



EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEMBER NEWS & MORE

CLASS REUNIONS

IS YOUR CLASS ZOOMING?

Several classes are sharing virtual hugs until they can reunite in person. In addition to supporting each other during this unique time, classmates are enjoying laughter and making memories. See who has been zooming below.

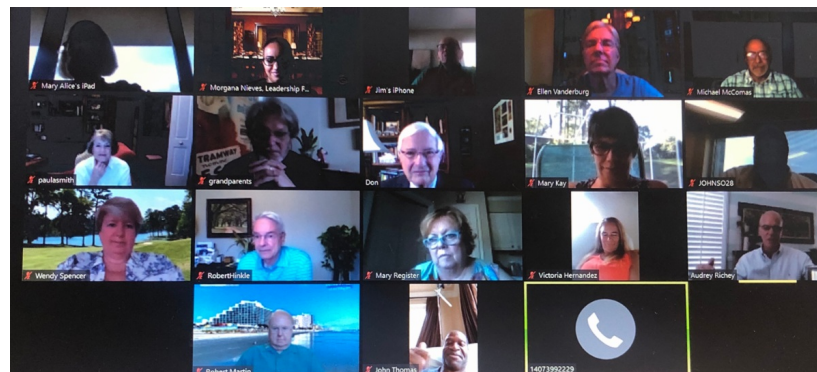
Upcoming scheduled Class Zooms:

July 17 - Connect Class 2

July 28 - Cornerstone Class 31

Contact [Morgana](#) or [Dave](#) for further details.

Cornerstone Class 9



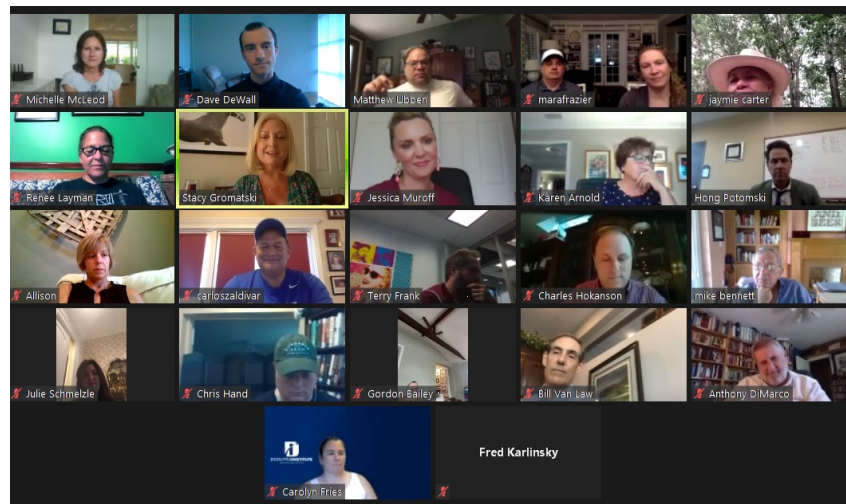
Cornerstone Class 32



Cornerstone Class 33



Cornerstone Class 36



Cornerstone Class 37



CALLING ALL CLASS REPS

Would you like to host a Zoom Class Reunion Call?

We are here to help. Contact Mary Register for more information.
Mary Register, Director, Member Services and Resource Development

MRegister@leadershipflorida.org

850.510.3836

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Meet Lifetime Member:

JEN GROVE, Cornerstone Class 33
Vice President of External Relations
Baptist Health Care



As a Lifetime Member of Leadership Florida, what are some of the ways you enjoy your membership the most?

I think the greatest benefit of Lifetime Membership is knowing that Leadership Florida, full of amazing people and programming, will always be a constant in my life, regardless of where my career and personal path take me!

What are some ways your career has been affected by becoming a Lifetime Member?

As I have transitioned from the energy industry to health care, I have had impactful opportunities to connect with other Leadership Florida members in the health care sector who have been so gracious with their time and expertise to help me accelerate my learning curve. What a year it has been to join the health care industry! Leadership Florida members are at the ready to answer questions and brainstorm with.

Have you experienced a 'but for' moment, in which the experience could not have happened without Leadership Florida?

There are too many to mention! Being from "the other Florida" here in the great West Northwest, I simply would not have the strength of relationships with other amazing Floridians from across this diverse state. I truly believe that an answer to a question or an opportunity to make Florida better is only a quick visit to the member registry and phone call away. I truly love this state and feel incredibly blessed to have access to so many others who share that same love and desire to continue to improve Florida for future generations to follow.

Do you have a favorite memory from your class year?

My favorite memory from Cornerstone Class 33 "Top Gun" has to be what gave us our class name - having the opportunity to host our class in Pensacola, and for the first time overnight aboard Ambition at Pensacola Naval Air Station. What an honor it was for the rest of our class to visit (many for the first time) the "Western Gate to the Sunshine State" and to learn about our rich history, including our Naval history.



Thank you, Jen, for sharing with fellow Leadership Florida members
and for your commitment to our beautiful state.

NEWEST LIFETIME MEMBERS

Meet the four newest Lifetime Members:

- **Maria Johnston**, Cornerstone Class 34, Director Permitting & Utilities-South, Crown Castle, Gold Coast Region
- **Ryan Bernal**, Connect Class 10, Controller, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Gulfstream Region
- **Sean Pittman**, Cornerstone Class 21, President, Pittman Law Group, Northwest Region
- **Barbara Fonte**, Cornerstone Class 38, Vice President, Managed Care & Population Health, Jackson Health System, The Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County, Southeast Region

Thank you for making this important investment into Leadership Florida!

Your investment helps to ensure Leadership Florida has sustainable funding to provide quality programming for new Classes and to each of you and all of our Leadership Florida members well into the future. We are grateful for your investment and for making Leadership Florida a priority in your life!

Just a few of the benefits that Lifetime Membership offers:

- No longer responsible for paying dues for life
- Special Lifetime Member reception at the Annual Meeting for you and a guest
- Special recognition throughout the year and in the annual directory
- Advance VIP notice for special occasions like international trips and unique event offerings
- Unlike dues, this gift is tax-deductible and payment plan options are available
- And the great satisfaction that YOU have made an investment that will sustain Leadership Florida for years to come

To learn more about Lifetime Membership,
contact **Mary Register**,
Director, Member Services and Resource Development
850.510.3836

Thank you, **Palm Beach County Sheriff's
Office**, for all you do for Leadership Florida!



Lifetime Members



Ryan Bernal
Connect Class 10



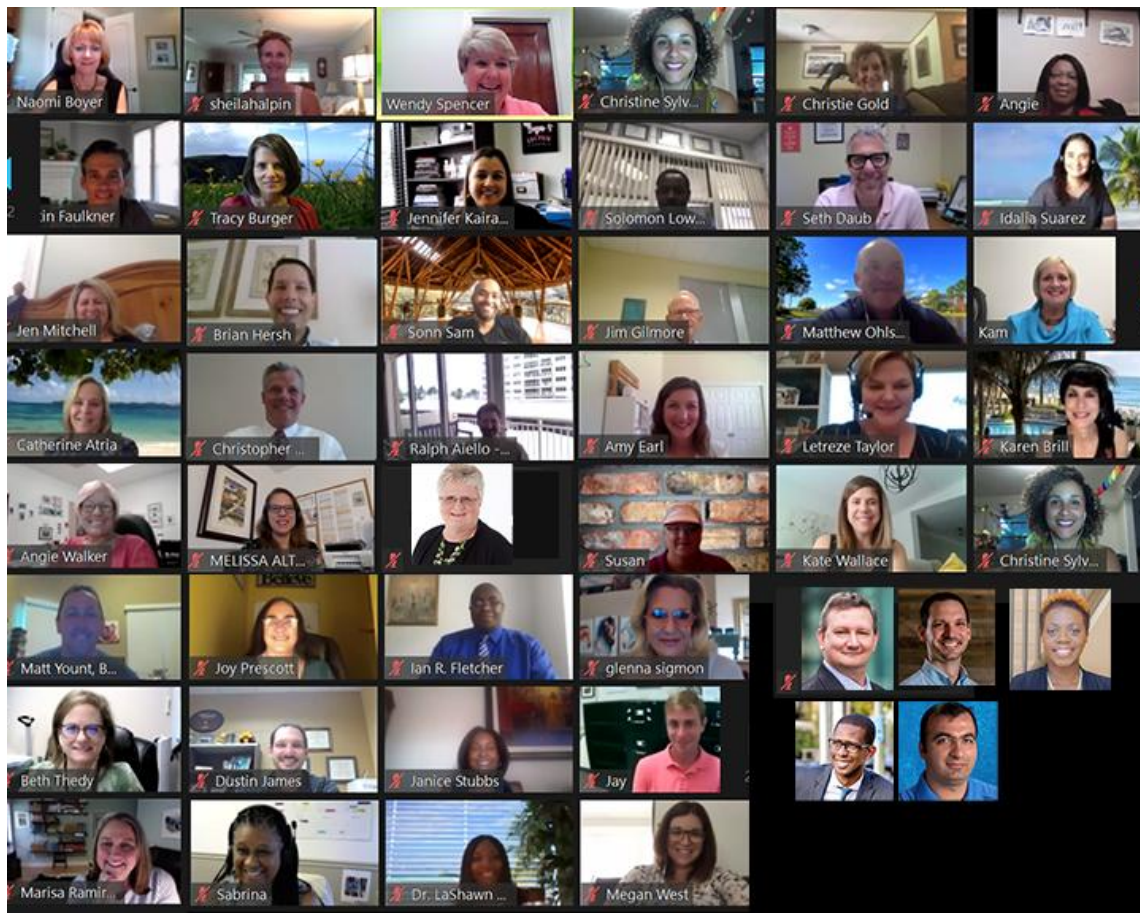
George Forman
Cornerstone
Class 36

EDUCATION CLASS 5

Education Class 5 recently experienced their closing session in a completely new-to-Leadership Florida style. Originally scheduled for Tallahassee, the session was instead held via Zoom on June 18-19, 2020.

Thanks to Kam Patton, Collier Public Schools, for her dedication to these amazing educators as Class Chair, especially considering the unique challenges that the current classes faced. Kam is a graduate of Cornerstone Class 31 and Education Class 1.

Congratulations Education 5 Class Members



CALUSA REGION

Amy Earl | Teacher; IBCP Coordinator, Riverview High School c/o

Sarasota County Schools
Lashawn Frost | Principal, Sarasota County School Board
Sheila Halpin | Instructional Specialist for Early Learning, Manatee County Schools
Brian Hersh | Program Director, Any Given Child, Sarasota County Schools

EAST CENTRAL REGION

Seth Daub | Principal, Catalina Elementary School, Orange County Public Schools ***CLASS REP**
Byron Durias | Principal, Sanford Middle School Magnet/Seminole County Public Schools
Sonn Sam | Regional Director, Big Picture Learning
Beth Thedy | Deputy Superintendent/Chief HR Officer, School Board of Brevard County
Matt Yount | 5th Grade Teacher, Brevard Public Schools

GOLD COAST REGION

Ralph Aiello | Director, School Counseling & BRACE Advisement, Broward County Public Schools
Janice Stubbs | Vice Provost Student Services, Broward College
Megan West | Curriculum Supervisor, Civic Engagement, Broward County Public Schools

GULFSTREAM REGION

Karen Brill | School Board Member, District 3, The School Board of Palm Beach County
Joy Prescott | 4th Grade Math Teacher, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School
Glenna Sigmon | Instructional Coach, St. Lucie Public Schools
Christine Sylvain | Executive Director, Path to College

NORTHEAST REGION

Cathy Atria | Professor of Educational Practice, University of Florida
Jen Brown | Executive Director, KIPP Jacksonville Schools
Tracy Burger | Director of Programs, Consortium of Florida Education Foundations
Justin Faulkner | Principal, Orange Park Junior High School
Ian Fletcher | Vice President of Education and Talent Alignment, Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce
Dustin James | Assistant Principal, Oakleaf Junior High School
Matthew Ohlson | Faculty Coordinator-Taylor Leadership Institute, University of North Florida
Jay Poole | Teacher, Fleming Island High School
Marisa Ramirez Stukey | Senior Director, Center for the Collaborative Classroom
Dogan Tozoglu | Executive Director, River City Science Academy

NORTHWEST REGION

Jason Gaitanis | Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Accountability, Florida Department of Education
Chris Middleton | UWF President's Military Liaison, University of West Florida
Kathy Nobles | Bureau Chief of Standards & Instructional Support,

Florida Department of Education

Angie Walker | Chief Human Resource Officer, Wakulla County School Board

SOUTHEAST REGION

Cindy Caldwell | South Florida Program Coordinator, WestEd

Angie Gonzalez | Teacher, Miami-Dade Public Schools

Jenn Kairalla | Assistant Principal, Pinecrest Preparatory Academy Charter High School

Idalia Suarez | Principal, Somerset Oaks Academy

SOUTHWEST REGION

Jen Mitchell | School Board Member District 3 Collier County, Collier County Public Schools

WEST CENTRAL REGION

Melissa Alton | Director of Accreditation, Florida Council of Independent Schools

Naomi Boyer | Director, MicroCredential Products; Founder/CEO, NOME

Susan Copeland | Executive Director, Polk Education Foundation

Christie Gold | District Resource Teacher for Recruitment, Hillsborough Public Schools

Solomon Lowery | Principal, Pinellas County School Board, Osceola Middle School

Kate Wallace | Executive Director, Lakeland Leads

MEMBER NEWS

Governor Ron DeSantis' "Reopen Florida" Task Force includes many Leadership Florida Members.

Seventeen Leadership Florida members were selected to serve on the "Reopen Florida" Task Force. Congratulations to these members for being recognized as top leaders in their fields.

See who was selected [here on the Leadership Florida website](#).

Jacksonville Business Journal *2020 '40 under 40'*

Jacksonville Business Journal selects up-and-coming local professionals who are making contributions to our community and are succeeding in business.



Rachael Tutwiler Fortune
Jacksonville Public
Education Fund
Education Class 3
College Class 9



Josh Cockrell
The Stellarea Group
Connect Class 8



Jessica Cummings
Brooks Rehabilitation
Connect Class 10



Shamika Wright
Jax Chamber
Connect Class 10



Phillip Lee
Florida Blue
Connect Class 10



Nwabufu Umunna
Umunna Legal Group
Connect Class 9

MOVERS & SHAKERS



Reggie Ellis
Florida A & M University
Connect Class 9

Reggie was elected to serve on the executive board of the Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools. Reggie serves as the Assistant



Jorge Plasencia
Republica Havas
Cornerstone Class 33

Jorge has been named as a new board member for Friends of the American Latino Museum (FRIENDS), a national advocacy campaign



Jennifer O'Flannery
Anderson
Community Foundation of
Broward
Cornerstone Class 26

The Community Foundation of Broward has announced that Jennifer is the new

Dean for the School of Graduate Studies at FAMU.



Ginny Dailey
Panza, Maurer & Maynard
Cornerstone Class 25

Ginny was featured on the cover of a recent issue of *Tallahassee Woman Magazine*.

striving for the creation of a Smithsonian National American Latino Museum.



Chev Lovett
Organize Florida
Connect Class 9

Winter Park Magazine has named Chev on their "Most Influential People" list.

President & CEO.



Elisha Gonzalez
FAIRWINDS Credit Union
Cornerstone Class 30

Orlando Magazine has named Elisha as one of five "Women Who Move the City".



Gretchen Clarke
UWF Center for Cybersecurity
Connect Class 7

Gretchen recently accepted the position of Associate Director for Business Strategy and Development at the UWF Center for Cybersecurity.



Ivin Gunder
Riverview High School
Education Class 4

Ivin is the new Principal at Riverview High School in Hillsborough County.



Karen Bowling
University of North Florida
Cornerstone Class 25

Karen has been named the University of North Florida's first Vice President of Jobs.



Melissa McKinlay

Palm Beach Co. Commission
Cornerstone Class 37

Melissa was recently sworn in as President of the Florida Association of Counties.

Lori Kifer Johnson

Edelman
Cornerstone Class 36

Lori, General Manager at Edelman, led her team to win a Silver SABRE Award for PR Agency Citizenship for "Righting a Historical Injustice — The Groveland Four".

Gus Schmidt

Arctic Submarine Laboratory
Connect Class 9

Gus recently joined the Arctic Submarine Laboratory. He will be working as an Arctic Operations Specialist (Ice Pilot).

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Chris Lucas

Vice President of Operations and Chief of Staff



How long have you been with the Leadership Florida team and what is your primary role?

20 wonderful years! Aside from being the unofficial staff historian, I am responsible for the operational success of Leadership Florida's programs by managing the work of our amazing team.

For which projects or programs would you be a member's contact person for?

I am always happy to answer member questions on anything at all Leadership Florida...especially organizational policies and bylaws. I am also thrilled to be the staff liaison for the new Special Council on Equity, Equality and Justice.

Regarding working with Leadership Florida, do you have any favorite moments you would like to share?

We did a series of *'but for'* Leadership Florida trips to experience Space Shuttle launches at Cape Canaveral. Staff members rotated escorting small groups of members, and my turn was the launch of Atlantis' STS-112 mission in October 2002. A lifelong passion of mine has been the US space program, and actually watching a spacecraft launch live is a jaw-dropping, life-changing experience. You see the fire first, then hear the roar of the engines and literally feel the ground shake under your feet. Knowing the amount of cooperation that has gone into that moment by so many dedicated individuals, you cannot help but also feel a surge of patriotism. Now that manned space travel has returned to Florida, I am looking forward to putting more trips like this together for our members ... when the threat of COVID-19 is past us.

Would you share a little about life outside of Leadership Florida? (*Family, hobbies, volunteer service, etc.*)

Prior to Leadership Florida, my career was in international affairs. Since 1990, I have served on the Editorial Advisory Committee for the Foreign Policy Association. I still travel to New York once a year to help them select topics for a non-partisan briefing book on the top issues facing US Foreign Policy. And, for the past five years I have helped coach a small local high school's aerospace engineering club. The students have made it to the finals at Kennedy Space Center every year. After many months of solving engineering problems and learning to operate a space shuttle simulator, I enjoy introducing them to the real thing: Atlantis. Even though I do not understand half of what they do, I love being around young people who are reaching for the stars.

And just for fun, if you were to write a book about yourself, what would you name it?

Probably Finding Nerdvana.

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