

MARCH 20, 2017



FUTURE OF FLORIDA SUMMIT

BOB GRAHAM CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

FUTURE OF FLORIDA SUMMIT

The Future of Florida Summit is a student-run conference that invites the brightest and most politically engaged students from Florida's colleges and universities to examine issues facing Florida. Modeled after the National Campaign Conference at Harvard Kennedy School's Institute of Politics, the mission of the Future of Florida Summit is to bring together a select group of Florida students to identify problems, propose solutions and create an action plan for implementing change.

The Future of Florida Summit was started in 2014. That year, about 40 students attended. In its fourth year, the summit had 125 participants, chosen from an application pool of more than 300 people.

CORE COMPONENTS

Interactive	Participants interact with experts and state leaders to learn about issues facing the state.
Action-Oriented	Students at each summit have a goal they work toward. In 2017, students worked in groups drafting proposed Florida constitutional amendments, and then presented to a group of judges, who selected three to be forwarded to the Constitution Revision Commission.
Network Development and Community Building	With participants from more than 25 Florida schools in attendance, the Future of Florida Summit is an opportunity for participants to network with other student leaders and professional policy experts.
Collaborative and Ongoing	In 2015, following the summit, student participants followed a bill that allowed online voter registration through the Florida legislature, joining the League of Women Voters of Florida to lobby in Tallahassee. Participants from 2017 will forward amendment language and accompanying text to the Constitution Revision Commission, as well as receive periodic updates on the work of the commission.
Educational	Participants leave the Future of Florida Summit with a working knowledge of the summit's topic and other Florida-related topics and issues. Students learn the policy process and how to influence and advocate for policy changes.

OBJECTIVE

Following the Bob Graham Center for Public Service’s mission to encourage “the informed and active participation of citizens ... through public programming, experiential learning and research,” the Future of Florida Summit aims to provide a space where students from around the state can explore topics important to the state and its citizens.

2017 PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

The Future of Florida Summit received applications from 30 Florida schools in 2017.

APPLICATION POOL

306 applications from 30 Florida schools.

- Barry University (Private)
- Bethune Cookman University (Private, HBCU)
- Broward College (State College)
- Daytona State College (State College)
- Edward Waters College (Private, HBCU)
- Florida A&M University (State University, HBCU)
- Florida Atlantic University (State University)
- Florida Gulf Coast University (State University)
- Florida International University (State University)
- Florida Southern College (Private)
- Florida Southwestern State College (State College)
- Florida State University (State University)
- Florida State College at Jacksonville (State College)
- Indian River State College (State College)
- Jacksonville University (Private)
- New College of Florida (State University)
- Nova Southeastern University (Private)
- Palm Beach State College (State College)
- Rollins College (Private)
- Santa Fe College (State University)
- Seminole State College (State College)
- Stetson University (Private)
- Tallahassee Community College (State College)
- University of Central Florida (State University)
- University of Florida (State University)
- University of Miami (Private)
- University of North Florida (State University)
- University of South Florida (State University)
- University of Tampa (Private)
- Valencia College (State College)

PARTICIPANT POOL

Of the 306 applications received, 125 students were invited to participate. At least one student from each school was invited, and students from 26 schools attended. A wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs were represented, including — among others —

political science, economics, religion, public relations, environmental studies, African American studies, interior design, business administration, health care administration and law.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

PATRICK GOODRICH, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

“The Future of Florida Policy Summit provides the best opportunity for college students who are interested in public service to engage with policy experts, experienced public servants, and students from across the state. The Future of Florida conference is unrivaled when it comes to challenging students thought processes, providing them with unique resources, and equipping students with knowledge about policy issues facing Florida. This summit is for those who look to learn more, network with professionals and peers, and apply their skills, all while having an unforgettable time.”

STEFANIE ARRIERA, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

“Through the Future of Florida Summit, I learned how to analyze Florida's Constitution, create meaningful and understandable legislation, and how to create possible amendments to Florida's Constitution. Through the breakout sessions in the summit, I was able to gain knowledge and insight into the most important issues facing the people and future of Florida. I applied this knowledge to the drafting of an amendment with importance to the people of Florida.”

MARION UGOCHUKWU, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

“This was a great conference for students of all disciplines. What I learned was useful and I hope to become more engaged civically and this conference showed me I have the ability to do it and gave me a realistic path to achieving greater civic involvement.”

PROCESS

COMMITTEE SELECTION

The Future of Florida Summit is organized by a group of undergraduate students. Half of the 12-member organizing committee is comprised of students from the University of Florida, while the other half is made up of students from other Florida colleges and universities. In 2017, in addition to those from the University of Florida, students from the University of South Florida, University of Central Florida, University of Tampa, Florida State University and Broward College served on the organizing committee.

TOPIC DEVELOPMENT

With guidance from Bob Graham Center for Public Service staff, the student organizing committee is tasked with selecting a summit topic. The topic for the 2017 Future of Florida Summit was the upcoming Florida Constitution Revision Commission.

- **2014:** *Issues Facing Higher Education*
- **2015:** *Online Voter Registration*

- **2016:** *Lobbying and Advocacy*

SPEAKER SELECTION

Student organizers invite speakers and coordinate the topics on which the speakers will present. Past speakers include the following individuals:

- **2014:** *Brian Dassler, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality at the Florida Department of Education*
- **2015:** *Deidre Macnab, Past President of the League of Women Voters of Florida*
- **2015:** *The Honorable Jeff Clemens, Florida State Senator*
- **2017:** *The Honorable Bob Butterworth, Former Florida Attorney General*
- **2017:** *Gary Chartrand, Past Chairman and Member of the Florida Board of Education*
- **2017:** *The Honorable Gwen Graham, Past U.S. Representatives and Potential 2018 Florida Gubernatorial Candidate*
- **2017:** *The Honorable James Perry, Former Florida Supreme Court Justice*

SIMILAR PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAMS

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN CONFERENCE AT HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL'S INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

Since 2003, a 28-college and university alliance has held annual conferences to identify collaborative projects, foster engagement in electoral politics, assist students in pursuing careers in public service, and provide a foundation in civic education. Led by a team of Harvard undergraduate students, the collegiate ambassadors to the National Campaign work together to achieve concrete goals, such as working with local election offices to improve the voting experience for their campus communities.

The Bob Graham Center for Public Service sends two students to Cambridge, Massachusetts, each year to attend the National Campaign Conference.

SAYFIE REVIEW FLORIDA LEADERS SUMMIT

The Sayfie Review Florida Leaders Summit is an invitation-only, non-partisan event created in the spirit of the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland. The purpose of this annual event is to engage Florida's leaders, shape Florida's agenda, and prosper Florida's future.

The Bob Graham Center for Public Services is a Thought Leadership Partner for the annual Sayfie Summit.

