



# JOIN THE FUTURE LEADERS OF SOUTH FLORIDA



Fall Classes begin August-December 2025  
**Deadline to Apply: Friday, June 13, 2025**

In partnership with



## INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

Contact: Stephanie Parra  
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# TESTIMONIALS



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

**Carlos A. Migoya**

CEO, Jackson Health System

**Leadership Miami® Graduate, Inaugural Class**



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

**Christopher Simmonds**

Principal, CARE Elementary School

**Leadership Miami® Partner Class 44 Spring**



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

**Deborah (Dia) Finley**

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





# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## WHAT IS LEADERSHIP® MIAMI?

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

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

## OPENING CONFERENCE

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

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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

## FOCUS SESSIONS

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

## FIELDWORK

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

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

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

## CLOSING CONFERENCE

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

## ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

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

# TESTIMONIALS



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

**Patrick Morris**

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

**Leadership Miami® Graduate**



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

**Franco Cantero**

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

**Leadership Miami Employer Participant**



# WHY JOIN?

## INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT

### Elevate Your Career with Professional Development

- Refine essential skills and gain valuable insights
- Boost your self-confidence both personally and professionally
- Gain exclusive access to local business and government for a deeper understanding and appreciation
- Connect with like-minded professional leaders
- Expand and strengthen your personal and professional network
- Make a positive, lasting impact on your community



## BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION BENEFIT

### Empower the Next Generation of Leaders

- Invest in the growth of current and future leaders with valuable resources and training
- Position your organization as a driving force in leadership and professional growth
- Strengthen employee retention and engagement through impactful development opportunities
- Shape the future workforce by sharing your insights through targeted industry surveys

## TIME COMMITMENT

- Leadership Miami runs from August to December, offering a dynamic and flexible learning experience:
- In-person sessions (one Saturday per month) focused on professional development and discussions on key community issues
- Additional commitment for team meetings and the Community Service Project, designed to be completed within a 100-day timeframe

## EXAMPLES OF PAST PROJECTS

Team WEARE1MIAMI partnered with Sunrise Community Inc. to create a more inclusive community by empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The flagship initiative, a sensory garden, was developed to provide a therapeutic space for those who needed it most and to create a safe and accessible outdoor area for residents who lacked a secure space for outdoor activities. After months of hard work, the project successfully transformed an 8,000 sq ft gravel lot into a vibrant outdoor space. The sensory garden featured separate sensory stations, ADA-compliant garden beds, sound features, picnic tables, benches, repurposed tire planters, and a mural wall. Additionally, thanks to generous donations, the team provided an outdoor griddle for the staff and residents to use, as well as an in-kind indoor kitchen island for preparing food from the garden. The garden was designed with a compact walkway to ensure safe exploration for residents with physical limitations. The space became more than just a garden, it became a peaceful retreat for both residents and staff. The residents also participated in the project by adding handprints to the team-designed and painted border wall.

Lead Miami 2Gether is a team dedicated to supporting the work of His House Children's Home, Florida's largest residential campus. Since its founding in 1989, His House has provided care, housing, and life-changing services to children who have been abandoned, abused, or neglected, restoring the lives of over 23,000 children and offering them safety, healing, and hope. The team collaborated with His House to build an outdoor exercise and recreational space for the foster children on campus. This new space gave the children a place to play, build self-esteem, and begin the healing process after enduring trauma. It became a safe haven where they could feel supported and regain their joy, helping them transition from surviving to thriving and offering hope for a brighter future. One of the most rewarding aspects of the project was that the children chose the name "Unity Grounds" for the space. The project also strengthened team cohesion, with fundraising events held at various venues, including collaborations with Blue Martini, Improv, FIU, Trustees luncheons, and a silent auction conducted through email and texting forums. Team members tapped into their personal and business networks to raise funds. Additionally, Miami Dade College, through MDC Works, partnered with His House Children's Home to offer marketing students valuable internship opportunities. His House was added to MDC's platform as an official placement site, allowing students to gain hands-on experience while supporting a meaningful cause. This collaboration enhanced career readiness for the students involved.



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