



VILLAGE OF PINECREST

Press Release

For Additional Information:

Michelle Hammontree Garcia
Communications Manager
305.234.2121, Ext. 180
mhammontree@pinecrest-fl.gov

Guido H. Inguanzo, Jr., CMC
Village Clerk
305.234.2121, Ext. 120
clerk@pinecrest-fl.gov

Media Contact: Michelle Hammontree Garcia
Communications Manager
mhammontree@pinecrest-fl.gov
786-606-3042

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Councilmember James E. McDonald Is Accepted into the Good Government Initiative's Leaders of Excellence Program

Pinecrest, FL – Councilmember *James E. McDonald* has been selected to join Class IV of the [*Leaders of Excellence*](#) program at the Good Government Initiative at the University of Miami. The Initiative was founded by former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Katy Sorenson. The program, now in its fourth year, has granted certificates to [52 elected officials](#) and is designed to develop the skills they need in order to be effective in office. Councilmember McDonald is among 19 elected officials, including a school board member and municipal officials from Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties who will participate in this year's program.

Vice Mayor Joseph M. Corradino was the first member of the Village Council to complete the program as a member of the 2012 class.

Leaders of Excellence is the Good Government Initiative's cornerstone program designed to provide elected officials with educational opportunities that they can apply toward their public service. It fills the gap between formal education and life experience to mold more effective decision-makers. Additionally, the *Leaders of Excellence* program creates a network of peers who can rely on each other for shared ideas and support. The mission is to cultivate leaders of excellence in South Florida through development and training, as well as engage the community in its governance through outreach and education.

By participating in *Leaders of Excellence*, a voluntary 60-hour certificate program, elected officials devote their personal time and make an extra commitment to their duties in office. In understanding that there are aspects to effective public service that are not

12645 Pinecrest Parkway, Pinecrest, Florida 33156
T: 305.234.2121 | F: 305.234.2131
www.pinecrest-fl.gov



automatically conveyed to candidates once they are sworn in, these leaders are reaching for the additional knowledge and tools necessary to be successful leaders.

This year's curriculum will include topics ethics, budget and finance, media relations, economic development, working with constituents, land use and more. Each class session features presenters which include officials from all levels of government and both parties, industry experts, and former elected officials who will share their own trials, successes, and mistakes.

"South Florida has witnessed some low points for elected officials so it is encouraging to see these public servants going the extra mile to absorb as much information about good government as they can," said Sorenson.

The Good Government Initiative offers programs for elected officials, candidates, and interested citizens throughout the year. From community forums that delve into topical issues facing South Florida, to candidate education and the Leaders of Excellence Program, GGI works to promote excellence in government. The Initiative is independently incorporated with its own board and advisers and is housed and supported by the University of Miami, the Miami Foundation and valued donors and volunteers.

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