



Dear Connect Florida Institute Applicant:

It is my great pleasure to launch the application process for Connect Florida's next class. As you prepare to complete the attached application, please review the following information designed to provide you with a greater understanding of the Connect Florida Institute 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 celebrating its 36th year of building a statewide network of leaders, diverse in their professions, background, and geography, but all committed to working together to build a stronger Florida. Eight years ago, LF created the Connect Florida Institute to educate, engage and inspire professionals between the ages of 25 to 39, preparing them to lead Florida to a brighter future.

THE CONNECT FLORIDA INSTITUTE

The Connect Florida Statewide Leadership Institute is a program designed to educate, engage and inspire our state's top emerging leaders. Connect Florida, a program of Leadership Florida, a non-profit organization, is the statewide catalyst that empowers Florida's new generation of leaders to make Florida a better place.

The Connect Florida Institute is modeled after Leadership Florida's Annual Class Program. Each year the Selection Committee chooses a diverse group of emerging leaders to participate in this dynamic statewide leadership program. The curriculum offers an extensive orientation to the issues facing our state and is designed to enhance the participants' leadership skills, provide practical experience in community service, and facilitate opportunities to interact with statewide leaders. The overall goal of the Connect Florida Institute is to be a portal for our state's future leaders to develop the skills they need to enhance their potential as future decision makers at the regional and statewide level.

TENTATIVE SESSION SCHEDULE

Session I: Leadership: Theory into Action - Leadership assessment, teambuilding activities, and audiences with local leaders.

Session II: Learn About the Key Issues Affecting Florida - Education oriented programming focusing on topics such as military, healthcare, transportation, education, environment, and economy.

Session III: Know Your State - Connect Day at the Capitol Programming focusing on Florida's political and legislative processes.

Session IV: Making an Impact - Applying your leadership skills to community based issues and learning from leaders who have impacted their communities. Connect Day of Service project in host city. The session will conclude with class graduation along with a few surprises!

Session V: 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!

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Connect Florida Selection Committee, comprised of Leadership Florida and Connect Florida program graduates from throughout the state, seeks to identify those individuals most likely to utilize their leadership abilities for the long-term benefit of Florida, 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. Basic criteria for selection are:

- ◆ A commitment, motivation, and interest in serving Florida;
- ◆ A concern for Florida's welfare, demonstrated by past community and statewide activities;
- ◆ An identification of potential or existing occupational responsibilities that have significant influence on important issues facing the State, and

- ◆ A commitment to continued involvement in Leadership Florida.

I'm very hopeful you will apply. Florida needs bright, energetic and forward thinking leaders – Florida needs you. **The attached application is due May 5th, 2017.** Should you have any questions about the application, or about Connect Florida, please call Rachel Massey, Director of Programs at (850) 521-1220, ext. 105.

Sincerely,



Chester W. Spellman
Chair
Connect Florida

215 South Monroe Street
Suite 710
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Office: 850-521-1220
Fax: 850-521-1229
www.LeadershipFlorida.org



**Connect Florida Institute
Application
CLASS VIII**

We welcome your application to Connect Florida's Class VIII, as it demonstrates your desire for personal and professional development, as well as your commitment to providing strong leadership for Florida.

Selection is based on a variety of factors, such as your demonstration of leadership in a professional capacity and in the community. 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.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The 2017-2018 program year is **tentatively** scheduled as follows:

Session I:	October 5 – 7, 2017	Orlando
Session II:	November 2 – 4, 2017	Pensacola
Session III:	February 8 – 10, 2018	Tallahassee
Session IV:	April 12 – 14, 2018	Miami
Session V:	June 14 – 17, 2018	Annual Meeting, Sarasota

The entire **opening retreat is mandatory**. Participants are required to attend at least 80% of the remaining program sessions.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

DEADLINES & FEES

- Applications are to be submitted online at www.LeadershipFlorida.org/Apply by **5:00pm on Friday, May 5, 2017**. Applications can be mailed to the Leadership Florida office and must be received by **5:00pm on Friday, May 5, 2017**. Address: 215 South Monroe Street, Suite 710, Tallahassee, FL 32301.
- A processing fee of **\$40** must accompany applications, made payable to Connect Florida.
- Applicants will be notified of the Selection Committee's decision no later than mid-July 2017.
- Electronic applications will not be considered until the processing fee has been received.

FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION

- Applications should be submitted online at www.LeadershipFlorida.org/Apply
- If mailing your application, it must be typed or computer generated.
- Please use additional sheets of paper to answer the following questions.
- Be sure to answer every question.
- Please indicate the question number you are answering with your response.
- Please include a professional resume with application.

Please note: You must be 39 years of age or younger on September 13, 2017 to be eligible to apply for the Connect Florida Institute. Applicants who will be over the age of 39 on the date noted above should complete the application for the Leadership Florida Annual Class Program.

PART I:

Personal Information

1. Full Name
2. Name Preferred
3. Company Name
4. Title/Position
5. Business Address
6. Preferred Phone
7. Email Address
8. Cell Phone
9. Hobbies and Special Interests
10. How long have you lived in Florida (include city names if you have lived in multiple cities)

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

11. Gender
12. Age
13. Date of Birth
14. Please circle all that apply:
African American
Asian / Pacific Islander
Caucasian
Hispanic/Latino
Native American
15. 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. _____
16. How many ways did you hear about our program? (Check all that apply)
 Leadership Florida member - please provide name(s): _____
 Connect Florida graduate - please provide name(s): _____
 Social Media
 Website
 Other: _____

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

17. 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

18. List names and locations of all schools, dates attended, degree(s) earned and major(s) starting with your most advanced degree.
19. List leadership positions, awards, recognitions and/or special honors at institutions above: (SGA President, Dean's list, etc).

Professional Involvement

20. What sector best describes your current employment?
 Business Industry

- Law
- Government
- Healthcare
- Education
- Social Services
- Religion
- Art
- Media
- Non Profit

Your organization's approximate number of employees: _____

21. Briefly describe your current position and corresponding responsibilities (250 word limit).
22. List previous employment in reverse chronological order (including active military duty). Include employer, title/responsibility and start/end dates.
23. Are you involved with business or professional organizations, board or civic/volunteer activities (example: Chamber, First Coast Manufacturers Association, Big Brothers Big Sisters, etc)? If so please list name of group, position held and the period of affiliation.
24. How did you exhibit leadership in TWO of the above activities/organizations? What was its lasting effect on you and your community? (250 words per each activity/500 total words for this section)

Leadership Involvement

Connect Florida's mission is to educate, engage and inspire our state's top emerging leaders.

25. Briefly describe your personal and professional goals.
26. What motivated you to apply to Connect Florida, and why now?
27. Describe your unique blend of personality, skills and life experiences that you will bring to the Connect Florida class?

Statewide Perspective

Please note that clarity and insight will be a factor in scoring.

28. What do you see as the **THREE** top challenges for the State? (Please limit your word count to 250 words or less for EACH challenge; total section word limit is 750)

PART II:

References and Other

29. List name, telephone number and email of **TWO** persons who are able to comment on your qualifications and be contacted by the Selection Committee. Also please briefly explain how their knowledge of you will be helpful to the Selection Committee? Please check the box below:

Reference 1:

- Personal Reference Professional Reference

Name:

Email:

Telephone Number:

Reference 2:

- Personal Reference Professional Reference

Name:

Email:

Telephone Number:

30. Please provide any additional information that will assist the Selection Committee in evaluating your application.

PART III:
Commitment

I understand that the Connect Florida Leadership Institute is much more than a 9-month program. It is a building block of a dynamic organization that requires activism from all members by sharing their time, talents and resources to support its efforts. By recognizing this, I agree to the following:

I understand the purpose of Connect Florida and its Leadership Institute program. If I am selected, I will devote the time, energy, enthusiasm and resources necessary for program participation. I understand that even though emergencies do arise, any participant missing more than **20%** of the segments, regardless of reason, will be asked to withdraw from the program and no portion of my tuition is eligible for refund. I have the full support of my employer and family for the time required to participate. I agree to be bound by the above commitments in signing this application.

Applicant Signature

Date

PART IV:
Tuition

(Tuition is generally paid by your employer. An extremely limited number of scholarships may be available in amounts of up to \$1800. Scholarships are generally awarded in special cases, such as for those who work for non-profit agencies, or those who are self-employed. Payment plans are also available.)

Tuition for full participation in Class VIII is \$3,250 (not including lodging), payable upon acceptance to the program. Tuition is non-refundable and must be paid by September 30, 2017, unless other arrangements are made with the Program Director.

Tuition covers program costs, class materials, and most food. Tuition is non-refundable, in whole or in part, in the event you fail to complete the program due to non-attendance or for other reasons. Tuition also includes first year's dues of \$275, and the registration fee for the Leadership Florida 2018 Annual Meeting.

Part V:
Submitting Your Application

Applications are to be filled out and submitted online at www.LeadershipFlorida.org/Apply

Applications can be mailed to: Leadership Florida
c/o Rachel Massey
215 South Monroe Street
Suite 710
Tallahassee, FL 32301

****Applications will not be considered until the accompanying application fee is received.***



Connect Florida Institute
Application
Tuition Payment & Assistance
Information

Tuition assistance has no bearing on the selection process, and the Selection Committee will not see this portion of your application.

The tuition cost for participation in Connect Florida's Leadership Institute is \$3,250 per participant (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 Connect Florida requires. A very limited amount of funding is available for tuition scholarships of up to \$1,800 for individuals who are accepted to the program and are not able to fully finance their participation solely from their employers' or personal resources.

Please check the appropriate box(s) below:

My tuition will be paid by: Employer / sponsor ___
Self ___

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate the scholarship application process, please use an additional sheet of paper to answer the following questions. Please type your answers. Be sure to answer every question. Please indicate the number and question you are answering with your response.

- 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. Indicate the appropriate income level.):
\$25,000 or under \$25,001 - \$45,000 \$45,001 - \$65,000 \$65,001 - \$85,000 \$85,001 - \$100,000 \$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