

Summer 2016

CONNECTING TODAY'S LEADERS

www.LeadershipPasco.com

LEADERSHIP PASCO
BRINGING COMMUNITY LEADERS TOGETHER

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



In May, our 26th class completed Leadership Pasco and graduated. Congratulations Class of 2016, East to West '16 is the Best!

Congratulations to Youth Leadership Pasco 2016 as they concluded their program, and graduated this past March. The program was once again a huge success, thanks in part to the great team of Mr. Rob Aguis, Mrs. Barbara DeSimone, and Mrs. Doreen Packard. Great work!

I would like to thank all of our sponsors, and volunteers for helping out with each program day. Without your financial support our organization could not be as successful as it is.

It is with great honor that I would like to thank the Board of Leadership Pasco for voting me this year's Judith Rochelle recipient. Leadership Pasco has forever changed my life. I look forward to continue to grow in the organization and help in any way I can.

As I conclude my term as President I would like to welcome in our new President, Stefanie Pontlitz. I know she will be an excellent leader for Leadership Pasco. Have a Safe and Fun Summer.

Tom Celotto

Alumni Note: If you renewed your membership this year and provided Tom Celotto your shirt size to order a new Logo Leadership Pasco polo, they are in. You can pick them up during any Alumni event or at Tom's office. You can arrange to pick up your shirt by emailing Tom at TCelotto@eMicroSolutions.com.

Connect, Engage, Inspire. Today.

Your Leadership Pasco experience doesn't stop at graduation - it's really just the beginning! Sure, you made great connections with your class members, but why stop there? As LP Alumni, you are part of an elite group of Pasco business and community leaders who network and engage with each other to inspire growth and opportunity for the Pasco community. Graduating from the LP program is just one step on your way to getting to know the entire Leadership Pasco community.

One of the best ways to connect with other LP alumni and meet incoming class members is to get involved with the Class Program Days throughout the year. Whether you help with planning the day, or guide one of its sessions, you will be a part of shaping the knowledge and experience gained by the Class of 2017... and yourself!

To learn more about how you can positively impact the Program Days by getting involved, contact Tina Shelton at tinashelton@tampabay.rr.com.

Leadership Pasco Class of 2016 Celebrates Graduation

On May 25, thirty-four members of the Leadership Pasco Class of 2016 celebrated their graduation at the Heritage Springs Golf & Country Club. As they performed their class skit, they reminisced and shared their most memorable moments from all they had learned about Pasco County and each other throughout the year.

“It has been a real joy getting to know each other, and a tremendous blessing being a part of this class,” said Don Anderson, Class President. “Sharing time and making memories has taught me the world is a far, far, better place than the headlines would suggest.”

Please join us in congratulating this year’s graduates and welcoming them as Leadership Pasco Alumni!

Don Anderson, Youth and Family Alternatives
Matthew Battista, Saint Leo University
Beverly Cook, BayCare Health System
Joan DeMauri, Department of Health in Pasco County
Jessica DeMauro, Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point
Ben Diel, Pasco County Board of County Commissioners
Derick Farfan, Duke Energy
Javan Grant, Rogers Towers, P.A.
Angelia “Angie” Guy, City of Dade City
Abby Hamilton, Keiser University
Richard Hessner, Papa John’s Pizza
Jennifer Lachtara, Pasco Economic Development Council
Christine Lawless, Future Home Realty, Inc
Manny Long, Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller
John Maduko, Rasmussen College
Taylor McDermott, Wells Fargo Advisors
Kelly Miller, Colonial Hills Civic Association
Michelle Miller, Pasco County Board of County Commissioners
Tara O’Connor, O’Connor Law Group, P.A.
Crystal Olson, Jefferson Bank of Florida
Spencer Pylant, Pasco County Schools
Julie Rogers, Progressive Air Systems, Inc.
Kent Runyon, Novus Medical Detox Center
Lindsay Ryle, Batson, Cook Company
Douglas Saxon, McWilliams & Son Inc
Sonia Thorn, Pasco, Hernando State College
Melinda Velez, United Way of Pasco County
Amanda Walsh, Home Res, Q, Inc.
Dineen Pashoukos Wasylik, DPW Legal
Nicole Westmoreland, District School Board of Pasco County
Rachael Williamson, Pasco Sheriff’s Office
Class of 2015 – Steve Wells, North Pointe Church

Leadership Pasco Welcomes New Board Members



Manny Long, '16



Tara O’Connor, '16

Leadership Pasco is excited to announce the appointment of two new members to its Board of Trustees. Joining the Board of Trustees are **Manny Long** and **Tara O’Connor**. The pool of candidates was highest caliber I’ve ever seen,” said Stefanie Pontlitz, Leadership Pasco Board Chairman. “It was a difficult decision but Manny and Tara were able to set themselves apart. Their unique professional experiences will help take Leadership Pasco to the next level. I look forward to working with both of them.”

Manny Long has worked at the Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller’s Office for the past 5 years and is currently the Director of Finance. Before this, he worked for one of Florida’s largest and oldest law firms as the assistant controller for 7 years.

Tara O’Connor is the founder and managing partner of O’Connor Law Group, P.A. in Port Richey. She specializes in Real Property, Estate Planning, Probate and Trust administration matters. In addition, she is the past president of the Young Lawyers Division of the West Pasco Bar Association, past president of the West Pasco Bar Association, and immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Seven Springs.



Youth Leadership Pasco 2016

Rob Aguis (Class of 2001)

Barbara DeSimone (Class of 1996)

The Future is Bright for Youth Leadership Pasco Scholarship Winners

Thea Henry and Lilah Hussein were recently selected from a competitive pool of more than 35 high school senior student applicants as the recipients of this year's Youth Leadership Pasco Scholarship Awards. The students were each recognized with their \$500 scholarship award by Leadership Pasco Board Member, Rob Aguis, at the Pasco Education Foundation's Scholarship Awards Banquet on April 21st.

"The scholarship committee was deeply impressed with the caliber of this year's scholarship applicants," said Aguis. "It was difficult to choose only two award recipients, however Thea and Lilah stood out as shining examples of young leaders who are passionate about helping their communities."

Thea Henry will be attending the Florida State University and plans to major in Psychology. With a long-term goal of achieving her Doctorate in Psychology, she hopes to specialize in the treatment of PTSD for veterans and hopes to one day open her own practice. "Several veterans in my family are unfortunately suffering from the disorder and seeing what they have to go through is dreadful," Thea shared in her scholarship application. "I would like to help the soldiers that do so much for our country to get better."

Lilah Hussein will be attending Pasco Hernando State College and plans to transfer later to the University of South Florida with a major in Nursing. "I have always dreamt about impacting the world in a positive way since I was a little girl," said Lilah. "I chose to pursue a nursing career because it requires kindness and compassion, but also humility and unselfish values. I hope to not only become a nurse but to begin a non-profit organization for child war refugees."

Please join us in congratulating Thea and Lilah as this year's recipients of the Youth Leadership Pasco Scholarship Awards!



From left to right, Thea Henry, Rob Aguis and Lilah Hussein at the Pasco Education Foundation's Scholarship Awards Banquet on April 21.

Taste of Pasco 2016

On April 30, the sixth annual Taste of Pasco, presented by the Leadership Pasco Class of 2016, celebrated another successful year as it shone a spotlight on Pasco County's wonderful, local eateries while raising money for three great causes: Pasco Kids First, The Angelus and PACE Center for Girls.

Nearly 500 attendees sampled great food and beverages provided by more than 20 favorite Pasco restaurants as they rocked the night away with music by The Bearded Brothers Band. Attendees were invited to vote for their favorite restaurant and this year's winner of the prized Red Hot Fork Award was Kafe Kokopelli.

With the support of its amazing sponsors and vendors, the Taste of Pasco was able to raise net proceeds of nearly \$22,000!

Special thanks go to the Chef's Choice sponsor - McWilliams & Son, Inc., the Grand Reserve sponsor - Tampa Bay Times and the House Special sponsors - Rogers Towers, P.A., Novus Medical Detox Center, Duke Energy, and Ryman Construction, for their generous support of this year's event.

All proceeds from the Taste of Pasco benefit three local non-profits within the Pasco community:

Pasco Kids First promotes the awareness of child abuse and provides leadership to deliver the needed services to help children. The Class of 2016 is providing \$20,000 in funds that will provide furniture, interior painting, and flooring to establish a new office for their programs and services in Dade City.

The Angelus provides health care and educational services for severely handicapped persons, including residential care, day care and respite care. The Class of 2016 invested sweat equity as they painted two large office buildings and its decorative plywood window covers. PACE Center for Girls in Pasco serves at-risk girls, ages 11 to 17, in the areas of academic improvement, social services, and transition support to provide a stable environment for academic and emotional growth. The Class of 2016 worked two days to assemble furniture, classroom white boards, bulletin boards, letter boxes, pencil sharpeners, and to display a TV.

The Class of 2016 extended special thanks to their fellow class member Amanda Walsh and Home Res-Q for providing extra labor and expertise on both sweat equity projects.

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Save These Dates

Orientation — Class of 2017 — August 18, 2016 (Spartan Manor)
Taste of Pasco — April 29, 2017

Vital Leadership Pasco Programs Need Your Sponsorship.
www.LeadershipPasco.com/Sponsorship

Alumni dues can be paid at www.LeadershipPasco.com

Benefits of Leadership Pasco Alumni Membership

Full access to the membership directory online
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Free invite to the Orientation banquet reception
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