



ANNOUNCEMENT

April 5, 2006

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Regional Leaders Address the Question of How Shall We Grow?

ORLANDO, FL - National experts from as far away as California and Utah participated with key leaders across the seven-county Central Florida region in the three-day Strategy Session of the Regional Leadership Academy conducted by *myregion.org*.

In concert with the Orlando Regional Chamber's Regional Board of Advisors Community Leadership Forum on Wednesday, sixty elected officials, business and civic sector professionals gathered with 300 other Forum attendees to discuss regional cooperation and collaboration.

Academy participants reassembled Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday and Friday morning to drill down on the most important question facing Central Florida, "How Shall We Grow?" Working in teams since the Academy Orientation Session in January, the participant teams provided reports on their research into the most pressing issues of transportation, environmental protection, affordable housing, education and regional leadership. The group then used electronic polling technology to rank the region's challenges according to priority and urgency.

Very weighty discussions followed centering around the fact that the issues are not "either/or" but more of how and when. Encouraged by periodic feedback from local technical professionals and a wide range of national experts in regional leadership, Academy participants learned that Central Florida is ahead of the game in many cases citing the extensive research that has been compiled by *myregion.org* addressing community values, social capital, growth projections, environmental assets and more. They were cautioned as well, not to fall into "analysis paralysis" noting that some communities get stuck on the research component of regional development, never moving into action and implementation.

Discussions on inclusiveness reinforced much of what was learned at the recent 2006 Hispanic Summit that the growing Hispanic, African-American, and Asian populations must be at the table to provide input on everything from job creation to affordable housing. The tipping point of riots in Los Angeles should provide a warning to Central Florida that regional growth and development must be conscientiously planned and collaboratively implemented.

A brainstorming session provided a number of viable "breakthrough" ideas that should be explored further. Community education through cooperative media outlets was applauded. Representatives of both the Orlando Sentinel and WMFE TV/90.7 Radio indicated their support of public programming and news coverage to "educate, educate, educate" the public at large so that they will be informed and supportive of tough decision-making that may result as elected officials and community leaders grapple with these important regional issues.

To honor their commitment to the Regional Leadership Academy and Central Florida's future, participants were presented with an original Florida painting by R.L. Lewis, one of the legendary Florida Highwaymen artists who lives in Brevard County.

Below is a list of the graduates of the first ever Central Florida Regional Leadership Academy.

Academy Deans

Ms. Linda W. Chapin
University of Central Florida

Mr. R. Randolph Lyon, Jr.
Xentury City Development Company, LC

Participants

Mr. Patrick D. Blucker
United States Air Force

Ms. Susan Bodner
Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando

Mr. David Bottomley
METROPLAN ORLANDO

Mr. Mark Brewer
Community Foundation of
Central Florida, Inc.

Ms. Maria Brous
Publix Super Markets, Inc.

The Honorable Frank T. Bruno, Jr.
Volusia County Council

Anthony J. Catanese, Ph.D.
Florida Institute of Technology

Mr. Roger E. Chapin
Mears Transportation Group

The Honorable Nancy Clutts
City of Tavares

The Honorable Fred Costello
City of Ormond Beach

Ms. Kanika Dailey
Florida High Tech Corridor
Ridge Community Senior High School

Duane E. De Freese, Ph.D.
Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute

Mr. Robert Dent
Osceola County Council on Aging, Inc.

Ms. Carmen Dominguez
Home Builders Association of Metro Orlando
Homes by Carmen Dominguez

Mr. P. Shannon Elswick
Orlando Regional Healthcare

Mr. José Estorino
Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.

Mr. José A. Fajardo
WMFE-TV/FM

Mr. T. J. Fish
Lake-Sumter MPO

Mr. Donald S. Fisher
Seminole County Manager's Office

Mr. Raymond Gilley
Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission

Ms. Charlotte Hall
Orlando Sentinel Communications

Ms. Cindy Hall
Lake County

The Honorable Catherine C. Hanson
Lake County Commission

Mr. Joel W. Hass
American Red Cross of Central Florida

Mr. Clay Henderson
Holland & Knight LLP

Ms. Betty Holness
Volusia County

Mr. Edwin J. Hunzeker
Osceola County

Mr. Gregory Jones
Castalia Consulting

Ms. Janet Kersey
Daytona Beach Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Mr. Chris King
King and Blackwell

Ms. Margot H. Knight
United Arts of Central Florida, Inc.

Mr. John W. Koenig
O-Force: The Orlando Regional Partnership for Tomorrow's Workforce

Ms. Candace Lankford
Central Florida School Board Coalition
Volusia County Public Schools

Mr. Charles Lee, Sr.
Audubon of Florida

Ms. Dori Madison
Tucker Hall, Inc.

Mr. Henry Maldonado
WKMG TV - Local 6

Ms. Mercedes F. McCall
Banco Popular North America

E. Ann McGee, Ed.D.
Seminole Community College

Mr. Mark B. McHugh
Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Gatorland

The Honorable Jack R. Myers
Polk County Commission

Mr. James Payne
Deseret Ranch

Mr. Craig E. Polejes
Florida Bank of Commerce

The Honorable Ron Pritchard
Brevard County Board of Commissioners

Mr. John Provance
United Way of Lake & Sumter Counties

Mr. Jon B. Rawlson
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Akerman Senterfitt

The Honorable Sandra Robinson
Central Florida School Board Coalition
Seminole County Public Schools

Mr. John P. Saboor
Central Florida Sports Commission

Ms. Debbie Salamone
Orlando Sentinel Communications

Mr. Ray San Fratello
South Lake Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Mark W. Shamley
Tupperware Brands Corp.

Sanford C. Shugart, Ph.D.
Valencia Community College

Mr. Ricardo Soto-Lopez
Town of Eatonville

Mr. Daniel Stetson
Polk Museum of Art

Mr. Ed Timberlake
Bank of America

Mr. Derrick D. Wallace
Construct Two Group

Ms. Linda S. Watson
LYNX

Mr. Doug Weaver
Volusia County

National Experts

Dee Allsop, Ph.D.
Harris-Wirthlin Brand and Strategy Consulting

Ms. Christine A. Chadwick
FOCUS Saint Louis

Mr. Robert Grow
O'Melveny and Myers LLP

Mr. Doug Henton
Collaborative Economics

Mr. John Kaliski
Cambridge Systematics

Mr. John Melville
Collaborative Economics

Mr. John Parr
Center for Regional & Neighborhood Action

Ms. Katherine Perez
Southern California Transportation & Land Use Coalition

Ms. Joan Riehm
New Metro Government

Mr. Steve Seibert
Florida Century Commission
The Seibert Law Firm

Mr. George Vradenburg
Vradenburg Foundation

Technical Team

Andre Anderson, AICP
Orange County Planning Division

Ms. Kristin Bakke
Leadership Brevard

Mr. Harry Barley
METROPLAN ORLANDO

Owen Beitsch, Ph.D.
Real Estate Research Consultants

Ms. Colleen Burton
Polk Vision

Mr. Jeff Jones
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Mr. Michael Ketchum
Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Shellie-Ann Minnis
Metropolitan Orlando Urban League

Ms. Kirsten Palacios
Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Greater Orlando, Inc.

Mr. Tom Tomerlin
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

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