

Look

BUSINESSES WORTH SUPPORTING

PEOPLE WORTH MEETING

STORIES WORTH READING



TAMPA BAY
CHAMBER

Leadership Programs

When we started our Vision 2026 plan, we did that with a focus on what we wanted to see into the future, not just in 2016. As you'll see in the pages of this Annual Report, it's that clarity of focus and purpose that allowed us to accomplish great things in 2023 to the benefit of our region. The alignment of programs continues to strengthen the Tampa Bay Chamber as a **Hub For Business**, a **Catalyst** for business success, and as an **Inclusive Organization** with best practices fueling economic success across neighborhoods.

Last year, we saw the involvement of Chamber Members take off and Membership grow exponentially. We remain in the top 2% of Chambers in the country, accredited and rated 5-Stars by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Also in 2023, more than 5 chambers of commerce from across the country looked to our member engagement, community partnerships and programming as models of "best practices". Chambers from as far away as Oklahoma, hosted their annual benchmarking trips here in the Tampa Bay region to learn more.

And in a thrilling moment our Minority Business Accelerator was globally recognized during the World Chambers Congress in Switzerland, last July! Since then, more than 20 chambers of commerce, and business development organizations in 5 continents have reached out to Chamber staff hoping to replicate components of the accelerator in their own communities.



To say that I am deeply proud of these accomplishments is no exaggeration, but even deeper is my gratitude for the Chamber Members, Board of Directors and Committee Volunteers fueling the success stories spotlighted on the pages of this Annual Report. We have swung our Chamber doors wide open, so that every single member is welcomed to come in, grab a seat at the table, roll up their sleeves and get to work!

To our member companies I say thank you for an unforgettable year! And to the reader who is not, I say join us and be part of a movement where ordinary people do extraordinary things for the good of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Rohrlack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Rohrlack, DBA, CCE
President & CEO
Tampa Bay Chamber



March – Scholars visited **Tampa Bay Buccaneers’** headquarters, the **Straz Center for the Performing Arts**, **ZooTampa** and **Busch Gardens** to learn about careers in the sports, arts, and entertainment industries.



The Class of 2024 was the largest in the program’s history. **Tampa International Airport** was among their stops during the program day on the transportation sector.



Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2023.



With increased awareness of Collegiate Leadership on college campuses, the program is being expanded to help a growing number of students build a network of mentors and connections.

The Collegiate Leadership program entered its fifth year in 2023 with approximately 30 scholars from Saint Leo University, The University of Tampa and University of South Florida. Scholars are selected from a pool of applicants and participate in the monthly curriculum exploring careers in the public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic sectors. Local business leaders credit Collegiate Leadership with helping to develop, recruit and retain top talent in the region. Collegiate Leadership is sponsored by the Bellini Foundation and Riley Education Foundation.

COLLEGIATE LEADERSHIP TAMPA BAY CLASS OF 2023

SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

Asha Burns
Marco Calvo
Traliyah Carey
Ashley Eudora Griffith
Angelica Molina
Maria Gabrielle Nakata
Geordante Neely
Vineet Shinde
Tayhana Taylor

THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

Victoria Baldor
Rachel Lane
Madelaine Lauger
Vincent Mora
Caitlin Murray
Lorielle Raab
Christopher Serrant
Jahnel Villalba
Zahra Wilson

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Luiz Gabriel Viera Costa
Olivier Daniel Fourcand
Zaynab Salahuddin
Katherine Salinas
Chase Austin Strelec



[Learn More About Collegiate Leadership](#)



Since 2004, Emerging Leaders has become the premiere networking and leadership program for young professionals in the Tampa Bay region. More than 500 professionals, ages 21 – 35, participated this year. Participants benefit from the engagement with business leaders in a variety of industries at our member companies

MENTOR PROTÉGÉ

In 2023, we counted 78 pairings in the Mentor Protégé Program. Over the course of nine months, young professionals enhanced work skills, leadership development, and career advancement plans. Protégés were paired with industry leaders, and a community outreach event was part of the experience.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SUMMIT

The Young Professional Summit is a partnership between the Tampa Bay Chamber's Emerging Leaders, St. Pete Young Professionals and Clearwater Young Professionals, expanding their networks and sparking more regional collaboration. 2023 Sponsors were Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas & West Pasco; Rivero, Gordimer & Company; and Ultimate Medical Academy.

VISION SERIES

In 2023, the annual Vision Series focused on the economic impact of Port Tampa Bay and how each pillar of the port operates, and safety measures in place to protect the environment.

EMERGING LEADERS ANNUAL MEETING

PRESENTING SPONSORS



This signature event for Emerging Leaders culminates a year of service in various committees; professional and business development experiences unique to Emerge; and fun networking events across the Tampa Bay region. In 2023, the celebration was held at ZooTampa and bookmarked by the transfer of leadership from 2023 Chair Brett Scafidi to 2024 Chair Mallory Kuba and presentation of Deanne Dewey Roberts Emerging Leader Award.

DEANNE DEWEY ROBERTS EMERGING LEADER AWARD

Each year, Emerge honors a young professional in the Tampa Bay region for extraordinary leadership and community service. The award is presented by Chappell Roberts in memory of its co-founder, Deanne Dewey Roberts, who was instrumental in the creation of Emerge in 2004, after being the Chairwoman of the Tampa Bay Chamber's Board of Directors in 2003.

ENGAGE SERIES

Engage Series events happen once a month and are hosted by local businesses, designed to build relationships, and give young professionals a platform to meet business leaders in dynamic companies across Tampa Bay.

NONPROFIT FAIR

The Nonprofit Fair connects Emerge members seeking volunteer opportunities with local organizations recruiting, as well as opportunities to serve on community boards and advisory committees. In 2023, the fair hosted 26+ non-profits and was sponsored by United Way Suncoast.

ASPIRE PROGRAM

Among the newest additions to Emerge programming, Aspire is a four-part training series with professionals in diverse career paths and industries. Guest speakers help to expand the realm of career options young professionals to consider.



Mentor Protégé Program had one of the highest pairings to date in 2023!



Engage Series events were hosted across the Tampa Bay region.



July - Annual Young Professionals Summit at Threshers Stadium in Clearwater.



Vision Series event at **Port Tampa Bay** engaged young professionals with industry leaders in this important economic engine.



December - Emerging Leaders Annual Meeting Co-Presenting sponsors were Leadership Tampa Alumni and **Ultimate Medical Academy**.



Winner of the 2023 Deanne Dewey Roberts Emerging Leader Award, Antoine Richards received \$1,000 prize for the charity of his choice.



Learn More About Emerging Leaders of Tampa Bay



Leadership Tampa is the third oldest leadership program of its kind in the U.S. and exclusive to the Tampa Bay Chamber. Started in 1970 by a small group of Chamber Members, its legacy of empowering generations of business leaders with a regional perspective and community engagement spans 52 graduating LT classes and 2,750 professionals to date. In 2023, Sponsors continued to fuel monthly LT Program Days, which provided a dynamic, profound look into our region's infrastructure and economic engines. In Tallahassee, LT classes met with Tampa Bay's delegation to learn about advocacy initiatives being considered in the Florida Legislature.

LEADERSHIP TAMPA CLASS OF 2023

Ashly Anderson – InVision Advisors

Jordan August – Carlton Fields

Nicole Bandon – Bank of America

Justin Bennett – Gunster

Vik Bhide – City of Tampa

Carolina Blanco – Hill Ward Henderson

Melanie Brown – AdventHealth - West Florida

Lonnie Bryant – The University of Tampa

Terry Carter – Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay

Jennifer Corinis – Greenberg Traurig

Anna Corman – Hillsborough Education Foundation

Eric DeFelice – Tampa Police Department

David Delancy – One Day Came, Inc.

Nikki Diaz-White – BayCare-St. Joseph's Hospital

Kadian Douglas – CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Brian Eastman – U.S. Air Force

Jaree Ervin – University Area CDC

Samantha Fiske – Tampa Bay Business Journal

Graeme Fraser – Cottonwood Real Estate Advisers

Chris Gstalder – Accenture

Katie Guice – Tampa Electric

Danielle Hernandez – DVH Law Group

Gary Holland – Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority

Lindsay Huban – Henry B. Plant Museum

Sabrina Jackson – Ultimate Medical Academy

Tina James – Florida Blue

Clay Keel – Keel Farms, Inc.

Brenda Khoury – U.S. Special Operations Command

Michael Kolcun – Adams and Reese LLP

Lijah Lokenauth – Tampa General Hospital

Shaylia McRae – Hillsborough County Public Schools

Melissa Meshil – HCA Healthcare

Scott Morrison – United Way Suncoast

Shana Murrell – Alumni Advisors

Paige Niehaus – Hillsborough Community College

Brian Peterson – Skanska

Heidi Pinner – Hillsborough Clerk of the Court & Comptroller

David Singer – Older Lundy

Meaza Stewart-Morrison – Morrison Advisory

Avril Stinson – Tampa Bay Chamber

Jay Taylor – LEVERAGE

Brandon Thom – Give Kids the World Village

Jody Thorson – Tampa Metropolitan YMCA

Sandra Torres – ZooTampa at Lowry Park

Andrew Tyner – Wells Fargo Bank, NA

Susan Vadaparampil – Moffitt Cancer Center

Jonathan Vaden – Hillsborough County Aviation Authority

Julian Waits – Rapid7

Amy Weber – Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Sylvia Wilson Thomas – University of South Florida



This LT program day was focused on first responders.



LT Sports Day focused on the economic impact and community engagement of Tampa Bay's sports industry.



For Agriculture Day, members of the LT '23 class traded in their laptops for strawberry fields and green pastures!



LT '23 became the 52nd group to graduate since Leadership Tampa was launched in 1970.



The LT tradition continued with the kick-off ceremony for the LT Class of '23!



LT Education Day featured the presidents of **Hillsborough Community College**, **The University of Tampa** and **University of South Florida**.



[Learn More About Leadership Tampa](#)



LEADERSHIP TAMPA ALUMNI



Leadership Tampa Alumni Cabinet led by LTA Chair Jeff Chernoff.



Mike Griffin, awarded the Parke Wright III Award in January, donated the prize money to the **Children's Dream Fund**.



ZooTampa at Lowry Park set the stage for LTA's Spring Fling, which provided alumni the chance to recruit colleagues and friends for LT Class of 2024.



LTA's Behind-the-Scenes gave members a closer look at the criminal justice system with guest speakers and a guided courtroom tour by The Honorable Thomas Palermo, a graduate of LT '22.



In 2023, LTA hosted 4 Connect with Coffee networking events, including this event at **Willa's**, near Downtown Tampa.



Two former State Representatives shared the realities of campaigning and detailed the priorities that aspiring candidates should consider before running for public office.

Leadership Tampa Alumni harnesses the passion of business and community leaders who have graduated from Leadership Tampa. This network of 550+ active, influential leaders from diverse industries supports our Vision 2026 strategic plan – nurturing an engaged, inclusive, and prosperous Tampa Bay region. Annual events include the LTA Reunion, Spring Fling, LTA Chair’s Choice and Behind-the-Scenes program day.

These are highlights of the many LTA events in 2023:

LTA BEHIND-THE-SCENES

The camaraderie of LT’s trademark program days continues on a larger scale with LTA’s annual “Behind-the-Scenes”. Alumni gain new insights about the community in the chosen area. In 2023, the focus was on the criminal justice system.

LTA CHAIR’S CHOICE

Chair’s Choice is centered around a high-interest topic in the region. No two events are ever the same. In 2023, Chairman Jeff Chernoff chose the fascinating world of political campaigns.

LTA CONNECT WITH COFFEE

Year-round networking events exclusively for LTA members take alumni to dynamic member companies and organizations.

LTA ANNUAL MEETING & PARKE WRIGHT III AWARD

A highlight of LTA’s Annual Meeting is the presentation of the Parke Wright III Award. The winner is a leader demonstrating great character, initiative, leadership, selflessness, and vision. In January, Mike Griffin (LT ‘04) became the 21st honoree to receive the annual award.



[Learn More About Leadership Tampa Alumni](#)