



LeaderReader

AUGUST 2023 EDITION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Matthew Campbell '15



Good day folks. For those that don't know me, I'm Matthew Campbell, Class of '15. Honestly, when Margaret Martin asked me to submit my name for consideration for president, my hesitation was minimal. This wasn't due to ego, or my wanting to add another volunteer commitment to my agenda, or the result of me not having enough to do. However, my saying "yes" was the result of my passion to lead and continue to make a difference for Leadership Pinellas. Following the Class of 2015 graduation, along with several other classmates, I chose to stay involved with LP by volunteering for any opportunity that presented itself. Staying connected with LP was engrained in my persona. Personally, this included serving as an assistant program day chair, and then program day chair for several years. Later, I was elected to the Executive Board, and continued to serve as Alumni Social Committee Chair through the pandemic due to my passion for bringing people together for a meal, beverage, or time in the great outdoors. My experiences with Leadership Pinellas over the years have been tremendous, personally enriching, and have been a perfect fit for my desire to "give back" to the community.

In our post-pandemic culture, people's preferences have changed considerably regarding how they spend their personal time, or time spent with others. In many cases, the pandemic's commonality of forced isolation has resulted in people's reluctance to re-engage with relationships outside their families (2022, www.pewresearch.org). This behavior has impacted social service organizations across the board, but our culture is recovering daily. At Leadership Pinellas, we've also had to realize that people are inherently busy, and that if given the opportunity of participating in a social gathering or family event during their free time, the latter will most always prevail. Nonetheless, Leadership Pinellas has responded to these shifting preferences by continually adapting to changing trends, meanwhile focusing on new and creative community engagement initiatives with its current class, alumni, and Board of Directors, wherever feasible.

Over a 10-month period, beginning in August and adjourning with a graduation event in May, participants meet monthly for daylong sessions where they learn leadership skills, and are exposed to key focus areas throughout Pinellas County ultimately learning about what's needed to enhance and support the County's ongoing growth and success. Although some may view their experience with LP as a networking opportunity, the greatest benefit of the LP experience is in the recognition and awareness of key challenges or unmet needs our community faces. The collaboration and education provided by the LP program experience provides alumni with the tools, knowledge, and relationships needed to make a difference in the community. Leadership Pinellas alumni often graduate with an increased empathy and understanding for many of the challenges faced within the Pinellas community.

"We welcome our incoming Class of 2024 and applaud their dedication and commitment to learning more about our community as they also advance their community awareness and leadership skills," said Jennifer McGrail, Executive Director of Leadership Pinellas. "Leadership Pinellas is a development program unlike any other, where talented people from all disciplines or professions come together to find real-world solutions to challenges facing our community."

This year's class of 34 leaders from all backgrounds showcases the professional, geographic, and demographic diversity found throughout Pinellas County. I sincerely look forward to meeting and talking with each member of our new class, and reconnecting with our alumni in the coming year.

WELCOME CLASS OF 2024

Ryan Adelberg, Pridestaff

Tamara Bell, Bankers Financial Corp.

Meredith Carlton, BayCare Health Systems

Joanna Castle, YMCA of the Suncoast

Maria Christiano, Clearwater Free Clinic

Ethan Cole, St. Bartholomew's

Devin Dempsey, Maloney + Novotny

Angela Clute Diaz, Pinellas County Housing Authority

Erika Escamilla, City of Clearwater

Elizabeth Moscak Fazio, PSTA

Georganna Frantzis, Morgan & Morgan

John French, Wharton Smith

Bryan Froning, Bates Electric

Joe Gerretz, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Candi Hagler, Habitat for Humanity

Jean Kameni, Catalant Pharma Solutions

Richie Koster, Keller Williams

Nicholas Lazaris, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Dean Maratea, Greater Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce

Kevin McCall, Stark Tech Operating Company

Ragan McGillis, Feeding Tampa Bay

Mark Middleton, Watermark Realty

Trevor Miller-Evans, Sunstar Paramedics

Jim Millican, Lealman Fire District

Carol Nelson, Achieva Credit Union

Morgan Nelson, Office of the Public Defender

John Oswald, South State Bank

Kristina Park, Amplify Clearwater

Krista Pincince, City of Largo

Robbin Redd, TarponSprings Housing Authority

Megan Rodriguez, BayCare Health Systems

Justin Spinello, Principal

Shelia Sullivan, KnowBe4

Dominique VanKirk, City of Largo

YOU'RE INVITED

Come out to meet the Class of 2024 and reconnect with other LP alum!

OPENING RETREAT SOCIAL

Friday, August 11, 2023

Skits start at 6 p.m. followed by the social. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.

Free for Paid Alumni Dues; \$25 for Non-Paid Alumni Dues/Guests

RSVP on the website under the Events tab, or click the link to register:

Opening Retreat Skits and Social - Leadership Pinellas

Thank you to the alumni who continue to support Leadership Pinellas through the Annual Alumni Dues. And, to those who give a little more to help Leadership Pinellas continue to provide the best leadership program in the area.

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE - \$275

Gary Banlowe '11

Liza Carter '07

Duggan Cooley '07

Sally McLane Evans '15

Theodosia Frantzis '78

Moe Freaney '03

Donald Wood '98

ALUMNI BOOSTER - \$175

Chad Burgess '16

Dimitry Carlson '08

Jim Coats '02

Katie Cole '01

Pat DePlasco '19

Katie Gannon '21

Bill Jonson '99

Brian Kilczewski '19

Tim Knowles '17

Pat Marzulli '05

Elise Minkoff '08

Ron Piccinini '16

Andrew Salzman '19

Eric Seidel '18

Diane Stein '15

David Vann '23

Debbie White '95

Linda Williams '93