

The Florida Education Foundation

The Florida Education Foundation (FEF) is a *direct support organization* established by the Florida Legislature. In support of public K-12 education, the foundation is authorized and encouraged to solicit private and public funds and to form strategic alliances and partnerships.

The purpose of the foundation is to organize and to operate exclusively to receive, hold, invest and administer property and to make expenditures to or for the benefit of public pre-kindergarten through 12th grade education in Florida.

Governance

The Commissioner of Education appoints the Chairman and members of the board of directors. Together with business partners, they have a significant role in the development of Florida as a major educational state.

Students, schools, teachers and communities will be able to benefit from the involvement of the Directors. Members' ideas, advice and support, as well as their leadership, advocacy and financial resources will serve to advance education reform and the mission of the Governor. Projects and Programs will be aligned with **Strategic Imperatives** developed by the State Board of Education.

The new Board of Directors

Earlier this year, in establishing a strong, statewide presence for significant education enhancements, the Commissioner appointed a Chairman and new board of directors.

Working closely with the new Chairman, the Commissioner has taken steps to build a diverse and fully involved leadership core. Board appointees were asked to serve for a period of not less than one year and make a commitment to the students in Florida. Those selected have established reputations for outstanding community service and leadership, and have expressed a willingness to further the goals of the foundation. Through their special talents, expertise, efforts and contacts, they will, individually and collectively, be assisting Florida and all students.

Florida Education Foundation board members have responsibilities that include:

- Development
- Establishment of relationships with groups and leaders
- Providing liaison with government officials at all levels, on behalf of education
- Assisting in **determining** needs of students, teachers and the education community and assess the ability of proposed projects or initiatives to meet those needs.
- Identifying and **developing programs that meet educational needs** and objectives of the governor
- Assisting in the planning of long-range strategy to meet future education needs.

Members are also expected to: maintain the integrity of the trust; promote stability, continuity, and integrity of the foundation as a direct support organization; help advance the mission of the Governor's education plan; encourage the participation of other individuals, corporations, groups and organizations; and manage the funds entrusted to the Florida Education Foundation.

Officers and Members of the Board

Chairman
Mr. Jan E. Smith
Jan Smith and Company
Bradenton

Vice Chairman
Mr. Nirmal (Trip) K. Tripathy
COO, Burdines-Macy's
Miami

Treasurer
Mr. Alan Levy
President, Great American Farms, Inc.
Fort Lauderdale

Finance Committee Chairman
Dr. Ed Jennings
Former President, The Ohio State University
Bradenton

Mr. Ruben King-Shaw
United Bio-Source Corporation
Washington, DC & Miami

Mr. Derrick Brooks
Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Derrick Brooks Charities, Inc.
Tampa

Mr. Mark Templeton
President/CEO, Citrix Systems
Fort Lauderdale

Ms. Susie Busch Transou
Vice President, Community Relations
Tri-Eagle Sales (Anheuser Busch)

Ms. Linda Byrd
Regional Vice President
Clear Channel, Florida

Susan James
Regional VP for Community Affairs
Washington Mutual
Miami

Senator Bob Crawford
Former Senate President &
Agriculture Commissioner
Lakeland

Ranley Desir, M.D.
Physician
Miami

Ms. Michelle Cooper
CEO
Dairy Farmers of Florida, Inc.
Maitland

Ex Officio Members

Ms. Kerri Ann Walukiewicz
Florida's 2005 Teacher of the Year
Fort Pierce

Ms. Stacy Carlson
Executive Director
Florida Consortium of
Education Foundations

Fred Mattingly, Deputy Commissioner
Florida Department of Education

Legal Co-Counsel

Fred Leonhardt, Esquire
Partner
Gray Robinson Firm
Orlando

William Boyles, Esquire
Partner
Gray Robinson Firm
Orlando

Ray Monteleone, Deputy Commissioner
Florida Department of Education

Executive Director

Diane McCain
325 W. Gaines Street, # 1532
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400
850 245-9692

Work of the Foundation

The Florida Education Foundation serves as the catalyst that promotes excellence for Florida's elementary, secondary and post-secondary education by fostering the development of community and private sector resources.

The Foundation is the main support organization for the **Commissioner's Business Recognition Awards** and the **Volunteer of the Year Awards**, as well as the **Teacher of the Year Awards Gala** and various committees serving public education.

Each year the Commissioner of Education recognizes worthy business partners for their commitment to improving the academic performance of Florida school students and for their outstanding public service. These business partners help Florida's educational system gain a competitive edge and assist in providing enhanced services to our students.

Specifically, the program honors those organizations that work with their local school districts to increase student achievement, promote greater government efficiency, and strive for a safe learning environment.

Teacher of the Year

Since 1989, The Florida Teacher of the Year program has received an award from Burdines (now Burdines-Macy's Florida). As a corporate partner, Burdines-Macy's Florida has demonstrated its commitment to excellence in education with an annual donation of \$102,000. The funds are used to make cash awards to teachers and their schools. Each of the District Teachers of the Year received \$750 and their schools receive \$250.

The Florida Teacher of the Year receives a \$10,000 award and each of the four regional finalists receives \$5000. Their respective schools each receive a gift of \$1000. In celebration, Burdines-Macy's Florida hosts a formal dinner and awards banquet, which is broadcast live through public television. The teachers are also honored by Burdines-Macy's Florida through advertising in newspapers containing their photographs. The in-kind costs total over \$175,000.

Parent and Family Involvement

Until recent funding from the Florida Legislature, many of the efforts of the parental involvement office have been funded by the Foundation. The Foundation continues to be a partner with the Office of Family Involvement, as well as with local school district volunteer directors.

Local School District Foundations

The Foundation is also a member of the **Consortium of Florida Education Foundations**. The Consortium is an independent not for profit professional organization for Florida's public school education foundations whose purpose is to advocate issues and conduct activities on behalf of its members.

The organization receives **\$1.3 million in matching state funds**. Recently the **Florida Legislature** increased the amount of the fees given to the Consortium from the sale of state education plates. **Citicorp, Washington Mutual** and other corporations partner on the state level as well as with local foundations in support of the Consortiums programs.

