

SINCE 1991, THE MISSION OF LEADERSHIP PASCO is to identify and recruit current or potential leaders of Pasco County, facilitate the development and interaction of those leaders, and to foster an issues-oriented learning environment for these leaders and the citizens of Pasco County in order to encourage an exchange of ideas and generate enthusiasm for community growth and development.

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### President's Message



It's that time of year again - Spring. The season is full of transformations as temperatures rise and the flowers start to bloom. It is also an exciting time of the year for Leadership Pasco. I recently had the opportunity to again witness the graduation of our 2014 Youth Leadership Pasco class. Thank you to Rob Aguis and Barbara DeSimone for all you do with this program in support of our future leaders. The program is always amazing and I am encouraged by the quality of professionalism that exists in the youth they select each year.

The adult class of 2014 is close to wrapping up the year with only a few more program days left. They have had a great experience so far thanks to all of our wonderful program chairs. The proceeds from the Class of 2014's Taste of Pasco event will benefit the Youth and Family Alternatives – RAP House and the West Pasco Pregnancy Center – both excellent causes. They will be closing out the year on May 29, 2014 at graduation. Make sure you save the date so you can join us in celebrating their success over the past year.

Spring is also the time of year that we start planning for our new class. The applications for the class of 2015 are due in no later than June 1st, 2014. Due to the great quality of the program, recruitment has been easy the past few years but we are always looking for new potential class members. Tuition will only be \$850 for the 2015 class but will go up to \$1,000 for the Class of 2016 and beyond. If you know someone that would benefit from our program and is a leader in our community, now is the time to get the word out. Thank you for all that have contributed to a great year so far!

### Heather Grimes

#### Youth Leadership Pasco Class of 2014

*Rob Aguis (Class of 2001)*  
*Barbara DeSimone (Class of 1996)*

This year's Youth Leadership Pasco Class was Outstanding! The class was a collection of vibrant, energetic high school sophomores and juniors that represented twelve schools, Genesis, Hudson, River Ridge, Fivay, Mitchell, Sunlake, Ridgewood, Wesley Chapel, Wiregrass, Land O' Lakes, Pasco, PACE. The first class began in October at the YMCA under the leadership of Barbara DeSimone, Tom Cellotto and Rob Aguis. Students were oriented to the five sessions designed to peak their interest, inform students of available resources in Pasco County, help build a sense of community, confidence and self esteem, establish their own networking system and help students discover and realize their talents and skills as a leader. From that very first session at the YMCA the 34 students forged a strong bond that lasted throughout the year. In their words, "they felt like a family".

Students really enjoyed the information garnered from Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Day. They were extremely excited meet and talk with Sheriff Nocco. The tour of the jail in Land O' Lakes and other related activities really helped students realize the impact and the importance of the criminal justice system here in Pasco County and the many occupations available within that agency. Government/Social Services and Health Care Day allowed students to participate in budgeting and decision making activities and explore the Hospital, including the ER and the careers that are available at Regional Medical Center at Bayonet Point. Economic Development/Business and Media Day

connected together the relevance of what students learn in school and how these entities play an important role in the growth and development of our local economy. Students were very interested in the Smart Start Incubator and totally enjoyed the tour of Bay News 9. Education and Career Development Day richly enhanced and affirmed students understanding of the importance of education and career planning. During lunch the students were excited to have an open dialogue with Superintendent Kurt Browning and shared their experiences about their classes and their schools'.

On March 27, 2014, the class celebrated with a graduation ceremony at Heritage Springs Country Club. Students shared their experiences with the many board members, alumni, school leaders, friends and family. A special thank you was extended to the following sponsors; the Leadership Pasco Executive Board, Marchman Technical Education Center, Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Pasco Economic Development Council, Pasco Education Foundation, Regional Medical Center at Bayonet Point, WCHS Academy of TV Production, J-David Photography and Mr. Craig LaPorte. Students also recognized their school leaders and parents for their support throughout the year and the many businesses that hosted tours and presentations as part of their learning experiences. A special thank you to Tom Cellotto who volunteered his time each month to support the Youth Leadership Pasco class of 2014.

For more information on Youth Leadership Pasco contact Barbara DeSimone (727) 847-8103 / Rob Aguis (727) 774-2200 or visit the Leadership Pasco website at [www.LeadershipPasco.com](http://www.LeadershipPasco.com).

## Education Day — A Great Learning Experience

*Rob Aguis (Class of 2001)*

*Terry Aunchman (Class of 2010)*

Leadership Pasco Education Day proved to be a learning and eye opening experience for everyone involved. The day began at Sunlake High School where the group was greeted by Steve Williams, Principal and Alison Crumbley, Chairman of the School Board. Mr. Williams shared his vision for Sunlake High School as well as a really innovative technology initiative using augmented reality using an app called Aurasma. Mrs. Crumbley shared her role as a board member and spoke about projects the School Board are engaged in at this time and into the future. The group also got to visit the academies at Sunlake High School, including the Finance, Robotics, Health and Communications, New Media and Journalism. This was a highlight as the Leadership Pasco class members got an up close and personal view of the 21st Century resources available to students and instructors to make teaching and learning more engaging and relevant.

*"I really enjoyed seeing the academies at Sunlake."*

The second stop of the day was at Crews Lake K8, Pasco's very first school serving students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Tom Barker, Principal and Kurt Browning, Superintendent greeted the group. Mr. Browning gave an informational presentation with regards to his vision for the School District and answered many questions from the group. Following Mr. Browning's presentation, the class split up and visited several classrooms seeing the students in action and engaged in their learning.

*"I enjoyed learning about the variety of programs available."*

After Crews Lake K8, the class made their way to Land O' Lakes High School, for lunch and a tour of the Academy of Culinary Arts. Ric Mellin, Principal greeted the class and spoke about the programs offered at Land O' Lakes High School. Lunch was prepared by the Culinary Arts students, and was absolutely delicious. The four-course meal started with French onion soup, duck & pork terrine served with salad greens, raspberry vinaigrette. The main course was pan seared salmon, balsamic glaze polenta cake with goat cheese & caramelized onions sautéed green beans. The final course was the dessert a molten lava cake/with berries & cream, it was decadent. A special thank you to Chef Rigberg and his students for a superb lunch. After lunch the classes very own Stacey Capogrosso gave a wonderful presentation on behalf of the Pasco Education Foundation, followed by Roseanne Heyser who addressed the group about the Take Stock in Children program.

*"Exposure to state of the art education in Pasco was a great experience."*

The final stop of the day was at the brand new Pasco Hernando State College, Porter Campus in Wesley Chapel. Dr. Stan Giannet, Provost, was a great host in sharing interesting facts about the college. After Dr. Giannet's presentation the group went on a campus tour to see this new state of the art facility.

*"Great coordination of the day, so much going on that I was unaware of."*



# VOICES OF LEADERSHIP

## Connie Lucco (Class of 2011)

Unfamiliar with Pasco County, Connie Lucco had the opportunity to learn from being treasurer for the Leadership Pasco class of 2011 and meeting such an outstanding group of people. Connie found this experience to be a life changing event, one that you can only describe if you get involved and join this wonderful group, "Leadership Pasco."



Connie Lucco is a Director of Finance and Administration at United Way of Pasco County. She received her Associates Degree in Accounting and Business Management from Duff's Business Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1988. After her nineteen-year career in accounting there, Ms. Lucco decided it was time for a change and moved to Hudson, Florida, where she has been employed for the past 7 years with United Way of Pasco County. In addition to working at United Way of Pasco County, Ms. Lucco is currently serving as Board Treasurer for Leadership Pasco. She is a volunteer at Hudson Elementary School and has recently become VP of Membership for West Pasco Toastmaster. She currently resides in Florida with her husband Gregg, son's Zachary and Dylan, and their dog Gizmo.

## Maureen Moore (Class of 2009)

In 2008, I relocated to Pasco County, FL from Charlotte, NC with my husband, Jan Robert Moore, to work as Director of Communications for the District School Board of Pasco County. My new supervisor asked me if I would be interested in applying to become a candidate with Leadership Pasco Class of 2009 and I immediately said "Yes, I would love to". I had the privilege of being a part of other leadership classes in the states of New York and North Carolina and know how much I enjoyed being involved in these leadership groups and how it opened up so many doors for me, both personally and professionally.



In August 2008, after living in Pasco County for less than 90 days, I remember driving to Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club for Orientation Night and walking in to a room of seeing a lot of new faces – many of whom are now my friends and colleagues. By the time I left that night, I felt like I had already made some great connections and was excited to begin my journey with Leadership Pasco. Ten months later, I graduated with the Class of 2009 and was asked if I would like to join the Board of Directors and I gladly accepted (thanks to Bob Memoli and Craig Laporte for your support and faith in me). In the first year, I listened and learned a LOT. At the end of the year, the chairperson for our Program Days was resigning and Tina Shelton and I were asked if we would co-chair Leadership Pasco's Program Days. We happily took on this challenge as we knew we had an opportunity to make some positive changes to the Program Days. It's now nearly 4 years later and we have an amazing group of individuals who lead our Programs Days (a blend of current board members, past board members, and alumni). The program chairs spend a lot of time planning for each day to make sure the speakers and activities are relevant and meaningful to the theme of the day.

It has been a pleasure to watch our Leadership Pasco membership prosper and grow. We have an outstanding group of leaders in our community who support Leadership Pasco and I'm honored and proud to be one of them. I look forward to serving as Leadership Pasco's President for the 2014-15 fiscal year and look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead!

## Business and Industry Day

### Krista Covey (Class of 2012)

On Thursday, March 20, the Leadership Pasco class of 2014 began their day at Nestle Waters (Zephyrhills Water) to learn about an industry that affects hundreds of people in Pasco County. They were able to see how the bottling company sources and purifies drinking water, manufactures the different types of bottles it uses for packaging, and how they distribute the finished products. The purpose of business and industry day is to educate Pasco's current future leaders about the importance of a diversified and sustainable economy here in Pasco. We were able to highlight just a few of these very important companies on the day's tours but in reality, Pasco has thousands of companies that create jobs, increase our tax base, and provide opportunity for our community.

The students headed to the Dade City Business Center to tour Clark Dietrich Building Systems, an industry leader in metal fabrication. The CEO, Tom Lemler, toured the students around the facility so they could see first-hand how steel frames are built and distributed through the world. This company provides high skilled/high paying jobs for many Pasco residents.

Their last company tour was given by the CEO of Tampa-Bay CoPack, a very successful family owned co-packing plant also in the same Dade City Business Center Complex. The students were given opportunity to discuss workforce issues regarding diversity, current high demand skill sets, worker availability and safety concerns. During all the tours, there were many conversations on growing Pasco businesses and the opportunities and challenges they face as an important employment center.

The students convened at SMARTstart, the Dade City Business Incubator. They learned about the fantastic opportunities individuals have here in Pasco to start and grow businesses and why our small and start-up entrepreneurs are so vital to our community. Krista Covey, Director of SMARTstart and Economic Development Manager at the PEDC, gave an overview on Economic Development and its initiatives to Recruit, Retain and Grow Companies. Tom Ryan, from the Pasco Economic Development Council went into more detail regarding business development practices and the transportation issues affecting our county.

The afternoon consisted of an overview of the West Pasco projects by Hope Allen of the Wesley Chapel Chamber who introduced JD Porter of Wiregrass Ranch, Inc. to discuss the Wiregrass Ranch project. He delivered an outstanding presentation on a very timely and relevant project which will create hundreds of jobs in Pasco. Carol Johns gave an excellent overview of all the resources companies can take advantage of through the Small Business Development Center. Ana Segovia from Career Source talked about how companies, as well as job hunters, can utilize the resources of Career Source to find a job or find employees for free.

The day wrapped up with a case study to obtain first-hand experience on how to recruit a company to the area through economic development initiatives. The class broke up into 4 groups, 3 represented physical areas with different advantages and disadvantages such as: utility costs, workforce training funds, proximity to the companies "vendor" and other issues. There was also a team representing the "Company". Each member of the company and areas had a role to play. A few of these roles included: the company CEO, HR Director, Site Selector, commissioners, economic developer, utility representative, school board representative, etc. All the information was purely fictional but it provided a thought provoking experience for the students to put themselves in the shoes of another leader in the community. In addition it helped them identify themselves with companies outside our area and how they perceive us as a community.



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## *Save These Dates*

*Graduation - May 29, 2014*

*Leadership Pasco Class of 2015 Application (Deadline) - June 1, 2014*

*Vital Leadership Pasco Programs Need Your Sponsorship.*

*[www.LeadershipPasco.com/Sponsorship](http://www.LeadershipPasco.com/Sponsorship)*

*2014 Alumni Dues \$50 - Are still being accepted*

#### **Benefits of Leadership Pasco Alumni Membership**

Membership directory online  
Membership forums  
Orientation banquet reception  
VIP Access to annual Taste of Pasco event  
Quarterly newsletter (Mailed)  
Invites to other networking events

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