



LEADERSHIP

l a k e l a n d

2021/22 CLASS DIRECTORY
A PROGRAM OF
THE LAKELAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



CLASS
XXXVIII

Revised 2.2022



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. In addition, sessions are held at various locations throughout the community relevant to the month's topic. This format provides the participants with a broad perspective that includes hands-on experiences. Finally, 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

Junior League of Greater Lakeland
90 Lake Morton Dr.
Lakeland, FL 33801
Lauren.Albaum@jlgf.org
(813) 751-7744

Professional Description: As President, 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 Executive 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, United Way of Central Florida; ATHENA Planning Committee, Lakeland Chamber of Commerce; 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).

Interests: Spending time with family including her daughter, Nina, husband, Kevin, and goldendoodle, Brinkley, singing, traveling, event planning, and learning.



GWEN B. ALLEN

Director of Major Gifts and Leadership
United Way of Central Florida
5605 US Highway 98 S.
(863) 648-1500

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 raised \$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 Fundraising 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); Core Team, United City, helping spearhead community events from Hurricane Irma relief to National Day of Prayer; and Q-Commons.

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



LEADERSHIP LAKELAND



WILLIAM C. ANDERSON

Director of Water Utilities
City of Lakeland
501 E. Lemon St.
Lakeland, FL 33801
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(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.



SHEENA MARIE BUTTS

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

Professional Description: She is responsible for all operations of surgical and procedural services; lead growth of surgical and procedural service lines; develops and implements new programs and promotes the advancement of existing ones in order to distinguish LRH's services and experiences in the eyes of its customers (patients).

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 CRUMBLEY

President & CEO
Essential Catering Solutions
502 E. Main St.
Lakeland, FL 33801
ecsfloridacatering@gmail.com
(863) 393-6368

Professional Description: Dorcas is CEO of Essential Catering Solutions, is a native Lakelander and high school graduate of Lakeland Christian School. In 2017, Crumbley founded Essential Catering Solutions, a premier catering and events concierge service. With her forward thinking and progressive concepts, Dorcas has experienced incredible growth while still exceeding industry standards and delivering delicious food with personalized care and customer service. Day-to-day she oversees all aspects of operations, sales, and the company's ever expanding footprint.

Experience & Qualifications: H1N1 Pandemic Task Force & Regional PIO for Florida Dept. of Health; secured over 90k in ASPR grant funding for Lakeland Regional Health, resulting in purchases of trauma unit & security installations; experience in Project management, leading capital campaigns and served as board leadership of several local organizations.

Education & Training: M.A., MHRM, & Project Management certification from Webster University St Louis, MO. Bachelor of Arts in Communications (Broadcast Journalism), Florida Southern College; FL Credential (Executive Director), Edward Waters College (Jacksonville).

Community Service: Volunteer, donor, or company sponsor; President of the board, for Florida Dance Theater; EMERGE Lakeland; Compassionate Hearts United; Girl's Incorporated of Lakeland, Good Shepherd Hospice, Lakeland Christian School; Florida Medical Reserve Corps; (CCCCC) Christ Community Christian Center Church; PTO; Lincoln Avenue Academy; Lakeland Regional Health; INTERACT Food Program.

Awards: Voted Best of Catering in the Lakeland and Haven Magazine, Rising Business of the Year Award, Business Woman of the Year, "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: Building valuable relationships, transactional commerce & improving quality of life, national & international humanitarian rights & causes, National Public Radio (unadulterated journalism), traveling, her family and her children's interests & sports, spouse vacations, health & science studies. She and her husband Darrian reside in Lakeland with their 3 sons.



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 6 years. He has worked in education for 9 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.



LEADERSHIP LAKELAND



DR. YESENIA DEJESUS-SUAREZ

Executive Director Giffin Road Campus
Lakeland Surgical & 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); Master's in Nursing 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
Florida 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/Florida 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: 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
175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr.
Lakeland FL, 33801
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(863) 686-7187

Professional Description: Fullerton is the senior pastor of the large 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. 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: Fullerton enjoys reading, writing, running half marathons with his wife, Cile, spending time with their expanding family as a fifth grandchild is due in August, some golf, cruising in and working on his 1966 Ford Mustang, and he's a die-hard Florida Gators football fan.



FRANCES LOLETHA HADLEY- ERVIN

CEO

Hadley's Early Educatio/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: I love to travel and enjoy exploring new places, relaxing at the spa, reading, bike riding and listening to music.



LEADERSHIP LAKELAND



LANE KATHRYN HICKEY-WIGGINS

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

Professional Description: President/CEO at DPRINT.

Experience & Qualifications: Serving for the Printing United Alliance (PrUA) Board of Directors, PrUA's Sustainability, Safety, Health and Personnel Advisory Council, and PrUA'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, SCAD; 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; Florida 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

Managing Editor
6AM City
502 E. Main St.
Lakeland, FL 33801
KHolland@laltoday.com
(863)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
Good Intent's Marketing LLC
1309 Brighton Way
Lakeland, FL 33813
Stephanie@good-intents.com
(863) 259-9990

Professional Description: As the Owner 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

Senior Art Director
MADE Brands
1035 S. Florida Ave. Ste 101
Lakeland, FL 33803
Cindy@madelkld.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: Member, American Advertising Federation Polk County (2012-present); board member (2017-present) and Secretary (2018-present), AAF; member, Sheriff's Advisory Council (2018-2019); MADE's Annual Brandathon (2011-present); LVIM Leaders of Polk Jockey for the 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 and the 2020 AAF Silver Medal Recipient.

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 to go on with her husband, Martin, and son, Caleb.



LEADERSHIP LAKELAND



ROBERT FITZHUGH LAY

General Manager
SERVE PRO of Lakeland
1018 W. Beacon Rd.
Lakeland, FL 33803
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(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 ninth 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

Vice President Engineering
Saddle Creek Logistic Services
3010 Saddle Creek Rd.
Lakeland, FL 33801
Grady.Martin@sclogistics.com
(863) 668-2733

Professional Description: Leads the Engineering Teams 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; Negotiation Trainer.

Community Service: Wreaths Across America; Saint Joseph Catholic School; Sons of the American Legion.

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



THEODORE R.M. MILLER

Attorney
Miller Law, P.A.
2323 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803
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(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 Loan Outside 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; Alpha Gamma Rho Fundraising Committee, University of Florida.

Awards: 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 watching the Gators with his wife.



LEADERSHIP LAKELAND



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 9 years. For 9 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.



STERLING JACKSON SEARCY

Financial Advisor
CPS Investment Advisors
205 E. Orange St. Ste 310
Lakeland, FL 33801
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(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 CPA's.

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





DR. MELODY SUSAN RIDER

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

Professional Description: As Campus President, Ride is responsible for the overall operations of the University and the students' experience. She leads five directors that manage each University department: Admissions, Financial Aid, Student Accounts, Academics, and Student Services. She has almost 150 employees and 1,500 students that are in her care.

Experience & Qualifications: Campus President, Executive Director, Academic Dean, District Manager, Center Director, Director of Education. She has been in management for more than 25 years.

Education & Training: Doctor of Education; Master's in Compliance and Ethics with Forensic Accounting Certificate; Master's in Business with an Organizational Psychology concentration; Bachelor's in Liberal Arts with a minor in Psychology; Teaching Certification; and Associate of Arts with in Child Development.

Community Service: Advisory Board member, Salvation Army; Rotarian; VISTE; Career Source Polk Board; ATHENA Awards Committee member; member, Lakeland Chamber of Commerce; Lakeland Economic Development Council; Talbot House Ministries.

Interests: She really enjoy 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.)!



DR. SALLIE STONE

Founder/CEO
The Well
114 E. Parker Street
Lakeland, FL 33801
thewell.lakeland@gmail.com
(863) 668-1541

Professional Description: She is the founder of The Well; your business and culture connection located in midtown Lakeland. It is her goal to provide a quality service in diverse media including video production, digital marketing, and branding strategies. Brisbane 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; degree 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; Healthy Coalition; board member, Lakeland Vision; board membr, Lakeland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She is also a member of the newly formed LPD Citizen Advisory Board.



JERMAINE D. THORNTON

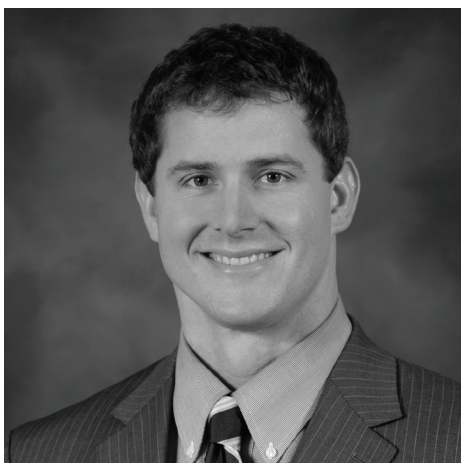
Executive Director
Florida Dance Theatre
305 W. Main St.
Lakeland, FL 33815
fdtdevelopment@gmail.com
(863) 802-0399

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

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, Evans 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: Evans 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: Executive Master of Business Administration with Certifications in Business Management, Executive Management, and Proposal Writing, Crummer Business School at Rollins College.

Community Service: The Lakeland Rotary Club; mentor, Junior League of Greater Lakeland; mentor, Association of Fundraising Professionals; 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: Evans describes herself as a yoga teacher, arts & culture appreciator, equestrian, interior designer, vintage book collector, traveler, and live music enthusiast.



LEADERSHIP LAKELAND

2020/21 PROGRAM COORDINATORS



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Administrator of Development &
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Tracy Tedder

Florida Southern College

Communications / Arts & Culture Day

Michelle B. Ledford

MADE

Steve Madden

Madden Branded Goods

Area Economy Day

Ashley Cheek

Lakeland Economic Development
Council

Jason Willey

City of Lakeland





LEADERSHIP LAKELAND 2020/21 SCHEDULE

September 10, 2021	Re-Opening Retreat
October 14, 2021	City Government Day
November 18, 2021	Law Enforcement / Judicial System Day
December 9, 2021	County Government Day
February 10, 2022	Education Day & Mid-Year Retreat (Evening)
March 10, 2022	Area Economy Day
April 14, 2022	Human Services Day
May 5, 2022	Communications / Arts & Culture Day
May 12, 2022	Closing Retreat (all day)
May 12, 2022	Graduation (evening)

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

* Opening Retreat begins early morning and continues overnight until about 1:00 p.m. on the next day

* Mid-year Retreat immediately follows Education Day

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







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