



LeaderReader

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024
WINTER EDITION

PRESIDENT'S JANUARY MESSAGE

By Matthew Campbell '15

Welcome to 2024! It is hard to believe that the Leadership Pinellas Class of 2024 is already nearing the midpoint of their curriculum, and that May's graduation is on the horizon! Personally, I am honored and humbled to lead this organization alongside our dedicated and experienced Board of Directors in our mission to foster and develop existing and upcoming leaders for meaningful community impact. On behalf of LP, I thank you for your dedication and persistence in focusing on self-improvement and sharing a passion for enhancing the community in which you live, work, play, and sleep!



Established in 1977, Leadership Pinellas has an impressive legacy of providing existing and developing leaders a priceless snapshot of the raw infrastructure and services that support and enable Pinellas County to thrive and flourish each day. Immersion in our experience-rich program has empowered our graduates to excel in their careers, and ultimately seek out ways to improve their communities. The resounding effect of these combined actions ultimately improves the lives of our graduates, and that of our communities.

Leadership Pinellas graduates are a very diverse group of leaders, advocates, philanthropists, and change-makers seeking to share in their experiences and give back to their community. Personally, I find great pleasure in conversing and getting to know people down to their core, and everyone I've met that's graduated from LP are solid individuals. Diversity is key in any organization or profession, and although our backgrounds, careers, passions, or convictions may differ, Leadership Pinellas provides a common thread that brings us together. Our graduates are passionate, empathetic, and actively work to make positive differences in their respective communities. Knowing and associating with Leadership Pinellas makes me proud. As the late Charlie "Tremendous" Jones once said, "You will be the same person in five years as you are today except for the people you meet and the books you read." My experiences with Leadership Pinellas since my 2015 graduation have afforded me a tremendous opportunity to meet and associate with innumerable, quality people, and I am truly blessed to have this opportunity.

Once again, I can't thank our board, Executive Director, corporate sponsors, alumni, and current class for their continued part in the success of Leadership Pinellas. Looking ahead, even if you are not part of our current class, you are invited to participate in innumerable events and social gatherings that Leadership Pinellas sponsors throughout the year. Please be on the lookout on social media or the website for these events. Secondly, we are always seeking assistance from our alumni community to volunteer their time to contribute to the organization. Our elections are coming up, and as always, word-of-mouth advertising is always the preferred (and least costly) method to get the word out about our phenomenal organization.

As a final note, we are in the recruitment process. Encourage your coworkers, colleagues, business partners, and friends to apply for the Class of 2025. Watch your email and social media outlets for dates and locations of the upcoming recruitment events. Thank you again for your time and commitment to LP. As a member-run organization, none of this happens without you!

NOMINATIONS

Calling all interested alumni!

Leadership Pinellas is now accepting nominations for the 2024 – 2025 LP Board of Directors. Open positions include Secretary, Treasurer, President Elect, and Director.

All nominations should be submitted by February 15 and directed to Jennifer McGrail, contact@leadershippinellas.com.

CLASS OF 2024 UPDATE

The Class of 2024 is halfway through their Leadership Pinellas program year. So far, they have experienced Pinellas History Day, Clearwater Day, Human Services Day, and Mid Pinellas Day.



- The Class kicked off the year with Pinellas History Day and visited Weedon Island, St. Petersburg History Museum, The Palladium, Clearwater Historical Society, and Heritage Village. Weedon Island continues to be a favorite stop on History Day. And the tour at Heritage Village is always educational.
- Clearwater Day was the October program and did not disappoint. The committee put together a day filled with all things Clearwater from The Sound and Monin to Sandpearl Resort and The Capitol Theatre. While Monin had been a stop in year's past on Business Day, LP hadn't visited its new facility, and it was a favorite by many in the class. Clearwater Day ended with a well-attended social at Clear Sky on Cleveland where many alumni came out to meet the class.
- November brought Human Services Day. Pinellas County is home to many social services and while it's impossible to visit them all, the class experienced some of the most impactful the county has to offer. Habitat for Humanity, Lighthouse for the Blind, Homeless Empowerment Program, and Hope Villages were once again highlighted on Human Services Day. And we were fortunate to once again visit The Arc Tampa Bay to interact with some of their clients. Duggan Cooley '07 gave a presentation on Pinellas Community Foundation to help us understand not only what the foundation does, but also as it relates to the Class Project. At the end of the day, the class felt empowered to get more involved in community needs.
- Mid Pinellas Day was a great cap off to 2023. This year the class was treated to Pinellas County Solid Waste (a class favorite for many years), Pinellas Education Foundation, Creative Pinellas, Pinellas Realtor Organization, and for the first time, Intrepid Power Boats. A well put together day by the committee was followed by our Holiday Happening Social at Big Storm Brewing Company. Many items were collected for a holiday drive and donated to both Hope Villages and Homeless Empowerment Program.

In addition to program days, the class has enjoyed two Leadership Chats thanks to Rebecca Watson '19. Rebecca and her team highlight different leadership topics four times during the program year. Leadership Pinellas is committed to continuing to bring leadership to the forefront of the program by carrying topics beyond the Opening Retreat.

Look for upcoming program day socials to join the class in the upcoming months!

YLP UPDATE: HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM DAY

Walker Dauval, Osceola Fundamental High School

On November 1, Youth Leadership Pinellas Class of 2024 took a very enlightening trip around Pinellas County on their Human Services day. We got to meet amazing people who have heavily impacted many lives. We experienced firsthand just a portion of what those less fortunate have to go through in their day-to-day lives, such as resorting to food banks and free clinics to receive the treatment they need for not just themselves but their families as well.

Our trip started off at the Hope Villages Food Bank where we got to learn about budgeting our money in a way that allows us to still have money to buy the food we need. By playing a simulation of those less fortunate, we were able to get a glimpse of what it was like to struggle to get the nutrients and necessities we would need to survive. We even ended up relying on the help from social services and the kindness of others to make ends meet. We found this to be one of the most eye-opening experiences of the trip as it allowed for a lot of hands on learning.

The trip then took a new turn as it reached the Homeless Empowerment Program where we got to check out their large facility as well as all they offer to those in need, which includes a salon, free dental care, housing, cafeteria, and a second-hand shop that also allows those in need to work there for a wage. We found it to remarkably interesting and thoughtful that the housing for those in need was created to look a lot like nice apartments to allow the kids to grow up and not feel as if they were treated any less than other kids. They also had a career center that connected with many companies to supply jobs to those in need to get them back on their feet.

After visiting all the organizations, we felt more educated on many of these topics and more aware of what kind of things are happening in our community. We are grateful for these experiences, and we cannot wait to put what we have learned to use.



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