



Dear Annual Class Program Applicant:

It is my great pleasure to launch the application process for Leadership Florida's thirty-sixth Class. As you prepare to complete the attached application, please review the following information designed to provide you with a greater understanding of Leadership Florida and the selection criteria. All applications are reviewed by a statewide Selection Committee and your application should reflect who you are.

### **WHO WE ARE**

*Leadership Florida is leadership in Florida.* Celebrating 36 years of educating, engaging, and inspiring Florida's leaders, Leadership Florida is a highly respected and trusted leadership organization. Our mission is to continually convene a statewide community of committed leaders to enhance and recharge their leadership skills and to educate and inspire them to work across their strengths and diversities for a better Florida. We engage Floridians by providing meaningful forums for sharing essential information and viewpoints, and we create opportunities for shared experiences that are inviting, inspiring and of lasting value.

### **THE ANNUAL CLASS PROGRAM**

One of the many ways we work to accomplish our mission is through our annual class program. For our thirty-sixth class, 55 leaders aged 40 and older will be chosen to participate in a stimulating and thought-provoking ten-month educational program that consists of a series of 5 (five) two and three-day sessions held in cities throughout the state, the culmination of which is the equivalent of a sixth session where you will join fellow Leadership Florida members at our Annual Meeting. These sessions include programming on issues critical to Florida, refining well-developed leadership skills via sessions with leadership experts, and relevant information on Florida's history, demography, diversities, challenges, and opportunities.

One of the most rewarding and lasting benefits of the program is the chance to spend valuable time interacting with other leaders from a variety of professions, philosophies, and geographies who represent Florida's diverse ethnic and racial composition. The program sessions provide ample experiences designed to facilitate the deepening of relationships among the Class members and thus extend the network of relationships that form the fabric of our statewide leadership.

**Session I: Foundation Building for the Year** - Getting to know one another, Florida history, Florida and U.S. demography, Florida's environmental strengths and challenges, Florida politics, and leadership skills assessment and training.

**Sessions II – IV: Critical Issues, “But For...” Experiences, and Understanding Florida’s Diverse Communities** - The issues included in Sessions II-IV depend upon what the most current and paramount issues are, and on the resources available in the regions visited.

**Session V: International and Societal** - As long as the Annual Class Program concludes its year in Miami, programming will focus on the diversity and international aspects of that community, climate change and sea level rise, early childhood education, and “but for” experiences unique to Miami. The session will conclude with Class graduation along with a few surprises!

**Session VI: Leadership Florida Annual Meeting** - In addition to spending time with your Class and celebrating your time together, the Annual Meeting allows you to connect with the broader LF membership base while learning from national level speakers in a retreat-type setting. Families and spouses welcome!

Graduation from the Class does not signify the end, but only the beginning of a lifetime of opportunity as a member of Leadership Florida. Leadership Florida convenes regular meetings, regional and statewide, to facilitate continuing issues-oriented education, advanced leadership training, networking, and the opportunity for members to work together toward shared goals.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Leadership Florida Selection Committee, comprised of Leadership Florida graduates from throughout the state, seeks to identify those individuals most likely to utilize their leadership abilities for the long-term benefit of Florida and individuals who are committed to making Florida a better place in which to live and prosper. Through the application

process, including discussions with references, the committee strives to select participants who will provide the Class with broad professional, geographic, ethnic, and gender representation. The basic profile of and criteria for selection are:

- ◆ Senior-level leaders with significant achievements in career and community;
- ◆ Sincere concern about the future of Florida and a personal commitment to help shape its future;
- ◆ Demonstrated commitment to community through past and present activities;
- ◆ The potential for exercising substantial leadership in the future; and
- ◆ Willingness to commit the time and energy necessary to continue involvement in the organization.

We deeply appreciate your interest in Leadership Florida. Should you have any questions about the application, or about Leadership Florida, please call Leadership Florida's program director, Rachel Massey, at (850) 521-1220, ext. 105.

Sincerely,



Jeff Wahlen (Class XXI)  
Chair, Board of Directors

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## APPLICATION PROCESS FOR CLASS XXXVI

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- Application must be postmarked to the Leadership Florida office by no later than **May 5, 2017**. Address: 215 South Monroe Street Suite 710, Tallahassee, FL 32301.
- A processing fee of \$100 must accompany the application. Applications will not be considered until the processing fee has been received. Processing fee can be paid by mailing a check payable to Leadership Florida to our office address or via online payment when completing the electronic version of the applicant.
- Applicants will be notified of the Selection Committee's decision by mid-July 2017.
- Please keep in mind that while the Selection Committee is evaluating individual applications, it is also building a class that represents Florida's diversity—professionally and geographically, as well as in the areas of age, race, gender, and ethnicity.
- Tuition for Class XXXVI is \$5,450.

### **PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

Participants are required to attend the ***entire opening session*** and at least 80% of the remaining five program sessions. The 2017 – 2018 program year is scheduled as follows:

<b>Wednesday, September 13 – Friday, September 15, 2017</b>	<b><i>Howey-in-the-Hills</i></b>
<b>Wednesday, November 15 – Friday, November 17, 2017</b>	<b><i>Naples</i></b>
<b>Wednesday, January 17 – Friday, January 19, 2018</b>	<b><i>St. Petersburg</i></b>
<b>Wednesday, February 28 – Friday, March 2, 2018</b>	<b><i>Tallahassee</i></b>
<b>Wednesday, May 9 – Saturday, May 12, 2018</b>	<b><i>Miami</i></b>
<b>Thursday, June 14 – Sunday, June 17, 2018</b>	<b><i>LF Annual Meeting, Sarasota</i></b>

Scholarships are available for up to 50% of the tuition. *Payment plans are also available.*



<i>For Office Use Only:</i>	
Photo	_____
App fee	_____
Signature	_____
Tuition grant	_____

## Class XXXVI Application Form

### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

**PART I:** Please answer every question thoroughly. In order to facilitate the application process, please use additional sheets of paper to answer the following questions and type your answers. **Please duplicate the number and question you are answering with your response. Where indicated, please note word limits. Exceeding the word limits may disqualify your application or negatively impact your rating.**

**Please note: You must be 40 years of age or older on September 13, 2017 to be eligible to apply for the Annual Class Program. Applicants who will be under the age of 40 on the date noted above should complete the application for the Connect Florida Institute.**

### PERSONAL DATA

1. Full name
2. First name or nickname preferred
3. Company name
4. Title
5. Business address
6. Business phone
7. Email
8. Cell phone
9. Assistant's name (if applicable)
10. Assistant's e-mail address (if applicable)
11. How long you have lived in Florida?
12. Have you applied to Leadership Florida in the past? If yes, what year(s)?

Leadership Florida takes pride in choosing a class that is diverse in all areas. Please provide the following demographic information:

13. Gender
14. Age
15. Date of Birth
16. Please circle all that apply:  
African American  
Asian / Pacific Islander  
Caucasian  
Hispanic/Latino  
Native American
17. Respecting diversity is one of LF's core values. If you believe there is something about you that would be useful for us to know as we attempt to assemble a Class that reflects the diversity of Florida, but is not reflected elsewhere in your application, here is a chance for you to explain it. Answering this question is voluntary; no response is required. \_\_\_\_\_

It is Leadership Florida's policy that members shall conduct themselves in an ethical and lawful manner, and shall not engage in activities that reflect negatively on Leadership Florida.

18. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? For purposes of answering this question, "convicted" includes a plea of guilty, a plea of no contest and/or a finding of guilt by a judge, jury, whether or not adjudication is withheld. Circle one: Yes No

If yes, please explain and include the offense, date of conviction and material terms of sentence.

### **EDUCATION**

19. Please list your educational and military (if applicable) achievements, including any significant awards or honors and dates attended.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

20. Please state your workplace's mission statement. If your workplace does not have a mission statement, please state your own or elaborate on your role in the workplace. **(100 word limit)**
21. Please list employment for the past 15 years in reverse chronological order (including active military duty) including title/responsibility, and beginning and ending dates.
22. Please check one of the following categories that best describes your present employment:

- Business/Industry
- Law
- Government
- Healthcare
- Education
- Social Services
- Religion
- Arts
- Media
- Nonprofit
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The Selection Committee places great emphasis on the time you commit to improving your community through volunteer activities.

23. In order of importance to you, list up to 5 volunteer, community, civic, professional, business, social, athletic, religious, or other organizations in which you are currently active or have been active in the past, and in which you have assumed a leadership role. **(250 word limit)**
24. Please describe an issue that you have impacted personally, which illustrates your actions as a trustee of your community? **(250 word limit)**
25. If you have not had the time or interest to become actively involved, what conditions have changed that now enable you to seek involvement in your community and state? **(250 word limit)**

## **STATEWIDE AND LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE**

Our Mission Statement:

*At Leadership Florida, we continually discover and convene committed individuals, enhancing and recharging their leadership skills by introducing them to a powerful community through whom they find knowledge and inspiration. We engage Floridians by providing essential information and a meaningful forum for their opinions, and create opportunities for shared experiences that are inviting, inspiring and of lasting value.*

26. What about the Leadership Florida mission motivated you to submit this application? **(250 word limit)**
27. Describe your unique blend of personality, skills, and life experiences that you would contribute to your class. **(250 word limit)**
28. Explain what you consider the two most notable opportunities Florida has to offer. **(250 word limit)**
29. Explain what you consider the two most pressing problems facing Florida. **(250 word limit)**

## **PART II: REFERENCES**

30. Please list contact information for two persons who are in a position to comment on what you would bring to the Leadership Florida's Annual Class Program. Provide their name, title, business address and telephone number as well as email address.

## **PART III: COMMITMENT**

By submitting this application, I understand that Leadership Florida is much more than a ten-month program and that if selected, I will be expected to continue as an active member of the organization by sharing my time, talents, and resources to support its work.

I understand the purpose of the Leadership Florida program, and if I am selected I will devote the time and resources necessary to complete the program. I understand that the entire opening retreat is mandatory and that even though emergencies do arise, any participant missing more than four one-half day segments during the remaining four sessions, for whatever reason, will be asked to withdraw from the program and no portion of the tuition shall be refunded. I have the full support of my employer for the time required to participate. I agree to be bound by the above commitments in signing this application.

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*Applicant Signature*

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*Date*

## **PART IV: TUITION**

The cost of the Leadership Florida's Annual Class Program is \$5,450 per participant (not including lodging), payable upon acceptance to the program. Tuition must be paid by August 30, 2017 unless other arrangements are made with the Program Director. Tuition also includes the first year's dues of \$275. **Partial scholarships** will be available based on financial need, and payment plans are also available.

A tuition grant application form is attached for completion by applicants requesting financial assistance. Please submit this form at the same time as your application. **This form will be removed from the application upon receipt. The Selection Committee will not see this form until after the selection process has been completed.**

#### **PART V: CANCELLATION POLICY**

- Prior to opening retreat, if you are replaced by one of our alternates, you will receive a full refund, less \$250.
- Prior to opening retreat, but too late to be replaced by an alternate, you will receive a full refund, less \$1,000.
- After the opening retreat, there will be no refund.



## Class XXXVI Tuition Grant Application

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The tuition cost for each participant in Leadership Florida's Annual Class Program is \$5,450 (not including lodging) and includes meals for all sessions at which attendance is required.

It is expected that the employers and families of all participants understand and fully support the significant commitment of time away from home and office, as well as the financial obligation, which participation in Leadership Florida requires. A very limited amount of financial assistance is available for tuition scholarships of up to \$2,725 for individuals who are accepted to the program and are not able to fully finance their participation solely from their employer's or personal resources.

We ask your cooperation in providing the following information to assist the Selection Committee in the scholarship process.

### **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Please be sure to answer every question.

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. I am applying for a partial tuition grant of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Household income (Include all combined wages earned from other sources of income to indicate the appropriate income level.):  

_____ \$25,000 or under	_____ \$65,001 - \$85,000
_____ \$25,001 - \$45,000	_____ \$85,001 - \$100,000
_____ \$45,001 - \$65,000	_____ \$100,001 +
4. What, if any, extenuating circumstances exist that would create an unusual hardship or preclude you from paying all or a portion of your tuition (e.g. recent catastrophic loss, medical expenses, dependents, etc.)?
5. Based on need, if it is determined that other tuition assistance requests preclude you from receiving a scholarship, will this prevent your participation in this program?  Yes  No
6. Will you require a six month payment plan for the remainder of the tuition cost? Yes  No

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_