

# e-Cast



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

Volume II, No. 4, Winter 2017

## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT WENDY WALKER



Dear Friends,

March 1, my amazing successor, **Wendy Spencer (Class XXIV)**, will come on board and I am so looking forward to working alongside her for a couple of months and to enjoying our *Thelma and Louise* regional road trips (without the tragic movie ending!). You will be blown away by her energy, her love for Leadership Florida, and by the great ideas she has for taking our organization to the next level. I can't wait to introduce you!

But before I turn over the reins, I have one request of you. I was extremely honored when I learned that our Board of Directors voted to create an award in my honor. But before accepting, I had to make sure it served to recognize what I consider our organization's highest calling - that our members use the information learned, an inspiration sparked and/or relationships built, to make a positive difference. *Please* nominate yourself or another member for the "But for Leadership Florida" award. Only you know what you have done because of Leadership Florida. This isn't a time to hide your light under a bushel. Those considering applying need to know, funders need to know, and your fellow members need to know the differences being made because of Leadership Florida! In addition to receiving the award, the recipient will also be given a monetary contribution from Leadership Florida that he/she can designate, preferably to further the good work that "but for Leadership Florida" might never have happened. [Click to download the "But for Leadership Florida" award form.](#)

Wendy

## 2017 ANNUAL MEETING - NANCY LUBLIN

Your 2017 Annual Meeting Committee is thrilled to reveal our next keynote speaker: **SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR NANCY LUBLIN!**

Founder and CEO of Crisis Text Line, social entrepreneur **Nancy Lublin** harnesses people, technology, and data to change the world. While many operate in traditional models of outreach and management, Lublin breaks them. She turns her new and effective solutions into some of today's most innovative and disruptive nonprofits and social movements, which is why Fortune named her one of the "World's 50 Greatest Leaders."



During her 2013 [TED Talk](#), Lublin launched [Crisis Text Line](#), the world's first 24/7, free, text message-based support service for people facing a range of issues, from depression and substance abuse to eating disorders and physical abuse. With over 20 million texts received, Lublin expanded Crisis Text Line internationally, allowing people around the world to text in and get help. Using this data, Lublin launched a separate initiative called [Crisis Trends](#) to track when and where issues occur.

[According to LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman](#), "Relatively few Silicon Valley start-ups achieve the sort of traction and transformative influence as quickly as CTL has to date [...] [Lublin] recognized that technology and Big Data analytics would allow her relatively small team to extend support services to more people, faster."

One of the Schwab Foundation's 2014 Social Entrepreneurs of the Year, Lublin was selected as a Young Global Leader by The World Economic Forum and named one of the *NonProfit Times'* 50 Most Powerful Leaders three years in a row.

After taking over as CEO of [DoSomething.org](#) in 2003, Lublin turned it into the largest youth organization in the world. With more members than the Boy Scouts, their success attracted companies like Pepsi and Chase, whom Lublin advised on corporate social campaigns. It's no surprise that *Fast Company* called her one of the "most creative people in business."

At 23, Lublin turned a \$5,000 inheritance into [Dress for Success](#), a global nonprofit, helping more than 850,000 women in 20 countries achieve economic independence. [McGraw-Hill Education appointed Lublin to its Board of Directors in 2015](#), bringing to the Board her "extraordinary track record in technology innovation and leading two major not-for-profit organizations."

## APPLICATIONS!



Class XXXV in Tampa: Derek Kroger, Sophia Nelson, Jose Romano, and Christine Ruiz

The 2017-2018 applications are NOW AVAILABLE! We encourage you to forward the applications to those who would be a great fit for our class programs. We also encourage you to connect your recruits with your Region's recruitment chair (below).

[Annual Class XXXVI Application](#)  
[Connect Florida Class VIII Application](#)  
[Leadership in Education Class III Application](#)

### Regional Recruitment Chairs

- Calusa - [Ashley Brown](#)
- East Central - [Tim Keating](#)
- Gold Coast - [Tim Hogans](#)
- Gulfstream - [Andy Comiter](#)
- Northeast - [Nik Patel](#)
- Northwest - [Brian Crumbaker](#)
- Southeast - [Alex Dominguez](#)
- Southwest - [Neale Montgomery](#)
- West Central - [David Capece](#)

**LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER TOMORROW, FEB. 8!**

## 2017 CONNECT DAY @ THE CAPITOL



Elizabeth Barron (Connect VI), Governor Rick Scott (Executive VI), and Marvin Wilmoth (Connect VI) at the 2016 Connect Day @ the Capitol

Connect Florida will continue to enrich Florida's future leaders by hosting the fifth annual Connect Florida Day @ the Capitol.

It's not too late 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 9-10, 2017 - visit [Connect Day @ the Capitol](#) for more information and to register.  
Registration: \$175

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## SPOTLIGHT ON CHARLES CHAPMAN, CLASS XXXIII



*A year-long feature that showcases the time, talent, and work our members have devoted to improving their communities and our state.*

This month, we highlight **Charles Chapman**, a graduate of Class XXXIII (Top Gun!) and the county administrator for Hendry County. Coming into the position, he assumed responsibility for the ongoing pursuit of a public-private partnership between the County and Airglades International Airport, LLC (AIA). Making this deal a top priority, Charles helped build a highly unique project where public and private entities collaborate to achieve success in their community needs: creating jobs and attracting businesses.

### What first brought your attention to this issue?

Hendry County had already started a partnership with the airport when I was hired in May 2013. However, the project had experienced some difficulties in terms of aligning government goals and the objectives with our private entity partner. If this was truly to become a public-private partnership, difficult conversations were required to align the two groups. Hendry County made this its priority project because we have the unique designation of being a part of the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Privatization Pilot Program (FAA-APPP). Our project is unique in that we are the only project that intends to completely sell the airport to a private partnership. Others projects, like one in Puerto Rico, are long term leases.

### What is the most powerful thing you've learned in creating this new partnership?

The biggest takeaway from this project is the realization that government and private industries must work together in the economic environment we exist in today. Many governments do not have the ability to generate venture capital, nor the expertise to take on projects like a dedicated perishable cargo reliever. Private entities have the know-how and the years of expertise to make magic happen in terms of financing and operations management. The trick is balancing private investment interest with public benefit interest as you craft your partnership and align your goals and objectives. The second takeaway I would add is the reality that Florida is an international player, no matter how big or small your county may be. Hendry County is a fiscally constrained small county in the middle of some of the biggest coastal players (Lee, Collier, Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties). If we don't have a global perspective and a heart to take action locally, we will not be successful in diversifying our economy and playing the appropriate role for smart growth in South Florida.

### What is the ultimate goal you have for this affecting your community?

My goals in terms of community impacts are aligned around creating jobs and attracting diverse businesses that would find location housed near a dedicated perishable cargo airport to be advantageous. Hendry County has historically had and continues to have one of the highest unemployment rate counties in the state, if not the highest. I have been tasked to work with our partners to diversify our economy and lower our unemployment ratios. My goal to impact the state can be achieved through furthering our collective interest in global trade, particularly with South and Central America. Additionally, we should see a major reduction in semi-truck traffic on our roadways as cargo is conceptually being pitched to be transported by rail!

### How has your Leadership Florida experiences impacted your work?

Much of my international perspective for our state was derived from my Miami class experience. To see Miami and ultimately Florida through the eyes of my classmates, especially the dynamic between North Florida and South Florida, as we discussed the various topics, really heightened my sense of awareness that my community has a very real role to play in the future. If it wasn't for LF, I don't believe the pieces of the mosaic would have come together as cohesively.

### What is the best thing a Leadership Florida member can do to address their similar community needs?

The best thing LF members can do to help enable changes or create similar opportunities is to simply stop the "us versus them" mentality of business versus government. Both sides have very important roles to play that will occasionally put each other at odds. If we continue to look at government as nothing more than bureaucratic obstructionists, or look at private enterprise as greedy share holder driven entities then we are missing a broader world view. The fact is Florida is full of wonderful private entities who do amazing things through their corporate citizenship. Also, there are many incredible local governments who truly work to make their jurisdictions a place we would be proud to call home. We (both government and private enterprise) must work together and it starts at the grassroots community level of forging these partnerships.

Check out this recent article from the *Des Moines Register*, to learn how this project has begun to take effect: [Cargo may add 1,000 jobs to Clewiston's Airglades Airport](#)

## CATCHING UP WITH CONNECT CLASS VII

## AWARDS

Nomination forms for Leadership Florida's 2017 Awards are now available! Please review the four award categories and consider nominating an individual or organization to be recognized at the 2017 Annual Meeting, June 29 - July 2. The deadline for submission is **Friday, March 17**, and there is no limit on the number of nominees you may submit.

[Distinguished Member Award](#)  
[LeRoy Collins Lifetime Achievement Award](#)  
[Florida Regional Impact Award](#)  
[But for Leadership Florida Award](#)



David Powell (Class X, pictured left) and past chair Dean Ridings (Class XXVII, pictured right) present the 2016 LeRoy Collins Lifetime Achievement Award to Bob Rhodes (Executive VI, pictured center).

## GIVING BACK

Leadership Florida is proud and excited to kickstart two new funds this year, with your support!



### **Abdel J. Baker Leadership Scholarship Fund**

Past-chair **Lila Jaber** (Class XXIII) has established a scholarship to honor her father, **Abdel J. Baker**, an immigrant and small business owner. We encourage you to read Lila's heartfelt, personal letter to all LF members, [here](#).

*"The purpose is twofold: To honor and celebrate Yaba's legacy and all who came before and after him, calling Florida home not because they had to, but because they wanted to be here and to contribute to the rich and diverse fabric of our great State; and, to help enable leaders in small business to be a part of this incredible organization. My family and I have provided seed money for the scholarship and hope you will consider making a contribution." - Lila Jaber (Class XXIII and past chair)*

### **But for Leadership Florida Award Fund**

Leadership Florida and the 2017 Awards Committee is thrilled to honor **Wendy Walker** and her legacy as president of the organization for 28 years, through this new award and fund. Winners of the award will have demonstrated how they have taken something they learned or a relationship they built through their Leadership Florida experiences and used it to educate or better their community. To further their good work, the Award will include a grant of \$1,000-\$2,500 to be donated in their name, to a cause of their choice. As a 'thank you' to Wendy and how she has impacted your life, we hope you will consider giving to this new fund.

You can donate to the *Abdel J. Baker Leadership Scholarship* and the *But for Leadership Florida Award* funds, [here](#).



L to R: Jonathan Schwartz, Faequa Kahn, and Ian Cotner; Chris Benvenuto, Ryan King, and Frederick Longmire; Faequa Khan, Merritt Martin, and Jessica Goodwin Costello

**Greg Holden** (Class XXXII) gave a warm welcome to the members of Connect Florida Class VII as they visited Tampa Bay for their third session. **Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn** (Class VII) followed with a "Glimpse into the City of Tampa," before the class headed to the West Central Regional welcome reception. With a focus on building Florida communities, **St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman** gave a presentation on the region's political and economic drivers. **Bob McDonough**, Administrator of Economic Opportunity for the City of Tampa, provided us a look into the future with his presentation, titled "Community Vision: Channelside and TIA Expansion."

Connect VII rounded out their educational sessions with an overview of Tampa and Florida history from **Governor Bob Martinez** and an insider's look at Florida politics from **Peter Schorsch**, president of Extensive Enterprises. On their last day in the city, the class took part in their annual Day of Service - a housing development beautification project in partnership with the St. Petersburg Housing Authority and the Pinellas County Urban League.

## CATCHING UP WITH EDUCATION CLASS II



L to R: Kristy Moody and Mandy Clark; Russell Hughes and Cindy Gates; Jose Dotres, Margarita Castellon, and Jesus Jara

Education Class II was reunited in Jacksonville last month for its third session. **Wendy Walker** opened the session with a "Leave Your Legacy" presentation which gave an overview of ways to stay involved with Leadership Florida. **Elizabeth Green**, the author of *Building A+ Better Teacher*, visited the class to expand on her book which the class had begun reading in advance. The following members of Education Class II joined together for an impressive panel to talk about topics related to equity and excellence for all students - **Sonya Morris** of FDOE, **Darryl Willie** of Teach for America, **Jesus Jara** (program co-chair) of Orange County Public Schools, **Kristy Moody** of Fairmount Park Elementary School, **Angel Gomez** of Broward County Public Schools and **Willie Brewster** of Duval County Public Schools. The night concluded with some friendly racing at the Autobahn Indoor Speedway. The next day, the class heard **Dr. Vanessa Siddle Walker's** presentation, "Reclaiming an African American Pedagogical Model in a New Educational Climate." Education Class II will conclude its program year with a session in Tallahassee this month!

### Education Class II Jacksonville Sponsors

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## CATCHING UP WITH CLASS XXXV



L to R: Dawn Kernagis, Michael Stephens, Randy Shoemaker, and Joni James; Gabriel Quave, Rahul Kothari, Sean Parks, and Barry Issenberg; Kate Grangard and Gary Resnick

Class XXXV dove deep into hot topics this January during their Class session in Tampa. Chair-elect **Beth Kigel** (Class XXIX), president and CEO of the Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce, opened their session with a panel entitled "The Importance of Transportation in Florida's Growth." The panelists included **Doug Callaway** (Class XXIV) from FDOT, **Rusty Roberts** (Class XXXIII) from Florida East Coast Industries, and **Chris Minner** from the Tampa International Airport. Pulitzer prize-winning author and former New York Times reporter/editor **Hedrick Smith** gave his compelling and thought provoking presentation titled "Who Stole the American Dream." Another panel followed, with an emphasis on Florida's higher education system and included **Madeline Pumariega** (Class XXXIII), chancellor of the Florida College System, and **Sophia Wisniewska** (Class XXXIV), Regional Chancellor, USF St. Pete.

**Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn** (Class VII) stopped by to welcome the Class and give an overview of Tampa's key accomplishments and impressive future before the Class headed to the West Central welcome reception at a Lightning hockey game. On their last day, Class XXXV was challenged by **Neil Phillips'** (Education I) presentation on race relations and **Allen Weiss'** (Class XX) discussion with **Nick Buettner** of Blue Zones and **Dr. Charles Lockwood** of USF's College of

## LIFETIME MEMBERS - 162 AND 163!

Leadership Florida welcomes our newest Lifetime Members, **Kate Grangard** and **Pat Kilbane**, both members of the current class, Class XXXV! Thank you for recognizing - even before concluding your class program year - the long-term value Leadership Florida will play in your lives.



**What has been the highlight of your Class program experience to date?** *My classmates - each and every day. Individually and collectively, this diverse group of thought provoking, talented, and engaged people make this experience extraordinary. The "day before" field trips have bonded us even more as well, allowing for non-structured one-on-one time, and an opportunity to*

*learn of our classmates hometowns and passionate commitment to their communities with them as our minstrel.* - Kate Grangard, Chief Financial & Operating Officer, Gehring Group



**What has been the biggest takeaway from your learning experience in Class XXXV?** *My biggest takeaway from my experience thus far is our great state faces significant challenges I know we can solve only if we work together. As a bonus, my motivation for becoming a Lifetime Member was I promised in my application, and to those who supported my application, I was going*

*to be involved in and engaged with Leadership Florida for the rest of my life. Because I am so grateful to be a part of this amazing family, I felt compelled to demonstrate my lifetime commitment to the organization through a lifetime membership.* - Pat Kilbane, General Counsel & Wealth Advisor, Ullmann Brown Wealth Advisors

163 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, supporting 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](mailto:clucas@leadershipflorida.org).



Connect Florida graduates and LF Leadership Team members at the 2017 January Leadership Team Retreat: Alex Price (Connect III), Marvin Wilmoth (Connect VI), Terin Cremer (Connect III), Roger Feicht (Connect II), and Tina Ekblad (Connect V)

## UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

- **February 8:** Last day to register for Connect Day @ the Capitol
- **February 9-10:** Connect Day @ the Capitol
- **February 9-11:** Connect VII Session in Tallahassee
- **February 15:** EC Recruitment Event at CityWalk
- **February 17:** Annual Gulfstream Summit
- **February 19:** SE Coconut Grove Arts Festival Event
- **February 22:** GC Broward College Speaker Series
- **February 23-24:** Education II Session in Tallahassee

Medicine on the future of healthcare in Florida. Concluding the Tampa session was a "but for" look at the Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation. Next up - Tallahassee in March!

**A big thank you to all of our program sponsors!**

**Class XXXV and Connect VII West Central sponsors**

THANKS TO OUR WEST CENTRAL SPONSORS!

ANONYMOUS  
 SHAWN AMARNANI (CONNECT VI)  
 CARTER (CLASS XXXIII) & DANA ANDERSON  
 SUECY CARLSON (CLASS XXXII)  
 STEVE (CLASS XXI) & DENISE (XXIX) FREEDMAN  
 DEBBIE HARVEY (CLASS XXVI)  
 JESS (CLASS XXXIII) & KATE JOHNSON  
 SANTOSH MATHEW (CONNECT VII)  
 ANDREW MATYS (CONNECT XXXIV)  
 LEE MOFFITT (HONORARY MEMBER)  
 JOHN PEHLING (XXIV) & LILLY HO-PEHLING (XXV)  
 ANTHEA PENROSE (CLASS XXX)  
 RANDALL REID (CLASS XXXIV)  
 KEVIN YOUNG (CONNECT VI)

THANKS TO OUR WEST CENTRAL CONNECT INSTITUTE VII SPONSORS

PERSONAL GIFTS  
 SHAUN AMARNANI (CONNECT V)  
 TERIN & JAKE CREMER (CONNECT III & II)  
 SANTOSH MATHEW (CONNECT VII)  
 KEVIN YOUNG (CONNECT VI)

- **March 8:** NW Class XXXV Welcome Reception
- **March 8-10:** Class XXXV Session in Tallahassee
- **March 15:** SW Wendy and Wendy Reception
- **March 16:** EC Wendy and Wendy Reception
- **March 17:** Award Nominations Due
- **March 17:** NE Wendy and Wendy Reception
- **March 30:** WC Wendy and Wendy Reception
- **March 31:** CAL Wendy and Wendy Reception



Class XXXIV graduates and LF Leadership Team members at the 2017 January Leadership Team Retreat: Steve Hall, Greg Schwinghammer, Emily Walsh, Nik Patel, and Mauricio Gonzalez