





### **OUR MISSION**

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!



**Elaine Thompson, Ph.D.** Chair President & CEO, Lakeland Regional Health

It has been my honor to serve as this year's Chair for Polk Vision. I am grateful for the enthusiasm and support of the hardworking Polk Vision staff members and volunteers. It is inspiring to work with such a dedicated team of selfless individuals, organizations and industry leaders for the good of our community. Polk Vision's gifts to those it serves are many: collaboration, passion, accountability, creativity, and diversity. Together, I have no doubt this organization will continue to use those gifts in the future to take on issues important to all of us. Thank you for making this an outstanding year.



Alex Nikdel Chair Elect President, CNP

Polk Vision is the only organization in the county charged with aligning the efforts of the many hard working public, private and civic organizations to ensure everyone is collaborating, sharing resources and working toward the same end goal of improving the quality of life for all Polk County citizens. Together, we have made some informed decisions about where we want to go as a community, and the LEAD teams have made impressive progress in carrying out their plans. We are moving our community in a positive direction that will no doubt benefit Polk County for generations to come. I am proud to have been involved in Polk Vision for the past several years and am excited about the impact we can make on our community in the years ahead.



**Greg Littleton** Immediate Past Chair CEO & President, Citizens Bank & Trust



**Stacy Butterfield** Director Clerk of Courts & Comptroller, Polk County



Jim Freeman Director County Manager, Polk County BoCC



Jerry Miller Treasurer Government & Community Relations Manager, Duke Energy



Jackie Byrd Director Superintendant, Polk County Public Schools



Doug Lockwood Director Attorney, Straughn & Turner, P.A.





**Tony Delgado** Director City Manager, City of Lakeland



Sean Malott Director CEO, Central Florida Development Council



**Colleen Mangan** Operating Board Chair Public Health Services Manager, Florida Department of Health in Polk County



Angela Falconetti, Ph.D. Director President, Polk State College



Pat Steed Director Executive Director, Central Florida Regional Planning Council



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Melony Bell Director Commissioner, Polk County BoCC



Kay Fields Director Member, Polk County School Board



**Roy Tyler** Director Mayor, City of Haines City



#### Staff



**Reba Coil** Program Manager



Brenda Torres Team Coordinator



Pauline Simmonds-Brown Education and Talent Alignment Coordinator

# A Message from the Director

**Kim Long** Executive Director, Polk Vision, Inc.

An abiding commitment to making connections through civic engagement and leadership has been the hallmark of Polk Vision since it was established 14 years ago. Indeed, our effectiveness as an organization is due to the mutually respectful relationships that have been forged as a connected community of citizens and colleagues from across the county.

As we reflect upon our work this past year, we have much to celebrate including the thoughtful and principled leadership provided by our Governing Board. This year our Chair, Dr. Elaine Thompson, guided the process of clarifying the long-term outcomes that underpin the work of the organization. This clarity of direction brought sharper focus to the work of the Operating Board and LEAD Teams as they continued making connections towards achieving sustainable solutions to many of the complicated issues facing our community.

The strong connection between our volunteer leadership and the small (but mighty) staff is integral to the success of our organization. These wonderfully nimble and passionate individuals serve as fidelity keepers for the alignment process and standard bearers for the mission and values at the heart of Polk Vision.

A year full of promise is before us as we welcome new Officers and Directors to our Governing Board; herald the tenacity of our Operating Board; and continue to benefit from the expertise of many devoted volunteers committed to this important work. Through this connected community, we are making our shared Vision for the future of Polk County a reality.



to address them. We have honed in on the long term outcomes around which all of our efforts will align and have worked diligently on strategies that will create positive. sustainable change. I am incredibly honored to work with individuals who are dedicating time and expertise to strive for excellence, address the uncomfortable issues, ask the difficult questions, engage diverse groups in finding solutions, and redefine what it means to work collaboratively throughout our great county.



#### **Terry Brigman**

**Operating Board Chair-Elect** Smart Communities Team Co-Chair CIO & Director of IT, City of Lakeland

Polk Vision has done an outstanding job of identifying and focusing on the most significant issues facing the citizens of our community. And more importantly Polk Vision has assimilated a caring and knowledgeable group of concerned and connected individuals to make measurable progress towards addressing these issues. These individuals include our staff, our Board, our Operating Board, our LEAD Teams and every concerned citizen willing to be involved in designing and implementing solutions. We are all inclusive and we connect with engaged problem solvers across our County.

The work to be done is not for the faint of heart. Progress requires perseverance, endurance, patience and a never-ending willingness to continue the pursuit of our goals. I am continually impressed by my friends and neighbor's imagination, dedication and fortitude. I have no doubt that because of all the efforts of amazing people that Polk County will continue to improve and will lead the state and the nation in building a community that exceeds our wildest dreams. Go Polk!

**Katie Worthington Operating Board** Immediate Past Chair Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce

**Marcia Andresen** Quality of Life Team Chair Polk County BoCC

**Kelly Andrews** BHP: Worksite Wellness Team Co-Chair Kelly Andrews, LLC

Liz Antaya BHP: Worksite Wellness Team Co-Chair Stahl & Associates Insurance

John Bohde Infrastructure Team Chair & Leadership Polk Alumni Chair Polk County BoCC

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

Pam Craven, Ph.D. Literacy Team Co-Chair Learning Resource Center

Mary Crowe, Ph.D. Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Team Co-Chair Florida Southern College

Julia Davis Liaison Polk TPO

**Tom Deardorff** Benchmarks & Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Team Co-Chair Polk County BoCC

**Deric Feacher** Leadership Polk Class XI Chair City of Haines City

**Shannon Gillespie** Attendance Team Co-Chair Polk County Public Schools

Marc Hutek, Ph.D. Community Schools Team Co-Chair Polk County Public Schools

Board

perating

Jenna Kaczmarski **BHP: School Health** Team Co-Chair Polk County Public Schools

**Alaina Johnson** 

Talent Pipeline

Team Co-Chair

Health

Eric Labbe Smart Communities Team Co-Chair City of Winter Haven

Janet Lamoureux Attendance Team Co-Chair Polk County Council PTA

Jenna Levine Liaison Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Matt Mucci Government Advisory Team Co-Chair AT&T

Andrea Nikolai Liaison University of Florida/ **IFAS** 

Lauren Springfield Liaison Lakeland Regional Health

Lindsay Persohn, Ph.D. Literacy Team Co-Chair Polk County Public Schools

Donna Sheehan Government Advisorv Team Co-Chair City of Winter Haven

Ed Shoemaker, Ph.D. Community Schools Team Co-Chair Mr. Ed's Circle of Trust

**Holly Vida** BHP: Primary Care Team Co-Chair **Bartow Regional** Medical Center

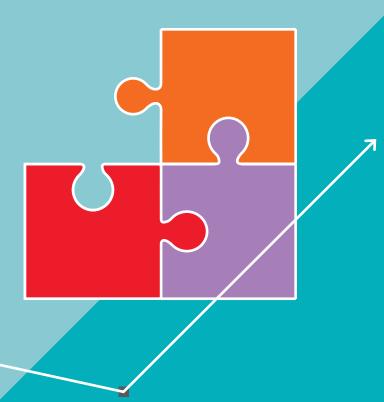
Kathleen Wright **BHP: School Health** Team Co-Chair Polk County Public Schools

Suzanne Wright **BHP:** Primary Care Team Co-Chair Florida Department of Health in Polk County

### How we're structured

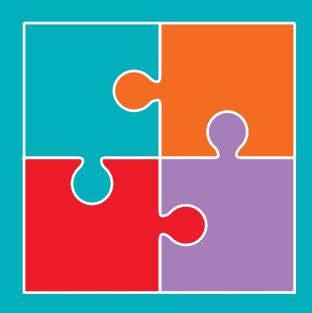
Operating Board STRATEGIC OPERATIONS

Board of Directors



LEAD Teams

### SOLUTION DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION



Foundational Areas of Focus EDUCATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

GOVERNMENT QUALITY OF LIFE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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.

## 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.



#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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



#### INFRASTRUCTURE

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



#### GOVERNMENT

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



#### **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.



#### **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 Weight and High School Graduation Rates – demonstrating the importance of collective impact when addressing complex issues.



IMPROVE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION



IMPROVE COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS



IMPROVE HEALTHY WEIGHT RATE



IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY



one or more foundational areas of focus. Yet each Team has selected a different strategy and devised different tactics to achieve the desired outcome.

## EDUCATION

Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation." — John F. Kennedy



ABOVE: Connie Loutzenhiser, Principal at Eagle Lake Elementary, celebrates her attendance heroes by regularly posting progress reports on her Challenge 5™ Campaign bulletin board.



ABOVE: Support at the District and School leadership level is at the core of any pilot program. Polk County School Board Members officially launched the Challenge 5<sup>™</sup> pilot program on November 14, 2017.



CHALLENGE 5™ PILOT SCHOOLS

CODE Academy

Eagle Lake Elementary

**Garner Elementary** 

**Griffin Elementary** 

Palmetto Elementary

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

### Attendance LEAD Team

The Polk County School District's Strategic Plan identifies reducing student absenteeism as key to improving student achievement. The Attendance Team is committed to finding a systemic solution to this widespread problem facing students of all ages and grades. 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 adopted a multi-pronged tactical plan that entered its firstyear pilot phase in Fall 2017. Five area elementary schools began integrating elements of an actionable messaging campaign, Strive For Less Than 5<sup>™</sup> Days Absent, intended to activate parents as partners and engage the local community as stakeholders.

The launch of the campaign was scheduled to coincide with the first week of September in recognition of Attendance Awareness Month. Unfortunately, the campaign was sidetracked with countywide preparations for Hurricane Irma. The storm severely impacted Polk County and the Challenge 5™ campaign faltered due to the direct and residual effects of the hurricane. Despite the staggered start, the video featuring Supt. Byrd and Sheriff Judd was central to the messaging campaign and, once aired, provided much needed momentum to the movement.

Chandra Frederick Polk County BoCC

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**Shannon Gillespie** 

Polk County Public

Janet Lamoureux

Polk County Council

Co-Chair

Schools

Co-Chair

Brett Butler Polk County Public

Craig Clevenger

Pam Craven, Ph.D.

Learning Resource

Kenneth Franklin

Early Learning

Coalition of Polk

**Community Volunteer** 

Schools

Center

County

PTA

Matti Friedt Polk County Public Schools

Amanda Hall Polk County Public Schools

Sandy Hightower Community Volunteer

Brenda Johnson Community Volunteer

Patty Linder Polk State College

**Jodi Miller** United Way of Central Florida

Mel Rowker Community Volunteer

**Rolanda Sealey** Polk County Public Schools

Neal Steiger Lakeland North Rotary Club

Christopher Sylvester Polk County Public Schools

Shandale Terrell Polk County Public Schools

**Peggy Threlkel** Girls Inc. of Winter Haven

**Billy Townsend** Polk County School Board

#### PERCENTAGE OF K-12 STUDENTS WITH 21+ DAYS ABSENT

As we enter year two of the pilot,

the Strive for Less Than 5™ video will

awareness and volunteer recruitment

schools. Each of the five schools will

be provided a variety of campaign

standardized system to award and

materials including a wall mural,

posters, outdoor signage and a

incentivize students.

continue to anchor the campaign.

The outreach will be expanded

to include broader community

to support attendance at the



# Vision

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

### 1 IN 6

Kindergartners were chronically absent last year. That is approximately 157 hours of class time.

### 6,292

K-5th grade students were absent 21 or more days. (Polk County Public Schools)



ABOVE: A Forum on Community Partnership Schools™ was held in September 2017 by the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce and hosted by Polk State College at the Lakeland Campus. John Small, then Co-Chair of the Polk Vision Exploring Community Schools Team, provided the School District update.

### A Community Partnership School<sup>™</sup> EMERGES

Community Schools are characterized by extended services, extended hours and extended relationships that serve not only the students, their families and the teachers, but the community at large. Key program components include after-school and summer enrichment, parent involvement, adult education, financial education, a full-service health clinic with medical, dental and mental health services.

The implementation of a Community Partnership School takes a great deal of thought, planning and commitment to achieve sustainable, long-term success. The Children's Aid Society of New York has identified four Stages of Development in a Community School: Exploring, Emerging, Maturing and Excelling. (University of Central Florida, College of Health and Public Affairs)

#### **EXPLORING**

In the Fall of 2016, recognizing widespread interest among leaders across the community, Polk County Public Schools Superintendent, Jackie Byrd, requested that Polk Vision facilitate the collaborative research necessary to evaluate the potential success of transitioning an existing public school to a community school.

Polk Vision assembled an Exploring Community Schools Team and over a nine-month period a meticulous process was followed to determine which of the 73 Polk County elementary schools had the best chance for success as a community school. The Team's 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.

During a July 2017 work session, the Team submitted its findings to the Polk County School Board and Crystal Lake Elementary was chosen by the Board as the pilot location for the first Community School in Polk County.

#### **EMERGING**

Following the School Board's selection, five organizations agreed to make a significant, long-term commitment and chose to adopt the University of Central Florida Community Partnership School™ model. Formed as a Cabinet, Polk County Public Schools, Southeastern University, Central Florida Health Care, Heartland for Children and United Way of Central Florida have each made a 25 year commitment to share in the governance, development, and implementation of services at the school.

Over the past year, a top priority for Cabinet members was securing the financial support necessary to begin transforming Crystal Lake Elementary to a Community Partnership School™. While considerable investment was provided by the Cabinet, additional funding was needed to hire essential staff positions including a Director, Afterschool Coordinator, Health Programs Coordinator and Parent Coordinator. Significant financial support was secured through United Way of Central Florida who also assisted in obtaining major funding from the George Jenkins Family Foundation and the Clark Family Foundation.

Crystal Lake Elementary School is registered with the University of Central Florida and is seeking to become a UCF certified Community Partnership School™. Once a Community Partnership School™ has registered, the school is eligible to receive development assistance and to submit for planning or implementation grants. UCF currently is working with 14 Community School initiatives across the state; each in different stages of development. To ensure consistency in the quality of programming as well as strategy and framework fidelity, UCF has developed a process to certify schools that demonstrate alignment with the UCF Standards.

#### 2017 - 2018 CABINET

**Teri Saunders** Co-Chair Heartland for Children

Marc Hutek, Ph.D. Co-Chair Polk County Public Schools

**Penny Borgia** United Way of Central Florida

**Amy Bratten** Southeastern University

**Ann Claussen** Central Florida Health Care

Kristan Fowler Polk County Public Schools

Tracy Grey Heartland for Children

Andrea Hagan Heartland for Children

Kim Long Polk Vision

Rachel Pleasant Polk County Public Schools

**Billy Townsend** Polk County School Board

Angela Usher Polk County Public Schools

Vision

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

TOP: Andrea Hagan, who was selected as the Director of the Community Partnership School, is an employee of Heartland for Children and will work closely with School Principal, Kristan Fowler.

At this time, a community assessment is being performed which will determine the initial program design and range of services. The programs offered at the school will be implemented in phases beginning in the 2018-19 school year and will be based on the needs of the children, families and members of the surrounding community. Polk Vision will continue working directly with the core partners in the alignment of resources to support the students, families and residents of the Crystal Lake community.

MIDDLE: Principal Kristan Fowler and Polk Vision staff member, Pauline Simmonds-Brown, discuss the Community Partnership School<sup>™</sup> model with parents.

A series of parent engagement events, sponsored in part by a grant from the Lakeland Area Chamber Foundation, were held on the Crystal Lake campus during the Spring of 2018. During these sessions, Team members surveyed attendees and explained how the school will transition to serve as a hub for education, healthcare and social services not only for students and their parents, but also members of the surrounding community.

Information sessions were conducted around the county to raise awareness about the benefits of adopting the Community Partnership School model.

BOTTOM: Team members, Dr. Ed Shoemaker, Kim Daugherty, Penny Borgia, and Dr. Marc Hutek with ŪthMpact students hosted by Florida Southern College.







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In the Fall of 2017, the Polk Vision Literacy Team completed a Literacy Resource Directory with both English and Spanish versions currently available online.

An expanded second edition of the Resource Directory is currently in development and will be published in Fall 2018. The updated edition will be available on line in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole.

To view the Literacy Resource Directory, visit http://portal.polkvision. com/literacy-team

### Literacy LEAD Team

Aligning with the Strategic Plan of Polk County Public Schools, the goal of the Literacy Team is to increase student literacy proficiency.

Following publication of the Literacy Resource Directory, the Team continued researching the contributing factors to low reading and comprehension scores among school children in Polk County.

#### Only 44% of Polk County children entering Kindergarten came to school proficient in Language and Literacy

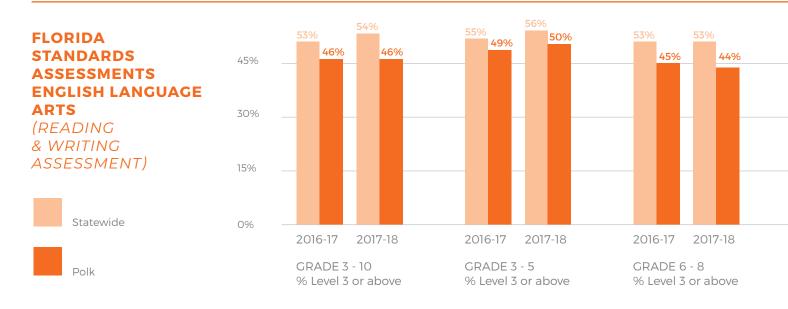
**Readiness.** (2017 Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screening)

Recognizing the important role adult family members play in a child's literacy development, the Team is considering a variety of tactics intended to assist families in improving their student's performance.

### "Family support for ... literacy is foundational and has a lasting impact on children's success in school" (Boone, 2018, p. 16).

Following this premise, the Team is using several key concepts:

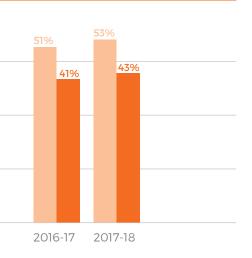
- LITERACY encompasses many activities beyond reading and writing
- To best support children in their learning, FAMILIES need SUPPORT
- Adults who PARTICIPATE in a child's learning, often enhance their own literacy skills



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



ABOVE: A series of meetings are being conducted around the county to learn more about how to better align literacy supports for students and families. These meetings convene experts in a range of educational fields and address a variety of literacy challenges including reading comprehension, finance, and health.



GRADE 9 - 10 % Level 3 or above 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)

### 51%

#### of Polk County 3rd Grade Students scored proficient in English Language Arts.

(2018 Florida Standards ELA Reading Assessment) Pam Craven, Ph.D. Co-Chair Learning Resource Center

Lindsay Persohn, Ph.D. Co-Chair Polk County Public Schools

Jeanette Crowley Polk County Public Schools

**Jennifer Kovac** Polk County Library Cooperative

Kristi Perkins Lake Wales Literacy Council

**Colleen Pizzuti** United Way of Central Florida

Nancy Puri Polk County Public Schools

**Beverly Putnam** Northeast Polk Literacy Council

Sandy Roddenberry Lakeland Regional Health

Kathleen Roehm Redlands Christian Migrant Association

**Claire Schwartz** Achievement Academy

**Juan Seda** Polk County Public Schools

**Billy Townsend** Polk County School Board

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Lindsay Persohn, Ph.D. // Senior Coordinator, Library Media Services, Polk County Public Schools

With this broad support for literacy in our communities, in addition to the availability of the Literacy Resource Directory, we look to positively impact test scores as well as the overall success of Polk County's children in school and in life."



ABOVE: Dr. Naomi Boyer of Polk State College with Dr. Neslon Marquez of Webber International University, conducted a series of Think Tank sessions across the county on the topic of Employability Skills.



ABOVE: Information gathered during these sessions will be used to design an employability skills program for students in high school and beyond to better prepare local students for entry into the workplace.



ABOVE: The Team is aligning resources between business, education, philanthropy and government and is focused on helping students achieve success beyond high school.

### Talent Pipeline LEAD Team

The Talent Pipeline Team was formed cooperatively by Polk Vision in partnership with the Central Florida Development Council and is focused on filling the gap of high skill, high wage jobs necessary to meet Polk County's current and emerging industry workforce needs.

The Polk County economy requires a pipeline of qualified workers to meet the demands of local employers. This pipeline is highly dependent upon high school graduation, postsecondary enrollment and college completion rates.

The plan is to increase educational attainment - substantially altering local conditions, improving quality of life and serving as an economic catalyst for increased productivity.

Goals for the Team include increasing the number of students who graduate high school with a diploma and a direct pathway to a career or post-secondary education. This will provide a more robust pipeline of talent and skills and reduce the existing gap of employable individuals in particular jobs and sectors. Outcomes are measured by the number of high school graduates who then enter college or technical school; or directly enter the skilled workforce; or elect to enter the military.

#### POLK VISION JOINS FCAN

The Florida College Access Network (FCAN) is Florida's first collaborative network

Myron A. Harvey, Ph. D. Human Capital Consulting

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Marc Hutek, Ph. D. Polk County Public Schools

Jesse Jackson, Ph.D. Lake Wales Charter District

Betsy Levingston Community Volunteer

Larry Madrid Madrid Engineering Group

Sean Malott Central Florida Development Council

Lori Martini GiveWell Community Foundation

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

Brooke Paquette Saint Leo University

Trish Pfeiffer City of Bartow

Nilda Soto Polk County Public Schools

India Sukhraj Florida Polytechnic University

Chad Tagtow Citizens Bank & Trust

Paizley Whidden Warner University

**Lynn Wilson** Polk County School Board

**Lindsay Zimmerman** Central Florida Development Council

committed to ensuring all Floridians have the opportunity to achieve an education beyond high school and prosper in Florida's dynamic economy. Their mission is to create and sustain a statewide network of communities to increase college and career preparation, access, and completion for all Florida students. They have established a Florida Goal 2025: For 60% of working-age Floridians to hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential by the year 2025.

Polk Vision joined the statewide network as the representative organization serving Polk County recognizing that FCAN's guiding values align with the work of our Education Teams:

- College is postsecondary education. FCAN uses the term "college" to refer to the attainment of high-quality postsecondary credentials beyond high school, including technical certificates and academic degrees.
- **College readiness is career readiness.** All Florida students deserve to receive a high-quality PreK-12 education, which prepares them academically for success in college or a career.
- **College is for everyone.** All Florida students deserve the opportunity to pursue a high-quality postsecondary education that prepares them to effectively participate in the 21st century knowledge-based global economy.
- **College is a public good.** Postsecondary educational opportunity and attainment are critical to a just and equitable society, strong democracy, robust economy, and healthy communities.

The Talent Pipeline Team coordinates partnerships between postsecondary advisors, and high school career/college advisors. These collaborations include the goal of increasing the number of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completions in Polk County.

For the coming year the Team has determined its work to include:

- Advise and support the Local College Access Network in the development of a strategic plan aimed at creating a pipeline of well trained, skilled, and credentialed individuals prepared to meet current and emerging industry needs. The plan will encompass both high school to post-secondary as well as students who may have previously stopped out of a program.
- 2. Finalize research on the employability skills gap and create and pilot a program in response to the stated needs of local industry.
- 3. Convene industry specific forums, in conjunction with Central Florida Development Council, and area Chambers to gather information and engage businesses in the talent pipeline dialogue.

Naomi Boyer, Ph.D.

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Co-Chair Polk State College

Alaina Johnson Co-Chair Lakeland Regional Health

Melony Bell Polk County BoCC

Alan Black McKeel Academy

**Penny Borgia** United Way of Central Florida

Amy Bratten, Ph.D. Southeastern University

Sarah Breed Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce

Brett Butler Polk County Public Schools

Monique Byrd Polk County Public Schools

Stacy Campbell-Domineck Career Source Polk

Carly Evans Keiser University

**Kyle Fedler** Florida Southern College

Barbara Hammock Community Volunteer

### 3.6% INCREASE

in High School Graduation Rate.

POLK: 75.4% for the 2016-2017 School Year.

STATE: 82.3% for the 2016 -2017 School Year.

(2016-17 Florida Department of Education (FDOE) cohort graduation data as of 12/18/17)

### 4.7% INCREASE

in FAFSA completions March 31, 2018 compared to March 31, 2017. Polk County Public Schools was awarded Most Improved Large School District in the State by Florida College Access Network.

(Florida College Access Network FAFSA Challenge)

### **1% INCREASE**

in educational credential attainment since 2012 for residents age 25-34 with associates degree or higher. POLK: 26.8% in 2012 to 27.8% in 2015

**STATE: 37.9% in 2012 to 40.7% in 2015.** (FCAN - Florida College Access

(FCAN - Florida College Access Network - Goal 2025 Report July 2017)

# Polk students have earned an estimated **\$5,834,395** in

#### Pell Grants!

(Florida College Access Network Data Dashboard October 2017 through June 2018)



#### 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

12th Graders: 6,623

FAFSAs Submitted: 3,142

FAFSAs Completed: 2,773



2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

12th Graders: **7,092** 

FAFSAs Submitted: 3,533

FAFSAs Completed: 3,183

#### CHANGE

FAFSA Completion Rate: 3.1%

FAFSAs Submitted: 391

FAFSAs Completed: 410

The work of the Talent Pipeline Team as the Local College Access Network for Polk County is funded by:

Higher Education Coordinating Council for the Attainment Innovation Partnership Award

College Access and Success Initiative, a program of the Florida Philanthropic Network, made possible through funding from the Helios Education Foundation and the Kresge Foundation and administered through the CASI Challenge Fund within the GiveWell Community Foundation

Helios-Florida College Access LCAN seed grant

George W. Jenkins Fund within the GiveWell Community Foundation

City of Lakeland Florida Community Services Grant Funds

## INFRASTRUCTURE

We need a comprehensive focus on infrastructure that supports not just transportation but also broadband, education, healthcare, and our

**environment."** — John Wright Hickenlooper Jr. is an American politician, businessman and the 42nd and current Governor of Colorado, in office since 2011.



LEFT: Children deserve safe places to walk — starting with the trip to school. Walking is one of the easiest ways for kids to get the recommended allotment of physical exercise and contributes to both physical well being and increases cognitive learning. By starting with children and their trip to school, communities become safe places for everyone to walk.

### Infrastructure LEAD Team

The Infrastructure Team continues in partnership 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 Infrastructure Team and TPO are now concentrating on those schools with the worst sidewalk coverage. Using a range of established criteria as "high need," they have evaluated and identified priority sidewalk projects.

#### PRIORITY SIDEWALK PROJECTS

Candidate projects are being referred to State, County and local jurisdictions for funding. The Infrastructure Team together with staff from the TPO are identifying highest priority, or top projects, based on factors such as connectivity, likely available right-ofway, and potential to serve greatest number of students. The future of priority projects is subject to funding availability and engineering-level feasibility analysis (review of right-ofway, drainage and potential utility relocation issues).

**15** Priority Sidewalk Projects (from Phase I list) with an estimated cost of **\$3.1 Million** have been referred to the Polk County Sidewalk Advisory Committee for review and consideration for funding.

#### SIDEWALK COVERAGE ANALYSIS

#### 140 Public Schools

639 centerline miles of arterial and collector roads within one mile of Public Schools

**179 miles (28%)** do not have a sidewalk on either side of the road

(Geographic Information System – GIS – analysis of major road network within one mile of schools)



ABOVE: Ryan Kordek presents the sidewalk segments for Medulla Elementary to the Polk County Sidewalk Advisory Committee on July 10, 2018.

#### CANDIDATE SIDEWALK PROJECTS

Phase I - 10 Public Schools

59 Candidate Sidewalk Projects (23 miles) with an estimated cost of \$8.7 Million

Phase II - 20 Public Schools

82 Candidate Sidewalk Projects (35 miles) with an estimated cost of \$13.1 Million

(More detailed analysis used to identify candidate sidewalk projects, e.g., fill in network gaps)



#### 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.

The Sidewalk Advisory Committee evaluates new sidewalk needs throughout Polk County and prioritizes projects for funding that are recommended to the Board of County Commissioners as part of the annual budgeting process.

Sidewalk Advisory Committee meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month beginning in January and continue until the prioritized list of new sidewalk projects is finalized for submission to the Board prior to the annual budget hearings in September.

The Sidewalk Advisory Committee includes five public members appointed by the Polk County Board of County Commissioners; as well as four Roads & Drainage Division staff, and one representative each from the Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), the Polk County School Board, and the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

Visit https://www.polk-county.net/ boards-and-committees/sidewalkadvisory for more information. 22

**John Bohde** Chair Polk County BoCC

Chuck Barmby City of Lakeland

**Julia Davis** Polk TPO

**Tom Deardorff** Polk County BoCC & Polk TPO

**Tracy Garcia** Visit Central Florida

**Lauren Hinton** Florida Department of Health in Polk County

**Ryan Kordek** Polk TPO

**Eric Labbe** City of Winter Haven

**Jason Lewis** Kimley-Horn

**Pam Luce** Polk County Public Schools

**Tracy Mullins** Polk Parks & Natural Resources Division

Nick Nicholas DSM

**Jeff Schmucker** Central Florida Regional Planning Council

**Steven Shealey** Envisors, a Pennoni Company

**Kimberly Warren** Rummel Klepper & Kahl

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

The Infrastructure Team continues to make great strides in promoting improvements to the network of sidewalks within a one mile radius of Polk County Public Schools. We know that increasing sidewalk coverage will have an overall positive effect on the health and academic achievement for students, as well as improve the safety for all of our citizens."

**ZMONX NOM** 



ABOVE: This past year, the Team expanded its work to include the identification of the links necessary to create a connected, multijurisdictional municipal system and the adoption of technology to facilitate data driven decision making and problem-solving efforts.



ABOVE: On January 25, 2018 the Smart Communities Team launched the first in a series of topical presentations. Partnering with both Winter Haven Economic Development Council and Chamber of Commerce, **The Future of Infrastructure** was held at the Polk State College, Center for Public Safety and featured Anthony Bartolomeo, President & CEO of Pennoni who discussed how strategically incorporating technology into infrastructure investments is critical to achieving reduced life-cycle costs and close the nation's infrastructure deficit.

> Polk County ranks among the **bottom 25** in the nation for high-speed internet use (358th of 381.) (American Community Survey, 2013)

Bottom 10 in the nation for STEM jobs (91st of 100.) (WalletHub, 2014)

**Bottom 10** in the nation for households with broadband subscriptions (94th of 100.) (Brookings, 2014)

### SMART Communities LEAD Team

The traditional work of the Smart Communities Team has been to educate and build community consensus around the vital importance of a robust broadband network in Polk County.

#### 2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS:

- A partnership between the City of Lakeland and the Polk County Public School District to connect more than 40 schools in the Lakeland area to high-speed fiber with 1 Gig service.
- The City of Haines City is working with the Polk County Public School District to provide 1 Gig service to their schools.
- Unprecedented collaboration and coordination with Florida Department of Transportation District One with respect to dig once policy and fiber installation along State roadways.
- Resolutions adopted by the county and 6 municipalities supporting the broadband and smart technology efforts of the Smart Communities LEAD team.
- Supported the commission of a Smart Communities assessment of the City of Winter Haven conducted by students from Florida Polytechnic University.

**Eric Labbe //** Planning Manager, City of Winter Haven

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A smart community is one that not only encourages and facilitates the development of essential 21st Century infrastructure, but actively seeks to utilize that technology in innovative ways to improve the quality of life of its residents and guests."



#### Vision

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





KK.

TOP: Panelists L to R: Dr. Tina Barrios, CIO, Polk County Public Schools; Terry Brigman, CIO, City of Lakeland, Don Selvage, Commissioner, City of Lakeland; Hiep Nguyen, CIO, City of Winter Haven; Eric Labbe Planning Manager, City of Winter Haven.

On February 28, 2018, the Smart Communities Team working with the Leadership Polk Alumni Association presented **Addressing the Digital Divide**. Hosted by Polk State College, Winter Haven Campus, the Lunch n' Learn event was attended by Alumni and members of the community.

BOTTOM: Mr. Bartolomeo with Florida Polytechnic University students who working with the Winter Haven Economic Development Council conducted a Smart Communities assessment of the City of Winter Haven. **Terry Brigman** Co-Chair City of Lakeland

**Eric Labbe** Co-Chair City of Winter Haven

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

Naomi Boyer, Ph.D. Polk State College

William DeWitt Polk State College

**Ercan Elibol** Florida Polytechnic University

**Doug Lewis** Polk County BoCC

**Hiep Nguyen** City of Winter Haven

Nick Nicholas DSM

David Robinson

Brian Ross City of Haines City

**Don Selvage** SHR Human Resources, LLC

Marybeth Soderstrom Central Florida Regional Planning Council

**Chad Tagtow** Citizens Bank & Trust

William Twyford City of Winter Haven

**Lynn Wilson** Polk County School Board

**Ed Wolf** Polk County BoCC

**Tina Barrios, Ph.D.** // Assistant Superintendent, Information Systems & Technology Division, Polk County Public Schools

The Smart Communities Team has provided great value to Polk County Public Schools. Developing a shared vision for not only connecting communities but emphasizing the importance of connectivity for our schools has been a driving force for the past 3 years. Over the past 16 months in collaboration with the City of Lakeland, the school district has been able to bring high speed network access to 49 sites in the Lakeland area and show an annual savings of \$90,000. This increased bandwidth also enabled the district to install a new phone system in each of these sites providing a phone in every classroom." **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

**Deborah Chesna** Florida DOT

**Julia Davis** Polk TPO

**Diana Degroot** Lakeland Regional Health

**Ryan Kordek** Polk TPO

**Pam Luce** Polk County Public Schools

**Jane Nelson** Florida Department of Health in Polk County

**Jerry Rodriguez** Polk County Public Schools

**Bill Skelton** Polk County BoCC

**Lisa Smelser** Polk State College

Randy Tagliarini Bartow Police Department

Julie Townsend Lakeland Downtown Development Authority

**Ed Trail** City of Haines City

**Todd Vargo** City of Lakeland

**Nelson Vega** City of Haines City

**Rachelle Webb** All Children's Hospital Safe Routes to School

Kathleen Wright Polk County Public Schools

### Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety LEAD Team

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Team continues to partner with the Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) to improve travel conditions for our most vulnerable road users. The Safety Team has developed and is implementing a tactical plan that includes engineering, education and enforcement countermeasures to address prevalent types of crashes.

*ENGINEERING* – The Team participated in four roadway safety audits to identify short-term, mid-term, and long-term road improvements in high crash corridors.

EDUCATION – The Team identified the need to allocate more resources to safety education. As a result of the team's efforts, the Florida Department of Transportation has programmed \$200,000 in FY 2018/19 to develop supplemental safe routes to school education material geared towards K-8 students. The Team will guide this effort which is set to coincide with a "Be Seen Be Safe" public awareness campaign.

*ENFORCEMENT* – The Team is coordinating with local law enforcement agencies to target speed enforcement near public schools with an emphasis on Polk Vision's healthy schools.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Every year there are more than **05** pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and serious injuries in Polk County.

(Pedestrian Safety Action Plan)



#### 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.



ABOVE: Members of Polk Vision's Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Team, along with other interested parties attended a pre-audit field review briefing on September 27, 2017 as part of the RSA for the Ariana Street from Wabash Avenue to SR 37/Florida Avenue corridor. (Photo Credit: Julia Davis, Polk TPO)



ABOVE: Polk Vision is a founding sponsor of the Pledge to Slow Down Campaign. During the past year, PGTV published five videos highlighting the need for drivers to slow down. Staff has made numerous presentations to stakeholders and community service groups and over 700 people have taken the Pledge to Slow Down.





ABOVE: The Quality of Life Team working collaboratively with the Rath Senior Connextions and Education Center, presented a forum in March, 2018, focused on senior behavioral health, **Living with Purpose**.



LEFT: Featured Guest Speaker Bill Mutz, Mayor, City of Lakeland provided insight on living with purpose and managing time intentionally.

27.2%

#### of Polk County Children (18 and under) Live in Poverty.

(US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2016)



SUD YOU KNOW?

of Polk County Residents Live in Poverty.

(US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2016)

### **OVER 4200**

Polk County Public Schools' Students Experienced Homelessness During the 2017- 2018 School Year.

(Polk County Public Schools)

### Quality of Life LEAD Team

The Quality of Life LEAD 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.

Over the past 18 months, the Team has been focused on holding a series of community information sessions on the topic of behavioral health – which is a huge and complex undertaking. 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.

In March 2018, the Quality of Life team concluded its series of interactive forums on Behavioral Health with a session focused on Seniors. Challenges associated with growing old, such as loss of a spouse, loss of mobility and independence, and declining physical health can lead to problems with mental health for seniors. Staying physically healthy, socially active, and mentally engaged as you age are keys to boosting senior mental health.

Marcia Andresen Chair Polk County BoCC

Steve Bissonnette VISTE

Gail Bagley RATH Connextions Center

**Penny Borgia** United Way of Central Florida

**Taylor Freeman** Florida Department of Health in Polk County

**Dr. Daniel O. Haight** Lakeland Regional Health

Cathy Hatch Polk County BoCC

**Myron A. Harvey, Ph.D.** Human Capital Consulting

Susan Hurlburt Community Volunteer

Joy Johnson Polk County BoCC

Rosemarie Lamm, Ph. D. RATH Connextions Center

Tim Mitchell Parker Street Ministries

Andrea Nikolai University of Florida/ IFAS

**Steve Thompson** American Red Cross

Nicole Walker University of Florida/ IFAS

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 definition.

In May 2018, the Quality of Life Team co-presented a half-day, immersive poverty simulation together with Leadership Polk, UF/IFAS, and Lake Wales Care Center. Featuring the Polk County Public Schools HEARTH Project, over 100 leaders from across Polk County experienced a profoundly moving inter-active simulation of the challenges facing a person living in poverty.

# 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.





TOP: Participants of the Poverty Simulation used Big Dave's Pawn Shop as a refuge of last resort to meet the financial needs of their families.

BOTTOM: The Quick Cash table was a frequent stop for attendees as it sold transportation passes and provided check cashing services for those individuals that did not have bank accounts.

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Marcia Andresen // Director, Health and Human Services Division, Polk County BoCC

Quality of life really encompasses many aspects both for individuals and for the community as a whole. Our Team targets these various areas striving to provide education, understanding, and information on pathways to support."

## BUILDING A HEALTHIER POLK

### Changing the health landscape of Polk County. TOGETHER.

With obesity directly linked to chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke and diabetes which are major causes of death and preventable hospital stays, the startling statistic galvanized a movement among stakeholders across Polk County. Working cooperatively with the Florida Department of Health, Polk Vision convened a large cross-sector group of subject matter experts to prioritize objectives in addressing the alarming rate of obesity in our community. This group came to be known as Building a Healthier Polk and has been working to develop healthy habits and behaviors in key settings across our community.

Currently, three Building a Healthier Polk Teams are built on objectives targeting School Health, Primary Care Physicians, and Worksite Wellness.

The importance of having each of these Teams focused on promoting a united message cannot be overstated. Common language and central communication is essential to keeping these cross-sector professionals aligned as they work towards the long-term goal of improving the healthy weight rate in our community.

Reducing obesity rates and increasing the healthy weight rate of our citizens is a long-term effort. The Building a Healthier Polk Teams are committed to 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.



Dr. Joy Jackson // Director of the Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Every person should have the opportunity to make choices that allow them to live a long, healthy life. We are proud to partner with Polk Vision - an organization that addresses health equity through the work of all its Teams."

### Worksite Wellness LEAD Team



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

Committed to advancing a culture of health across Polk County, the Worksite Wellness LEAD Team provides education and support in the development and enhancement of wellness programs to businesses in our community.

The Team has launched a series of listening sessions with local business leaders and HR professionals to learn more about the challenges businesses face when implementing wellness programs. Partnering with area Chambers of Commerce, this series of group discussions will continue to be held in communities across the county throughout Fall 2018. Information learned from these sessions will guide the future plans of the Team as they expand and promote a culture of health and wellness in the workplace.



ABOVE: On January 25, 2018, the Team presented a session at the CareerSource Polk " State of the Workforce Summit " entitled The "Truth" About Corporate Wellness – Does it Really Make a Difference?



ABOVE: Hosted at the Lakeland Regional Health Promise Center, Lakeland Chamber of Commerce members participated in a focused discussion on health in the workplace. Kelly Andrews Co-Chair Kelly Andrews, LLC

**Liz Antaya** Co-Chair Stahl & Associates Insurance

Carla Adock Polk County Public Schools

Susan Alfano Citrus Connection

AnnMarie Ameri City of Lakeland

**Sarah Betzer** Bank of Central Florida

**Bethany Brown** Lakeland Regional Health

Julie Davis Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Jazmine Dicristo Polk County Public Schools Jeffery Epstein Peak Annual Wellness Center

Donna Kay Dinkins Medics on Demand

**Abigail Elias** Florida Southern College

**Yvette Guzman** BayCare Health System

**Dr. Daniel Haight** Lakeland Regional Health

Schatzie Haines Lanier Upshaw

**Rebecca Harner** Polk County Public Schools

Kay Kasser Alive Culinary Coaching

Susan Kistler Community Volunteer

**Jenna Levine** Florida Department of Health in Polk County

**Brittany Lynn** BayCare Health System

**Colleen Mangan** Florida Department of Health in Polk County

**Joshua Maxwell** OMS Group Inc.

**Leah Millette** BayCare Health System

Karen Moore Peace River Center

**Andrea Nikolai** University of Florida/ IFAS

Laurel Smith Polk State College

**Sara Terrell** Florida Southern College

Jason Weiland Navigate

Marie Wilmot Florida Polytechnic University

**Debbie Zimmerman** Polk County Public Schools

#### Lacee Meyer // Business Manager, The Lunz Group

The Worksite Wellness focus group gave me an opportunity to meet other businesses and learn about their wellness initiatives. It was great to hear the experiences of others and realize the community as a whole is working towards the same goal: wellness. I am excited to be joining the Worksite Wellness Team and can't wait to see how we can make a difference not only in our own workplaces but within the community."

#### YEAR ONE SUCCESSES:

A total of **40 pediatric providers**, including pediatricians and pediatric ARNPs participated, representing **5 practices** and **12 locations** across Polk County.

A total of **2,236 prescriptions** were disseminated and **3,999 goals** were selected by patients.

We would especially like to recognize the two practices who disseminated over 97% of the prescriptions (2,179 prescriptions):

- Central Florida Health Care (1,016
  prescriptions)
- Lakeside Pediatrics (1,163
  prescriptions)

The most popular goal selected was eating 5 servings of fruits and vegetables each day.

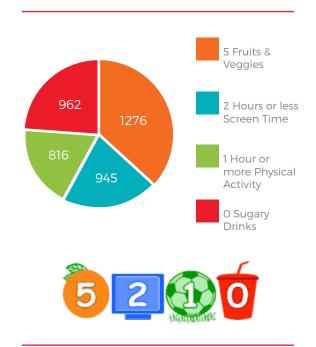
• This goal was selected 1276 times.

The least popular goal selected was getting 1 hour or more of physical activity.

• This goal was selected 816 times.

### Primary Care LEAD Team

The Primary Care LEAD Team has been addressing the prevention and reduction of childhood obesity using the 5-2-1-0 prescription program. This program provides simple steps children can take to achieve and maintain a healthy weight by developing healthier habits that will last a lifetime. The program launched in January of 2017 and has gained such momentum that the Team extended their plans through 2018.



Suzanne Wright // Nutrition Director, Florida Department of Health in Polk County

The 5-2-1-0 Prescription for Healthy Living is an excellent tool to initiate conversations about healthy habits. This campaign is not limited by age and has been shared with many Polk Vision Teams and utilized by Polk County Head Start, Polk County Public Schools both in the curriculum and food service, Primary Care Providers, Florida Southern Nursing Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, (WIC). 5-2-1-0 is a positive healthy message that can be conveyed throughout our county." Reduce the Obesity rate (BMI>30) in Polk County to less than the state average (from 36.9 percent to 26.4 percent).

Vision

#### ANNOUNCING 5-2-1-0 PARTNERSHIP WITH FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

New in 2018 is the partnership with the Florida Southern College School of Nursing and Health Sciences. Nurse practitioner students will be instructed in the use and benefits of the 5-2-1-0 prescription tool. Students will then be given the opportunity to utilize the tool with pediatric patients during practicum rotations as well as introduce use of the prescription strategy to pediatric providers with whom they do their clinical rotations.

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**Deborah Cantero, DNP, ARNP, FNP-C, FNP** // Program Coordinator, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Florida Southern College

The incorporation of the 5-2-1-0 content and tool within our graduate nurse practitioner program will allow an exclusive opportunity for the nurse practitioner students to expand their knowledge on the important topics of childhood wellness, nutrition and obesity. Additionally, the implementation of the 5-2-1-0 tool within the student's clinical practicum will strengthen the focus on disease prevention and health promotion in the clinical setting, allowing for a greater impact on pediatric patient health outcomes. We are very excited to be partnering with Polk Vision on this innovative project."

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Holly Vida Co-Chair

Co-Chair

Health

Florida

College

College

Care

Bartow Regional Medical Center

Suzanne Wright

**Karen Bessinger** 

Penny Borgia United Way of Central

**Beverley Brown** 

Florida Southern

**Deb Cantero** Florida Southern

Lakeland Regional

Florida Department of Health in Polk County WЛ

Dr. Sairah Chachad Lakeside Pediatrics

**Ermelinda Centeno** 

Central Florida Health

**Linda Comer** Florida Southern College

**Cecelia Coronado** Lakeland Regional Health

**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

Xiomara Rivera Amerigroup

**Nora Smith** Pediatric Partners of Winter Haven Jenna Kaczmarski Co-Chair Polk County Public Schools

Kathleen Wright Co-Chair Polk County Public Schools

Karen Bessinger Lakeland Regional Health

Julia Davis Polk TPO

HEALTH

SCH00L

**Mindi Fitch** City of Lakeland

**Audrey Kelley** Polk County Public Schools

Deanna Kirkland Florida Department of Health in Polk County

lleana Kniss Peace River Center

Jenna Levine Florida Department of Health in Polk County

**Colleen Mangan** Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Andrea Nikolai University of Florida/ IFAS

**Jennifer Rouse Polk County Public** Schools

**Deidre Skaggs Polk County Public Schools** 

**Rachelle Webb** All Children's Hospital. Safe Routes to School

overweight or obese. Only 1 out of every 3 children are physically active every day. Only 1 in 2 children eat enough daily fruits and vegetable.

(Alliance For A Healthier Generation)

### **School Health LEAD** Team

A Healthy Schools pilot program was launched in five Polk County Elementary Schools during the 2017-2018 school year. The pilot was inspired by a nationally recognized evidence-based model emphasizing the benefits of integrating health and education in the school setting.

With the goal of improving student health and academic achievement, each Healthy School implemented one or more tactics tied to increasing the consumption of nutrient dense foods and/or increasing physical activity.

Children often cannot differentiate between healthy and unhealthy foods. Nutrition education is focused on the importance of eating five servings of fruits and vegetables each day. When young children are exposed to lessons and activities that focus on eating fruits and vegetables, their intake of these nutritious foods increases significantly.

Graphic inspired by the Action for Healthy Kids' 2004 report. The Learning Connection: The Value of Improving Nutrition and Physical Activity in Our Schools.



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



ABOVE: Pre-K students at Medulla Elementary learning about the school's garden.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SUPPORTS ACHIEVEMENT Even moderate exercise, like walking, increases brain

activity.



#### KIDS WHO EAT WELL, LEARN BETTER Students who eat school breakfast have been shown

nationally, on average, to attend 1.5 more days of school per year and score 17.5% higher on standardized math tests.

**5 HEALTHY SCHOOLS** PILOT SCHOOLS

**Highland City Elementary** Inwood Elementary Medulla Elementary Padgett Elementary Wahneta Elementary

thousand SCHOOL KIDS Each one of us can help improve the eating and activity habits of the 105 thousand school kids in Polk County, and in the process, improve their health so they can succeed in the classroom.



ACTIVE BODIES



FOR SUCCESS! Nationally, kids who attend "healthy" schools have fewer absences, higher academic achievement and self-esteem and are more likely to graduate from high school.



CITY (IES) VILLAGE TOWN (S) SYSTEMS POLICY TOWN (S) SOCIEVY SOCIEVY



LEFT: On September 6, 2017 the 7th Annual Mayors Roundtable was hosted by Polk State College at the Center for Public Safety.

### 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 and the initiatives of its LEAD Teams. 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 goal established by a Polk Vision LEAD Team.

The Government Team also works to effectively engage citizens by producing a series of educational offerings each year such as the Mayors Roundtable, State of the County, Elected Leadership Summit, and legislative workshops.

#### MAYORS ROUNDTABLE

For the 7th year in a row, the Polk Vision Government Team hosted a half-day roundtable for the Mayors of Polk County. This unique event allows the mayors to discuss topics critical to their communities and the county as a whole. Mayors from 11 of the county's 17 municipalities and Board of County Commissioners, Chair, Melony Bell, participated in this year's event which was moderated by Emily Rogers, of Emily Rogers Consulting and Coaching

Topics of discussion included the consequences of rapid population growth on infrastructure including roads and transportation, water usage and conservation, and the potential impact of legislative changes to the homestead exemption. Emergency services and storm preparedness were also discussed as Hurricane Irma was tracking to impact Polk County.

#### LEGISLATIVE WARMUP

The Legislative Warm-Up included an overview of the legislative process, together with a conversation regarding best practices for how citizens can most effectively engage their legislators. Discussion also included important issues likely to be addressed during the 2018 Legislative Session.



TOP: On November 3, 2017 renowned author, political scientist, and University of South Florida professor Dr. Susan MacManus, moderated a panel discussion with members of the Polk County Legislative Delegation.

Hosted by Lakeland Regional Health/ Hollis Cancer Center, in attendance were Florida House Representatives Ben Albritton – District 56, Colleen Burton – District 40, and Neil Combee – District 39, and Senator Kelly Stargel - District 22.

#### 2018 STATE OF THE COUNTY UPDATE

Held on April 25, 2018, the State of the County Update brought together residents from across Polk County to hear from Board of County Commission Chair, Todd Dantzler, and County Manager, Jim Freeman. Topics addressed included the impact and after effects of Hurricane Irma, investments in infrastructure, traffic congestion (particularly the northern corridor of US Highway 27), roads expansion, public safety and the need to increase capacity in order to keep pace with a growing population.

# 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.





TOP: Commissioner Dantzler updated the audience on Polk's rapid population growth, investments in economic development, and the role of tourism to our local economy.

BOTTOM: Event host, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd, assisted Commissioner Dantzler and Mr. Freeman by answering several questions posed by audience members.

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**Matt Mucci** Co-Chair AT&T

**Donna Sheehan** Co-Chair City of Winter Haven

**Melony Bell** Polk County BoCC

**Stacy Butterfield** Polk County Clerk of the Courts

**Betsy Cleveland** Polk County Supervisor of Elections Office

**Meagin Colson** Polk County Sheriff's Office

**Susan Copeland** Polk Education Foundation

**Marsha Faux** Polk County Property Appraiser

**Christine Goding** Community Volunteer

**Gwinnell Jarvis** Polk County Sheriff's Office

Brad Johnson City of Lakeland

**Valeria Jorn** Tri-County Human Services

**Maggie Mariucci** Florida Polytechnic University

**Tracy Mouncey** Tracy Mouncey & Associates

**Michael Spake** Lakeland Regional Health

**Lea Ann Thomas** Polk County BoCC

Stacy Butterfield // Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller, Polk County

Polk Vision continuously upholds its core principals through the work its members do within the Polk County community, and the Polk Vision Government Team has gone above and beyond to identify underlying issues and bring about systemic change throughout the county. I am thrilled to be involved in efforts to engage the community as a member of the team and have the opportunity to bring together all facets of local government to achieve the team's vision of a diverse, comprehensive governmental system that fulfills the basic needs of Polk County's residents efficiently."



## CIVIC Engagement

A generation that acquires knowledge without ever understanding how that knowledge can benefit the community is a generation that is not learning what it means to be citizens in a democracy."

- Elizabeth L. Hollander, American Author (1817-1885)

### **Leadership Polk**

As the only countywide leadership development program in Polk County, Leadership Polk is comprised of individuals who have demonstrated a high level of civic engagement in their local community. Started in 2007, the program brings together accomplished leaders from across the county with the goal of developing a diverse network of resourceful, informed and proactive visionaries committed to building a more vibrant future for our county.

Over the course of ten months, the program immerses participants in an inspiring and enlightening curriculum that examines critical issues that impact our region. Leadership Polk is timely, topically relevant, dynamic, and exposes participants to a broad range of perspectives through site visits, facilitated conversations and experiential learning. Most importantly, lasting relationships are forged with engaged leaders from across Polk County.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

**293** participants have graduated from the program

**13 of the 17** municipalities have been represented

**30 business** categories have been represented

**11%** of participants represent a diverse group of minority population

**44%** of program participants have been female



ABOVE: The final Class Day included a Poverty Simulation produced cooperatively by the Polk Vision Quality of Life Team and Polk County Public Schools Hearth Program. The event was opened to include participation from Leadership Polk Alumni together with community and business leaders. This profoundly moving, interactive simulation challenged participants to "walk a month" in the shoes of a person living in poverty.



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: History, Agriculture and Tourism Day, found the Class visiting Double B Bar Cattle Ranch.

MIDDLE: Class members sporting Duke Energy hard hats as they tour the Osprey Energy Plant in Auburndale.

BOTTOM: When exploring Northeast Polk, Class XI enjoyed an in-depth tour of Maxi Jet in Dundee.

#### John Bohde Chair

Polk County BoCC, **Class VI** 

Deena Ware Chair Elect Town of Dundee. **Class IV** 

#### Lori Martini

POLK ALUMN

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Immediate Past Chair **GiveWell Community** Foundation. Class VI

**MJ Carnevale** Treasurer City of Winter Haven, Class IX

Shawn Sherrouse Secretary City of Lakeland, Class IV

Stephanie Colon Programs and Events Chair Citizens Bank & Trust, Class VIII

Alan Rayl Membership Chair Rayl Engineering and Surveying, Inc., Class IV

**Penny Borgia** United Way of Central Florida, At Large, Class II

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

Sarah Case Next Level Planning & Permitting, At Large, Class V

**Cari Herrington** All About Aging, At Large, Class X

Ed Lunz The Lunz Group, At Large. Class IV

Kim Lona Polk Vision, Executive Director. Class I

### **Leadership Polk** Alumni

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

The Alumni Association is committed to remaining a strong and relevant resource for its members and to advancing the work of Polk Vision. To this end, the Alumni Steering Committee assembled a group of 20 key stakeholders for an afternoon of reflection and rich conversation. The practical advice, guidance, and insight gained from this session will guide the Alumni Association as it moves forward in fostering deeper relationships and higher levels of engagement within the Association and the broader community.



#### 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 2: Alumni Members enjoying an evening of networking at Grove Roots in Winter Haven

produced a Lunch n 'Learn event on the topic of Addressing the Digital Divide. Hosted by Polk State College, the event was well attended by Alumni and members of the community.

Leadership Polk Class XI by participating in a poverty simulation on Quality of Life Day

Youth Leadership Polk was piloted for a second year in the summer of 2018. This student engagement program is designed to instill students with a sense of belonging, support social and emotional development, explore potential careers, and expand their knowledge of Polk County.

#### **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Following a favorable pilot in the summer 2017, Polk Vision convened a group of cross sector leaders to serve as a Council. This group is committed to the development of a comprehensive and sustainable Youth Leadership Polk program. This past year, with expert assistance from Dr. John Diaz and staff from the University of Florida/IFAS, the Council established outcomes, curriculum, key measures and evaluation methods, field trip locations and agendas. The Council is in the process of assessing the results of this year's program and already preparing for Class 3.

Youth Leadership Polk Class II was comprised of 8th through 12th grade students convened in day-long sessions, once a week for seven weeks. The partnership with Girls Inc. of Lakeland and Bartow continued with services extended to students from Winter Haven, Haines City, and Lake Wales through a new partnership with Citrus Center Boys & Girls Club.

Participants learned components of environmental responsibility, government and public policy, history and culture, community health, and public safety while expanding their academic knowledge. Dedicated business leaders from across the county, many of them Leadership Polk graduates, volunteered as guest speakers, facility hosts and curriculum instructors. Instruction was expanded to include Junior Achievement<sup>®</sup> instruction modules covering essential employability skills such as team work, critical thinking and effective communication.



#### Vision

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#### **COLLEGE & CAREER DAY**

During a visit to Florida Polytechnic University, students received instruction on the many pathways to career and college. Following a tour of the campus and engaging in a STEM activity, students participated in a "Speed Dating" session with 8 college and university admissions counselors from across Polk County.



#### THE ENVIRONMENT

The Environmental 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, the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Polk County Landfill. 2017 - 2018 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Michael Borders** Mulberry Boys and Girls Club

**Penny Borgia\*** United Way of Central Florida

**Monique Byrd** Polk County Public Schools

Craig Clevenger Community Volunteer

Susan Copeland Polk Education Foundation

Beth Cummings Polk County Public Schools

**John Diaz, Ph.D.** University of Florida/ IFAS

Angie Ellison InnerAct Alliance

Kay Fields Girls Inc. of Lakeland and Bartow

Tiffani Gozdur Citizens Bank & Trust

**Ellen Katzman** PACE Center for Girls

**Sarah Massey** United Way of Central Florida

Laquieria Nottage Polk County Public Schools

**Angie Pattison** Big Brothers Big Sisters

**Curtis Reddick** Citrus Center Boys & Girls Club

La'Tonya Smith PEARLS

Lauren Springfield Lakeland Regional Health

Lana Swartzwelder The Libertore Fund for Children

**Nicole Walker\*** University of Florida/ IFAS

\*2018 Volunteer Instructor THANK YOU to our 2018 Volunteer Instructors!

Rob Arturi Express Credentialing

**Christina Boyce** Publix Super Markets

Naomi Boyer Polk State College

**Stacy Butterfield** Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller

**Christina Criser** United Way of Central Florida

Christina Ehlenbeck Keller Williams Reality

Kim Elmhorst Community Advocate

Chandra Frederick Polk County BoCC

**Taylor Freeman** Florida Department of Health in Polk County

**Lisa Watkins** Winter Haven Housing Authority

**Jenna Levine** Florida Department of Health in Polk County

Jennifer Marshall Florida DOT & The Edge Theatre Company

Nryka Riskin Nyrka Riskin Image and Business Consulting

Marcus Wehby Florida Southern College & The Edge Theatre Company



#### HISTORY, ARTS AND HERITAGE DAY

While visiting PGTV, students were given the opportunity to get both behind and in front of the camera as they explored careers in the creative arts industry.

They also had the opportunity to hear about careers in television news from Bay News 9 journalists, Stephanie Claytor and Rick Elmhorst.



#### **GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY**

Students met many of "Polk County's finest" during a trip to the Center for Public Safety and Sheriff's Department. They discussed career opportunities with department representatives such as SWAT, K9 Unit, and the Emergency Operations Center Call Center.



#### **MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**

During a visit to the Lakeland Magic, students were introduced by the staff to a wide range of career opportunities available in the field of sports management and sports medicine.

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Achievement Academy All About Aaina All Children's Hospital Allen & Company Investments Alive Culinary Coaching Allstate Insurance American Cancer Society American Red Cross Ameriaroup Arts Ensemble Education Foundation ASAP Prints AT&T Bank of Central Florida Bartow Economic Development Council Bartow Police Department Bartow Regional Medical Center BayCare Health Systems Bay News 9 BB&T Bank Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay Bok Tower Gardens Career Source Polk Catapult Catering Oasis Central Florida Behavioral Health Network Central Florida Development Council Central Florida Health Care Central Florida Media Group Central Florida Regional Planning Counci **Champions Church** Chastain Skillman Children's Home Society Circle B Bar Reserve Citizens Bank & Trust Citizens' Oversight Committee Citrus Center Boys & Girls Club **Citrus** Connection Citrus World City of Auburndale City of Bartow City of Davenport City of Fort Meade City of Frostproof City of Haines City City of Lake Alfred City of Lake Wales City of Lakeland City of Mulberry City of Polk City City of Winter Haven City of Winter Haven Natural Resources Division Clark Campbell Lancaster & Munson **Clear Springs** CNP D Print Draken International DSM Technology Consultants Double B Bar Cattle Ranch

Duke Energy Early Learning Coalition of Polk County Education and Enlightenment Group Emily Rogers Consulting & Coaching Entrpreneur2Entrepreneur Envisors, a Pennoni Company **Express Credentialing FIPR Institute** First Baptist Institutional Church Florida Communications and **Development Group** Florida Department of Health in Polk County Florida College Access Network Florida DOT Florida Polytechnic University Florida Southern College Frontier Communications Fort Meade Chamber of Commerce Girls Inc. of Lakeland & Bartow Girls Inc. of Winter Haven GiveWell Community Foundation Haines City Area Chamber of Commerce Haines City Economic Development Council Harrison School for the Arts Healthy Start Coalition Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center Heartland for Children Higher Education Coordinating Council Homeless Coalition of Polk County Huntington Learning Center Inland Fiber & Data InnerAct Alliance Inter-Ministerial Alliance 10th Judicial Circuit Keiser University Keller Williams Realty Kelly Andrews LLC Kimley-Horn Lake Wales Area Chamber of Commerce Lake Wales Care Center Lake Wales Charter District Lake Wales Economic Development Council Lake Wales Literacy Council Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce Lakeland Area Chamber Foundation Lakeland Community Theatre Lakeland Downtown Development Authority Lenny's Grill & Sub - Bartow Lakeland Economic Development Council Lakeland Electric Lakeland Flying Tigers Lakeland Linder Regional Airport Lakeland Magic Lakeland North Rotary Club Lakeland Regional Health

Lakeside Pediatrics Lanier Upshaw, Inc. Learning Resource Center LEGOLAND Florida Resort Made Madrid Engineering Group Main Street Winter Haven Mass Market Maxiiet. Inc. Maximize Digital Media McKeel Academy Medics on Demand Merritt Law Office MidFlorida Credit Union Michelle Githens State Farm Mosaic Mr. Ed's Circle of Trust Mulberry Boys and Girls Club Mu Zeta Lambda Education Foundation Next Level Planning & Permitting NOAA Northeast Polk Literacy Council Nyrka Riskin Image & Business Consulting OMS Group, Inc. PACE Center for Girls Parker Street Ministries PEARLS Peace River Center Peak Annual Wellness Center Pediatric Partners of Winter Haven Peterson & Myers PGTV Polk Arts Alliance Polk Career Academies Polk County 4H Polk County BoCC Polk County Clerk of Courts Polk County Council PTA Polk County Farm Bureau Polk County Fire Department Polk County History Center Polk County Library Cooperative Polk County Long Range Planning (BoCC) Polk County Parks & Natural Resources Division Polk County Property Appraiser Polk County Public Schools Polk County School Board Polk County Sheriff's Office Polk County Supervisor of Elections Polk County Tourism & Sports Marketing Polk County Tax Collector Polk County Waste Management & Recvcling Polk Education Association Polk Education Foundation Polk Education Pathways Polk Indigent Health Care Polk Museum of Art

Polk State College Polk State College Center for Public Safety Polk State College Foundation Polk Transportation Planning Organization Public Education Partnership Public Health Institute Publix Super Markets Publix Dairy Plant **RATH Connextions Center** Rayl Engineering and Surveying, Inc. Read Polk. Inc. **Redlands Migrant Christian** Association **Ridge Professional Group** Road & Trail Bicvcles Saddle Creek Logistics Services Safe Routes to Schools Saint Leo University SHR Human Resources, LLC Southeastern University Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits Spherion Stahl & Associates Insurance Stand Up Polk Straughn & Turner PA TECO Theatre Winter Haven The Edge Theatre Company The Health Councils, Inc. The Ledger The Libertore Fund for Children, Inc. The Lunz Group Terrie Lobb Catering Town of Dundee Town of Lake Hamilton Tracy Mouncey and Associates Tri-County Human Services True Blue Winery Two Blue Aces, LLC UF/IFAS Extension Polk County United Way of Central Florida Visit Central Florida VISTE Warner University Watson Clinic Webbs Candy Factory Webber International University Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce Winter Haven Economic Development Council Winter Haven Hospital Winter Haven Housing Authority Winter Haven Police Department Winter Haven Recreation & Culture Center WISP Community Woman's Club of Winter Haven YMCA of West Central Florida



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