

education Quality of Life ENGAGE communities citizens LEARN HEALTH leaders align GOVERNMENT infrastructure development economic FOCUS volunteers DEVELOP TEAMS

POLK VISION

Polk Vision MISSION STATEMENT

Polk Vision actively facilitates a process through which Polk County realizes its aspirations and full potential. Polk Vision identifies and builds awareness of community priorities, promotes partnerships and encourages accountability.

ABOUT US

In 2004, citizens from across Polk County, led by private, public and civic leaders, joined forces to address critical issues facing our community and to develop a common purpose. Focus groups, town hall meetings and task forces were engaged in a nine-month process to gain insight into the priorities that unite and challenge our community. Together we examined our strengths and weaknesses, and developed a long-term vision with strategic solutions and countywide benchmarks. The strategies were adopted by public and private organizations, large and small, with a common goal to create our desired future.

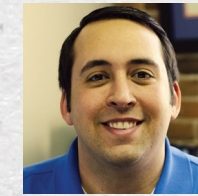
Over the years, Polk Vision has remained vital and relevant through the continued engagement of citizens by conducting public meetings, forums and roundtable sessions.

A formal “refresh” of the Vision was performed in 2010 which resulted in updated strategies and adjusted benchmarks. In the fall of 2014, with the encouragement of visionary supporters, we became members of the national collective impact organization Alignment USA. Through this relationship, we integrated new structure, process and technology with the Polk Vision founding principles and areas of focus.

Polk Vision is the LEADing collective impact organization serving the entire Polk County community. We provide central coordination to align the work of hundreds of dedicated volunteers through partnerships of public, private and civic organizations working collectively to make the shared vision of improved community prosperity for Polk County a reality!



PAT STEED
Immediate Past Chair
*Executive Director,
Central Florida
Regional Planning
Council*



ALEX NIKDEL
Treasurer
*President, Clark/
Nikdel/Powell*



KIM LONG
Secretary
*Executive Director,
Polk Vision, Inc.*



KATIE WORTHINGTON
Operating Board Chair
*President & CEO,
Winter Haven Chamber
of Commerce*



MELONY BELL
Director
*Chair,
Polk County BoCC*



JACKIE BYRD
Director
*Superintendent, Polk
County Public Schools*



TONY DELGADO
Director
*City Manager, City
of Lakeland*



MARSHA FAUX
Director
*Property Appraiser,
Polk County*



KAY FIELDS
Director
*Chair, Polk County
School Board*



JIM FREEMAN
Director
*County Manager,
Polk County BoCC*



EILEEN HOLDEN, Ph.D.
Director
*President,
Polk State College*



ADRIAN JONES
Director
*General Manager,
LEGOLAND Florida
Resort*



DOUG LOCKWOOD
Director
*Attorney, Straughn
& Turner, P.A.*



SEAN MALOTT
Director
*CEO, Central Florida
Development
Council*



JERRY MILLER
Director
*Government and
Community Relations
Manager, Duke Energy*



TIM POSPICHAL
Director
*Mayor, City of
Auburndale*

2016-2017 Board of Directors



GREG LITTLETON

CHAIRMAN
*CEO & President,
Citizens Bank & Trust*

It has been my pleasure to serve as chair for Polk Vision. Since its inception, I have held Polk Vision in the highest of regards. I so appreciate its purpose and mission and its ability to take on the issues that are important to all of us. It's been so rewarding to work with such a dedicated and hardworking staff along with a very strong group of volunteers. Thanks to everyone for all of your support this past year.



ELAINE THOMPSON, Ph.D.

CHAIR ELECT
*President & CEO,
Lakeland Regional Health*

Polk Vision is a vital resource of inspiration and promise for those in our community. Through the dedication and innovation of selfless individuals, organizations, and industry leaders across our area, we are advancing Polk County as a community of excellence where opportunities abound and residents can realize their dreams. It is a privilege to work with such a diverse and committed group of people who willingly engage every challenge to make sure that the members of our community have the support they need to succeed. By embracing the strategic initiatives, collaboration, mutual trust and accountability encouraged by Polk Vision, we will no doubt impact Polk County for generations to come. Together, we are making history for our community, but most importantly, we have the privilege to lift those who struggle, encourage those who doubt, and work to release the potential of our citizen friends and neighbors.



A Message from the Director

Since convening the first community focus group in 2004, Polk Vision has been engaging citizens in identifying and tackling issues affecting the lives of our residents. Today through a cross-sector network of strategically aligned partnerships combined with record numbers of volunteers, Polk Vision is at the forefront in addressing critical problems impacting our community.

Our LEAD Teams are comprised of community members, business leaders, education and government representatives working collaboratively on powerful, innovative solutions to a range of complicated challenges. While each Team is in a different stage of maturity, all have been gaining momentum.

Some of the most exciting news comes from Infrastructure reporting the first ever countywide mapping of school sidewalk gaps. Education Teams focused on health and attendance have launched pilot programs in ten area elementary schools. A group of engaged citizens started a movement which resulted in the identification of a pilot Community School. And Leadership Polk launched a new program - Youth Leadership Polk - graduating its first class in July. You can read about these and other Teams on the following pages.

Looking ahead, it's going to be another rewarding year as we welcome new Officers and Directors to our Governing and Operating Boards, embrace the consistent leadership of our Team Chairs and benefit from the passion and expertise of our citizen volunteers. It is through their dedication that we are able to reach for new heights towards success and prosperity.

Staff



CAROLE SAAVEDRA
Director of Operations



REBA COIL
Program Manager



BRENDA TORRES
Team Coordinator



PAULINE SIMMONDS-BROWN
Community Engagement Coordinator

MARCIA ANDRESEN,
Quality of Life Team
Co-Chair
Polk County BoCC

JOHN BOHDE
Infrastructure Team
Co-Chair
Polk County BoCC

TERRY BRIGMAN
Smart Communities
Team Co-Chair
City of Lakeland

MATT CLARK
Talent Pipeline Team
Co-Chair
Broadway Real Estate
Services

MARY CROWE, Ph.D.
Pedestrian and
Bicycle Safety Team
Co-Chair
Florida Southern
College

SCHATZIE HAINES
BHP: Worksite Wellness
Team Co-Chair
Lanier Upshaw, Inc.

ERIC LABBE
Smart Communities
Team Co-Chair
City of Winter Haven

JASON LEWIS
Infrastructure Team
Co-Chair
Kimley-Horn

MAGGIE MARIUCCI
Government Team
Co-Chair
Florida Polytechnic
University

TRACY MOUNCEY
Leadership Polk
Class X Chair
Tracy Mouncey &
Associates

JENNA LEVINE
Liaison
Florida Department
of Health in Polk
County

DIANE PLOWDEN
Literacy Team
Co-Chair
Polk County Public
Schools

GENET STEWART
Quality of Life Team
Co-Chair
Heartland for
Children

KATHLEEN WRIGHT
BHP: School Health
Team Co-Chair
Polk County Public
Schools

KELLY ANDREWS
BHP: Worksite
Wellness Team
Co-Chair
Kelly Andrews LLC

NAOMI BOYER, Ph.D.
Talent Pipeline
Team Co-Chair
Polk State College

BRETT BUTLER
Attendance Team
Co-Chair
Polk County Public
Schools

PAM CRAVEN, Ph.D.
Literacy Team
Team Co-Chair
Learning Resource
Center

TOM DEARDROFF
Benchmarks &
Pedestrian and Bicycle
Safety Team Co-Chair
Polk County BoCC &
Polk TPO

JENNA KACZMARSKI
BHP: School Health
Team Co-Chair
Polk County Public
Schools

JANET LAMOUREUX
Attendance Team
Co-Chair
Polk County Council
PTA

LORI MARTINI
Leadership Polk
Alumni Chair
GiveWell Community
Foundation

ANDREA NIKOLAI
Liaison
University of Florida/
IFAS

LAUREN PARKES
Liaison
Lakeland Regional
Health

DONNA SHEEHAN
Government Team
Co-Chair
City of Winter Haven

HOLLY VIDA
BHP: Primary Care
Team Co-Chair
Bartow Regional
Medical Center

SUZANNE WRIGHT
BHP: Primary Care
Team Co-Chair
Florida Department
of Health in Polk
County

2016-2017 Operating Board



KATIE WORTHINGTON

OPERATING BOARD CHAIR
CEO & President,
Winter Haven Chamber of
Commerce

Over the past year, Polk Vision, through the work of the operating board and teams, has made tremendous strides forward on numerous initiatives. There are pilot programs running that will aggregate data to help county policy makers determine what short and long term planning requires. We brought opportunities and challenges for our county to the forefront of municipal conversation, creating a collaborative movement towards community prosperity. The finish line is never in constant place, with each step forward a new opportunity arises, but that's the beauty of Polk Vision. Tackle one step at a time until the challenge has been met. And then you start over again tackling the next wicked problem. Progress is a constant cycle and with the alignment of hundreds of community thought leaders and volunteers, Polk Vision is making a difference.



COLLEEN MANGAN

OPERATING BOARD
CHAIR ELECT
Community Health Program
Manager, Florida Department
of Health in Polk County

Polk Vision is creating a culture of collaboration unlike anything our county has experienced to date. Together, a strong interdisciplinary network of talent and resources are being developed and charged with tackling the difficult issues facing our county. Together, we are unraveling some of those complex challenges to target their root causes. Together, we are advancing strategies towards a collective impact that will be felt and realized for years to come. Together, we are accomplishing more than we ever could on our own. We are ready for another great year. Will you join us?

HOW WE'RE STRUCTURED



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Polk Vision is governed by a Board of Directors which oversees the Operating Board in its leadership of Teams working collaboratively on a range of complex issues in six foundational areas of focus.

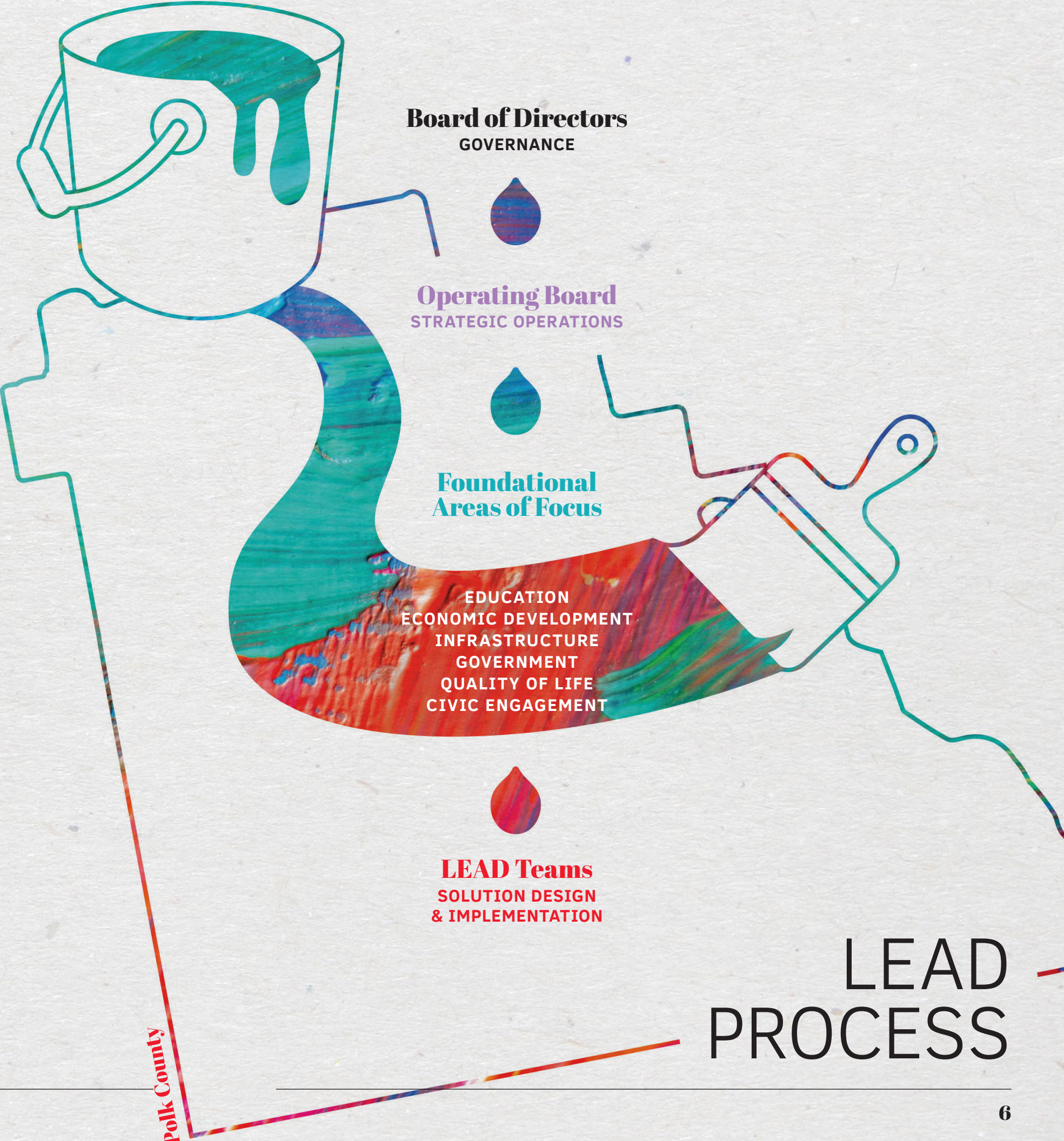


PRINCIPLES

These principles ensure our work is targeting systemic change or new ways of aligning resources to address underlying causes. Systemic change occurs when an outcome or goal has been attained. This achievement is either through the elimination of the problem or through permanently aligning programs, policies, funding streams or services to reduce the impact of the problem on a long term basis.

Polk Vision strives to:

- Align and engage all stakeholders throughout the county with strategies in six foundational areas of focus: Education, Economic Development, Infrastructure, Government, Quality of Life and Civic Engagement.
- Cultivate an environment of mutual trust and collaboration while working with transparency and a high level of accountability.
- Unify initiatives across the county through a comprehensive, collaborative, multi-faceted process that is recognized as generational; requiring significant time to achieve change and maximum impact.



LEAD
PROCESS

LEAD

LEARN ENGAGE ALIGN DEVELOP



PROCESS & TECHNOLOGY

As facilitators of a countywide collaboration among schools, non-profits, businesses, and the public sector, Polk Vision offers a framework for achieving sustained improvement.

The work is dynamic and requires continuous learning and adaptive solutions in addressing a range of complex issues. Polk Vision refers to this as our **LEAD** process: **Learn** all we can about an issue, **Engage** community partners knowledgeable and passionate about the issue, **Align** resources to address the issue and **Develop** plans that will result in systemic change.

This countywide collaborative process provides the following advantages:

- Greater returns on investment – By working together toward common goals, resources are leveraged, duplication is avoided, and efficiency is greatly increased.
- Higher quality services – Utilizing expertise from multiple organizations guarantees a broader perspective and a wiser approach.
- Enhanced capacity – A collective effort enhances the impact of each organization while generating a much greater overall outcome.

Polk Vision's membership in the Alignment USA network has provided us with a technology tool to power our principles, structure and process. This online portal allows our LEAD Team members, community partners and staff to collaborate, measure and report progress, capture information and warehouse our collective work.

Foundational Areas of Focus

In order to achieve the overarching priority of improved community prosperity before 2030, Polk County will have:



EDUCATION

A world-class, fully integrated education system that supports the needs of a vibrant, progressive community.



GOVERNMENT

A comprehensive system of government that is effective, efficient, diverse and responsive to the basic needs of its citizens.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

An economic development environment that attracts quality businesses with higher paying jobs, improves productivity and retains educated young people.



QUALITY OF LIFE

A quality of life that encourages diverse backgrounds to live in harmony while developing physically, spiritually, mentally and culturally within a healthy and safe environment.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Growth management and infrastructure that protects the environment, enhances quality of life, supports education and economic development and is economically sustainable.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Private sector leadership that drives the partnership with government and citizens to ensure that Polk County is a premiere place to live, learn, work and play.

Long-Term Outcomes

Each Alignment Team creates a Tactical Plan that begins with one or more of the Long-Term Outcomes listed below. The Teams work backwards from the selected long-term outcome(s) creating mid and short term outcomes and design tactics that best align community resources.

This process ensures that multiple approaches are considered. For example, the Infrastructure Team links their work on sidewalk mapping with Healthy Communities and High School Graduation Rates — demonstrating the importance of collective impact when addressing complex issues.



INCREASE
HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
RATE



INCREASE
COLLEGE
& CAREER
READINESS



HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES



COMMUNITY
PROSPERITY



ENGAGED
CITIZENS

2016 - 17
LEAD Team
Progress
Reports

Every LEAD Team is working to achieve long-term outcomes that directly tie to one or more foundational area of focus. Yet each Team has selected a different strategy and devised different tactics to achieve the desired outcome.



Education

“

Our greatest natural resource is in the minds of our children.”

— Walter Elias Disney



VISION
Before 2030, Polk County will have a world-class, fully integrated education system that supports the needs of a vibrant, progressive community.

- Brett Butler - Co-Chair, Polk County Public Schools
- Janet Lamoureux - Co-Chair, Polk County Council PTA
- Jackie Bryan - Polk County Public Schools
- Pam Craven, Ph.D. - Learning Resource Center
- Kenneth Franklin - Early Learning Coalition of Polk County
- Matti Friedt - Polk County Public Schools
- Shannon Gillespie - Polk County Public Schools
- Sandy Hightower - Community Volunteer
- Brenda Johnson - Community Volunteer
- Patty Linder - Polk State College
- Jodi Miller - United Way of Central Florida
- Rolanda Sealey - Polk County Public Schools
- Carol Sherron - Huntington Learning Center
- Neal Steiger - Lakeland North Rotary Club
- Shandale Terrell - Polk County Public Schools
- Billy Townsend - Polk County School Board
- Beverly Woolery - Polk State College



ABOVE
Attendance Managers and Social Workers gather at work session to discuss ways to decrease absenteeism.

ATTENDANCE LEAD TEAM

Education is one of life's greatest equalizers. It opens minds to new understanding, unveils new possibilities and unlocks doors to new opportunity and success. (Believe 2 Become, 2016)

Attending school regularly is essential to students gaining the academic and social skills they need to succeed.

In Polk County, however, a reported 9,403 students last year – a full 10% of the total student population - found their education slipping away due to chronic absenteeism.

Identified as a key need by the Polk County School District's Strategic Plan, the Attendance Team devoted the 2016-2017 school year to conducting research, making presentations, visiting schools, and holding one-on-one meetings with counselors and principals, in order to develop a comprehensive Tactical Plan targeted to decrease the rate of student absenteeism.

Percentage of K-12 students with 21+ days absent



ABOVE
A key component of the Challenge 5™ campaign is a video featuring School Superintendent Jackie Byrd, Sheriff Grady Judd and the School Principals of the Challenge 5™ schools promoting the importance of attendance.

Starting as early as pre-school and kindergarten, chronic absence can leave third graders unable to read proficiently, sixth graders struggling with coursework and high school students off track for graduation.

Inspired by the success achieved by the Grand Rapids, Michigan School District (Believe 2 Become, 2016), the Polk Vision Attendance Team together with Polk

County Public Schools is implementing a multi-pronged tactical plan that will be piloted in five area elementary schools.

Creating accountability at the District and School leadership level is at the core of the pilot program.

The pilot will launch in fall of 2017 with an actionable messaging campaign intended to activate parents as partners and engage the local community as stakeholders.



CHALLENGE 5™ SCHOOLS

- Combee Academy
- Eagle Lake Elementary
- Garner Elementary
- Griffin Elementary
- Palmetto Elementary

Permission to use Challenge 5™, Strive for Less Than Five™ Days Absent Campaign granted on behalf of Believe 2 Become (B2B,) an initiative of the Doug and Maria DeVos Foundation.



DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 7
Kindergarteners were chronically absent last year - that's approximately 157 hours of class time!

(Polk County Public Schools)

5,110
K - 5th grade students were absent 21 or more days during the 2016-17 school year.

(Polk County Public Schools)

VISION
Before 2030, Polk County will have a world-class, fully integrated education system that supports the needs of a vibrant, progressive community.

- Pam Craven, Ph.D. - Co-Chair, Learning Resource Center
- Diane Plowden - Co-Chair, Polk County Public Schools
- Torsha Baker-Cunningham - Polk County Public Schools
- Emilean Clemons - Polk County Public Schools
- Jeanette Crowley - Polk County Public Schools
- Jayne Jamison - Polk County History Center
- Cheryl Joe - Polk County Public Schools
- Jennifer Kovac - Polk County Library Cooperative
- Lindsay Persohn - Polk County Public Schools
- Scott Reeves - Polk County Public Schools
- Sandy Roddenberry - Lakeland Regional Health
- Claire Schwartz - Achievement Academy
- Juan Seda - Polk County Public Schools
- Billy Townsend - Polk County School Board



LEFT
 The Literacy Team holding a community meeting for literacy resource providers to discuss the content and format of the Literacy Directory.

LITERACY LEAD TEAM
 Educators and researchers have long recognized the importance of mastering reading by the end of third grade.

Third grade is an important pivot point in a child’s education, the time when students shift from learning to read and begin reading to learn. Students who fail to reach this critical milestone often falter in the later grades and drop out before earning a high school diploma (Hernandez, 2011.)

Aligning with the Strategic Plan of Polk County Schools, the goal of the Polk Vision Literacy Team is to increase student literacy proficiency. In order to support families in understanding how to assist their students in improving reading and comprehension, the Literacy Team chose to produce a Literacy Directory as a component of its tactical plan. The focus for the 2016-2017 school year was to research and make connections with literacy program providers across Polk County.

LITERACY IN THE EARLY GRADES
 Nationally, one in six kids who are not reading proficiently in third grade fail to graduate from High School on time, four times the rate for children with proficient third-grade reading skills. (Hernandez, 2011)

Unfortunately, 47% of Polk County Schools 3rd Grade students last year failed to read at grade level – 5 % lower than the state average.

The Literacy Directory will promote a more literate community by providing information about resources available for students and their parents. Directory content will encompass activities, programs or services related to reading, writing, communication, technology, speaking, performance, and related topics.

In the fall of 2017, an online version of the Directory will be available for download on the Polk Vision and School District websites.

RIGHT
 The Literacy Team strategizing ways to increase Literacy rates across Polk County.



	Grade 3 - 10		Grade 3 - 5		Grade 6 - 8		Grade 9 - 10	
	FSA English Language Arts % Level 3 or above		FSA English Language Arts % Level 3 or above		FSA English Language Arts % Level 3 or above		FSA English Language Arts % Level 3 or above	
STATEWIDE	52%	54%	53%	56%	52%	53%	50%	51%
POLK	45%	46%	47%	50%	45%	45%	41%	42%
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017

DID YOU KNOW?

Only **41%** of children entering Kindergarten came to school proficient in Language and Literacy Readiness.
 (2016 Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screening)

Only **46%** of students in grades 3 - 10 scored proficient in English Language Arts.
 (2017 Florida Standards ELA Reading Assessment)

Literacy has been linked as the key to life-changing hope, success, and even freedom. Our literacy team took on a daunting task and chose to start with a directory that will be the bridge between needs and the many resources that are currently available. We hope that it continues the conversation and grows the awareness that literacy, for everyone, is indeed important and highly valued.” — Diane Plowden, Director of K-12 Writing,Teaching and Learning, Polk County Public Schools

VISION
Before 2030, Polk County will have a world-class, fully integrated education system that supports the needs of a vibrant, progressive community.

Naomi Boyer, Ph.D. - Co-Chair, Polk State College

Matt Clark - Co-Chair, Broadway Real Estate Services

Cheryl Arrington - Polk County Public Schools

Mellony Bell - Polk County BoCC

Mark Bennett - Ridge Professional Group

Alan Black - McKeel Academy

Wendy Bolin - Saddle Creek Logistics Services

Penny Borgia - United Way of Central Florida

Sarah Breed - Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce

Stacy Campbell-Domineck - Career Source Polk

Tami Dawson - Polk County Public Schools

Kyle Fedler - Florida Southern College

Kaci Gingras - McKeel Academy

Fred Gore - Southeastern University

Barbara Hammock - Wauchula State Bank

Jacque Hobgood - Haines City Economic Development Council

Marc Hutek - Polk County Public Schools

Nicole Irby - BB&T Bank

Jesse Jackson - Lake Wales Charter District

Alaina Johnson - Lakeland Regional Health

Susan LeFrancois - Florida Polytechnic University

Larry Madrid - Madrid Engineering Group

Sean Malott - Central Florida Development Council

Nelson Marquez - Webber International University

Cindy McCalla - City of Lakeland

Phil Minden - Bartow Regional Medical Center

Devyn Montalvo - Webber International University

Laquiera Nottage - Polk County Public Schools

Trish Pfeiffer - City of Bartow

Ryan Reis - Keiser University

Hannah Sikes - Warner University

Pauline Simmonds-Brown - College 4 Everyone Network

Paizley Whidden - Warner University

Lynn Wilson - Polk County School Board

Leigh Ann Wynn - Warner University

Lindsay Zimmerman - Central Florida Development Council

TALENT PIPELINE LEAD TEAM

The Talent Pipeline Team was formed cooperatively by Polk Vision in partnership with the Central Florida Development Council.

The Team is committed to filling the gap of high skill, high wage jobs through innovative collaborations and aligning the resources of businesses, education institutions, and the community.

Over the course of the past year, the Team developed a multi-pronged tactical plan aimed at creating a pipeline of well-trained, credentialed and skilled individuals ready to meet Polk County's current and emerging industry workforce needs.

Facilitating systemic change through a bottom-up and top-down model, the plan is to increase educational attainment - substantially altering local conditions, improving quality of life and serving as an economic catalyst for increased productivity.

Educational Attainment & Closing the Skills Gap



Community Prosperity: Career & College Readiness



More students will graduate from high school with direct pathways to careers or post-secondary education. This will provide a more robust pipeline of talent and skills in targeted areas to minimize the existing gap of employable individuals in particular job roles and sectors.

TACTIC 1

Establish post-secondary partnerships with public high schools to provide additional resources.

- October, 2016 Professional Development college/career advisors
- Workshop support network for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), and College Signing events
- Develop College and Career Readiness resources in print and web

TACTIC 2

Establish opportunities for students to bridge school to work by developing rich and complex mentorship and other experiential learning programs.

- Establish inventory of workplace experiences
 - High school
- Identify pilot projects
 - Employability skills program-badge(s)
 - Other internship program options
 - ◆ Talent Development Network model
- Support Polk Career Academies strategic direction

TACTIC 3

Develop a marketing strategy for broad community understanding of the steps leading to career and college readiness.

- Creation of print and web materials to guide parents and students
- Implement information dissemination plan via Polk Vision
 - Community forums
- Development of timely, topical messaging regarding the numerous success stories and achievements of public school students
 - CFDC and Polk County Schools



DID YOU KNOW?

The Polk County High School Graduation Rate is

8.9%
below the state average

Polk County
71.8%

VS.

State
80.7%

(Florida Department of Education)

The Educational Attainment of adults 25 and over with a Bachelor's Degree or higher is

8.6%
below the state average

Polk County
18.9%

VS.

State
27.5%

(U.S. Census, 2015)



VISION
Before 2030, Polk County
will have a world-class,
fully integrated education
system that supports
the needs of a vibrant,
progressive community.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ed Shoemaker, Ph.D. -
Co-Chair, Family and
Education Intervention
Services | Jenna Kaczmarek - Polk
County Public Schools |
| John Small - Co-Chair, Polk
County Public Schools | Loretta Lee - WISP
Community |
| Leslie Allore - Community
Volunteer | Jenna Levine - Florida
Department of Health in Polk
County |
| Marcia Andresen - Polk
County BoCC | Doug Lockwood - Straughn &
Turner, P.A |
| Deborah Badertscher - Polk
County Public Schools | Maria Longa - Polk County
Public Schools |
| Melony Bell - Polk County
BoCC | Colleen Mangan - Florida
Department of Health in Polk
County |
| Penny Borgia - United Way of
Central Florida | Lisa Martin - Community
Volunteer |
| Wendy Bradshaw - Children's
Home Society | Lori Martini - GiveWell
Community Foundation |
| Carolyn Bridges - Polk
County Public Schools | Jim Maxwell - Polk County
Public Schools |
| Creigh Brown - Community
Volunteer | Eliza McCall-Home -
Children's Home Society |
| Marianne Capozziello - Polk
Education Association | Donald Painter - Polk State
College |
| Ann Claussen - Central
Florida Health Care | Lauren Parkes - Lakeland
Regional Health |
| Sheryl Cooper - Florida
Department of Health in Polk
County | Dawn Robertson - Polk
County Public Schools |
| Susan Copeland - Polk
Education Foundation | Teri Saunders - Heartland for
Children |
| Pam Craven, Ph.D. - Learning
Resource Center | Hazel Sellers - Polk County
School Board |
| Jeanette Crowley - Polk
County Public Schools | Cory Skeates - Lakeland Area
Chamber of Commerce |
| Kim Daugherty - Heartland
for Children | Genet Stewart - Heartland for
Children |
| Rob Davis - Polk County
Public Schools | Lana Swartzwelder - Sylvan
Learning Centers |
| Tammy Durden - Florida
Department of Health in Polk
County | Jane Waters-Thomas -
Community Volunteer |
| Dr. Michael Ham-Ying -
Central Florida Health Care | Lea Ann Thomas - Polk
County BoCC |
| Kelly Hansell - Polk County
Public Schools | Alyssia Totten - Lanier
Upshaw, Inc. |
| Debbie Henderson - Polk
County Public Schools | Michelle Townley - Polk
County Public Schools |
| Wanda Howard - Polk County
NAACP | Becky Troutman - Community
Volunteer |
| Dr. Joy Jackson - Florida
Department of Health in Polk
County | Katie Worthington - Greater
Winter Haven Chamber of
Commerce |
| Joy Johnson - Polk County
BoCC | Dee Dee Wright - Polk County
Public Schools |
| | Kathleen Wright - Polk
County Public Schools |



ABOVE
Team members review data on a number of factors in order to identify which elementary schools in Polk had the best chance of succeeding as a community school.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY SCHOOL?
A community school unites the most important influences in a child's life – school, families and communities – to create a network that supports their development toward productive adulthood. Although there is no single uniform model, community schools share a common vision to “create an integrated set of learning opportunities, physically and socially.” (University of Central Florida, College of Health and Public Affairs)

Through partnerships with key resource providers, the school serves as a center for health care, social services, enrichment opportunities, and other support to students, families and the community.

Recent studies of community schools in operation for five years or longer have demonstrated higher standardized reading and math scores, increased rates of attendance and greater parent engagement. (University of Central Florida, College of Health and Public Affairs)

In the fall of 2016, inspired by work of the UCF Center for Community Schools, a group of interested citizens from across Polk County began exploring the potential of transitioning a public school to a community school.



LEFT
During a July work session, the Team submitted its findings to the Polk County School Board. Board members selected Crystal Lake Elementary as the community schools pilot.

EXPLORING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS LEAD TEAM
Working collaboratively with Polk County Public Schools, Polk Vision established the group as a LEAD Team.

Over a period of 9 months, the Team attended information sessions, reviewed research and coordinated visits to successful community schools operating in Orange and Hillsborough counties. During this process, the Team met with representatives from UCF, community school principals, key partners in social services and healthcare, as well as community school staff members.

A meticulous process was followed to determine which of the 73 Polk County elementary schools had the best chance for success as the county's first community school. Sub-committees were established to independently evaluate and rank objective data.

The committees' work encompassed factors such as school grades, transportation numbers, free & reduced lunch rates, teacher retention rates, suspensions, expulsions and feeder patterns as well as the locations, building capacity, sidewalks, parking , public transportation, and the potential for expansion.

In the coming months the work of the Team will be focused on developing a comprehensive model implementation plan and solidifying community partnerships and resources.

“

Our goal is to make this a success and replicate this concept at other schools. All of the schools we researched could benefit from the community school concept. We plan to learn valuable lessons at Crystal Lake Elementary that will help us in the future.”

— John Small, Deputy - Superintendent, Polk County Public Schools

VISION
Before 2030, Polk County will have growth management and infrastructure that protect the environment, enhance quality of life, promote education and economic development, and are economically sustainable.

John Bohde - Co-Chair,
Polk County BoCC

Jason Lewis - Co-Chair,
Kimley-Horn

Chuck Barmby - City of Lakeland

Mike Britt - City of Winter Haven

Hal Coffman - Madrid
Engineering Group

Julia Davis - Polk TPO

Tom Deardorff - Polk County
BoCC & Polk TPO

Danielle Drummond - Polk
County BoCC

Tracy Garcia - Visit Central
Florida

Gordon Green - Patel, Greene, &
Associates

Lauren Hinton - Florida
Department of Health in Polk
County

Addie Javed - City of Haines City

Jeff Kincart - A-C-T
Environmental & Infrastructure

Ryan Kordek - Polk TPO

Eric Labbe - City of Winter
Haven

Pam Luce - Polk County Public
Schools

Nick Nicholas - DSM

Richard Perez - City of Lakeland

Tom Phillips - Citrus Connection,
Polk TPO

Jeff Schmucker - Central Florida
Regional Planning Council

Steven Shealey - Envisors

Philip D. Wegman - Furr &
Wegman Architects P.A.

INFRASTRUCTURE LEAD TEAM

The Infrastructure Team has made great strides in 2016-2017 by partnering with the Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) to evaluate the need for sidewalks within a one mile radius of public schools (the area where most walkers converge on a school).

The Polk TPO has completed an analysis of the major roads (arterial and collector roads) leading to 140 public elementary, middle and high schools. 27.5% of the road network leading to schools is missing sidewalks. This means it does not have a sidewalk on either side of the roadway.

The Infrastructure Team and TPO are now concentrating on those schools with the worst sidewalk coverage. To date, the Team has evaluated ten schools and identified priority sidewalk projects that can improve school sidewalk coverage. These evaluations will continue to be performed through 2017-2018 to address those schools identified by a range of established criteria as "high need."



EXAMPLE: INWOOD ELEMENTARY

Sidewalk coverage maps were created for all schools to depict the area within a 1-mile walking distance and to identify sidewalk coverage on arterial and collector roadways. Red symbolizes no sidewalk exists, Green means there is sidewalk on one side of the roadway, blue represents sidewalk on both.



ABOVE

The Smart Communities Team works collaboratively to bridge the digital divide in Polk County through improved broadband access to affordable high speed internet services.

SMART COMMUNITIES LEAD TEAM

The Smart Communities Team continues its work in educating and building community consensus around the vital importance of a robust broadband network to support Polk County's economic growth and prosperity.

Affordable, accessible high-speed internet facilitates many critical activities:

- Enables small business to compete in a global marketplace
- Means safer streets and communities
- Supports research and training at colleges and universities
- Greater opportunities for students
- Better, faster, more effective healthcare

Sustainable economic development, growth, opportunity and innovation are dependent on affordable high speed internet access. Having a shared vision among all of the Polk County communities helps to ensure the alignment of broadband infrastructure necessary to meet the growing demand.

The Smart Communities Team aided by the Government Advisory Team drafted a formal Resolution supporting broadband expansion. Introduced for discussion at the Mayor's Roundtable in the fall of 2016, the Resolution has been adopted by :

- City of Haines City
- City of Lake Alfred
- City of Lakeland
- City of Winter Haven
- Polk County BoCC
- Town of Dundee (pending)

VISION
All of Polk County will have the fastest, most affordable and most accessible high-speed internet services possible by 2030.

Terry Brigman - Co-Chair,
City of Lakeland

Eric Labbe - Co-Chair,
City of Winter Haven

Tina Barrios, Ph.D. - Polk
County Public Schools

Cliff Bennett - Polk State
College

Naomi Boyer, Ph.D. - Polk
State College

Frank Canovaca -
City of Bartow

William DeWitt - Polk State
College

Ercan Elibol - Florida
Polytechnic University

Doug Lewis - Polk County
BoCC

Stephanie Monk - Polk
County Sheriff's Office

Hiep Nguyen -
City of Winter Haven

Nick Nicholas - DSM

David Robinson - DSM

Brian Ross -
City of Haines City

Chris Rudolph - Polk County
Tax Collector's Office

Don Selvage - City of
Lakeland

Chris Shelton -
City of Auburndale

Tiana Sheppard - Frontier
Communications

Marybeth Soderstrom -
Central Florida Regional
Planning Council

Steve Sowards - Inland Fiber
& Data

Mark Thomas - Warner
University

Bill Ward - Polk County
Sheriff's Office

Ed Wolf - Polk County BoCC

It is important that our county and all municipalities understand the essential need for this 21st century infrastructure which enables affordably priced, high speed internet access. Polk Vision provides a platform to ensure we are speaking with One-Voice, and working together to improve service offerings for our residents and businesses."

— Terry Brigman, CIO & Director of IT, City of Lakeland

Smart Communities



The Infrastructure Team is confident that improving our sidewalk network within one mile of all schools will have a positive effect on our students and the overall citizenry in an effort to make Polk County the only place to live, learn, work and play!"

— John Bohde, Director, Land Development Division, Polk County BoCC

19 Infrastructure Team



Infrastructure

VISION
Polk County will have a Quality of Life that encourages diverse backgrounds to live in harmony while developing physically, spiritually, mentally, and culturally, within a healthy and safe environment.

Mary Crowe, Ph.D. - Co-Chair, Florida Southern College

Tom Deardorff - Co-Chair Polk County BoCC, Polk TPO

Chuck Barmby - City of Lakeland

John Bohde - Polk County BoCC

Jason Brown - Road & Trail Bicycles

Millie Brown - Florida DOT

Deborah Chesna - Florida DOT

Julia Davis - Polk TPO

Diana Degroot - Lakeland Regional Health

Bryan Dorman - Bartow Police Department

Steve Githens - State Farm

Lauren Hinton - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Patricia Jackson - City of Polk City

Ryan Kordek - Polk TPO

Jason Lewis - Kimley-Horn

Pam Luce - Polk County Public Schools

Jane Nelson - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Mianne Nelson - Polk County BoCC

Angelo Rao - City of Lakeland

Lauren Shinholster - All Children's Hospital, Safe Routes to School

Bill Skelton - Polk County BoCC

Donna Swygert - Stand Up Polk

Ed Trail - City of Haines City

Todd Vargo - City of Lakeland



ABOVE

Pledge to Slow Down Campaign, launched 2017.

LEFT

The Polk Vision Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Team held a walking meeting, touring several high traffic areas for both vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists to learn more about the importance of targeting engineering, education, and law enforcement.

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY LEAD TEAM

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Team was convened in response to a "Dangerous by Design 2016" study, released by Smart Growth America, which reports the Lakeland-Winter Haven metropolitan area as the sixth-most dangerous metro area for pedestrians in the country.

Over the last year 145 people lost their lives to traffic crashes in Polk County, and these tragedies continue to have heartbreaking and long-lasting effects on families, friends and our community.

The Polk Vision Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Team is working on tackling this serious issue through the creation and implementation of a multi-pronged strategic plan focused on engineering, education, and law enforcement. Every driver, passenger, pedestrian and bicyclist is someone's loved one and everyone wants to come home safely.

“

As a bicycle commuter, an avid recreational bicyclist and a runner, it was a bit upsetting to learn the number of vehicular collisions in Polk County involving pedestrians and bicyclists. I am thankful that Polk Vision decided to create a Ped/Bike Safety Team. The individuals I have met over the past five months via our team meetings have shown me that Polk County has a number of resources that could be tapped and coordinated to address this issue.”

Mary Crowe, Ph.D., Associate Provost for Experiential Education, Florida Southern College



Quality of Life

“

Vital to quality of life is the ability to work together, learn from each other, and help each other grow.”

— Stephen Covey



VISION
Polk County will have a Quality of Life that encourages diverse backgrounds to live in harmony while developing physically, spiritually, mentally, and culturally, within a healthy and safe environment.

Marcia Andresen - Co-Chair, Polk County BoCC

Genet Stewart - Co-Chair, Heartland for Children

Candace Barnes - Peace River Center

Becky Razaire - Tri-County Human Services

Penny Borgia - United Way of Central Florida

Kirk D. Fasshauer, FT - Peace River Center

Margo Fleisher - Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc.

Taylor Freeman - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Dr. Daniel O. Haight - Lakeland Regional Health

Cathy Hatch - Polk County BoCC

Susan Hurlburt - Community Volunteer

James R Maxwell - Polk County Schools

Joy Johnson - Polk County BoCC

Amanda Land - One Hope United

Lauren Lengyel - Polk County BoCC

Colleen Mangan - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Tim Mitchell - Parker Street Ministries

Andrea Nikolai - University of Florida/IFAS

Lauren Parkes - Lakeland Regional Health

Rob Quam - Lake Wales Care Center

Risdon N. Slate, Ph.D., Florida Southern College

Steve Thompson - American Red Cross

Donn Van Stee - Tri-County Human Services

Jeff Ware - Winter Haven Hospital

Robert L. Williams - County Court Judge, 10th Judicial Circuit

Dr. George Winny - Winter Haven Hospital



MIND? WHAT MATTERS?

The October 25, 2016 series introductory session included warning signs, crisis intervention, mental health first aid, the link between physical and mental health, outpatient and in-home therapy.

*Attendee feedback determined future forum topics.

QUALITY OF LIFE LEAD TEAM

The term “quality of life” has meaning for nearly everyone and every academic discipline, individuals and groups may define it differently. Although health is one of the important domains of overall quality of life, there are many other aspects — jobs, housing, schools, and built environments. Intangibles such as culture, values, and spirituality are also key domains of overall quality of life that add to the complexity of its measurement.

The Quality of Life Team is comprised of representatives from across Polk County including non-profits, government, health care, education and faith-based organizations. This diversity affords the opportunity to obtain different perspectives as the Team strategizes on ways to conduct inter-active education forums on various topics impacting the quality of life of Polk County citizens.

Addressing behavioral health is a huge and complex undertaking. It can be daunting to try to dispel the myths, reduce stigma, and solve the myriad of problems associated with treating mental health disorders. However by starting the conversation, the Team ‘s goal was to demystify the complexities that are often associated with mental health, enhance understanding, and provide information on accessing resources in Polk County.

Mental health plays a major role in people’s ability to maintain good physical health. Mental illnesses, such as depression and anxiety, affect people’s ability to participate in health-promoting behaviors. In turn, problems with physical health, such as chronic diseases, can have a serious impact on mental health and decrease a person’s ability to participate in treatment and recovery (Healthy People 2020.)

The Department of Children and Families is seeing an increasing number of children entering the foster care system not because of abuse or neglect, but because the child needs intensive mental health services. Polk County Public Schools Student Services has observed an increase in the number and severity of behavioral difficulties. During the last school year, 1,238 Crisis Interventions were completed with 110 students Baker Acted directly by Polk County School Resource Officers.

The number of Involuntary Examinations of Children under the age of 18 in Polk County rose from 727 in 2010/2011 to 1,723 in 2015/2016. Reflecting a 131.18% increase and ranked 3rd highest in the state (Baker Act Data Report, University of South Florida, Released March 2017).



WHAT'S NORMAL WHAT'S NOT? DO YOU KNOW A CHILD IN CRISIS?

Second in the series, this May 11, 2017 session included experts in youth behavioral health engaged in conversation regarding warning signs, the importance of timely intervention, early diagnosis and treatment.

Next in the series, the Team will be joining forces with the Polk Vision Worksite Wellness Team. Plans are currently underway for a forum developed specifically for individuals, employers and co-workers impacted by mental health challenges in the workplace.

Access to a robust continuum of mental health & substance abuse services is necessary to enhance overall wellness for Polk County residents. I was honored to serve as Co-Chair of the Quality of Life Team, as we created the opportunity for public dialogue through the Behavioral Health Community Forums.”

— Genet Stewart, Chief Operating Officer, Heartland for Children



DID YOU KNOW?

Lack of mental health services was listed as a concern by key informants and focus group participants.

(2015 Community Health Assessment)

During 2015-2016

40%

of referrals to state psychiatric hospitals were from Circuit Court 10 – primarily Polk County

(Central Florida Behavioral Health Network)

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDER RATIO

Polk County
1400 to 1
VS.
State
750 to 1

(Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2017)

“





BUILDING A HEALTHIER POLK LEAD TEAMS

Building a Healthier Polk is a group of community partners brought together by Polk Vision who have been working on the goal of reducing the obesity rate in Polk County.

Over the last five years, the Building a Healthier Polk Initiative has worked to develop healthy habits and behaviors in key settings within our community. Currently, three Building a Healthier Polk Teams are built around objectives selected for School Health, Primary Care Physicians, and Worksite Wellness.

Each of these is working towards the long-term goal of reducing the obesity (BMI >30) rate in Polk County to less than the state average (36.9% to 26.4% in 2013). The Florida Department of Health in Polk County includes the work of these Teams into its 2016-2020 Community Health Improvement Plan.



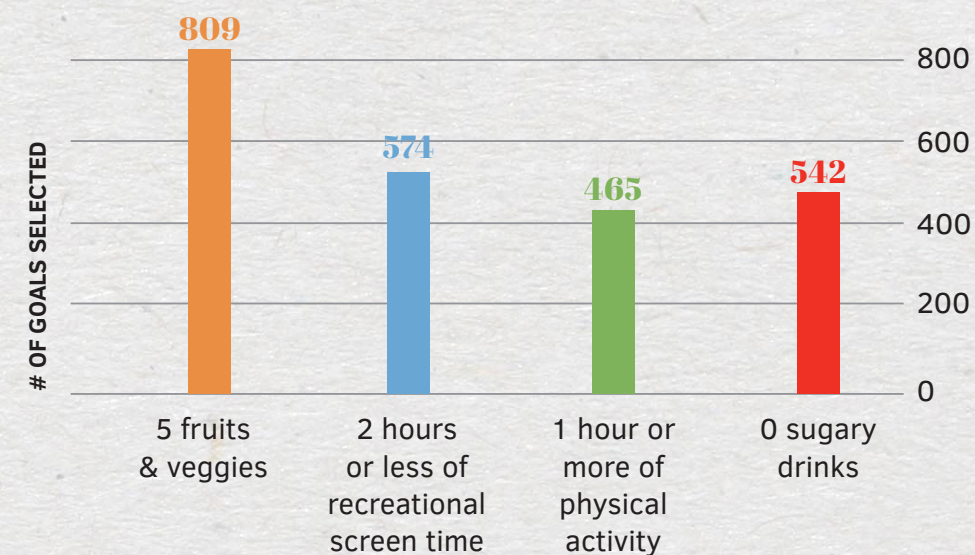
Polk Vision addresses many quality of life issues that deter Polk residents from living their fullest, happiest, and healthiest life. We are so pleased to continue partnering with them to build a healthier Polk.” — Dr. Joy Jackson, Director of the Florida Department of Health in Polk



LEFT

Dr. Sairah Chachad reporting monthly results to the Co-Chair of the Primary Care Team, Suzanne Wright with the Florida Department of Health in Polk County. The number of prescriptions distributed and the number of healthy habit goals registered have exceeded the expectations of the Primary Care Team.

Selected 5-2-1-0 Goals



PRIMARY CARE LEAD TEAM

The Primary Care Team has focused on preventing and reducing childhood obesity. They have continued to utilize and expand the 5-2-1-0 prescription program. This program aims to provide simple steps towards achieving and maintaining a healthy weight among children by developing healthy habits that will last a lifetime. The program launched on January 1, 2017, and has since gained momentum in the community. Currently participating are 40 pediatricians and pediatric ARNPs from 5 practices at 12 locations across Polk County. These 40 providers have disseminated more than 1,300 prescriptions, and patients have selected 2,390 healthy habit goals.

- 5 fruits and vegetables every day
- 2 hours or less of recreational screen time per day
- 1 hour or more of daily physical activity
- 0 sugar-sweetened drinks



5-2-1-0 offers families a simple and easy way to work together to make healthy choices and establish wonderful habits in our children. Since initiating this in my local practice, families have seen how small healthy steps, taken together, can really be fun and achievable.”

— Dr. Sairah Chachad, Lakeside Pediatrics



VISION
Reduce the Obesity rate (BMI>30) in Polk County to less than the state average (from 36.9 percent to 26.4percent).

Holly Vida - Co-Chair, Bartow Regional Medical Center

Suzanne Wright - Co-Chair, Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Penny Borgia - United Way of Central Florida

Ermelinda Centeno - Central Florida Health Care

Dr. Sairah Chachad - Lakeside Pediatrics

Dr. Joy Jackson - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Jenna Levine - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Colleen Mangan - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Paula McGhee - Polk County BoCC

Andrea Nikolai - University of Florida/IFAS

Bo Razzano - Central Florida Health Care

Nora Smith - Pediatric Partners of Winter Haven

VISION
Reduce the Obesity rate (BMI>30) in Polk County to less than the state average (from 36.9 percent to 26.4percent).

Jenna Kaczmariski - Co-Chair, Polk County Public Schools

Kathleen Wright - Co-Chair, Polk County Public Schools

Tammy Durden - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Mindi Fitch - City of Lakeland

Audrey Kelley - Polk County Public Schools

Deanna Kirkland - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Jenna Levine - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Colleen Mangan - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Lauren Shinholster - All Children's Hospital, Safe Routes to School

Rachelle Webb - All Children's Hospital, Safe Routes to School

RIGHT
The School Health Team presenting the Healthy Schools Initiative at Wahneta Elementary School.



SCHOOL HEALTH LEAD TEAM

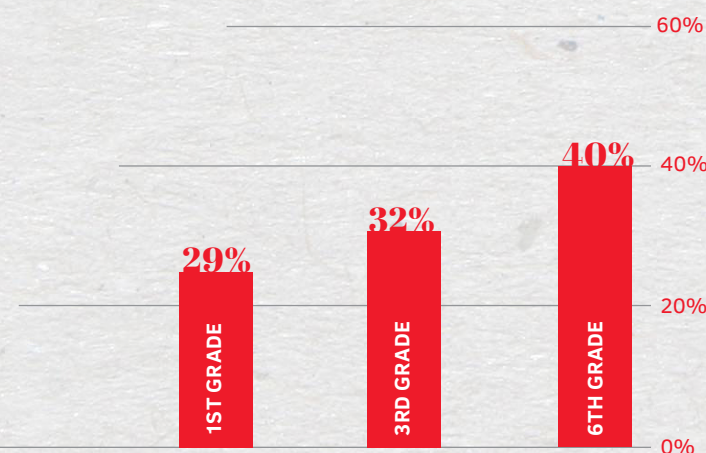
The School Health Team spent the 2016-2017 year designing and implementing a pilot program called the Healthy Schools Initiative, which is aimed at improving student health and academic achievement through an initial focus on increased physical activity and nutrition. The Initiative is based off of a nationally recognized, evidence-based model that emphasizes the benefits of integrating health and education in the school setting. Through the use of this model, the team hopes to help schools develop sustainable Healthy School Teams within the staff and administration. The team selected 5 elementary schools to pilot this program. Schools were selected based

off of health and fitness data, readiness to participate, and geographic distribution. For the first year of the program, each school has been asked to work on a goal related to physical activity or nutrition. Each school has convened their Healthy School Team, reviewed their school's data, and selected goals to begin working on for the 2017-2018 school year, when the action phase of the pilot program begins.

5 HEALTHY SCHOOLS

- Highland City Elementary
- Inwood Elementary
- Medulla Elementary
- Padgett Elementary
- Wahneta Elementary

Overweight & Obese students in Polk County 2017



VISION
Reduce the Obesity rate (BMI>30) in Polk County to less than the state average (from 36.9 percent to 26.4percent).

Kelly Andrews - Co-Chair, Kelly Andrews LLC

Schatzie Haines - Co-Chair, Lanier Uphaw, Inc.

Liz Antaya - Stahl & Associates Insurance

Bethany Brown - Lakeland Regional Health

Julia Davis - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Dr. Daniel Haight - Lakeland Regional Health

Allison Kennedy - Public Health Institute

Jenna Levine - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Colleen Mangan - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Leah Millette - BayCare Health System

Karen Moore - Peace River Center

Andrea Nikolai - University of Florida/IFAS

Belinda Rieger - Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center

Laurel Smith - Polk State College

Sarah Stinson - Bank of Central Florida

Stevie Sweet - Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Debbie Zimmerman - Polk County Public Schools

LEFT

The Worksite Wellness Team presented to 100 Human Resource Professionals at the Mid-Florida Society for Human Resource Management Strategic Management Workshop on May 12, 2017.



WORKSITE WELLNESS LEAD TEAM

The Worksite Wellness Team has partnered with Polk Wellness Professionals to support the development and enhancement of worksite wellness programs in local businesses. In July of 2016, the Worksite Wellness Team received a grant for \$5,000 from the Health Council of Southwest Florida (HCSWF). With this grant funding, the team has been promoting the use of the CDC Worksite Health ScoreCard, which is a free, validated self-assessment tool for businesses to evaluate their current worksite wellness programs, identify gaps, and implement evidence-based

strategies for improvement. The Team has taken a variety of approaches to reach local businesses, including sending quarterly health emails, making phone calls, setting up in-person consultations with business leaders and human resources professionals, and sponsoring events to better reach their target audience, such as the Mid-Florida SHRM workshop and the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce Friday Forum.

Partnering with the Quality of Life Team, a forum is under development for individuals, employers, and co-workers impacted by mental health challenges in the workplace.

The goal for us in establishing a worksite wellness program was to create a healthier, happier workforce. The Polk Vision Worksite Wellness Team has been a huge support to us; we call on them regularly for a number of different resources, whether it's speakers, or just general resources and suggestions on how to get things accomplished. I would encourage you to connect with them and use them as a resource as you go down the path of developing a wellness program." — Paul Noris, Chairman, CEO, & President, Bank of Central Florida

VISION
Before 2030, Polk County will have a comprehensive system of government that is effective, efficient, diverse and responsive to the basic needs of its citizens.

Maggie Mariucci - Co-Chair, Florida Polytechnic University

Donna Sheehan - Co-Chair, City of Winter Haven

Melony Bell - Polk County BoCC

Stacy Butterfield - Polk County Clerk of the Courts

Meagin Colson - Polk County Sheriff's Office

Susan Copeland - Polk Education Foundation

Marsha Faux - Polk County Property Appraiser

Christine Goding - Polk County Supervisor of Elections Office

Gwinnell Jarvis - Polk County Sheriff's Office

Valeria Jorn - Tri-County Human Services

Joe LaCascia - City of Polk City

Tracy Mouncey - Tracy Mouncey & Associates

Matt Mucci - AT&T

Michael Spake - Lakeland Regional Health

Lea Ann Thomas - Polk County BoCC



ABOVE

Polk County Mayors gather to participate in the 2016 Mayor's Roundtable.

GOVERNMENT ADVISORY TEAM

The Government Advisory Team serves to bring together all levels of local government to create more awareness, cooperation and support of Polk Vision LEAD Team initiatives. This includes providing review and guidance on both foreseen and unforeseen opportunities that intersect with a strategy or tactic impacting the potential success of a LEAD Team's goal.

The Team works diligently to effectively produce a series of community engagement events each year such as the Mayors Roundtable, State of the County, Elected Leadership Summit, and legislative workshops.

6TH ANNUAL MAYORS ROUNDTABLE

The Mayors Roundtable is a well-established, annual gathering of Mayors in Polk County. This unique event allows for discussion on topics critical to their community and the county as a whole. For the 6th year in a row, the Polk Vision Government Advisory Team hosted the half-day roundtable discussion at Polk State College in Winter Haven with Jerry Miller of Duke Energy serving as moderator. Broadband access and the importance of having affordable high-speed internet throughout the county was an important topic of discussion at this year's roundtable event. Other topics discussed included economic development, infrastructure, and transportation.



LEFT

Commissioner Bell updated the audience on job growth, educational opportunities, arts & culture, parks & recreation facilities and tourism.

2017 STATE OF THE COUNTY UPDATE

The State of the County Update brought together citizens from across Polk County to hear from Board of County Commission Chair Melony Bell and County Manager Jim Freeman. Topics addressed included traffic congestion (particularly the northern corridor of highway 27), roads expansion, the formation of a water cooperative, public safety and the need to increase capacity in order to keep pace with a growing population.

2018 LEGISLATIVE WARM-UP

On November 3, 2017 renowned author, political scientist, and University of South Florida professor Dr. Susan MacManus, will moderate a panel discussion with members of the Polk County Legislative Delegation. The 2018 Legislative Warm-Up will include an overview of the legislative process, best practices for effectively engaging legislators and insight regarding important issues potentially to be addressed in the upcoming session.



LEFT

During the State of the County Update, Commissioner Bell and Mr. Freeman - with occasional assistance from event host, Sheriff Grady Judd - fielded questions from the audience.

“

I am proud to be part of the Polk Vision Government Team that works to build greater relationships and enhance overall outcomes through reinforced communications, partnerships, and awareness of challenges and initiatives of Polk County's 17 municipalities. It is exciting to assist in fortifying the connections between various Teams, County residents and government agencies, strengthening Polk County as an extraordinary location to live, work, learn and play.” — Donna Sheehan, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Winter Haven

VISION
Before 2030, Polk County will have leadership that drives the partnership with government and citizens to ensure that Polk County is a premiere place to live, learn, work and play

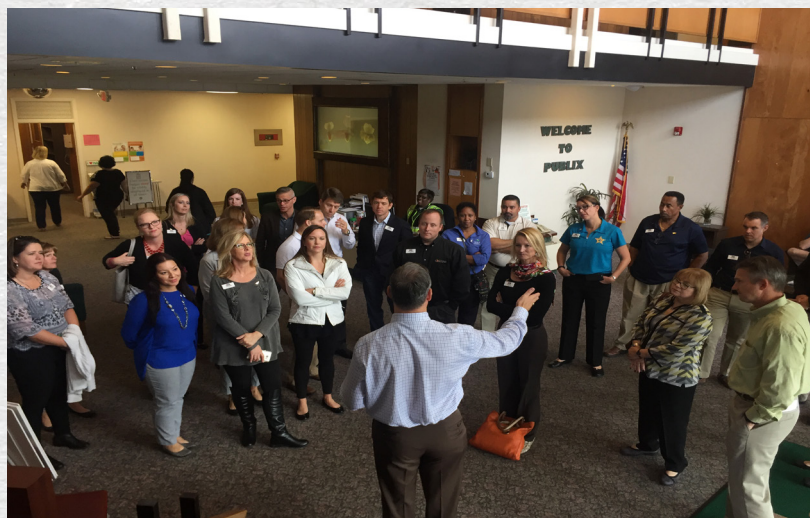
TOP

Clear Springs Packing House hosted Leadership Polk Class X for strawberry picking during History, Agriculture and Phosphate Day.



BOTTOM

Leadership Polk Class X took a tour of Publix Headquarters in Lakeland on Economic Development Day.



PAGE RIGHT

Participants of Leadership Polk Class X at the Polk County History Center in Bartow.



LEADership with a VISION.

Leadership Polk is a Polk Vision program started in 2007 that brings together current and emerging leaders from across Polk County to develop a diverse network of resourceful, informed and proactive leaders who will contribute to building a more vibrant community.

Leadership Polk Class I graduated in May 2008 and Leadership Polk Class XI will convene in August 2017. The ten-month program immerses participants in an inspiring and enlightening curriculum that examines critical issues impacting Polk County. Leadership Polk is topically relevant, dynamic, and exposes participants to a broad range of perspectives through location tours, facilitated conversation and experiential learning.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 270 participants have graduated from the program
- 12 of the 17 municipalities have been represented
- 20 business categories have been represented
- 11% of participants represent a diverse group of minority population
- 44% of program participants have been female

VISION
Before 2030, Polk County will have leadership that drives the partnership with government and citizens to ensure that Polk County is a premiere place to live, learn, work and play

STEERING COMMITTEE

Lori Martini - Chair, GiveWell Community Foundation, Class VI

John Bohde - Chair Elect, Polk County BoCC, Class VI

Pam Craven - Immediate Past Chair, Learning Resource Center, Class II

Ed Lunz - The Lunz Group, Treasurer, Class IV

Deena Ware - Town of Dundee, Secretary, Class IV

Allison Beeman - Cemex, Program and Events Chair, Class VII

Alan Rayl - Hamilton Engineering, Membership Chair, Class IV

Stacy Butterfield - Polk County Clerk of Courts, At Large, Class III

MJ Carnevale - City of Winter Haven, At Large, Class IX

Sarah Case - Gadd Case & Associates, At Large, Class V

Stephanie Colon - Citizens Bank and Trust, At Large, Class VIII

Shawn Sherrouse - City of Lakeland, At Large, Class IV

Kim Long - Polk Vision, Executive Director, Class I

TOP

Members of the Leadership Polk Alumni Association enjoyed a night at Grove Roots in Winter Haven.



MIDDLE

Alumni members enjoyed a delicious catered lunch prepared by the Bartow High and Lake Region High School Culinary Academies at the "Love of Learning" Lunch and Learn event in February. This educational event was an introduction for many of our alumni and Polk Vision volunteers about the concept of Community Schools.



BOTTOM

Alumni events are always a great way for class members to reconnect. Pictured are members of Class IV.



PAGE RIGHT

Alumni members touring the recent renovations at Tiger Town.



The Alumni Association is committed to fostering leadership and service that advances the continuing success of Polk Vision for the betterment of the Polk County community.

Alumni members are encouraged to uphold the purpose of Polk Vision and through their actions have a positive impact on the economic health, leadership and quality of life in the community.

WE TRULY BELIEVE:

- The Leadership Polk experience should be the beginning of a journey of intensified awareness, interest, concern, and pride of our communities.
- That membership in the Alumni Association will continue to assist you in advancing your goals and objectives as an investment for professional, civic, and personal development.
- Through relationships with colleagues who share similar involvement, commitment, and passion, Alumni will discover avenues for Polk County to become an even greater place to live, learn, work, and play.

VISION
Before 2030, Polk County will have leadership that drives the partnership with government and citizens to ensure that Polk County is a premiere place to live, learn, work and play

YOUTH LEADERSHIP POLK INSPIRING YOUNG LEADERS

Over the 2017 summer, Polk Vision piloted a youth engagement program designed to instill students with a sense of belonging, support social and emotional development, explore potential careers, and expand knowledge of Polk County.

Partnering with Girls Inc. of Lakeland, Youth Leadership Polk Class I was comprised of 6th and 7th grade girls convened in day-long sessions, once a week for five weeks. Students learned components of environmental responsibility, government and public policy, history and culture, community health, and public safety while expanding their academic knowledge.

“

Youth Leadership Polk taught me that women can be anything as long as they believe.”

— 7th grade participant, Girls Inc.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The environmental education curriculum introduced students to the importance of land and animal preservation; the ecosystem; water conservation; recycling and waste management. Students attended facilitated tours at Circle B Bar Reserve, Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Polk County Landfill.



TECHNOLOGY

While visiting Florida Polytechnic University, class members were challenged to design a new technology to help solve a global problem. Assigned to work in groups, it was essential for students to work collaboratively and cooperatively. This exercise in critical thinking also strengthened communication skills as students were required to present their project to the entire class.



HEALTH SERVICES

At Lakeland Regional Health students were engaged by professionals representing a wide range of medical and health care related careers. Discussions also included the importance of education and persistence in achieving your goals. A highlight included an exclusive hard hat tour of the state-of-the-art Carol Jenkins Barnett Pavilion for Women and Children.



GOVERNMENT & HERITAGE

In Bartow, the class was introduced to many facets of Polk County government, including a visit to the Board of County Commissioners, the Courthouse, and Clerk of Courts. At the Polk History Center, students were immersed in Polk County history, culture and heritage through a series of engaging presentations and interactive learning experiences.



PUBLIC SAFETY

During the tour of the Polk State College Center for Public Safety, students watched trainees practice defense techniques and learned about fire rescue operations when Polk County Fire Dept. Station 450 rolled a truck onto the scene. Students met with Polk County Sheriff, Grady Judd, and discussed career opportunities with a female SWAT Deputy and a female K9 Deputy.



GRADUATION

In order to graduate, students were required to demonstrate their language and communication skills by making a presentation to the class. Topics included both the technical aspects of what they learned as well as how the places they visited and the people they met inspired and challenged them to achieve their highest potential.



Engage Polk

A COUNTYWIDE INITIATIVE

Hearing directly from residents about their priorities, challenges, and aspirations is bedrock to Polk Vision. This year we increased our emphasis on Community Engagement through a series of interactive meetings held in cities across the county. The perspective gleaned from these meetings together with the ongoing outreach of our Teams have proven to be a powerful combination. Engaging citizens through this process has led to making broader connections, deeper discussions, and has strengthened bonds with our community partners.



FORT MEADE

March 2, 2017
Host: City of Fort Meade - Activity Center



AUBURNDALE, LAKE ALFRED, POLK CITY

March 9, 2017
Host: City of Auburndale - Civic Center



MULBERRY

March 22, 2017
Host: City of Mulberry - Civic Center



LAKE WALES, HIGHLAND PARK, HILLCREST HEIGHTS

March 28, 2017
Host: Polk State College - Lake Wales Arts Center



FROSTPROOF

March 29, 2017
Host: City of Frostproof at Ramon Theatre



BARTOW

April 4, 2017
Host: UF/IFAS Extension - Stuart Center



DAVENPORT, DUNDEE, HAINES CITY, LAKE HAMILTON

April 6, 2017
Host: City of Haines City - Lake Eva Event Center



LAKELAND SOUTH

April 10, 2017
Host: Presbyterian Church of the Highlands



LAKELAND NORTH

April 11, 2017
Host: City of Lakeland - Simpson Park Community Center



WINTER HAVEN, EAGLE LAKE

April 13, 2017
Host: Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce

Achievement Academy	Clear Springs	Lakeland Economic Development Council	Polk Museum of Art
A-C-T Environmental & Infrastructure	College 4 Everyone Network	Lakeland Electric	Polk County NAACP
All Children's Hospital	Draken International	Lakeland Flying Tigers	Polk State College
Allen & Company Investments	DSM Technology Consultants	Lakeland Linder Regional Airport	Polk State College Center for Public Safety
Allstate Insurance	Duke Energy	Lakeland North Rotary Club	Polk State College Foundation
American Cancer Society	Early Learning Coalition of Polk County	Lakeland Regional Health	Polk Transportation Planning Organization
American Red Cross	Emily Rogers Consulting & Coaching	Lakeside Pediatrics	Presbyterian Church of the Highlands
Arts Ensemble Education Foundation	Envisors	Lanier Upshaw, Inc.	Protected Trust
AT&T	Everest University - Lakeland	Learning Resource Center	Public Health Institute
Bank of Central Florida	FIPR Institute	LEGOLAND Florida Resort	Publix Super Markets
Bartow Economic Development Council	Florida Communications and Development Group	Madden Brand Agency	Publix Dairy Plant
Bartow Police Department	Florida Department of Health in Polk County	Madrid Engineering Group	Ramon Theatre
Bartow Regional Medical Center	Florida DOT	Main Street Winter Haven	Read Polk, Inc.
BayCare Health Systems	Florida Polytechnic University	McKeel Academy	Ridge Professional Group
BB&T Bank	Florida Prosperity Partnership	Merritt Law Office	Road & Trail Bicycles
Bok Tower Gardens	Florida Southern College	MidFlorida Credit Union	Saddle Creek Logistics Services
Bright House Networks	Frontier Communications	Michelle Githens State Farm	Safe Routes to Schools
Broadway Real Estate Services	Fort Meade Chamber of Commerce	Mosaic	SHR Human Resources LLC
Career Source Polk	Furr & Wegman Architects P.A.	One Hope United	Southeastern University
Central Florida Behavioral Health Network	Girls Inc. of Lakeland	The Orpheum Theatre and Academy of Performing Arts	Spherion
Central Florida Development Council	GiveWell Community Foundation	Parker Street Ministries	Stahl & Associates Insurance
Central Florida Health Care	Haines City Area Chamber of Commerce	Patel, Greene & Associates	Stand Up Polk
Central Florida Media Group	Haines City Economic Development Council	Peace River Center	Straughn & Turner PA
Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Hamic, Jones, Hamic & Sturwold, P.A., CPA	Pediatric Partners of Winter Haven	TECO
Chastain Skillman	Harrell's Nursery	Peterson & Myers	Theatre Winter Haven
Children's Home Society	Harrison School for the Arts	Polk Arts Alliance	The Edge Theatre Company
Circle B Bar Reserve	Healthy Start Coalition	Polk Career Academies	The Health Councils, Inc.
Citizens Bank & Trust	Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center	Polk County 4H	The Ledger
Citizens' Oversight Committee	Heartland for Children	Polk County BoCC	Town of Dundee
Citrus Connection	Homeless Coalition of Polk County	Polk County Clerk of Courts	Town of Lake Hamilton
Citrus World	Huntington Learning Center	Polk County Council PTA	Tracy Mouncey and Associates
City of Auburndale	Inland Fiber & Data	Polk County Farm Bureau	Tri-County Human Services
City of Bartow	InnerAct Alliance	Polk County Fire Department	UF/IFAS Extension Polk County
City of Davenport	10th Judicial Circuit	PGTV	United Way of Central Florida
City of Fort Meade	Keiser University	Polk County History Center	Visit Central Florida
City of Frostproof	Kelly Andrews LLC	Polk County Library Cooperative	Warner University
City of Haines City	Kimley-Horn	Polk County Long Range Planning (BoCC)	Watson Clinic
City of Lake Alfred	Lake Wales Area Chamber of Commerce	Polk County Property Appraiser	Wauchula State Bank
City of Lake Wales	Lake Wales Care Center	Polk County Public Schools	Webber International University
City of Lakeland	Lake Wales Charter District	Polk County School Board	Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce
City of Mulberry	Lake Wales Economic Development Council	Polk County Sheriff's Office	Winter Haven Economic Development Council
City of Polk City	Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce	Polk County Tourism & Sports Marketing	Winter Haven Hospital
City of Winter Haven	Lakeland Community Theatre	Polk County Supervisor of Elections	Winter Haven Police Department
City of Winter Haven Natural Resources Division	Lakeland Downtown Development Authority	Polk County Tax Collector	WISP Community
Clark Campbell Lancaster & Munson		Polk County Waste Management & Recycling	Woman's Club of Winter Haven
Clark/Nikdel/Powell		Polk Education Association	YMCA of West Central Florida
		Polk Education Foundation	
		Polk Education Pathways	
		Polk Indigent Health Care	

Address
600 N. Broadway Ave, #201
Bartow, FL 33830

Phone
(863) 800-3520

Email
info@polkvision.com

Website
polkvision.com

