



## **Florida Higher Education Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (FHEASAP)**

### **Mission Statement**

FHE ASAP's mission is to reduce substance abuse in Florida's college-student population by coordinating the prevention efforts of colleges and universities throughout the state. The coalition also intends to advocate for stronger prevention policies, help to organize campus community partnerships, and help members of the coalition develop science-based prevention programs.

### **History of FHEASAP**

A statewide coalition was first proposed in 1999, when discussions were taking place among State University System (SUS) member institutions about the recently mandated Parental Notification Policy. In 2000, representatives from SUS institutions met at FAU to organize the coalition.

Beginning in 2000, alcohol and other drug (AOD) prevention professionals from Florida's public and private colleges and universities have met to discuss ways they could collaborate on programming ideas, alcohol policy and developing new strategies for (AOD) prevention. Steering committee members now meet once per month by telephone conference call. Collective efforts have resulted in (a) the selection of a coalition name: FHE ASAP (b) a mission statement (c) goals and objectives (d) a letter sent to all Vice Presidents of Student Affairs (e) a Higher Education Track, sponsored by Florida State University, at the annual Prevention First Conference which is sponsored each year by Florida's Office of Drug Control and (f) support from the Higher Education Center for Alcohol and other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention. Currently, 37 two-and four-year colleges, universities, coalitions, hospitality organizations and other non-profit prevention organizations are members.

### **Objectives**

- Conduct statewide assessment on the levels of high-risk drinking among young adults in the state of Florida and costs of alcohol abuse to their respective communities.
- Strengthen campus and community alcohol policies, e.g. expand AOD-free housing, limit underage access, restrict alcohol marketing, increase enforcement efforts, and heighten public awareness about AOD-related issues.
- Open lines of communication and increase collaboration among community stakeholders including parents, city officials, law enforcement, neighborhood associations, treatment professionals, the faith community, and business owners.
- Produce a report making policy recommendations at the state level and advocate for additional prevention programming resources for individual IHEs.
- Promote a positive normative environment through media campaigns directed at changing student attitudes about the acceptability of high-risk drinking.

### **Data Collection**

A gap exists in the systematic collection of data used to estimate the use of alcohol and other drugs by college students in the state of Florida. The Florida Higher Education Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, with funding from The Florida Department of Children and Families, contracted with the University of Central Florida to conduct the 2008 Florida Core Study. Participating institutions administered The Core Alcohol and Other Drug Survey to a random sample of their students. The study estimated young adults' self-reported rate and frequency use of alcohol and other drugs and estimated the frequency of harms (e.g., missed class, arguments or fights, driving under the influence) related to substance use. These results provide critical baseline data.

**Officers:** May, 2009-May 2012

**Chair:** Tom Hall, MSW, LCSW, Director Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programs, UCF

**Chair-elect:** E. Maureen Miller, MPH, CHES, Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention Specialist, University of Florida

*May 2009*