

GAINESVILLE RESPONSIBLE HOSPITALITY COALITION

Gainesville's Hospitality Businesses Participate In Safety Workshop



More than one hundred individuals—owners, managers, and staff of Gainesville's bars, restaurants, and night clubs—attended the first ***Hospitality Safety & Security Workshop*** at the Thomas Center on Tuesday, August 16. The workshop was organized by the Gainesville Responsible Hospitality Coalition, a group made up of City of Gainesville officials, local hospitality businesses, University of Florida student leaders, and others dedicated to responsible hospitality.

As the University of Florida prepares for the upcoming semester, so too have the businesses prepared by hiring new staff and having them and returning employees attend the workshop which featured I.D. checking techniques, security measures, and emergency response procedures.

Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Agent Jeff Yonce, Gainesville Police Department Corporal Brian Fundenburg, and Gainesville Fire Department Inspector Sandy Ellison spoke to the attendees about preventing underage drinking and keeping hospitality patrons safe.

"The workshop was exactly what my staff needed, especially my new hires, to raise their awareness of their responsibilities as servers and bartenders," said Frank Villante of the Swamp.

The Gainesville Responsible Hospitality Coalition has been meeting throughout the summer and is organizing a Gator Stomping Task Force to address safety issues at the event.

