

Dear Connect Florida Applicant:

You have an exciting opportunity to create history as you apply for membership in the inaugural class of Connect Florida's Statewide Leadership Institute. As you prepare to complete the attached application, please review the following information designed to provide you with a greater understanding of Connect Florida.

Connect Florida's mission is to be an active network of young leaders seeking to develop personally and professionally, while impacting and connecting with each other, their communities and the State of Florida. We strive to cultivate the next generation of leaders for the State of Florida by providing essential information and a meaningful forum for their opinions, and create opportunities for shared experiences that are inviting, inspiring and of lasting value.

One of the many ways the organization is working to accomplish that mission is through its Statewide Leadership Institute. For our inaugural class, young professionals will be chosen from throughout Florida to participate in an eight-month program that consists of a series of three (3) two day sessions held in cities throughout the state. These sessions include programming on issues critical to Florida, leadership skills assessment and training, and relevant information on Florida's history, diversity, demography, and opportunities. One of the most rewarding and lasting benefits of the program is the valuable time spent interacting with other young leaders from a variety of professions, philosophies, and parts of the state who represent Florida's diverse ethnic and racial composition.

Graduation from the class will only be the beginning of your journey with Connect Florida. Connect Florida convenes regularly with meetings on a regional and statewide level, to facilitate continuing issues-oriented education, additional leadership training, networking, and the opportunity for members to work together toward shared goals.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Connect Florida Selection Committee for the inaugural class will be comprised evenly of existing Connect Florida Board members and Leadership Florida graduates from throughout the state. The committee seeks to identify those individuals most likely to utilize their leadership abilities for the long-term benefit of Florida. The committee strives to select participants who will provide the class with broad professional, geographic, ethnic, and gender representation. Basic criteria for selection are:

- ♦ A commitment, motivation, and interest in serving Florida
- ♦ A history of leadership
- ♦ A concern for Florida's welfare, and desire to be involved in community and statewide activities
- ♦ An interest in seeking key volunteer and/or appointed state leadership roles
- ♦ A commitment to continued involvement in Connect Florida.

We deeply appreciate your interest in Connect Florida's Statewide Leadership Institute. Should you have any questions about the application, or about Connect Florida, please call Executive Director Sara Anne Bennett, at (850) 521-1249.

Sincerely,



Ana Maria Rodriguez
Chair, Board of Governors

Enclosures



Statewide Leadership Institute APPLICATION CLASS I

The Statewide Leadership Institute is a program of Connect Florida, a non-profit organization created by Leadership Florida to assist young leaders in making a positive impact on Florida. Connect Florida is the first *statewide* young professional organization in the nation, specifically working to connect and engage Florida's leaders aged 21 to 35.

The Statewide Leadership Institute is tailored after the Leadership Florida Class Program. Connect Florida will select a diverse group of emerging leaders for the Statewide Leadership Institute each year. This curriculum offers an intensive orientation to the issues facing our state and is designed to enhance the participants' leadership skills, provide practical experience in community service, and facilitate opportunities to interact with statewide leaders. The overall goal of the Statewide Leadership Institute is to be a portal for young professionals to develop the skills they need to enhance their potential as future leaders regionally and statewide.

We welcome your application to Connect Florida's Statewide Leadership Institute Class I, as it demonstrates your desire for personal and professional development, as well as your commitment to providing strong leadership for the state of Florida.

Selection for Class I is based on a variety of factors such as leadership potential and community involvement. Please keep in mind that while the Selection Committee is evaluating individual applications, it is also building a class that represents Florida's diversity—professionally and geographically, as well as in the areas of age, race, gender, and ethnicity.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The 2010-2011 program year is tentatively scheduled as follows:

Session I: Putting Leadership Theory into Action	October 1-3, 2010	Jacksonville
Session II: Know Your State	February 11-13, 2011	Tampa
Session III: Making an Impact	May 20-22, 2011	Miami

Participants are required to attend at least 75% of each program session.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

DEADLINES & FEES

- Applications and processing fees must be postmarked no later than **May 7, 2010**.
- A processing fee of **\$30** must accompany applications, checks should be made payable to Connect Florida. No credit cards, please.
- Electronic/Emailed applications will not be considered until the processing fee has been received.
- Applicants will be notified of the Selection Committee's decision no later than mid-June, 2010.

FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION

- Applications must be typed or computer generated.
- Enclose a recent color photograph suitable for use in publications and publicity.
- Be sure to answer every question.
- Please be sure to include both the question and answer on your application. Answers only will not be accepted.

PART I:

Personal Information

1. Full Name
2. Name Preferred
3. Date of Birth
4. Company Name
5. Title/Position
6. Business Address
7. Business Phone
8. Email Address
9. Preferred Address
10. Preferred Phone
11. Cell Phone
12. Hobbies and Special Interests
13. Length of Residency in Florida (include city names if you have lived in multiple cities)

Education

14. List names and locations of all schools, dates attended, degree(s) earned and major(s).
15. List leadership positions and special honors.

Employment

16. Briefly describe your current position and corresponding responsibilities.
17. List previous employment in reverse chronological order (including active military duty). Include employer, title/responsibility and start/end dates.
18. Business/professional affiliations (not including civic organizations, public office or political activities). List name of group, position held or assignments and the period of affiliation.
19. What sector best describes your current employment? (government, health, education, etc.)

Leadership Involvement

20. List all current activities; include athletics and social, exclude business/professional. Indicate your role in the organization and its level within the organization.
21. How did you exhibit leadership in TWO of the above activities/organizations?
22. What types of additional statewide volunteer activities would you like to become active in the future? Do you see Connect Florida having a role in these activities? If so, how?

Statewide and Leadership Perspective

Connect Florida's mission is to build a strong, diverse statewide network of leaders with a shared commitment to connect our communities and to make Florida a better place in which to live and prosper.

There is no required minimum/maximum length for the essays. Clarity and insight will be a factor in scoring.

23. What motivated you to apply for participation in Connect Florida
24. Briefly describe your personal and professional goals and how the Connect Florida Leadership Institute will help you achieve these goals.
25. What experience would best describe your leadership abilities? What was its lasting effect on you and your community? Who received the most benefit and why?
26. Describe your unique blend of personality, skills and life experiences that you could share with your Connect Florida classmates.
27. What do you see as the THREE top challenges for the State? How do you see Connect Florida, with your assistance, addressing these at a state, regional and local level?

PART II:

References and Other

28. List name, business address, telephone number, and email of TWO persons who are able to comment on your qualifications and be contacted by the Selection Committee.
 29. Please provide any additional information that will assist the Selection Committee in evaluating your application.
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PART III:

Commitment

I understand that the Connect Florida Statewide Leadership Institute is much more than an 8-month program. It is a building block of a dynamic organization that requires activism from all members by sharing their time, talents, and resources to support its efforts. By recognizing this, I agree to the following:

I understand the purpose of Connect Florida and its Leadership Institute program. If I am selected, I will devote the time, energy, enthusiasm, and resources necessary for program participation. I understand that, even though emergencies do arise, any participant missing more than **25%** of the segments, regardless of reason, will be asked to withdraw from the program and no portion of my tuition is eligible for refund.

I have the full support of my employer and family for the time required to participate. I agree to be bound by the above commitments in signing this application.

Applicant Signature

Date

PART IV:

Tuition

Tuition is generally paid by your employer. A limited number of scholarships may be available for up to 75% of the tuition. Scholarships are awarded on a case-by-case basis. Payment plans are also available.

Tuition for full participation in Class I is \$2,500 (not including lodging), payable upon acceptance to the program. Tuition is non-refundable and must be paid by September 1, 2010, unless other arrangements are made with the Program Director.

Program costs, transportation during the session, class materials, and most meals are included in tuition. Tuition is non-refundable, in whole or in part, in the event you fail to complete the program due to non-attendance or for other reasons. Tuition also includes first year's membership dues of \$100.

Part V:

Submitting Your Application

Applications should be mailed to:

Connect Florida
Attn: Sara Bennett
PO Box 11309
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Applications can be emailed* to: Info@ConnectFlorida.org

**Emailed applications will not be considered until the application fee has been received.*

