



2020/21 CLASS DIRECTORY  
A PROGRAM OF THE LAKELAND  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

— CLASS —  
XXXVIII



## ABOUT LEADERSHIP LAKELAND

Planning for the future requires an understanding of the many different components of the community. Leadership Lakeland focuses on major areas of community interest and concern including government and politics, economic development, the environment, criminal justice, business, the arts, education, communications and the media, and health and human services.

The Leadership Lakeland experience begins in August with an Orientation and Reception honoring the new class, followed by an Opening Retreat in September. From October through May, the class meets once a month with a Mid-Year Retreat held in January. Sessions are held at various locations throughout the community relevant to the topic of the month. This format provides the participants with a broad perspective that includes hands-on experiences. In May, the program concludes with a Closing Retreat and Graduation.

Established in 1983 by the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Lakeland is an annual program designed to identify leadership and enhance existing leadership in our community. Leadership Lakeland does not take public policy positions or advocate any individual viewpoint. The program unites leaders from diverse backgrounds and perspectives to improve their ability to lead effectively, offering its members a broad range of experiences and insights about the community, its people, its needs, and its services.

Leadership Lakeland has a lasting impact on the quality and effectiveness of the leadership in our community. The greatest wealth of a community lies in the quality of its leadership.



## LEADERSHIP LAKELAND CRITERIA

The participants in this program were selected from applicants representing businesses, public and private agencies, and civic and professional organizations throughout the Lakeland area. The final selection of members to make up Class XXXVIII was made by a Selection Committee. Some of the criteria considered are as follows:

- Have the candidates reached a responsible level in their chosen careers?
- Have they demonstrated a commitment to serve the community?
- Do they have the time and resources to give community service?
- Do candidates represent a cross-section of the business community, including government, education, community service volunteers, and professionals?



**DR. LAUREN ALBAUM**

President-Elect  
Junior League of Greater Lakeland  
90 Lake Morton Dr  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
lauren.albaum@jlgf.org  
(813) 751-7744

**Professional Description:** As President-Elect, Albaum is responsible for overseeing strategic planning, conducting leadership development, and providing oversight for the Junior League of Greater Lakeland, an organization of more than 500 women members committed to positively impacting the community's cultural and educational needs since 1933.

**Experience & Qualifications:** As Director of Career Development at Florida Southern College, Albaum improves educational outcomes, coaches future leaders, and oversees career-readiness initiatives. Her career in higher education spans student activities, career services, and college teaching. Albaum also serves as the Vice President of the Southeastern Association of Advisors for the Health Professions.

**Education & Training:** PhD in Higher Education Administration, University of South Florida (2020); Post-Graduate Certificate in College Teaching, University of South Florida (2016); Masters of Education in Higher Education, University of South Carolina (2013); Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance, Florida State University (2011); Post-Crisis Leadership Certificate, University of South Florida (2020).

**Community Service:** President-Elect (2020-2021), Treasurer (2019-2020), Community Outreach Chair (2018-2019), Junior League of Greater Lakeland; Board of Directors, Explorations V Children's Museum; YLS Steering Committee, UWCF; ATHENA Planning Committee, Lakeland Chamber; National Young Alumni Council, Florida State University; Advisory Board, Polk Academies; Talent Pipeline Committee, Polk Vision.

**Awards:** Bridge to the Community Award, Junior League of Greater Lakeland (2019); Spirit of the Cornerstone Award, Florida Southern College (2019); Outstanding Academic Advisor of the Year, University of South Florida (2015); Graduate Assistant of the Year, University of South Carolina (2013).



**GWEN B. ALLEN**

Director of External Relations  
Southeastern University  
1000 Longfellow Blvd  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
gballen@seu.edu  
(863) 670-4936

**Professional Description:** As Director of External Relations, Allen serves in the Office of Advancement to move forward the mission of the university through engaging individual, corporate, and foundation relationships and cultivating strategic business partnerships. Her work also includes The Forum, Gala, and other special projects that support student scholarships and student-focused initiatives.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Allen helped raise \$7 million+ in scholarships, annual fund, and capital campaign support for SEU. At Polk State Corporate College, she led the 3D Lab and then was Business Development Coordinator for the college. She co-founded PC Bridal Exhibit & Marketplace, sold it, and it thrives under "PC Bridal Exhibit" today.

**Education & Training:** Allen earned her Bachelor of Arts in 2005 and is working on her MBA with a Missional Leadership track from SEU. She is currently qualifying as a Certified Fund Raising Executive.

**Community Service:** President, Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Association (2018-2020). Other board service includes: board member, The Lakeland Rotary Club (2020-2022); Secretary, Lakeland Tropics Youth Club (2019-2021); Treasurer, Association of Fundraising Professionals (2018-2020); Community Organizer with United City helping spearhead community events from Hurricane Irma relief to National Day of Prayer, Q-Commons, and more.

**Interests:** Time with family and friends, the outdoors, the arts, and outreach and community engagement.





**WILLIAM C. ANDERSON**

Director of Water Utilities  
City of Lakeland  
501 E Lemon St  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
bill.anderson@lakelandgov.net  
(863) 834-6555

**Professional Description:** As Director of Water Utilities, Anderson is responsible for the water and wastewater services provided to the industrial, commercial, and residential customers within the Lakeland utility service territory. He oversees the annual utility budget and long range planning for the Water Utility.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Anderson has served the City of Lakeland for 20 years as an Environmental Technician, Environmental Scientist, Assistant Utility Director, and Utility Director. Prior to his service to Lakeland, he worked in various retail management roles and had the privilege to serve in the United States Air Force.

**Education & Training:** Certified Public Manager (2017); City of Lakeland Management Development Institute (2015); City of Lakeland Leadership Development Program (2003); Bachelor of Science, Florida Southern College (1999).

**Community Service:** Chair, Polk County Utility and Environmental Leadership group; Past President and Director, Brighton Pointe Estates Homeowners Association.

**Interests:** Spending time with family, traveling, home maintenance, fly fishing, reading, aviation, and auto racing.



**DANIELLE KALETHIA BAKER**

Director of Philanthropy  
United Way of Central Florida  
5605 US Hwy 98 S  
Lakeland, FL 33812  
danielle.baker@uwcfc.org  
(863) 944-4620

**Professional Description:** Baker serves as the lead fundraising liaison for United Way and the Publix relationship throughout the 7-state footprint. Roles include high-level strategy meetings with United Way Worldwide and webinars with Executives with other local United Ways and Publix leadership.

**Experience & Qualifications:** She served as a fundraiser for FSU for three years while attending college and was the 2015 United Way Loaned Executive from GEICO representation for the State of Florida.

**Education & Training:** She currently completed the competitive, year-long United Way Worldwide's Leaders Engaged in Accelerated Development (LEAD) program.

**Community Service:** Ready to Read Committee, Junior League of Greater Lakeland.

**Interests:** Baker enjoys the great outdoors (anything truly), singing, cleaning, reading, analyzing data, and traveling.



**ROBERT BOHRER**

Quality Guide  
Streamalign  
502 E Main St  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
robert@streamalign.com  
(863) 274-0145

**Professional Description:** Bohrer partners with business owners and leaders working to implement quality programs in their business for the purpose of more effective and efficient use of time, resources, and money. Services include quality training, systems review and implementation, process mapping, data capture/analytics, and continuous improvement planning.

**Experience & Qualifications:** He has a 30-year history building, growing, and leading teams in the banking, hospitality, and technology industries. Using total quality management tools and techniques, Bohrer learned the value of consistent, repeatable execution through the implementation of systems and processes as well as the importance of building an engaged workforce.

**Education & Training:** Certified as a Quality Auditor (2019); Six Sigma Green Belt (2015); Bachelor's in Business Administration (2014); Associate's in Business Administration (2012).

**Community Service:** Volunteer opportunities through Rotary; active member/board participant in local Toastmasters club; and recently became an approved SCORE business mentor volunteer.

**Interests:** Reading, waterfalls, action movies, and travel.



**SHEENA MARIE BUTTS**

Associate Vice President of Surgical  
and Procedural Services  
Lakeland Regional Health  
1324 Lakeland Hills Blvd  
Lakeland, FL 33805  
sheena.butts@mylrh.org  
(863) 838-4113

**Professional Description:** As Associate Vice President for Surgical and Procedural Services, she is responsible for providing overall administrative direction and leadership. Leads the growth of service lines, develops and implements new programs, and promotes the advancement and improvement of existing programs, in order to distinguish LRH's services and experiences in the eyes of its customers. Strives to meet the growing healthcare needs of the community.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Butts has worked at Lakeland Regional Health since 2011. She has served in various roles in the organization and began her career as an intern. Previous roles include Industrial Engineer, Director of Organizational Effectiveness, and Associate Vice President of Care Continuum and Organizational Effectiveness.

**Education & Training:** Master's in Engineering Management, Penn State University (2016); Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, University of South Florida (2013); Bachelor of Arts in Communications, College of Charleston (2007); Certified Six Sigma Black Belt.

**Community Service:** Board member, The Schools of McKeel Academy; member, Lakeland Regional Health Women in Philanthropy; member, United Way Young Leaders Society; preceptor and mentor, college and high school students.

**Awards:** Institute of Industrial Engineers, Society of Health Systems, Rawson Challenge Winner, Eliminating a Million Dollars of Waste in Healthcare; Institute of Industrial Engineers, Society of Health Systems, Innovation Competition Winner, AutoLog.

**Interests:** Running, reading, traveling, art, home design, hiking, spending time with family and friends, and her dog, Luna.







**DORCAS A. LAIDLER CRUMBLY**  
 CEO  
 Essential Catering Solutions  
 502 E Main St  
 Lakeland, FL 33801  
 dorcas@essentialcateringsolutions.com  
 (863) 393-6368

**Professional Description:** As founder of Essential Catering Solutions, a uniquely customizable catering service, her role as CEO is to establish new trends through innovation, service that exceeds industry standards, excellent food, and personalized care. She oversees implementation of all operations, sales and the company's ever-expanding footprint and growing stellar reputation.

**Experience & Qualifications:** H1N1 Pandemic Task Force & Regional PIO for Florida Dept. of Health; secured \$95,000 Grant for Lakeland Regional Health resulting in purchases of trauma unit & security installations; Projects & Events Manager, Revenue and Capital Campaigns Coordinator for several organizations; Board Treasurer for DPPC-FPRA; Board Fundraising Chair for PTO.

**Education & Training:** Master's in Management & Leadership, Webster University (Saint Louis, MO); Master's in Human Resources Management and Certificate in Project Management, Webster University; Bachelor of Arts in Communications (Broadcast Journalism), Florida Southern College; FL Credential (Executive Director), Edward Waters College (Jacksonville).

**Community Service:** Volunteer or donor; EMERGE Lakeland; Compassionate Hearts United; Girl's Incorporated of Lakeland; Good Shepherd Hospice; Florida Baptist Children's Home; Florida Medical Reserve Corps; (CCCCC) Christ Community Christian Center Church; PTO Lincoln Avenue Academy; Lakeland Regional Health; INTERACT Food Program.

**Awards:** "She Knows Where She's Going Award Nomination, Girl's Incorporated of Lakeland; 20-Year Helps Ministry Service Award-CCCCC; 1,000 Hours+ Volunteer Award, Lakeland Regional Health.

**Interests:** Traveling, her family and her children's interests & sports, health science studies & breakthroughs, movies, hunting, four wheeling, motorcycling, horseback riding, and recreation.



**ALBERT CUMMINGS III**  
 Assistant Principal  
 Blake Academy  
 510 Hartsell Ave  
 Lakeland, FL 33815  
 albert.cummings@polk-fl.net  
 (863) 499-2870

**Professional Description:** Cummings assists the school principal in providing the leadership necessary to develop and administer educational programs. These programs ensure implementation of learning processes for all students leading to student achievement within the context of providing a safe and successful school for students, staff, and parents in support of enhanced student learning.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Prior to joining Polk County Schools, he worked in corporate sales for six years. He has worked in education for nine years as a Math Teacher, Dean, Testing Coordinator, and Assistant Principal.

**Education & Training:** Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership, Nova Southeastern University (2014); Master of Business Administration, Florida A&M University (2005).

**Community Service:** Vice President, Mu Zeta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha; President, National Pan-Hellenic Council of Polk County.

**Interests:** Family, music, learning about animals, football, educating the youth, traveling, and spending time with friends.



**DR. YESENIA DEJESUS-SUAREZ**

Executive Director Griffin Road  
Campus  
Lakeland Surgical and Diagnostic  
Center  
115 S Missouri Ave, Ste 101  
Lakeland, FL 33815  
ydejesus-suarez@lsdc.net  
(863) 687-0566

**Professional Description:** DeJesus-Suarez is a healthcare executive who ensures the facility runs according to policies and procedures. She analyzes and evaluates nursing services to improve quality of care and to maintain standards of patient care. Medical Records Custodian, Infection Prevention Officer, Privacy Officer, Case cost committee chair, Risk Management Designee, and others.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Board member (2016-2018) and Healthcare Task Force Assistance (current), Talbot House Ministries; Executive Director, LSDC (2013-present); Clinical Director of Nursing (2011-2013); CRNA (2003-2011); General Hospital Manager & CRNA (2001-2006).

**Education & Training:** Associate's in Nursing (1994); Bachelor's in Nursing (1999); Critical Care Specialty (2002), Master's in Nursing in Anesthesiology (2003); Master's in Nursing, second concentration; Doctorate in Nursing (2014); post-graduate certificate in Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (2017).

**Community Service:** Troop leader for a Girl Scout troop in Winter Haven; Instructor, Emergency Care and Safety Institute for Girl and Boys Scouts of America; Instructor, K-12 teachers for the Project Wild (Florida Wildlife Management Association); American Red Cross; Sharing Smiles, AdventHealth; Talbot House Ministries; Lighthouse Ministries; Cozy Project, LSDC.

**Awards:** National Collegiate Nursing Award Winner (2005-2006); Outstanding Medical Professional-Bolivia (2019); Silver Trefoil Award Winner (2019), recognizes commendable service in scouting.

**Interests:** Hiking, backpacking, camping, travel, wilderness, kayaking, history.



**KERRY FALWELL**

CEO  
Explorations V Children's Museum  
109 N Kentucky Ave  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
kfalwell@explorationsv.com  
(863) 687-3869

**Professional Description:** Oversees all aspects of Museum operations and works with the Board of Directors. Manages a beloved children's museum by healthy and transparent fiscal oversight of the \$800,000 budget. Completes strategic plan goals and objectives in service to Central Florida communities. Creates meaningful partnerships that increase access.

**Experience & Qualifications:** CEO, Explorations V Children's Museum (2017-present); Director of Education & Community Partnerships, Glazer Children's Museum (2011-2017); Director of Development, Rochester City Ballet (2010-2011); Certificates; Brazelton Touchpoints; and Grant Writing.

**Education & Training:** Graduate Certificate, Infant Family Mental Health, University of South Florida St. Petersburg; Master of Arts in Administration, Florida State University; Bachelor of Arts in Flute Performance, Texas Tech University.

**Community Service:** Co-Chair, Mayor's Council on the Arts; Reopen Lakeland Taskforce.

**Awards:** Diversity and Inclusion Award, State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs; Outstanding Advocate for Hillsborough County, Florida Association for the Education of Young Children.

**Interests:** Gardening and running.





**REV. DR. JOHN FULLERTON**

Senior Pastor  
First Presbyterian Church  
Lakeland, Florida USA  
175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
jfullerton@fpclakeland.org  
(863) 686-7187

**Professional Description:** Dr. Fullerton is the senior pastor of the church on Lake Hollingsworth. As senior pastor, he is the main teacher, head of staff, moderator of Session (board of elders), vision caster, and chief sheep dog of the flock barking out orders from the Great Shepherd Jesus.

**Experience & Qualifications:** He has 23 years of experience as a pastor, six years in regional leadership of the church, and nine years of marketing experience prior to that. His current call is First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland. Dr. Fullerton has served churches in Dunedin, FL; Covington, TN; Mount Vernon, OH; and Cumnock, Scotland.

**Education & Training:** Doctor of Ministry, Fuller Theological Seminary; Master of Divinity, Princeton Theological Seminary; Bachelor of Science, University of Florida.

**Community Service:** Homeless Empowerment Project (HEP) (Clearwater); Social Services Advisory Committee (Dunedin); Covington Economic Development Committee (Covington, TN); Bridging Freedom (victim care for minors rescued from trafficking) (Tampa); Public Relations Advisory Committee (Dunedin).

**Awards:** Tipton County "Man of the Year."

**Interests:** Dr. Fullerton enjoys reading, writing, golfing, running half marathons with his wife, Cile, working on his 1966 Ford Mustang, cheering on the Florida Gators football team, and spending time with his family including their five beautiful grandchildren.



**FRANCES LOLETHA HADLEY-ERVIN**

CEO  
Hadley's Early Education / Inspire  
Academy  
1020 N Kentucky Ave  
Lakeland, FL 33805  
hadleysearlyed@yahoo.com  
(863) 688-0952

**Professional Description:** Oversees the day-to-day operations of an academy, grades K-5, and serves as preschool director for infant-school age children. This includes coordinating best curriculum, student attendance, new hires, evaluating educational programs, administrative duties, creating and managing the budget, and cultivating a friendly, safe environment for parents and children.

**Experience & Qualifications:** 20+ years as an entrepreneur owning her family childcare home and as a preschool director in education. She worked 5 years in public schools.

**Education & Training:** Bachelor of Arts in Business and Associate of Science in Education, Polk State College; graduate, Kathleen Sr High; DCF Certified; a host of certificates and continuing educational training.

**Community Service:** She enjoys volunteering at her local church, visiting the local nursing homes, running errands, and spending time with the elderly.

**Interests:** She loves to travel and enjoys exploring new places, relaxing at the spa, reading, bike riding, and listening to music.





**LANE KATHRYN  
HICKEY-WIGGINS**

President/CEO  
Douglass Screen Printers, Inc.  
dba DPRINT  
2710 New Tampa Hwy  
Lakeland, FL 33815  
lkhiggins@mydprint.com  
(863) 943-2103

**Professional Description:** President/CEO at DPRINT.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Serving for the Specialty Graphic Imaging Association (SGIA) Board of Directors, SGIA's Sustainability, Safety, Health and Personnel Advisory Council, and SGIA's Women in Print Alliance Advisory Council. She is an alumna member of the Women President's Organization and a member of the National Association of Women Business Owners Circle.

**Education & Training:** Master of Business Administration, University of South Florida; Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art History, Savannah College of Art and Design; Associate of Arts in Business Administration, Polk State College.

**Community Service:** Member, Polk County Kid's Tag Art Steering Committee; Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Go For The Greens Foundation; President, Explorations V Children's Museum Board of Directors (current).

**Interests:** Reading extensively, traveling, networking, and socializing. She also enjoys spending time with her husband and two young children.



**KAYLEE HOLLAND**

Editor  
LALtoday, 6AM City  
502 E Main St  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
kholland@laltoday.com  
(864) 640-3988

**Professional Description:** Planning, writing, editing, and publishing the most relevant, engaging, and conversational daily content about Lakeland. This includes producing and managing daily content for the newsletter, website and social media, strategizing for audience growth, and more.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Holland is a lifelong storyteller and creator, who has spent the past several years working professionally for both nonprofits and for-profits including: FBC at the Mall, One More Child, Congregation B'nai Israel, Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley, and LALtoday/6AM City.

**Education & Training:** Bachelor of Arts in PR & Journalism, Southeastern University.

**Community Service:** Summer Leadership Program (2019); board member/volunteer, Red Tent Initiative; member of the local theatre community.

**Interests:** Hiking the flat hills of Florida, watching obscure documentaries, acting in local plays, and writing about anything and everything.





### STEPHANIE AMBER HOSKINS

Owner/Co-Founder  
Good Intent's Marketing LLC  
1309 Brighton Way  
Lakeland, FL 33813  
stephanie@good-intents.com  
(863) 259-9990

**Professional Description:** As the Co-founder of Good Intent's, Hoskins wears many hats from being the director of operations and development, client liaison, digital marketer, and SEO strategist. Hoskins is responsible for relationship-building and expanding the national nonprofit client base, as well as implementation for the company's for-profit businesses to increase online visibility.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Technology Specialist for Publix Super Markets, handling change administration across Information Systems teams. Technical Writer and Marketing Specialist for online payment processing software at Vesta Corp in Portland, OR. Google PPC specialist and website administrator for a new home builder in Winter Haven.

**Education & Training:** Search Engine Optimization Specialization, University of California, Davis (2020); Food and health, Stanford University (2018); Bachelor's in Liberal Arts in English, University of Illinois at Chicago (2005). Other education and skills have been gleaned from job-related experiences in a corporate retail environment and starting a small business.

**Community Service:** Meal delivery volunteer, Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE); Hospital Care Team Volunteer, Free Life Chapel.

**Interests:** Spending time with her family, running overnight relay races with 11 strangers in a van (also known as a Ragnar race), coaching a local high school swim team, and traveling with her husband.



### CINDY JOYCE

Art Director  
MADE Brands  
1035 S Florida Ave, Ste 101  
Lakeland, FL 33803  
cindy@madelkd.com  
(863) 500-1476

**Professional Description:** As Art Director and part-owner of MADE, Joyce's main responsibilities are design and ensuring that all clients' brands are represented beautifully, creatively, and accurately. She also has a role in providing client services and communications, along with ensuring projects are running smoothly and on time.

**Experience & Qualifications:** She operates on the notion that hard work and perseverance yield amazing results. She started her career designing t-shirts and grew from there. Her fearlessness of hard work, and the personal satisfaction gained from it, launched Joyce into an award-winning, 17+ year, loving-every-minute-of-it career in the advertising industry.

**Education & Training:** Associate of Arts in Mass Communications, Polk Community College (2000); Bachelor of Arts in Advertising Design, Florida Southern College (2003); graduate of the EMERGE Peer 2 Peer Program (2010); member, EMERGE Lakeland (2010-2011); HubSpot Inbound Certification (2017).

**Community Service:** American Advertising Federation Polk County (Member 2012-present / Board Member 2017-present / Secretary 2018-present); Sheriff's Advisory Council (2019-2019); MADE's Annual Brandathon (2011-present); LVIM Leaders of Polk Jockey for Lakeland Derby (2018).

**Awards:** Joyce is proud to be the recipient of an Employee of the Month award for every job she's ever had. She has been the recipient of countless American Advertising Awards for design throughout her career, including two Benny Awards.

**Interests:** She is passionate about the people she surrounds herself with and the community she lives in. She enjoys making people laugh, movies, and singing. In her downtime, you can find her sipping sangria with her friends and finding new adventures with her husband, Martin, and son, Caleb.



**ELLA KIMBREL**

Vice President, Human Resources  
Harrell's, LLC  
5105 New Tampa Hwy  
Lakeland, FL 33815  
ella@harrells.com  
(863) 400-5396

**Professional Description:** Kimbrel provides executive-level leadership and guidance to the organization's HR operations and is responsible for setting, enforcing, and evaluating legally compliant HR policies, procedures, and best practices, and identifying and implementing long-range strategic talent management goals in keeping with the organization's strategy.

**Experience & Qualifications:** She has more than 22 years of experience in the field of HR serving Harrell's for 17 of those years. Kimbrel has worked in HR for several industries but manufacturing is her favorite. Prior to HR, she worked in records management, staffing, and served in several positions with Peace River Center.

**Education & Training:** Master of Arts in HR Management, Webster University; Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management, Warner University; Senior Professional in HR Management (SPHR) and Society for Human Resources - Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-CP); extended DISC and Path Elements Profile Certifications; Certified leadership coach, teacher, and speaker with the John Maxwell Team.

**Community Service:** Active volunteer through her church, Ardella Baptist. Served as President on Board of Directors with Mid-Florida SHRM and has been an active member since 2003. Past volunteer with Peace River Center.

**Awards:** 2018 Human Resource Professional of the Year, Mid-Florida SHRM.

**Interests:** Spending time with family including her mini doxie, playing games, and reading. She loves serving on the worship team at church as well as other church activities such as the fall festival or Christmas plays.



**ROBERT FITZHUGH LAY**

General Manager  
SERVPRO of Lakeland  
1018 W Beacon Rd  
Lakeland, FL 33803  
rlay477@gmail.com  
(863) 712-3609

**Professional Description:** Lay handles all performance and quality assurance aspects of this business. He works with both customers, insurance adjusters, and employees to create a positive experience from a negative incident. He also contributes to the marketing and sales aspect of the business.

**Experience & Qualifications:** He has been in disaster recovery for almost 10 years and has worked for SERVPRO for nearly 8 years. He is certified as a Mold Remediator, Air Duct Specialist, Commercial Drying Specialist, and many other beneficial certifications for the industry.

**Education & Training:** Lay attended the University of Florida and All Saints Academy. He studied Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, but found a passion for Operations Management during his time assisting on the Gulf Oil Spill Recovery.

**Community Service:** Board of Directors, Executive Committee as the Second Vice President, Campfire. He has also worked on the Advisory Board for Bonnet Springs Park and served on the Board of Directors for the Polk Theatre.

**Awards:** 2019 Ledger's Best of the Best Award; University Scholars Award, University of Florida.

**Interests:** Scuba diving, running, hiking, his family, traveling the world, golf, tennis, fishing, and history!





**KEVIN LeVINE**

Principal  
Harrison School for the Arts  
750 Hollingsworth Rd  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
kevin.levine@polk-fl.net  
(863) 499-2855

**Professional Description:** LeVine is the principal at Harrison School for the Arts. He is in his eighth year as an administrator at the school, having previously served as Dean of Arts and Assistant Principal.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Prior to Harrison, LeVine spent 11 years as a high school band director. After rebuilding the band program at Mulberry High School, he started the band program at Tenoroc. In addition to his teaching duties, he also served as the coordinator for the All-County Jazz Band for several years.

**Education & Training:** Master of Education, American College of Education; Bachelor's in Music Education, Florida Southern College.

**Community Service:** LeVine spends numerous hours each week volunteering at his church where he is a part of the worship team and also helps run sound during services. In addition, he has spent significant time volunteering with the Lawton Chiles Band Boosters and South Lakeland Baseball.

**Interests:** In addition to listening to music, he enjoys watching the Tampa Bay Rays and Tampa Bay Lightning.



**GRADY WILLIAM MARTIN**

General Manager  
Saddle Creek Logistics Services  
3010 Saddle Creek Rd  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
grady.martin@sclogistics.com  
(863) 668-2733

**Professional Description:** Leads the Central Florida operations for Saddle Creek consisting of managing more than 4.2 million square feet of warehousing space and 700 associates.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Executive positions with multiple fortune 500 companies and service with several nonprofit organizations.

**Education & Training:** Bachelor of Science, Purdue University; Lean Six Sigma Black Belt.

**Community Service:** Wreaths Across America; Saint Joseph Catholic School; Sons of the American Legion; Siza Botwana; United Way.

**Interests:** Community service, youth coaching, and outdoor activities.



**THEODORE R.M. MILLER**

Attorney  
Miller Law, P.A.  
2323 S Florida Ave  
Lakeland, FL 33803  
tmiller@millerlawfl.com  
(863) 688-7038

**Professional Description:** Miller regularly represents clients with respect to residential and commercial contracts, agricultural lending, and real property transactions. His law practice also includes business formations, wills and trusts, probate matters, and loan closings. He is a Junior Partner at Miller Law, P.A., which was founded in 1996.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Florida Bar licensed attorney in the State of Florida; The Fund Member; Title Agent for Old Republic Title Insurance Company; Agricultural Real Estate Counsel for AgAmerica Lending LLC.

**Education & Training:** Juris Doctor (2018), Bachelor of Science College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (2015), Minor in Agriculture and Natural Resource Law and Minor in Leadership (2015), University of Florida; graduate, Lakeland Christian School (2011).

**Community Service:** Member, First United Methodist Church; 10-year member, Senior Orphans volunteer; volunteer, Winn Dixie Hope Lodge (Gainesville); The Lakeland Rotary Club; Florida Blue Key; Alpha Gamma Rho Fundraising Committee, University of Florida.

**Awards:** Florida Blue Key President, Hall of Fame (2015), Alpha Gamma Rho President, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Outstanding Leader, University of Florida.

**Interests:** Hunting, fishing, Florida Gator sports, Orange Theory Fitness, and running with his dog, Albie.



**TERESA M. O'BRIEN**

Founder  
Help(her) LLC  
1313 E Edgewood Dr  
Lakeland, FL 33803  
teresa@myhelpher.com  
(863) 529-3527

**Professional Description:** Founder of Help(her) LLC, connecting individuals and small businesses with an on-demand solution to meet their task-related needs.

**Experience & Qualifications:** O'Brien's experience is in coordinating large-scale events and producing digital streaming content which has inspired her most recent endeavor of launching her first business, Help(her) LLC. She finds joy in connecting others together to make magic happen!

**Education & Training:** She attended Southeastern University, receiving a degree in Communications.

**Community Service:** O'Brien has volunteered in Polk County Public Schools for nine years. For eight years she has also been an advocate for children in Polk County as a Guardian ad Litem.

**Awards:** Volunteer of the Year, Lakeland Highlands Middle (2018-2019).

**Interests:** She admires authentic writers and great storytellers. Traveling is one of her favorite things to do, especially going north to experience fall each year.







**DR. MELODY SUSAN RIDER**

Campus President  
Keiser University  
2400 Interstate Dr  
Lakeland, FL 33805  
mrider@keiseruniversity.edu  
(318) 230-9025

**Professional Description:** As Campus President for Keiser University, Dr. Rider oversees operations, ensuring that all aspects of the educational process support a “student first” philosophy. She leads a team of five directors, approximately 150 faculty and staff members, 1,500 active students, and countless graduates, promoting academic excellence, personal and professional achievement, and service to the community.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Over the past 25 years in a management capacity, Dr. Rider has held several titles, most roles existing within the realm of higher education. She has worked as: Campus President, Executive Director, Academic Dean, District Manager, Center Director, and Director of Education.

**Education & Training:** Dr. Rider’s educational accomplishments include: Doctor of Education, Master’s in Compliance and Ethics with a Forensic Accounting Certificate, Master’s in Business with an Organization Psychology concentration, Bachelor’s in Liberal Arts with a minor in Psychology, a Teaching Certification, and an Associate of Arts degree in Child Development.

**Community Service:** Dr. Rider values volunteer work, and is quick to say, “you get when you give.” She serves on the Advisory Board for The Salvation Army as well as CareerSource Polk and is a Rotarian. Dr. Rider also works with VISTE, the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, and Lakeland Economic Development Council.

**Interests:** She really enjoys spending time with her 14-year-old daughter, Savanna, and four fur babies: Lucy, Bruce, Molly, and Max! She loves yoga, house projects, anything outdoors, road trips, and exploring new places (All those that wander are not lost.)!



**STERLING JACKSON SEARCY**

Financial Advisor  
CPS Investment Advisors  
205 E Orange St, Ste 310  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
sterling@cpsinvest.com  
(863) 688-1725

**Professional Description:** In his current role, Searcy utilizes his understanding of the tax code and makes informed decisions regarding personal finances relative to a client’s tax position. His passion is assisting clients with retirement planning and other personal financial goals.

**Experience & Qualifications:** He began by serving as the Accounting Manager/Controller for a manufacturing company located in Fort Pierce, FL. More recently he served as an International Tax Associate assisting clients with their U.S. international tax compliance.

**Education & Training:** Certified Public Accountant licensed in Florida, Series 65 as an Investment Advisor Representative; Master’s in Accountancy (MAcc), Florida Southern College; Bachelor of Arts in Accounting, Florida Atlantic University.

**Community Service:** Steering Committee Member, EMERGE Lakeland; Officer, Polk Chapter of Florida Institute of CPAs.

**Interests:** Enjoying time with his wife and daughter, golfing, swimming, and searching for that perfect cortado (coffee drink) in the Lakeland area!

**DWAINE STEVENS**

Director of Community Relations  
Publix Super Markets, Inc.  
3300 Publix Corporate Pkwy  
Lakeland, FL 33811  
dwaine.stevens@publix.com  
(863) 688-1188

**Professional Description:** Directs and manages the philanthropic and community engagement opportunities for Publix Super Markets, Inc.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Has worked at Publix Super Markets for 41 years, including as the Media and Community Relations Manager for 25 years. He is now the Director of Community Relations.

**Education & Training:** Polk Community College.

**Community Service:** Board of Directors, Keep Florida Beautiful; Board of Directors, Boys and Girls Club; Board of Directors, Orlando, Inc.

**Interests:** Weightlifting, family time, and vacation.

**DR. SALLIE STONE**

Founder/CEO  
Well-done Events!  
1137 Bartow Rd, Ste B  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
welldoneevents1@gmail.com  
(863) 668-1541

**Professional Description:** She is the founder and owner of Well-done Events! multi-media production services. It is her goal to provide a quality service in diverse media including video production, digital marketing, and branding strategies. Stone strives to help businesses tell their story and get their message in front of their intended audience.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Her experience and knowledge in the field of education, media production, and business development is a combination of her many diverse experiences. She has had an opportunity to intertwine her love for education with her passion for helping underserved and underrepresented populations.

**Education & Training:** Doctorate in Education Leadership and Management, Capella University; Master's in Education Leadership, University of South Florida; Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, University of North Carolina; certified as a Principal across all levels.

**Community Service:** Advisory Board, Central Florida Business Diversity Council; member, NAACP-Lakeland Branch; Lakeland History and Culture Committee; board member, Lakeland Vision. She is also a member of the newly formed LPD Citizen Advisory Board.

**Awards:** Although she cannot name any tangible or physical awards, she considers herself the recipient of grace and favor from her Lord and Savior.

**Interests:** Stone says her interests are very simple. She enjoys spending time with family and friends. She loves good robust conversations filled with stories of triumph over challenges and inspiration. She strives each day to share her faith and hope that she has in an awesome God.





### **JERMAINE D. THORNTON**

Executive Director  
Florida Dance Theatre  
305 W Main St  
Lakeland, FL 33815  
fdddevelopment@gmail.com  
(863) 802-0399

**Professional Description:** Thornton is responsible for the daily operations of Florida Dance Theatre and serves as Executive Director. He coordinates FDT's outreach initiatives, fund development, community relations, and spearheads a team of passionate individuals dedicated to impacting communities through the arts.

**Experience & Qualifications:** He has served at Florida Dance Theatre in a number of roles since 2012 including: Executive Director (2019-present); Director of Development & Academy Coordination (2016-2018); Executive Assistant (2014-2016); Office Assistant (2012-2014); and Professional Dancer & Teaching Staff (2012-present).

**Education & Training:** Edyth Bush Institute for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership (Executive Director Bootcamp) (2019); EMERGE Serves (2018); Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance, University of South Florida (2014); Indian River Community College (2006); Port Saint Lucie High School (2004).

**Interests:** Cooking, playing video games, ancient history, and music.



### **MATTHEW JAMES VAUGHN**

Attorney  
Peterson & Myers, P.A.  
225 E Lemon St, Ste 300  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
mvaughn@petersonmyers.com  
(863) 683-6511

**Professional Description:** As a litigation attorney, Vaughn focuses his practice on commercial and business litigation, creditor-side bankruptcy, and family law. Within these areas, he represents lenders, business entities and individuals, and is responsible for all areas of the litigation process from case intake through trial and post-trial proceedings.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Vaughn has worked at Peterson & Myers, P.A. since 2011. Prior to Peterson & Myers, he completed clerkships at law firms in Mobile, AL, and Vero Beach. Prior to law school, Vaughn worked as a consultant specializing in health care reimbursement with Navigant Consulting, Inc., and worked in managed care contracting at BayCare Health System.

**Education & Training:** Juris Doctor, University of Florida (2011); Master of Business Administration in Finance, University of Florida (2007); Bachelor of Arts, Vanderbilt University (2003).

**Community Service:** Board of Directors, Imperial Symphony Orchestra; Kiwanis Club of Downtown Lakeland; Florida Bar Governmental & Public Policy Committee; Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association.

**Awards:** Florida Bar Pro Bono Service Award, Tenth Judicial Circuit (2019); Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll.

**Interests:** Spending time with friends and family, reading, traveling, and enjoying the outdoors including fishing, biking, and hiking.



**HEIDE EVANS WALDRON**

Director of Development  
Bonnet Springs Park  
415 S Kentucky Ave  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
heide@bonnetspringspark.com  
(863) 698-5642

**Professional Description:** As the Director of Development, Waldron is responsible for coordinating all capital campaign logistics and fundraising efforts for Bonnet Springs Park. She connects with and strengthens relationships through clear organizational strategy, project management, and community relations.

**Experience & Qualifications:** Waldron brings more than 15 years of advocacy and community development experience with a concentration in fundraising, organizational strategy, marketing, and public relations. She has worked in both the private and independent sectors. As a fundraising professional, her experience includes capital campaigns, major gifts, community relations, event management, and revenue growth.

**Education & Training:** She is a graduate of the Crummer Business School at Rollins College with an Executive MBA and Certifications in Business Management, Executive Management, and Proposal Writing.

**Community Service:** The Lakeland Rotary Club; Junior League of Greater Lakeland; Association of Fundraising Professionals; mentor, Take Stock in Children, Valencia College Foundation; grant panelist, State of Florida; nonprofit coach, United Arts of Central Florida.

**Awards:** American Express (AMEX) Women in Music Leadership Academy; Fellow, Independent Sector; Fellow, Award-Winning Grant Writer.

**Interests:** Waldron describes herself as a yoga teacher, arts & culture appreciator, equestrian, interior designer, vintage book collector, traveler, and live music enthusiast.



**C. EDWARD YOUNG**

Executive Director  
Aerospace Center for Excellence  
4175 Medulla Rd  
Lakeland, FL 33811  
eyoung@flysnf.org  
(863) 904-6848

**Professional Description:** Young is the team leader of an educational staff dedicated to innovative aerospace education at all ages and experience levels. His team operates 17 buildings on the SUN 'n FUN Expo Campus, including the Central Florida Aerospace Academy, Florida Air Museum, an operative 727 classroom, and a restoration center. They ordinarily engage 40,000 students per year and offer \$500,000 in scholarships.

**Experience & Qualifications:** He has 30 years of public service experience, including leadership positions in city, county, and state government. Young served as the Director of Aviation for the State of Kansas. He has been a professor of aviation law, environmental planning, conflict resolution, finance, public administration, and history at various institution including Kansas State Poly and Southeastern University.

**Education & Training:** Bachelor of Arts, Master of Public Administration, and Juris Doctor, University of Kansas; Certificate in Risk and Safety Management, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University; Certificate in On-line Instruction, Kansas State University; Commercial Pilot/Flight Instructor – Instruments/Multi-Engine; Drone Pilot.

**Community Service:** Past President and Founding Member, Fly Kansas Foundation; Past President, Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education; Trilogy Cultural Arts adult assistant, Experimental Aircraft Association SUN 'n FUN Chapter; PLANES – Parents Launching a Network of Educational Support; Polk County Public Schools Academics Executive Board.

**Awards:** Kansas Aviation Hall of Fame, Class of 2019; ACEC National Engineering Honors Award (2012, 2019); AASHTO President's Award Aviation; NASAO Outstanding Program Award; Center for Aviation Research and Education Outreach Award; KPWA Efficiency and Effectiveness Award; NACO County Leadership Program Award.

**Interests:** Flying, baseball, and endurance sports.



## 2020/21 PROGRAM COORDINATORS



**NICOLE TRAVIS**

**Chair**

Director, Community & Economic  
Development  
City of Lakeland  
228 S Massachusetts Ave  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
nicole.travis@lakelandgov.net  
(863) 834-6011



**MICHAEL HUFF**

**Chair-Elect**

President  
Pre-Con Construction of Florida  
1114 E Oleander St  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
michael@preconflorida.com  
(863) 688-4504



**SARAH BREED**

**Program Director**

Chief Operating Officer  
Lakeland Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 3607  
Lakeland, FL 33802  
sbreed@lakelandchamber.com  
(863) 688-8551, Ext. 230

## 2020/21 STEERING COMMITTEE

**Nicole Travis**

**Chair**  
City of Lakeland

**Michael Huff**

**Chair-Elect**  
Pre-Con Construction of Florida

**Chuck McDanal**

**Immediate Past Chair**  
StudioC Solutions

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### City Government Day

**Kevin Cook**  
City of Lakeland

### Law Enforcement / Judicial System Day

**Hans Lehman**  
Lakeland Police Department

**Brenda P. Ramirez**  
Kaylor Law Group

### County Government Day

**Stacy Butterfield**  
Polk County Clerk of Courts  
& Comptroller

### Education Day

**Jeanette D. Crowley**  
Polk County Public Schools

### Health Care Day

**Lori Garrard**  
Mainstay Senior Living

### Area Economy Day

**Ashley Cheek**  
Lakeland Economic  
Development Council

**Jason Willey**  
City of Lakeland

### Human Services Day

**Leon Battle**  
One More Child

**Kim Schell**  
Parker Street Ministries

### Communications / Arts & Culture Day

**Michelle B. Ledford**  
MADE

**Steve Madden**  
Madden Branded Goods





## LEADERSHIP LAKELAND 2020/21 SCHEDULE

August 13, 2020	Orientation / Opening Reception ( <i>mandatory</i> )
September 11 & 12, 2020	Opening Retreat ( <i>1½ days; mandatory</i> )
October 8, 2020	City Government Day
November 12, 2020	Law Enforcement / Judicial System Day
December 10, 2020	County Government Day
January 14, 2021	Education Day
January 14, 2021	Mid-Year Retreat ( <i>evening; mandatory</i> )
February 11, 2021	Health Care Day
March 11, 2021	Area Economy Day
April 8, 2021	Human Services Day
May 6, 2021	Communications / Arts & Culture Day
May 13, 2021	Closing Retreat ( <i>all day; mandatory</i> )
May 13, 2021	Graduation ( <i>evening; mandatory</i> )

*\*Orientation begins at 2:00 p.m. and is immediately followed by the Opening Reception.*

*\*Opening Retreat begins early morning on 9/11 and continues overnight until about 1:00 p.m. on 9/12.*

*\*Mid-Year Retreat immediately follows Education Day.*

*\*Closing Retreat begins in the morning and concludes in the afternoon. Graduation follows in the evening.*





CELEBRATING *38 YEARS* OF LEADERSHIP LAKELAND

