

MEDIA RELEASE

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Leadership Florida
7/1/2020

CONTACT: Tracy Warrington
Communications Director
twarrington@leadershipflorida.org
(850)521-1220, ext. 108

Leadership Florida® Presents Nadine Smith with the 2020 'but for' Leadership Florida Award

TALLAHASSEE — Leadership Florida® Presents Nadine Smith with the 2020 'but for' Leadership Florida Award.

The 'but for' Leadership Florida Award recognizes a Leadership Florida member who has used specific knowledge gained and relationships built through their Leadership Florida experiences to improve the lives of fellow Floridians.

Nadine Smith serves as the Executive Director of Equality Florida, the state's largest organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Nadine has strong connections with the Florida business community, with which she has developed hundreds of relationships that have led to the greater promotion of full equality for the LGBTQ community in many sectors, and across all parts of Florida. Through Equality Florida's "Equality Means Business" initiative, as of October 2019, more than 100 of Florida's largest employers and roughly 2,000 small and medium-sized businesses are now a part of a network that has become a national model replicated in states across the country. The visible support of these companies--and their leadership--is adding tremendous momentum to Nadine's and her team's efforts to ban discrimination statewide. Under her watch, Equality Florida and its business community allies have stopped or neutralized every anti-LGBTQ bill filed in Tallahassee since the day Nadine co-founded the organization in 1997.

In response to the tragedy that struck Orlando at the Pulse Nightclub where 48 people were killed and dozens more injured, Nadine led Equality Florida's effort to raise \$9.5 million from 120,000-plus individuals around the world--100% of which was distributed directly to survivors and their families. Nadine's extensive and deep business community network and Leadership Florida relationships aided greatly in galvanizing Florida's businesses and community leaders in supporting and publicizing this effort.

About Leadership Florida

For thirty-eight years, Leadership Florida has developed a reputation as a builder of a stronger, diverse statewide sense of community. As a respected non-partisan convener of committed individuals, Leadership Florida enhances the knowledge and leadership abilities of Florida's leaders through educational programs and by encouraging collaborative work for the betterment of our state. These programs include the Cornerstone Class Program for leaders age 40 and over and the Connect Class Program for young leaders age 25-39. In addition, Leadership Florida conducts the Education Class Program for individuals invested in Florida's educational system and the Executive Class Program for C-suite level executives that are new to Florida. The organization also provides Floridians essential information and a meaningful forum for their opinions and creates opportunities for shared experiences that are inviting, inspiring, and of lasting value. For more information, visit www.leadershipflorida.org. Leadership Florida is a federally registered trademark.



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