



Announcing the Newest Members of Leadership Florida

August 19, 2015

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New Program Announcements

Congratulations to the new Leadership Florida Class XXXIV and Connect Institute Program VI participants! Also a BIG congrats to the participants our inaugural Leadership in Education Class!

Click [here](#) to read the press release on the Leadership in Education program.

LF Class XXXIV

Erika Alba	Joseph Durso	Steven Lubinski	Ana Maria Rodriguez
Gregory Anderson	Christina Gomez-Pina	Carlos Mallol	Christopher Rudisill
J. David Anderton II	Mauricio Gonzalez	Andrew Mayts	Newton Sanon
Brittany Birken	April Green	Meghan McCarthy	Greg Schwinghammer
Riccardo Bisio	Cynthia Griffin	Dawn McCormick	Layton Smith
Allen Bottorff	Stephen Hall	Thomas McLaughlin	Germaine Smith Baugh
Kimberly Brown	Betsy Hedden-Shafer	Dave Motwani	Michele Thoman
Sheri Brown	Christine Johnson	Rebecca Nagy	Ofelia Utset
Theodore Caplow	Maria Johnston	Michelle Nickens	Jacquelynn Wahler
Agustin Corbella	Michael Kaufman	Diane O'Dell	Aundra Wallace
Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz	Donald Kiselewski, Jr.	Nikul Patel	Emily Walsh
Hetal Desai	Chad Labenz	Carol Probstfeld	Khori Whittaker
Jose Felix Diaz	Monte Lambert	Randall Reid	Sophia Wisniewska
Christina Doss	Robert Ledoux	Grover Robinson	

To view LF Class XXXIV's roster click [here](#).

Connect Institute Class VI

Moses Allen	Alejandro Dominguez	Stuart Kennedy	Christopher Pepin
Andrae Bailey	Nicholas Duran	Dawn Kernagis	Philip Poekert
Elizabeth Barron	Adriana Fazzano	Merdochey LaFrance	Ann Marie Sorrell
Gregory Brostowicz	Joshua Ferraro	Yara Lorenzo	Jenna Titcomb Tala
Alexander Buznego	Estella Gray	Samuel Ludington	Hong Tran
Sara Clements	Farley Griner	Cristina Mas	Thamiah Tutt
Andrew Comiter	Margaret Gunther	David McDermott	Erin VanSickle
Ashley Coone	Jorge Guttman	Jennifer McFarren	Corina Velasquez
Kimberly Costello	Cami Haynes	George Miller	Randy Vosburg
Dustin Daniels	Timothy Hogans	Carrie Mills	Wendell Wilmouth
Christopher Dawson	Krista Kennedy	Daniel Nordby	Kevin Young
Rory Diamond			

To view Connect Institute VI's roster click [here](#).

Education Class I

Brent Balkaran	Trey Csar	Eileen McDaniel	Barbara Shirley
Emily Barbacci	Lisa Grant	Jeffrey Moquin	Ashley Smith-Juarez
Christie Bassett	Patty Hightower	Kamela Patton	Mary Jane Tappen
Alan Black	Jesus Jara	Neil Phillips	Ian Vincent
Anthony Boyer	Marva Johnson	Mark Porter	Maureen Wilt
Horace Buddoo	Janet Kahn	Maria Pouncey	Ralph Yoder
Michael Burke	Brian Kingsley	Thomas Rompella	
Mary Chance	Sasha Lopez	Lisa Seymour	

To view Leadership in Education Class I's roster click [here](#).

Regional Welcome Receptions

Please join Leadership Florida members and staff to welcome your newest Regional class members! By now you should have received an invite to your regional event. Please click on your region to RSVP!

[West Central](#) - August 25, reception on the Beck Group's rooftop from 5:30-7:30

[Northwest](#) - August 26, lunch at Hotel Duval's Horizon Ballroom (8th floor) from 12:00-1:30

[Northeast](#) - August 26, Sweet Pete's from 5:30-7:00

[Gold Coast](#) - August 26, Ft. Lauderdale Yacht Club reception from 6:00-7:30

[Calusa](#) - August 27, Community Foundation of Sarasota from 5:00-7:00

[Gulfstream](#) - August 27, Strese Italian Restaurant at 6:00

[Southwest](#) - September 8, South Street Naples at 5:30

[Southeast](#) - September 9, Tarpon Bend Restaurant in Coral Gables from 6:00-8:00

Class Program Dates & Locations

Click [here](#) to view the dates and locations for LF Class XXXIV's events

Click [here](#) to view the dates and locations for Connect Institute Class VI's events

Click [here](#) to view the dates and locations for Education Class I's events

Class XXXIV Program Chair, Jeff Johnson



**State Director
AARP Florida**

As AARP Florida State Director, Jeff and his team of staff, volunteers and members seek to lead Florida to expand the possibilities and tackle the challenges of an aging society and equip Florida families to live their best lives as they age. He is a respected leader across the state who speaks regularly to groups and the media about issues such as health, long-term care, Social Security, financial security, fighting fraud, building stronger communities, using social media effectively, and leadership development. He also facilitates small-group "check-up" sessions as part of AARP's Life Reimagined initiative.

Jeff has worked with AARP Florida since 2000 and was named state director on an interim basis in October 2010 and permanently in February 2012. He was raised in Jacksonville, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wake Forest University, and also holds a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Jeff joined AARP after working in public relations, marketing and sales, most recently with the Tampa Bay (then) Devil Rays. He lives in St. Petersburg with his wife April and daughter Betsy. He is also an active member of St. Paul's Catholic Church, a graduate of Leadership Florida Class XXXII, and a board member of the Florida Council on Aging.

"I know as Class Program Chair I'm inheriting a treasure - not only from my fantastic immediate predecessors Tony Carvajal and Bill Law but from the history of 33 previous class programs. So job one is not to mess it up. At the same time, each class is different both because the people in the program are unique and because Florida

continues to change as a state. So, optimally, we will build on the foundation of the past while making adjustments that reflect where I think Florida is headed.

The focus is really simple: we will answer three questions. First, what is Florida all about? Second, what is leadership all about? And third, what is Leadership Florida all about? To hit all three takes a team - not only my wonderful staff partner Rachel Massey and her colleagues and the presenters, but a number of LF members I've asked to help craft segments on which their expertise far surpasses mine.

If we do this right, Class XXXIV will not only follow every preceding class in claiming to be the best class ever, but they will have built an understanding of Leadership Florida at the regional level through the involvement of the regional councils that will set them up to be great, active long-term LF members." - Jeff Johnson

Connect Institute Class VI Program Chair, Vance Aloupis



**Statewide Director
The Children's Movement of Florida**

After practicing law in South Florida, Vance Aloupis joined The Children's Movement in June 2010, now serving as the organization's state director. His work focuses on building statewide awareness and support for early childhood education through organizational collaborations, regional strategies, fund-raising and increasing public awareness. Having spoken across both the state and country on issues specific to the first five years in children's lives, Vance has become a new face in the conversation around early childhood investment.

A former Student Body President at the University of Miami, student trustee on the UM Board of Trustees, and a graduate of the University of Miami School of Law, Vance was the Judge Peter Palermo Fellow in the University of Miami Center for Ethics and Public Service's Street Law program, creating and teaching curricula for and in juvenile detention centers in South Florida. As a proud alum of the University of Miami, Vance now serves as a board member on the University of Miami's Young Alumni Leadership Council and a member of the UM Alumni Association Board of Directors. Prior to joining The Children's Movement, Vance worked as both a civil litigator and with the Legal Services of Greater Miami's Homeless Project.

In 2012, Vance was appointed by Gov. Rick Scott to serve as a commissioner on the Governor's Commission on Community Service - also known as Volunteer Florida - which oversees much of the state's AmeriCorps programs. A member of the board for the Miami Coalition for the Homeless and Awesome Foundation Miami, Vance is a graduate of Class VI of the Miami Fellows (the community's most prestigious leadership development program) and Class IV of Connect Florida. In late 2014, Vance - along with two colleagues - helped found the James Madison Institute's Leaders Fellowship, a one-year leadership development program focused on fostering free market principles. A graduate of the HBS Executive Education program Strategic Perspectives in Non-Profit Management, Vance was selected as one of 90 young professionals from across the country to join in the first cohort of Harvard Business School's 2015 Young American Leaders Program.

In 2014, Vance was honored by The Bob Graham Center for Public Service at the University of Florida as the Young Floridian of the Year.

Vance and his wife, Mariella, live in Aventura with their two daughters, Isabella and Aria.

"I've often compared being the Connect Florida program chair to being a mother duck. My goals are to nourish the young ducklings...and to make sure they make it across the road safely. In all honesty, having the opportunity to serve Connect Florida in this capacity is both an honor and a privilege – and my singular goal is to ensure that each member of Class VI grows a little bit (and, hopefully, a lot) from this experience." - Vance Aloupis

2015 - 2016 Regional Chairs

- **Calusa** - Ashley Brown (Class XXXI)
- **East Central** - Cathy Brown-Butler (Class XXXIII)
- **Gold Coast** - Greg Haile (Class XXX)
- **Gulfstream** - Beth Kigel (Class XXIX)
- **Northeast** - Husein Cumber (Class XXX)
- **Northwest** - Deborah Curry (Class XXXII)
- **Southeast** - Carlos Garcia (Class XXIX)
- **Southwest** - Charlie Chapman (Class XXXIII)
- **West Central** - David Capece (Class XXXIII)

Connect Institute Class VI's Regional Chairs

- **Calusa** - Gabriel Hament (Connect Institute V)
 - **East Central** - Vinnie Taranto (Connect Institute V)
 - **Gold Coast** - Geori Berman (Connect Institute V)
 - **Gulfstream** - Alex Price (Connect Institute III)
 - **Northeast** - JC Cossey (Connect Institute V)
 - **Northwest** - Samantha Sexton (Connect Institute V)
 - **Southeast** - Maryam Laguna (Connect Institute V)
 - **Southwest** - Tina Ekblad (Connect Institute V)
 - **West Central** - Terin Barbas Cremer (Connect Institute III)
-

A Sad Farewell



I'm sad to share the news with you that, effective September 11, PJ Klena will leave our staff to return to her hometown of Titusville to live with her dad. Yet, this is so typical of the kindness and devotion we've witnessed from PJ since she became part of the Leadership Florida family more than thirteen years

ago. Her work with our regions, the Annual Meeting, and preparation of the directory you've just received are just a few of the many contributions PJ has made to the success of our organization.

I'm sure that you regret her leaving as much as our board and her fellow staff do, and that you wish her all the best as she moves to take on new responsibilities. Her wide smile and infectious laugh will be greatly missed at Leadership Florida! - *Dean Ridings, Leadership Florida Chair*

Mark your calendar for September 1st!

In two weeks, you will have the opportunity to double the impact of your giving to Leadership Florida! On **September 1-2nd** Leadership Florida is participating in a 24 Hour Giving Challenge, and **every new gift tax-deductible will be matched, up to \$250 per donor for each new donor!** Watch your inbox for a special link to use for the Challenge.

The 2015 Giving Challenge is made possible by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County (Roxie Jerde, Executive VII & John Annis XXXII) and The Patterson Foundation (Debra Jacob, X) with support from the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Manatee Community Foundation, and the Herald-Tribune Media Group.



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