

## Florida House Representative Matt Hudson Visits the Hodges Naples Campus

Florida House Representative Matt Hudson visited the Naples campus to engage students about Florida's legislative process on Thursday, February 28th, 2008. Students of Dr. Jackreeces' American Government class, the Fort Myers Legal Society, and ICUF Presidential Fellow Mary Cosmo met with Rep. Hudson. Students from the Ft. Myers campus also logged on the chat live during the visit. He spoke on many topics, such as the current budgeting issues, the cuts we may be facing including FRAG, where a bill originates and how it may or may not get passed.

He also walked students through Florida's excellent web site ([myfloridahouse.gov](http://myfloridahouse.gov)) and showed students how they can follow a bill through each step, as well as challenged students to be engaged through this very important process.



Rep. Matt Hudson speaking to students from Hodges

At [myfloridahouse.gov](http://myfloridahouse.gov) you can find a lot of other useful information regarding who your representative is, what bills they have previously voted on, personal background information, who sits on a committee with your representative, and much more.



Rep. Matt Hudson and Dr. Jackreeces (Professor of American Government at Hodges)

Rep Hudson's constituent area consist of parts of eastern Collier and the western portion of Broward County. Rep. Hudson was elected to the Florida House of Representatives on November 20, 2007. He is on the Economic Development Committee, Health Quality Committee, and Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee. As Rep Hudson spoke to students he challenged them with one question each: if they could change one thing about Florida what would it be? Students' answers ranged from traffic and I-75 issues, FRAG, FCAT testing, healthcare issues, to Nuclear generation and waste issues.

Rep. Hudson was scheduled to visit for just a half hour, but with so much student engagement he end up staying almost two hours answering questions, all of relevant importance. He also challenged Dr. Jackreeces' class to write a press release of a current bill he will be introducing. It was a great visit where local government and students where able to be openly engaged in a relaxed environment that is sure to inspire more of this type of engagement with students in the future.

-Mary Cosmo  
Hodges University  
ICUF Presidential Fellow  
Ft Myers Legal Society President



Nur Torres (Treasurer of the Legal Society), Rep. Matt Hudson, and Mary Cosmo (ICUF Presidential Fellow)