

## ***Ms. Sheila McDevitt***

### **Florida Board of Governors**

Sheila McDevitt was promoted to Senior Vice President-General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer for TECO Energy in July, 2001. She joined Tampa Electric Company as governmental affairs counsel in 1981, and was soon promoted to corporate counsel. She served as senior corporate counsel before being promoted to assistant vice president, vice president and assistant general counsel, and then vice president and general counsel in January, 1999. In her current position, Ms. McDevitt is responsible for the legal affairs of TECO Energy and manages the Legal Department and the Corporate Compliance and Diversity Department. Aside from her management duties, Ms. McDevitt performs legal work in the areas of corporate governance, general corporate, mergers and acquisitions, project finance, human resources, risk management, and corporate compliance matters for all companies.

She received her Bachelor of Arts (1968) and Juris Doctorate (1978) degrees from Florida State University and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1978. She has been admitted to practice in all Florida State Courts and the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. In 1989, McDevitt was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. Prior to joining TECO Energy, she served as a trial attorney and branch office managing attorney for McClain, Walkley & Stuart, P.A. in Tampa, Florida. From 1970 to 1978, she served as executive assistant to Florida State Senator David H. McClain. She worked for various other Florida and Georgia Legislative agencies and committees from 1967-1970.

She has served as a member of U. S. Senator Connie Mack's Judicial Advisory Commission. She has also served as a member of The Florida Bar's Judicial Administration and Selection and Judicial Nominating Procedures Committee, as well as the chair and vice chair of the Energy Law Committee. She has also chaired the International Law, the Corporate Counsel and the Law Week Committees of the Hillsborough County Bar Association.

She is Vice Chair of St. Leo University's Board of Trustees, Chair of the Board of Visitors of Florida State University's College of Law and was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to the Florida Board of Governors (overseeing the State University System) in 2003. She also serves on the Legal Planning Committee of the Edison Electric Institute and as Chair of the Corporate Issues Subcommittee of that organization's Legal Committee; the Board of the Hillsborough County Bar Foundation, and the Board of Trustees of the Lowry Park Zoological Society (past chair). In 1999, Ms. McDevitt was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to the Board of Directors, Florida Humanities Council and as a member of the 13th Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission on which she served until 2003. In the past she has served as a member of the Board of Directors of The Florida Aquarium, the Board of Directors of the University of Tampa's Center for Ethics, the Board of Directors of the Suncoast Girl Scout Council, and the Board of West Coast Easter Seals.

## ***Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Sr.***

**President**

**Edward Waters College**

Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Sr., was appointed as the 27th president of Edward Waters College on June 23, 2005 after serving as Interim President since February 2005. Dr. Bronson's administration is guided by "The Double E Principle: Excellence and Ethics." The Principle envisions graduates who think critically and humanely, whose grammar and expressions represent college-level education. Further still, the Principle calls for conduct and attire nurtured by those moral and spiritual values that characterize a mature, responsible, and well-rounded individual who practices honesty and reverence.

The Principle also focuses on 'right' behavior and on conduct that is honest, accurate and dependable. In this context, Dr. Bronson believes that ethics critique the extent to which integrity flows through one's character and performance. Labeled a "key power broker for the nation's black colleges" by Black Issues Higher Education, Dr. Bronson's leadership and achievements have become a benchmark in higher education. His vibrant personality, genuine concern for the growth of the institution, and commitment to the founder's vision, enabled him to bring unprecedented private, corporate, and governmental support to the institution.

Dr. Bronson's belief in service to the community is evident in his numerous outside activities, including his appointment to an advisory post by former President Bill Clinton. He has also served as chairman and president of prestigious educational and religious organizations nationwide, including his appointment to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. His list of honors is a litany of his accomplishments, recently being inducted into the National Black College Hall of Fame, yet he considers himself "chief servant" while maintaining an attitude of servant hood. Dr. Bronson and his wife, Helen, of 53 years, are the parents of three children and the grandparents of five.

**CAREER:** Edward Waters College, president June 2005 (interim president February - June 2005) – current; Bethune-Cookman College, president 1975-2004; Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, president 1968-1975, vice president 1966-1968, director of field education, 1965-66; Various United Methodist churches in Florida, Georgia and Chicago, pastor 1950-1966.

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor of Science, Bethune-Cookman College, 1950; Master of Divinity, Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, 1959; Doctorate, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., 1965.

**FAMILY:** Wife of 53 years, Helen Williams Bronson, curator of the Bethune Foundation (founder's home) at B-CC; three children: Josephine "Bunny" Bronson, Tallahassee; Flora Stitt, Coral Springs; and Oswald "Chip" Bronson, Jr., Jacksonville; five grandsons.

***Ms. Carmen Brown***  
**Director of Admissions**  
**Florida International University**

Ms. Carmen Brown is a founding member of Florida International University and currently serves as the Director of Undergraduate Admissions. She is a 35-year veteran of the Florida public education system and has dedicated her life to the promotion of higher education opportunities for students in Florida. Ms. Brown is a past president of the Florida Association of Collegiate Registrar's and Admissions Officers (FACRAO), an organization which promotes the sharing of ideas and professional development of enrollment services personnel. She is active in many other professional organizations such as the National Association of College Admissions Counseling (NACAC), the National Association of Foreign Student Affairs (NAFSA) and the College Board. She is also involved within her community and at a state-wide level. She was appointed by Governor Chiles to the Judicial Nominating Committee, a position she held for four years. In addition, Governor Bush appointed her to the One Florida Commission and The Florida Teacher Minority Fund Commission.

Her dedication to higher education and her expertise in international education and recruitment led to an appointment to the College Board's Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) board. During her tenure with the educational testing services (ETS), she was instrumental in the roll out of the first computerized TOEFL product.

Ms. Brown has presented at the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (AACRAO) annual meetings, as well as the College Board Annual Forum, and has written numerous articles about university admission and retention challenges, trends and opportunities.

Ms. Brown is one of the original members of Florida International University's Honors and Faculty Scholars programs which eventually led to the establishment of the lower division curriculum at the university.

Ms. Brown received her MS in Adult Education from Florida International University. She resides in Miami with her husband, Robert and is the mother of two children, Elizabeth and Robert, Jr.

## ***Dr. Castell Bryant***

**Interim President**

**Florida A&M University**

Castell Vaughn Bryant became interim president of Florida A&M University on Jan. 3, 2005. A nationally recognized scholar and educator, President Bryant is a proven leader in developing innovative and effective learning experiences in higher education.

As the chief executive officer of Florida A&M University, Bryant leads a dynamic group of students, faculty and administrators involved in undergraduate and graduate study throughout the state.

The first woman to lead FAMU in its 118 year history, the president's impact on the university is embodied in the institution's new direction and significant economic surplus, both of which she led.

Prior to taking the helm at FAMU, Bryant served as president of the Miami Dade Community College Medical Center. As the primary leader of the medical center, Bryant oversaw more than 5,000 students, the Center for Homeland Security, the School of Nursing and the School of Allied Health Technologies. During a six year tenure as president of the college's North Campus, Bryant was responsible for more than 49,000 students while supervising two centers, the School of Justice, the School of Entertainment Technologies and the School of Fire and Environmental Sciences. As president of the Wolfson Campus her responsibilities included ensuring the educational fruition of more than 16,000 students, along with a New World School of the Arts. Bryant also served as an interim president of Florida Memorial College.

Born in Jasper, Florida, Bryant earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from FAMU in library science and adult education respectively. She later earned a doctorate in vocational/adult education from Nova Southeastern University. She has done further study at Harvard University's Management Development Program, Florida International University and Lewis College of Business, Detroit, Michigan.

President Bryant is the recipient of several highly notable awards to include the City of Miami Commission on the Status of Women Unsung Heroines Award; the Florida Memorial College Board of Trustees Outstanding Service Award; Miami Metro Magazine's 100 Women to Watch; the community service award for the National Association for Negro Business and Professional Women; and the Golden Rule Award for volunteerism for J.C. Penney and the United Way.

Bryant, who believes and emphasizes the importance of integrity and a commitment to family and community, is the mother of two adult children.

***Dr. Gordon D. Chavis, Jr.***

**Director of Admissions**

**University of Central Florida**

Dr. Chavis received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania and received his juris doctor from the Georgetown University Law Center. Dr. Chavis' career in higher education began in 1979 when he became an assistant director of admissions at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1981, he became a regional director of admissions at Georgetown University and in 1990, he left education for four years and worked in the field of civil rights law. In 1995, he returned to higher education and became an associate director of admissions at the University of Colorado at Boulder; in 1999 became executive director of Undergraduate Admissions at the University of Central Florida (UCF), and now serves as the Assistant Vice President of Undergraduate Admissions, Student Financial Assistance and Student Outreach Programs at UCF.

Dr. Chavis has been involved in many professional organizations, including serving as a member of the College Board's Southern Regional Council, a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) Government Relations Advisory Committee, as a delegate for the Southern Association for College Admission Counseling (SACAC), and currently serving appointments as a member of the National Merit Scholarship Selection Committee (03-06), a member of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program Review Committee (05-07) and now as a Commissioner for the Florida Governor's "Access and Diversity Commission."

## ***Dr. David Colburn***

**Professor of History and Director of the Askew Institute  
University of Florida**

**EDUCATION:** AB and MA Providence College 1964, 1965  
Ph.D. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North  
Carolina 1971

### **EXPERIENCE:**

- Professor of History and Director of the Askew Institute, 2005-present
- Provost and Senior Vice President, 1999 to 2004
- Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, 1996 to 1998
- Dean of the International Center, 1998 to 1999
- Executive Director of the Reubin O'D. Askew Institute, 1995 to Present
- Fellow, United States Senate, 1993-97
- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 1989 to 1995.
- Chairman, Department of History, University of Florida, June 1981 to 1989.
- Professor, Department of History, University of Florida, 1983 to date
- U.S. Army Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, October, 1965-August, 1967 (Vietnam Duty, September, 1966-August, 1967)

### **MAJOR SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS:**

1. Have written or edited 13 books altogether – listed below are six of the most recent books:
  - Florida's Megatrends with Lance deHaven Smith (University Press of Florida, 2002)
  - African-American Mayors: Race, Politics, and the American City, edited with Jeffrey Adler (Champaign-Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2001)
  - Government in the Sunshine: Florida Politics Since 1845, with Lance deHaven-Smith (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1999)
  - Amid Political, Cultural and Civic Diversity: Building a Sense of Statewide Community in Florida, with Lance deHaven-Smith (Iowa: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1998)
  - The African American Heritage of Florida (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1995) with Jane L. Landers, 392 pages. Book received the Rembert W. Patrick Book Prize as the best book in Florida History for 1996.
2. Other Achievements:

- Report - Co-authored A Documented History of the Incident at Rosewood, Florida in January 1923, 554 pages, 1993. Report commissioned by State Legislature of Florida to document the destruction of the African American community of Rosewood.
- Contributed approximately 110 columns to the Orlando Sentinel over a ten-year period, 1990 to 2000, on such issues as state and national politics, race relations, and the presidential primaries and general elections. The Sentinel is ranked as one of the top 11 newspapers in the nation and has a circulation of 400,000.
- Direct the Reubin Askew Institute which has been funded by the grants since its inception. The Institute sponsors public forums throughout Florida on critical issues facing the state. We have averaged \$100,000 in grants per year.
- In 1999, the Askew Institute received a Distinguished Community Service Award from the Florida Board of Regents for its service to the State of Florida.
- President, The Florida Historical Society, 1990-92.
- Twice Named Teacher of the Year and also named Outstanding Graduate Teacher.
- Principal Reviewer and Consultant for radio Docu-drama “Rosewood Reborn,” which won a McArthur Prize in the category of radio documentaries as the best documentary for 1997.
- Elected to the Executive Committee of the Organization of Provosts in NASULGC, 2002.
- Member of the Planning Committee for the 2004 AAU Provost Meeting
- Named a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians from 2004-2007.
- Invited by the State Department to speak in Europe on the 2004 Presidential Election.
- Chairman of the Board of the Florida Humanities Council, 2005 to 2007.
- Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians and have lectured in Colorado, South Carolina, England, the Netherlands, and Belgium in 2004 and 2005.
- Spoke at a conference hosted by US Secretary of Education Rod Paige in Miami on April 28 and 29, 2003. At the request of Secretary Paige’s office, I spoke about the UF Alliance Program with Florida’s public schools as a potential model for the nation.
- Gave series of three lectures in the Netherlands that was co-sponsored by the US State Department and the University of Leiden and University of Utrecht, October 2004.

## ***Representative Anitere Flores***

### **Florida House of Representatives**

Rep. Flores graduated with a BA in Political Science and International Relations from Florida International University and then received a J.D. from the University of Florida College of Law. After law school, Rep. Flores was hired by the Florida House of Representatives to work in the Education Council, and was later hired by Governor Jeb Bush as his Education Policy Chief. Prior to being elected State Representative for District 114, she spent two years advocating for the university students in her district as Director of State Relations for Florida International University. She continues working for FIU on accountability issues.

As a State Representative, she now sits on the committees for Colleges and Universities, Education Appropriations, Utilities and Telecommunications, Judiciary and the Select Committee on Private Property Rights. Representative Flores is the first Republican Hispanic Woman to serve in the Florida House since 1986.



## ***Ms. Keneshia Grant***

### **Florida A&M University Student**

Keneshia Grant served as Student Body Vice President for the 2004-2005 school year. She is from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and came to FAMU in 2001.

While at FAMU she served three years in the Student Government Association. Keneshia's involvement in Student Government began during her sophomore year when she served as the Executive Assistant to the Student Body President. During her Junior year she served as the Executive Branch Chief of Staff. Finally, she was elected to the position of Student Body Vice President in the Spring of 2004.

In addition to her involvement in the Student Government Association, Keneshia was member of The Beta Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta and a volunteer at Springfield Boys & Girls Club.

Also while at FAMU, Keneshia earned many honors and awards which include; 2005 Presidents Leadership Award, FAMUAN Most Influential Female Student 2005, United Way 2005 Champion for Children Nominee, 2004 Johnston Legacy Scholar, Deans List/Honor Roll, and Presidential Scholar.

In the spring of 2005, Keneshia graduated from Florida A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and a minor in Education. Currently, she is member of Teach For America\* and she is pursuing a graduate degree in Public Administration at Florida A&M University.

\*What is Teach for America?

The national corps of outstanding recent college graduates of all academic majors who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools, and become lifelong leaders in the effort to expand educational opportunity.

***Senator Alfred J. “Al” Lawson, Jr.***  
**Florida Senate**

Senator Al Lawson’s roots run deep in north Florida. In 1948, Alfred “Al” Lawson, Jr. was born in Midway, Florida, a small town located midway between Quincy and Tallahassee, Florida. His parents and their six children lived in a modest home located in the heart of a rural farming community where neighbors, both black and white, gave a helping hand to one another. At age eight, tall and slender for his age, Al Lawson worked his first job in the tobacco fields of Gadsden County; his first real lesson in hard work.

Al graduated from Havana Northside High School and received his Bachelor’s Degree from Florida A&M University and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration at Florida State University. He played “Rattler” basketball at Florida A&M University, and later coached “Seminole” basketball at Florida State University. Thirty-six years ago, he married the former Delores Brooks and they have two adult children Alfred, III and Shani. He is also the proud grandfather of Kobe Lawson. He is an active member of his church, St. Michael’s and All Angels Episcopal Church, where he has taught an adult Sunday school class.

Since 1976, he has been an Insurance Agent with Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, where he has been recognized as one of the company’s most valued agents. In 1984, he started his own marketing and communications firm in Tallahassee.

Al Lawson has devoted more than half of his life to public service. He believes the greatest gift an individual can give is service to his or her community. He has served on numerous community boards and organizations such as the United Way, the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, and the Tallahassee Urban League Board of Directors. He has also chaired and served as president of the FAMU Booster Club. Additionally, Senator Lawson has committed personal time to the 4-H Legislature, and served as a board member of the Suwannee River Area Council Boy Scouts.

The knowledge he gained from being raised in a rural and poor community and from running a small business helped to lay the groundwork for this decision to run for the Florida House of Representatives and later the Florida Senate. Al realized that the working class families of North Florida needed someone to stand up for them. In 1982, he was elected to the House of Representatives where he served for 18 years before being elected to the Florida Senate in 2000.

Throughout his legislative career, Al Lawson has worked hard to represent the interests of North Florida. He has served in countless leadership roles. In 1986, he served as the House Majority Whip and is the current chairman of the Leon County Legislative Delegation.

During his tenure as a state legislator, Al Lawson has passed legislation that has received statewide and national attention. As Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, he authored one of the most important pieces of environmental legislation ever crafted in the country—Preservation 2000. This is the largest state funded land acquisition program in the United States. He also authored and passed the Apalachicola Bay Protection Act and cosponsored the Everglades Protection Act. He has been a champion of state employees, public school teachers and the working people of rural communities. He has fought hard to win pay raises and benefits for state employees, and has been instrumental in improving the quality of life for children and the elderly. He also played a major role in the Rosewood legislation, providing retribution to survivors of the Rosewood massacre in the 1930s.

Senator Lawson has received numerous legislative and community achievement awards. Among his most cherished recognitions are: the Florida A&M University Meritorious Award, FSU Distinguished Alumni Award, and Legislator of the Year Award from the Nature Conservancy. He also received the Florida Student Association's Legislator of the Year Award, the NAACP Outstanding Achievers Award, the Gadsden County Citizen Award, Florida Sheriffs' Association Legislative Leadership Award, and the AFSCME Legislative Leadership Award. He was also inducted into the Florida A&M University Sports Hall of Fame and the Florida A&M University Gallery of Distinction in the College of Arts and Sciences.

In 2002, Senator Lawson was re-elected to serve the people of District 6. This district is comprised of 11 counties in the North Florida Panhandle and Big Bend Area. Those counties include Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, Gadsden, Wakulla, Franklin, Leon, Jefferson, and Madison. Al Lawson currently serves on 6 committees; General Government Appropriations, on which he serves as Vice Chairman, Ways and Means, Banking and Insurance, Community Affairs, Environmental Preservation, Government Oversight and Productivity which he also serves as Vice Chairman.

***Ms. Miriam Lopez***

**Florida International University Board of Trustees**

Miriam Lopez is Chairman and CEO of TransAtlantic Bank, a position she has held since 2004, prior to which she served as President and CEO of said bank since joining it in 1985. She served as chair for the American Bankers Association Community Council from 1999-2000; as a member of its Board of Directors and Audit Committee from 2001 to 2004; and is currently a member of its Government Relations Council and its Executive Committee. Ms. Lopez has also served as president of the Florida Bankers Association from 2000-2001, and is a Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta at its Miami Branch. She has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Barry University; is a continuing mentor for the local public school system; and a tireless participant and promoter of numerous activities benefiting all spectrums of the community. She received her bachelor's degree in education in 1972 from Barry College and an accounting certificate from the University of Miami in 1977. She resides in Miami.



## ***Dr. J. Bernard Machen***

**President  
University of Florida**

J. Bernard “Bernie” Machen, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., was named the 11<sup>th</sup> president of the University of Florida in October 2003 and took office on January 5, 2004. Prior to coming to Gainesville, he served six years as the president of the University of Utah. After attending Vanderbilt for his undergraduate studies, he earned his doctor of dental surgery degree from St. Louis University and his master of science in pediatric dentistry and Ph.D. in educational psychology from the University of Iowa. He also is a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

He served as professor and associate dean at the University of North Carolina’s School of Dentistry during 1983-89 and was president of the American Association of Dental Schools in 1987. Prior to his appointment at Utah, he was provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Michigan from 1995 to 1997 and served as dean of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry from 1989 until 1995. During 1993-95, he also served as a member of the National Academy of Science’s Institute of Medicine Committee on the Future of Dental Education. His previous responsibilities included senior academic and clinical positions at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill including associate dean of the university’s School of Dentistry; an appointment as chief of the Department of Extension Services at the U.S. Army Institute of Dental Research, Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; a position as adjunct professor at George Washington University; and as an instructor for the School of Dental Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. His hospital appointments include the University of Michigan hospitals, the North Carolina Memorial Hospitals at Chapel Hill, and Kimbrough Army Hospital at Fort Meade, Maryland.

Ever involved in the local community, a list of his board and committee appointments includes his service on the board of trustees of the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee and on the “Envision Utah” statewide planning committee. While at the University of Utah, he shepherded restructuring of the university’s administration to better support academic programs. Other areas of emphasis included improving the school's health sciences programs, expanding academic facilities, increasing the diversification of campus demographics, and upgrading faculty salaries and research support. He directed the creation of a student living-learning community to increase residential living opportunities in a setting that emphasizes academics. He also completed a \$766 million capital campaign and initiated an overall \$550 million in new campus construction. A strong proponent of mutually beneficial town-gown relations, he initiated the University/Neighborhood Partnership Program to increase university involvement in the local community as well as obtaining light-rail mass transit from town to the campus.

Dr. Machen’s honors and awards include the Helping Hands Award from the Utah Youth Village, the Distinguished Alumni Awards from the University of Iowa and St. Louis University, and selection as a Fellow of the American College of Dentists.

A native of St. Louis and a veteran U.S. Army major, Dr. Machen and his wife, Chris, have two sons and a daughter.

***Ms. Jussara Madrid***  
**Florida State University Student**

Jussara Madrid, a native of Miami, is currently enrolled as a freshman at Florida State University. She is pursuing a degree in Sports Medicine and a minor in Nutrition. Her career aspirations are to work in the field of Orthopedic medicine using integrative approaches to treat musculoskeletal diseases.

Some of her academic achievements include: recipient of Bright Futures Scholarship and also a Friends of the Park Scholarship from the City of Tallahassee. In her spare time, Jussara spends time teaching tennis for the City of Tallahassee. She also works part-time to support her education.

***Mr. Darryl Marshall***  
**Director of Financial Aid**  
**Florida State University**

Darryl Marshall serves as Director of Student Financial Aid at Florida State University (FSU). From 1985 to 1998, he has held several positions at Florida State University including financial aid specialist, loans assistant director, campus based aid assistant director, and associate director, respectively. Prior to joining FSU, Mr. Marshall served as public assistance specialist IV and public assistance specialist II at the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services in Quincy, Florida.

Mr. Marshall was appointed by the Secretary of Education in November 2003 to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance which serves as an independent source of advice and counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Education. He is an active member of several professional organizations such as the Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, member of the Board of Directors at Gadsden County Hospital , Inc. in Quincy, Florida, member of School Advisory Board, Student Loan Xpress in San Diego, California, and member of School Advisory Board, USA FUNDS, Inc., in Indianapolis, Indiana, among others.

Mr. Marshall received his B. S. degree in political science from Florida A&M University and his M.S. degree in higher education from Florida State University.



## ***Dr. Lawrence Morehouse***

**President and CEO**

**Florida Education Fund**

Dr. Lawrence Morehouse is the President and CEO of the Florida Education Fund (FEF). In January of 2000, he assumed his responsibilities at the FEF and maintained his Associate Professor status at the University of South Florida's Department of Government and International Affairs. Dr. Morehouse brings a wealth of experience teaching in higher education, publishing, conference presentations, speaking engagements, as well as numerous TV and radio appearances.

An accomplished member of the academic community, Dr. Morehouse received his Ph.D. in Political Science (May 1989) and M.A. in Government (1980) from Cornell University. In 1974, he received his B.A. in Political Science from Southern University. Dr. Morehouse received numerous fellowships, scholarships, and awards including, but not limited to, being a two-time recipient of the Cornell University Fellowship (1975-1976, and 1974-1975), Stanford University Visiting Scholar (Summer 1982), Earnhart Research Grant (1982), Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award (USF, 1992), University of South Florida TIP Award (1995), Outstanding Undergraduate/Graduate Teaching Award (USF, 1999), and the PEW Foundation Commission Scholar and Research Grant (1999).

Dr. Morehouse's leadership experience is similarly extensive. He has been the Acting Chair of Government and International Affairs (USF), coordinated the USF Summer College Reach Out Program (1995-1998), Director of the USF Political Science Program (1996-1999), member of the 1998 USF EXCEL Program, Coordinator of the USF Pre-Law Program (1999-2000), Director of Undergraduate Studies Program of Government and International Affairs (USF, 1999-2000), Member of the Tampa United Way Board of Directors (Present), member of the Education Channel's Board of Directors (Present), Member of Museum of Science and Industry (Present), Member of Board of Directors for the Tampa Chamber of Commerce (Present), Member of the One Florida Accountability Commission (Present), and a Member of the Florida State Board of Education Accountability Commission (Present).

Having authored and contributed to numerous publications, Dr. Morehouse's expertise, concepts, and experiences have been made readily available to all. Some of these works include "The Legal Profession," a chapter in *Career Exploration in Human Service* (1991), "Parental Consent and a Minor's Right to an Abortion: An Analysis of the Florida Supreme Court's Controversial Ruling," a segment from *Comparative State Politics* (1992), "Race, Abortion, and Judicial Retention: The Case of Florida Supreme Court Justice Leander Shaw," with Dr. Susan MacManus, and "Redistricting in the Multiracial Twenty-First Century: Changing Demographic and Socioeconomic Conditions Pose Important New Challenges," with Dr. Susan MacManus. He has also presented a number of conference and professional papers for research and educational purposes.

An astute political scientist specializing in Constitutional Law and Judicial Policy, Dr. Morehouse is a member of the American Political Science Association, National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Commission Scholar for the PEW Foundation, and recently appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to the Florida Jury Innovations Committee.

***Ms. Ava L. Parker***  
**Florida Board of Governors**

Ava L. Parker earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1984 and a Juris Doctorate Degree in 1987 from the University of Florida. She is a partner in the law firm of Lawrence, Parker and Neighbors, LLC and an owner of a management consulting, community awareness firm, Linking Solutions, Inc. She has worked in the public sector as an assistant public defender for Dade County, an assistant general counsel for the Department of Transportation and as an aide to a former Florida Public Commissioner. She has served as general counsel for Edward Waters College and serves as counsel for the Eleventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Ava is a member of the State University System Board of Governors and the City of Jacksonville Housing Commission. She has served as an inaugural trustee for the University of Central Florida and as the former president of the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter National Bar Association. She serves on the Board of the Florida African American Education Alliance, the Executive Director of Emerging Issues Policy Forum and a graduate of Leadership Florida. She is a native of Milton, Florida and has lived in Florida all her life. She is married to Victor D. Cole, the pastor of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church, Lake City, Florida.

## ***Ms. DeeDee Rasmussen***

**Executive Director**

**Florida Campus Compact**

DeeDee Rasmussen became the first full-time Executive Director for Florida Campus Compact in January 2001. She came to FCC with over 15 years of experience at the highest levels of state government, serving most recently with the Governor and Cabinet as Director of Cabinet Affairs for State Treasurer, now U.S. Senator, Bill Nelson. As Executive Director of Florida Campus Compact, DeeDee directs work with colleges and universities in Florida to promote the civic purposes of higher education by advancing service-learning, civic engagement, and campus-community collaboration.

Under her leadership, Florida Campus Compact has grown to include 48 member campuses, and has hosted numerous conferences, workshops, and events throughout the State and the southern region of the country. DeeDee also works with the national Campus Compact organization to encourage national support for students, faculty, and community engagement.

DeeDee received her Master's degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Communications, both from Florida State University. DeeDee lives in Tallahassee, Florida with her husband and their three children.

## ***Commissioner John Winn***

### **Florida Department of Education**

John Winn, an educator who began his career as an elementary and middle school teacher, served as Chief of Staff to Education Commissioner Jim Horne. Prior to taking this position he served as Deputy Commissioner for Accountability, Research, and Measurement at the Department of Education from 2002-2003.

John Winn has a distinguished career in education policy and a lifelong commitment to quality education for all students. As Frank Brogan's Education Policy Director he contributed significant work to Florida's charter school authorizing legislation and establishing the State Board of Education's authority to enforce accountability for school performance. This legislation still serves as the foundation for the board's authority in accountability.

After serving four years with Commissioner Brogan, Winn joined Governor Bush as his Education Policy Coordinator. While in that position, he was responsible for drafting and directing the Governor's education budget recommendations and legislative initiatives for all education sectors. These included the A+ Plan for Education, One Florida programs, K20 education system, and charter district legislation. He was also instrumental in crafting the John McKay Scholarship authorizing legislation. While in this position, he played a major role in developing the concept and implementation of education FCAT student learning gains, school grading formula, and the K20 data warehouse.

Winn returned to the Department of Education with Commissioner Jim Horne to assist in the restructuring of the Department of Education and the K20 education system. Since returning he coordinated the massive restructuring of the Florida School Code, centralized all data and accountability operations, and participated in selecting a high performing senior staff.

Serving for thirty years in education, John Winn has built a solid reputation as an authority on policy issues facing public education at every level. He is respected throughout the Florida education community and nationally. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated commitment and compassion in improving education quality and opportunity.