strength and Improving - 0%
 Strength but Weakening - 10%
 Weakness but Improving - 0%
Weakness and Getting Worse - 90%

How do you feel about public safety in your community?

Strength and Improving - 30%
 Strength but Weakening - 20%
 Weakness but Improving - 20 %
 Weakness and Getting Worse - 30%

How do you feel about the responsiveness of the government in your community or region?

Strength and Improving - 0%
 Strength but Weakening - 0%
Weakness but Improving - 78%
Weakness and Getting Worse - 22%

How do you feel about the responsiveness of the government to the needs of women & girls?

Strength and Improving - 7%
 Strength but Weakening - 0%
Weakness but Improving - 50%
Weakness and Getting Worse - 43%

What are the most important barriers facing women where you live? (Free responses from survey.)

- Pay
- Discrimination from other women
- Negativity between women
- Equality
- Affordable childcare
- Devaluing of work women do
- Economic
- Education
- Equal Pay
- Racism
- Resources for women

"We need more female leaders and representatives because women should be making decisions that affect women and families."

