Florida Civic Advance 2017 Summit Builds Civic Capital to Improve Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On November 6 & 7, the 2017 Florida Civic Advance Summit: Building Civic Capital, at the Florida Hotel and Convention Center in Orlando brought together Florida’s civic leaders from the private, public and independent sectors to examine why Florida is one of the weakest states in terms of civic health and to collaborate on cross sector strategies to advance community innovation and build civic capital. Florida’s weak civic life breeds political instability, social unrest and weakens the economic and problem solving potential in our communities.

The nearly 60 private, public and nonprofit organizations making up the emerging Florida Civic Advance (FCA) network are working together to reverse this trend by supporting and strengthening civic progress in Florida’s communities. Dr. Stuart Langton, the founding Chair of the FCA Coordinating Council suggested, “The bottom-line of the FCA is to improve civic life and increase citizen involvement in making their communities work and prosper. It is fueled by innovations including civic tech, social entrepreneurs, impact volunteering, and more.”

The Summit was the second biennial statewide FCA gathering and featured over 40 speakers, national civic experts and authors. Former Senator and Governor Bob Graham welcomed the Summit participants and several nationally prominent keynote speakers offered ideas and innovations for enhancing civic life including: Marc Freedman, founder of Encore. Org. Second Acts for the Greater Good; Sayu Bhojwani, founder and CEO of the New Americans Leader Project; civic leader and two-term mayor of Salt Lake City Ralph Becker, and Kristen Cambell who directs Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement (PACE) in Washington D.C. The civic leaders reflected on civic challenges and strategies, heard from civic innovators who showcased successful efforts. Spurred by the expertise and experience presented, they identified in roundtable discussions “good ideas” for action to advance civic education, citizen engagement with government, volunteering and philanthropy, and connecting generations in community service.

Jeff Johnson, State Director, AARP Florida who stepped up at the Summit to serve as the new Chair of the Florida Civic Advance Coordinating Council, remarked, “The question is have we done enough to improve civic life in Florida’s communities and can we do more and do it better? The Summit served to rally civic leaders from the FCA network organizations to do more to harness the power of people and tap their talent and expertise to solve problems for the common good.” The 2017 Summit sponsors included: AARP Florida, Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Central Florida Foundation, Federal Reserve Atlanta, Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions, St. Petersburg College and Stu Langton.

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FLORIDA CIVIC ADVANCE NETWORK ORGANIZATIONS - NOVEMBER 2017

1. 4Generations Institute
2. AARP Florida
3. Allegany Franciscan Ministries
4. Alpert Jewish Family and Children’s Service
5. Askew School of Public Admin. and Policy, FSU
6. American Planning Association, Florida Chapter
7. Audubon Florida
8. Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce
9. Broward College
10. Catalyst Miami
11. Center for Social Change, Miami
12. Center for Leadership and Social Change FSU
13. Central Florida Foundation
14. The Children’s Trust, Miami Dade County
15. College of Central Florida
16. Corp. for National & Community Service Florida
17. FCRC Consensus Center, Florida State University
18. Federal Reserve Bank, Atlanta
19. Florida Association of Counties
20. Florida Benchmarking Consortium
21. Florida Campus Compact
22. Florida Chamber Foundation
23. Florida Children’s Council
24. Florida City County Management Association
25. FCRC Consensus Center, Florida State University
26. Florida Geographic Alliance
27. Florida Governor’s Office on Indian Affairs
28. Florida Humanities Council
29. Florida League of Cities
30. Florida Immigrant Coalition
31. Florida Campus Compact
32. Florida Library Association
33. Florida Local Government Coalition
34. Florida Philanthropic Network
35. Florida Non-Profit Alliance
36. Florida Public Television Association
37. Florida Regional Councils Association
38. Florida Tax Watch, Florida Citizenship Center
39. Florida Trend
40. LeRoy Collins Institute, FSU
41. Lou Frey Institute of Government and Politics, UCF
42. Bob Graham Center for Public Service, UF
43. Institute for Food & Agricultural Sciences, UF
44. Institute of Government, UCF
45. Center for Public and Non-Profit Management UCF
46. Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions, SPC
47. Office of Civic and Community Engagement, UM
48. Leadership Florida
49. City of Midway
50. Seminole State College
51. City of Sopchoppy
52. Stetson Univ., Center for Community Engagement
53. Tallahassee Community College
54. Village Square, Tallahassee
55. Village Square, St Petersburg College
56. Village Square, Broward College
57. Volunteer Florida
58. United Way of Miami Dade
59. Wells Fargo-South Florida

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