



Leadership Florida Connect Class Sample Application

As you prepare to complete this application, please review the following information designed to help explain more about Leadership Florida and the selection process. A statewide Selection Committee reviews each application, and your application should reflect who you are.

Leadership Florida recommends working through the entire application separately before submitting the online application. The following pages outline the information that will be requested on the final online application.

Having the following items will help complete the final application:

- High-quality professional color headshot (300 dpi or greater)
- Professional bio (175 words or less)
- \$75 application fee
- Previous ten years of employment history
- Names and contact information for two references
- Résumé no longer than three pages in length

Please note that all open-ended questions are limited to 100 words for each response unless otherwise noted. All applications must be digitally submitted through the official Leadership Florida online application portal. No paper or emailed applications will be processed.

CLASS SESSION DATES

The Connect Class program has four in-person sessions throughout the calendar year from September-April. The Class session dates can be found at <https://www.leadershipflorida.org/apply-or-refer> and will also be on the application when it opens so that you can ensure that the dates will work for you to participate. **Full attendance is required for the entirety of all four sessions and the Leadership Florida Annual Meeting in June.**

TUITION INFORMATION

The tuition cost for the Connect Class is currently \$4,000. This pays for most of your meals, special excursions, and travel expenses during each program but does not include your hotel stay and transportation costs to and from the program.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Name (prefix, first, MI, last, suffix), including preferred name
- Professional email / personal email
- Business phone / cell phone
- Business county / residence county
- School / district / company name
- Business address
- Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter (if applicable)
- Assistant's name, email, and phone (if applicable)
- Have you ever applied to Leadership Florida? If so, how many times?
- Have you attended any Leadership Florida events in the past?
- Have you ever graduated from a Leadership Florida program?
- How did you find Leadership Florida?
- Did a member or organization refer you?
- How many years have you lived in Florida?

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Gender
- Age / date of birth
- Race / ethnicity
- Military service
- Misdemeanor or felony conviction (this does not automatically preclude you from participation in the program).

EMPLOYMENT

- Please list your educational and military (if applicable) achievements and some of your awards or honors that you are most proud of.
- Please state your workplace's mission statement. If your workplace does not have a mission statement, please indicate your own or elaborate on your role in your workplace.
- Briefly describe your current position and corresponding responsibilities.
- Please list employment for the past ten years in reverse chronological order (including active military duty). List beginning and ending dates and your job title. Do not include your current role.

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY

The Selection Committee places great emphasis on the time you commit to improving your community through volunteer activities.

In order of importance to you, list up to five organizations in which you are currently active or have been active in the past. Please indicate in which you have assumed a leadership role. Organizations may include (but are not limited to):

- Volunteer
 - Community
 - Civic
 - Professional
 - Business
 - Social
 - Athletic
 - Religious
- Please list any other business or professional organizations, board, or civic/volunteer activities (example: Chamber, First Coast Manufacturers Association, Big Brothers Big Sisters, etc.) in which you are involved that were not outlined in your previous answer.
 - Please describe an issue that you have impacted personally, which illustrates your actions as a trustee of your community.
 - If you have not had the time or interest to become actively involved, what conditions have changed that now enable you to seek involvement in your community and state?

LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE

At Leadership Florida, we convene a statewide community of leaders to recharge their leadership skills and educate and inspire them to work for a better Florida. We provide meaningful forums for sharing essential information and viewpoints; we create opportunities for experiences that are inviting, inspiring, and of lasting value.

- Describe your unique blend of personality, skills, and life experiences that you would contribute to your class and the Leadership Florida mission.
- Explain what you consider the two most pressing problems facing Florida.
- Please share what you love most about Florida.

RÉSUMÉ

- You must upload your professional résumé (limited to three pages) in PDF or Word format.
- Two references must also be provided, including full contact information (phone, email, company, and mailing address).
- At least one of the two references must be from a Leadership Florida Member.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

- You will be required to upload a high-quality color headshot photo (cropped to shoulders).
- You will also provide a professional bio describing yourself. The bio should be **175 words or less** and written in the third person. Please include personal information that helps define you, such as family, pets, hobbies, and interests.

Upon acceptance into the program, this information will be used to create a class directory. A sample directory page is included at the end of this file with examples of pictures and bios.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

The application fee for Leadership Florida Connect Class is \$75. You may use your credit card for payment during the application process.



MACK BERNARD

Mayor
Palm Beach County Board of
County Commissioners
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Gulfstream Region

Mack Bernard, orphaned at three months old, was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. As unaccompanied minors, he (aged 10) and his sister (aged 12) traveled from Haiti to Delray Beach with just the clothes on their backs. He quickly adapted by learning English, excelling in his classes, joining JROTC in high school, and becoming a championship wrestler. In just two years, while also working a full-time job, Mack earned his B.S. in political science and criminal justice from Florida State University. Mack went on to receive his J.D. and LLM in taxation from the University of Florida.

Mack has been a public servant for over ten years, serving as the deputy vice mayor for the city of Delray Beach, a state representative, a member of the Florida Elections Commission, and presently as the mayor of Palm Beach County. Mack, his wife Shawn, and their three daughters are proud to call Palm Beach County home. Mack has dedicated his life to giving back to his community and serving Florida residents.



MELANIE BEVAN

Chief of Police
Bradenton Police Department
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melanie.bevan@bradentonpd.com
Calusa Region

Melanie Bevan has had a 29-year career at the St. Petersburg Police Department. Since arriving in Bradenton, she has introduced new safety measures, community engagement protocols, and leadership training.

Melanie has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Saint Leo University, a master's degree in public administration from Troy State University, and a Doctor of Education in organizational leadership from Argosy University. She is an adjunct professor in the Homeland Security Program for the State College of Florida and performs contract work for Major League Baseball.

Melanie's community involvement includes membership on the Executive Board of the Florida Police Chiefs Association as well as being a gubernatorial appointee on the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. She has served as a mentor for Take Stock in Children for 15 years. Most recently, she was the recipient of the 2018 Women's Resource Center Wonder Woman Award. She is the very proud mother of two 19-year-old sons who are both attending college.



VIVIANNE BOHORQUES

Chief Operations Officer
The Children's Trust
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vmbohorques@gmail.com
Southeast Region

Vivianne Bohorques joined the Trust in 2016 after serving in leadership roles at City Year, where she concentrated on establishing transformational school district partnerships, implementing City Years' service model, and leading the organization in strategic planning and goal setting. Before City Year, Vivianne served as the Director of Education and Policy for Miami Mayor Manny Diaz. A veteran mathematics teacher in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Vivianne brought with her a grass-roots knowledge of the Miami-Dade education system along with a strong understanding of the community's educational programs. Vivianne is a Miami native who earned her B.A. in mathematics education from Florida International University as a first-generation college student. Vivianne is the proud mom of Alexa Bohorques, a soon-to-be college student. She enjoys exploring new places through travel, long bike rides, and serving her community.