

e-Cast



Connecting a statewide community of leaders actively engaged in understanding and serving Florida.

Volume I, No. 4, Winter 2016

RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT!



Leadership Florida classes are great because of great Leadership Florida members. The application deadlines for Class XXXV, Connect VII and Education II are quickly approaching and we need you to spread the word! Please forward the applications below to key leaders in your community to help make each program hold the title of "best class ever!"

We encourage you to assist your recruits with the application process, invite them to regional events that are open for recruits and follow-up with them as the deadline approaches.

- [Class XXXV Application](#) - Due April 29
- [Connect Institute Class VII Application](#) - Due May 15
- [Education II Application](#) - Due April 8

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT WENDY WALKER



Larry Hamilton (Class XVII), Wendy, and NE Regional Chair Husein Cumber (Class XXX) at the Northeast Welcome Reception for Class XXXIV

It's recruiting season and we're not looking for blockers and tacklers; we're looking for stars who will use their talents to move Florida down the field. We've fielded a lot of teams over Leadership Florida's history -- thirty-four Annual Program classes, seventeen College Leadership Florida classes, ten Local Government Leadership classes, nine Executive Program classes, six Connect Institute classes, and our first-ever Leadership in Education class. As all of you know who have participated on one of those "teams," coming up with the perfect mix of talent is more art than science. It's recruiting Florida leaders who are committed to learning from and giving to others, whose character and beliefs are strong, but who recognize the value that all members of the team bring to the field. (Do you think I've been watching too many bowl and playoff games???)

Read the reflections below from Lila, Gus, Estella and Patty to be reminded of who we're looking for. Your staff and program planning volunteers can book the best speakers and design the most compelling content possible, but it's what you get from one another that matters most. Spend some time seriously considering who will benefit *from* and give back *to* Leadership Florida. It's the most important thing you can do as a member.

Lastly, Lila mentions the **Magic** of Leadership Florida and we are taking you to Florida's most magical place for our 2016 Annual Meeting Walt Disney World and specifically, the Grand Floridian. We've just added an additional fifty hotel rooms per night to keep up with the demand. So, if you haven't booked

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

WEST CENTRAL

A yearlong feature that will cover the State.

From "Imperial Polk" County on the east to our Florida's most densely populated county, Pinellas, on the west, Leadership Florida members in our West Central Region are doing extraordinary things in their professions, for their communities, for Florida and for our organization. Duke Power, Times Publishing, Publix, WellCare and many other large and small corporations are being led by Leadership Florida members. The University of South Florida, the University of Tampa, St. Petersburg College and USF's St. Petersburg campus all have Leadership Florida members serving as their presidents. Bob Buckhorn is doing amazing things as mayor of Tampa, as is Joe Lopano as CEO of the Tampa International Airport and Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, and our first Leadership in Education Program class boasts Florida's 2015 Teacher of the Year, Christine Bassett. Quite a lineup of leaders!



Members: 219
New Members: 26
Counties: 6

This year, members of the LF Leadership Team listed below have hosted Connect Class VI, the Connect reunion, Class XXXIV, the Leadership Florida Board, directors of statewide leadership programs from throughout the country, as well as gatherings of regional members. AND, this coming April, they will host our ninth Executive Leadership Program. We can't thank them enough.

Terin Barbas Cremer, West Central Regional Council Associate General Counsel, Bankers Financial Corporation

David Capece, West Central Regional Chair CEO and Founder, Sparxoo

Ben Dachevall, West Central Regional Council Shareholder, Hill Ward Henderson

Ben Diamond, West Central Regional Council Partner, Williamson, Diamond & Caton

Liz Goodman, At-Large Board Member Vice President, Public Policy, WellCare Health Plan

Jeff Johnson, Class XXXIV Program Chair State Director, AARP

Jess Johnson, Class XXXIII Representative Senior Managing Director, Savills Studley

Seth McKeel, West Central Regional Council Managing Partner, Southern Strategies

Katie Pemble, West Central Regional Council

Nadine Smith, Recruitment Chair Executive Director/CEO, Equality Florida

your room, you better do it now. We'll spend a magical time together, renewing, reenergizing, and reengaging looking forward to seeing you there!

CATCHING UP WITH... LILA JABER (CLASS XXIII)



Please share highlights from your membership/involvement with Leadership Florida.

The Leadership Florida experience is unmatched. I now realize that getting into Leadership Florida occurred during a critical year of personal and professional reflection. Embracing the class experience and each of my classmates the MadHatters was a life changer that only now can I say I fully understand many years later. I often say that Leadership Florida is what YOU make it and it is definitely a unique experience for each of us. I made my experience an opportunity to embrace the diversity in our state, meeting new people and finding honesty and joy in each of us. And, I allowed others to get to know me. I was already a public servant when I applied to Leadership Florida but it is through Leadership Florida that I matured even further to

realize my *individual* responsibility to make our state and our lives better not just for me and my family but for all of us. [Continue reading...](#)

2016 CONNECT DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Connect continues to advance the agenda of Florida's future leaders by hosting the Fourth Annual Connect Florida Day @ the Capitol.

We encourage all Leadership Florida members to invite young professionals to this first-hand look at a Leadership Florida program and our Connect Florida Institute by registering for Connect Day @ the Capitol!

February 4-5, 2016 - [visit Connect Day @ the Capitol for more information and to register](#)
Registration: \$175



2016 ANNUAL MEETING - DAVID MADLAND

Your 2016 Annual Meeting Committee is excited to reveal the first keynote speaker: nationally-renowned economist & author **DAVID MADLAND!**



[David Madland](#) is a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress. He has written extensively about the economy and American politics on a range of topics, including the middle class, economic inequality and retirement policy. He is the author of *Hollowed Out: Why the Economy Doesn't Work without a Strong Middle Class*.

A strong middle class, as thinkers from Aristotle to James Madison to modern political scientists have noted, fosters better governance by helping ensure government is well-run, increasing citizen participation, minimizing factional fighting, and promoting policies for the benefit of all of society rather than special interests." David Madland

Madland has appeared frequently on television shows, including PBS NewsHour and CNN's Crossfire; has been cited in such publications as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and The New Yorker; and has been a guest on dozens of radio talk shows across the United States. He has testified before Congress on a number of occasions, as well as several state legislatures.

More than **220** hotel rooms have been booked under the Leadership Florida rate of \$209 (standard rates are \$622 - \$764). [Hurry to reserve your space before rooms run out!](#)

Remember, every full registrant will receive a **ONE DAY PARK HOPPER PASS** good through June 23, 2018 (\$138.45 value).

*Registration will open in the spring.

BUT FOR...

Two exciting new "But For" opportunities for all Leadership Florida members!

**Coconut Grove Arts Festival
"But For" Gathering for Leadership Florida
February 14th**

Save the date for Southeast Region's VIP event at Miamis [Coconut Grove Arts Festival](#). We hope you'll mark **Sunday, February 14th** on your calendar and plan a trip down south with your family for a great gathering. Be on the lookout for an email soon with more details from the Southeast Regional Council.

**White Oak Conservatory
October 17-21, 2016**

Class XXVII is planning a reunion this fall at [White Oak Conservatory](#) and would welcome any Leadership Florida member who wants to join! Please save the date and look for more information in the next e-Cast.
October 17-21, 2016



White Oak tour in Yulee, FL

AWARDS



DEADLINE EXTENDED!

Nomination forms for Leadership Florida's 2016 Awards are now available! Please look over the three award categories and consider nominating an individual or organization to be recognized at the 2016 Annual Meeting, June 23-26. The deadline for submission is **Monday, February 15th**, and there is no limit on the number of nominees you may submit.

[Distinguished Member Award](#)
[LeRoy Collins Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
[Florida Impact Award](#)



Distinguished Member Award winner, Sean Pittman (Class XXI) with NW Regional Chair Deborah Curry (Class XXXII)

LIFETIME MEMBERS - 156, 157 AND 158!

Leadership Florida welcomes our newest Lifetime Members, Greg Holden (Class XXXII), Sarah Alsofrom (Class XXXII) and Bob Rhodes (Executive VI). Thank you both for supporting the mission of Leadership Florida!





L to R: Greg Holden, Vice President, Manning & Napier Advisors; Sarah Alsofrom, Community Relations Director, GL Homes; Bob Rhodes, Attorney, Robert Rhodes, Attorney at Law

158 Leadership Florida members have chosen to become "Lifetime Members" by making a pledge of \$6,000 to the Leadership Florida Endowment Fund. When their gift has been paid in full, the member is no longer responsible for paying dues to the organization. The entire gift is tax-deductible and strengthens the health of Leadership Florida, allowing it the sound financial footing it needs to continue to fulfill its mission and serve its members. Pledges can be paid all at once (there is a 10% discount for gifts paid in one lump sum) or through a payment plan up to five years. For more information, contact Christine Lucas at (850)521-1220 x 102 or clucas@leadershipflorida.org.

LEADERSHIP FLORIDA PROGRAMS

"Leadership Florida has been an amazing experience to date, not only because of the experiences we have shared, but more importantly because of the people who make up this class and the friendships we have made. Every classmate is a singular talent, bringing their unique experiences to the group and teaching us all in their own way about the diversity and the bright future of the state we all love. I am proud to be a part of this group." - Gus Corbella, Greenberg Traurig, **Class XXXIV**

"My experiences with Connect Florida are absolutely refreshing. Every community offers a fellows or leadership institute, but this program thrives on leadership, diversity and authenticity. We are an authentic group of people who are energized to lead Florida on purpose. We represent Florida's glorious diverse tapestry and I love it!" - Estella Gray, Southwest Florida Water Management District, **Connect VI**

"Leadership Florida Education is a truly amazing and enriching experience. As a school board member I particularly like the opportunity to meet others involved in education from around the state, who came not knowing what to expect, but knowing they wanted to learn and grow in their understanding of the challenges and opportunities for education in the future." - Patty Hightower, Escambia County School Board, **Leadership in Education Class I**



UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

- **January 28 - 29:** Education Session 3 in Jacksonville
- **February 4 - 5:** Connect Day at the Capitol
- **February 4 - 6:** Connect VI Session 3 in Tallahassee
- **February 14:** SE VIP at Coconut Grove Art Festival
- **February 16:** SE Meet the new UM President
- **February 18:** NW Jon Meacham at FSU Dunlap
- **February 24:** EC Reception at IHMC
- **February 25:** WC Connect Florida Reception
- **February 29:** Awards Committee Meeting
- **March 3:** WC Recruitment at TB Bucs Facility



R to L: Gus Corbella with classmate Rep. Pepe Diaz in Jacksonville; Estella Gray with friend Elaina Narain in Tampa; Patty Hightower with classmate Christie Bassett in Tallahassee

Class XXXIV Jacksonville Session Sponsors



GIVING CHALLENGE DONORS

KAREN BOWLING (CLASS XXV) LEERIE JENKINS (CLASS X) TEALA JOHNSON (CLASS XIV)
DREW PRUSIECKI (CLASS XXIV) NAN ROTHSTEIN (CLF CLASS IV) CONNIE SMITH (CLASS XXXIII)

Connect Class VI Tampa Session Sponsors

STATEWIDE AMBASSADORS

STATEWIDE PARTNERS



LOCAL SPONSORS



TERIN BARBAS CREMER (CONNECT INSTITUTE CLASS III)

JAKE CREMER (CONNECT INSTITUTE CLASS II)

DID YOU KNOW YOUR GIFT TO LF IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to Leadership Florida! Supporting our mission has never been easier... just go online to www.leadershipflorida.org/donate. Checks may be sent to our new office. For more information on donating stock or other assets, contact Christine Lucas at (850)521-1220 x 102.



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Remember to check the calendar on the LF website for local region events.

We'd like to hear from you! Please send story ideas, suggestions, comments, etc. to communications@leadershipflorida.org.



Come visit the new Leadership Florida offices
and please make note of our new address:
215 S. Monroe St. Ste 710, Tallahassee, FL 32301

