



# JOIN THE FUTURE LEADERS OF SOUTH FLORIDA



Spring Classes begin February-June 2026  
**Deadline to Apply: Friday, December 12, 2025**

In partnership with

**Barry University**

**FIU** | FLORIDA  
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UNIVERSITY

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**STU**  
ST. THOMAS  
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**U** | **UNIVERSITY  
OF MIAMI**

## INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## WHAT IS LEADERSHIP® MIAMI?

Leadership Miami offers participants the opportunity to share an intensive learning experience that focuses on community issues and leadership skills through a planned process of lectures, seminars, small group discussions, and leadership curriculum developed in partnership with local universities.

One of the key purposes of Leadership Miami® is to prepare the next generation of Miamians to address vital issues affecting Miami-Dade County and meet future challenges. The program's dynamic format stimulates animated and critical discussions among participants and guest speakers.

## OPENING CONFERENCE

During the two-day Opening Conference, community leaders, university leadership experts, government officials and prominent business executives present and teach their individual perspectives on a wide variety of topics. All presentations are followed by question and answer sessions and small group discussions led by recent Leadership Miami® graduates who serve as facilitators. Leadership skills form a basic component of these group workshops.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Miami® program provides an advanced leadership development curriculum delivered by top experts from South Florida's leading educational institutions: Barry University, Florida International University, Florida Memorial University, Miami Dade College, Nova Southeastern University, St. Thomas University, and the University of Miami. LM graduates will gain leadership credentials through our unique higher ed partnerships.

## FOCUS SESSIONS

The goal of the focus sessions is to develop leadership skills needed in today's fast changing business climate and encourage further exploration and action related to specific community issues. To encourage the development of leadership skills, additional sessions are held one Saturday each month, following the Opening Conference. At these sessions, participants have the opportunity to develop friendships and network with peers in their assigned team for the duration of the program.

## FIELDWORK

As an integral part of your Leadership Miami® experience and curriculum, each participant is required to complete fieldwork assignments in order to graduate. The primary purpose of fieldwork assignments is to broaden your awareness of your community, to experience diverse cultures and needs, and learn the importance of philanthropy.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

A critical component and rewarding part of the program is the participation by all members in a volunteer service project of their team's choosing at Opening Conference. The Community Service Project is a fundamental part of the Leadership Miami® curriculum and a requirement for completion of the program. Through the selected nonprofit project, team members will develop team building, leadership skills, and a shared unique experience. The purpose of this portion of the program is to broaden participants' awareness of community needs and facilitate their involvement in local volunteer programs, aid in the empowerment and revitalization of Miami-Dade County, and to provide a fun environment where participants can practice/ develop team and individual leadership skills.

## CLOSING CONFERENCE

The program year concludes with a graduation celebration. The session is dedicated to the review of skills and issues discussed throughout the year and to participants' presentations of their Team Community Service Projects. During this celebration, the Carlos Arboleya Community Service Award is presented to an outstanding current participant, nominated by their peers.

## ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Participants may continue their support of Leadership Miami® by not only attending various alumni events but also serving on various planning task forces or as team facilitators. The committee is comprised of alumni, with the responsibility of administering the program each year. Graduates are invited to participate in the planning and design of the following year's Leadership Miami® program.



# TESTIMONIALS



*"I was in one of Leadership Miami's first classes, and the program's value has only grown. Time and again, we've seen rising leaders at Jackson benefit from the networking, philanthropy, and professional development infused throughout the program. It's especially valuable as a space to build relationships and problem-solving skills that cross institutional and industry lines – a place where we come together as Miamians to share the work of uplifting the entire community."*

**Carlos A. Migoya**

CEO, Jackson Health System

**Leadership Miami® Graduate, Inaugural Class**



*"Leadership Miami® made a significant impact on students at CARE Elementary School by providing classroom sets of grade level books and a terrific collection of books for each student to take home. Having access to books is one of the key factors in promoting the love for reading which makes a transformative difference in children's lives. Renovating the teachers' lounge helped our teachers know how special and appreciated they are. We are so grateful and hope to continue the partnership with this program."*

**Christopher Simmonds**

Principal, CARE Elementary School

**Leadership Miami® Partner Class 44 Spring**



*"Based on my experience during Leadership Miami's Spring Class 44, I would define the program as one of the best examples of how an organization can strengthen a community. The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce has formatted a program that gives future leaders a well-defined and integrated program through which I was able to experience community service, networking, learning and exploration of Miami-Dade County. My prior experience with other leadership programs have had benefits but not to the level of Leadership Miami. As I reflect back on the timeline of my participation and the team members I met, I am truly appreciative of the guidance provided by the Chamber executives, staff and team leaders who were fully engaged in making the overall experience truly rewarding."*

**Deborah (Dia) Finley**

**Leadership Miami® Graduate, Class 44 Spring**



# TESTIMONIALS



*"The Leadership Miami® program was one of the most significant professional and personal experiences in my life. Participation in the program taught me what makes Miami.. **Miami**. My continued engagement has brought me friendships for a lifetime. I cannot ever imagine not being involved with Leadership Miami."*

**Patrick Morris**

Equity and Engagement, Office of Mayor Daniella Levine Cava  
Senior Manager Civic & Philanthropic Partnerships

**Leadership Miami® Graduate**



*"There is no better program to welcome professionals to Miami than GMCC's Leadership Miami. I have witnessed the impact that this program has had on the NextEra Energy & Florida Power & Light employees that have been able to go through this experience. LM is the Unofficial Miami Onboarding session. While our professionals are in the midst of the program, they bring back the energy of Greater Miami into our company. More importantly, aside from expanding their professional networks immediately, LM participants are immersed in our Community in a way no other program offers."*

**Franco Cantero**

Sr. Business Development Consultant  
FPL Energy Services/ A NextEra Energy, Inc.

**Leadership Miami Employer Participant**



# WHY JOIN?

## INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT

- Professional development to advance in your career
- Build self-confidence within yourself and with your leadership skills
- Gain deeper understanding and appreciation of local business and government through behind-the-scenes experiences
- Connect with like-minded future leaders
- Build personal and professional relationships that last a lifetime
- Make an immediate positive impact on your community

## BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION BENEFIT

- Nurture future leaders by providing them with relevant resources and training
- Recognition of your organization in our community as a business who cares about the development of our future leaders
- Retain your employees by investing in them and increase employee engagement

## TIME COMMITMENT

- Leadership Miami runs from February to June
- In-person sessions (1 Saturday a month) focused on professional development and discussion of community related issues
- Additional time will be needed for the Community Service Project which is to be Completed within a 90-100 day timeframe



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# WHY JOIN?

## EXAMPLES OF PAST PROJECTS

The Foundation for New Education Initiatives (FNEI) is dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). By supporting innovative programs and initiatives, FNEI aims to bridge gaps in resources and provide students with the tools they need to succeed academically and personally. The Marketplace at Miami Edison High (iTech) was created to support students, families, and faculty in need. The primary goal was to establish a dignified and welcoming environment where essential resources—such as food, toiletries, clothing, and school supplies—could be accessed at no cost. To complete the pantry, the project aimed to achieve the following goals:

**Goal 1:** Transform an existing space into a functional pantry

*Outcome:* A former culinary classroom was successfully converted into a practical, shoppable space for students, parents, and staff.

**Goal 2:** Include shelving and refrigeration

*Outcome:* Refrigerators were sourced through sponsorship from Home Depot and donated items, while shelving was purchased at a discounted price from a party supply store.

**Goal 3:** Create a workspace with signage, computers, and scanners

*Outcome:* Existing computers and hardware at Miami Edison were repurposed. Sponsor logos and program information were displayed at entry points and on wall space throughout the Marketplace.

**Goal 4:** Stock and store food for distribution

*Outcome:* Relationships were developed with local markets, food distribution organizations, and volunteers to ensure a steady supply of Marketplace resources.



The Marketplace established itself as a vital community resource, addressing daily needs and reducing food insecurity. As a result, students received the support needed to focus on their education, contributing to improved attendance and academic performance. The project also provided opportunities for student volunteers to engage in community service, fostering life skills and a sense of social responsibility. To ensure sustainability, ongoing support was secured through a combination of grants, donations, and strategic partnerships—facilitated by FNEI. Monthly food deliveries were arranged, and the ability to purchase essential goods as needed was developed. These efforts were designed to keep the Marketplace a reliable and lasting support system. The school committed a dedicated staff member to manage operations, while students were encouraged to volunteer, contributing to efficient day-to-day management and reinforcing a culture of giving back. Together, these efforts helped the Marketplace thrive as an essential pillar of support within the school community.

The SebastianStrong Foundation impacts thousands of individuals each year through its funding of cutting-edge childhood cancer research and its support for families facing a diagnosis. The original goal of the Superhero Family Oasis project was to transform an outdated family room within the Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) Unit at Holtz Children's Hospital into a modern, inspiring space where families could relax, feel comfortable and have a sense of normalcy amid the emotional toll from medical treatments and hospital visits. Tangible achievements included a complete renovation of the room with hospital-approved flooring and cabinetry, as well as the installation of updated technology, such as a large flat-screen TV and gaming console. Intangible impacts included providing a much-needed sense of comfort and normalcy for families facing the emotional toll of pediatric cancer treatment. The renovated space served as a sanctuary where caregivers and patients could momentarily escape the clinical environment, recharge, and reconnect. The project was designed for lasting impact. Durable, high-quality materials—selected in the renovated space impacted approximately 200 to 250 individuals annually, including patients, parents, caregivers, and immediate family members who utilized the BMT Unit's seven patient rooms. With average stays ranging from 30 to 45 days, the Superhero Family Oasis continued to offer vital emotional support and a place of connection and comfort to hundreds of families, navigating some of life's most difficult challenges.



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